

# Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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## Alumni provide insight on life after graduation



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

A panel of alumni discussed how the Program has impacted their post-graduate lives, while offering helpful and wise advice to current Scholars.

By Karen Kovaka, A&S '12

The Presidential Scholars Program's recent Alumni Panel was an opportunity for current undergraduate Scholars to meet some of the people who previously were only names listed in our alumni directory. This year, the panel included five alumni: Bob Burke, A&S '03, Jennifer Findlen, LSOE '97, Lynne Sullivan, A&S '95, Manoj Thakker, A&S '95, and Paul Wendel, A&S '08. The panelists shared some of their experiences as members of the Presidential Scholars Program, discussed their current career trajectories, and offered advice to Scholars.

Bob Burke, M.D., originally

from Omaha, NE, is now completing his first year as a resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. While at Boston College, Bob majored in biochemistry and completed an internship at McLean Hospital in Belmont, MA. While the internship itself was somewhat tedious – Bob said he literally spent the summer “counting neurons” – he developed good relationships with the hospital's staff, which enabled him to participate in additional research at McLean during his senior year. After graduating, Bob spent a year living in Warsaw, Poland teaching English and History before attending Stanford Medical School. Now that he has finished medical school, Bob, along with his wife and two children, has returned to New England. Even though his schedule at Brigham is extremely demanding, Bob loves his work.

The next panelist was Jennifer Findlen who graduated from Boston College with degrees in French and

Elementary Education and then continued her studies to receive an M.A. from the Lynch Graduate School of Education. Her post-junior year summer internship involved working with Children's Television Workshop in New York City, conducting research for Sesame Street. After graduation, Jennifer won a French Ministry of Education teaching Assistantship and spent a year teaching English at a Lycée in France. Returning to the United States, Jennifer obtained a position teaching first-graders in a French immersion program in Massachusetts, one of the few of its kind. “Language makes sense when you put it in context,” said Jennifer, adding that it is very rewarding to help children grow up bilingual. Since her daughter, Juliet, was born in 2007, Jennifer has traded her position as a member of the traditional workforce for the demanding job of being a mother. She is very happy with her current position and sees her career as one that is dynamic and flexible.

Lynne Sullivan, Special Sections Editor of *The Herald News*, a local paper based in Fall River, MA offered encouragement and advice to any Scholars considering careers in journalism. An English major in college, Lynne earned her Master's degree at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism before entering the workforce as a reporter.

While the newspaper industry has been in a constant state of crisis recently, with many predicting its eventual demise, Lynne's editorial vantage point gives her a more optimistic perspective of the current upheaval in print journalism. She said that newspapers are going through a transition, but that the industry as a whole will, as a result, develop a far better understanding of what people want. Perhaps the best tactic, Lynne thinks, is for newspapers to develop their ability to deliver what

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# Evening Speaker Series

## Scholar alumnus discusses freelance radio production

By Aleksandra Jachtowicz, A&S '12

On Tuesday, February 17, the Scholars were treated to an historic first in the evening speaker series: Ari Daniel Shapiro, A&S '01, was the first Scholar alumnus to be invited back to speak to those following in his footsteps. Working as a freelance radio/podcast producer, Shapiro has produced pieces that have appeared on such programs as WGBH's *The World* and National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

While at Boston College, Shapiro was involved in Hillel and the Environmental Scholars Seminar, as well as other numerous and varied activities that made him well-known both on and off campus. He completed his post-junior year internship at the famed Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, researching vocalization in killer whales. Upon graduation, he was awarded both a Fulbright grant and a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship. His Fulbright grant took him to St. Andrew's University in Scotland where he studied seal vocalizations. Following his Fulbright year, Ari took a year off from science to devote himself to social justice work in New York at *Avodah*, an urban justice center, before going on to a joint program at MIT and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where he obtained his doctorate studying narwhals. Shapiro felt torn between his distinct passions: the environment, social justice, and people. He didn't know how to tie them together until he was advised by a friend to just pick something, and trust that the rest would follow. So spurred, Shapiro settled on the pursuit of journalism and media, a divergence from his scientific career path.

