

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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The Graduating Class of 2023



Photo: Donna Alberico

The Scholars photographed with Kathy Bailey and Jennie Thomas

Alongside Kathy Bailey and Jennie Thomas, the GPSP Class of 2023 travelled to New York City for the annual Wall Street Business Leadership Council Tribute Dinner. Father Leahy, Rishi Srinivasan '23, and the recipient of the 2023 President's Medal for Excellence Honoree Tom Coughlin spoke at the event. The night before the dinner, the group attended the annual Alumni Reception at the Lafayette.



Photo: Donna Alberico



Photo: Donna Alberico

Threads: Sophomore Social Justice Project

By Joshua Gorniak '26

“More than 2 in 5 American children face clothing insecurity”. This sentence reverberated throughout Gasson 100, signifying not only the start of a question and answer panel organized by the class of 2025 Presidential Scholars but also the beginning of the Presidential Scholars’ participation in a much broader discussion about clothing insecurity that even transcends the boundaries of Boston College. Composed of St. Francis House Clothing Program Supervisor Ryley Harris, Senior Director of Operations for Cradles to Crayons Marguerite Dowd, and Rachel Wallace of the Haley House, the panel answered a series of nuanced questions offered by Sophomore interviewers, as well as fellow members of the audience.

The panel format proved to be effective in conveying vital information and more crucially connecting audience members with the very community leaders that are spearheading efforts to alleviate the plight of underserved communities within Boston. As such, the event largely coincided with the mission and goals outlined by the Sophomores in their broader So-

cial Justice Project, titled The Threads Project. Although broadly seeking to “raise awareness and make a tangible impact on clothing insecurity” within Boston communities, the class of 2025 had soon honed in on specific facets of this nuanced crisis, partitioning their year-long endeavor into two semester-long campaigns (Jake Ottiger '25). The first stage involved the diffusion of information about clothing insecurity amongst Boston College students; the latter would then fixate on tangible change. In light of such, the Sophomores held a public viewing of Cyrus Rosen’s documentary, accompanied by a clothing drive during the fall academic semester. Encompassing themes of sustainability, dire consequences of fast fashion, and upcycling, the documentary resonated with the broader audience and compelled many to seek to enact change of their own.

Concluding the latter half of the Sophomore’s Social Justice Project, the interview panel equipped audience members with the necessary resources to enact this very tangible change. Serving as the Clothing Program Supervisor for St. Francis House, Ryley Harris elaborated on the daily operations of her community outreach center and otherwise focused on the specific

duties that her position entailed. Most empowering to the audience was the fact that despite being a relatively small operation that it was, the establishment still served at least 500 individuals in need of clean clothing a week.

Rachel Wallace of the Haley House contributed to the discussion by promoting the services provided by her respective organization, including a soup kitchen of limited capacity, “Fresh Threads” (a program providing full pre-packaged outfits to patrons, and “Studio Shine”) a more boutique-style of clothes distribution in which individuals can individually pick out more formal wear.

The latter part of the event was dedicated to audience member questions directed at the panelists. All questions originating from the audience were not only insightful but also demonstrated an urge to become involved - thus serving as a testament to the success of the Sophomores in raising awareness about clothing insecurity. In particular, Hector Tyser '25 inquired as to how the panelists found themselves in such a position. Demonstrating just how accessible community service is to the masses and most certainly Boston College students, Harris emphasized her streamlined journey from an undergraduate experience at neighboring Northeastern University to meaningful and transformative service at St. Francis House.

The event concluded with a tallying up of the total amount of clothes donated by Boston College students over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year. If the enthusiasm of the audience members did not convey the sheer success of Project Threads, then the figure of 220 items donated (facilitated by clothing drives and information events) certainly did.



