

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

Volume XXVII, Issue 1

Spring 2021

The Graduating Class of 2021



Photo: Rose Lincoln

The seniors of the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program gathers for one last group picture. (from left to right) top row: Jacob McErlean, Austin Kim, Jacob Kelleher, Anna Costantini. middle row: Will Peters, Rachel Duquette, Arturo Townsend, Charlie Power, Leah DaCosta. bottom row: Raffi Toghramadjian, David Kocen, Harry Shanmugam, Sara Samir, Liam Haffey, and Maddie Bald.

By Ashley McKnight '24

As another year comes to a close and Spring Commencement is fast approaching, we once again come upon the time to wish the graduating class of Presidential Scholars goodbye and good luck. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Wall Street Council Tribute dinner held in honor of our seniors was not celebrated in person, but despite the hurdles the year had laid out, the Wall Street Council has still upheld the tradition of extending their congratulations to the seniors by celebrating their accomplishments and time at Boston College.

In a touching tribute to the GPSP Class of 2021, the Wall Street Council featured various voices within the graduating class as they reflected on the opportunities afforded to them and the futures ahead of them made possible by the generosity of the program and its many contributors. Many of the se-

niors remarked on the previously unimaginable made real to them by, what Anna Constantini '21 referred to as, simultaneous “push and support” from the program. It was this very combination which had “encouraged [her] to challenge [herself] to take on something that was academically and personally really frightening” and spend an entire year abroad at Oxford.

From the UK to Switzerland, Costa Rica to Peru, the program has truly endeavored to cultivate its scholars into citizens of the world, an effort for which, among other seniors, Jacob Kelleher '21 expressed his sincere appreciation.

He said, “I’ve seen a wide range of problems and experiences people go through when they live in other parts of the world. So it’s really eye-opening to be a part of the program and understand the world from a different perspective.”

For these new perspectives, experiences, friendships, and opportunities the graduating seniors have expressed their gratitude to the program and to the gracious benefactors of the Wall Street Council who make such an experiential education possible. Since its founding in 1991, the Wall Street Council has been investing in the leaders of tomorrow through the Gabelli Presidential Scholars program.

Now, 30 years and 40 million dollars later, the Council continues to show its dedication to funding the future. Soon to be graduate Arturo Townsend '21 said, “There’s really not a better way to put your money’s worth into somebody.” So to the program’s benefactors, thank you for the investment you have made in the program and in the lives of its scholars, and to the graduating class of 2021, congratulations and as you step out into the world.

Sean Flahaven '95 Receives Alumni Art Award

By Charlie Viehl '23

For the 23rd annual Arts Fest, Grammy and Tony Award winner Sean Flahaven '95 returned to Boston College's campus to receive the Alumni Art Award for his decades of work and experience in the musical theatre industry. Each year, the award recognizes a BC alumnus for his or her accomplishments and contributions to the arts.

"I have a lot of fond memories of coming back here because like anything, you have a lot of nostalgia tied to a place. I grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and I traveled a lot with my parents as a kid, but obviously when you go away to college, it's the first place that you live somewhere else. I lived there for 18 years, here for four years, and now New York for 25 years. When you spend so much time here at that time of your life, when you're starting to make the transition to adulthood, you have a lot of good memories," said Flahaven.

In the Fall of 1991, Flahaven came to Boston College as part of the first ever cohort of Presidential Scholars, before the program took on the Gabelli name. The Presidential Scholars Program featured service after Freshman year, internships after Sophomore

year, and international travel after Junior year, at the time. Although multiple opportunities provided by the Program have been altered, he believes that the program has stayed true to its emphasis on camaraderie and servant leadership.

He said, "I've spent half my career working for nonprofits and working for corporations, but all of them were in the service of supporting art and writers and creators, and even in many cases when theatre is commercial, it still doesn't mean it's corporate or successful. The PSP experience was great in that it was a frequent reminder of how you've been given this tremendous advantage of not only a tremendous education but one that's paid for. It's quite a privilege, so how does that launch you into the world in a way that you're going to try and do well but do things that potentially benefit people."

