

THE

BOISI CENTER REPORT



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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Friends:

It's been a busy and exciting spring here at the Boisi Center. We've been energetically engaged sponsoring programs and speakers in the midst of the "winter that wouldn't go away"

(and spring is still just out of reach). But the energy generated by both our speakers and our audiences have kept the chill out of the air.

Our two faculty seminars – one focused on "What Does Citizenship Mean Today?" and the other focused on prophetic theologian and writer Thomas Merton – brought together faculty from various departments (political science, African American and African diaspora studies, history, creative writing, philosophy and theology) and from various schools within Boston College (the Law School, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences). The lively conversations they generated over lunch (the "Citizenship" seminar) and dinner (the "Merton" seminar) allowed faculty to exchange ideas with colleagues they seldom have an opportunity to listen to (and in our best moments, debate with), breaking through the kinds of silos academia is famous for sponsoring these days. Both faculty seminars have thus proven exciting and engaging on a number of levels, and the Boisi Center will continue to sponsor inter-disciplinary faculty seminars next year.

Our lecture series brought in a range of interesting and provocative scholars: Candida Moss, from the University of Birmingham in the UK, inaugurated our annual Wolfe Lecture (named, of course, for the Center's founding and much-respected director, Alan Wolfe) by talking

about the research behind her book *Bible Nation: The United States of Hobby Lobby*, which narrated the creation of the new "Museum of the Bible" in Washington, D.C. Dr. Ron Lacro, from Boston Children's Hospital, gave a riveting presentation on the ideas of compassionate care for children to a packed house. Robert Orsi from Northwestern University, one of the most respected scholarly voices in the study of American religion, talked about his new project studying memory and violence among Catholic clerical abuse survivors. The redoubtable E.J. Dionne of The Washington Post and the Brookings Institution delivered a riveting address entitled "Truth and Lies in a Polarized Time"-- this year's "Prophetic Voices Lecture." Our visiting scholar for the 2017-18 academic year, Professor Mara Willard from the University of Oklahoma, convened a lunch seminar on the project she has pursued this year – on "Catholic Afterlives," examining how, and in what ways, Catholics who have left the Church or who have redefined their membership in unconventional ways – continue to identify as "Catholic" in their values and lifestyles. The "question and answer" sessions after all of these engaging talks dramatically witnessed to how these distinguished speakers elicited insightful and sometimes passionate responses from the audiences gathered to hear them.

Recently the Boisi Center co-hosted a reception, along with the theology department and the Law School, to introduce the incoming editor of *Commonweal* magazine, Dominic Preziosi, to young faculty and current doctoral students in BC's theology department. The reception was, I think, a most welcome event, as the new editor offered a brief talk on "5 Things to Do to Make It Twice as Likely to Get an Article Accepted at *Commonweal*" to the young scholars present.

Two very exciting events closed our semester: on April 26, the Boisi Center hosted a panel discussion on "Pope Francis and the American Church," with panelists Massimo Faggioli from Villanova University, Rev. Bryan Hehir of Harvard University, and Lisa Cahill and Nancy Pineda-Madrid from Boston College. This event helped us to mark the fifth anniversary of Francis' election to the papacy, and generated some exciting conversation. Finally, on May 30, the Boisi Center will host the inter-religious "Faith and Science Coalition on Climate Change" at Boston College. Catholic and Anglican bishops, ministers from a spectrum of Protestant denominations, rabbis from various Jewish groups, Muslim scholars, and scientists from the Woods Hole Institute on Cape Cod will gather to discuss how people of faith from various traditions might be energized and activated to see the issue of climate change as a religious and moral issue, as well as a scientific one. I am genuinely delighted that the Boisi Center is able to host this important summit. I would also like to thank the ILA for their generous support.

Finally, it is with a note of sadness that I announce the departure of our energetic and creative associate director, Erik Owens, to take over as director of international studies program here at Boston College. I am happy to report that our very talented and hard-working graduate assistant, Jack Nuelle, will be filling in next year as interim program director as we undertake a search for Erik's replacement. Erik offers his own set of reflections on his years here at the Boisi Center in this newsletter, but all of us here wish him Godspeed and continued success in his new endeavors.