During his lecture, Shapiro challenged the Scholars to define what a story is. A quick consensus was reached that a story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. It has characters, an obstacle, and hopefully, a resolution. The next question Shapiro posed was less straightforward; he asked why stories are important. He shared his realization that stories are central to who we are as humans, revealing something fundamental about how we



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Ari Shapiro, A&S '01, explains the intricacies and importance of listening to and presenting stories, both in the scientific and nonscientific worlds.

communicate. Stories are rich with the currency of communication: meaning.

Working as a freelance independent producer, Shapiro tells stories for a living. He describes his work as "painting with sound," using an auditory palette to craft his radio pieces. The most important component, however, is the central idea around which the piece is based. This idea can come from anywhere, and it becomes Shapiro's job to pitch it, deciding who the ideal audience is and how to reach them. There is a lot of rejection involved, but it doesn't seem to faze Shapiro, but rather encourage him. He outlined the process that he undertakes once a pitch has been approved: he phones contacts, conducts interviews, transcribes them, writes a script, edits the audio, voices his own part, and mixes everything before a particular piece will be aired. He stressed that the success of a piece depends on the strength of its initial idea.

In the interview process, Shapiro assumes the roles of friend, therapist, and antagonist. His goal is to tease out the story, to create a scene or an image in the listener's mind. He tries to avoid over-narrating, preferring to let his subject use his or her own words. Shapiro admits that his position carries a lot of responsibility. He feels he has an

obligation to the storytellers to respect their space, an allegiance to his audience to be truthful, and a third loyalty to uphold the principles of science. He tries not to compromise any of these commitments. In light of his passion for social justice, Shapiro also feels that he has a responsibility to give voice to stories that would otherwise not be heard.

When asked whether working independently was a boon or a burden, Shapiro acknowledged that it was a mixed blessing. While he misses the stability and the daily human interaction of a conventional job, he enjoys "doing whatever I want whenever I want." He prizes his independence, despite the drawbacks. He advised the younger Scholars to tap into their amazement and passion. He reminded them that he did not plan for his current career – he anticipated a career in science – and that he had to learn a lot on the fly. It took him some time to find out what he was naturally good at, and so recommended that if the Scholars were interested in something, they ought to just do it, and not let the fear of rejection or failure stop them. If Shapiro is any example, this is beneficial advice to heed.

# Evening Speaker Series

## BC professor shares her research about Facebook

By Christopher Griesdieck, A&S '11

College students see it multiple times a day. They check it. They chat about it. Sometimes they even abuse it. But rarely do they have the opportunity to study it. That is where Dr. Ana Martínez Alemán's research on Facebook enters.

On Tuesday, March 31, Dr. Alemán gave a presentation on the social networking website to the Presidential Scholars Program. Alemán, an associate professor in Boston College's Lynch School of Education and chair of the Educational Administration and Higher Education Department, has been conducting a study on Facebook which examined the website in a new way: what can we learn about it from its users? The results, reported in the book she co-authored with Boston College Ph.D. candidate Katherine Wartman, "Understanding Online Social Networking on Campus: Student Identity and Culture", represent the first time, according to Martinez, that "anyone has taken a look at social networking sites like Facebook and thought about them as a form of self-expression to a generation

that has always known technology; has always known the graphical user interface of a computer screen, and asked students themselves what meaning they make of this communication."

Alemán's work, which has made her an interview target for many publications on the topic of Facebook, including the *New York Times*, led to many interesting discoveries about the website that she shared with the Scholars. Her research is based on two surveys of undergraduate students at residential universities. She focused on students because 58% of Facebook's users have at least some amount of college education, and it was, after all, in the college campus setting that Facebook was first introduced. In particular, Alemán sought to investigate how the current generation uses the site to, "...appreciate, value, construct, and negotiate campus culture online."

While the audience of students already lives this connection between physical campus culture and its cyber counterpart on a daily basis, Alemán's discussion placed this relationship into a more precise psychological context.

She frequently alluded to the current generation as a primarily productive one, as opposed to consumptive. Facebook, Alemán asserted, fits perfectly into that model, as it allows users to create groups, notes, events, photos, videos, and countless other products that cover a wide range of purposes.

From communication with friends, to self-representation, to organization of campus activities, to generating funds for a charitable cause, the website has re-oriented the basis of campus community on the internet, instead of in a Student Union. Of particular interest to Alemán is how the world of academia will ultimately insert itself into this new social complex, as it has already begun to do. She indicated her position on the role of professors on Facebook at the end of the meeting. Alemán had admitted to having a Facebook account of her own—for research purposes only. When the professor was asked by a student whether she would accept the Scholars' friend requests on Facebook, she laughed and declined the offer.

