My name is Katelyn Hannigan and I am currently a senior studying for my Bachelors of Science in Architecture. I have always been dedicated to helping others from volunteering at food pantries, to volunteering at local animal shelters. Helping those who cannot help themselves. I came to Kent with the idea of becoming a psychiatrist to help the mentally ill and one day becoming a Criminal Investigative Analysis for the FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit. I had previously done two years of post-secondary classes through my high school and I was set on psychology.

Upon coming to Kent many things happened in my life to where I became completely lost. My entire life had always been laid out for me, from school to cheerleading practice, to dance practice and competitions, to college classes that would prep me, to National Honor Society’s rigorous community service. Although, no one prepared me for the feeling of being lost. Freshman year was a rough start but if I would never have come to Kent I would not have met all my new friends, found something I was extremely interested in nor have found my future husband. Freshman year I decided to be spontaneous (which is very unlike me) and call my parents and tell them, not ask, that I was switching my major to Architecture.

Architecture interested me with the technicalities of the field, the challenge of solving problems while still incorporating a creative aspect. Every day I learn something new about myself, architecture, and the world. Every day I challenge myself. For the past four years, I have studied the environment, structures, and aesthetics, some of which I never thought applied to an Architect. Those three categories are the main aspects of architecture, one must become an expert in everything to design one thing.

Therefore, I have chosen to study a Climate Analysis in this research. I have had classes in Environmental technology that have shown me different ways to approach the process of designing a building and have only found confusion. I loving learning and problem solving especially on my own terms. I am a person of structure, I like when things make sense, but I have only found confusion due to the many loose ends. There are endless possibilities and if, or, and buts, Which I believe lessens the term Climate analysis. I want to study this topic further to understand if there is a way a climate analysis can be performed that will lead to informative results while allowing customization but will tie up the loose ends and allow the procedure to become easier to all.

With this research, I hope to create a more unified climate analysis that easily translates from one analyst to another and allows more time and focus onto other areas of study within architecture.
“We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us”. - Winston Churchill

The quote above by Winston Churchill seemed very fitting for me at this point in my life. I did not grow up with the dream or the thought of being an architect. I stumbled upon architecture after entering college and since then I have started to understand and find myself. Growing up I knew I was good at mathematics and science and that I wanted to pursue a career in that field. The only problem, I had no idea what career. I have bounced around from a Doctor to a Veterinarian, to a Physicist, to a Psychiatrist. Entering college I was set on psychology. I am fascinated by the mind’s capabilities. But after studying psychology in post-secondary during high school and my first year of college I was bored, and felt I was not being challenged enough. This is where my adventure of architecture began.

Still lost, I entered the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Architecture interested me with the technicalities of the field, the challenge of solving problems and still incorporating a creative aspect. Every day I learn something new about myself, architecture, and the world. Every day I challenge myself. I have always done what was expected of me, from completing high school, getting summer jobs, going to college, following the rules set by my family and others. Which I am content with doing, I am a person who strives with pleasing others. I live my life daily to serve others, I am extremely empathetic and I am at my happiest when others are as well.

Architecture has challenged me in ways I have never imagined. Every day I am forced to go against what I have always believed and thought. Our society is at a turning point, whether is it for the good or bad; I view it as a crucial point that can change the way the world works. Looking back at all my possible childhood career choices, none of them relate at first glance. At a closer look, they all involve helping others with the hope to improve the way we interact and treat one another. I ask myself every day why I did not choose any of the other career paths, and I may never find that answer. One thing I do know is architecture has given me an outlet to interact with every field and every interest I have ever had. Where ever I go, I intend to challenge the boundaries of architecture and break the chains. The statement, “this is how it is done, this is how it has always been done” comes up often. The problem I have with the statement is: it limits the human capability, it limits the imagination and it limits the capability of architecture. The statement has been a way of thinking for centuries and it tells me to go with the flow, do not think about the issue that may be at hand.

No one told me, I had to go to graduate school. For me, I am not yet ready to enter the field, and I may never be if I follow my own standards. Graduate school is an opportunity to grow as an architect and as a person. I have high expectations and hopes for the program at Kent State University. I am excited to experiment with the new labs, to find ways on how we can improve together and how we can change the world. I know Kent can become a leader in the way architecture influences our way of living. Already, moves are being made; expanding and showing everyone we have something big to offer.

I look at my past as a book of failures. Which some will view as true, harsh, or some may feel I have exceeded far beyond what they ever could. I do not know what I will be, I most certainly do not believe I will ever build world renowned designs. Even with that though there is still the possibility, I still get up every day and push myself. A comparison is the root of evil but comparison can be healthy. I constantly compare myself to my peers and to those who did not go to college and to those world-renowned
architects. I compare myself to show myself where I came from and where I can go. Others less fortunate than me have achieved greatness, so why can I not?

I believe that Kent can guide me in becoming great. I believe Kent can show me ways that some other schools cannot. There is something special about Kent and I want to find it.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to hearing from you.