Welcome back to returning students and faculty, and welcome to the Honors Program new students!

We have some changes in the program this year that should interest you. One of the most significant is the inauguration of the new Honors Student Association (HSA), of which all current students are members. Led by President Tayler Boelk and Vice President Kylie Richter, the HSA will strengthen community in the program, assist with student recruitment, and represent students on the Honors Advisory Council, which contributes to programmatic and curricular decisions. Student Jennifer Smith serves as a representative to the HSA as well. The first social event is in the works as I write this (with food!), so if you didn’t make it this time, then look for upcoming announcements about future events.

One other change that I want to mention is a new National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Travel Award, funded by the Honors Program to promote student research. The NCUR conference attracts almost 4,000 participants each year, and it’s an amazing venue at which to present your scholarly or creative work. This award will provide two current Honors students with funding to travel to the University of Memphis for this year’s conference, April 6-8, 2017, where they will present in a professional conference setting alongside fellow undergraduates from around the nation. In late October, watch for an abstract workshop as well as a call for abstract submissions to our NCUR Travel Award Selection Committee. The two winners chosen by the committee will be invited to submit their abstracts to NCUR for the conference. Acceptance by NCUR is required for travel and participation.

October is such a busy month here on campus as classes and student organizations pick up the pace. If you have October 22 free on your calendar, though, do join us for our annual excursion to the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis to see an adaptation of Jane Austen’s beloved novel, Sense and Sensibility. We will take a coach bus for the day and have a great time together. Please keep reading in the newsletter for more detailed information. This event is free for current Honors students and faculty.

Also, keep reading for course descriptions of Spring 2017 Honors Courses and an introduction to the HSA by President Tayler Boelk.

As always, you are welcomed to stop by my office on the fourth floor of Tower Hall with questions or just to chat. Have a wonderful second half of the semester!
Honors Student Association
Tayler Boelk, President

As I enter my senior year, I am excited to be taking on the position of the Honors Student Association President. My Honors classes have been the most interesting, thought provoking, and challenging courses I have taken during my time at St. Scholastica. For this reason, I am thrilled to become more involved in the program and to share my excitement with other Honors students.

I will be working alongside Vice President Kylie Richter to represent the Honors Student Association on the Honors Advisory Council, to plan events that bring honors students and faculty together, and to create a stronger sense of community within the Honors Program. By giving students the opportunity to become more involved with the Honors program, we hope to increase the number of students graduating with Honors. The first event we have planned is an Honors Student Association social which we hope to have regularly throughout the year. Here, students can meet their cohort, get details about course offerings available to them, and learn more about their faculty. This event will focus on helping Honors students make lasting connections with peers and faculty and ensuring their time with the Honors program is memorable.

I look forward to working with all of those involved in the Honors Program, so please don’t hesitate to say “hello” if you pass me in the hall or send me an email if you have a great idea for an upcoming social.

Community Day
October 5, 2016
Honors Gardening Crew

Six Honors students and three faculty members volunteered their time on Community Day to prepare the most visible campus gardens for the upcoming inauguration of the College’s new president and to clear others for the winter. We weren’t sure that the rain would let up, but it did, and most of us made it for a warm, almost-sunny morning of gardening under the expert guidance of Sister Mary Josephine Torberg. Thank you to Maggie Beasley, Abigail Blonigen, Allie Brennhofer, Alex Crum, Daniela Moreno Gomez, Kiersten Sabolik and faculty members Ashley Dressel, Stephanie Johnson, and Suzanne Yunis for volunteering to be there.

Sense and Sensibility

Join the Honors community for an excursion to the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis on October 22, 2016 to see a matinee performance of Sense and Sensibility, directed by Sarah Rasmussen. Based on the novel by Jane Austen, this bold adaptation by Kate Hamill should be fun for both novices and devoted Austen fans. The Honors Program offers tickets and coach transportation at no cost to current Honors students and faculty.

Tickets are limited, and reservations are required by emailing Mary Lee at mlee@css.edu. Don’t miss out!
Faculty Accomplishments

In January, Dr. Ashley Dressel (Assistant Professor of Philosophy) published a co-authored chapter in *The Cambridge Critical Guide to Aquinas’s Disputed Questions on Evil* entitled “Weakness and Willful Wrongdoing in Aquinas’s De Mala”.

In March, she delivered commentary on Jonathan Fuqua’s “A Holistic Response to the Problem of Evil” at the Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago, IL as part of a session on contemporary solutions to the problem of evil.

