

# Senior Projects

# 2014

Senior Project is the culmination of a student's learning experience at Ross School. Through the execution of Senior Project, students embody their passions in a process and product that integrate such Ross School principles as multiple intelligences, cultural/historical context, personal reflection, application of technology, and pursuit of excellence. The main components of the Senior Project are the Process Folio, the Final Product, and the Presentation. The relationship between the student and his or her Senior Project mentor is critical to the evolution and realization of the project. Ross faculty members serve as Senior Project mentors, performing as facilitators, advisors, editors, critics, and advocates. At the conclusion of the Senior Project, students should have deeper insight into themselves as learners and producers.



**Abdullah Al Samarai**  
***Kurdistan: An Emerging Nation***

Mentor: Debra McCall  
Domains: Cultural History, Media  
Faculty: Kenneth Sacks

For my Senior Project, I travelled to the northern region of my country of origin, Iraq, in order to film a series of interviews with a variety of people from all sorts of backgrounds and social classes and to record some footage of Kurdistan in my quest to make a documentary about what is going on there. The Kurds have had a nation blighted by social, political, and human rights issues in the past few decades, and the film looks at how they recovered and prospered independently from Iraq following the fall of Saddam's regime, and gazes at where they are heading in the not-too-distant future.

**Polina Altunina**  
***Music and Psychology***

Mentor: Carleton Schade  
Domains: Science, Visual Arts, World Languages and Literature  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

In my Senior Project I tried to combine two really important parts of my life: medicine and music. Medicine, because it is what I want to study in the future; music is what I'm passionate about. As a final product, I have created a web site devoted to the topics of music and psychology.

**Julian Alvarez**  
***Cobalt***

Mentor: Dan Roe  
Domain: Media Studies and Technology  
Faculty: Mark Foard

I wrote, directed, edited, and starred in a short film titled *Cobalt*. The film follows a 17-year-old named Thomas and his attempt at becoming a superhero. His delusional idea of what being a "hero" actually means will be tested as he comes to the realization that one does not need a mask or cape to save the day.

**Joe Ando-Hirsh**  
***Accessing Clean Water***

Mentor: Elaine Parshall  
Domains: Science, Mathematics  
Faculty: Andrew Kirk

I built a wind fan that powers a UV LED water purification system. The system uses basic water filtration methods to clean water of any sediment, and empties the water into a small container, where UV LEDs kill any bacteria or protozoa that would be harmful to the consumer. From the moment I entered into high school, I have been investing my time into water projects ranging from the construction of

a small-scale replica of Baron Haussmann's water systems in Paris, to testing the effects that different pH levels have on the growth of plants. My experiences with water have gone on to define my high school experience. The Senior Project presented me with an opportunity to take my studies to the next level and try and construct something that could have an effect on places that do not have access to clean water.

**Eda Ayranci**  
***Multiculturalism Sculpture***

Mentor: Jon Mulhern

Domain: Visual Arts

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

My sculpture is an artistic representation of multiculturalism using mixed media such as metal and cement. This abstract sculpture was made to show two sides becoming one whole. My sculpture demonstrates my personal relationship between the two worlds of Sweden and Turkey. This sculpture shows my personal and metaphorical bridge between these two places. I chose these materials to represent my personal multicultural background in a simple form; cement is a material that I think accomplishes this because it goes from powder to mass and can be both weak and strong at times. Metal shows that the bridge of mixing two cultures together can make you stronger as a person and simultaneously supports each standing form. This sculpture is simple, and that simplicity makes you look for deeper meaning in it and in yourself.

**Lily Baron**  
***I Had a Tea Shop in Uganda***

Mentor: Carrie Clark

Domain: Cultural History

Faculty: Kenneth Sacks

For my Senior Project, I have worked on developing and opening a tea shop in Kasese, Uganda, with my friend, and Kasese local, Mubarak Musoke. Our objective is to provide Internet access for locals that would otherwise not have any in order to create global connections and job opportunities. Ultimately, this will assist many rural East Africans to defy the odds placed against them by foreign powers and climb out of their inferiority complexes and into the global world. On a smaller scale, the shop will additionally provide a clean environment with delicious food for both tourists and locals at reasonable prices.

