

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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PSP welcomes new Director, Father Keenan



Photo: Kris Brewer

Fr. Keenan has been appointed as the new PSP Director.

By Nick Moffa, A&S '14

"I am delighted to be the new Director of the Presidential Scholars Program (PSP) here at Boston College," said Father James Keenan, of the Society of Jesus (SJ). "I am very happy with the Program, and I am delighted with what Dr. Dennis Sardella did with the PSP for the first twenty years of its existence." This past September, Father James Keenan took over the Presidential Scholars Program from its Founding Director, Dr. Dennis Sardella. Since assuming

the role of the Presidential Scholars Program Director, Father Keenan has worked ceaselessly to adjust to the Program, meet the current Scholars and Alumni, and make changes he thinks will build upon the foundation created by Dr. Sardella. During an interview with Father Keenan, he expressed his genuine interest in the Program and his vision for the future of the PSP.

In 1970, Father Keenan became a Jesuit at seventeen years of age in the New York Province. He graduated from Fordham University, with a double major in Philosophy and English. Following his graduation from Fordham, he participated in a three-year reGENCY, serving as a teacher and a community organizer. "I then went to the Weston Jesuit School of Theology to try for my Masters of Divinity," explained Father Keenan. The Weston Jesuit School of Theology was located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in near proximity to Boston College and now operates as the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry located on the Brighton campus. Upon nearing the end of his second year at Weston, his provincial suggested to him that he consider studying for a Doctor's of Philosophy, or PhD. Although advised by his mentor to study Political Science or Urban Studies, after soliciting advice from his peers, he decided to conduct his doctoral studies in Morals and Theology. "I was ordained the next year, and then received my doctorate at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. I studied with both Klaus Demmer and Joseph Fuchs." Father Keenan's studies in

Rome lasted nearly five years, during which he became officially licensed in the profession of teaching theology, and, in 1987, he received his doctorate.

From 1987-1991, following his time in Rome, Father Keenan returned to his alma mater of Fordham University to teach theology. "During my time there, I was recruited by both the University of Notre Dame and Weston. I decided to return to Weston, where I directed graduate students for twelve years. Then in 2002, I was offered the Gasson Professorship at Boston College." The Gasson Professorship is given to one prominent Jesuit professor, giving them the opportunity to teach at Boston College for a couple of years. From 2002-2004, Father Keenan taught here at BC, and in 2004, he was offered a permanent job on campus.

During the past six years, Father Keenan has taught a number of classes here at the university. He has taught Church Ethics, HIV/Aids and Ethics, Sex, Gender, and Body, and at least eight additional graduate courses. In addition to his dedication to the classroom, he has organized several international conferences including a 2006 and 2010 conference focusing on Catholic Moral Theologians. Father Keenan is also the chair, founder, and fundraiser of Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church, a conference dedicated to the international exchange of ideas among Catholic theological ethicists.

With his new title as Director of the Presidential Scholars Program, Father Keenan plans to use his experience at the university to continue developing and expanding the Program.

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Summer Experiences

Service learning offers freshmen insight into Boston

By Ben Martin, A&S '13

One week after the end of their freshman year, the Presidential Scholar class of 2013 moved into Shaw House on Upper Campus to begin their six-week service learning program. Spread among seven service placements, the rising sophomores worked four days a week at two placements each, including a soup kitchen, a prison, a juvenile detention center, an English-as-a-second-language program, and a government hotline involved in food distribution. The variety of placements and the exposure to different neighborhoods of Boston made for great stories and conversation back at the Shaw House and an exciting beginning to the summer.

In addition to the service aspect of the program, the rising sophomores also participated in seminar-style discussions with Professor McMenamin, director of BC's Pulse program, each Friday morning, examining the philosophical, theological, economic, and social implications of their experiences. Often these classes represented only the very beginning of the discussion, which could continue for many hours or even days among the group. The Friday morning classes also

included presentations by the students on the efficiency and effectiveness of each of the organizations at which they worked. Combined with frequent reflection and a collection of assigned readings on the relevant issues of social justice, the program provided for a rigorous six weeks.

Kelsey Swift said of her time at Shaw House, "These past six weeks have been such an intense learning experience, a challenge to so many of my moral and spiritual and social presuppositions." Many of the sophomore Scholars share these sentiments.

