Dear Take 5 Scholar Graduates,

Congratulations on completing your Take Five journey. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with each of you throughout your time as a Take Five Scholar. We sincerely wish that we could celebrate this very special occasion in person, but we are grateful for the community we have built at the University of Rochester, and the community of Take Five Scholars, is one that has endured over decades.

During this time of separation from campus, one thing has become especially clear: the importance of supporting each other every day. We are truly grateful for the support and contributions to our academic community, and how much we will continue to learn from each other.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Whether it was working through your applications, having meetings, or engaging in research, we have enjoyed every moment of the experience. We are proud of you, and we know that you will continue to achieve great things.

We hope that it will be possible to celebrate together at a future time. We miss you and we send our love and support as we hope to adjust to this different way of life. We send you all our love and best wishes.

Conratulations on completing your Take 5 Journey. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with each of you. We look forward to continuing our engagement with each of you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Runner, Dean of the College and Marcy Kraus, Assistant Dean

On behalf of the College Deans' Office, we are delighted to congratulate you on the completion of your Take Five Scholars program. We wish we could be with you in person to celebrate this very special occasion. Please know how much we value your contributions to our academic community, and how much we will look forward to reviewing your abstracts and learning about each of your intellectual journeys.

During this time of separation from campus, one thing has become especially clear: the importance of supporting each other every day. We are truly grateful for the community we have built at the University of Rochester, and the community of Take Five Scholars, is one that has endured over decades.

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The fabric of experience has changed. Compared to two years ago, I feel the world’s comprehension of the phenomenon of the universe has expanded. My scholarship experience would completely shift my understanding of the world. In addition to my application in the Take5 program, I am grateful.

My later courses on the interactions between gender studies and other disciplines. I studied gender as a function of religion, media, film, and contrasting China’s story with that of Europe has been enlightening. I felt I could apply what I learned and apply it to the real world.

In my courses in the GSWS department and Susan B. Anthony Institute, I glimpsed such varied disciplines as writing, economics, linguistics, and history, but more, which allowed me to take what I learned and apply it to the real world. Generous world builders developed a world where many disciplines of study are connected to each other. They gave me the tools to apply my knowledge and understanding of the way gender bleeds into every aspect of life. The opportunity to broaden my perspectives outside of the traditional science education is invaluable, and I look forward to carrying this knowledge out into the world after graduation.

Gender-Based Inequality and Female Interpretation of Freedom

Gender Studies classes are cross-listed with multiple departments because of the intersectional nature of gender, making it easy for me to apply considerations of gender to different fields. I studied gender as a function of religion, media, film, and in order to explore this deeper, I started by establishing a foundational understanding of the history of feminism movements, especially focusing on how women have developed a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the world. My gender studies classes have given me a better understanding of the way gender bleeds into every aspect of life. The opportunity to broaden my perspectives outside of the traditional science education is invaluable, and I look forward to carrying this knowledge out into the world after graduation.

Thank you to my parents for supporting me through an extra year of college, and to the discipline as a whole. I thought about the role of women’s achievements in science and how they are often overshadowed or stolen by men, and for more than could ever be imagined.

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Modern Jewish Culture in America

To the abyss with such doubts! In my time in this program, I have merely

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within Latin America, establishing not one but thousands of identities that are
sport fanatism, and hundreds of other factors, contribute to the creation of identities
in ethnicity, political values, social and economic rights, regional climates, linguistics,
food in some of the wealthiest Rochester neighborhoods along Park Avenue and
American majority within the city. I worked as a food delivery driver during my
The existence of similar systems of oppression characterizes the history of Latin
sophomore year which brought me into the Crescent of Poverty while also delivering
The contrast between the two spaces weighed heavily on me and I began
in some of the wealthiest neighborhoods along Park Avenue and
differences in ethnicity, political values, social and economic rights, regional climates, linguistics, food in some of the wealthiest Rochester neighborhoods along Park Avenue and
the more complex the question became. Does a "Latin American Identity" exist?
the contrast between the two spaces weighed heavily on me and I began
I applie
I intended on using my Take 5 year to gain as much from my college experience as possible.
discussed with friends and family. Finally, one of my favorite
I aimed to use my time to do as much as possible. I didn't want to leave a single
doing policy research for pure academic pursuit has been incredibly fulfilling and truly embodies

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I felt like my strong suit. Regardless of the medium, or the situation, I always feel like I
program and for introducing me to Ladakh, Dr. Rothenberg for helping me tackle the
strong suit, or rather, has never really
Communication has never really been my
logic and language: How do we communicate?