**Kendall Coleman**  
***Joy in Nature***

Mentor: Lisa Gillespie

Domains: Science, World Languages and Literature, Wellness

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

For my Senior Project, I created my own natural cosmetics. Over the summer, I traveled to the smallest of the Hawaiian Islands, Kauai, to meet a woman named Stephanie who is an expert on natural healing. She took me around the island

and helped me find and gather the best ingredients nature has to offer. We formulated three products: a papaya seed facial exfoliant, a sun repair facial mask, and anti-aging facial oil. All the products were made with all-natural ingredients and preservatives. I chose to make natural cosmetics for my Senior Project because I believe that eliminating harmful chemicals from the body is the key to living a healthy life. After I made my products, I created a pamphlet with an ingredient index and a description of each product that I made.

**Bridget Connors**  
***A Memoir of a Journey***

Mentor: Jessica Pollina  
Domain: World Languages and Literature  
Faculty: Heather D'Agostino

I am going into detail about my story and others about the process of adoption. I will be discussing my emotional roller coaster of trying to decide whether or not I should go on a quest to find and meet my birth mother. I have written a memoir that discusses the question "Should I go in search of my birth mother?" through "My Story" and other adoptees' stories of their adoption. I used many resources to construct an emotional story that will bring you along the journey of what goes on in the mind of an adopted person.

**Lena-Mari Cordts-Gorcoff**  
***For You***

Mentor: Jennifer Cross  
Domains: Visual Arts, Media Studies and Technology  
Faculty: Ned Smyth

There was a time when I walked out of a house, only to feel the early morning solely in my eyes. It's hard to say what I felt the morning after, if I felt anything at all. I have examined the essence of white trash on a firsthand basis, and after years of anger, I have finally defined that certain loneliness that is small-town America. *For You* is an installation meant to evoke that absence through paintings, writing, and video, not as a cultural examination but rather as a body of art meant to represent personal recognition and self-evaluation from my past experiences and decisions as a teenager.

**Caitlin Cummings**  
***Long Island Myths and Legends***

Mentor: Alexis Martino  
Domain: Media Studies and Technology, World Languages and Literature  
Faculty: Kenneth Sacks

My Senior Project is a photo essay that records urban folklore from the East End of Long Island in order to try to capture oral history. I created a book that combines my own photography and written stories that I have gathered from historians, archivists, friends, librarians, and other local Long Islanders.

**Huy Dang**  
***The West Meets the East—Beautiful Differences***

Mentor: Mami Takeda

Domains: Media Studies and Technology, Cultural History, Visual Arts

Faculty: Ivan Salcedo

Research suggests that Asians and Americans work differently. Is it true for the teachers? My Senior Project is designed to find the answers to that question. Ross School is a global village, where it is important to appreciate each other's differences and learn from each other. Through a series of experiments, observations, and interviews with Ross teachers from the United States and Asian countries, I analyze their work styles and find their strengths. The information panels show the differences in views, values, and cultures between Americans and Asians.

**Ana Carolina Di Domenico**  
***Bone Marrow Donation***

Mentor: Kimberly Borsack

Domain: Science

Faculty: Andrew Kirk

For my Senior Project, I am doing a PowerPoint presentation and flyers that have a brief explanation about the whole process of becoming a bone marrow donor. The PowerPoint will have all the information about what is the bone marrow, what it does in our body, the diseases that need bone marrow donation and a brief explanation of each of them, some real histories told by sites or documentaries, and a complete explanation of the bone marrow donation process. The objective of this project is to make people aware of how the donation is needed and to encourage them to become donors.

**Sophia Do**  
***Evanescence***

Mentor: Therese Lichtenstein

Domains: Visual Arts, World Languages and Literature

Faculty: Susan Walker

Memory is such a meaningful yet fleeting part of our consciousness that we try so hard to keep a little part of before it becomes too hazy. I, myself, have never been able to toss away objects that mean something to me. Therefore, for my Senior Project, I decided to coordinate a visual arts exhibition that includes paintings, 3D art, memory boxes, and some creative writing.