I was delighted to meet many of you at our events this past year, and I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

~ Mark Massa, S.J.

BIBLE NATION: HOBBY LOBBY, SCRIPTURE, AND THE MAKING OF AMERICA

In her Inaugural Wolfe Lecture, Candida Moss connected the Green family and their Museum of the Bible to wider questions about religious freedom, education, and the role the Bible plays in the American project.



Candida Moss gives the Inaugural Wolfe Lecture.

The Boisi Center welcomed Professor Candida Moss, Cadbury Professor of Theology at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom to Boston College. On February 7, 2018, Moss gave the Inaugural Wolfe Lecture on Religion and American Politics, named for Professor Alan Wolfe, founding director of the Boisi Center. Moss discussed her recent publication, *Bible Nation: The United States of Hobby Lobby*, and offered a brief history of the Green family, a prominent Protestant Evangelical family that owns the chain of Hobby Lobby craft stores and funded the recently-opened Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. The Green family entered the public eye as a result of their central role in the Supreme Court Case *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*.

Moss discussed the Museum of the Bible and argued that the Green family's actions sometimes seem inconsistent with their public persona as messengers of Christianity. She also critiqued the Museum's methods of acquiring artifacts and its approach to academic scholarship surrounding the Bible. Moss discussed the importance of maintaining a consistent methodology in examining the Bible and its application in society. Recounting her visit to the Museum of the Bible, Moss highlighted the Green family's specific motivations for building this museum. For example, she described the exhibit that presents the Bible's significance in history but noted that the timeline in the museum ends with the Protestant

Reformation and disregards the significance of the Bible since that point. She also pointed out that the Museum of the Bible disregards the application and significance of the Bible in other world religions, including Judaism, Islam, as well as other denominations of Christianity, such as Catholicism and Mormonism. Moss noted that when the Museum discusses the use of the Bible in history, it does not address seriously enough some problematic ways that the Bible has been applied. For example, the Museum includes but skates over the Bible's role in justifying slavery.

In her critique of the Green family and the discussion of her book, Moss uncovers the influence a family such as the Green family can have in the United States. This influence spans numerous spheres of life, including education, politics, and even the way we understand other cultures and religions based on how they are presented in museums such as the Museum of the Bible. Moss's lecture highlights the need for critical scholarship in an age where biases can influence the development of our own worldviews and prevent us from engaging in critical discussion and thought about the role of religion in American and global society.

More information and pictures can be found on the event page.

www.bc.edu/boisi-moss



Mark Massa, S.J. (R) introduces Moss's new book.



Moss and audience during her lecture.

CATHOLIC AFTERLIVES

Boisi visiting scholar Mara Willard discussed the “sticky” nature of Catholic formation and recontextualizing a Catholic afterlife as a positive term and valid site for interrogating what it means to be Catholic.

Mara Willard, assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Oklahoma, delivered a luncheon colloquium at the Boisi Center on the topic of “Catholic Afterlives.” Willard is currently a visiting scholar at the Boisi Center, where she has been advancing her research on the so-called “Crisis in the Church” of 2002. The latter is a book project that considers how initiatives for ecclesial reform in response to the clergy sex abuse scandal were conditioned by the practices and cultural shifts of post-war Catholicism. Her March 27 lecture, which served as a forum for scholars to deliberate the paradigmatic prospects and challenges of her scholarly enterprise, addressed one principal query: What cultural identities, social affiliations, and aesthetic preferences persist among Catholics who leave the Church?

Willard began by foregrounding the theological origins of her study as well as defining terminologies related to her project. One such origin is the outdated framework in the study of religion. Sociologists and anthropologists have customarily evaluated the growing body



Mara Willard addresses her audience.

of Catholics that no longer claim a connection to the Roman Catholic Church through a lens of “institutional loss.” This understanding, Willard stressed, neglects post-affiliative roles (e.g., “alumni” and “veteran”) and effaces “Catholic afterlives.” Another origin is the post-Vatican II biblical encyclicals on birth control. However, Willard dates her personal interest to the outbreak of the Boston clerical sex abuse crisis of 2002.

