

# Bates College

2004 – 2005 Honors Theses Abstracts

**BATES COLLEGE**  
**2004-2005 HONORS RECIPIENTS**

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

Jessica T. Celentano  
Margaret K. Haskell  
Rachel E. Silver

**BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY**

Christina A. Austin  
Matthew R. Lawler

**BIOLOGY**

Kelton W. McMahon

**CHEMISTRY**

Erin M. Bertrand\*  
Christopher J. Richards

**CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL  
STUDIES**

Sarah Jessee

**ECONOMICS**

Siarhei Balshakou  
Andrius Stasiunas

**ENGLISH**

Jocelyn N. Davies  
Naama Zohn

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Erin M. Bertrand\*  
Eben P. Sypitkowski  
Meghan C. Thornton

**FRENCH**

Michelle Gomperts  
Genevieve O. Waite

**GEOLOGY**

Evan S. Ackerman  
Charles I. Rodda  
Alexander J. Verhave

**HISTORY**

Joel D. Anderson  
Gary M. Dzen  
Lawrence J. Handerhan  
Andrew T. Jarboe  
Timothy W. Larson  
Laura W. McConaghy  
Eric Stanculescu  
Darcy L. York  
Emily E. Zukauskas

**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

Erin M. Bednarek  
Ryan T. Conrad  
Peter W. Pawlick  
Nicole F. Schulman  
Sarah R. Sherman-Stokes

**BATES COLLEGE**  
**2004-2005 HONORS RECIPIENTS**

**MATHEMATICS**

Jennifer E. Hanley  
Nicholas H. Violi

**NEUROSCIENCE**

Kristin M. Gerhold  
Nicole A. Langelier  
Jason R. Rafferty

**PHILOSOPHY**

Russell T. Anderson  
Tucker W. McKinney

**PHYSICS**

Shaun J. Higginson  
Bryon J. Viechnicki

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Christina L. Chamberlain  
Nathan B. Harrington  
Rebecca H. Perlmutter

**PSYCHOLOGY**

Rodrigo H. Dias  
Joanna E. Dove  
Meryl F. Glicksman  
Kara K. Seaton  
Sienna C. Vorono  
Rebecca M. White

**SOCIOLOGY**

Christina C. Alioto  
Eric Batscha  
Andrea K. Hopkins  
Jillian B. Murphy  
Deborah J. Opar

**SPANISH**

Kara M. Cronin

**THEATER**

Molly A. Coogan  
Alixandra M. Liiv

\* Denotes a combined thesis

## ANTHROPOLOGY

**Jessica T. Celentano**

*Advisor:* Elizabeth A. Eames

### **Giving Credit Where Credit is Due: Microfinance, Economic Education, and Entrepreneurship Among Women in Senegal**

In recent years, development experts, government officials, international aid donors, and scholars have invested considerable time and resources into promoting microcredit schemes. Success stories from around the world demonstrate the potential of providing small sums of money to low-income women as an empowering and effective poverty alleviation strategy. Support from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund ensures a dramatic increase in funding for microfinance institutions within the next few years. Yet a growing number of researchers question this enthusiasm, arguing that microfinance programs divert attention and resources from more effective means of poverty eradication. Exploring such criticisms by way of six case studies of Senegalese female entrepreneurs, this thesis demonstrates the necessity of cultural-specificity and gender-sensitivity in order for the microfinance industry to circumvent past hegemonic development praxis and reach its anticipated potential.

**Margaret K. Haskell**

*Advisor:* Steven E. G. Kemper

### **When a Ritual is Textualized: A Look at the Various Depictions of the *Palio* of Siena**

This thesis examines the various ways that Siena's *Palio* is depicted in text form. The *Palio* is a horse race that occurs biannually in Siena and holds cultural significance because the outcome of the race shapes social, political, and economical relationships among the townspeople. Over the last two decades there has been a drastic increase in "heritage tourism;" the popularity of the *Palio* has therefore expanded into a huge event with different audiences. Media coverage, including books, magazines, and videos, has shaped the way in which spectators view the *Palio*. This thesis reviews what happens to a ritual when it is textualized, focusing on how the *Palio* is portrayed in both "tourist guidebooks" and "locally authorized" versions. It uncovers the similarities and differences in information provided and claims made. It utilizes a multifaceted approach, incorporating published primary source materials, field notes, tourist guidebooks, locally authorized guidebooks and interviews with locals and tourists who attended the *Palio*. I argue that the tourist gaze is constructed through the information written in each book, resulting in the experience and presentation of multiple *Palii* for spectators.