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### Alumni cont. from p. 1

she calls "hyper-local news," since that kind of specific information is not currently provided in an easily accessible manner. Reflecting on the contributions that the Presidential Scholars Program made to her education and career, Lynne mentioned the theme of service, saying that is important to understand service in a way that is integrated into all of life. "I truly feel that I am in a service industry," she said.

A Psychology major and pre-med student while he was studying at BC, Manoj Thakker, M.D., a member of the first Presidential Scholars graduating class, is now a physician whose career combines his expertise in ophthalmology and plastic surgery. During the summer of his sophomore year at BC, Manoj interned in a Microbiology research lab at New York University. After graduating, he attended Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, and then did a graduate fellowship in plastic surgery. His practice focuses on facial plastic surgery, seeking to correct facial trauma, cosmetic issues,

and vision failure. This last area is particularly gratifying, says Manoj, because "people take vision seriously." Speaking of the long period of preparation and the difficulties inherent in becoming a physician, Manoj still recommended the profession to pre-med Scholars, presenting it as a way of combining an interest in science with active service, and a rewarding profession that will always be in demand.

The final panelist was Paul Wendel, a member of the class of 2008. Paul, an International Studies major with a strong interest in theology, has worked for the last year as a project analyst at the Boston law firm Mintz Levin. Paul spoke of the varied aspects of his career path, stressing that he always felt free to experiment, and encouraging current Scholars to do the same. At BC, he participated in an Arrupe service trip to Central America as a sophomore, which led him to take several classes in social justice through the Theology department. He also secured a post-junior year internship in curriculum development at

the Kennedy School of Government. On graduating, Paul was accepted into his current program at Mintz Levin, a large Boston firm well-known for its pro bono work. Paul has enjoyed his work as a project analyst. The law firm has kept him on a rotation that is providing him with experience in corporate law, real estate law, and litigation, in addition to pro bono work tutoring eighth graders. Paul has decided he does not want to be a lawyer, however, and is now considering higher education administration. It is important to find ways to explore classroom interests outside the class room, and vice versa, Paul thinks. "Don't be afraid for something not to work out," he told Scholars.

The panelists' presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session, which made clear that the stories and advice the alumni shared were relevant and interesting to Scholars of all majors and interests. The encouragement and opportunity for intergenerational communication were helpful and greatly appreciated by all the undergraduate Scholars.

# Brennan Symposium brings student leaders together

By Brian Varian, CSOM '11

As aspiring leaders for a world shrouded in adversity and ambiguity, Presidential Scholars must approach all the complexities of the current age with an ethically informed perspective. At Boston College, in a milieu formed by the Jesuit commitment to social justice, Scholars continually enter into conversations about the importance of ethics, whether these conversations occur in the classroom, through extracurricular activities, or casually among friends. The Brennan Symposium, held on April 4 and sponsored by Boston College's Winston Center for Leadership in Ethics, offered freshmen and sophomore Scholars an even more unique opportunity to grapple with the ethical challenges of the present day.

Students from a variety of different organizations at Boston College, including the Presidential Scholars Program, attended the Brennan

Symposium, moderated by Dean Richard Keeley of the Carroll School of Management and organized by Jonah Berman, Assistant Director of the Winston Center. The symposium began with activities designed to encourage teamwork amongst students. In these activities, students were challenged to communicate effectively, while at the same time, integrating the contributions of all.

Perhaps the most thought-provoking portion of the symposium involved an analysis of trustworthiness, as related to dealings in business. Given short video clips of several contestants participating in a game show, Scholars were challenged to gauge the trustworthiness of those people, while relying on tone, posture, choice of words, and even dress. Following this exercise, Scholars learned some of the techniques used by the FBI to ascertain trustworthiness. FBI agents can determine trustworthiness with approximately 70% accuracy. The

general population has an accuracy of about 50%. In the exercise, our very own Christopher Griesedieck, A&S '11, achieved 80% accuracy. Such is expected with Scholars!