In April, she presented an invited talk entitled ‘Francisco Suárez on Freedom and Moral Necessity’ at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. She is looking forward to presenting a version of this talk at the Medieval Association of the Midwest’s 32nd annual conference, held this October at the College of St. Scholastica.

Dr. Randall Poole is one of three editors for the *Oxford Handbook of Russian Religious Thought*, a large volume which will consist of about 45 chapters. In April 2016 Oxford University Press accepted the book proposal and issued contracts. The project will take about three years to complete.

Dr. Poole also published two book reviews:

“In 2016, Ryan Vine’s new book-length manuscript "To Keep Him Hidden" was a finalist for the New Issues Poetry Prize from Western Michigan University, the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry from Southern Illinois University, the MVP Prize from New Rivers Press, and Robert Pinsky selected it as finalist for the Dorset Prize from Tupelo Press.”

Student Notes

Alexis Anderson went to Costa Rica this summer on a Spanish/mission trip. She also had the opportunity to work an internship over the summer at a physical therapy clinic. Before the start of school, she attended a kayaking SOAR trip with Outdoor Pursuit. Alexis recently earned a role in *The Diary of Anne Frank* play as Margot. She also enjoys spending her free time at the climbing wall. Alexis is now pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Exercise Physiology and intends to become a physical therapist.

Allison Brennhofer is a junior Humanities major, focusing on English, History, and Women’s and Gender Studies, with a minor in Philosophy. She works in the Admissions office, gives tours to prospective students, and is a reporter for the school newspaper, The Cable. She will be traveling to Ireland in the spring with CSS, which she is extremely excited about. She has not quite figured out what she will do after she finishes school, but is contemplating grad school for either library sciences or history with a focus on curating.

Casey Deneen is a freshman and an exercise physiology/pre P.T. major. He is also a member of the CSS football team as a defensive lineman. This takes up much of his time, although he is involved in Intervarsity and looking into many more clubs. He also works as a social media coordinator for CSS athletics.
Faith Dorwart is currently a freshman here at St. Scholastica, and it has been, overall, a wonderful transition for her. She is currently involved in the Art Club, CAB, College Allies, VITA, and Oxfam; she also works on campus as an admissions clerk. Her goal is to graduate from CSS with a degree in Exercise Physiology and continue onto graduate school to study Physical Therapy. She is also hoping to study abroad sometime during her college years; her sights are set on traveling back to London after she fell in love with this city over the past summer. She is continuing to work hard in all of her classes and is striving for a spot on the Dean’s list.

Amanda Dornhecker is a junior majoring in Exercise Physiology and is Doctor of Physical Therapy intended. She is an experienced equine therapy leader at North Country Ride, as well as a Special Olympics, Minnesota equestrian level I coach, and team representative. Outside of volunteer work she is a top ranked server/supervisor working at Grandma’s Restaurants. On-campus Amanda is a physics department teacher’s assistant and also the swim club co-president. Her education is a gift she is fully aware of every day.

Jolene Duda is a freshman, she is planning on majoring in Biochemistry and minoring in Spanish. She plans on doing a Pre-Med study where she will go off to med school to become a doctor. She would like to specialize in pediatric oncology some day and travel the world spreading what she has learned to others. Jolene is on the CSS Women’s tennis team and she works at the computer help desk. She plans on studying abroad at some point to be able to go out and see the world. She hopes to be able to go on many mission trips and get as involved as possible on campus and continue to volunteering up in Duluth.

DyAnna Grondahl is pursuing a double major in Psychology, the Humanities, and a minor in German. She is very busy this semester working as a Dignitas MTA for both Dr. Randall Poole and Dr. Bret Amundsen. She also writes for the Cable and manages the CSS Theatre Box Office. DyAnna enjoys singing in Bella Voce, exploring the outdoors and spending time with her Benedictine friend Sister Sarah Smedman. Her current pursuit is in the field of psychological counseling, but she and Sister Sarah are convinced Dr. Poole will make a professor out of her soon enough.

Sarah Holicky is a sophomore pursuing a nursing major with a Spanish minor. Outside of school, Sarah is involved in many activities. She is a member of various clubs including Circle K, Campus Activities Board, Student Nursing Association, College Allies, and Medlife. Over the summer, Sarah was busy working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Along with working as a CNA, she has learned many new life lessons from the elderly.