**Adin Doyle**  
***“Special Eddie” and the Naming Game***

Mentor: Shawn Clybor

Domain: Performing Arts

Faculty: Maureen Isbister

The “concept album,” specifically the rock opera, is one of my favorite ways of conveying a story. Through a series of songs, the artist can develop an

interpretive plot with characters, events, and a full beginning, middle and end. Based on this, I developed a character, "Special Eddie," and created a rock opera with a story line roughly based on Forrest Gump. I've written four songs and an instrumental piece to illustrate the major points of this character's life, dealing with religion, sexuality, peer pressure, drugs, and the general life of an average person living in today's world. I worked closely with a producer in a professional recording studio, using up-to-date hardware and software such as Pro Tools. Based on my ideas, artwork has been designed to accompany the songs. I have used this project to finally create a permanent, original work.

### **Cheyenne Eberstadt**

#### ***Mapping the Anatomy of a Faulty Circuit: An Exploration of Obsession***

Mentor: Kenneth Sacks

Domains: Science, Media Studies and Technology, Visual Arts

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

For my Senior Project, I address the postulations and knowledge on obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) through six art pieces, as well as an online/interactive catalog. My own experience with OCD has propelled my interest in this disorder, and is the basis of my studies. The art pieces encompass three themes within the disorder, each theme brought to life with two of the works. The interactive catalog acts as an information hub containing my independent research as well as experiences during a speculative apprenticeship with Dr. Michael Pourfar, a neurologist at New York University.

### **Orrin Frazier**

#### ***Innovating Gaming***

Mentor: Urban Reininger

Domain: Media Studies and Technology

Faculty: Ou Wang

For the majority of my life, I have played video games. Many "triple-A" game developers focus solely on graphics, leaving gameplay or plot to be lacking. I wanted to create a video game with an intense emphasis on story. *Solis* was the product of this desire. *Solis* is an extremely short experimental video game. It is solely story-driven.

### **Vincy Fu**

#### ***Justice: The Axial Connection Between China and the US***

Mentor: Kenneth Sacks

Domains: Visual Arts, Cultural History

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

*Justice* is a book by the American philosopher Michael Sandel, who is the most popular Western philosopher in China. In attempting to explain Sandel's popularity, I have come across an idea that had a great influence over Sandel's teacher, the philosopher Charles Taylor. The idea is the "Axial Age Hypothesis,"

expressed first by Karl Jaspers, speculating that between 800 BCE and 200 BCE, various cultures in the world developed homogenous thinking about morality. I propose that the idea of the Axial Age Hypothesis can be a starting point, a common ground between the East and West in discussing moral issues. In particular, I have focused on the idea of justice, which I have presented through with a set of infographics that consist of graphics and words.

**Selena Garcia-Torres**  
***Transition to the Triathlon World***

Mentor: Heather D'Agostino  
Domains: Wellness, Science  
Faculty: Jessica Pollina

For my Senior Project, I wanted to get a hands-on experience in the realm of triathlon. It is a sport that is not as popular as football or baseball, but it takes a huge amount of work to become a professional in the field of triathlon. Instead of looking at it from one point of view, I decided to look at it from multiple angles. Having a passion for fitness, I started the project off with some basic cardio/weight training. I then followed that with a sports psychology course at Brown University, which gave me insight into how an athlete should think when it comes to competing and training. I then joined the school's cross country team to enhance my running and to collect data on how my running was compared to last summer. I then completed two mini i-Tri triathlons to get a feel for what longer distance races would be like. By late summer I had completed a relay sprint triathlon with a wonderful group of experienced triathlete women. With all of that under my belt, I completed my first individual sprint triathlon race. I then decided to look at how the technology of the sport evolved. I decided to write a paper on my findings and show my data from this year compared to last year to see how my running techniques differed. I hope this project will get people to follow their passions and reach for a goal, because this project has taken me on a journey that I will truly never forget.

**Jiahui Guo**  
***A Mathematical Model for Predicting the Conditions Required for Successful Non-Violent Democratic Revolutions; Cancan's Story***

Mentors: Gary Skellington, Alexandra Cromwell  
Domains: Mathematics, World Language and Literature  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

Based on my research on authoritarian regimes and diverse forms of non-violent democratic revolutions, I wrote a system of differential equations that showed quantitatively the critical need for sudden positive fluctuations in protesting populations. I did so by learning how to use the language of MATLAB, a type of software that allowed me to create codes to illustrate various stages of the model under different conditions. The model is presented in the form of a traditional research report. Also, I wrote a novella in the form of a semi-autobiographical and semi-fictional piece in the attempt to convey ideas about different aspects of modern Chinese society.

