Chavez, Guadalupe  History/ Political Science  
*Policy and Power: The Effects of U.S. Immigration Policies on Latinos and the Struggle for Equality, Integration, and Racial Representation*

**Proposal:** In conjunction with a summer internship in Washington D.C., Guadalupe Chavez will study contemporary U.S. immigration policies and their influence on the Latino community. He asks: How is Latino culture shaped by policy? With data collected from case studies, Mr. Chavez will pursue how Latinos challenge social constructions caused by immigration policies to pursue equality, integration, and racial representation.  

**Outcome(s):** Mr. Chavez conducted case studies on bills passed in Arizona, Alabama, and Georgia aimed to fix the “illegal immigration crisis.” Drawing upon research by Anne Schneider and Helen Ingram, Mr. Chavez identified four socially constructed groups in these bills: advantaged, contenders, dependents, and deviants. Mr. Chavez concluded that the bills passed in these states promote negative and false stereotypes, socially constructing Latino undocumented immigrants as deviants, criminals, or thieves.

Johnson, Samantha  Psychology  
*The Psychological Impact of the Threat of Sexual Violence on the General Population*

**Proposal:** Drawing upon personal experiences in D.A.R.E. programs and high school health classes, Samantha Johnson asks: how does the threat of sexual violence impact the general (non-traumatized) population? She will examine self-protective measures taken across age groups and gender in a variety of daily contexts and analyze the data to find statistical difference. While there is a significant amount of research on traumatized populations, little attention has been paid to the general population providing Ms. Johnson with a niche for further study.  

**Outcome(s):** Ms. Johnson conducted surveys via social media (Social Danger Scale, Constrained Behaviors Measure, & Fear of Rape Scale) to find correlations between perceived fear and protective measures taken by the individual. Ms. Johnson’s data suggested that there was no significant difference in fear between men and women; however the more fear a person has, the more likely they are to engage in protective behaviors. Research also indicated that older participants exhibit less constrained behaviors and perceive less social danger. Further research will benefit from a wider, more diverse sample and a differentiation between participants who previously experienced sexual trauma and participants without past trauma.

Leitman, Natalie  Fine Arts  
*Study of Mixed Media Textures in Fine Art Painting*

**Proposal:** Natalie Leitman will undertake and exploration of media and texture in fine arts studio practice. Her current research focuses on contemporary artists who utilize these elements to great successes in the working art world. Ms. Leitman both borrows from and expands upon the work she observes. Her six week exploration will result in six to ten finished works and will be overseen by professor Ben Schwab with meetings held twice weekly.  

**Outcome(s):** Ms. Leitman continued her exploration of paint’s reactions to other media yielding dramatic textures. With the aid of the stipend, Ms. Leitman was able to experiment with spray foam insulator, puffy paint, and molding paste pushing her ideas to new visual realizations. Her summer work also included continued research of established arts engaged with the same ideas. These artists include: Nellie Kin Solomon, Ricardo Mazal, Maryann Wakeley, Anselm Keifer, Darren Waterston, and Zebedee Jones. Through research, experimentation, and conversations with Professor Schwab, Ms. Leitman is well prepared to establish herself as a working artist.
Ziko, Kliment Biochemistry

Eye and Ethmoid Plate Development in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Zebrafish

Proposal: Building off of previous research in the field, Kliment Ziko will study the effect of ethanol on eye and cranial development by measuring eye diameter and ethmoid bone plate width. Varying concentrations of ethanol will be tested for correlations to the severity of eye and craniofacial abnormalities. This research will lead to extrapolation on how the heaviness of drinking in human mothers affects the severity of their children’s abnormalities.

Outcomes: Fetal alcohol syndrome is one of the most prevalent developmental diseases in the modern world. The most well documented effects are reduced cranial size, mental retardation, lowered heart rate, and a host of craniofacial abnormalities. Mr. Ziko’s work focused on the effects of ethanol on zebrafish inter-eye distance, eye diameter, and total body length. Embryos treated with ethanol showed an overall decrease in inter-eye distance as the concentration of ethanol increased. Body length and eye diameter did not statistically differ at different concentrations to suggest a relationship between ethanol and said characteristics. 50mM ethanol seemed to cause very minor pathophysiological defects when compared to the effects caused by 100mM and 150mM ethanol.