Olivia Hull is a freshman at Saint Scholastica. She plans on pursuing a Psychology degree with a Pre-Occupational Therapy focus. She is involved in choir, rugby, intervarsity, and Campus Ministry so far, but is planning on joining other activities. Olivia is loving St. Scholastica and can't wait for what the College and Honors Program will have ahead for her.

Ashley Kittelson is a junior majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry and mathematics. This September she completed a fifteen-month internship at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mid-Continent Ecology Division. During this internship she studied nitrogen cycling in bogs in response to global warming and developed methods for nutrient spiraling for the national rivers and streams assessment. Now that school has started she works as a supplemental instruction (SI) leader for general chemistry. As an SI leader she prepares study materials and leads study sessions for students. She is also president of the Earth Action Club where she organizes and leads environmental volunteer projects and activities, both on and off campus.
Malvern Madondo hails from Harare, Zimbabwe. He was recently accepted into the Honors Program at The College of Saint Scholastica, where he is pursuing studies in Mathematics and Computer Science. This past summer, Malvern was an Urban Scholar and an intern with the Department of Human Services, State of Minnesota. He was also a Student Ambassador during the International Students Orientation and a counselor for the Youth Theology Institute, in its inaugural year, this summer. On campus, Malvern is actively involved with Campus Ministry and Storm's Advocates. He writes for the Scholastica Students blog, sharing his experiences with prospective and current students. He also works at the IT Help Desk and does independent research on anything related to robotics and artificial intelligence. This is his second year at CSS and he looks forward to participating in the Honors Program and learning from distinguished faculty and fellow students.

Katie Mayland is a freshman this year and is currently an undecided major but she is extremely excited to see what The College of Saint Scholastica has to offer! She is currently involved in the United for Africa Club and is looking forward to getting more involved!

Kayla McClintock is a sophomore nursing intended major. She applied to the major earlier in the year through the ENTER program. With a year under her belt, she has expanded her horizons. She is currently involved in Black Student Union and Multi-ethnic Student Union. Kayla also works as a Dignitas Mentor/Teaching Assistant for Dr. Tom Morgan's honors course: Utopia, Dystopia, and the Idea of Human Perfectibility. During her spare time, she works as a Certified Nursing Assistant and hangs out with friends.

Daniela Moreno, sophomore, is an international student from El Salvador who recently transferred to the College of Saint Scholastica. She is currently planning on double majoring on Computer Informational Systems and Finance. For her first year at CSS she has decided to become an active member of clubs such as the Latin Student Union, International Club, Philosophy Club and United for Africa. Daniela is looking forward to getting her first internship opportunity at Minnesota for this upcoming summer.

Saphire Moser is a new member of the Honors Program, and is enjoying her freshman year. She is majoring in Exercise Physiology, with a Pre-Physical Therapy intent, and participates in St. Scholastica’s Concert Choir as a soprano. She is currently spending her time studying and exploring the many clubs/activities CSS has to offer. She enjoys attending the Newman Center near UMD campus, through which she recently took part in a freshman retreat. Through this, and many other activities on and off campus, she has met many friends that are blessings to her, being so far from home. She plans to join intramural sport teams as the year progresses, while keeping her eyes open for other opportunities to have fun and get involved.

McKenzie Orr is from Rice Lake, Wisconsin. She is a new member of our awesome Honors program. She is majoring in exercise physiology pre physical therapy. McKenzie is excited to make connections and enhance her learning through Honors. Also, McKenzie is a student-athlete, participating on the volleyball team at Scholastica. McKenzie has enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Duluth and cannot wait to keep exploring the amazing city.
Mikayla Patel is a freshman Pre-Med intended Biochemistry major. She currently is a member of OXFAM and volunteers with VITA at CSS. On the weekends, Mikayla works as a CNA at the Benedictine Health Center. She aspires to be a pediatrician or an obstetrician, and loves working with children. Over the summer, she spent a week in New York City and sang with a choir at the United Nations. Mikayla’s passions include celebrating Christmas, reading, and music. She also enjoys her Honor's class and singing as a Soprano in the Concert Choir and Bella Voce.

Rachael Platt is a freshman with an undecided major. She is involved in the English and Arts Club and Jazz Band at CSS. She is also part of Music Ministry at UMD. In her free time, Rachael enjoys drawing and playing guitar/bass guitar.

