Each student is listed with the faculty supervisor for the project, and with a very brief description by the student to show the range of projects currently executed in NARS.

**Blake Ann Bestard**  **Tok Thompson, Associate Professor (Teaching) of Anthropology**
For the NARS capstone, I chose to use ghost stories as a narrative platform by which I could study the origins of Los Angeles. What I came up with was a “people’s history” of the city, in which ghost stories from word of mouth or text were a way of identifying different cultures that existed, shifts in areas of inhabitance, and the kind of lifestyles that characterized a particular time or place.

**Tim Clayton**  **David Treuer, Professor of English**
My capstone project combines literature and film to tell one story. My aim for this project was to see how the two mediums can enhance and build off of each other within one story.

**Nathan Eckhous**  **Marianne Wiggins, Professor of English**
From the mundane to the fantastic, my capstone novella seeks human truth amid the rubble of a life undone. Using the narratives of a city, its cultures, and its people, this imaginative work of fiction foments reflection and laughter through a treacherous tale of growing up in the shadow of Los Angeles.

**Zachary Ferleger**  **Michael Du Plessis, Associate Professor (Teaching) of Comparative Literature and English**
I developed and wrote a science fiction screenplay that was originally supposed to be a character driven piece, but after constant revisions with my adviser I watched the script evolve into a social commentary on the modern world. The project taught me about the process of writing for film as well as the importance of collaboration.

**Will Hagle**  **Tok Thompson, Associate Professor (Teaching) of Anthropology**
My project consists of a short documentary about Czech music, highlighting the punk and alternative bands which played music illegally during the Soviet occupation of the country. The film discusses how the fall of Communism in the country changed and affected the music scene.

**Jessie Helgesen**  **Richard Berg, Associate Professor (Teaching) of English**
I analyzed the revolutionary group the Situationists (SI) and examined a few of their main theories in order to study the SI’s connection of the UK punk movement (of the 1970’s and 80’s) and today’s Internet-fostered musical subculture. I created a blog that features a number
of the musicians that are a part of today’s subculture in order to develop commentary to the connections to the SI’s narrative.

**William Hiller**  **Thomas Gustafson, Associate Professor of English**
A student manager documents the 2012-2013 USC women’s basketball season. This firsthand account allows for an exclusive look inside the program, and follows the highs and lows of a Division-I team.

**Wilson Knapp**  **Camille Dieterle, Asst Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy**
Everyone has life experiences that others have also experienced, and telling your own life experience can reveal a state of the human condition and bring about universal meaning. Explore the act of self-narration through personal essays, creative nonfiction, and poetry.

**Bernard Leed**  **Thomas Gustafson, Associate Professor of English**
Bernie Leed has been studying the varying forms of food narratives all semester—memoirs, fiction, recipes, blogs, reviews. His MDA 494 will culminate in a cookbook of essays, memories, and recipes that explore his own relationship to food.

**Michelle Lim**  **Michael Du Plessis, Associate Professor (Teaching) of Comparative Literature and English**
*Terra In Cognita* is a graphic hypertext thatcatalogues artifacts & stories excavated from invisible places. It lives here: http://www.msllsm.com/wunderkammer/index.html

**Sarah Marotta**  **Parmer Fuller, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Vocal Arts**
My capstone, a directed creative project, is a study of how the story of a novel must be altered in order to fit the structure of a successful stage show. I have spent this semester adapting a popular young adult novel into a musical.

**Sydney Marquez**  **Alice Gambrell, Associate Professor of English**
An exploration of narrative, its genres and the mediums through which it can be told, done in the style of a children’s fairy tale, alongside a short animation.

**Francesca Martens**  **Margaret Rosenthal, Professor of French and Italian**
As a narrative studies major and a journalist, I chose to unite my two disciplines in my capstone and write a series of essays on couch surfing through India. These essays are first-person narratives of experiences in each place and feature interviews with each host.

**Erica Patel**  **Carol Muske-Dukes, Professor of English**
I wrote a creative non-fiction novella that chronicled my time working in an inner city health clinic in Baltimore, mobile medical clinics in Honduras, and starting a clinic at an orphanage in rural Kenya. The purpose was to show my growth as an individual and how this affected me as well as to explore health care disparities in different regions.
Francesca Ressa, Professor of the Practice of Writing
The goal of my research was to accurately recount the narrative behind “Pit Bull” dogs in light of their creation, historical entanglement with American history and culture, and their mythical media-driven vilification. The amazing redeemed pit bulls of the 2008 Michael Vick dogfighting case, personal experience/experience of other advocates, and the errors of breed specific legislation (BSL) in America support my assertion of their innocence as a breed as well as their potential for greatness.

Zoe Roth, Richard Berg, Associate Professor (Teaching) of English
“Steve, Jack, Johnny, Dave, Jay, Conan, Jimmy, Jimmy ... and me.” Late-night talk shows: this special concoction of talk, comedy and storytelling has managed to influence public opinion and allow audiences to find humor in life’s daily monotonies since television became a commonplace fixture in American life. But is this genre of television talk simply repackaging current fashion and dominant ideology for mass consumption?

Kirsten Talbot, Kenneth Cosby, Adjunct Professor of Cinematic Arts
I wrote a feature-length screenplay that explored how the devolution of society in a post-apocalyptic world might affect the individual from an emotional, humanistic perspective. The purpose of this was to use a cinematic approach to tell a narrative-driven story that dealt with real-world consequences.

Eric Weintraub, Dana Johnson, Associate Professor of English
After spending a summer researching undocumented immigration in Arizona, Eric Weintraub is writing a book of short stories about the modern day immigration experience for his Narrative Studies capstone project. One of the short stories recently won 1st Prize in Creative Work at USC’s Undergraduate Writers’ Conference and he plans to one day seek publication for the collection.