But not all of the work at Shaw House called for such taxing engagement. The Scholars also improved their culinary skills. Nearly every afternoon, music could be heard from the Shaw House kitchen as students prepared that night's meal. This became one of the chief activities in Shaw House, involving group trips to the grocery store and careful planning of kitchen responsibilities each Sunday night. Over the course of their time at Shaw House, the Scholars even hosted Fr. Keenan, Jennie Thomas, Kayte Giorgio, and Susan Migliorisi for dinner. Many of the students agree that

it was the conversations and cooperation surrounding the cooking that led to the further development of friendships and the deepening of the bonds.

Finally, the recurring dinner meetings allowed for the members of the rising sophomore class to become better acquainted with Fr. Keenan, the Presidential Scholars Program's new Director. The most exciting outcome of this interaction was the surprise that from now on the rising sophomore class will have the responsibility of choosing a particular social justice issue on which to focus throughout the year and planning a series of events to raise awareness and attempt to correct the issue. This new addition to the program should build upon the experiences gained at Shaw House and further challenge Scholars to discover ways in which they can live lives of service.

Kevin Morris captured the feeling among his classmates at the close of the summer program as they prepared to leave for home, vacation, or work abroad. He said, "I miss it already." Though many of the members of the class of 2013 feel as though the program ended too soon, they are grateful for the time they spent together and are excited for the year to come.

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Father Keenan, as he explains, has four main goals for the PSP in the near future. The first of these goals is to increase Scholar contact with senior faculty at Boston College. Father Keenan strongly believes in the importance of the Honors Program faculty and their relationships with Scholars. Furthermore, he believes that better relations between the Presidential Scholars and faculty with endowed chairs would be hugely beneficial to the students.

Father Keenan also hopes for the PSP to become increasingly tailored toward individual Scholar interests and goals, encouraging students to establish personal learning goals for themselves each year. He

will also hold face-to-face meetings with the Scholars to further discuss and develop these goals. This will help students stay focused and determined throughout the year, academically, socially, and in extracurricular activities.

Thirdly, Father Keenan hopes that the Presidential Scholars become "architects of their sophomore year and summer." Rather than assigning a particular country for students to travel to after their sophomore year, he wants students to dedicate themselves to language proficiency. Ideally, Scholars will choose a cultural immersion program specific to their language study goals and interests. He hopes for this summer to be a gateway to a potential study abroad experience during their junior year at BC.

Finally, Father Keenan wants to make it a priority to foster a more active community between current Scholars and PSP Alumni. He believes that the PSP network is a vital part of the success of the Program and that all Scholars should foster this community. In order to accomplish this goal, he hopes to institute an annual dinner with Alumni, include Alumni in regular PSP functions, and implement several additional networking events throughout the academic year.

Father Keenan has been welcomed into the PSP community thus far with open arms, and his goals to continue developing the Program with new initiatives promises the PSP an exciting future.

Summer Experiences

Sophomores expand their horizons in France

The Jesuit mission has always had a global perspective, with Jesuits living and working on virtually all continents as scholars, teachers, and missionaries. Plunged into unfamiliar cultures, they adopted the habit of beginning by observing closely and listening attentively to the voices of the societies and cultures in which they found themselves to better understand how best to serve them. Presidential Scholars, while not missionaries in the same sense, will inevitably find themselves exercising their professional skills in far-flung parts of the global village. For several years, Dr. & Mrs. Sardella have taken the sophomore Scholars to experience a month abroad in France as an opportunity to analyze a foreign society from all dimensions.

By Jessica Seminelli, A&S '12

Dr. and Mrs. Sardella boarded their last Air France flight with a group of Presidential Scholars in tow this summer, and I was one of those privileged members of the class of 2012 who accompanied them. Though I had previously traveled to Europe, I had never made it to that often fantasized and romanticized locale, Paris, and had no idea what to expect from it.

It did not take long for me to fall in love.

When confronted with a city brimming with culture, history, and activism, my first reaction was one of awe and a feeling of being overwhelmed. How could I ever see it all, experience all that Paris offered, in just three weeks? The answer is, of course, that I couldn't, though with the guidance from the Sardellas and Ana Conboy, a BC PhD-candidate acting as our French teacher and interpreter, I like to think that I had an adequate sampling, enough to whet my appetite for return trips to the city of light.