Elizabeth Poskie, a freshman this year, is on the Pre-Medicine/Pre-Physician Assistant track. She is considering majoring in Biology or Biochemistry. She has enjoyed her time at St. Scholastica so far and loves the atmosphere, faculty, and fellow students. She is on the cross country and track team and is having a great time competing at the collegiate level. In addition to being involved in athletics, she is also the SAAC representative for her cross country team, will be participating in Blue Crew and Pre-Med Club, volunteers at Essentia Health-St. Mary’s Hospital, and is looking to partake in other activities as the year progresses. Overall, Elizabeth is looking forward to the rest of her freshman year at St. Scholastica and is excited to be in the Honors Program.

Alysa Ruona is a freshman cheerleader at CSS who plans on majoring in Nursing and minoring in women’s studies. In high school she completed CNA and EMT programs and graduated in the top 15% of her class. She also placed 4th Internationally at HOSA Leadership Conference in California for the Health Lifestyles Event for her research, data, and presentation on Vegetarianism. Alysa hopes to graduate from Scholastica having made a difference at the school and among her peers.

Sydney Sanchez is currently a sophomore psychology major and a management minor. Last year she was involved in several clubs on campus, and this semester she has added Justice Together and Asian Student Union to her list of activities. Along with that, Sydney has co-created a new club on campus, Multiethnic Student Union, for other multiracial students such as herself. This semester she plans on travelling to Morocco over winter break with fellow CSS students. Sydney is also a tutor at the Rose Warner Writing Center.

Katelynne Schatz is a new freshman addition to the Honors Program at the College of St. Scholastica. In adjustment to her new home, she has met many new people and attended fun campus events. So far, she has joined the English and Arts Club, American Sign Language Club, Women’s Choir, and Club Volleyball. Katelynne is also a shadow guide, so potential students may sit in on a class with her when they visit the campus. Although she is only taking one Honors course this semester, Katelynne cannot wait for the opportunities St. Scholastica and the Honors Program will bring her way.

Robin Schoettle is a freshman majoring exercise physiology, Pre-PT. At Scholastica, she is the public relations coordinator for QSA, and a member of the English and Arts club. She is also a member of the flute choir at UMD, and loves it. Robin works in St. Scholastica’s library, and frequently goes there to study. On her free time, Robin enjoys drawing, listening to music, running, and spending time with friends. She is really excited for the next few years of college.
Levi is currently a freshman at St. Scholastica. He is a biology major and plans to pursue a career in medicine. He is a member of the Student Support Services. In the future, he plans to get involved in VITA and the Biology Club.

Josie Steller is a freshman who is majoring in Elementary Education and is considering a minor in Photography and American Sign Language. She aspires to teach first or second graders while maintaining her photography business in her spare time. While at CSS, Josie has been active in the Christian Student Community, Ballroom Dancing Club, and taking pictures for St. Scholastica's student newspaper, The Cable. Josie also works at the CSS theater sewing costumes and she enjoys the creative element of her work.

Allison Willner is a freshman this year and is currently undecided in her major, but is contemplating Biochemistry, and Pre-Pharmacy intended. She is participating in the St. Scholastica Dance team as well as a frequent visitor to the climbing wall. This summer she went on a SOAR backpacking trip and is now pursuing becoming a guide through Outdoor Pursuit. She is loving being at Scholastica, meeting new people, and making great memories. She can't wait to see what else this inspiring school has in store for her as well as the Honors Program.

Theodore Carlson Webster is an incoming freshman who is on the track to Pre-Dentistry. He has been a volunteer helper in the development of Forging Community, a nonprofit blacksmithing organization, as well as a volunteer for the local-foods-supported Duluth Grill. Theodore himself lives on a farm and raises pigs and chickens. He is looking forward to being an involved part of CSS.

**Upcoming Honors Events**

**Guthrie Theater Trip:** October 22, 2016, *Sense and Sensibility*, Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, MN.

**Webster Scholar Dinner:** December 8, 5:30 p.m. Social and 6:00 p.m. Dinner, Somers Lounge. Dinner for Honors students and faculty to celebrate Webster Scholars. All Honors students and faculty are invited. Webster Scholars may invite their families. Look for the invitation from Ms. Mary Lee!

**Upcoming Presentations**

**Oreck-Alpern Interreligious Forum:** Thursday, October 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Mitchell Auditorium, “Transcultural Healthcare among Diverse Cultures” with Dr. Hiba Wehbe-Alamah and Dr. Marilyn McFarland.

