LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROJECT: All First-Year Seminars have a “Major’s Assignment,” but each seminar is free to satisfy this requirement by an appropriate method. Hamline, as you will find out, is very big on helping all of us to speak effectively and to write clearly and convincingly, skills that were reinforced by Susan Evans during her presentation Sept. 26. Hamline is also big on motivation and skills to help us to “do all the good we can” and, alas, to acquire a meaningful and productive occupation that satisfies your passions. So here is my suggestion.

PHASE 1: INITIAL CHOICE OF MAJORS AND RESEARCH. You will need to choose TWO majors (if you want to choose three, that is okay). You will need to research required courses for each of the majors and to become familiar with the faculty in that department or discipline. There are two webpage searches that you should do: (1) For Hamline courses, go to https://www.hamline.edu, search for “bulletin,” click on “Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin,” scroll down on the right side of the page and click on “Academics >College of Liberal Arts,” and bingo! (Direct link: http://bulletin.hamline.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=1284). There is a host of majors for you to explore. Pick two that are most interesting to you. If you click on one of the majors, you will see a listing of faculty (updated each year) and also a listing of required courses. (2) For an equally handy listing of required courses for each major as provided by Hamline University Registration & Records, let’s use the link provided by Cathy Carter during her Oct. 15 presentation. Go to: https://www.hamline.edu/ugrequirements. You should click on bulletin year 2019-20 for the major you are interested in researching.

PHASE 2: ATTEND MAJOR EXPLORATION NIGHT and INTERVIEW ONE PROFESSOR AND ONE STUDENT FOR EACH OF YOUR TWO MAJORS

You will need to interview one faculty member and one undergraduate student for each of the two majors. (Sorry, neither Briel, nor Frantz, nor I fulfil this part; you can certainly talk with us and include our comments, but you will need another professor and student.) A great place to start is Tuesday night Oct. 22 from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Major’s Exploration Night activities. This event consists of open houses across campus with information and map available at https://www.hamline.edu/offices/career-development/major-decisions.html. Carefully, draw up a minimum of four questions (like and including “What does this major allow me to do once I graduate”). Most departments will have both professors and students there at the event!

Should you miss interviewing the professor and student Tuesday night for your particular major, don’t fret. I would suggest that you send an email requesting a 10-minute interview to a professor in that major. Some students simply drop by the professor’s office during office hours. Be sure to get suggestions from the professor for an undergraduate student (name and contact information) to interview.
PHASE 3: THE FINAL WRITTEN DOCUMENT. You are now ready to put together the results of your work (interviews, 4-year schedules, and what you discovered on “Major Exploration Night”) in the form of a written document. Organize as best you can to make a clear, linear development of your process and your results of this project. Please type. Double-spaced, 12-point either Calibri or Times New Roman font (a requirement in the legal field) is best. Specifically, be sure to include: (1) A brief introduction whereby you discuss your goals in life, possible career(s), and majors that tie into this career, (2) Questions asked and answers given for all (four) persons whom you interviewed. (3) Provide your own personal debriefing. (Which interviewees were most helpful, which question were best, what suggestions might you give to other students asking interviews, and how did the Major Exploration Night help you?) (4) Prepare a term-by-term four-year schedule for each of your two majors. Include any courses for minors that you might be thinking. An illustrative example is given on my webpage with direct link: https://physics.hamline.edu/~jartz/20190327BSPhysics.pdf. (Note that there are other examples on my webpage!) Your interviewing professor can help you do this, but it is always good if you try to draw this up before meeting with the professor. Note that many of the courses in a required major are sequential (one must be taken and serves as a prerequisite before the second!). Also note that there are some courses that are only taught every other year! Hence, advanced planning is very important. Also note that you need to include your Hamline Plan courses. To find out when courses are taught, go to our usual “Course Listings” link under “logins” on Hamline’s webpage. Here is a direct link: https://piperline.hamline.edu/pls/prod/hamschedule.P_MainSchedulePage. Note that you can see previous terms (click the pull-down menu) if you need to determine which classes are taught every other year.

This assignment will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday October 31. Note that this should give me a chance to go over your work and provide hopefully useful feedback before our advisor meetings scheduled for either Tuesday Nov. 5 OR Thursday Nov. 7.

THAT’S IT! I really, really hope that this assignment proves helpful to you! Please let me know if you have questions (email or in person anytime!). Best, Jerry