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Penn Libraries Celebrate Seltzer Family Digital Media Award Winners 2012

Philadelphia. Thanks to the generosity of alumnus Jeff Seltzer W'78 and his wife Annie, the University of Pennsylvania Libraries is proud to announce the five winners of the 2012 Seltzer Family Digital Media Awards: Blanca Abramek, Davis Butner, William Gilbert, James Lee and Juan Carlos Melendez-Torres. Each student will have exclusive use of \$1,000 of technology for one year. Proposed technology items include an iPad, video cameras, audio recorders and still cameras.

This is the fifth year that the Seltzer Family Digital Media Awards have supported specific student projects. The awards are administrated and managed through the Penn Libraries in partnership with the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF). The five funded projects are:

Under the guidance of Dr. Mark Stern, Professor of the School of Social Policy and Practice, Blanca Abramek C'13 will create a blog to provide context for interviews with public interest design professionals. She plans to interview representatives of not-for-profit organizations, architects, designers and community members. She will use an Apple iPad to capture multimedia content for her blog. She expects her summer research work to lead into her senior fine arts thesis project.

Under the guidance of Richard Wesley, Undergraduate Chair and Adjunct Professor of Architecture, and Dr. James Primosch, Undergraduate Chair and Professor of Music, Davis Butner C'14 will use 3D computer modeling and music composition software to explore the life and works of Iannis Xenakis. Drawing connections between music and architectural design, Butner will utilize Xenakis' compositional techniques in order to develop a new form of musical notation which will serve as an idiom for a proposed structural model. In particular, Butner plans to examine the influence of Le Corbusier on Xenakis' work. He writes, "I am eager to apply techniques of structural analysis and composition acquired from my studio and musical coursework in an effort to expand techniques of the design process."



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Under the guidance of Dr. Jacqui Sadashige, Faculty at the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing (CPCW), James Lee C'13 plans to make a short documentary video on personal experiences with dance. James plans to interview five professional dancers as well as amateur dancers in several countries as part of his senior thesis for his major in East Asian Area Studies. He describes his questions, "How did you start dancing? What do you feel like when you are dancing? What does dance mean to you?"

Under the guidance of Dr. Robert J. Sharer, Sally & Alvin V. Shoemaker Professor of Anthropology, William Gilbert C'13 plans the creation of a digital reconstruction of the site of Quirigua, Guatemala circa the year 800AD. He plans to use a self-made Google Street View-like camera to capture sets of 360 degree images along pre-determined paths throughout the site. William writes, "Combining these images with aerial photography of Quirigua would create an interactive map."

Under the guidance of Dr. Marton T. Markovits, postdoctoral researcher at the Lauder Institute and Faculty in Political Science, Juan Carlos Melendez-Torres HISB (C'13 W'13), plans a documentary film to complement his research on cultural and legal dynamics of hip hop in West Africa. Juan started this project in Senegal, and writes, "The urgency and excitement of hip hop is easy to lose on paper, and I hope that this documentary can help bring my subject alive."

Jeff Seltzer W'78 is a most committed and engaged alum. He serves on the Libraries' Board of Overseers, the Advisory Board of the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business, and the Alumni Advisory Committee for the Wharton Sports Business Initiative. The Seltzer Family Digital Media Awards Committee consists of Dr. Jessica Goldberg (Assistant Professor of History), Inge Herman (Executive Director, Huntsman Program in International Studies & Business), John MacDermott (Director for Instructional Technology, SAS Computing), Ian Seltzer C'09 and Dr. Anu Vedantham (Director, Weigle Information Commons, Penn Libraries).

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