Emily Forbes - English; Economics

Finally, I learned that people had been thinking about and working to
learn how all the issues I was thinking about were intricately tied to other issues, like
environmental policy looks like in India, the different contemporary outlooks on the
point of view, never wanting to deviate from that.

These are the questions I was asking for a long time, and continue to do so to improve
answer the questions I had asked for a long time, and continue to do so to improve

Things need to be worked on and revised in order to be perfect, which is something
stranger ability to express myself, without fear of criticism, which always held me back.

So why? Only those with the ability to lead themselves can truly lead anything.
I don't want to work on anything, but I have to. I have to work on my own
success in this undertaking. For, I have found my confidence in my abilities was crucial to my success in

The questions I was asking were inherently interdisciplinary in nature, and
began my Take 5 experience because I wanted to broaden my horizons,
understanding pollution & modern India: standardized, yet still highly subjective:

For me, the issue of taking advantage of knowledge and skills to

In order to work on my own, I needed to

My sister, Nandita, and Raju for always helping
of those desires together. From this adventure, I hoped to gain the abilities and
the reasoning behind one's decisions.

Through my Take 5, I had aimed to learn more about each other's differences, to acknowledge
and construct solid bonds that enable our region to

My mom and brother, who gave me the support

The answers were making me more interdisciplinary in nature and

I wanted to thank the people who encouraged me and helped me through
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I also want to thank Ashely, because without her, this year would have been

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community, politics, religion, love, and our responsibility as citizens of the world. She
delve farther into theoretical studies about society. One cannot understand the
she opened the world of love for knowledge. Her words constantly make us reflect on
After my involvement first-hand in the theatre, I knew it was important to
while still acknowledging the perspective of others. Through her teachings of Dante,
course gave me a way to discover a voice to tell my own story about social injustice,
I got to see just how much we reflect our everyday experiences
on experience that was invaluable to my understanding of how society affects the
reconstruct a resemblance of my purpose for my studies. I think we all had to find
with before. With Playwriting I was able to delve into the mind of the playwright herself
I was able to interact with all the different stages of theatre I had never interacted
When I first began my Take Five program, I already had some experience in theatre, but
was achieved with the help of my professors. The course served as a sense of logic
with real professionals on a full-length, in-person performance (the last theatrical
end of frustration and complexity. For me, this reconstruction
reconstruct a resemblance of my purpose for my studies. I think we all had to find
and create my own piece, experiencing in real-time how my personal background

Comprehension of Italian Culture Through Diverse Components

The ideological community

The rhetorical community

In my classes, I learned the importance of studying society in order to understand how people
understand concepts of language and communication. This knowledge helps
understand how language functions and how it impacts our ability to

the director I served under, Pirronne Yousefzadeh for being my inspiration during this program. It's
observation, I learned how to break it down bit by bit (a process that was painful at


As much as I joke that this program of study is yet another way of
in Judaism moving forward. But with this new understanding, I can understand my disconnect from Judaism without understanding the broad changes in the mainstream.

The last two classes I took, Gender in Judaism and Judaism in America, have allowed me to navigate the process of discovering new interests. Taking a course on food and movies, instead of seeing Judaism as a set of strict beliefs and practices, I saw the capacity for joyful expression and cultural understanding. I also was able to see the popular representations of how the expression of Judaism, and its connection to my identity, operated within that context.

As I continued on my journey to achieve a greater understanding of my own Jewish identity, there was much I did not understand about the faith and the people through their texts and writings, ranging from poetry, to philosophy, to mysticism. Furthermore, understanding the basis for a life and community, further in Crescent and Cross: Jews in the Middle Ages, I undertook a scholarly approach, tracking the Jewish people through their texts and writings, ranging from poetry, to philosophy, to mysticism. Initially, I assumed that my studies in exploring Judaism and my connection to it would require an objective, separate focus on this conflict. As I took the variety of courses, I had a vague and general sense of the causes and global warming, and its implications just like the ones I have taken. I also was able to see the popular representations of how the expression of Judaism, and its connection to my identity, played within that context.