**Rebecca Hamilton**  
***The Life of Earhart***

Mentor: Mark Foard

Domains: Cultural History, World Languages and Literature

Faculty: Gary Skellington

In an effort to try and figure out the relevance of Amelia Earhart in history, I took a look at her life. By outlining major events and discovering what it was that formed her life, I've created a clear picture of what it was that still made Amelia Earhart relevant years after she disappeared. Through poems and different forms of writing, I have created a visual representation of Amelia Earhart's life.

**Sam Hamilton**  
***Mustang Sam***

Mentor: Matthew Aldredge

Domains: Visual Arts, Science, Media Studies and Technology

Faculty: Mark Foard

Cars have been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember, so for my Senior Project, I chose to purchase and restore a 1966 Ford Mustang.

The project encompasses three parts:

- The mechanical, interior, and exterior work on the car itself
- Creating and maintaining the budget and fundraising campaign
- Documenting the entire process using photos, video, and the before-and-after film on my blog, [mustangsam.net](http://mustangsam.net)

The Mustang is a cultural icon and is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014.

**Eunice Han**  
***Ride the Waves, Teddy Bears!***

Mentor: Mami Takeda

Domains: Visual Arts, Cultural History

Faculty: Carrie Clark

Inspired by *The Third Wave* by Alvin Toffler, I created three teddy bears that match the historical "waves" by using various materials that are related to the time periods. Each teddy bear is designed to represent a revolutionary wave in human history: the agricultural revolution, the industrial revolution, and the information revolution, respectively.

**Wenxin Han**  
***Su-27 Fighter***

Mentor: Kimberly Borsack  
Domains: Science, Mathematics, Visual Arts  
Faculty: Andrew Kirk

The product of my project is the creation of a scale model of an Su-27 Flanker fighter airplane. I will build this model to show people what this particular fighter airplane looks like and how it functions. This will let them learn about the aerodynamics and technological advances that went into the construction of this plane during the Cold War.

**Madeleine Hykes**  
***Things of a Changing Nature***

Mentor: Carrie Clark  
Domains: World Languages and Literature, Cultural History  
Faculty: Carleton Schade

Comprising both personal and scientific essays, “Things of a Changing Nature” explores the dynamics between people and their surroundings and what it means to connect with nature. Through small personal anecdotes and longer essays focusing on the food industry and sustainability, this series tries to look at some of the connections that make up our evolving world.

**Yawen Jiang**  
***Curve***

Mentor: Ned Smyth  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

I always had a high aesthetic standard in selecting everyday objects. I felt that it was really hard for me to find a object that was aesthetically pleasing to me. Therefore, I decided to do a product design project with a core concept of “curve” as my Senior Project. The idea of minimalism, contemporary design, and the beauty of curve had a great impact on me. Eventually, I designed seven objects, including four vases and three candle covers. In order to fabricate them, I did lots of research on glass blowing and finding fabricators. Finally, I found a glass blowing artist, Edison Osorio, to work with and spent half a month in total to make my designs.

**Lily Kamata**  
***The Power of Light***

Mentor: Therese Lichtenstein  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Ned Smyth

I have chosen to do this project because I recently realized that light has a power to create an atmosphere that pulls people into individual worlds. I also like three-

dimensional architectural and sculptural artworks, so I wanted to combine light and sculptural artworks into one piece of art.

My goal was to create unique chandeliers with great skill. These chandeliers will combine innovative design to create sculptural and practical lighting that will change people's experience of the space they inhabit. I also want to create chandeliers that will amaze people and make them sigh. I hope people will experience something positive from my products and I hope to produce products that will pull people into their individual imaginative worlds. In addition, another goal was to inform people that chandeliers/lights have the capability to move people's hearts and to impress individuals by creating a magical atmosphere. I want to move people to feel something deep, perhaps unconsciously, and to stun and amaze them.