While at BC, Flahaven majored in English and Music while playing the trombone in BC bOp! and participating in multiple Robsham Theater productions. In his senior year, he served as the Assistant Director and Assistant Music Director for the production of Stephen Sondheim's Company on the Robsham mainstage, a proj-



Photo by Jennie Thomas

Sean Flahaven '95 receives his Alumni Art Award in the Arts Fest tent on the Stokes Lawn.

ect that coincided perfectly with his Scholar of the College Thesis. After graduating, he joined the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU Tisch, the only one of its kind in the country. While studying in the city, he met and worked with Broadway legend Stephen Sondheim, and the two grew close, working together for 23 years now.

His time at BC helped him discover his passion and how to live a life that incorporated his passion in it. He said, "Being at BC was part of what let me try a lot of different things, artistically and otherwise. I went through the process of 'Well, I don't want to be an actor, I don't want to be a professional trombone player, but I want to do music and I want to do theatre and I want to write.'"

Ultimately, Flahaven settled comfortably into the musical theatre industry, working as a producer, playwright, arranger, among other roles. He now serves as the Chief Theatricals Executive of Concord Theatricals, the fifth largest mu-

sic company in the world.

"I think the thing that I'm proudest of is my relationship with writers and artists that I really admire, and I feel that I do great work that not only is wonderful to experience and appreciate but also contributes to the evolution of an artform," he said.

Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has flipped the musical theatre industry on its head. For now, artists have settled on remote recording, eagerly awaiting the return to collaborating and creating together in the same room.

Flahaven said, "I know that a lot of writers and creators in this past year have felt stuck, naturally. We've all been struggling with motivation in different ways, but I know that there's this huge sort of tidal wave of creative work that needs to reach people. Hopefully in the next few months we can start doing that, and I'm thinking just for myself how cathartic that's going to feel, just experiencing it once again."



Reprinted with permission from Tim Correia
Sean Flahaven '95 participated in an interview and discussion as part of his return to campus this Spring.

An Update on Jim Keenan

By Lauren Gillet '23

Fr. Jim Keenan, who was the director of the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program from 2010 up until last year, recently took on the role of Vice Provost for Global Engagement. He took over for Alberto Godenzi, the inaugural vice provost for global engagement, who died in the fall of 2019 after battling cancer. Despite the pandemic temporarily restricting foreign travel, Fr. Keenan has been extremely busy establishing new global programs that connect Boston College to other Jesuit universities across the globe.

In broad terms, his job involves anything that pertains to international relations and Boston College. Two months ago, all of the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) came under the direction of Fr. Keenan. OIP is changing quite a bit and there are plans to expand significantly as well.

He wants to change the focus of OIP as he wants it “to be more enticing, if you will, because of its academic possibilities rather than for what I call its ‘gelatti’ possibili-

ties.” The interim OIP director Larry Pickener was asked to meet with the chairs of the 28 MCAS departments to see how to make it more academically attractive and so that people pursue OIP for the right reasons.

On top of making OIP more “academic”, Fr. Keenan is actively building “bridges” with other universities. Some of the smaller projects that will be instituted next summer include a program in Rwanda at the University of Global Health Equity that Dr. Paul Farmer helped build and Dr. Phil Landrigan and Professor Amy Boesky will lead a group. There will also be a program in Croatia focused on peace building, a special program on immigration in Greece, and big programs in Lisbon, Portugal as it is one part of western Europe that Boston College does not already have a lot of programs.

Memos of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with Ateneo de Manila in the Philippines, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia, and Saint-Joseph University of Beirut in Lebanon so programs are in the works with these universities as well in areas such as Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Political Science, Cybersecurity, Nursing, Law, and more.

The plan for many of these new relationships is to have a number of graduates and professors connected to these schools before undergraduate students go there so that they can feel more comfortable and more settled as there would be an established BC community.

Under OISS, Fr. Keenan He is starting up an international scholars lecture series on the first wednesday of every month so that scholars that come from various countries have a platform to share their experiences and academic interests with their colleagues. He is also establishing an international graduate students summer fellowships for doctoral students from any of BC’s 14 partnering universities to conduct research at BC.

