

Author Biographies

Matthew J. Dillon '25

“JULIAN OF NORWICH’S ANXIETY: SIN AND SALVATION”

Matthew is a recent graduate from Mundelein, Illinois. He majored in History and double minored in Politics and Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Matthew submitted to *Inter-Text* because he was encouraged to do so by his professor. During his free time, he enjoys reading, playing the piano and organ, and volunteering at Feed My Starving Children.

Noa Helmer '29

“SALADIN: A MEDIEVAL ARCHETYPE OF RELIGIOUS MUSLIM LEADERSHIP”

Noa is a freshman from Skokie, Illinois. She is majoring in Psychology and double minoring in Legal Studies and Politics. One of her history professors informed her of the Journal. Prior to that class, she had never written a history paper; being proud of the growth she made throughout the semester, she decided to submit the piece she enjoyed writing the most. Noa is a member of the College’s Figure Skating Club and prefers to spend her free time skateboarding, reading, cooking, playing with her cat, and hanging out with her friends.

Peter Piper Huizenga '28

“ALL OUR FEET ARE STILL IN THAT POOL: REMEMBERING A PANDEMIC IN THE INFORMATION AGE”

Peter Piper is a junior from Chicago, Illinois. They are double majoring in Anthropology and French. They submitted their paper to *Inter-Text* because they believe that COVID-19 marks a pivotal point not just in their life, but in the lives of many, if not most, people around the world. Peter Piper is passionate about what is remembered, especially when considering that the things that are forgotten tend to be critical moments regarding social justice and violence against marginalized communities, as is the case for 2020 and the rise in the Black Lives Matter movement. On campus, they are a part of Students for Justice in Palestine, *Tusitala*, and the Songwriter’s Club. In their spare time, they enjoy creating fiber arts and writing poetry, and organizing social justice initiatives. Peter Piper believes in Palestinian liberation and the liberation of all peoples now and in communal memory.

Paige Marie Humphrey '27

"THE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE AND THEORETICAL LIMITATIONS"

Paige is a junior from Sante Fe, New Mexico. She is double majoring in International Relations and Religion. Paige submitted her paper to *Inter-Text* to communicate more broadly the struggles faced in Cambodia that are often forgotten. She is a member of the Student Academic Advisory Committee for the Religion Department, Delta Gamma, and works as a research assistant to Professor Chen in the History Department. Outside of school, she enjoys traveling and reading because they help her learn about different cultures, places, and perspectives.

Atala Johnson '28

"RIOT GRRRL AS RHETORICAL INTERVENTION: THE CONSTRUCTION OF GIRLHOOD IN THE 1990S"

Atala is a sophomore from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She is majoring in Communications and double minoring in Journalism and Print and Digital Publishing. Atala submitted to the Journal out of a deep fascination with the Riot Grrrl movement, driven by a passion for talking about its history of advocacy for women's liberation. She is a member of Alpha Phi and *The Stentor*. At her leisure, she loves to go on walks and hang out with her friends.

Min Kyaw '27

"CONSTITUTIONALIZING THE BARRACKS: HOW MILITARIES ENTRENCH POWER IN THAILAND AND BURMA"

Min is a junior from Yangon, Myanmar. He is majoring in Politics and minoring in Public Policy. He submitted his paper to *Inter-Text* because OneDrive warned him about storage limits, so the paper had to find a new home. On campus, he is a member of WMXM, the Career Center, and International Student Support. Min enjoys reading Victorian literature and watching indie movies.

Tiyandza Senamile Mngomezulu '26

"TRADING IN RESILIENCE: WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INFORMAL ECONOMY"

Tiyandza is a senior from Manzini, Eswatini. She is double majoring in Economics and Theatre and minoring in Urban Studies. She submitted a paper because the role of women in the informal economy has long been an interest of hers, both as a topic of academic inquiry and through personal engagement with questions of gender, labor, and development. She also wanted to share this research beyond the classroom and contribute to broader conversations about economic inequality in the Global South.

