



Summer 8-27-2015

Mellon Scholars Spend Summer in Humanities Research

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Recommended Citation

Hill, Kim, "Mellon Scholars Spend Summer in Humanities Research" (2015). *News and Events*. 2886.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/2886>

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Mellon Scholars Spend Summer in Humanities Research

Aug. 27, 2015

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— This summer three Illinois Wesleyan University students pondered questions where solutions can't be confined to a box tied with a pretty bow – if the question can be answered at all. As recipients of student research awards through a \$300,000 Re-Centering the Humanities grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the students grappled with topics ranging from depictions of black masculinity in literature and music to exploring connections between Buddhist psychology and objective scientific research explaining consciousness.

A \$4,000 stipend allowed each student to conduct research over the summer under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The Re-Centering the Humanities grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded Illinois Wesleyan's commitment to keeping the humanities at the core of the University's liberal arts curriculum.

"I feel so lucky to have the scholarship and advising from Illinois Wesleyan to make this possible," said Mellon Scholar Anna Lowenthal '16.

A brief summary of each student's project follows:

▷ **Nicholas Berardelli '16 Connects East and West**

▷ **Lydia Hartlaub '16 Enters Charles Dickens "Universe"**

▷ **Anna Lowenthal '16 Investigates Masculine Identity in "Gangsta Rap"**