**Siyan Li**  
***Basketball Court Guide***

Mentor: Ben Bonaventura  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Howard Brown

For my Senior Project, I chose to create a basketball court guide called *Courts Chaser*. I researched different information about types of basketball courts in my city, Tianjin, such as indoor, outdoor, pavement, and plastic courts. Also, I recorded every single court's business hours and fees. A basketball court guide is something I have never seen before. The reason why I want to do this project is because it will be helpful for people who cannot access Google Maps in China and are eager to play basketball in Tianjin. I will make the book available in physical form by having it professionally printed.

**Weiqiao Lin**  
***Interior Design***

Mentor: Ned Smyth  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

For my Senior Project, I created an interior design of a real apartment in China. For the floor plan I used the AutoCAD program, and to draw the three-dimensional model, I learned and used SketchUp. The 3D model includes my designs of the furniture, surface textures, color, and space of the house.

**Jiahe Liu**  
***2027—Emptiness***

Mentor: Alexis Martino  
Domains: Visual Arts, Media Studies and Technology  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

My final product will be a 20-minute-long film. The film is based on the Prajnaparamita Heart Sutra, which is the most profound and most important

Buddhist scripture of all. The film, like the book, shows the relationship among humans, nature, destiny, illusion, and reality. From September to December, the film shot for three months and had four actors playing seven different roles. Through montage, I built the structure for the film. By using special color and music, the film presents its symbolic charm and sense of Wabi Sabi. Both optical effects and sound effects will give people a new experience.

**Jekaterina (Kate) Mandrukevica**  
***Music as an Expression of Feelings***

Mentor: Adam Judd

Domain: Performing Arts

Faculty: Marty Cooper

Singing a song can be compared to telling a story. A “storyteller” expresses feelings and emotions through music, which sometimes can tell more than a book. As I was always interested in singing, this year I decided to challenge myself and write my own music. I composed three songs (both lyrics and music), and I'm going to perform it with very talented Ross students, who will play musical instruments.

**Lan Mei**  
***The Sound of Tradition***

Mentor: Kenneth Sacks

Domain: Performing Arts

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

My Senior Project is a performance on a Chinese traditional instrument, guzheng. The performance consists of two rearranged Western pop songs, Chinese music pieces, and a self-composed piece. I want to share with people about the beautiful sound of guzheng music and show different genres of music.

**Olivia Mehofer**  
***OHM***

Mentor: Christopher Engel

Domains: Performing Arts, Media Studies and Technology

Faculty: Jennifer Cross

My Senior Project is the process and product of making an EP (extended play), a small version of an album that usually consists of between four and six songs. I have written, recorded, mixed, and edited four original songs thus far, using my voice along with digital instruments and synthesizers. My product will be the finished EP, and I will also perform two or three of my original pieces.

**Yanru (Patty) Pang**  
***Fashion Design***

Mentor: Jennifer Cross  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

My Senior Project is about fashion design. I designed and made several fashion outfits, which include a jacket, skirts, tops, and dresses. I also went to a clothing factory in China to learn how to sew and make patterns over the summer.

**Gene Park**  
***Swordsmithing***

Mentor: Jon Mulhern  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Jon Mulhern

For my Senior Project, I made a full-scale Japanese katana with similar materials and methods to those used in traditional swords. I chose this subject because I wanted to learn a skill that is starting to become obsolete due to technological advancements. I used a combination of modern and traditional techniques such as welding, manual hammering, and machine and hand grinding/polishing. The rest of the blade is assembled to look like a traditional katana.

**Maria Popova**  
***Pure Hearts and Vicious Minds***

Mentor: Jennifer Lloyd  
Domain: World Languages and Literature, Cultural History  
Faculty: Shawn Clybor

Why is our society imperfect? How can we improve it? Is there an ideal world? These questions have been occupying my mind every since I can remember. Being highly interested in both creative writing and international politics, for my Senior Project I have chosen to write a multi-genre novella about a future experimental utopian society. To convey my political and philosophical ideas, I chose to write my work using prose, drama, and poetry. The purpose of this technique is to transfer a reader from one time dimension to another. My work, which is based on studies of the political philosophies of Rousseau, Marx, Hobbes, Walzer, and Cohen, is intended to make readers reevaluate the principles upon which our society is based.

