

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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The Graduating Class of 2018



Photographed with the Scholars are Jennie Thomas, Fr. Keenan, Fr. Leahy, and Kathy Bailey

On April 25th, the senior GPSP Scholars, Co-Director Kathy Bailey, Co-Director Jim Keenan, S.J., and Associate Director Jennie Thomas traveled to New York City to attend the annual Alumni Reception at the Locanda Verde. The following night, April 26th, they attended the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner at the Cipriani Wall Street. Joining the Scholars were Fr. Leahy, major donors, many alumni and this year's honoree, former United States Senator George J. Mitchell.



A Price on Life

By: Jacob Kelleher MCAS '21

After last November's panel and original documentary to raise awareness about the immediacy and complexity of human trafficking, the class of 2020 chose to focus their social justice project, *A Price on Life*, on exploring the power of art as a tool for healing, empowering, and sparking conversation. In collaboration with the literary magazine *Stylus*, the Heights, the Philosophy Department, and the English Department, *A Price on Life* presented an art exhibition and poetry reading to the Boston College community this spring.

The decision to focus on artistic expression for this semester's events arose out of the class's desire to avoid over-simplification. Human trafficking is incredibly dehumanizing, both in the crime itself and the way that people speak about it. The media and even organizations founded to fight against trafficking all too often reduce the people involved to statistics or stereotypes, presenting specific, constrictive narratives that do not capture fully the complexity of the issue. Art is a direct challenge to simplifica-

tion. While there is no way to fully represent the experiences of every person affected by human trafficking, there is a power in art that does not try to explain, organize, or classify, but simply asks the viewer to engage.

A Price on Life partnered with the nonprofit ArtWorks for Freedom to bring "Bought & Sold: Voices of Human Trafficking," an art exhibition blending abstract photography and survivor narratives, to campus for two weeks in April. The exhibition was created by award-winning photographer Kay Chernush who founded ArtWorks for Freedom in 2011 after an assignment from the U.S. State Department introduced her to the realities of human trafficking. During the course of the assignment, she became frustrated by documentary-style photography because of its impersonal nature and the fact that it does not allow the people pictured to speak for themselves. Instead, Chernush found that working closely with survivors of trafficking to create more abstract images and accompanying text panels resulted in nuanced artworks that could more powerfully raise awareness and tell

people's stories through their own words.

In conjunction with this exhibition, *A Price on Life* presented a discussion and poetry reading with Jennifer Jean, poet, educator, and founder of Free2Write: Poetry Workshops for Trauma Survivors. Jean founded Free2Write with Amirah, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides a safe home for survivors of sexual exploitation. She shared the story that personally sparked her involvement in combatting trafficking, spoke about her methods in teaching workshops, such as introducing participants to poetry written by veterans due to the prevalence of PTSD in both groups, and read some of her own poetry as well as that of students who had given her permission to share their work.

The class of 2020's experiences planning and executing *A Price on Life* opened all our eyes to the existence of human trafficking in our own community, to the nuances and complexity of the topic, and, most of all, to how much we still have to learn.



Reed Piercey's UGBC Election

By Jack McErlean MCAS '21

Following a successful campaign, Presidential Scholar Reed Piercey, MCAS '19 has been elected as the president of the Undergraduate Government of Boston College (UGBC).

Reed's presidency builds on a history of work in UGBC, which began when the International Studies major was a freshman. His membership in the Undergraduate Leadership Academy (ULA) placed him in the Diversity and Inclusion Programming Board (DIP), where he helped to plan events for UGBC. In his sophomore year, he ran and won the position of Honors Senator. As a junior this year, Reed has worked in UGBC as a senator before securing his position as president next year.

While Reed's demonstrated involvement with UGBC alone is impressive, he has also been involved with (and started) numerous other activities on campus throughout his college career. With a passion for service ignited by his work with the

suicide hotline Samaritans through the volunteering club 4Boston, Reed has worked to implement the student-to-student counseling service "Lean on Me" at Boston College. This service "automatically and anonymously matches peers to create a crowd-sourced texting network of instantaneous support across organizations," and Reed hopes that it will improve the availability of mental health resources for students on campus.