**Oreck-Alpern Interreligious Form:** Friday, October 28, 8:30-10:00 a.m., Mitchell Auditorium, “Reinventing Indigenous Health” with Dr. Michelle Johnson-Jennings and Dr. Derek Jennings.

**The Braegelman Program in Catholic Studies Lecture:** Thursday, November 3, 7:30 p.m., Mitchell Auditorium, “On a Dark Night: The Faith and Doubt of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Saint Therese of Lisieux” with Dr. Carol Zaleski.

**Alworth Center for the Study of Peace & Justice Lecture Series:** Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., Mitchell Auditorium, “Growing Up Black in Urban America” with James Forman Jr.
Each semester, Honors Program faculty, students, parents, and friends celebrate those who are graduating as Webster Scholars with a dinner and medallion presentation ceremony. The requirements to graduate as a Webster Scholar are generally as follows: (1) complete 20 credits of Honors coursework, eight of which must be at the 3000 and/or 4000 level; (2) earn a B or better in 20 credits of Honors courses; and (3) achieve a graduating cumulative G.P.A. of 3.50 or above.

In Spring 2016, Megan Brennhofer, Michael Bruner, Tyler Gloe, Koua Her, Katherine LaFleur, Andrew Laughlin, Jordan Lindholm, Emily Lundgren, Trang Nguyen, Kelsi Novitsky, María Olivares Boscán, Anastasia Pitzen, Stephanie Prinsen, Matthew Randolph, Benjamin Sam, Ivy Smith, and Lindsy Wayt graduated as Webster Scholars.

Congratulations!
Honors Courses Spring 2017

HON 1112, Sec. 001: And Dignity for All: Great Ideas
Area Distribution for Honors: Fulfills DGN requirement, 4 cr
Dr. Thomas Morgan, TR 12:00-1:40 p.m.
CRN: 60199

HON 1112, Sec. 002: And Dignity for All: Great Ideas
Area Distribution for Honors: Fulfills DGN requirement, 4 cr
Dr. Randall Poole, TR 12:00-1:40 p.m.
CRN: 60200

HON 1112 Sec. 003: And Dignity for All: Great Ideas
Area Distribution for Honors: Fulfills DGN requirement, 4 cr
Dr. Neal Keye, TR 12:00-1:40 p.m.
CRN: 60639

HON 1777: Self and Society: Great Ideas
Utopias and Dystopias
Area Distribution for Honors: AD04
Veritas Pathway: Literature
Dr. Thomas Morgan, MW 3:30-5:10 p.m., 4 cr
CRN: 61401
This course serves as an introduction to the Honors Program and is open only to transfer students and delayed entry students. This course will explore the idea of human perfectibility in utopian and dystopian literature. We will concentrate on the dystopian critics. Some of them have seen that human perfectibility is unfeasible or at least difficult in view of the "dark side of the human condition." Others have depicted, often brilliantly, the dangers of external, coercive approaches to human perfectibility. This course will help students approach great books (philosophy and fiction) and to think, speak and write critically about what they read and hear. Students who have completed HON 1111 may not enroll. Program director’s approval required.

HON 2243/TRS 2243: Women and Religion
Area Distribution for Honors IDS: AD01, AD10
Veritas Pathway: Religious Studies
Dr. Denise Starkey, TR 2:00-3:40 p.m., Seats: 15/5, 4 cr
CRN: 61358
This course emphasizes the work of contemporary women thinkers in several disciplines who are exploring various dimensions of the question of women’s presence, exclusion and contribution to religions of the world. Through historical and comparative study the course provides both a critical and a constructive understanding of the contributions that women make to religions, as well as the influence of religions on the situation of women in the world. We will focus particularly on the origins of gender norms, women's lived experiences in indigenous religions, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, as well as critical issues including violence against women sanctioned implicitly or explicitly by religion, the impact of patriarchy on men, and other contemporary issues. The course is organized as a seminar; therefore discussion is key and depends upon the engagement and commitment of all learners to the course.

HON 2777/PJS 2777: Voices of America
Area Distribution for Honors IDS: AD01, AD02, IDS
Dr. Thomas Morgan, TR 9:00-9:50 a.m., Seats 10/5, 2 cr
CRN: 61237
This course is connected to the 2016-17 Alworth Peace & Justice lecture series. The topic for the series is "Listening to Voices of America" and will feature presentations about and from traditionally marginalized groups in the United States. Students will read books written by authors who will be presenting their perspectives, and they will be given an opportunity to meet and to interact with these thinkers when they are on campus. Additional related readings may be required.

