

SAMPLE TITLES & ABSTRACTS

A guide for Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) poster presentations.

Beyond-the-Classroom Experiences

Learning My Limits & Capabilities While Abroad

During Spring semester, I studied abroad on exchange at the Otto-Friedrich-University in Bamberg, Germany. I had studied German for five years in high school and two years in college, and I wanted to study in Germany in order to achieve the academic, professional, and personal goals I had set for myself. I was a German major and wanted to achieve fluency in my language skills. Bamberg also offers a wider variety of classes on German topics than any American university could, and these classes would supplement my coursework at USC. As a future German teacher, I wanted to get to know the country and its culture better by travelling as much as possible in order to enhance my future lessons with cultural knowledge and first-hand experiences. The experience was personally significant because, at the age of 20, I had never left the country and knew that I could not grow without distancing myself from all that was familiar to me. The five months I spent there were a period of growth, exploration, and understanding. My German has improved significantly and I am able to function at a much more advanced linguistic level than before my experience abroad. I met many Germans and travelled to every region of Germany, visiting large cities and small towns, and I feel competent in my ability to convey knowledge of the culture to future students. I also feel that I know myself much better than before the experience: my limits but also my capabilities.

Interning with International Information Programs (IIP)

During the summer, I worked with the United States Department of State in the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP). The IIP uses a multimedia approach to engage international audiences on important foreign policy issues and explain the core values that underlie U.S. policies. IIP communicates with foreign opinion makers and web-savvy audiences through a wide range of print and electronic outreach materials published in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Persian, Russian, and Spanish. As a journalism major at the University of South Carolina, my internship provided me with first-hand experience in online journalism. I had the opportunity to research topics, interview notable figures, and generate and publish materials for the www.America.gov website. The site covers a broad array of topics including economics, security issues, democracy, human rights, U.S. politics, arts, sports, global health, space exploration, and the environment. Specifically, I wrote several short articles about the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. I also had the opportunity to attend the Democratic Convention in Denver and write a blog about my experience. Participating in this internship reaffirmed my decision to pursue journalism as a career and expanded my computer skills. Through this experience I hope to pursue an internship with a foreign newspaper next summer.

Building Leadership Skills from the Ground Up

Greek organizations play a major part in promoting academic success, cultivating personal growth, developing lasting friendships, pursuing philanthropic causes and fostering leadership. My most significant contribution to the University of South Carolina has been my commitment to improving the Greek life experience at the University. Becoming a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity has greatly enhanced my college experience by allowing me to strive for academic excellence, grow socially and develop my leadership skills. These were all unexpected benefits. Through the experience of serving as president and leading the efforts to successfully rebuild our chapter, I learned how to think critically to solve complex problems, interact with a diverse group of people, and communicate effectively. My presentation will discuss the insights I gained about my leadership abilities as well as the positive impact Greek life has had on my college experience and shaping me as an individual.

Research/Scholarly Activities

The role of esotericism in three female Modernists' works

The pattern of social shifts and psychological stresses that make up modernity drew from early 20th-century writers the formal responses we know as Modernism. As these literary experiments indicate, modernity itself demanded new modes of perception and representation, and thus perhaps not unsurprisingly, esotericism often played a central role in Modernist works. Esotericism was especially important to the writings of those Modernist women writers who were exploring outlets for gender and spirituality that orthodox religion rejected. For my senior thesis, I am researching the place of esotericism in the works of the imagist expatriate poet H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), the newly "rediscovered" novelist Mary Butts and the popular writer and occult leader Dion Fortune (Violet Firth). By studying the archives of Mary Butts and H.D. at the Beinecke library, and Dion Fortune's little known *The Magical Battle of Britain* along with these writers' better known works, I have gained a more thorough understanding of esotericism's role within these writers' works and have created a foundation for further research at the graduate level. My research reveals that these writers used existing symbol systems to create imaginary structures attuned to the female psyche. Furthermore, the wars were a central catalyst to these writers' creations, affirming the impact of the wars on the female imagination.

Transport of Amyloid- β Across the Blood-Brain Barrier by P-glycoprotein

Cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA), a cerebrovascular deposition of the amyloid- β ($A\beta$) protein, is a well-known cause of hemorrhagic stroke. Altered $A\beta$ transport may be responsible for vascular $A\beta$ accumulation. However, it remains unclear how the transport of $A\beta$ from the brain to the vasculature is impeded, facilitating $A\beta$ accumulation. If the transport of $A\beta$ monomer is reduced, an accumulation of soluble protein could occur, but more importantly, reduction in the transport of soluble aggregates could leave behind seeds that would dramatically accelerate amyloid formation that leads to deposition. P-glycoprotein

(Pgp), an ATPase transporter, interacts with amphipathic molecules and regulates their removal from the brain. It was hypothesized that Pgp is involved in the transport of A β soluble aggregates through the BBB. A β assembly state(s) transported from the basolateral to the apical side of confluent monolayers of human brain microvascular endothelial cells were compared using endothelial permeability coefficients (Pe). Both A β monomer and A β aggregates were transported across monolayers. In addition, A β assembly state(s) that interact with Pgp were identified using an in vitro assay that measure ATPase activity of Pgp. These results revealed that Pgp preferentially binds soluble A β aggregates, but not monomer of fibril. Together, these findings suggest a role for Pgp in transporting soluble A β aggregates across the BBB.