In addition, Reed has co-founded the club Writer's Circle, a creativity-focused workshopping group. He has also worked as managing editor at the Middle East publication Al-Noor, and as a McGillycuddy-Logue fellow in the Office of International Programs.

Reed is stepping down from all these positions (with the exception of heading the Lean on Me chapter) next year in order to focus on his presidency. "While I'm used to being involved with a lot of clubs on campus, I want all of my focus to go towards being the best

UGBC president that I can be next year. I've seen those in the same position struggle to juggle club involvements in the past, so I think it would be best for the presidency to come first," he says. Reed will remain the chapter head of Lean on Me, which is contained within UGBC.

With Ignacio Fletcher, MCAS '20 as a running mate, Reed's campaign was founded on the slogan "We ARE BC," with each letter in "ARE" representing a particular campaign item. First came "A" for advocacy, which Reed has promoted by calling for more seats in UGBC's senate allocated to Montserrat, an organization for first-generation students. The president-elect hopes to address internal issues along this vein, stating that UGBC wants "to see more internal support between the branches of UGBC, which is crucial in the advocacy of these groups. For example, CSD [the Council for Students with Disabilities] events have had poor attendance from the broader



Photo: Meg Loughman

Piercey con't from page 3

UGBC community, and we want to see this turned around.” Reed looks forward to an anniversary celebration of AHANA+ Leadership Council (ALC) next year.

With “R” for reliability, Reed intends to focus on campus improvements that will benefit marginalized and disadvantaged students. A tentative program is “Eagle Exchange,” which will implement a permanent donation center on campus, as well as a collaboration with Montserrat to allow those students primary access to donated

items.

Finally, the “E” in Reed’s campaign focused on engagement, which he plans to address through an improvement of UGBC’s surveying process. He has worked to put an app development team in place in UGBC’s Communication department, which he hopes will increase accessibility of UGBC to the student body, as well as make it easier for UGBC to collect feedback. “These surveys that UGBC sends out are meant to take the pulse of the student body, so

we want to make sure that they are incentivized, well-distributed, easy to access, and most importantly, quickly responded to by UGBC,” Reed says.

Following the admirable leadership of current UGBC president Ako-sua Achampong, MCAS ’18 and executive vice president Tt King ’18 MCAS, Reed shows promise to make a lasting impact on Boston College during his term next year.

Women’s Summit

By Sara Samir ’21

This past March, the GPSP held its first Women’s Summit, bringing in current scholars and female Boston alumni. Overall, it was a great gathering of passionate women with very similar interests. Thanks to the ambition, dedication, and diligent planning of Alison Wawrzynek, a Class of 2014 GPSP alum, and recently graduated Scholars, Mariah Larwood, Rachel Simon, and Ali Mills, this event came to fruition.

The event started off strong with a featured alumna keynote speaker, Dr. Amanda Parsons. After graduating in the Class of 1997, Amanda went on to pursue an MD and MBA degree at Columbia University, after which she worked at McKinsey & Company. Currently, Amanda is the Vice President of Community & Population Health

at Montefiore Medical Center. Through her eloquent words, she shed light on her career and life path, constantly connecting it to her womanhood. Her confidence took over the room, as everyone was engaged in her anecdotes and advice. She is a true inspiration for all of us women in the GPSP--she embodies the values of the program and exemplifies how to apply them to all aspects of life.

Following Amanda’s speech, we divided into small group discussions. Topics of focus centered around what it means to be a woman, what we love about womanhood, struggles of womanhood, and the ways in which we can make use of our female power to enact change in the world and become successful in whatever life paths we take.

Another highlight of the event was the Alumnae Panel, titled

“High-achieving Women at BC and Beyond”--Dr. Betty Bagnani moderated the panel composed of Rebecca Izzo ’07, Colleen Sinnott ’13, Kelsey Swift ’13, and Alison Wawrzynek ’14. All of the women shed light on their career discernment paths, the influence of the GPSP in the current lives, and the way in which being a woman has helped define their unique life experiences.