After we arrived and settled in to our rooms at the FIAP Jean Monet, our trip took off in full swing, with mornings of French lessons with Ana, afternoons of lectures and forays into the city, and evenings largely to fill as we pleased. French class, though beginning bright and early at 8:30am, was an amazing experience, as Ana kept us on our toes, inundating us with vocabulary, useful phrases, games (which of course became intense competitions), and cultural tidbits drawn from her extensive personal knowledge of the French people and Paris itself. Though three weeks of instruction hardly prepares one for fluency, we did acquire enough linguistic skills for me to bravely walk up to the ticket booth

at the train station and successfully book tickets for a weekend getaway in Biarritz, to go shopping and order in restaurants without sounding like an ignorant foreigner, and even interact with local college students. It is impossible to appreciate another culture without any insight into their language, and I voraciously devoured our two-hour lessons, sopping up as much information as possible to attempt at least partial immersion.

Professor Potofsky, who has been giving lectures to Presidential Scholars for the past 13 years, again provided us with the historical background of France and of the city in particular, allowing us to understand and appreciate why the Paris of today has evolved in the way it has. Supplementing the historical knowledge were lectures on business, medicine, politics, poverty, education, and geography by Parisians who had extensive experience in those fields, so that we emerged with a more holistic understanding of where we were.

The best knowledge comes, however, from direct interaction and exploration. Thus after learning about *le manifestation*, the term given to worker strikes, we had countless



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Sophomores pose before a statue of Lamarck located in front of Le Jardin des Plantes in Central Paris.

encounters of actual parading mobs, shouting angrily and blocking off traffic and transforming Paris into a hob of political activism. As Americans we could do little but marvel at the enthusiasm and involvement ordinary citizens had in political affairs, directly protesting government policies well beyond what the various Tea Party affiliates strived to accomplish here.

We also made excellent use of the endless museums in Paris, taking group tours in the Musée de Cluny, viewing a collection of medieval art and artifacts, and the Musée d'Orsay, which houses 18th and 19th century artwork. Most of us also purchased

see France page 8

Summer Experiences

Seniors share insight about summer internships

By Jessica Seminelli, A&S '12

At the conclusion of their junior year, Scholars complete an internship experience as an opportunity to pursue potential career paths, going beyond undergraduate studies to explore diverse job opportunities and interests. These experiences are always personally enriching and gratifying, and each year a few Scholars are invited to give brief presentations about their summer internships, which serve as a forum for underclassmen to gain ideas and advice from seniors. On Tuesday, September 14, four seniors formally presented as a lead in to a question and answer session for all Scholars.

First to present was Steven Liu, CSOM '11, who, as a Finance major, chose to explore the world of venture capitalism during his summer internship. He interned in San Francisco with True Ventures' True Entrepreneur Corps (TEC) program working at one of their portfolio companies, B-Stock Solutions. As an intern, Steve was assigned to work primarily for BStock Solutions, one of the firm's start-up companies, spending four days with BStock and one day in True Ventures' office where interns listened to guest speakers and discussions about entrepreneurship. Much of his presentation described the perks and pitfalls of entrepreneurship such as the flexibility of being one's own boss, the freedom of creativity, and the potential risk of failure and pay cuts. It was clear that the past summer strengthened Steven's interests in entrepreneurial endeavors; the only question remaining for him is when he should begin his own company.

Kelly McCartney, A&S '11, spoke about her experiences at New

Leaders for New Schools, a principal development program for urban public schools that works in 11 cities across the United States. New Leaders is a powerful non-profit entity with a budget of \$50 million and a staff of over 150 in its national office in New York City, which, Kelly remarked, was an excellent opportunity to experience working in such a large-scale setting. As an intern, her responsibilities included arranging and holding interviews with



Photo: Jennie Thomas
Kelly McCartney, A&S '11, speaks before fellow Scholars about working for a non-profit organization in New York City.

high achieving principals as well as organizing and attending a National Summit Planning Conference in New Orleans. Because there were only two interns in the office and New Leaders does not have a formalized internship program, Kelly was able to be fully integrated into the workplace, asking her co-workers questions about their careers and learning that working for a non-profit similar to New Leaders is a feasible future endeavor.