**Alex Rios**  
***They Come First***

Mentor: Kenneth Sacks  
Domain: Psychology  
Faculty: Carleton Schade

*They Come First* is a kid's perspective on divorce. This guide will help parents who are thinking of or going through a divorce to understand how children

perceive the process and how to approach it so that the children feel as comfortable as possible within the given circumstances.

**Yingjie (Jackie) Ruan**  
***Artistic Series of Mechanical Building Model***

Mentor: Jon Mulhern

Domain: Visual Arts

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

My final products will be models of mechanical cities inspired by watch designs from many different cultures. These models will be made from foam core and wood. My product demonstrates the relationship between city, clock, and time. I took different watches from different cultures (cities and countries) and mixed them into the architecture of their culture. My models will show that different cultures have a great individuality through design, watchmaking, and history. Each cultural has its own designs. For my product, I used Google Earth to search the images about the pieces of lands from different countries. Then I searched the watch design from the countries that I did screenshots of. Based on these images about pieces of lands and the watches, I drew the landscape and watches in my sketchbook. Then I picked some good designs from my sketchbook and measured their size for making the architecture models. After that, I used the foam core and wood to make my final products.

**Caleb Ryan**  
***Achieving Perfection: Mind, Body, and Soul***

Mentor: Dan Roe

Domains: Media Studies and Technology, Wellness

Faculty: Kenneth Sacks

My Senior Project is a quest in order to achieve perfection in my mind, body, and soul. The medium of this project is a documentary video of my journey and experiences through the making of this project. The video portrays the essence of man's journey in order to achieve absolute perfection, even though perfection is an unattainable goal.

**Asako Saito**  
***Paka and Dax: Kids' Book***

Mentor: Jennifer Lloyd

Domains: World Languages and Literature, Visual Arts

Faculty: Jon Mulhern

For my Senior Project, I created a children's book. I created two characters, Paka and Dax, and this book is the story of how Paka takes Dax on a trip to four countries. At the beginning, Paka, a gentle and kind boy, gets mad at his friend Dax because Dax is lazy and messy. Paka decided to take Dax on a trip around the world so he can learn about other cultures and not be so lazy. This book is for kids mainly, so I picked very famous and important places. I had two goals with this book: I wanted to teach kids about a few important places in the world

and I wanted to make them laugh. I think kids and older people can enjoy the story also.

**Ali Schade**  
***Alone in the Woods***

Mentor: Jennifer Cross

Domains: Visual Arts, Media Studies and Technology, World Languages and Literature

Faculty: Kenneth Sacks

Over the summer, I planned a weeklong backpacking trip on the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon. This trip was a culmination of my acquired knowledge from past hiking trips, essentially a test of my skills and comfortableness in the woods. Similar to my other trips, I documented the hike with photos from a disposable camera. For my product, I have created an installation in the gallery and Ross School woods. My wall in the gallery exhibits a huge map of America and South America collaged with pictures from my hiking trips: the Bolivia Andes, the Adirondack Mountains, Utah slot canyons, Hawaii volcanoes, the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon, and childhood camping photos. My journal with short anecdotes is displayed here as well. My wall is right next to the exit, which leads into the woods where viewers can “hike” to my installation. Hiking for me is a meditative, contemplative experience, and when disconnected from the outside world, apart from modern-day conveniences, and totally immersed in nature, something amazing happens. I wanted to capture this feeling in my installation and have my viewers experience what I have. My installation in the woods consists of a campsite with multimedia aspects: film, sound, and pictures.

**Eli Schultz**  
***I Am Here: The Eli Schultz Mapping Experience***

Mentor: Mark Foard

Domains: Science, World Languages and Literature, Mathematics

Faculty: Kenneth Sacks

My project is a collection of graphics and fables that explain important complex concepts behind important scientific and cultural phenomena, including the molecular basis of climate change, two instances of evolution by natural selection, nuclear decay, the necessity for the recently enacted Affordable Care Act, and resilience in terrorist networks, Internet networks, the speed and size of cities, and the metabolism of animals. With the creation of my product, I experimented with different forms of displaying complex information in a clear and aesthetically pleasing manner.