HON 3350: Psychology of Human Sexuality
Area Distribution for Honors IDS: AD02
Veritas Pathway: Social Sciences
Dr. Debra Schroeder, TR 10:00-11:40 a.m., 2 cr (3/20-5/11)
CRN: 61239
This course involves reading and discussing psychology literature on selected, often controversial, topics in human sexuality. Subjects include evolutionary psychology and mate selection, love styles and classifications, unlovely feelings such as jealousy, correlates of sexual orientation, the church and sexuality, contraceptives, resolving unplanned pregnancies, impact of pornography on sexual aggression, atypical sexual behavior, realities and politics of child sexual abuse and sex therapy. The course will emphasize interactions between psychological factors and other influences—biological, social, cultural, religious—on sexual attitudes and behavior, and the study of sexuality as a scientific discipline.

HON 3777/ENG 3301: Creative Writing: Poetry
Area Distribution for Honors IDS: AD11
Prof. Ryan Vine, Ireland Semester, Seats: 5/10, 4 cr
CRN: 61235
Students will learn to read poems as poets would: as admirers and critics and "close readers" who constantly question the techniques poets employ to make successful poems successful and how we might go about borrowing them (or stealing them, as Eliot would prefer). We will then draft our own poems, cultivating our intuitive abilities as beginning poets and identifying our weaknesses. This cultivation and identification occurs within classroom workshops and one-on-one meetings with the instructor.
Honors Courses Spring 2017

HON 3777/FIN 3777: Applications of Game Theory
Area Distribution for Honors IDS: AD02, AD05
Veritas Pathway: Social Sciences
Drs. Luther Qson and Robert Hoffman,
MWF 11:45-12:50 p.m., Seats: 10/5, 4 cr
CRN: 61240
Game theory is a set of mathematical tools for studying the strategic behavior of individuals in both cooperative and non-cooperative settings. In this course we will learn the principles of game theory, show how evolutionary biology has affected our understanding of game theory, and apply the principles of game theory to a wide variety of fields. This course will use problems to develop our understanding of game theory. In many applications of game theory, modeling the interaction of individuals can become quite complicated. The use of computer simulations has allowed researchers to model complex strategic interactions, and we will, in this course, use computer simulation models to help us solve various problems. This course will appeal to students interested in economics, political science, psychology, biology, computer science—in general, anyone wanting to learn formal tools for analyzing competition and cooperation in social interactions.

HON 3777/ENG 3777: Literature of London
Area Distribution for Honors: AD04
Veritas Pathway: Literature
Dr. Stephanie Johnson, T 4:00-5:40 p.m., May Study Abroad
2 or 4 cr
CRN: 61360
This course will combine a 2-credit spring class with the opportunity to earn an additional 2 credits while studying abroad in London (May 14—June 4, 2017). We will read three novels set in London from three literary periods and consider how city and narrative shape one another. Students desiring to study abroad must apply to the program in November and must register for this spring class as a prerequisite for a total of four credits. Students not studying abroad may take this class for two credits.

HON 4500: Gods and Monsters
Area Distribution for Honors IDS: AD04, AD10
Veritas Pathways: Literature or Religious Studies
Dr. Neal Keye, TR 2:00-3:40 p.m., 4 cr
CRN: 61241
This course explores the turn to religion, the supernatural, and youth concerns in American popular culture since the 1990s. Whether one takes a look at the hit TV series Buffy the Vampire Slayer and its spin-off Angel or enormously popular films such as The Matrix, Interview with the Vampire and the Twilight franchise, there has been a virtual explosion of angels, monsters, vampires, and aliens in American film, TV, and literature. These supernatural beings haunt America’s cultural landscape, offering the promise of perpetual youth. While these cultural articulations of religion and the supernatural do not always focus on youth culture, many of them do, suggesting that modern ideas about youth have begun to merge with both utopian and dystopian narratives of our post-human future. Throughout the course, we will examine how the creation of monstrous “others” not only reflects society’s fears about race, class, and gender but also shapes modern forms of knowledge, power, and history-making. To do this, we will consider the brave new world of gods and monsters alongside cutting-edge scholarship in critical theory and cultural studies. Along the way we will also consider the possibility of viewing American history from the colonial era onward as a horror story.