

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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Spring 2012

Freshman Scholars Embrace Italian Culture



By Amanda Loewy, A&S'15

During spring break in March, the freshman class of Presidential Scholars travelled far from our familiar campus to visit Venice, Italy. Guided by PSP Director Fr. James Keenan and Assistant Director Jennie Thomas, we explored centuries-old churches, museums, and other destinations in Venice proper, Padova, and Murano Island. Along the way, Scholars gained valuable historical, cultural, and religious perspectives, as well as personal insights, as we shared these incredible experiences.

One highlight of the trip was our tour of the Doge's Palace, a main landmark of Venice, which overlooks the lagoon and is now a museum. We also visited The Bridge of Sighs, which connects the



The Class of 2015 poses for a group photo with the bell tower of San Marco in the background. All photos taken by Jennie Thomas.

Doge to the old prisons. In the heart of Venice, we toured St. Mark's Basilica, amazed and impressed by the beauty of this ancient and sacred destination. On another day, an excursion to Murano provided the opportunity to explore the island famous for its glass art. Throughout the week, we enjoyed delicious new foods, practiced speaking Italian with residents, and achieved a

deeper appreciation for each other and Italy.

On the final day of the visit, as we walked to Madonna Dell-Orto to take the Alilaguna boat to the Venice airport, we felt a mixture of sadness to be leaving and anticipation to be returning home with new ideas and experiences to share with our fellow BC students.

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Social Justice Project

A Panel on Immigration

By Francesca McCaffrey,
A&S '14

On the night of February 21st, the members of the Presidential Scholars Program, as well as individuals from the greater Boston College community, gathered in the Murray Function Room to listen to a panel of five women tell their stories. This panel was the first official event of the sophomore scholars' social justice project "What's Your Story?: Narratives of Immigration".

In preparation, the sophomores spent the fall semester interviewing BC students, faculty, and staff who had had experiences with immigration. The result was hours of conversation and pages of interview notes that were then used to shape the vision for the upcoming panel and the symposium that took place on March 23rd. Five of the individuals interviewed, students Jinah Kim, A&S '12, and Mariana Eizayaga, A&S '14, BC Dining staff member Mirela Agaj, and professors Elena Lapitsky

and Carmen Merolla, accepted the invitation to speak at the panel and share their stories with a larger audience.

Jinah Kim, A&S '12 and President of BC's Asian Caucus, began the evening by sharing her experience coming to the U.S. from Korea at a young age. She spoke about how difficult it could be growing up to balance her Korean and American identity. In American company, she noted how she would often feel like an outsider, while on a visit to Korea she was looked at as having been "Americanized". She has come to embrace this challenge by finding a way to fully immerse herself in life in the U.S. while also embracing her heritage – the latter evident by her position of leadership in Asian Caucus, one of BC's most vibrant cultural groups.

Mariana Eizayaga, A&S '14, expressed agreement with Jinah's dual-culture experience. Her move as a young girl from Argentina to Connecticut was riddled with all of the expected challenges an

adolescent faces when the place they call home changes, exacerbated by the fact that this move involved not just a new street name, but a new country, as well. Mariana, like Jinah, has worked towards a balance between both cultures in her everyday life. She told the audience how she is keeping this duality in mind as she contemplates where she wants to lay out her future after graduation.

Elena Lapitsky and Carmen Merolla, both professors at BC, offered a different perspective. Both spoke as women who chose to embark upon their careers in the U.S., not individuals who moved here as children. Professor Lapitsky, who teaches Russian in the Slavic Languages Department, related stories of harrowing run-ins with an oppressive Russian government, both as a child and as a young woman – experiences that convinced her that she wanted to leave her home country. "Home", however, is a word Professor Lapitsky never would have used to refer to Russia. She told the audience that she felt that "Russia had never been a mother to [her]". America, she said, is where she always knew that she belonged.

Professor Merolla, an Italian professor in the Romance Languages Department, expressed an accord with these feelings. Though she left Italy not for the type of aggressive political oppression Professor Lapitsky spoke of, but to escape a dry job market and a bureaucracy deeply mired in nepotism, she told listeners that she, too, had always felt that America was her home. In both cases, their ultimate reason for immigration was the sensing of



Photo: Andrea Gatti

PSP Class of 2015 thank speakers at the panel in the Murray Function Room.

