

# HKL Student Newsletter

2025-2026 Academic year



As the 2026 spring semester winds down and the Kierkegaard Library prepares for its vibrant summer programming, we wanted to take a moment to look back at the incredible year we've shared.

From moments of quiet studying to philosophical debates over pizza, the Kierkegaard Library has truly been an intellectual haven on campus this year. Please read ahead to learn more about past and on-going developments and achievements.

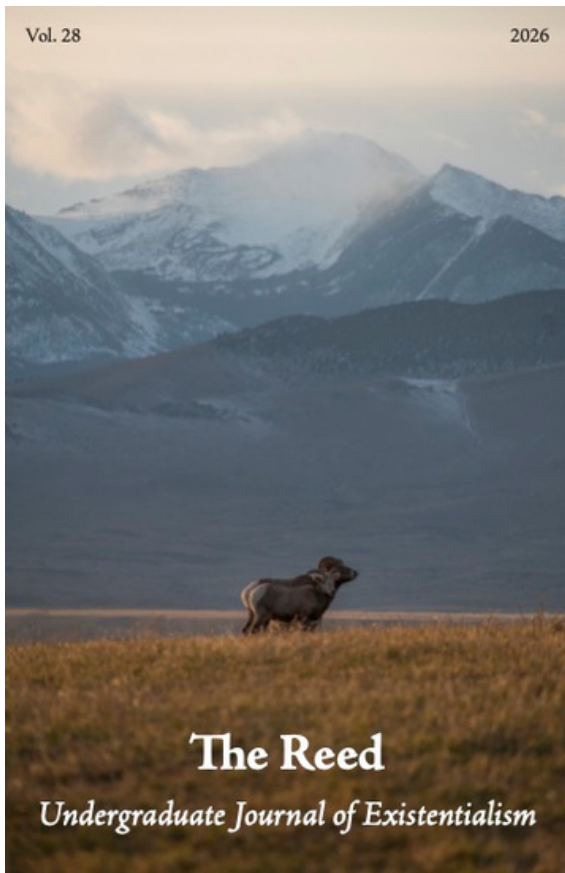


## Student CURI at the HKL

Student Sophia González '26 spent last summer (2025) at the Hong Kierkegaard Library researching the connections between the Hongs, Kierkegaard, and Ibsen. The title of her final research paper is: “Danes, Norwegians, and Dano-Norwegian plays: Beginnings of the Hong Kierkegaard Library.”



Sophia presented her research at a conference in California last summer, at the Friends of the Kierkegaard Library Banquet during the fall semester, and here at the Kierkegaard Library during the spring semester.



## The Reed

Undergraduate Journal of  
Existentialism

Our student team of editors at *The Reed* worked hard preparing the publication of their journal. This spring's edition of the Reed is the 28<sup>th</sup> volume. Check it out on the Reed's website.

[Pages.stolaf.edu/thereed](https://pages.stolaf.edu/thereed)

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# Student Worker Highlights



Leylah Boulos '27

Leylah is from Apple Valley, Minnesota and studies Music and Educational Studies. This is her first year at the HKL, and she is in charge of creating the signage in the library. She uses her graphic design skills to create custom signs for the space.

She is also interested in becoming a librarian, so she develops her skills in library science as a student worker.



Joonas Elo '28

Joonas is a philosophy and political science major from Tampere, Finland. This is his first year at the Kierkegaard Library. Joonas' favorite works of existentialism include *Being and Time* by Martin Heidegger, *Nausea* by Jean-Paul Sartre, and the *Ethics of Ambiguity* by Simone De Beauvoir.

Outside of work, you can find him hitting the links with the St. Olaf Men's Golf Team or studying moral theory and Kantian ethics.



Kyrilo Koltunov '28

Kyrilo Koltunov '28 is a Data and Public Relations Fellow studying Data Science and Statistics. Kyrilo has lived in more than 13 countries and has spent most of his time in Northfield, MN. This is his first year working at the HKL.

In his free time, he enjoys learning new languages and doing data analyses for the projects he works on. Kyrilo is involved in website coding, managing social media, and making sure all the pages are accessible at all times!



Ryan Moore '27

Ryan is a philosophy/psychology double major with a particular interest in the intersection of phenomenology and clinical psychology. He has done work on the *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research (IJKR)* and loves to chat with the many researchers who come to the Kierkegaard Library.

Beyond academics Ryan plays the viola in the St. Olaf Philharmonia orchestra and loves finding new music of all genres.



Ella Nielson '27

Ella is an English and Religion major from Shakopee, Minnesota. She creates flyers, supports staff and events, and updates social media at the Library.

In her free time she loves hiking, reading, and listening to live music!



Kaya Stark '26

Kaya is a senior philosophy major from Wrenshall, Minn. She is also the Editor-In-Chief of *The Reed Undergraduate Journal of Existentialism*.

Her favorite philosophers are Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche, both of whom she fears she may never truly understand.

When she's not working in the library, you can find her practicing her knitting skills in the dark or basking in the sun (probably rereading *East of Eden*).

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## The Friends of the Library Banquet

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, the Kierkegaard Library hosted the annual Friends of Kierkegaard Library Banquet in the Buntrock Ballrooms.

During the banquet, student researcher Sophia González presented her CURI research on the beginnings of the Kierkegaard Library.

After the banquet, Dr. Bruce Kirmmse (Connecticut College) gave a lecture on “Introducing Kierkegaard: Encountering Ourselves,” followed by an open discussion. The talk was illuminating and conversation was lively.



### Philosophy Ornaments

Near the end of the fall semester, Steensland hosted the philosophy department’s annual ornament making event. Students, faculty, and staff got creative making philosophy themed ornaments over hot cocoa, cookies, and good conversation.



### A Class Visit

Last semester, Professor Amanda Randall and her class “History and Memory” visited the Library to access some of our archived texts on the Lutheran World Federation’s Service to Refugees (LWF-SR) in Europe after WWII. The students had a great time looking at the primary sources, and the Library is always happy to share its collection.



## Summer at the Kierkegaard Library

While the rest of the campus winds down for the summer, the end of the academic year signals the beginning of the Library's preparation for our annual Kierkegaard Summer Institute! We look forward to welcoming research fellows to campus this summer.

This year is especially exciting, as the Kierkegaard Library is honored to host the 10<sup>th</sup> International Kierkegaard

Conference. Kierkegaard scholars from around the world will gather in Northfield to share their research, participate in lectures, and discuss all things Kierkegaard.

More information about the conference can be found on:

<https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/2026-international-conference/>.



### Welcome, Angie!

Join us in welcoming our new Office & Programs Coordinator since September 2025, Angie Ekern.

She has played a crucial role in planning events, supporting the Library's programming, and making our space feel like home for students, faculty, staff, and visitors alike.