His overall goal moving forward in his new role is “to provide opportunities to BC that are global, that are more academic, that are less eurocentric, and position BC at some major schools in the world” and to have OIP and OISS work closely together to have an integrated global project.

Scholars Awarded with Fellowships

By Kathryn Gilmore '24

Each year, countless presidential scholars receive recognition for their excellence in and outside of the classroom. Even with the limitations of the pandemic, scholars have still shone in their endeavors. In recent years, the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program has pushed more students and alums to apply for fellowships. Thus far, 37 scholars have received the Fulbright scholarship, 5 have won the Truman scholarship, and many, many others have been recognized for their talents, intellect, and hard work. Thanks to their perseverance and diligence, three scholars have been awarded them this year.

Austin Bodetti has actually applied for and received a Fulbright scholarship twice.

At Boston College, he studied Arabic and Islamic cultures. Since graduating in 2018, he has been working at think tanks in Washington, DC with a focus on Iranian politics. After receiving the Fulbright scholarship in 2019, he began studying in Morocco in September of that same year.

However, he was unfortunately sent home in March of 2020 once the pandemic grew. He has now reapplied and received the same grant to study in Morocco for the next cycle of Fulbright scholars. He plans to use his knowledge from his studies at BC to shape his time in Morocco. He says, “I wanted to use what I learned from my classes to undertake a research project relevant to the Arab and Muslim worlds.” GPSP can certainly expect

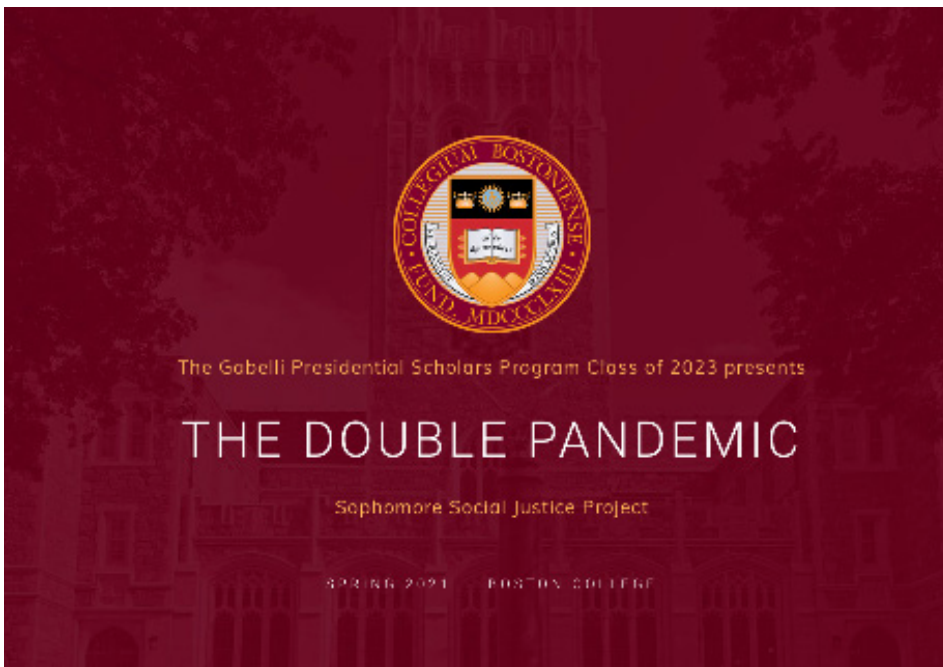
great work from Bodetti during his time in Morocco.

A current senior in GPSP, Jack McErlean was recently accepted into the Graduate Research Fellowship Program funded by the National Science Foundation. He decided early on in his BC career that he wanted to pursue a PhD in mathematics leading him to apply for this fellowship in October of 2020. Through this program, he will receive \$138,000 to complete his PhD at Duke University starting in the fall. He says that with this funding he will be able to “focus more intently on research.” This will then lead to “better research output, which in turn improves the options for potential post-doctoral appointments.” His hard work to receive this grant will allow him to continue

sharpening his skills and understanding of mathematics to contribute to his field.