Moreover, I have to thank all my beautiful friends who went through this journey with me and those I made along the way. Thank you for putting up with my endless emails and phone calls, and your support throughout. To all of you who have helped me grow and learn from you, a special thank you for all your love (especially during the hard moments). For my family, thank you for your constant love and support throughout the years and my entire life. You helped to bring my prior studies into the present moment. By gaining a historical understanding of Judaism, I realize that my focus shifted more towards the internal - how Judaism evolved in the world, I realized that my focus shifted more towards the internal - how Judaism evolved in the world, I realized that my focus shifted more towards the internal - how Judaism evolved in the world, I realized that my focus shifted more towards the internal - how Judaism evolved in the world, I realized that my focus shifted more towards the internal - how Judaism evolved in the world. Additionally, I want to give special thanks to Prof. Paul Audi for his dedicated help with my proposal and his recommendations.

The courses I'm taking for the program has changed slightly from what I originally planned out, but at the same time, provoke in me new and exciting opportunities to explore questions about the nature of human mind, what are their implications just like the ones I have taken. I also want to give many thanks for the support of JB, for my thesis direction, and Shandra, thank you.

Thank you for all the opportunities to learn and grow. Your guidance and support have been invaluable in shaping who I am today. Thank you for being a part of my journey. I wish you the best of luck in your own pursuits of growth. To all of you who make this possible, including JB and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind and the incredible professors I was lucky to encounter give students the beginning understanding of nature and its relation to human mind.
thank all of the professors who made my last five semesters interesting and enjoyable. Without their guidance and inspiration, I could not have achieved the goals I set for myself. I'd also like to thank the administrators who volunteered to be on the Review Board each year. I would like to thank the students who participated in the program and the faculty, students, and staff who helped me grow as a scholar. I would like to thank Shandra, Kieffer, and J.B. Rodgers for coordinating the program and the faculty, students, and staff who helped me grow as a scholar.

This Spring I've been taking a Freakonomics class – with focus on the administrators who volunteer to be on the Review Board each year. I'd also like to thank classic theory from Audre Lorde to Virginia Woolf. Kieffer and J.B. Rodgers for coordinating the program and the faculty, students, and staff who helped me grow as a scholar. I would like to thank Shandra, Kieffer, and J.B. Rodgers for coordinating the program and the faculty, students, and staff who helped me grow as a scholar.

Last Fall I delved into Behavioral Economics and discovered some of the biases involved in our decision-making process, particularly the absurd degree of risk aversion many of us exhibit. At the same time a class called Sex and Power helped me to neglected areas of women's history (beyond the standard first and second wave feminist movements we all tend to imagine as women's history).

I started my take-5, I had some very broad assumptions about what I'd do. I thought – "oh I'll study how patriarchy messes everything up, and a little bit of capitalism too," areas I already had some preconceived notions about. I spent the much of my time approaching music through the study of the theory components, functions, and forms of music which gave me a vocabulary with which to approach my study of music in media.

In my first integrated semester I eased into the topics with an introductory course on the history of women in American history that introduced me to neglected areas of women's history (beyond the standard first and second wave feminist movements we all tend to imagine as women's history). In Green Markets, I've studied the role of business and finance in driving industry and protecting the environment. Through Take5 I have been able to study a wide range of economics of incentives and discrimination – with focus on the role of excavation, discovery, and communication in building our planet's future. I am incredibly grateful to the program, I set out to study music and its role in media such as video games and film. I wanted to understand how music affects the consumers of music, having taken three semesters of music theory and an additional class on music and the mind. In Music and the Mind, we examined the possible in spite of the pandemic.

The second angle consisted of my taking a class on music and film, a class focused on music's role in these media and was able to appreciate the short pieces of music in a variety of films for music and communication. In these courses I learned how to appreciate the short pieces of music in a variety of films, and was able to appreciate the short pieces of music in a variety of films.

Almost half the courses I took were different from those I proposed – partially as a result of time conflicts and course offerings, but mostly because my interests refined over the timeline of my program. I'm grateful that the Take-5 committee was flexible and open to new ideas. In my first integrated semester I studied the role of music in media such as video games and film. I wanted to understand how music affects the consumers of music, having taken three semesters of music theory and an additional class on music and the mind. In Music and the Mind, we examined the possible in spite of the pandemic.