Photo: Liz Schwab

Anisha Kundu '25 and Faith Drescher '25 next to the clothing collected during the event

Senior Thesis Presentations and Projects



Photo: Neha Suneja



Photo: Neha Suneja



Photo: Neha Suneja



Photo: Neha Suneja

Molly Binder, Mercedes Hoyos, and Neha Suneja created “Crafting a Better World”, a short documentary (30min) exploring the empowerment of rural artisans in Rajasthan, India. They traveled to New Delhi, Jaipur, and Udaipur for 2.5 weeks to interview academics across various disciplines as well as the artisans of the Princess Diya Kumari Foundation, which aims to financially and psychologically empower women through skill-building. The foundation was started and is run by the princess of Jaipur. They spoke to the artisans about how their lives changed after PDKF, about severe financial hardship, intra-household dynamics, and about social isolation. They also explored how skill-building programs provided them with strong social networks and a newfound sense of self

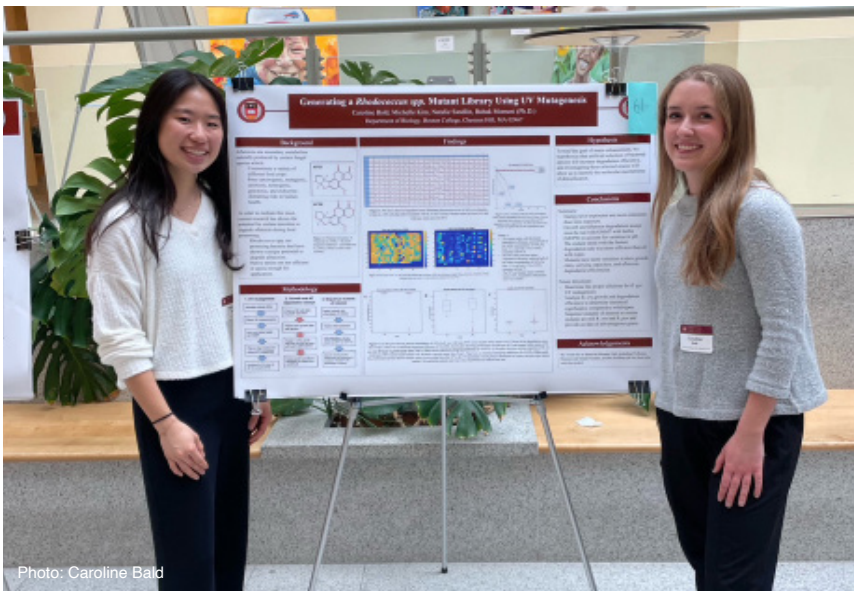


Photo: Caroline Bald

Caroline Bald presented her thesis on generating a *Rhodococcus* spp. mutant library using UV mutagenesis. Aflatoxins are a huge public health concern - they grow on a lot of food crops and pose carcinogenic, mutagenic, and genotoxic risks to human and animal health. *Rhodococcus* is a bacteria that has shown strong potential to degrade aflatoxin, and by exposing strains to UV she was able to induce random mutations in the genome that created mutants with better degradation efficiencies than the wild types they compared it to!