Willard then outlined her research methodologies for her book project on “Catholic afterlives.” She intends to explore not just the reasons for disaffiliation, but also what she calls “gifts and sorrows of Catholic afterlives.”

These include pilgrimage, the arts, community service, and academic scholarship—all practices and identities of those who had been formed as Catholics.

During the question-and-answer session, participants raised some issues for Willard to consider in her book project. Some referred to the “stickiness” of the Catholic faith. Others highlighted that departure from the Catholic faith does not necessarily indicate hostility, but could also reflect a lack of spiritual nourishment. Others urged Willard to consider the behavior of “after-lifers” as transformed or at variance from Catholicism versus as persistently Catholic activities, while yet others stressed the salience of gender, class and sexuality as confounding variables for “after-lifer” aesthetics.

More information, recommended readings, and photos can be found on our event page.

www.bc.edu/boisi-willard

VIOLENCE, MEMORY, AND RELIGION AMONG SURVIVORS OF CLERICAL SEXUAL ABUSE

Professor Robert Orsi shared stories of survivors of clerical sexual abuse and made suggestions for reframing the crisis in a way that leads to necessary clerical and institutional changes.

In an early-April lecture, Robert Orsi, the Grace Craddock Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies at Northwestern University, spoke about the spiritual lives of adult survivors of clerical sexual abuse, and



Robert Orsi answers questions following his lecture.

what their stories indicate about potential realities of the clerical sexual abuse crisis that had been overlooked or underplayed. Orsi has conducted interviews with several survivors and in his lecture discussed his experience learning about survivors’ relationship to the Church after their abuse. He told a story of one survivor, Mary Rose, who felt abandoned by God and wondered if she should blame herself for the abuse.

Orsi then explained how, for many years, religion was not considered a significant factor in clerical sexual violence. Instead, religion as a potential exacerbator or accomplice to sexual violence has been downplayed, especially by the Catholic hierarchy. It simply served as a “dependent variable” in such discourse. While Orsi said he does not see a clear solution to the problem of sexual abuse in the Catholic

Church, he said that he hopes his work will open new modes of conversation about the crisis.

More information and photos can be found on our event page.

www.bc.edu/boisi-orsi



Post-lecture discussion between Robert Orsi (R) and Mark Massa, S.J. (L).

TRUTH AND LIES IN A POLARIZED TIME

17TH ANNUAL PROPHETIC VOICES LECTURE

E.J. Dionne, columnist, professor, and political commentator, addressed the challenges faced by both the media and the person of faith in a political landscape fraught by fake news and Trumpian populism.



E.J. Dionne (L) and Mark Massa, S.J. (R) during the question and answer portion of the event.

On April 5, E.J. Dionne spoke to an audience of students and professors about political polarization in the United States under the Trump administration. Dionne is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, columnist for the *Washington Post*, and university professor in the Foundations of Democracy and Culture at Georgetown University. His lecture was both a meditation on what he calls “Trump’s attack on the truth,” as well as an exhortation to scholars, media personnel, and citizens about responsible knowledge-sharing in a time of resurgent ethno-nationalism.

Dionne began by examining the strained relationship between Trump as a politician and fact-driven opinion. He cited some examples of Trump’s intolerance in the early parts of his campaign, especially casting the media as an enemy of the people and Kellyanne Conway’s statement about “alternative facts.” Such behavior, Dionne contended, necessarily sprouted from developments in American politics since the mid-twentieth century, including shifts in the strategies of the Republican Party and the partisan manipulation of digital technology. The former refers to assaults on the role of accountable media and bipartisan agreement in public governance. The

latter entails the burgeoning of right-wing media wings such as Breitbart that subordinate reasoned judgement and sound evidence to unfounded opinion, perception, and emotion.