Jenna Mu, a junior in GPSP who has received the Truman scholarship, says that the service aspects of the grant are what drew her to apply. She cites her professors as inspiring her “to think about how [she] can transform [her] newfound knowledge into solutions in the real world.” The faculty and programs at BC influenced her to apply for this grant. She explains that she is “grateful to be able to explore [her] academic interests— dentistry, global public health, and environmental justice— and the ways in which they overlap with service.”

SSJP: The Double Pandemic



For their Sophomore Social Justice Project, this year's sophomore class created a website, *The Double Pandemic*, telling the stories of those hit harder by COVID-19.

By Connor Roukey '23

While the COVID-19 pandemic has proven difficult for everyone, the sophomores created their Sophomore Social Justice Project (SSJP) to highlight the organizations aimed at helping those suffering from a "Double Pandemic." Taken from their website, doublepandemic.weebly.com, the sophomore class hoped to shed more light on those affected from this "Double Pandemic," those who have experienced "food insecurity, unreliable housing, declining mental and physical health," and joblessness among others.

When asked about how the group chose the Double Pandemic as their topic, Izzy Jones '23 said that "after doing an informative panel in the fall, we really wanted to hone in on the human impact of covid - how people's daily lives were affected."

To learn more about certain "human impacts of covid," each sophomore chose an organization to interview. When the sophomores were looking at which organizations to highlight, they "looked to the nonprofit sector, both those who run them and those who benefit from them, as this is the most vulnerable population to COVID-19," said Jones.

On their website, you can find their

insight into the organizations Big Brothers, Boston City Council, Boston College PULSE, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Dignity Matters, Haley House, Jackson Mann Community Center, Mass General Brigham, Massachusetts General Hospital, Medway Village Church Food Pantry, New England Regional Black Nurses Association, Pine Street Inn, Silver Lining Mentoring, and Women's Lunch Place.

Each sophomore worked at interviewing and highlighting the strides a particular organization made to combat the issues facing those suffering from the Double Pandemic. The format of these interviews was "inspired by the humans of New York Instagram" (Izzy Jones). In these interviews, readers can learn about the purpose of such organizations, the impact Covid had for themselves, and how they worked and continue to work at combating the Double Pandemic. The class's goal was to shed light on how personal this pandemic really is by giving a voice to and telling the stories of those hit harder by COVID-19 than most.

Kathy Bailey explains how "these stories bring to light the inequities that vulnerable populations faced even before Covid and are now exacerbated by the pandemic." However, realizing that informing the community of such organizations is not enough, the website also contains links to donate to the chosen organizations which

facilitates the contribution from readers. To reach out to the community further and to advertise how individuals can donate to such organizations, the sophomores created an instagram account under the username @bc_doublepandemic where viewers can learn more about each organization.

This year's SSJP "clearly illustrates that Covid is not the 'great equalizer' many claim it to be. Both the panel discussion last fall and the new website illuminate how the pandemic disproportionately affects vulnerable populations through compelling interviews from the organizations that care for and serve the marginalized," said Bailey.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic put a dent in the sophomore's 2020 PULSE summer, many of them used this opportunity to interview and reach out to their original PULSE placements which Izzy Jones says "was a great full circle moment." The sophomores did an amazing job when they presented their project on April 20th, 2021 as they not only informed but also inspired their fellow P-Scholars to learn more about the organizations that have been working tirelessly through the pandemic to support members of our community.

As Bailey puts it, "The sophomores deserve to be recognized and congratulated for the hard work they did to bring this project to fruition, as well as for the compassion and humaneness they demonstrated for those who are suffering."

**Scan to see this year's
SSJP Website**



Scholars Participate in ArtsFest 2021

By *Srina Lacet '24*

Despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the Boston College community has continued expressing themselves together through art and performance. The 23rd annual Boston College Arts Festival was held from April 29 to May 1 with virtual and in-person events to celebrate the creativity of students, faculty, staff, and alumni and cultivate joy through the arts in our new reality.

A New Wave of Creativity was selected as this year's theme, explained on their website, "Now, more than ever, we are turning to imagination to re-envision our lives onto new formats. Creativity becomes a reflection point where discomfort meets beauty, change meets growth, tradition meets innovation, and classic meets digital."

