

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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The Graduating Class of 2022



Photo: Donna Alberico

Photographed with the Scholars are Jennie Thomas, Fr. Leahy, Kim Schiller, Phillip Schiller, and Kathy Bailey

On April 20th, the senior GPSP Scholars, Director Kathy Bailey, and Associate Director Jennie Thomas traveled to New York City to attend the annual Alumni Reception at the Lafayette. The following night, April 21st, they attended the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner at the Cipriani Wall Street. Joining the Scholars were Fr. Leahy, Mario Gabelli, major donors, many alumni and this year's honoree, Phillip Schiller '82.



Photo: Donna Alberico



Photo: Donna Alberico

Joseph Manning Highlights “Discovery Days”

By Maggie Hynes '25

From April 7–10, the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program (GPSP) hosted the “Discovery Days.” Students accepted to the GPSP Class of 2026 traveled from around the world to Chestnut Hill to learn more about life on campus and all that the Program has to offer.

On the first night of the weekend, prospective students and a few of their hosts ventured to the McMullen Museum of Art on Boston College’s Brighton Campus to enjoy dinner, mingle with current students and faculty, and hear from guest speaker Joseph Manning (GPSP ’14). Manning currently works as a Judicial Law Clerk for the New Hampshire Supreme Court, with his focus on environmental issues pertaining to climate change and renewable energy.

“I’ve always enjoyed the opportunity to meet prospective students and demonstrate to them the value of the [G]

PSP community,” said Manning. “As an alum, my friends and professional relationships often continue to be entwined in the Presidential Scholars community. But I also strive to try and help current P-Scholars however I can.”

During his undergraduate years at Boston College, Manning was an active member of EcoPledge, an organization that works to implement sustainable practices on campus, as well as the Sierra Student Coalition, which is the student-led branch of the Sierra Club, a national grassroots organization that champions environmental causes.

After an introduction from GPSP Director, Kathleen Bailey, Manning took to the podium to address students and faculty. Through personal anecdotes—varying from staying up late in Mac Dining Hall with new friends when he was a prospective student, to gaining an unexpected friend as a result of a roommate debacle during his class’s trip to Nicaragua—Manning emphasized that the GPSP allows a person to build long-lasting

relationships with people with differing backgrounds and views on life.

Manning pointed out that the thread tying his speech together was the sentiment of community, but he argued that the definition usually associated with this word—similarities among people due to a single defining feature or geographical closeness—isn’t an adequate way to describe the Program. Manning, in true environmentalist fashion, proposed an ecological definition. The GPSP, in his eyes, is like a collection of many unique species living and growing together.

“The [G]PSP community doesn’t end when you graduate. When I was a student, I relied on alums for guidance and advice,” noted Manning, before opening up the floor to questions from the prospective students.

“It was really nice to see all of the prospies together at the dinner at the McMullen Museum,” remarked Garret McCloskey ’25. “Joseph Manning gave a great speech and perfectly highlighted some of the best aspects of the Program.”

Once questions concluded, students and faculty stuck around, chatting with each other and with Manning about his GPSP experience and current work in environmental law. Prospective students slowly trickled out of the McMullen Museum, ready to begin the rest of their weekend. In every respect, Joseph provided a great introduction to all of the opportunities the Program has to offer, leaving a lasting impression on those who ultimately committed.



Photo: Mikayla Quintana

Prospies enjoyed some beautiful early Spring weather.

Anisha Kundu '25 and BC Fencing Reach New Heights



Photo Courtesy of: Anisha Kundu

Boston College fencing celebrates after defeating No. 9 Notre Dame.

By Anisha Kundu '25

For the first time in program history, BC fencing is ranked, and the women's team was recently awarded the Team Academic Achievement Award.

On March 11th, it was announced that the men's fencing team broke the top 10 of the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association rankings and came out 8th. This news came shortly after a competitive performance at the ACC championships that occurred over February 26th and 27th where BC men's fencing placed 2nd.

