The Grua-O’Connell fellowship played a pivotal role in the research for my honors project, *Spreading the Neoliberal Gospel to Chile: The Chicago Boys, Democracy, and Dictatorship from 1956-1990*. The funds from the fellowship allowed me to conduct research at the Hoover Institute, Stanford University. The Hoover Institute archives held invaluable primary sources for the three main focuses of the project; Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, and the Chicago Boys.

Prior to conducting research at the Hoover Institute, my project lacked the primary source material needed to generate worthwhile original scholarship. While a key speech Milton Friedman delivered in Chile was available in the public domain, for the most part my analysis was limited to secondary sources and US media coverage of Chile’s neoliberalization. The Hoover documents deeply broadened the scope of my analysis by providing insight into the neoliberal network. Documents from the Friedman and Hayek collections illuminated the professional nature of their working relationship and highlighted the specific points of collaboration. In particular, materials from the Mont Pélerin Society conference in Chile provided evidence of their joint support for the military dictatorship’s radically conservative economic policies.

The interviews with individual Chicago Boys about their time constructing the dictatorship’s economic policies were the single greatest source-contribution to the project. Chicago Boys like Sergio de Castro, Rolf Luders, Alvaro Donoso provided a first-person narration of the thought-process behind their policies. As a result, I was able to connect the
Chicago Boys’ narrative with the theoretical claims made by the secondary sources. Doing so allowed me to confidently make the main argument of my project; that the neoliberal tradition provided the Chicago Boys with the intellectual framework necessary to justify participation in the dictatorship.