Jacob Kelleher '21 appreciated the effort that was put into making Arts Fest a success this semester. He said, "Arts Fest for me is all about celebrating the art that students produce here on campus. Although audiences and live performances are certainly a critical component of performing arts, I think the truest part of the performing arts is in sharing one's passion for it. The way the festival was set up this year preserved students' ability to share

their love of art with the community."

Much of the Class of 2024 clearly had no expectations of Arts Fest outside of our new reality, which was reflected on by Kathryn Gilmore '24 who worked as a stage manager for the events.

"Pretty much all the performers and audience members were very respectful of COVID guidelines," she recalled, with the exception of the occasional reach of capacity in the tent. Rain was also an issue due to the outdoor requirement and some Thursday events had to be rescheduled for Saturday. However, there was plenty of online content and virtual events from student groups and organizations.

As stage manager, Kathryn Gilmore spent a few hours a week making run sheets leading up to the festival and planned in advance so that events would run as smoothly as possible. During the weekend, she was dedicated to her tasks behind the scenes, which included helping manage the performers, dealing with technical issues, assisting backstage, and interviewing Arts Awards Winners for the BC Arts Journal.

Aidan O'Neill '23 made impressive contributions to the festival as well. He said, "As a member of Contemporary

Theatre, I helped put on a mini 10-minute play festival, where we presented staged readings of three plays, one written by me called *Pandemic Play*, one written by Lily Telegdy '23 called *6 Months*, and one written by Katie Meade '22 called *It Happened at Breakfast*."

Kelleher spent his final Arts Fest as an undergraduate student as a supervisor for a group performance. As a Teaching Assistant for the Theatre Department course *Theatre for Youth*, he assisted his students with the production of a 45-minute children's play. "The play we produced this year was *Squirrel Girl Goes to College*. It's a play about a Marvel superhero called Squirrel Girl and her struggle to transition to college," he said. Jacob and his students filmed the piece to be distributed to schools in the area in addition to performing it at Arts Fest.

Due to the joint efforts of the Boston College communities, the concerns and restrictions of our new reality in a pandemic could not prevent this year's A New Wave of Creativity Arts Festival from being a success. In fact, it highlighted the resilience and pure talent of Boston College students, faculty and staff in a fashion accessible to the campus and community at large through a virtual component.



Reprinted with permission from Lee Pellegrini

Class of 2021 Present Theses to Scholars

By Chris Conyers '24

On April 14, the class of 2021 gave presentations on, what was for many of them, the culmination of their academic career at Boston College. Before many would go on to give a similar talk to department heads and fellow peers, the night gave seniors a chance to share their thesis with the rest of the Gabelli program. Displaying months of research and investment, each project mapped a road of dedication, setbacks, and ultimate achievement. Spanning from investigations on da Vinci's perception of the soul to the veracity of Nike sneaker's performance claims, the night showcased the broad range of academic pursuits currently being undertaken by the program's most senior scholars. Each individual was able to infuse their field of study with a level of personal interest, a genuineness that shone through in their scholarship. More than this, though, the night reflected a continual emphasis of the Gabelli experience - the ability to both lean on the support of the greater GPSP community and express individual passions.

In a foremost example of the uniqueness displayed by the class of 2021, Jacob Kelleher developed his thesis around theater production and direction, drawing upon this process to create novel educational frameworks. Last February, Jacob was invited by the theater de-

partment to direct one of the six shows they host each year. Kelleher, who is a Secondary Mathematics Education Major with a minor in educational theater, settled on *Proof*, a play centered around rigorous mathematics. In addition to directing *Proof*, Kelleher combined this interest with his mathematics background to develop his thesis - which centered around examining theories of Creative Dramas to "create a set of pedagogical frameworks that educators could implement in the classroom." Components of the thesis ranged from bringing these concepts into traditional classrooms, to augmenting the experience of theater production itself, in what Keheller called a synthesization of "what has defined [his] academic career at BC."

