FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry is Pleased to Announce Four New Fellows for 2017-2018

Vanessa Ament
Telecommunications

American Women In Film Sound

Vanessa and her students will explore the cultural gendering of labor in American film sound. Using ethnographic observation techniques, on-camera interviews, and pre-filming research, the seminar will immerse itself in the language and societal culture of motion picture and television sound production and postproduction, and workshop and consult with professionals in the field. Student teams will travel to the west and east coasts to interview women professionals who work in film and television sound in both the Los Angeles and New York film industries as they craft a documentary film that focuses on rethinking gender in the media by shining a light on the understudied and long overshadowed women working within the film and television sound industry in the United States. The seminars community partner is the Indiana Filmmakers Network.

Fall 2017

John Mckillip
Biology

Fine Focus: Catalyzing STEM Opportunities for Minority Undergraduates

John and his students will collaborate with fellow undergraduate students in the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) REBUILD Detroit program to explore the intersections of peer teaching, scholarly research, and STEM outreach. Seminar participants will train their UDM peers in scientific writing, manuscript management, and the double-blind scientific peer-review process involved in the development and promotion of the next issue of “Fine Focus” – an international journal for undergraduate microbiology research. Additionally the seminar will create a short film showcasing the specific challenges unique to academically underrepresented students in STEM fields to be used as a recruiting tool for future STEM leaders. The seminars community partners are the American Society for Microbiology, University of Detroit Mercy.

Spring 2018

Elizabeth Agnew
Philosophy and Religious Studies

Muslims In Muncie

Elizabeth and her students from a variety of disciplines will immerse themselves in the study of Islam as they explore what it means to be a Muslim in America. The seminar will present the personal and communal histories and contemporary experiences of the Muslim community of Muncie through the creation of a set of video-recorded oral histories and written transcripts of Muslim community members, and produce a documentary film on Muslims’ individual and collective experiences in Muncie. Additionally the students will create a short film documenting their learning experiences, and their evolving understandings and insights through the semester. The seminar’s community partners are the Islamic Center of Muncie, and Ball State’s Center for Middletown Studies.

Spring 2018

Dan Porter
School of Music

Beneficence Records: Records for a Reason

Dan and his students will explore the ways digitization is continually evolving the music industry and how this evolution might work to benefit local charity organizations. The seminar will work together to create the foundations for Beneficence Records – a student run, sustainable, not-for-profit, 21st century record label that promotes Indiana music artists and whose releases benefit charities and not-for-profits statewide. Working with music industry consultants the seminar will experience the production cycle of an album from pre-production to release as they produce a full-length record, the proceeds of which will benefit Second Helpings Inc. Students will also market the record and promote community events pertinent to the success of the album release, the record label, and their community partners, Second Helpings Inc., and Tonic Ball Indy.

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For further information on these seminars, call the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, at 765-287-0117

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