



Aquinas Scholars
HONORS PROGRAM

The

SCHOLARS JOURNAL

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SCHOLARS USING THEIR FIVE SENSES



On April 17th, scholars joined the Symposium Chairs for an interactive challenge that explored their five senses. Last month, our First-year Representatives hosted a March Madness bracket. Below is our second and third place winners, Audrey Theophilus and Maddie Donovan! First place was Tara Johnson (not pictured.)

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March Madness Winners



SYMPOSIUM WEEK

This Year's Theme: The Five Senses

The Aquinas Scholars Symposium week is an annual week of events centered around a specific theme. This year, we explored how the five senses can interact with our daily lives, how they help us interpret the world around us, and how they can affect our emotions, our sleep, and our overall well being. The first event was *A Seminar on The Five Senses*, where Dr. Prichard (Neuroscience and Psychology) gave a talk about the connections between the five senses and sleep. The second event was *The Interactive Five Senses Challenge*, a competition where scholars went through five stations, each representing one of the five senses, and attempted to guess the mystery object using one of their senses. Lastly, scholars participated in a clothing drive for The Metro Deaf School throughout the week.



SCHOLARS ABROAD: MUNICH TRIP

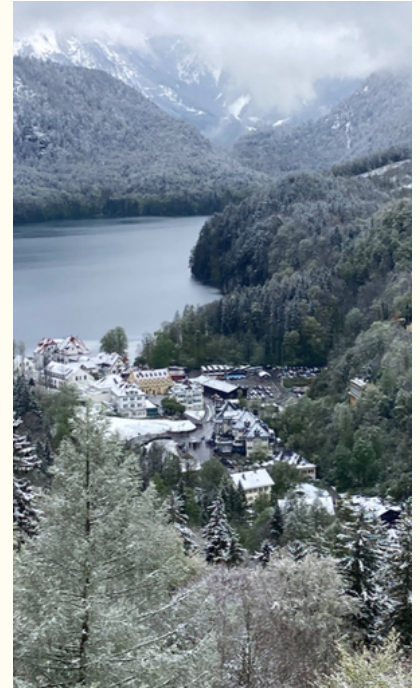
Rex Frimanslund

Last weekend I went on a trip to Munich. I had a good time at Frühlingsfest, got to see Neuschwanstein Castle and walked around the city at night. But what I've come to realize about traveling is that it's really the people that make up a place. History and architecture and great art are all fine and make for great pictures, but it's really observing the people and even talking to them which makes you gain more understanding of a culture.

I took German for four years in high school, so I was pretty excited to test out what I practiced for so long... I then found out that mostly everybody in the city has a basic understanding of English. When we first got there, and I tried to order something in German, they immediately talked in English because they could tell from my accent (and bad grammar) that I was American. In a way, I guess it was a way of showing kindness since it meant they wanted me to feel welcome in their city. It's also way less confusing than say Paris where you either are hated if you speak sub-par French or hated if you speak English. But it was also somewhat disappointing. I did use my German knowledge at points... as well as not using it. I got stopped on the street by a woman asking for something and she spoke so fast that I could only think to say, "Ich spreche kein Deutsche." She smiled politely and left.

But interactions like these, although a failure in terms of speaking the language, did make me learn more about German easygoingness. An example was when we were in the Rathaus, which was like the town hall, and I guess we didn't know we were supposed to be in there. The security came up to us but instead of being angry, they just told us they would help bring us to the exit. Another example of their easygoingness was just the amount of cigarette smokers I saw on the street. In London, you may see some outside pubs, but in Munich they're everywhere: in their cars, on the street, even in special airport lounges.

I had a small conversation with this guy who came from Frankfurt, and he said that Germany was a boring country (although I would take that with a grain of salt since he never even visited Munich before). He said the only good thing about Germany is that you can travel to everywhere in Europe pretty cheap because you're basically in the middle of everything. I found his boredom of Germany to be sort of like how I view America. I wanted to go see parts of Europe because I thought I already had enough experience in America. In actuality, I haven't seen America at all! Besides the Midwest and Florida, I've never been to New York or California or Texas or Las Vegas. Most Europeans have seen more of America than I have. I guess what these trips have mainly taught me is that, just like the German, I need to broaden my perspective not just of the world but my own country.



WINDOWS

Julia Kuckler



Windows foster two-way connection. One can look inside to a world full of education, thought stimulation, and rigorous thinking. One can look outside into a world of unseen opportunities, blooming nature, and an earth waking up. On a simple walk around campus this spring, we are filled with a sense of excitement as we are united by constant change.

BIRDS ARE NOT REAL

Rose Hissom



Nowadays, it seems as if technology tracks everything we do. We get all-too-specifically targeted ads on social media. TikTok and YouTube algorithms seem to know exactly what we want all the time. It's lowkey kind of scary how much information social media companies collect. A certain group of people believes that online corporations are not the only entities collecting personal data, however. A college student named Peter McIndoe started the Birds Aren't Real movement in 2007. What the group intended to bring to light was the "fact" that birds don't actually exist — birds are fake, and are actually used by the government to spy on civilians! The group rapidly gained a following — consisting of mostly young members, the movement's purpose is to bring awareness to misinformation and confusion generated by droves on conspiracy theories online. Members of the Birds Aren't Real movement know that birds are, indeed, real. They simply wish to show how obviously ridiculous beliefs can generate tremendous support. The Birds Aren't Real movement has a fully-fledged website, which contains a detailed narrative on the history of the group and "truthmer merch," clothing and accessories which bear the slogan "Birds Aren't Real." The group has protested outside Twitter headquarters in San Francisco and placed billboards across the United States. Though the theory of the Birds Aren't Real movement is obviously absurd and untrue, the group goes to show that awareness for bigger issues can easily be brought about through funny and ludicrous means.

SCHOLARS ABROAD

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Raiza Guzman

Cherry blossom season finally arrived in Seoul and with that I decided to go take the famous Gyeongbokgung Palace tour. Gyeongbokgung Palace is South Korea's biggest palace and something unique you can do on palace tours is have the chance to wear traditional hanboks. There were a lot of different options for hanboks to choose from ranging from the traditional type to the bit less traditional sparkly ones like the one I am wearing. Still, it was a cool cultural experience, and the palace was stunning especially with all the cherry blossom trees. Seeing cherry blossoms for the first time was a surreal experience that I will always remember from my time here in South Korea. I would definitely recommend checking out this palace if you ever travel to South Korea.



LONDON, ENGLAND

Lilee Surdell

For my ARTH355 class in London, I had the opportunity of going on a street art tour. This tour took me through all different boroughs of London. This was my favorite wall full of posters and collage art because your eyes can wander for minutes, but each person focuses on a different piece. The interesting thing about street art here in London is how quickly things get covered up by new art!

ATYPICAL APRIL

Jack Arnason

April waltzes in with whimsy strides,
A master of masks, in sun or heavy rain she hides.
She weeps with joy, then grins so wide,
In a single breath, warmth and chill collide.



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