The Brennan Symposium concluded with a short movie detailing a particularly bewildering ethical dilemma. An extremely simplified account is as follows. A team climbing Mount Everest comes across a deathly ill man. The team can either carry the man back to the camp or proceed up the mountain. If the team carries the man back to the camp, inclement weather along the pass will prevent them from reaching the summit. Other teams are passing the sick man by. Yet, the sick man was reckless climbing the mountain by himself with scant supplies. What should the team do? While the discussion was vigorous, it led to no definitive solution. The ethical discussion initiated with the Brennan Symposium will surely continue amongst Scholars well into the future.



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Kelly McCartney, A&S '10, and Lindsey Hennawi, A&S '10, spoke to fellow Scholars at a Tuesday evening meeting this spring.

## Ice Cream Social caps off the '08-'09 school year



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

The end of year ice cream social, held on April 28, was an opportunity to not only enjoy delicious treats, but also to reflect on the end of a successful academic year and wish graduating Scholars much luck and success in their future endeavors. Above, members of the sophomore class enjoy their ice cream sundaes and a reprieve from studying for exams.

# Senior Scholars present diverse, in-depth theses

By Jessica Seminelli, A&S '12

On April 14, five members of the class of 2009 shared a glimpse into the extensive work they had done for their senior thesis projects. An undergraduate thesis is an opportunity for students to delve more deeply into their field of study, researching and writing on a specific topic with a great deal of scholastic dedication. As each of the presenters expressed, condensing a year's worth of research into a ten-minute presentation was a difficult challenge, and they consequently were able to showcase only a small cross-section of their work. Nevertheless, the Scholars provided a more than adequate view into the complexity and ingenuity of their projects. Dr. Sardella expressed it well when he explained, "It is an impossible task to compress months and months of academic study and research into a brief sound bite."

The first presenter was Michael Camacho, A&S '09, whose thesis focused on Thomistic Personalism and the philosophical foundations of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. As a theology and philosophy double major, Michael's thesis drew from his post-junior summer internship experience working on The Theology of the Body and his undergraduate studies at Boston College. Thomistic Personalism, a philosophy, examines how the human being exists as

both an object and a subject, a dual role that sets humans apart from all other entities in our world, thus requiring an introspective approach to understanding humanity. Camacho proceeded to connect this theory to sexual ethics, examining what the body and human love teaches us about God and how we should live, based on John Paul II's beliefs.

Next to speak was Celso Perez, A&S '09, a Biochemistry and Theology double major whose thesis deals with Catholic Social Ethics and Homosexuality. Celso's focus was on examining the major issues that homosexual individuals face in our society, namely violence, legal discrimination, and limited partnership rights. Celso discussed how the Catholic Church's stance on homosexuality has influenced social views and the theories involved in the various schools of thought as based on church doctrine. He concluded his presentation by stating, "I think Catholic theological ethics has an important part to play, but the shift of the question should be from whether or not sexual acts and relationships are moral to how do we protect the human dignity of all individuals, homosexuals or not."

Following Celso was Nicole Wong, A&S '09, an English major whose thesis was a comparative study the Pulitzer Prize winning novels *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri and *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz. She observed that the "two works were challenging the boundaries of what it means to write an American ethnic novel," the basis for her analysis of both books. Lahiri's novel incorporated numerous references to Russian literature, an unusual choice considering her focus on the Indian-American experience; similarly, Diaz uses obscure references to science fiction,

comic books, and facets of pop culture while including extensive Spanish passages. Nicole's thesis focused on the broader concepts of what it means to be an American and the ways in which writers use language to broaden expectations of readers.

Tim Mooney, A&S '09, developed his thesis on the political implications of gambling. He observed that the structure of the U.S. entails that states are in competition with one another, particularly for revenue. Casinos, which are an excellent source of state revenue, are most often located near state boundaries or on Mississippi River steamboats, in the hope that they will draw revenue from neighboring states, but that the social problems that follow the legalization of gambling will remain across the border. Mooney also did preliminary research on Internet gambling and its potential legalization in the United States, especially considering whether the social cost is greater than the monetary gain.

Rounding out the evening, Nate Keegan, A&S '09, gave a short dissertation on his thesis, which examined the use of call-and-response in modern hip-hop. Call-and-response is a pattern of two distinct phrases played by different musicians in which the second phrase is a 'response,' or commentary on the original, a technique ubiquitous among tribes in Sub-Saharan Africa that traveled across the Atlantic during the slave trade era. Slaves used it as a survival technique and means of communicating about slave-owners, rather than as a highly ritualized social function. Call-and-response patterns are prevalent today in both religious and secular aspects of African American society and serve as a unique linguistic feature that signifies active listenership. Nate then applied his research to specific examples in hip-hop, in particular Usher's hit "Love in this Club."