As a pre-med student, Andrew Rivera, A&S '11, chose to use his summer to participate in the Para el Mundo program in Máncora, Peru to expand his knowledge of medicine and the Spanish language. His internship was comprised of two main parts: working on the Dengue Fever Prevention project and clinical

observation. Máncora is a rural fishing village with widespread poverty, lack of education, and poor water supply; with no running water, residents store their water in barrels that are often breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Andrew helped with the inspection and treatment of infested water as well as the education of citizens to help prevent water contamination. In the afternoons, he observed local clinics, learning how a poorly funded system must adapt to care for those in need without the aid of the medical technology we take for granted.

Last to speak was Colleen Maher, A&S '11, who worked for the Naval Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS) at its headquarters in Washington D.C. Initially Colleen had been hoping to find an internship position with the FBI, but because of funding problems, their internship program had been cut for the year. Instead, she applied to the NCIS program, working primarily in their Equal Employment Opportunities and Office of Diversity Management divisions.

Besides office work, Colleen also observed death review boards, which brought together specialists to review open cases of suicide, toured the Pentagon, spent a day at the firing range, and went to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Although she does not plan on pursuing a career as a federal agent, Colleen did decide to apply to law school after watching much of the legal proceedings involved in NCIS affairs.

Following the presentations, all Scholars engaged in a lively discussion, with seniors providing insight and advice to underclassmen. Members of the PSP have diverse interests and valuable connections, and, as Father Keenan observed at the beginning of the meeting, "You engage one another. You're the resources in the room."

Summer Experiences

Scholar reflects on summer research in India

Boston College's Advanced Study Grants program provides funding, primarily to students in the summer following their first or second year, to support independent research projects or to enable them to develop tools necessary for future research, such as advanced language skills. During the summer of 2010, five second-year Presidential Scholars were awarded Advanced Study Grants to support a variety of projects. Thirty-seven Advanced Study Grants have been awarded to Presidential Scholars over the past five years. The following article recounts the experiences of Karen Kovaka, a Philosophy and Environmental Geosciences major from the Class of 2012.



Photo courtesy of: Karen Kovaka

Karen Kovaka, A&S '12 poses on an Indian garden plot with a traditional farming tool.

By Karen Kovaka, A&S '12

Spending two months this summer in a village in southern India was one of my greatest life-adventures to date. Just a few days after the Presidential Scholars' France study tour ended, I found myself alone in the Bangalore airport at 6:30 a.m. trying to decide if I should travel 50 km to the village of Magadi by taxi or if I should be adventurous and put myself at the mercy of the bus system. After comparing costs and spending a few confused minutes looking at a map, I muttered to my self, 'With your shield or on it, Karen,' and started wheeling my suitcase toward the buses. My decision to brave the bus, despite its total unfamiliarity and lack of English speakers, was the first of many adventurous and potentially reckless choices that made my time in India one of the most empowering things I have ever done.

My internship (funded by an Advanced Study Grant from BC) was with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). I was

placed in a field office in Magadi where two full time staff members were coordinating a project among a regional farmers that included the creation of a micro-finance association and the introduction of organic farming techniques. My role was

to learn as much about the function of the program as I could, as well as to work on two small projects that fell within the scope of the venture.

My first project was to work with a graduate student on discovering the influence of wastewater irrigation in Magadi. Millions of small farmers in developing countries use untreated sewage water from towns and cities to irrigate their crops, and the influence of this practice has both positive and negative components that need to be better understood as governments work to form policies related to water treatment. As part of our inquiry into this topic, we spent three days walking all over Magadi and constructing a map that captured the drainage pattern of the town. We identified three main channels into which the smaller drains emptied and then followed these channels to a small lake south of the town that is the end point for these main channels. Along the way we found the sections of land where farmers pump water from the channels and directly apply wastewater to their fields. We then identified sampling sites and collected soil,

water and crop samples for evaluation.

For my second project, I was in charge of designing and implementing six nutritional gardens. I identified the potential sites and conducted a week of interviews with the farming families in order to learn about their weekly food budget, diet, etc. I also used past consumption data collected by other students to tabulate the average vegetable and greens intake per person per day. Chronic malnutrition, especially deficiencies in iodine, iron and vitamin A, is a pervasive condition for many Indians in rural and urban areas, and both education about nutrition and models for implementing nutritional gardens are needed. In light of this situation, my job was to analyze the soil and available space at each site and then to work with the farmers to select a garden plot and several kinds of vegetables to grow.