I, Anisha Kundu '25, was lucky enough to travel and compete at the ACC fencing championships. The ACC is comprised of four extremely competitive, and all-ranked schools including, UNC-Chapel Hill, Notre Dame, and Duke. The first day was the individual round where I fenced each women's epee fencer from each of the four teams. The next day was the team event where I fenced UNC and some fencers on the Duke team.

BC fencing is hopeful as it sends two fencers to the upcoming NCAA Championships hosted at Notre Dame.



Photo Courtesy of: Anisha Kundu

“Discovery Days” Continued: Prospie Adventures

By *Steven Roche '25*

Saturday morning, a large group of Prospective students and hosts met on Linden Lane for an adventurous day in Boston. Hailing from across the globe—from California to China to Peru—the newest accepted members of the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program converged on Boston College to experience life as college students. With classes over for the week, they were taken into the city to explore various historical sites, tourist attractions, and restaurants. As everyone clambered onto the bus to go to brunch, the visiting students buzzed with anticipation and enthusiasm for the day ahead.

After a twenty-minute ride filled with banter, the group filed into Barcelona Wine Bar in the South End. The table was laden with delicious pancakes, home fries, bacon, and tortillas Españolas. Throughout the meal, some reminisced about childhood television shows and movies. Others discussed how their experience of Boston compared with their expectations of a city in the Northeast and throughout, each shared their passions and interests. After each having their fill, the group was ready to depart.

Walking off the bus, they found themselves outside Faneuil Hall Marketplace, where street performers flipped over spectators in the center of an open square. Splitting into four small groups, they began a scavenger hunt. They ran through the city hunting for the Boston Aquarium, Massachusetts State House, Quincy Market, Union Oyster House, and the prettiest tree. Although not originally on the list of things they had to find, a white and black dog was crucially added to the list midway through the hunt. At each destination, they took photos of themselves to prove that they had completed the scavenger hunt. Most groups began the scavenger hunt rapidly trying to outdo the other teams, but it did not take long

for the groups to slow down. They took time to take in the beautiful sights and enjoy each other’s company. But as rain splashed down while groups headed to the final stop, everyone took off running again.

By 4:00 P.M., the group arrived at Lucky Strikes to bowl and enjoy chicken parmesan, salad, and pasta. Everyone wound down after the exhausting day, and the group continued to bond over strikes, spares, and gutter balls. By the time they left for the evening, the prospective students had a clearer idea of whether Boston College was the right fit for them. The sun was setting on their third day on campus, and they would leave the next afternoon. Current Scholars answered questions and shared their personal perspective on life at Boston College late into the night, and the prospective Scholars returned home the next day.



Photo: Mikayla Quintana

Prprospies enjoy each other’s company in the Cheverus Hall lounge.



Photo: Eddie Gonet '26

Sarah Gregorian and Jennie Thomas photographed in Boston with Julian Castro '25 and several Prospies.

Wall Street Alumni Event and Council Dinner



Awards

Commencement Awards

School of Arts and Sciences

George F. and Jean W. Bemis Award

This award was established in memory of George Fisher Bemis (1899-1971) and Jean Wilmot Bemis (1903-1987) of Milton, Massachusetts, a devoted couple quietly of service to others and with whom it was a delight to work. The award seeks to single out a member of the senior class distinguished for service to others.

Brittney Gedeon

Donald S. Carlisle Award

An award established by the Department of Political Science in memory of Donald S. Carlisle, Professor of Political Science at Boston College (1968-1997), given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding achievement in political science.

Robert Cerise

Edward H. Finnegan

An award in the memory of Rev. Edward H. Finnegan S.J., given to the student who has best exemplified in their four years at Boston College the spirit of the College motto "Ever to Excel."

Jenna Mu

Mary A. & Katherine G. Finneran Commencement Award

An award, the gift of Misses Elizabeth and Theresa Finneran, given to the student who has achieved outstanding success in studies, while also devoting time and talents to other activities for the enrichment of the College and student life.

Robert Cerise

William J. Kenealy, S.J., Award

An award in memory of the late William J. Kenealy, S.J., Dean of the Boston College Law School (1939-1956), whose life was distinguished by a passion for social justice. This award is given to the graduating senior who has been distinguished in both academic work and social concern.

