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Library Research Prize Essay

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Before embarking on my foray into the world of Eastern and Confucian ethics and gender studies in Paul Reasoner's Philosophy senior seminar, the first point of contact that I had with Bethel Library during the Fall of 2017 was in my research seminar in English with Mark Bruce. In the early stages of that class, Dr. Bruce encouraged all of the students in the section to reach out to a reference librarian to get advice on navigating the library's resources and research list, and to bounce ideas off of someone who knows their way around the internet when it comes to finding quality sources amid an intimidating virtual sea of misleading websites and disappointing dead ends. I reached out to Serena Giese via email, and our conversation during the first few weeks of the semester was not only incredibly helpful for beginning my research in my English research seminar, but also for getting a refresher on how to use the library's online databases. Serena responded to my emails quickly, and answered my questions thoughtfully and thoroughly, pointing me in the direction of several databases that I hadn't heard of, or wouldn't have thought to use. Little did I know that I would return to the databases that Serena suggest numerous times over the course of the semester to pursue research into my Philosophy capstone project.

I remember distinctly an instance in which I wanted to find articles specifically written by contemporary female scholars on the topic of Confucian sagehood, but was frustrated with how few results I was turning up just searching online or on Google scholar for leads. I remembered to go back to Serena's extremely thoughtful and detailed emails about the databases that she recommended for pursuing research in the humanities, and I was able to use Academic Search

Premier and Expanded Academic ASAP to find a number of excellent articles by female Confucian scholars covering every conceivable perspective on the issue, and stemming from almost every conceivable discipline, from general philosophy, to gender studies, to cognitive psychology. It was ultimately through these two search engines suggested by Serena Giese that I found my way to the article "Daughter/Wife/Mother or Sage/Immortal/Bodhisattva? Women in the Teaching of Chinese Religions" by Joseph Adler, which was pivotal for directing my research toward a more focused analysis of the female as sage or spiritual leader in Eastern thought.

Scott Kaihoi was also immeasurably helpful both as a resource in himself, and also as a guide to navigating the Bethel Library's resources. In the third or fourth week of our Philosophy senior seminar, Scott stopped by to speak to us about conducting research. The advice that he gave was helpful for two reasons. First, Scott began our time by asking each of the students what ideas they had for their topic, and then proceeded to give detailed and incisive ideas for sources and directions they could take their inquiry, and allowed students to bounce ideas off of him. Second, Scott took the time to point us in the direction of some helpful resources and tips that we might otherwise overlook, like the cart of books that Dr. Reasoner had put on reserve for us, or methods for using the advanced search function and strategically-chosen keywords in MLA Bibliography or JSTOR to narrow down our search to just the most helpful and relevant sources, or even searching for alternate translations of Confucian writings to gain a multifaceted understanding of the text. After Scott's visit to our classroom, I was able to use his tips regarding strategic keywords to find a PDF version of a translation of *The Analects of Confucius* translated by Robert Eno of Indiana University which included a wonderful commentary and interlinear glosses which contributed greatly to my analysis of different interpretations of Confucius'

writings on sagehood. Based on Scott's advice I was also able to use CLICsearch to find Stephen C. Angle's *Sagehood: The Contemporary Significance of Neo-Confucian Philosophy*, and although I ultimately ended up borrowing it from Dr. Reasoner's personal collection, Scott helped me figure out how to use the Interlibrary Loan system so I could order it if Dr. Reasoner didn't have it.

My fascination with Eastern thought would not have been sparked were it not for my having access to a variety of excellent sources and research tools provided by the Bethel University Library, and more importantly, the guidance which I received in using those tools from Scott Kaihoi and Serena Giese. My vigorous and continued curiosity about Confucian ethics and its intersections with gender and women's issues is due largely in part to the efforts of, and the resources provided by, the Bethel University Library.