The great thing about these projects was the amount of independence and authority I had over their implementation. I did weekly check-ins with my boss by phone, and I had a translator to help me communicate with government officials, purchase supplies and interview farmers, but the responsibility for planning how to get things done and then carrying them out rested with me. Given my lack of familiarity with Indian culture, this was a huge challenge, and 'with your shield or on it' became the backbone of numerous pep talks I had to have with myself. At the end of the internship, I was certainly ready to come back to familiar people and places, but the combination of learning about a topic I love and having the freedom to craft my own work in a bewildering environment created a summer adventure that both met and exceeded my hopes and expectations.

Class of 2014 bond during Outward Bound

Freshman Scholars begin their Boston College careers by taking part in a ropes program run by Outward Bound on Thompson Island in Boston Harbor. After arriving on campus during the week before classes begin, Scholars engage in a range of activities designed to promote a sense of camaraderie among the group, to encourage in them the habit of pushing themselves beyond the boundaries of their comfort zones, to help them realize that they are capable of achieving more than they think they are, and to emphasize that leadership can be done from within a group as well as at the head of one, all qualities that we seek to nurture in Presidential Scholars. Francesca McCaffrey, a member of the Class of 2014, recalls her experience on Thompson Island.

By Francesca McCaffrey, A&S '14

It is a gorgeous day, and I find myself someplace I have never been before. The leafy ground lies beneath me, the cobalt blue sky above, sunlight pouring in through the holes in the cover afforded by the tree branches. A gentle breeze meanders through the trees, making its way across the island from the beach, which is mere steps from where I am now. Even with all of this beauty of sea, sunlight, and sky surrounding me, however, I can see nothing but the hand dangling above my head, and hear nothing but the urgent encouragements from down below beckoning me to grab onto it. In another moment, I am clasping the arms of those above me, swinging above the ground, and I realize that it is no longer entirely up to me what happens. I am putting my trust and well being into the hands of others. It is an odd feeling, one whose gravity cannot fully be grasped until both feet are back on solid ground, which, with the help of my fellow freshmen in the Presidential Scholars Program was the case on our trip to Thompson Island on September 5th.

Thompson Island lies in Boston Harbor. A fifteen-minute ferry ride from the city will take you to its shore, and to a world apart. The island itself, a gently sloping landscape made up of wide-open fields, long beaches, and wooded coves, houses an outward bound program that promotes a unique balance of self-reliance and teamwork. It presents participants with activities that not only encourage leadership and decision-making in difficult situations, but also the ability to communicate and trust others. Victoria Luu, PSP '14, who has worked with the Boston Harbor Islands Program for two

years, said that viewing the islands from this “team-building, community standpoint” instead of from a purely ecological perspective was a new experience that she truly enjoyed.

Upon arriving at the island,

Given equal importance as these physical and tactical feats were the discussions that followed them, a time when all of us would gather and talk through what went right, what went wrong, and how we could relate each



Scholars pose on the dock at Thompson Island before their departure.

we were split up into small groups and confronted with various activities. We figured out a way to balance our small group on a large wooden see-saw-like plank without speaking. We used ropes to swing between two wooden platforms, helping each other to grab onto the rope and steadying each new arrival as he or she swung from one platform to another. Eventually we all rejoined as one large group and attempted more difficult tasks such as scaling a ten-foot wall. All twelve of us made it up and over the wall that day, ten feet of smooth wooden planks that none of us could have climbed on our own.

activity in some way to challenges we had each faced in our own lives. It was in these discussions that unexpected truths were learned about one another, stories of personal experiences and character traits that helped us to grow closer as a group. What was shared in these discussions led to feelings of respect and trust that I have never before experienced in a group that I have known for such a short time.