The role of music in video games and film is a complex and fascinating subject. To study this topic, I chose a class on film music, a class that focused on the history of music in movies and analyzed how composers' approaches to film music have changed over time. In Video Game Design, we studied how all the components, functions, and forms of music which gave me a vocabulary with which to approach my study of music in media.

I took two related courses, Sound Design and Audio for Visual Media. In the first, we studied how to incorporate any sound, not just music, into a visual piece of media such as a film or TV commercial. In the second, we focused on music's role in these media and was able to appreciate the short pieces of music in a variety of films for music and communication. In these courses I learned how to appreciate the short pieces of music in a variety of films, and was able to appreciate the short pieces of music in a variety of films.

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We are What We Eat: A Comparative Study of Italian and Chinese Food Cultures

My Take 5 is definitely a life-changing experience! It allowed me to

- Form a new community. I also took an Italian language class, which really allowed me to connect
- Relearn my native language. It was comforting knowing that there
- Become more aware of social and political equity issues, and lastly to further my
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My Take 5 allowed me to study my background and get a better grasp of my

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entered the workforce. I know now this is not the case. Injustice. These experiences equipped me with the cultural relativity and sensitivity to realities and hierarchies as well as to contemplate about possible solutions to social
removal from it. There was a time that I thought my career aspirations could quicker and easier than any other generation before us. Perhaps most important of all, I learned that the interconnected nature of music means that you can never truly remove yourself from it. There was a time that I thought my career aspirations could
of identities and relationships, I also got to learn many social, political issues or food
and through the rest of our existence after studying music for a year. I can now
and through the rest of our existence after studying music for a year. I can now
Food and culture: Connecting and enriching lives all over the world
and consumption habits for the rest of my life, and practice it in balance with other
aspects of my life. Other than this common theme, I also enjoyed the diversity of
architectures, the different art styles across medieval Italy, the contemporary
food, whether it's the eating process itself, or the food preparation. As we may know,
my semesters, I take time to exercise and meditate, and I sleep for enough hours
on the way. Since then, I adjusted my exploration philosophy to a balance between
and through the rest of our existence after studying music for a year. I can now
Food and culture: Connecting and enriching lives all over the world
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stresses and simplify new food more or a way to eat food that is nutritious and
Nutritional aspects of food: Connecting people to their roots
As part of my original proposal, I broke down this complicated concept into
cultural identity. I can go further with more mental health concerns when people
and passionate about Italian culture in different ways, and I learned from each
food to make it tasty. The aspect of cooking and eating with your family and friends
food, whether it's the eating process itself, or the food preparation. As we may know,
my semesters, I take time to exercise and meditate, and I sleep for enough hours
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As part of my original proposal, I broke down this complicated concept into

doesn't fit with my passion for music and that I would have to leave it behind as I
African Americans. Many broader social justice messages also go along with my
Music perception: An interdisciplinary experience
In addition to the individual and cultural aspects of food as an expression
and the traces of colonialism. The social sciences and humanities classes in my
Take Five experience, such as combating systemic racism, cultural appropriation,
Alongside this broader goal, I had a more personal one as well. I wanted to know why I
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that philosophy can inform the meanings we can take from a film. I set out to do this with my Take 5 Program. I hoped to learn more about the ways that philosophy and film intersect. I wanted to explore this in two directions: mostly in the way that film serves as an interesting place for philosophy to play out, but also in the ways religion and violence in a globalized world.

Growing up I could not help but become intrigued at what film could do. The power of film has always been fascinating to me. I was drawn to it as a medium that could convey complex ideas and emotions. With my Take 5 Program, I hoped to learn more about the ways that film and philosophy can inform one another.

As someone who immersed herself in science from the beginning of her college career, I was both surprised and excited to learn about the ways that science and philosophy can intersect. My professor, Dr. Bernardi, is an incredible teacher and has greatly impacted the way I view the world. She is incredibly, contagiously enthusiastic about Japanese film, a compassionate teacher, and has greatly impacted the way I view the world. As someone who was raised in the Christian church, I have always been curious about how religion and violence can influence each other. I was interested in exploring this in my Take 5 Program.

My goal at the outset of the Take 5 Program was to learn to analyze and interpret films through the lens of Japanese cinema. While I had always had an interest in film, I knew very little about Japanese cinema and seeing the Take 5 Program as an opportunity to learn more about this fascinating art form was a dream come true.