All of the presenters impressed fellow Scholars with their extensive work exhibiting the sense of intellectual curiosity that drives the Program's success.



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Senior presenters pose together after providing brief overviews of their hard work to fellow Scholars.

# PSP Awards

## University Honors

### Order of the Cross & Crown

The Order of the Cross and Crown is the Arts & Sciences honor society for seniors who, while achieving an average of at least A-, have established records of unusual service and leadership on the campus.

*Matthew C. Hamilton – Chief Marshall*

*Robert J. Kubala - Marshal*

*Pilar C. Landon - Marshal*

*Celso J. Perez - Marshal*

*Michael T. Camacho*

*Nathan J. Keegan*

*Nicole E. Wong*

### Deans' Scholars

Each year a select group of the brightest young scholars in the A&S junior class are honored by the Dean of A&S as Deans' Scholars. They are selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, the recommendations from their departmental faculty, their co-curricular initiatives, and the sense of purpose with which they approach their future.

*Sarah Lang*

*Ana Mascagni*

*Cecelia McDonald*

*Chris Scullin*

*Joseph Zabinski*

### Sophomore Scholars

Each year the most academically distinguished members of the sophomore class are honored as Sophomore Scholars. The young scholars below have achieved an academic ranking that places them in the top three percent of their class of more than 1,500 and have also received the recognition and nomination of their major departments.

*Kathryn Goettl*

*Anne Kornahrens*

*Colleen Maher*

*Courtney McKee*

*Scott Molony*

*Leon Ratz*

*Andrew Rivera*

*Shane Ulbrich*

### Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa is the most prestigious academic honors society in the United States. Annually it elects to membership the most outstanding seniors (and a handful of truly exceptional juniors), based on superior scholarship and good character.

**Class of 2009**

*Michael Camacho*

*Matthew Hamilton*

*Tim Kelly*

*Robert Kubala – Initiated in 2008*

*Pilar Landon*

*John Letizi*

*Timothy Mooney - Initiated in 2008*

*Celso Perez*

*Jeff Sun*

*Nicole Wong*

**Class of 2010**

*Cecelia McDonald*

### Alpha Sigma Nu

Alpha Sigma Nu is a national Jesuit honor society. It was started at Marquette University in 1915 and today has chapters in the 28 US Jesuit colleges and universities, Weston, and Berkeley Schools of Theology and Sogang University in Korea. Admission is based on scholarship, loyalty, and service.

*Michael Camacho*

*Robert Kubala*

*Timothy Mooney*

### Advanced Study Grant Winners

The Boston College Advanced Study Grants were established to encourage, support, and give visible recognition to first and second year students who have that special spark of scholarly initiative and imagination. Grants are for student-designed projects and are awarded for summer "skill acquisition" projects that promise to accelerate the applicant's progress in the major field of study. A list of this year's PSP winners and their projects are below.

**Aditya Ashok, A&S '12**

*First-Hand Exploration of an HIV-Treatment NGO: To support research and an internship with an HIV/AIDS clinic in Ghana.*

**Caroline Beyer, A&S '12**

*Documenting the Conditions of Human Trafficking in New York and San Francisco: To support research and a documentary film.*

**Kathryn Fox, A&S '11**

*The World is a Book: To support language fluency and archeological research at a Mayan Classic-period site in Belize.*

**Lindsay Hennawi, A&S '11**

*Laying the Foundation: To support intensive Arabic language study and conflict-resolution research in Lebanon*

# PSP Awards

## **Aleksandra Jachtorowicz, A&S '12**

*Environmental Concerns in an Urbanizing Society: To support an internship with an environmental grassroots organization in Ecuador.*

## **Kelly McCartney, A&S '11**

*The Way of Words: To support research on the converging narratives of pilgrimage in Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.*

## **Jessica Seminelli, A&S '12**

*Exploring Linguistics Theories: To support intensive study of historical linguistics, grammar and social cognition at UC Berkeley.*

## **Zachary Zimmerman, A&S '12**

*Nur der verdient sich Freiheit wie das Leben der täglich sie erobern muss: To support language acquisition and development of experience in theater performance in Hamburg, Germany.*

### **Boston College Global Proficiency Certificate Recipients**

The Global Proficiency Program is a certificate program for undergraduates that can be completed in addition to any major(s) and minor(s). The program helps students take a holistic approach to time spent abroad, academic coursework, and co-curricular activities. Upon successful completion of the GP program, graduates receive an official Global Proficiency transcript and certificate that will distinguish them with employers, graduate schools and volunteer programs.