Dionne then explored the implications of Trumpism for American politics, religion, and journalism. According to Dionne, à la Alexander Hamilton, Trump has chosen not just to “ride the storm” of conservatism, but has importantly begun to “direct the storm.” Trump has particularly rearticulated one example of what Dionne calls “essentially contested topics,” concepts whose very definitions are constantly challenged: populism. Trumpian populism, Dionne argues, posits an exclusionary form of democracy premised on identity politics, reactionary ideology, and anti-pluralism.

Dionne concluded with some admonitions for upholding truth in this polarized time. Citing Peruvian liberation theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez, he called upon people of faith to place a renewed emphasis on human dignity and social suffering. Equally significant, he urged journalists to report on the sources of today’s discontent, or what Jonathan Cobb and Richard Sennett call “the hidden injuries of class.”

In closing, Dionne recalled a story from his son, erstwhile canvasser for a political campaign, who once asked an African American constituent, “Are you going to vote in the upcoming election?” “It’s our job,” the constituent proclaimed, “because we’re Americans.”

More information, a video from the event, recommended readings, and photos can be found on our event page.

www.bc.edu/boisi-dionne



Boisi Center undergraduate research assistant Julia Bloechl asks Dionne a question.

RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY, AND COMPASSIONATE HEALTHCARE: A CONVERSATION WITH DR. RONALD LACRO

Dr. Lacro reflected on his personal history, best practices for compassionate care, and the power of vulnerability in healthcare.

On February 13th, Dr. Ronald Lacro, of Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, with Erik Owens as interlocutor, spoke to an interdisciplinary audience of students and professors, about the importance of compassionate care in our healthcare system. Lacro, who specializes in pediatric cardiology, discussed how he maintains compassionate practices and touched upon potential reasons why these practices are not more common in the medical field.

Lacro began by discussing his biography and how compassionate care became an important part of his practice. Born in a small Hawaiian town, he was one of ten kids in a very religious family. Being a "big family, small town, Catholic boy" informs his compassionate practices to this day. He emphasized the importance of sitting with families and getting to know them on a human level as he believes compassionate care practices "provide a new set of tools to help families sustain themselves." Lacro also mentioned that palliative care actually assists longevity and patient comfort, and should thus be



Dr. Ronald Lacro (L) and Erik Owens (R)

employed sooner rather than later in treatment processes.

The conversation also touched upon faith, both in Lacro's practice and his daily life. He is a devout, gay Catholic man who is part of a faith group known as Dignity. Dignity is a progressive community of LGBT Catholics who celebrate mass and

discuss their faith together. It was in this community that he met his husband and continues to find spiritual fulfillment. He also enjoys singing for an adult Catholic renaissance musical group known as "Convivium Musicum". As a Christian, Lacro knows how important and relevant faith can be in trying times. Thus, he believes it is important to learn compassionate care through many religious lenses, which he did by earning a certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education through the Harvard Divinity School. His time in this setting allowed him to gain a deeper sense of empathy for patients from various backgrounds.

Dr. Lacro's powerful message was that in our moments of physical weakness, we are most vulnerable to those around us, especially healers. It is important that health care professionals embrace this gift and tend to the spiritual needs of their patients alongside the physical ones.

More information, a video from the event, recommended readings, and photos can be found on our event page.

www.bc.edu/boisi-lacro

2017-18 FACULTY SEMINAR ON CITIZENSHIP

This year's seminar focused on different conceptions of citizenship, and the complicated understanding of citizenship today.

Over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year, Mark Massa, S. J., convened an inter-disciplinary faculty seminar on the theme of "Citizenship." Each meeting was held at the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, represented by both Erik Owens and Mara Willard. Candace Hetzner joined from the Morrissey College's Office of the Dean, and spoke from her perspective in political science, along with David Deese who represented the department of political science. Jeffrey Bloechl provided insights from the faculty of philosophy. From the Law School came Vincent Rougeau, Frank Garcia, and M. Cathleen Kaveny. Theology was represented by Kenneth Himes (and Kaveny). Arissa Oh and Martin Summers provided perspectives from history.