Shifting away from theater production, Arturo Balaguer framed his thesis around an investigation into Leonardo da Vinci's perception of the soul. Balaguer argues in his thesis that human emotionality is the thread that unites many of da Vinci's exploits, explaining why he believed the location of the human soul to rest in the brain. In the later part of his thesis, Arturo contextualizes this claim through an evaluation of da Vinci's sketches and personal writings, explaining why he rejected the notion of dualism - the belief that the body and the soul are separate - lauded by thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, and Descartes. The culmination of the project sees

Balaguer relate this investigation to the current neuroscientific rejection of dualism and discuss how da Vinci's work played a fundamental role in placing Western philosophy on the "verge of taking a big intellectual leap" in this field.

Will Peters, double majoring in Computer Science and Economics, situated his thesis around Nike's claim that their VaporFly sneakers can boost runner performance by up to 4 percent. This claim was supported by data collected in labs, however, so Peters looked to test its validity against real race performances. With his background of computer programming, Peters was able to write scripts that could efficiently extract the necessary data, including race times, gender, footwear, and heart rate, from thousands of racers across a few select events. From this, Peters performed a regression analysis, using a few different methods to control for various factors. Peters' work ultimately suggests that while there is strong evidence that VaporFly's do improve performance, the true effect is most likely closer to 2-3 percent for most runners.

These three projects, representative of the breadth and quality of research undertaken by this year's seniors, mark a pinnacle of their academic achievement and move the class of 2024 one step closer to the conclusion of their time at BC.

Freshmen Conversations: A New Initiative

By Connor Roukey '23

Some of the most important characteristics of the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program have long been the fraternity, camaraderie, and friendship among the scholars. Despite everyone's busy schedules and extensive academic and extracurricular commitments, it seems that every scholar is willing to make themselves readily available should a classmate come to them for advice, support, or assistance.

It was therefore not entirely surprising when, in the fall of 2019, Harry Shanmugam, CSOM '21, Charlie Power, CSOM '21, and Sara Samir, CSOM '21 began to develop an idea for a program to assist freshmen P-Scholars with the transition to Boston College.

As Shanmugam explains: "Community is such a central part of the GPSP, so we were really looking for a way to reinforce that and make sure that the freshman felt especially welcome in the program."

Shanmugam, Power, and Samir first approached the GPSP freshman class at the time, the Class of 2023, in November 2019 to present their idea and receive feedback.

After receiving rave reviews, they then approached GPSP Directors Fr. Jim Keenan, S.J. and Professor Kathy Bailey, and Associate Director Jennie Thomas, with their idea.

After submitting a formal proposal and working-out a few of the logistics, the new Freshman Conversations Program (FCP) was given the "green-light" for a trial-run in the spring of 2020, with the expectation that, although the GPSP staff would support the program in many ways (e.g. adding it to the official meeting schedule for scholars), it was to be run entirely by the upperclassmen scholars.

Specifically, each week, the freshmen scholars would meet after the Tuesday evening GPSP meeting to discuss a different topic pertaining to life at Boston College. The meetings would be informal and loosely moderated by upperclassmen scholars who would share their own experiences, give some general advice, and answer any questions that the freshmen may have.

For Mikayla Quintana, MCAS '24, the FCP "definitely helped ease the transition to college more so than other community engagement programs for freshmen on campus" because she was able to "interact with the other freshmen and up-

perclassmen weekly in person to discuss topics and challenges we were all going through."

This feeling of togetherness among the scholars helped to reassure her, and many of her classmates, that the GPSP was truly a "community," and as a result, they were not "in it alone." Although the advice and support of upperclassmen was extremely valuable, Quintana also emphasized that, perhaps most importantly, these meetings helped to establish a camaraderie among the Class of 2024 scholars who were able to "connect over their shared experiences and challenges" in a way that may not have otherwise been possible during such an unprecedented semester.

While he still believes that there is room for improvement in the FCP (e.g. having more scholars from different classes rotate through the conversations to get more varied perspectives), Shanmugam is optimistic about its future.

"It really demonstrates what the GPSP is all about, so I hope that it continues to grow as each class adds to it over the years, so that it fully becomes a part of the GPSP tradition."

Commencement Awards

Edward H. Finnegan Award

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.”

Harry Shanmugam

Thomas I. Gasson, S.J., Award

An award in honor of Thomas I. Gasson, S.J., President of Boston College (1907-1914), given to the graduating senior with a distinguished academic record over a four-year period.