*Nathan Keegan'09*

*Nicole Wong'09*

### **Beckman Scholarship for Undergraduate Research Students in Chemistry and Biological Sciences**

*Courtney McKee '11*

### **Robert A. Sherwood Award for Student Development**

*Pilar Landon '09*

### **W. Seavey Joyce, SJ, Community Service Award**

This award honors Boston College students who show leadership in community service, advocacy, political, or other work to improve the City of Boston or the plight of its more underserved citizens.

*Matt Hamilton '09*

### **Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships**

## **British Marshall Scholarship**

The prestigious George Marshall Scholarships support graduate level study in the United Kingdom. No more than 40 young Americans of the highest academic ability are selected annually for the two-year awards. Recipients are selected annually for distinction in intellect and character as evidenced by scholarly achievement, outstanding activities, leadership and interests.

*Robert Kubala '09*

## **Commencement Awards**

*School of Arts and Sciences*

### **The General Excellence Medal**

The General Excellence Medal is a gift of the Philomatheia Club given to a student who has achieved general excellence in all branches of studies during the four years at Boston College.

*Timothy Mooney*

### **Donald S. Carlisle Award**

An award established by the Department of Political Science and given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding achievement in political science.

*Timothy Mooney*

### **Scholar of the College**

Scholar of the College is a special designation conferred at Commencement on seniors who have successfully completed particularly creative, scholarly, and ambitious independent research projects while maintaining an overall cumulative grade point average of A- or better.

*Michael Camacho*

*Robert Kubala*

### **Allison R. Macomber, Jr., Award in Art History**

An award for outstanding work in the fine arts in honor of Allison R. Macomber, Jr., Artist-in-Residence at Boston College, whose presence and teaching opened the eyes not only of his students but of the entire community to the greatness and wonders of art.

*John Letizi*

### **John Bapst, SJ, Philosophy Medal**

An award for outstanding overall performance in philosophy courses.

*Robert Kubala*

### **Mary A. & Katherine G. Finneran Commencement Award**

An award, the gift of Misses Elizabeth and Theresa Finneran, given to the student who has achieved

# PSP Awards

outstanding success in studies, while also devoting time and talents to other activities for the enrichment of the College and student life.

**Robert Kubala**  
**Pilar Landon**

## **Thomas I. Gasson, S.J. Award**

An award given to the graduating senior with a distinguished academic record over a four-year period.

**Michael Camacho**

## **John McCarthy, S.J. Award for Humanities**

An award given to seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences for the most distinguished Scholar of the College projects.

**Robert Kubala**

## **William J. Kenealy, S.J. Award**

An award given to the graduating senior who has been distinguished in both academic work and social concern.

**Matthew Hamilton**

## **Tully Theology Award**

An award given to the student who has written the best paper on a theological subject.

**Matthew Hamilton**

## **John F. Norton Award**

An award in honor of John F. Norton '22, Boston College professor (1926-1965), given to the student who best personifies the tradition of humanistic scholarship.

**Celso Perez**

## **Congratulations, Class of 2009!**



On April 24, senior Scholars, PSP Director Dr. Sardella, Assistant Director Jennie Thomas, and PSP Photographer Marjorie Sardella attended the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner in New York City. Joining the Scholars at the Waldorf Astoria were Fr. Leahy, major donors, and this year's honoree Alfred F. Kelly, Jr., President of American Express. Front row (left to right): Timothy Kelly, Celso Perez, Nate Keegan, Amy Kyleen Lute, Nicole Wong, Pilar Landon, Matthew Hamilton, Jim Luo, Michael Camacho. Back Row (left to right): Jeff Sun, Timothy Mooney, Robert Kubala, Marjorie Sardella, Dennis Sardella, Fr. Leahy, Alfred F. Kelly, Jr., Jennie Thomas, John Letizi, Nicholas Ackerman.