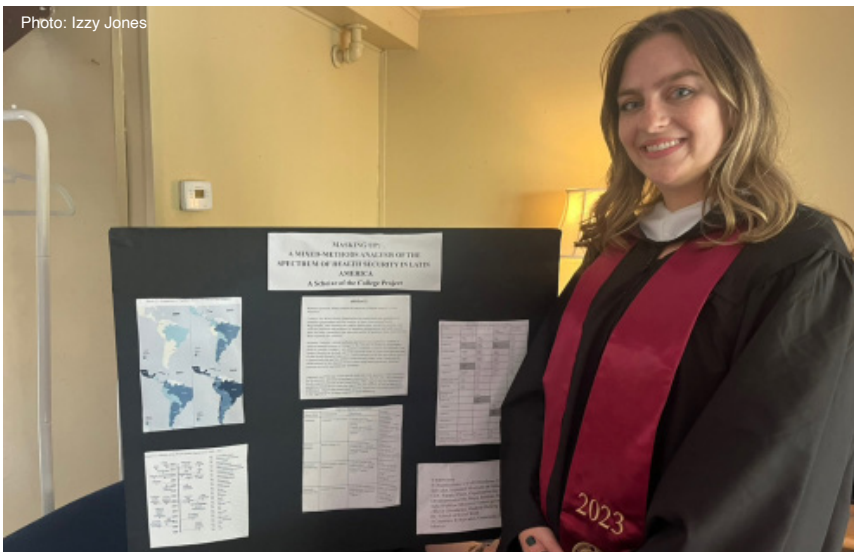


Photo: Izzy Jones

Izzy Jones was the recipient of the Scholar of the College and Matteo Ricci, SJ International Studies Honors Thesis Awards. She presented her research on public health in Latin America with the help of Prof. Erickson in the International Studies Department. In her thesis she studied health security in Latin America and analyzed pandemic preparedness plans, case studies, and interviews. In the interviews individuals from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico shared their expertise. She concluded that the spectrum of health security on the high end is explained by epistemic communities, and the low end is explained by a lack of external pressure.

Wall Street Alumni Event and Council Dinner



Awards

Commencement Awards

School of Arts and Sciences

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.

Rishi Srinivasan '23

John McCarthy, S.J. Award for Social Sciences/Political Science

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

Izzy Jones '23

J. Paul Marcoux Award

This award recognizes the recipient's willingness to take artistic and intellectual risks and to investigate and/or attempt the new and unknown.

Aidan O'Neill '23

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.

Izzy Jones '23

Matteo Ricci, SJ International Studies Honors Thesis Award

The IS Program's thesis award is named in honor of 16th century Italian Jesuit Matteo Ricci, known for his nearly 30-year work in China as a scholar, scientist, and missionary.

Izzy Jones '23

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

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 (Brazil)

Alpha Sigma Nu

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

Katy Gilmore '24

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.

Caroline Bald '23

Liam Dietrich '23

Lauren Gillet '23

Izzy Jones '23

Katy Gilmore '24

Aidan O'Neill '23

Hannah Yoon '23

Nu Rho Psi

Nu Rho Psi is the National Honor Society in Neuroscience, founded in 2006 by the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience

Ashley McKnight '24

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.

Chris Ficeto '24

Andy Hoffman '24

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.

Jason Adhinarta '25
Ai-Kee Cheung '25
Hayoung Cho '25
Hunter Linton '25
Steven Roche '25
Liz Schwab '25

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.

Maria De Nadai '25
Garrett McCloskey '25
Steven Roche '25
Liz Schwab '25
Sancia Sehdev '25

Jacques Salmanowitz Grant for Moral Courage in Film

The Jacques Salmanowitz Program for Moral Courage in Film is devoted to encouraging the production of film concerned with acts of moral courage, providing role models for youth worldwide.

Molly Binder '23
Mercedes Hoyos '23
Neha Suneja '23

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.

Jason Adhinarta '25

Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship

The purpose of this award is to prepare Boston College students for leadership in the United States and the world at large by enriching their personal and educational development through travel.

Srina Lacet '24

Alumni Announcements

Lynne (Santoro) Sullivan '95 became the Regional Executive Editor of the Providence Journal and Newport Daily News in January 2023

Patrick Passarelli '10 will be an Adult Infectious Diseases Fellow at University of Rochester Medical Center beginning in July.

Lindsay Hennawi '11 started a new role as the DEI Specialist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. She also started a private therapy practice.

Kyle Marra '12 graduated from the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of California, San Diego where he earned an MD and PhD in Bioengineering. He matched into UCSD’s ophthalmology residency program and is thrilled to continue expanding his clinical and research training in San Diego.

Amanda Loewy '15 received her national project manager certification

Peter Pinto '22 is now the Analyst for the Chief of Staff of UBS Global Banking in NYC.

GPSP Alumni:

Follow us on LinkedIn!



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