Rachel Duquette

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

Charlie Power

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.

*Anna Costantini
William Peters*

Neuhauser Award

An award given to seniors in the Computer Science department

Rachel Duquette

Joseph M. Larkin S.J. Award

An award given to seniors in the Theater Department

Jacob Kelleher

Bennett Award

given to the student who demonstrated a high level of achievement in mathematics

Jacob Kelleher

Paul J. Sally, Jr. Distinguished Alumnus prize

is awarded annually to a graduating senior who has shown true academic distinction in a demanding program in Mathematics

Jack McErlean

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.

*Liam Haffey
Charles Power*

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Fulbright Award

The Fulbright Program, including the Fulbright–Hays Program, is an American scholarship program of competitive, merit-based grants for international educational exchange for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists and artists, founded by United States Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946. Under the Fulbright Program, competitively selected American citizens may become eligible for scholarships to study, conduct research, or exercise their talents abroad.

*Jack McErlean '21 (alternate to Hungary)
Luke Murphy '20 (Peru)
Austin Bodetti '18 (Morocco)*

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

The Truman Foundation is the nation's official living memorial to our thirty-third president and the presidential monument to public service. Created by Congress in 1975, the Foundation was President Truman's idea. It is the premier graduate fellowship in the United States for those pursuing careers as public service leaders.

Jenna Mu '22

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based Master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions.

Jack McErlean '21

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.

Robert Cerise
Grace Christenson
Josh Fording
Molly Funk
Kelli Rodrigues
Dan Ulanovsky
Jacob Weiss

Advanced Study Grant Winners

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.

Fran Hodgens '23 (Massachusetts)
Izzy Jones '23 (Arkansas)

Alumni Announcements

Andrew Frey '01 recently joined AJ Capital Partners as Senior Vice President of Development & Construction for Florida and the Caribbean

Sheila (Rudy) Nowinski '02 promoted to Associate Professor of History at Thiel College in Greenville, PA and is Director of the Dietrich Honors Institute, Thiel's honors program.

Hannah Nolan-Spohn '05 was accepted as a member of the Pulitzer Center's inaugural 1619 Project Education Network

Alison Ramirez '07 welcomed second child Lucas Jose on March 19 2021

Matthew Becker '08 was recently promoted to Strategic Sourcing Manager for Glass to Andersen Windows. He will be relocating from MA to MN.

Nick Ackerman '09 welcomed second son, Caleb Andrew Leskoven Ackerman in January.

Kelly (McConnaughey) Hall '10 married Robert Hall and is the 4th & 5th grade Principal, the Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and a 4th grade teacher at De La Salle Blackfeet School

Colleen Ernst '11 recently started her new role as in-house counsel for Adelanto HealthCare Ventures, a Medicaid finance consulting company

Abby Letak '12 married Kenneth Kemp on May 1st

Kyle Marra '12 recently received his Bioengineering PhD from UC San Diego

Matthew Alonsozana '14 was reappointed to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission by Gov. Larry Hogan for a three-year term, and, his firm Percipient Strategies was named a 2021 Reed Award finalist by Campaigns & Elections magazine

Paul Davey '15 will be pursuing his Masters in Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis starting this fall

Mary Rose Fissinger '15 was married to David Cote, BC '14 at St. Ignatus by Fr. Jim Keenan, S.J. on May 29th.

Ryan Polischuk '15 completed a physics PhD at UC Davis & accepted a research scientist position at an immuno-oncology biotech called Nektar in San Francisco. During his PhD, he studied how a COVID-19 variant modifies the spike protein (affecting infectivity) and studied the 3D structure of the trypanosome parasite's genome

Mackenzie Arnold '17 Graduated Harvard Law School in May.

Jesse Mu '17 was awarded the Open Philanthropy AI Fellowship

Austin Bodetti '18 was selected as a Washington Ireland Program U.S. Fellow at the recommendation of the Irish consulate in Boston

Meg Loughman '20 started a new job as Brand Copywriter at Thinx in New York City



GPSP Alumni:
**Join our GPSP Facebook & LinkedIn
Groups!**



122 College Road • Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARS PROGRAM