These feelings only became more pronounced as the day went on and we migrated down a winding dirt path past stately brick dormitories

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First Annual PSP Retreat brings classes together

By Brian Varian, CSOM '11

The inaugural two-day Presidential Scholars Program retreat, held from September 5th through September 6th

at the Connors Family Retreat and Conference Center in Dover, MA was a gathering of both minds and friends, as Scholars from all four classes convened for two days of discussion and camaraderie. Before the onset of the new semester, Scholars savored the opportunity to place the upcoming year in perspective and set ambitious goals, all in the environment

of supportive peers journeying down paths described by Father Keenan as “analogous, but unique.”

In the words of Kevin Morris, A&S '13, “The idea of an annual retreat is awesome—it establishes a sense of community within the program even before the first day of class.” Scholars were unanimous in their praise of the retreat and its dynamic format, which reinforced the wholeness of the program and sense of community.

The retreat began with sophomore, junior, and senior Scholars reintroducing themselves to each other, with each Scholar stating his or her interests and activities, making everyone in the room aware of the myriad, diverse pursuits contained within the Program, ranging from the dance team to the rugby team, from the jazz band to the school newspaper. Later in the day, Father Keenan announced some exciting plans for the upcoming year including a variety of cultural outings to take place during

the Tuesday evening gatherings. The sophomore Scholars announced their plans for a yearlong series of events focusing on a particular social justice project pertinent to the Boston area.

program and beyond. By the end of these discussions, Scholars felt part of a network—and it seems that the alumni did as well. One of the Scholars noted that some of the best advice

they received was to always consider reaching out to Presidential Scholars Program alumni who are, as demonstrated during the retreat, more than willing to assist current Scholars.

On the evening of September 5th freshmen Scholars were welcomed into the program amidst overwhelming levels of excitement exhibited by the upperclassmen. In the evening, a spirited game of air hockey ensued, with senior Andrew

Rivera, A&S '11, emerging as the victor. Perhaps senior dominance in the air hockey tournament will be yet another hallmark of the Presidential Scholars Program Retreat!

On September 6th Father Keenan continued to describe the philosophy of the Program and, during meals and free time, Scholars engaged each other, discussing their summer experiences, upcoming theses, and how they hoped to continue the bonding that took place during the retreat.

Senior Scholar Tue Tran, A&S '11, provided a fitting summary of the retreat remarking, “The retreat was a great way to reconnect as a community and welcome the freshmen into the Program. I learned a lot about all the incredible things my fellow Scholars were working on, and the freshmen now have connections in all areas of BC. I hope it becomes an annual event, and I’m excited for – and nervous to think about – coming back as an alumnus in the future!”



Photo: Jennie Thomas

Fr. Keenan addresses Scholars about his visions for the future of the PSP.

In keeping with the unity of the Presidential Scholars Program, local alumni were invited to the retreat to speak with Scholars about their experiences both while in the



Photo: Jennie Thomas

Alumni share experiences with senior Scholars about post-graduate life.

France cont. from p. 3

passes to the enormous Louvre, making multiple trips through its extensive collection of art from around the globe, including such marvelous artifacts as pieces of Hammurabi's Code, enormous Egyptian mummies and sphinxes, and, of course, the well-protected Mona Lisa. I also spent an afternoon at the other end of the artistic spectrum in the incredibly modern Pompidou Center, a building as unusual and innovative as the 20th century artwork it houses.

Aside from the contained, carefully preserved artwork behind museum doors, Paris is alive with a rich architectural history, beginning with famous churches and cathedrals leading to the stately, impressive 18th and 19th century monuments paying homage to France's history and accomplishments. As a group we toured le Panthéon, climbing to the staggering height of the dome to appreciate a 360 degree view of the city spreading before us and appreciating the meticulous layout involved in the pioneering urban designs of Paris. Around every corner, even in less notable neighborhoods, I discovered yet another beautiful building, with artistic carvings, intricate wrought iron balconies overflowing flower boxes,

and an inexpressible charm adding to the overall sense of magnificence the city exudes upon its visitors.

Because we had three weeks to absorb the culture and history, I managed to overcome the initial feeling of being a tourist obsessed with seeing the essential sites (though *la tour Eiffel* never ceased to take my breath away, particularly at night when sparkling with lights) and wander into less touristy neighborhoods and also take time to pause in a cafe, sipping a coffee, savoring a pastry, and simply watch people walk by, a favorite pastime of Parisians. And of course my taste buds savored every minute of the trip, particularly appreciating the unexpected glory of a crusty baguette, creamy piece of *chevre*, and fresh cherries for dessert, all enjoyed on the hill of Montmartre overlooking the city unfolding in front of us.