In a capstone session, participants reflected upon the tremendous success of the faculty seminar. Connections over lunch and the exchange of ideas across disciplines had succeeded in deepening



*(clockwise from left) Mara Willard, Martin Summers, Erik Owens, Vincent Rougeau, Jeffrey Bloechl, Candace Hetzner, M. Cathleen Kaveny, and Mark Massa, S.J.
Not-pictured: David Deese, Kenneth Himes, Arissa Oh*

ing collegiality and intellectual curiosity across the schools of Boston College. Global citizenship proved to be a robust organizing site for the sharing of brief, externally-sourced papers that sparked analysis and conversation. The conversations ranged from theological anthropology to "deep green religion," from the importance of institutions in maintaining the strength of civil society to legal

and cultural questions about whether believers participate as equal citizens in American life. Each were agreed to be unusually smart, connected to the trying issues of the day, and yet leavened by friendship and sustenance.

www.bc.edu/boisi-facultyseminar1718

POPE FRANCIS IN AMERICA

Four distinguished panelists gathered to discuss Pope Francis' effect on the American Church five years after his election.

For the last event of the 2017-18 academic year, the Boisi Center welcomed Lisa Sowle Cahill (Boston College), Massimo Faggioli (Villanova University) Rev. J. Bryan Hehir (Harvard University), and Nancy Pineda-Madrid (Boston College), for a panel discussion on the state of the papacy and Pope Francis's relationship with the American Catholic Church. Guided by questions posed by director Mark Massa, S.J. and members of the audience, the panelists discussed the successes and shortcomings of Pope Francis's papacy, how the Vatican has functioned since his election, and questions about gender and the role of women in the Catholic Church. Early in the discussion, Hehir proposed three characteristics of an effective pope. He maintained that he must be an excellent pastor, a solid administrator, and a smart diplomat. Accordingly, Hehir praised Pope Francis for largely succeeding in these three categories. He said that Pope Francis's ability to connect with Catholics worldwide demonstrates a "magnetic quality about him." Most important, Francis has appointed professionals to advise him on financial and economic questions, having recognized that this is an area

his papacy needs external support. Hehir also commended Pope Francis for travelling to a range of countries around the world and for lifting up the lives of the people he interacts with.

Furthermore, Cahill and Pineda-Madrid explained how Francis' use of



From left to right: Mark Massa, S.J., Lisa Sowle Cahill, Rev. J Bryan Hehir, Massimo Faggioli, and Nancy Pineda-Madrid.

symbolic, prophetic, and vernacular language serves as a positive sign of his personal connection to the Catholic Church. Pineda-Madrid referenced, for example, his use of Spanish at a Mass in Washington, D.C. during his visit to the United States. She noted that, "symbols matter, and they matter greatly," in reference to Francis's use of symbols to lift up the Church and its members. However, Faggioli addressed a few of Francis's administrative

weaknesses since ascending to the role. Faggioli argued that the lack of an official Vatican spokesperson distorts the Vatican's image and rhetoric in countries where media culture is an integral part of everyday life. This lack of communication, in turn, distances the United States and the West from the Vatican and creates ecclesial and political rifts.

Nevertheless, Cahill continued to praise Francis for not only focusing on the American Church, but also the global church. Francis' use of prophetic discourse enables him to reach a diverse Catholic audience, particularly members of the burgeoning Latino/a church in America. Additionally, Pineda-Madrid argued that Pope Francis has brought issues of environmental degradation and poverty to the forefront of public attention by his willingness to openly discuss such topics. The panelists agreed that Pope Francis is calling the American Catholic Church to "a higher standard and a higher ground."