I have chosen to do this project because of both my deep interest in the subjects that I researched and a want to discover new, efficient methods for conveying understanding, which I believe sets humans apart from animals.

**Cosma Siekierski**  
***Your Cunt, Your Choice***

Mentor: Carrie Clark  
Domain: Media Studies and Technology  
Faculty: Ned Smyth

Feminism today is essential. As a teenage girl, I am exploring the boundaries of what it means to be a woman. My installation combines ideas of teenage sexuality and feminism to create an empowering yet unsettling experience. The focal point of my installation is the words of past and present feminists and my peers. The components of my installation address the harsh reality that women today are not equal to men. I hope that each person gains a deeper understanding of the dynamics of gender inequality.

**Eric Sun**  
***The West Lake***

Mentor: Jon Mulhern  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Alexandra Cromwell

I am building two models of West Lake for my Senior Project. I finished the first model, and I am still working on the second model. I am very interested in building different models, so that is why I chose this for my Senior Project.

**Yuyuan Tang**  
***Suspension Bridges***

Mentors: David Morgan, Urban Reininger  
Domain: Science  
Faculty: Ned Smyth

My project is to make models of suspension bridges by hand, using tools and wood materials. The idea comes because I realized there are good models of cars, but there are not real simulated models of bridges, which are also significant in life. Bridges are made not only for functioning, but also for decorating the city. Possessing stability, they are also beautiful.

**Naomi Tankel**  
***The Way We Met***

Mentor: Ivan Salcedo  
Domain: Media Studies and Technology  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

For my Senior Project, I wrote a script and turned it into a film. The movie is about a girl who is an aspiring writer. To gain some inspiration for her writing, she went to the coffee shop everyday. She struggled a lot at first; no ideas were coming to mind. Five cups of coffee later, she saw that someone had left a message for her on her coffee cup when she wasn't looking. At first she was very confused and ignored it, but when she returned to the coffee place the next day, the coffee cup was still there, waiting to be answered. Her curiosity got the best

of her and she thought that it would be interesting to write back and see if the messaging continued. In fact it did, and a friendship began to blossom from there.

### **Can Tanyeri**

#### ***Designing an Apartment for an Elder Client***

Mentor: Jennifer Cross

Domain: Visual Arts

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

For my Senior Project, I did an interior design for a senior apartment, using an existing floor plan and altering it for an imaginary client. To suit my client's needs, I changed the location of the master bedroom and turned one bedroom into a hobby room, plus I added an additional bathroom. After the floor plan was complete, I researched different furnishings, tile, flooring, window treatments, and appliances as well as color schemes. I also researched the specific requirements of the elderly, for example, a walk-in shower with a bench. I have intended to do a project like this to become more proficient and improve my skills in interior design and interior decorating, with the aspiration of becoming a real designer.

### **Saya Ualiyeva**

#### ***Semey: Lands of Nuclear Tests***

Mentor: Debra McCall

Domain: Cultural History

Faculty: Ivan Salcedo

For my Senior Project, I made a movie about nuclear tests in my hometown. I organized a dress-down day and donated money to families whose children are suffering from radiation consequences.

### **Zac Wan**

#### ***Architecture & Light***

Mentor: Therese Lichtenstein

Domain: Visual Arts

Faculty: Ned Smyth

The topic of my Senior Project is "Architecture & Light." The "Architecture" stands for architectural sculptures and models, the "Light" is the beautifier, and the "&" combines them in one. In my mind, architecture is everything; from buildings to houses, from a table to a trashcan, even the structure of a hamburger is about architecture. And light is the beautifier of everything, through colors to shadows. It makes everything more abstract and dreamlike. A room filled with architecture and light is a paradise for me. My goal is to build and design my paradise in real life. I planned to create a series of architectural sculptures illuminated by light, and photographs of them.

**Helen Wang**  
***The Prosthetic Makeup***

Mentor: Ned Smyth

Domains: Visual Arts, Media Studies and Technology

Faculty: Jessica Pollina

My Senior Project is about prosthetic makeup. I am doing two different topics of makeup: one is combining human features and snow leopard's features, and the other one is combining human features with tropical fish. My final product will be the photography of the prosthetic makeup that I made.

