Fatema Medhat’s exploration around the city can be linked to a theory she learned in a University of Missouri–St. Louis classroom. The idea that ignoring a broken window and other visible signs of disorder could foster more serious crimes piqued her interest. And so, the philosophy and criminology and criminal justice double major took to the streets to test the hypothesis and discover new correlations.

Similar stories of research inspirations beginning in the classroom are available across the UMSL undergraduate research scene. A glimpse into some of this student-driven inquiry is available annually at UMSL’s Undergraduate Research Symposium. Here, UMSL Magazine examines some of the topics presented and curiosities satisfied during the 2018 event.