Following the Summit, a cocktail reception was set up for the Alumnae and current seniors. As a whole, the first Women’s Summit was an extremely empowering event, as current scholars and all of the notable alumni got to connect. The GPSP Women’s Network looks forward to making this an annual event, and we cannot wait to see what is in store for next year.

Wall Street Alumni Event, and Council Dinner



Awards

University Honors

Order of the Cross & Crown

The Order of the Cross and Crown is the Morrissey College of 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.

*John Knowles (Marshall)
Jacob Ciafone
Chris Reynolds*

Commencement Awards

Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences

The Frank J. Bailey Sr. Award

Established by his daughter Kathleen Bailey, GPSP Co-Director and lecturer in political science, for a student with “a distinguished academic record in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies”

Austin Bodetti

Francis A. Brick Award

Given to the student who has been outstanding in character, loyalty, leadership, and scholarship during their four years at Boston College.

John Knowles

Doherty Honors Project Award

This award honors Paul Doherty. It is for the best undergraduate thesis.

John Knowles

Edward H. Finnegan S.J., 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.”

Chris Reynolds

David Karp Award

An award in honor of David A. Karp, Professor of Sociology from 1971 to 2012. While leading the Honors Program, he inspired generations of students to strive for insightful sociological listening and beautiful writing that is the hallmark of his work.

Christopher Yu

William A. Kean '35 Award

An award to the graduating senior judged by the Kean Award Committee to be the outstanding English major

John Knowles

Bishop Kelleher Award

An award donated by Francis Cardinal Spellman in honor of the Most Reverend Louis F. Kelleher; given to an undergraduate student for the best writing in poetry published in a Boston College undergraduate publication.

Walker Halstad

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.

John Sipp

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.

Christopher Yu

Cardinal O'Connell Theology Medal

A gold medal, the gift of the late William Cardinal O'Connell, given to the student whose overall performance in theology courses has been outstanding.

John Sipp

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.

*Austin Bodetti
Jacob Ciafone
David Fu
John Knowles
Chris Reynolds
John Sipp*

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.

*Austin Bodetti
John Sipp
Christopher Yu*

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.

*Lucas Allen '16 (Brazil)
Jacob Ciafone '18 (Germany)
Isra Hussain '17 (Austria)
Christopher Reynolds '18 (Colombia)*

The Weaver-James-Corrigan Award (Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Postgraduate Scholarship)

The Weaver-James-Corrigan Award is named in honor of the late Jim Weaver and Bob James, as well as Gene Corrigan, the first three ACC commissioners. This postgraduate scholarship is awarded to selected student-athletes who intend to pursue a graduate degree following completion of their undergraduate requirements. Those honored have performed with distinction in both the classroom and their respective sport, while demonstrating exemplary conduct in the community.

Daniel Creighton '18

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.

*Austin Bodetti '18 (Tajikistan)
Jacob Ciafone '18 (China)
Jaq Pyle '20 (Morocco)*

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.

*Shaye Carver '20
Rachel Duquette '21
Sergio Farina '20
Trevor Jones '20
Jack McErlean '21
Tim Morrissey '20
Luke Murphy '20
Sarah Santoro '20
Carly Sullivan '20
Raffi Toghramadjian '21*

Awards won by GPSP Alumni

Kelly McCartney '11 won the Booth Alumni Angel Award (A3) in On-Campus Involvement at the University of Chicago.

Jesse Mu '17 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Alumni Announcements

Mark Noferi '96 joined the US Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigration Review in May 2017, the office that runs federal immigration courts. He supervises the Attorney Discipline team, which disciplines unethical and incompetent immigration lawyers, and the Fraud and Abuse Prevention team, which investigates fraud against immigration courts or immigrants and refers cases for criminal prosecution.

Caroline Beimford '10 was awarded the Arkansas Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship (2017) and the Bread Loaf Staff scholarship (2018)

Andrew Rivera -Hober '11 received the Society for Education in Anesthesia - Health Volunteers Overseas (SEA-HVO) Fellowship

Colleen Sinnott '13 recently participated in the National Residency Match Program for 4th year medical students. She will be graduating in May 2018 and matched to begin residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Brigham and Women’s/Massachusetts General Hospital combined program.

122 COLLEGE ROAD • CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467

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