**Shenni Wang**  
***Lady One***

Mentor: Jennifer Lloyd

Domains: World Languages and Literature, Visual Arts

Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

When I arrived at Ross School in January 2012, I was very unconfident and afraid to speak English. In fact, I felt like a 12-year-old girl in a 17-year-old teenager's body. During my two years here, though, I have grown into a confident young lady, eager to make friends and now ready to take on a new adventure at college. This graphic memoir is the story of my transformation. Through pictures and words, I tell how participating in African drumming during M-Term, as well as joining in world dance and cheerleading during my junior year, were important moments in my life here at Ross School.

**Pearl Williams**  
***Johnny Rock***

Mentor: Ned Smyth

Domain: English

Faculty: Kenneth Sacks

Consultant: Shelby Raebeck

In the late summer, I made the decision to address my father's absence from my life—to interact with, communicate with, and learn about a man who I had not seen in three years. The last time I had really spent time with him was around nine or ten years ago. I chose to engage him in a series of conversations, in which we discussed everything from his childhood, to lost loves, to stories about his distant and recent past. My product, *Johnny Rock*, is a series of writings about my father, myself, and our relationship or lack thereof. I have written creative nonfiction pieces, some in his voice, some in my own. One of my main goals of this project was to get to know the guy sitting across from me as much as I could, not as a father, but as a man.

**Jingyi Xu**  
***Idea of Repurposing***

Mentor: Andrew Kirk  
Domains: Science, Visual Arts  
Consultant: Therese Lichtenstein

My Senior Project is making a handbag using can tabs. I chose to do this subject because I see the depletion of the natural resources. I want to distribute the idea of repurposing through my product. I will also write a paper about repurposing. The paper will include the problems caused by the overusing of natural resources and how repurposing could be a good way to improve our environment.

**Will Xu**  
***China's Territory in Different Dynasties & Map Making***

Mentor: Jennifer Cross  
Domains: Visual Arts, Cultural History  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

During the summer vacation, I wrote a research paper about how China's territory changed in different dynasties. Also, I made six maps, and these six maps show the territory of six China's dynasties. I will show the maps and paper in the exhibition. I hope people can learn the history of China's territory from my Senior Project.

**Ching (Claire) Yu**  
***Wonderland***

Mentor: Jennifer Lloyd  
Domain: Visual Arts  
Faculty: Therese Lichtenstein

For my Senior Project, I am creating a dining experience where people can feel like they are in a fantasy world, escaping the pressure from the real world. I am creating a wonderland through table settings, wall painting, and dishware.

**Dongfang Zhang**  
***HTML Chemistry Program***

Mentor: Urban Reininger  
Domain: Science

My Senior Project was inspired by my elementary school's study of common computer language and eleventh grade's study of chemistry; I found that students need additional help on their tools to recognize and cover more about the subject when the teacher missed or did not cover material. I have finished the central part of the programming, and now I wait for more codes to decorate the site.

**Yifan Zhang**  
***Yesterday; Today; Tomorrow***

Mentor: Andrew Kirk

Domains: Science, Cultural History, Media Studies and Technology

Faculty: Carleton Schade

I wrote an information booklet named *Yesterday; Today; Tomorrow*, which talks about how climate change has affected the marine ecosystem since the Earth took form and up to today and the future.

The reason is that the marine ecosystem, which is the largest ecosystem on the Earth, is currently under a huge threat that has been caused by human beings—climate change. My intention is to let people be aware of how severe the situation is and what contributions humans could make in saving the Earth mother.

**Yuhan Zhang**  
***Aircraft for Sightseeing***

Mentor: David Morgan

Domain: Science

Faculty: Robert Eldi

My Senior Project is to build a quadcopter for sightseeing. I will also write a paper about the function and the commercial use of the aircraft.

**Zhe (Steven) Zhao**  
***Bamboo Shelter***

Mentor: Elaine Parshall

Domains: Visual Arts, Science

Faculty: Ned Smyth

The product of my Senior Project is making a bamboo shelter. It will be about three meters high and three meters long. I will build this shelter to show people how natural materials mix with our life. In addition, because the main part of the shelter is made by bamboo and it is a helical project, it can also be looked at as art.