Photo Courtesy of NYSE



Photo Courtesy of NYSE

On the morning of April 25, the class of 2009 and Program administrators were given the honor of ringing the opening bell to start the trading at the New York Stock Exchange (shown above). They then took a tour of the facilities and are pictured (at left) on the floor of the NYSE amidst the hustle and bustle of the fast-paced world of Wall Street.

# Scholar and Alumni Updates

## Scholars in the News

**Nate Keegan '09** participated on a panel at the annual conference for the International Careers Consortium on April 2 at Bentley University. The panel he presented on was called "International Careers: The Student Perspective". In addition, Nate delivered an essay at Princeton University's Juventud Despierta Conference to an audience of over 200 people on the Importance of Non-Hispanic Advocates in the Cuban Struggle for Democracy.

The 3 students listed below were awarded "Best Presentation" for the research that they each presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. They shared this honor with 7 other students.

**Leon Ratz '11** – *Biting the Bullet on the Arms Trade: Irresponsible Transfers of Conventional Weapons and the Case for a Global Arms Trade Treaty*

**Scott Jelink '10** – *Micro-Economics, Institutional Policies and the HIV/AIDS in Mozambique*

**Cecelia McDonald '10** – *The Next Billion*

The fourth annual Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Meeting of the Minds, hosted by the North Carolina State University in April, was a two-day event to showcase the results of undergraduate student research projects by students from the twelve universities of the ACC. Two PSP undergraduates presented the results of their research projects at the conference:

**Scott Jelinek '10** - presented *The Multiple Layers of HIV/AIDS Devastation in West Africa: Exploring the Cultural, Economic, and Educational Impact*

**Leon Ratz '11** – presented *The Effect of Global Trade in Conventional Weapons on Human Rights Violations*

**Colleen Maher '11** was selected to participate in the Department of Pediatrics Summer Research Program at Case Western Reserve University and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland Ohio. Colleen is one of only a few selected nationwide for this prestigious program. In addition, Colleen was inducted into Psi Chi, the Psychology Honors Society, this year and she presented her work from last summer, *The Things We Know Best: To support research into memory and attention functions in electro-convulsive therapy patients in Dublin*, at the Boston College Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference this spring.

**Scott Molony '11** was the only undergraduate student, and the first ever, selected to present a paper at the Computer Ethics, Philosophical Enquiry conference to be held in Greece this summer. The title of Scott's paper is: "The Joy of Excellence: Intellectual Property and Hackers' Virtue"

**Brian Varian'11** was recently named Managing Editor of Elements Undergraduate Research Journal.

**Peter Wojda'10** was a member of the 4 person WakeSmart team that was awarded top honors at the BC Venture Competition for their 'smart alarm' wristband that detects the optimal point in a sleep cycle to wake the user.

## Alumni in the News

**Ben Bireley'05** was selected to be Chief Articles Editor of the Texas Law Review. The Texas Law review is ranked 11th amongst law reviews based on the number of times its articles are cited in court decisions and other journals.

**Nathan Johnson '97** was awarded a Citizens Award by the City of Cleveland for involvement in helping a family in an auto accident. He is also serving in a new regional leadership position in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

**Emily Neumeier '08** was named a Lilly Graduate Fellow. The Lilly Graduate Fellowships support graduate study for exceptionally well-qualified young men and women who have bachelor degrees from Lilly Fellows Program Network Schools (including Boston College) and who are interested in becoming teacher-scholars at church-related colleges and universities in the United States.

**Reena Parikh '06** is currently a first year student at American University Washington College of Law in DC. She recently received the Public Interest/Public Service (PIPS) Scholarship to attend the Washington College of Law and is given to 10 incoming law students who demonstrate a strong commitment to public service and plan to practice public interest law for 3 years following graduation. She also was recently awarded one of the 2009 South Asian Bar Association of New York's (SABANY) Public Interest Fellowships, whereby they will provide funding for her to pursue her public interest work this summer at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City.

BOSTON COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
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## Bread for the Journey

### **Leadership by Example – Walking the Talk**

*No leadership tool is as effective as the example of the leader's own life: what he or she does, what values his or her actions reflect, and how well the "walk" matches the "talk." Personal example makes the difference between deep, long-lasting influence on others and "just a piece of paper" leadership that breeds cynicism.*

**-Chris Lowney, *Heroic Leadership. Best Practices From a 450-Year-Old Company that Changed the World***