More information, recommended readings, and photos can be found on our event page.

www.bc.edu/boisi-francispanel

THEOLOGY AND FILM

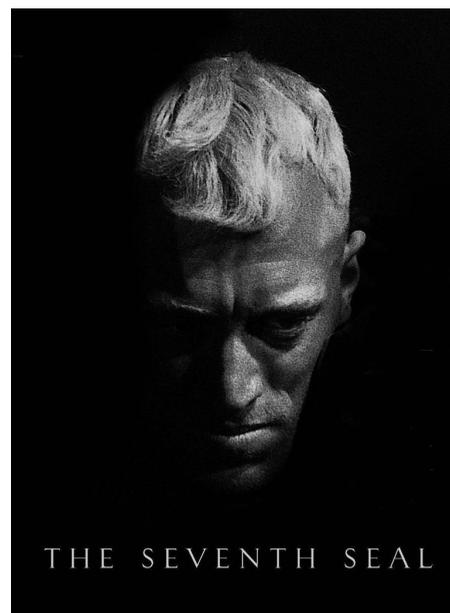
8th Annual Graduate Student symposium on Religion and Politics engaged the religious and theological in the medium of film.

Starting in fall 2017, Boisi Center graduate research assistant Jack Nuelle facilitated screenings and discussions of theologically engaging or significant films from throughout world cinema. The symposium was the 8th annual in the Boisi Center series of graduate student symposia on Religion and Politics. It was made up of interested graduate students from around the BTI. Films screened, in order, were: *The Gospel According to St. Matthew* (1964), by Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini; *Au Hasard Balthazar* (1966) by French director Robert Bresson; *Calvary* (2014) by Irish director John Michael McDonagh; *Timbuktu* (2014) by Mauritanian director Abderrahmane Sissako; *The Seventh Seal* (1957) by Swedish director Ingmar Bergman;

and *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring* (2003), by South Korean director Kim Ki-duk.

The goal of the seminar was to explore four main categories of film: Scripture in film, films exploring the contemplative, films that portray religion in the modern world, and films that examine religion through a non-Western lens. Discussion touched on each film's use of sound and music, the consistent themes of violence and suffering, the ways the sacred was represented visually, the power of grace when portrayed cinematically, and the myriad ways religion complicates and deepens modern life.

www.bc.edu/boisi-symposium1718



The Seventh Seal movie poster.

REFLECTING, WITH GRATITUDE, ON MY YEARS AT THE BOISI CENTER



As I head into the final weeks of my job here at the Boisi Center, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity I have had these past twelve

years to shape and be shaped by the work we have done at the intersection of religion and public life. A few thoughts come to mind as parting words.

First, I believe in our mission, now more than ever:

The Boisi Center is committed to fostering rigorous, civil, and constructive conversations about religion in American public life, in pursuit of the common good of a religiously diverse society. We bring exceptional scholarship into dialogue with engaged citizenship and the creative arts, in order to produce meaningful exchanges that inform, challenge, and inspire. In so doing we support Boston College's Jesuit and Catholic commitment to education that shapes minds and souls alike for service to others.

I'm proud of the work we have done over the last twelve years amidst turbulent events around the world, across the United States, and here in Boston. We have tried to humanize the global refugee crisis, bring voices together across racial divides, examine Catholic intellectual traditions, reflect on the Boston Marathon bombing and the tenth anniversary of 9/11, talk about citizenship and civic virtue in the age of Trump, and so much more. At our best, I think we accomplish the mission we set for ourselves, at least for that moment, before we must try to do it again and again, in a consistent pattern that eventually forms generative habits of scholarship and citizenship.

Second, I believe in the importance of academic centers as sites for public scholarship and civic engagement. It has been one of my great pleasures here at the Boisi Center to connect with scholars doing related work at other centers on religion and public life around the world. The traditional academic ecosystem is under serious strain, and centers like ours are well-situated to do work that impacts many publics inside and outside the academic community.

And as tenure-track faculty positions continue to decline, there will be more and more scholarly work generated from interdisciplinary academic centers that can host visiting faculty, postdocs, professors of the practice, etc. Combined with a mission to advance the common good, I think academic centers like ours are crucial.