Starting with the foundations of film studies, I learned about how ideas and artistic visions are communicated through the medium of film, as well as the history of cinema and how it revolves around the ideas of equality, democracy, and balance of powers. Using this core background, I was then able to venture out and learn more about specific areas of interest.

In the first semester of my Take 5 year, I was able to learn the answer to my question: what effect religion and violence have on politics. What is the difference between faith and religion? How do they influence one another? I was introduced to the idea that religion can be a powerful tool for shaping society, and I learned about the ways that religion and violence can intersect in complex and sometimes tragic ways.

In the second semester, I focused on the ways that film and philosophy can inform one another. I studied the works of renowned directors Akira Kurosawa and Juzo Itami, and how their films allowed me to apply the formal basics of film I studied at university to the study of Japanese cinema. I was also able to apply those foundations to the study of Japanese politics, and how it has evolved over time.

The most important lesson I learned from my Take 5 Program was the importance of interdisciplinary learning. By being a part of the Take 5 program, I was able to meet people I would not have otherwise met and participate in intimate discussions where I was able to directly converse with my professors. Although I was not used to this style of teaching, I found it to be incredibly enriching. I learned so much about the world and myself throughout this program, and I am grateful for having the opportunity to become a citizen of the world.
sentences, and a grammatical course also explored how the same word placement
and social systems which intertwine with them.

In my introductory logic coursework I was exposed to propositional logic and
the concept of truth values. This foundation provided an

understanding of the relationship between ethics and classical mythology, and the political
worlds. However, I also wanted to return to my study of Classics, which began when

1 was in middle school and decided to take Latin on a whim. Although I did not
take any Latin language courses during my Take Five year, I was able to gain a

more in-depth understanding of Latin, a language which had held my fascination

for so many years. I was also able to delve into a subject which was wholly new to

me: philosophy. While I had studied philosophy in a secondary way through my

courses that I chose primarily for film historical backgrounds delved into philosophy
and epistemology, which, even if not so obviously, can be interesting subjects for film.

By gaining some philosophical knowledge, I can now approach

movies in a new way. I have a better understanding of

philosophical concepts such as causality, determinism, and

the role of the observer in the creation of reality. This
\new understanding of the nature of reality has

opened my eyes to a whole new world of possibilities. I

am now more aware of the power of language and how it

shapes our perception of the world. I am able to

question and evaluate the arguments presented in films

and literature, and I am more critically thinking about

my responses to these arguments.

Furthermore, my Take Five program has allowed me to

explore some courses that I felt addressed the places where the two disciplines

overlap. My philosophy courses focused on questions of

morality, ethics, and epistemology, while my literature courses

explored themes of identity, power, and

representation. This interdisciplinary approach has

helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of life and

human experience. I have learned to approach these topics with

open-mindedness and critical thinking, which has

helped me to become more reflective and analytic in

my thinking.

In conclusion, my Take Five program has been a

transformative experience. It has allowed me to

explore new ideas and concepts, and to develop a

deeper understanding of the world around me. I am

grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program and

to pursue my passions in a meaningful way.
learn it almost like a code. Of course, I was incredibly wrong. Sign Language was simply a visual manifestation of English and I would be able to see the world of ASL clearly. I was wrong to believe that just because you can read a foreign language fluently, it means you can understand it comprehensively. The first lesson I learned was that understanding language is much more than just learning the words.

Claudia Scalze

Deaf Culture: A Study of the American Deaf Identity, History, and Language

I started my journey of learning American Sign Language as a second semester student here at the University of Rochester. This class was meant to be a fun way to fulfill the semester's humanities requirement for my Eastman degree and I didn't have any real intention of pursuing the subject beyond a basic 101 introductory class. I came from a background in the performing arts and I was excited to learn about a language that could communicate emotions and ideas in a way that spoken language could not. I was certain that I would love American Sign Language.

The goal of my Take 5 program was to learn why the bones and fossils that we dig up are so different than the animals that live today. I wanted to understand the mechanics of how organisms go extinct and see if there are any patterns that can be identified and applied to the present. Currently, we are in what some biologists call the sixth mass extinction. If extinctions of the past can be understood, then perhaps the extinctions of the present could be slowed. I wanted to be a part of that solution.

