

Editors' Note

For the 2020 edition of *The Boller Review*, we had the privilege of reading student articles and projects that are meaningful contributions to political, economic, and social conversations today. Not only have we seen these students utilize their knowledge in their select disciplines to develop brilliant insights, we have also seen these students reconfigure their projects to reflect the trials of COVID-19. These students took major historical and developmental moments and subjected them to theory, various forms of evidence, and further commentary.

AddRan nominees Ann Tran and Robert Molina were awarded for their written work which brings global perspectives and histories to Americans' understanding of our role in international issues. In Ann Tran's article, she details the courageous life of Vietnamese anti-war advocate Binh, who risked his life to make his voice and his country heard. Robert Molina made *Boller Review* history, as his article became the first article in *The Boller Review* to be published in Spanish. The article is a written study on the injustices of the Mexican health system and how COVID-19 has affected Mexico. After much thought, we decided to offer an English translation, but we want to emphasize that the piece was awarded for Molina's writing in Spanish.

The conditions of COVID-19 have also created major disruptions in real estate and higher education, which Neeley School of Business students Matt Williams and Jordan Joyce address in their studies of novel investment strategies as well as unique options for avoiding student loan debt. Matt Williams wrote about the various ways Income Share Agreements (ISA) could be both implemented on TCU's campus and expanded as a viable option for many people wanting to invest in their education. Jordan Joyce analyzed the relationship between real estate investment trusts (REITs) and several risk factors seen over the years, offering further commentary on the dependability of REIT returns.

Fine Arts nominees, Austin Williams and Nell Rasmussen produced original work that lends new perspectives to important conversations about sustainability and mortality. Austin Williams conducted research on theories of mortality as documented in books, poetry, paintings, photographs, online visuals, and in New York City museums and art galleries. His thorough research provided insightful reflections on his own experiences as well as on the emotional difficulties we are all facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another first for *The Boller Review*, Williams then produced a series of ten original paintings to encourage contemplation, as well as comfort, surrounding the idea of one's own mortality. Nell Rasmussen researched Millennials' interest in sustainable clothing, and how the fashion industry can take actionable steps to disseminate information on sustainable and slow fashion. Adding a unique visual element to her project, Nell Rasmussen also designs and presents a mobile application prototype as a solution to disseminating this information.

Nominees from the College of Education Bailey Flynn and Brooklyn Baldwin studied best practices for K-12 pedagogy. Bailey Flynn conducted her project on the types of support given to English Language Learners (ELL). Crucially, and impressively, Flynn adapted her methods quickly when the COVID-19 pandemic forced students and teachers to move online. Despite the circumstances, she extracted information on effective strategies through further research. Similarly, Brooklyn Baldwin conducted her project on

how to encourage online interaction between students. Through her research on uptake questions and high-level thinking questions, she was able to notice which practices inspired change for students in an online discussion space.

Like Brooklyn and Bailey, College of Science and Engineering students Lillian Vernor and Quang Truong made interventions in their field by questioning current methods in digital technology and providing innovative solutions to how industry professionals approach these methods. Lillian Vernor interrogated the accuracy of an integral metric that is used when determining distance, using advanced research to determine the accuracy of this metric. Quang Truong's project is another first for *The Boller Review*, as it represents the first project completed by a large team of undergraduates. Truong, along with team members Hy Dang, Zhankai Ye, and Minh Nguyen, produced an updated AI model to solve inconsistencies in vehicle re-identification. Truong's team also developed metadata and techniques for solving emergent problems in re-identification.

Focused on community interventions rather than methodological insights, Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences students Kavi Nallamala and Rose LaVilla shed light on often unrecognized needs for community care and advanced technologies, and developed interventions in suicide prevention and speech therapy. Kavi Nallamala used research in digital technologies to develop code for writing samples that can be used in the treatment of speech impairments, while Rose Lavilla explored strategies to encourage help-seeking behavior for individuals with mental illness.

Bringing our attention toward contemporary politics during a particularly contentious election year, Schieffer College of Communication students Michael Brown and Alexa Hines examined the rhetoric and communication strategies of influential figures, and how their rhetorical techniques contributed to their fame and career success. Michael Brown analyzed the communication strategies of Donald Trump, which aspects of his rhetoric were used to secure his 2016 presidential victory. Alexa Hines reported on trailblazers in the sports media industry Lesley Visser and Melissa Ludtke, who through relentless efforts have paved the way for women journalists in the sports industry.

Honors students Destinee Wilson and Erika Diaz were awarded for their thorough and creative work in historical discourse. Another first for *The Boller Review*, Destinee Wilson was nominated along with Alexandra Lang and Chloe Campos for their musical script "The Emancipation and Liberation of One Karen Smith." The project accomplishes multiple firsts: it is the first creative group project to be nominated, and it is the first musical script to appear in *The Boller Review* with an interactive soundtrack. The musical is set during the suffrage movement, and tells the story of Karen Smith, a woman who is initially coerced by her anti-suffragist husband to spy on various women suffragists, but who eventually becomes empowered by the very suffragists she had resisted. In Erika Diaz's research paper "The Hypocrisy of Oscar Wilde's Conviction: A Tale of British Victorian Secrecy," Diaz investigated and analyzed what may have led to Oscar Wilde's trial and conviction in 1895. The essay also explored the tragic parallelism between author Oscar Wilde and his main character Dorian Gray in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, as Diaz observed that Wilde's very own literary warnings seem to come alive in the outcome of his trials and incarceration.

In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, our team decided to work over Zoom this year. This online workspace presented many trials, but many opportunities for growth and connection as well. While we were sometimes faced with losing our edits in the online space or feeling the effects of Zoom fatigue, we kept each other focused and determined. This focus and determination, as well as a new set of strengths in managing an online workspace, came from lots of patience, rest, communication, encouragement, and understanding. *The Boller Review* team this year hopes to encourage you to find new ways of approaching

work in this difficult time that includes listening to yourself. Even though all works did not directly address COVID-19, many reflect insights about using technology in new ways, and using community care in ways that are relevant to us now. With this, we are excited to present these student pieces that offer developmental insights in a historical moment.

Sincerely yours,

The Boller Review Editorial Team

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Dr. Robert Rhodes. In addition to his many years of dedicated service as a Professor in Honors as well as in the Neeley School of Business, Dr. Rhodes also served on the advisory committee for *The Boller Review* since its inaugural issue in 2016. We remain forever indebted for his years of help and service.