Finally, I have loved working with my many colleagues over the years at the Boisi Center. Alan Wolfe had the place humming with activity long before I arrived, but we ramped things up and kept building over the next ten years before he retired; I really appreciate his support and encouragement throughout it all. Susan Richard has been a consistently fun and expert colleague—her bureaucratic jiu-jitsu has made so many good things happen here—and I look forward to trading stories with her about our families and pets for many years to come. Mark Massa has been a generous colleague this year as he has taken the reins and set a new course for the Boisi Center's very bright future. I have also deeply valued my relationship with our founding patron, Geoff Boisi, whose passion for this work got the whole enterprise started. Perhaps the best part of my job, though, has been working with and mentoring a host of amazing graduate and undergraduate research assistants over the years (including our Dream Team in 2017-18!). I now join the Boisi Center alumni club that we started so long ago to keep in touch.

When I was invited by the dean to become director of BC's International Studies Program, I knew it was a great opportunity to shape the future of a program I love and have served as a core ethics faculty member for ten years. My focus in that role will naturally shift toward the student experience, our new curriculum, our growing faculty, and the university's global engagement initiatives. But you'll still find me in the front row of Boisi Center events in coming years, a believer in its mission, a supporter of its work, and an admirer of its terrific staff and student workers. I leave with deep gratitude to them and to all the scholars who have contributed to our work.

~ Erik Owens

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For complete information and resources on all of our events, including audio and video recordings, transcripts, interviews, photos, videos, bibliographies and more, visit our website: www.bc.edu/boisi.

All Boisi Center event photos by: Christopher Soldt MTS Photography.

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STAFF UPDATES: WHAT'S NEXT?

Omeed Alidadi, undergraduate research assistant and graduating senior, will be in Washington, D.C. working in international education policy, and deciding about graduate school. Omeed has been with the center for the past three years. We are excited to see what his future holds in store for him.

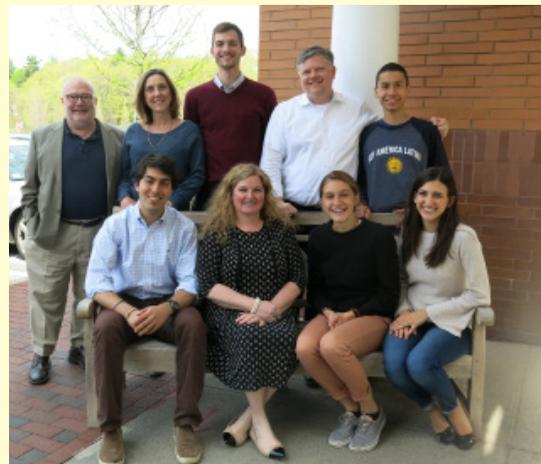
Undergraduate research assistant, and rising junior, **Julia Bloechl** will be in Nicaragua this summer doing research on fair trade, and will spend the 2018-19 academic year studying at Mansfield College at the University of Oxford.

Undergraduate research assistant **Susan Kourtis**, also a graduating senior, will be working for the CrossRoad Summer Institute at Hellenic College through the summer and hopes to work in a theology or education context before applying to graduate school next year.

Rising senior and undergraduate research assistant **Jorge Mejía** received the 2018 Oscar A. Romero Scholarship this past April. This summer Jorge will be interning at the University Neighborhood Housing Program in the Bronx in New York City.

Graduate research assistant **Jack Nuelle** will be staying with the Boisi Center for the 2018-19 academic year and will be stepping into the role of interim program director. He is also actively discerning applying for PhD programs.

2017-18 BOISI CENTER STAFF



Clockwise from left: director Mark Massa, S.J.; visiting scholar Mara Willard; graduate research assistant Jack Nuelle; associate director Erik Owens; undergraduate research fellow Jorge Mejía; undergraduate research fellow Susan Kourtis; undergraduate research fellow Julia Bloechl; administrative assistant Susan Richard; and undergraduate research fellow Omeed Alidadi.

FALL 2018 EVENTS TBA!

See our website for an updated schedule later this summer.