Some of the most interesting courses that I've taken in the past year have taught me that understanding the history of cinema is crucial to understanding the history of language! From my time, I learned broadly about what it means for a film to inform the subject explored into the following chapters of my life. I wanted to understand the cultural and philosophical beliefs and carefully curated messages and themes that wove together the sum of its individual words, especially for instances of idiomatic interpretations. The goal of my Take 5 program was to apply everything that I learned about communication-focused policy to my life and to use my background in mathematics to create communication-focused policy that could be used to encourage the ecosystem of the oceans as they benefit the marine environment is interested in preserving (and that is by the ocean's money). The marine environment is interested in preserving (and protecting) the oceans, as they benefit the ecosystem of the oceans as they benefit us. The oceans are the key to preserving our planet.

Nicole Sammartin

Japanese Culture: A Study of the American Deaf Identity, History, and Language

Extermination of Species from the Dinosaurs to Today

Extinction of Species from the Dinosaurs to Today

I wanted to learn about the history of cinema and its role in society. I wanted to understand the role that cinema plays in shaping our understanding of different cultural and social elements found in Japan and relate it to my own experiences. I was fascinated by the way that cinema can communicate emotions and ideas in a way that spoken language cannot. I wanted to understand the mechanics of how organisms go extinct and see if there are any patterns that can be identified and applied to the present. This helped me contextualize meaning within language, and how speaker intentions can be understood, then perhaps the extinctions of the present could be slowed. I wanted to be a part of that solution.

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and detrimental mutations. I also learned about some critical genetic features within Earth and Environmental Sciences Department. Through my Biology coursework on multicellular organisms, my Take 5 studies focused on courses within the Biology Department and Earth and Environmental Sciences Department. My studies have been notable for their focus on the evolution, development, and impact of Earth's geological processes and climate on life's evolution and survival. Through my extra year of studies, I have been able to focus on the evolution of various biogeological cycles and their impact on life's existence and distribution around the world. In the name of life, I have been able to combine what I have learned in my other courses with some of the cutting-edge research being conducted across the planet. As a human, I am interested in understanding the connections between different facets of Earth, the relevance of Deaf culture and its impact on society, and the development of new technologies for communication and interpretation. Through my coursework, I have been able to draw connections between subjects that I didn't realize could exist. As a linguistic minority in this country, I have been able to learn from professionals who speak multiple languages and provide me with new perspectives and understanding of the world and people around me. Over the next four years, I have been able to explore the many strange possibilities from bacteria to humanoid lifeforms and explore the many strange possibilities from bacteria to humanoids. The opportunity to explore the many strange possibilities from bacteria to humanoids is a great opportunity to develop new technologies for communication and interpretation. Through my coursework, I have been able to draw connections between subjects that I didn't realize could exist. As a linguistic minority in this country, I have been able to learn from professionals who speak multiple languages and provide me with new perspectives and understanding of the world and people around me.
My passion for understanding European architecture has grown tremendously since I began taking courses that focused on the visual language and craftsmanship of this style. This has opened my eyes to the similarities and differences that I wouldn't have noticed if I only visited the college campus. I was particularly drawn to my introduction to sculpture class, which allowed me to explore the beauty of Greek Architecture in new and creative ways.

In my Take 5 year, I have found both the theory and the practice of art to be crucial to my understanding of the world. I have enjoyed the balance between formal training and experience with art in an academic setting before. I am particularly grateful to be a part of the Take Five Family, as it provided me with the precious opportunity to go beyond the boundaries of my scientific studies, to acquire knowledge in both social sciences and humanities. It has been an enriching experience to pursue my interests in an academic environment, where I have been able to explore a wide range of topics and develop a deeper understanding of the world around me.

One of my favorite classes is 'ME106: Engineering in Antiquity' taught by Prof. Renato Perucchio. This engineering course has brought me a unique perspective on the roots of engineering and architecture that went way beyond my major level of study in biology. I can now understand how and why we're crunching so many numbers. Formal systems, or the dialects of math, provide the necessary language to describe patterns with natural language, the precision allotted to math enables us to create and fully determine interpretations of meaning. While we can and do describe boundaries of my scientific studies, to acquire knowledge in both social sciences and humanities - to decipher the codes hidden inside Greek architecture.

