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Comedy in the Satyricon: Senior Research Prospectus

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*Comedy in the Satyricon: Senior
Research Prospectus*
By Nate Emmerson

My senior Honors Project will focus on prose in Latin's "silver age," specifically during the reign of Nero, and more specifically, the *Satyricon* by Petronius Arbiter, one of Nero's intimates and his "arbiter of elegance." Petronius has left us a work that is difficult to classify with any preexisting genre, and the *Satyricon* has been called the first western novel. Without a doubt, however, it combines many elements of other, preexisting genres into a "mishmash" (*satura*). Throughout this mishmash, Petronius utilizes many of the central elements to ancient comedy, as well as literary techniques used by both Greek old and new comedy as well as Roman comedy. I will examine the influence of Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus, and Terence on the *Satyricon*, as well as Petronius' use of theatrical elements and techniques such as dramatic illusion as a way of enhancing his "novel."

*The Effects of Iconoclasm on Christian
Image: Senior Research Prospectus*
By Tashina Browning

My topic for senior research is early Christian art, its progression from the third century through the period of Iconoclasm, and its ever growing centrality in religious life during that time period. I plan to focus my research primarily on the potency and roles of symbols and images within early Christianity. I intend also to explore the importance of liturgy in Christian art, as well as demonstrate the increasing similarity between Christian, and Greco-Roman and pagan art from the third through the eighth centuries in the Byzantine Empire. I wish to learn the effects that Iconoclasm had on the Christian image. I will compare the periods preceding and following Iconoclasm, as well as explore specific historic events during the period, such as Leo III's edict of 726 and the Seventh Ecumenical Council of 787. I hope to reveal through my research how dramatically and in what various ways Iconoclasm altered the role and potency of the Christian icon.