Molly Funk

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.

Robert Cerise

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.

**Robert Cerise
Joshua Fording
Kelli Rodrigues**

William A. Gamson Award

The William A. Gamson Award is given in honor of one of the most renowned members of the Sociology faculty at Boston College. The award recognizes a graduating senior for outstanding academic achievement in Sociology.

Kelli Rodrigues

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.

**Robert Cerise
Grace Christenson
Josh Fording
Molly Funk
Jenna Mu
Peter Pinto
Kelli Rodrigues
Dan Ulanovsky
Jakob Weiss
Aroub Yousuf**

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Beta Gamma Sigma

Founded in 1913, Beta Gamma Sigma is the international business honor society serving business programs accredited by AACSB International. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB International

Jack Manoog '22

Critical Language Scholarship

The (CLS) Program, a program of the U.S. Department of State, is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program for American students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities.

Hunter Linton '25 (Persian-Alternate)

The Rhodes Scholarship

The Rhodes Scholarship is the oldest (first awarded in 1902) and perhaps most prestigious international scholarship programme, enabling outstanding young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford.

Jenna Mu (Finalist)

Truman-Albright Fellowship

The Truman-Albright Fellows Program takes place from September to May of each year and is only open to recent graduates who have already won a Truman Scholarship. Fellows work in a public service job in the Washington, D.C.

Jenna Mu

Alpha Sigma Nu

Alpha Sigma Nu is a national Jesuit honors society started in 1915. Admission is based on scholarship, loyalty, and service.

Caroline Bald '23

Undergraduate Awards

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.

Caroline Bald '23

Lauren Gillet '23

Aidan O'Neill '23

Sophomore Scholars

Each year the most academically distinguished members of the sophomore class are honored as Sophomore Scholars. The young scholars listed 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.

Christopher Ficeto

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. Advanced Study Grants are for student-designed projects and are awarded for summer "skill acquisition" projects that promise to accelerate dramatically the applicant's progress in the major field of study.

Faith Drescher '25

Hunter Linton '25

Caroline Macneill '25

Jake Ottiger '25

Steven Roche '25

Sancia Sehdev '25

Eagle Intern Fellowship

The Eagle Intern Fellowship provides financial support to Boston College undergraduates with demonstrated financial need who obtain summer internships with organizations that are not able to provide a salary. By eliminating financial barriers, this program provides an opportunity for you to explore your career interests and experience the world of work.

Hannah Yoon '24

Omar A. Aggad Travel and Research Fellowship

The Omar A. Aggad Travel and Research Fellowship was established through the generous gift of a Boston College family to inspire BC graduate and undergraduate students to expand their understandings of the Arab world, and of the relationships between Arab societies and the West. The donors have a particular interest in helping students to understand the Palestine-Israel issue, and supporting research and activities designed to promote peace in the region.

Faith Drescher '25

Alumni Announcements

Dennis Sardella (Former Director) During the pandemic he wrote "*Visible Image of the Invisible God. A Guide to Russian and Byzantine Icons,*" it will be published by Paraclete Press and is scheduled for release in November 2022. He is also a docent, and lecturer at the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton MA. Marjorie Sardella will be releasing her seventh photographic wall calendar later this year.

Edward Barnaby '96 is now Executive Vice Provost of Barnard College

Paul Jackson '03 is now Senior Director of Communications at The Atlantic

Emily Neumeier '08 and her husband Sotiris welcomed daughter Maria Nikoletta Dimitriadis on March 5, 2022

Caitlin Peterson Hawkins '08 welcomed a second baby boy, Asher Philip Hawkins, on December 1, 2021

Jessica Seminelli '12 and her husband, Gene Sky, welcomed their first child, Penelope Rose Sky, on March 12, 2022

Isra Husain '17 will be pursuing an MBA & an MPP at the University of Chicago this fall

Tim Morrissey '20 was promoted to Communications Manager at the Japan Society of Boston

Evey Satterfield '20 was accepted into the Boston Consulting Group Associate Abroad program and will be spending a year working on healthcare in Copenhagen beginning in August

GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARS PROGRAM
122 College Road·Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

