Catherine Truluck

Honors Thesis Personal Reflection

When I considered writing a thesis, I knew I would want to write a creative one. The creative writing concentration was the reason I became an English major at Notre Dame, and I figured the thesis would be a beneficial experience for crafting a longer length story. When I began to work on the story itself, however, I quickly realized how challenging it would be. The longest story I have written was twenty pages, so a forty-page thesis would require even more development of plot and characters. Having my creative thesis class the fall semester of my senior year helped a lot. It allowed me to read my peers' work and have them comment on my own ideas. Interacting with other thesis writers was one of the most valuable parts of the course, as their motivation for their own writing spurred me on in mine. Going into this semester, though, demonstrated more difficulty. I was working one-on-one with my thesis advisor, Professor Sayers, who was incredibly influential and accommodating throughout my time at Notre Dame. We set up deadlines to submit fractions of my story to her, but I found I had to learn how to manage my time more efficiently for my writing. I kept putting off deadlines, and then growing unmotivated with the lack of pages I had written, and continuing this cycle. Once I could not push it off any longer, I had to sit down and simply write. My self-judgement and anxiety had to be cast aside so I could just type out words onto Word. I found a relatively quiet place in the house and mustered up the focus I needed to fill up pages with narrative. After stumbling over the road bump of writer's block, and with the help of Professor Sayers, I pushed forward. It was in these more stressful times where I discovered the most enjoyable experience of writing my thesis: the result. Being able to submit my own writing, that I imbued with thought

and effort, was an incredible feeling and an achievement that marked the end of my

undergraduate career at Notre Dame.