The true power of mathematics comes from its carefully designed lack of ambiguity. Unlike natural language, whose meaning is ambiguous and context dependent, mathematics allows us to rigorously and formally test more detailed and complex hypotheses with more confidence and less reliance on subjective interpretation. Science, in relation to math, can be thought of as testing which patterns best match the world -- which is, interestingly, similar to what brains also seem to do.

So, what is math? My answer is this: it is simply language that allows us to talk about the world around us, providing a means to understand how and why we're crunching so many numbers.

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I'm still in the midst of unraveling thoughts in my head, but one of the things I've learned so far is that "religion" is in fact a recent Western invention that got "shipped" to China through Japan. How accurate can this term capture the essence of what's going on in China since hundreds or even thousands of years ago?

Growing up in China, I've always felt a strange distance from and proximity into the field(s), and helped make my Take Five journey and took courses in Religious Studies, Philosophy, Perception as a Creative Process, Religion and Chinese Society, and History, Psychology, and America. While I'm still in the midst of unraveling thoughts in my head, but one of the things I've learned so far is that "religion" is in fact a recent Western invention that got "shipped" to China through Japan. How accurate can this term capture the essence of what's going on in China since hundreds or even thousands of years ago?

Perception as a Creative Process

Religion and Chinese Society

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and interviews from people in the Rochester community and displayed them in a Rochester wide event called The Reckoning that encouraged people to vote in their 2020 election. In Digital Imaging, we explored the philosophical questions of the difference between the real and the digital, and we had the opportunity to work with some antique manuscripts and use software to extract information only available in digital. All of the classes I took helped me to explore how photography can affect how we perceive events and the physical world, and many of them involved meaningful projects that allowed me to apply what I learned.

In my studio art courses, I had the opportunity to work on several creative projects dealing with altering perception through methods such as Photoshop, studio setup, context, and captioning. One of my favorite projects was called "Bodies as Landscapes" and involved taking photos of human bodies close up so that the photos looked more like landscapes than bodies. I’m currently wrapping up my independent study with Prof. Evelyne Leblanc Roberge in which I’m photographing my house as a tourist in a fantasy world made from items in my house. Some landmarks include "The Mountains of Dirty Laundry" and "The Ancient Ruins of Dirty Dishes." This project is a culmination of my work understanding how to manipulate perception with photography and also an experiment of using creative constraints to inspire my work. The final product will be a website in which viewers can interact with and explore the world of "My House." The Take Five program has given me an incredible opportunity to dive deep into an area of interest, and I’m incredibly thankful to Shandra Kieffer, J.B. Rogers, and all professors who helped me on this learning journey.

Japanese in Context: Exploring the Role of Culture in Language Acquisition

Minci Zhang - Psychology

As I continued my journey of studying abroad in America, I have been reflecting on my experience of practicing my second language in this foreign culture. I was intrigued by the complex relationship between language and culture. How may a culture shape a language? Or on the flip side, how may a language evolve independently of cultural influences? These are the questions that I wished to explore in my Take Five program, especially in the context of the Japanese culture and language.

To explore the effect of cultural influences on language, I took classes in the Linguistics and Anthropology departments and studied how languages are embedded in cultures. Through these classes, I also discovered that the relationship between language and culture is not one-way. Languages also shape cultures, and this can be seen in the ways Japanese culture has influenced language over time. Moreover, I would like to thank the professors of the Japanese language courses who generously explained the cultural background behind the language that we learned in class. This allowed me to learn first-hand how cultural forces may shape the usage of a language.

To explore how language may be independent of cultural influences, I took classes in the Brain and Cognitive Science department. From the course Language Development, I learned that children from all over the world who speak different languages follow similar language acquisition patterns and share the same ability to acquire a language, regardless of the language or culture. This lends support to the idea that there is a universal or innate language ability that is shared by all humans and languages. While languages and cultures are diverse globally, the underlying mechanism for language acquisition is shared by all humans.

Reflecting on all the courses I have taken for my Take Five program, I am fascinated by how intertwined language and culture are. Languages are embedded in cultures, and cultures are shaped by languages. While languages and cultures are diverse globally, the underlying realization of a language in the brain is still shared by all humans. To summarize the main takeaway from this year of learning and exploring, I would argue that we humans share the same mechanism for language acquisition.
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