She is interested in development economics, urban policy, and grassroots approaches to economic justice, particularly in African contexts. Tiyandza is also passionate about storytelling—both through research and through theatre. She has been a tutor at the Writing Center since her sophomore year, contributes to campus theatre productions and serves as the captain of the dance team. Outside of campus, she enjoys going to see live theater productions downtown, writing, reading in local coffee shops, and trying new eateries with friends.

Juanita Muigai '28

“READING AGAINST THE GRAIN: INTERPRETING HOSTILE SOURCES ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE”

Juanita is a sophomore from Nairobi, Kenya. She is double majoring in Neuroscience and Economics. She submitted this paper because it allowed her to explore how dominant institutions shaped and constrained religious identity, while also highlighting the voices that are often obscured in historical records. She was especially interested in contributing a methodological perspective, showing how historians can read against the grain of hostile sources to recover meaning and agency. Juanita approaches her work with a strong interest in how institutions shape identity and how historical narratives are constructed through often biased sources. As a Neuroscience and Economics student, she is especially drawn to analyzing systems of power and behavior across disciplines. Writing this paper has sparked an interest in methodological questions, especially how to read against the grain of hostile archives to recover more nuanced understandings of marginalized communities. She is a member of Umoja, UBA, and Nu Rho Psi. She prefers to spend her spare time reading, cooking, writing, and cycling.

Caitlin Mulcahy '26, Maya Szal '27, Liam Thumser '27, and Lillian VanPelt '27

“PARTISAN BIAS AND POLITICAL DECISION MAKING: ROLE OF IN-GROUP FAVORITISM IN POLITICAL PERCEPTION”

Caitlin is a senior from St. Paul, Minnesota; she is majoring in Psychology and is on the women's soccer team. Maya is a junior from Glenview, Illinois, and is double majoring in Psychology and the Nursing Pathway Program. She is a member of Tri Delta and the Health Professions Program. Liam is a junior from East Dubuque, Illinois, and is double majoring in Neuroscience and Spanish. He serves as Student Body President, and is part of Mock Trial, Nu Rho Psi, and Delta Chi. Lillian is a junior from Greenville, South Carolina, and is double majoring in Psychology and Communication; she is also on the women's soccer team and a part of the Psi Chi Honor Society, Lambda

Pi Eta Honor Society, and the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

They submitted their paper to *Inter-Text* because they were really happy with how their study turned out. When they received the survey results in spring 2025, they were excited to see that many people had responded. The strong participation suggested to them that their data captured real patterns in how people evaluate political information and group identity. The project began as a class assignment in Psychology 222: Research Methods and Statistics, but it quickly became more meaningful to them. Studying partisan bias and in-group favoritism helped them see how psychological processes shape everyday political judgments, especially close to their most recent election. This was a good time to capture polarization in their country because these dynamics influence how people interpret news, candidates, and policies. They are very excited to share this beyond their classroom. They did their research under Professor Nora McLean in the Psychology Department.

Shellane Shettleworth '26

"REPARATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS: A LOCKEAN DEBATE FOR A NEW POLITICAL ORDER

Shellane is a senior from Montego Bay, Jamaica. They are majoring in Politics and Data Science (Computer Science concentration) with a minor in Asian Studies (Chinese language concentration). They submitted their paper to *Inter-Text* because they wanted to publish a piece of their academic work before graduating and because they believe that discussions about proper reparations and recognition for historical atrocities are important. On campus, they serve as the Co-President of Mock Trial and Treasurer Emeritus of Student Government. At their leisure, they like to read Chinese web novels and watch Asian dramas.

Noah Skoien '28

"GAZA AND RENT: DECLINING PUBLIC OPINION ON ISRAEL AND ZOHRAN MAMDANI'S VICTORY"

Noah is a sophomore from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is majoring in Politics and History. He submitted his paper because he was proud of the final product and wanted to share it. He is a class of 2028 Senator in Student Government and a member of Delta Chi. Noah loves anything to do with Bob Dylan or the Beatles.