## WILL CHINA BECOME THE NEXT SUPERPOWER?

## Kenneth Chase Kelly, Department of Political Science and the Honors College

## Faculty Sponsors: Drs. Carol Glen, Department of Political Science, and Ofélia Nikolova, Honors College

China has claimed its well-deserved position among the very top of global political actors, especially following the global economic downturn of 2008. Many people find themselves wondering if China will become the next superpower. And if so, what impact would that have on the global economy? Would China, as a superpower, just replace the former Soviet Union and possibly increase tensions with the United States? In this project, I discuss how China has experienced an unimaginable growth in such a short time. Along with this discussion, I reflect on China's ability to become a superpower. There are some serious problems China must face, such as its huge and aging population, poverty rates, environmental pollution, and over-dependency on non-renewable resources. Finally, I discuss how China can become a very different superpower than we have known before and I briefly address how we should respond to China's national and economic development.