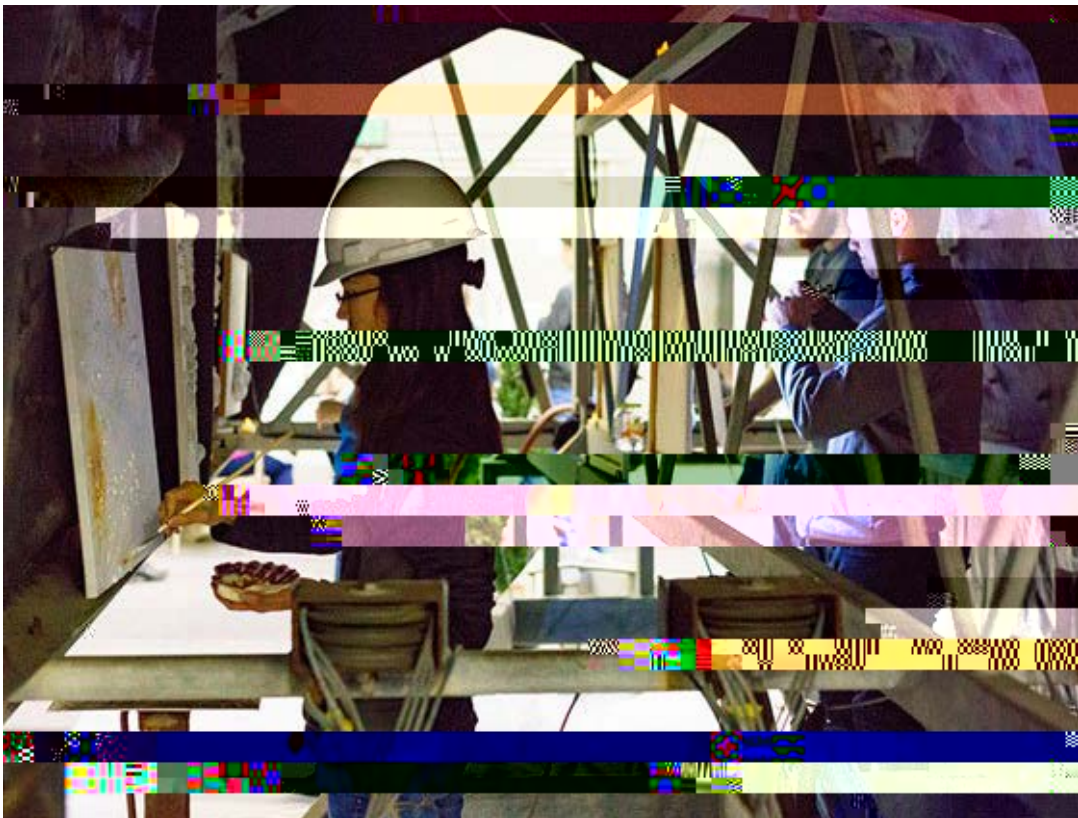SPRING 2018

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Students recreate the experience of cave painting; documentary director pushes for female entrepreneurs; math major completing a senior project in psychology.

Paleo Picassos

Documentary Director Pushes for Female Entrepreneurs

As part of Rose-Hulman's Women's History Month celebration, there was a special screening of the documentary *She Started It*, which follows five women tech entrepreneurs on a global adventure over two years. Immediately after the one-hour movie presentation, co-director Nora Poggi answered questions from the audience. The film's goal is to share the stories of successful role models for young women who are aspiring tech entrepreneurs, according to Jessica Livingston, associate professor of English. Livingston is teaching a documentary film class this spring and its students attended the campus film screening to learn more about the creative and ethical choices Poggi faced while planning, shooting, and editing the film.

"The women of *She Started It* are smart, resourceful and relatable, offering viewers powerful examples of female entrepreneurship, while revealing the challenges faced by women-led companies," says Poggi, a French journalist/filmmaker who made her directing debut with the film. She has interviewed key players in Silicon Valley for various publications and is a popular speaker at TEDx programs.

Poggi points to a *Sources of Economic Hope* study, by the Kauffman Foundation, that revealed that women usually account for "less than 10 percent of founders" for high-growth tech firms, and only four percent of Fortune 500 companies are administered by

observing their behavior? And can this inference process be modeled mathematically? These are the questions that Anna Scott (Math, 2019) is exploring for her Senior Project this school year, under the supervision of Dr. Alan Jern, assistant professor of psychology.

It may seem unusual for a math major to be completing a Senior Project in psychology. But, in this case, it was a great match. According to Scott, "I knew I wanted a project where I could learn through application as opposed to doing theory-based research." And Jern's research focuses on developing computational models of thinking and behavior. In fact, Jern says one of the things that attracted him to Rose was the opportunity to work on research with talented technical students like Scott.

According to Scott, she has learned multiple new skills, such as designing behavioral experiments. And she has been able to apply her existing mathematical knowledge in new ways by developing computational models and comparing them to data. She says, "This project has really proved to me that math is just as versatile as I always thought!"

During the winter quarter, Scott received a grant from Rose's Independent Projects/Research Opportunities Program (IPROP) to fund her research. She also presented a poster with preliminary results at the end-of-quarter IPROP poster session.

Scott's experience is one example of how students and faculty at Rose are making connections across departments and across disciplines.

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~J. Irwin Miller