Group trips outside of Paris to Chartres, home to the enormous medieval cathedral, in which we had a both informative and highly entertaining tour, and the palace of Versailles, enriched our experience, as these historic sites brought our lectures and readings to life.

The final week of our four-week study tour was set in Strasbourg,

a huge contrast to the metropolitan, quintessentially French environment of Paris. Though much smaller, Strasbourg was no less fascinating and enriching a locale, from its quaint, rustic chalet-style architecture, painted in lively colors, to its imposing cathedral in the center of town. More importantly it is home to buildings of the European Union, which we toured, learning extensively about how the European political community operates. Because it straddles two distinct nationalities, Strasbourg and the Alsace region itself, has created its own unique cultural identity, formulating a unique dialect and culinary tradition that belongs specifically to the area. We most appreciated this during a day trip through the picturesque region, where we toured multiple villages and culminated in a wine tasting at a longtime family-owned and operated winery.

After our Strasbourg farewell dinner, my class all took off for different destinations, some, like me, remaining in Europe for the remainder of the summer, others crossing back over the Atlantic to return home to internships, jobs, and time with family. But we all retain memories and intimate knowledge of another culture and country, explored and enjoyed together thanks to the well-planned guidance of the Sardellas.

Thompson Island cont. from p. 6



Photo: Kayte Giorgio

Maggie Scollan, A&S '14, proudly strikes a pose atop the Alpine Tower.

and dining halls, passing through groves and fields of high grass, only to find ourselves in a clearing with a sixty foot tall tower. This tower, which we soon learned that we were going to climb, was a looming construction of bolted-together logs, strategically placed footholds, and swaying nets. After being properly helmeted and harnessed, we dove into the task at hand, some climbing, some spotting, and some

belaying. At different points, each of us played a role of placing one's trust in someone else. Each of us made it to the top of the tower that day, where a beautiful view of the Boston skyline across the harbor awaited us. None of us made it alone. As Nick Moffa, PSP '14, said, "the fact that we all cheered each other on and encouraged each other every step of the way really illustrated our class's great friendship and teamwork". So goes our story of success at Thompson Island on the day the Presidential Scholars class of 2014 put our trust in one another. If what we were able to accomplish together in one short day is any indication, it will not be the last story of its kind over the next four years.

Welcome PSP Class of 2014!



Photo: Kayte Giorgio

Matthew Alonsozana
Baltimore, MD

Brooke Loughrin
Edmonds, WA

Francesca McCaffrey
Wakefield, MA

Maggie Scollan
Mahopac, NY

David DePalma
Stoneham, MA

Victoria Luu
Brighton, MA

Nicholas Moffa
Linwood, NJ

John Wang
South Pasadena, CA

Sarah Ganton
North Caldwell, NJ

Joseph Manning
Oviedo, FL

Marye Moran
Rye, NY

Alison Wawrzynek
Glenview, IL

Alumni in the News

Dustin Rawlin (PSP '97) has been named to the partnership of the global law firm Jones Day. Dustin is a member of Jones Day's trial practice group and is based in the firm's Cleveland office.

Rich Aberman (PSP '07) and **Bill Clerico (PSP '07)** have now raised over nine million dollars for their startup company WePay.com, an online website for groups to share money. In addition, they have now hired five additional graduates of Boston College, increasing their total number of employees to fourteen.

Melinda (Holmes) Power (PSP '04) recently received a F31 Individual Training Fellowship from the National Institute of Aging to support her doctoral studies in Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts.

Kevin Meme (PSP '03) recently published a book, *Young and Catholic in America* (Paulist Press, 2010), a collection of essays by young adult Catholics. Kevin currently works for The Boston Consulting Group, a global management consulting firm in Boston, Massachusetts.

Brett Huneycutt (PSP '03) has launched a website with two of his best friends called 1000Memories. The website allows family and friends to create a place to record and share the story of a loved one's life through photos, stories, comments, and foundational giving. Brett and his friends have recently received funding from several leading Angel investors in Silicon Valley as well as a highly successful venture capital firm. To learn more about their website visit www.1000Memories.com.

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