see Panel page 6



Photo: Jennie Thomas



Photo: Katie Martin



Photo: Jennie Thomas

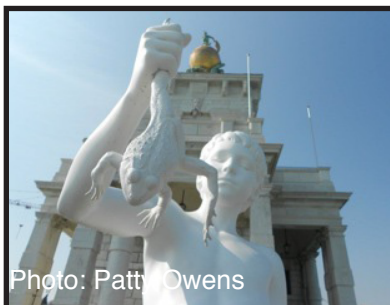


Photo: Patty Owens

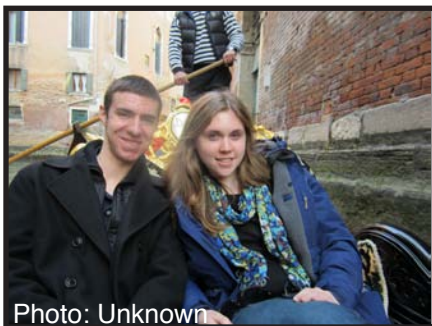


Photo: Unknown

Below: Father Keenan and Renzo Pegoraro enjoy the day in Padova



Photo: Renzo Pegoraro



Photo: Jennie Thomas

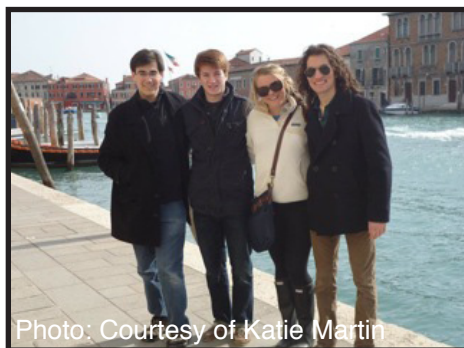


Photo: Courtesy of Katie Martin

Navigating the Past

By Amanda Loewy, A&S'15

How do you travel in Venice, “The City of Waters,” where no cars, buses, or trains exist? Sight-seeing on foot is one answer, even if that means wearing rain boots during one of the frequent ankle-deep floods that affect Venice, a city that scientists say is slowly but relentlessly sinking. However, I and other Presidential Scholars had something different in mind. Long before the modern vaporetti (motorized water buses) became popular, Venetians developed a system perfect for the canals of Venice – the iconic gondola.

Our mission: to see the centuries-old sights of Venice from the same perspective shared by riders in the 17th and 18th centuries, when ten thousand gondolas transported Venetians up and down the Grand Canal. Therefore, we located and negotiated with a local gondolier, and as we gingerly stepped into his slender, black, flat-bottomed boat, we also took a step back in time. Questions abounded. Where was the gondolier’s pole, popularly believed to be used to propel the boat? Answer: the pole is a myth, as we learned while the gondolier expertly guided the *traghetto* with a traditional narrow-bladed oar and explained how the skill was passed from father to son across generations.

The gentle lapping of the musty water against the side of the boat and the song of a musician in another gondola enticed us to imagine living in an earlier era. Buildings assumed a fascinating This time-honored mode of transportation led us into a further appreciation of the history and culture of one of the world’s most beautiful cities.

Social Justice Project

Jose Antonio Vargas Speaks at APAHM



Jose Antonio Vargas poses with PSP Class of 2014 Scholars who were in attendance.

By Nick Moffa, A&S '14

On the evening April 13th, the PSP co-sponsored journalist Jose Antonio Vargas to speak at the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) Opening Ceremony as an auxiliary event of the What's Your Story immigration narrative of the Class of 2014.

Mr. Vargas is a Filipino-American, Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist living and working in the United States and is the co-founder of the "Define American" initiative. His journalistic career has included the coverage of the 2008 presidential election, the impact of HIV, and coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings, for which he earned the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting.

Yet, what Mr. Vargas is perhaps best known for is telling his own story. In a June 2011 essay in The New York Times Magazine, Mr. Vargas wrote he is an "undocumented immigrant". He has stated that he revealed his status in order to promote dialogue about what he feels is a broken immigration system in the United States, and to advocate for the DREAM Act,

which would help children in similar circumstances have a path to citizenship available to them. Since the publication of his essay, Mr. Vargas traded his journalistic mantle for a more explicit role as an immigration reform activist.

At the event, Mr. Vargas provided further details of his own story of living and working in the United States as an undocumented immigrant. Having immigrated to the U.S. as a young boy to live with his grandparents, he had no idea that he was not an American citizen. It was a reality he had to come to terms with when he applied for his California driver's license and told that his green card was fraudulent and that he should never come back. Initially shocked by this realization, Mr. Vargas relied on a support network of friends and mentors and made the most of his opportunities such that he eventually attended college and found a position at the Washington Post, till adopting a position in support of campaigning for other undocumented immigrants.

It was particularly refreshing for many students to hear Mr. Vargas' emphasis upon making connections

and getting to know others in the same position so that they can have better support networks. Using the example of a successful Californian university student who learned she was undocumented, Vargas recounted how her close friend formed a support network to allow her to finish her university studies.

Yet, Mr. Vargas' most poignant point was his exhortation for all young people of America to give a voice to those who lack one in the current political system. Congratulating the PSP for their immigration initiative, Mr. Vargas encouraged others to illuminate the stories of immigrants and to empower others to make political headway for comprehensive immigration reform.

Following the event, Francesca McCaffrey, A&S'14, said, "His words, and his attempts to navigate the difficult questions illegal immigration presents, both the political and the human, have stayed with me."

It was a talk that nearly all other 200 people in attendance would also remember in the same way.

Social Justice Project

Symposium Brings Together Multiple Voices

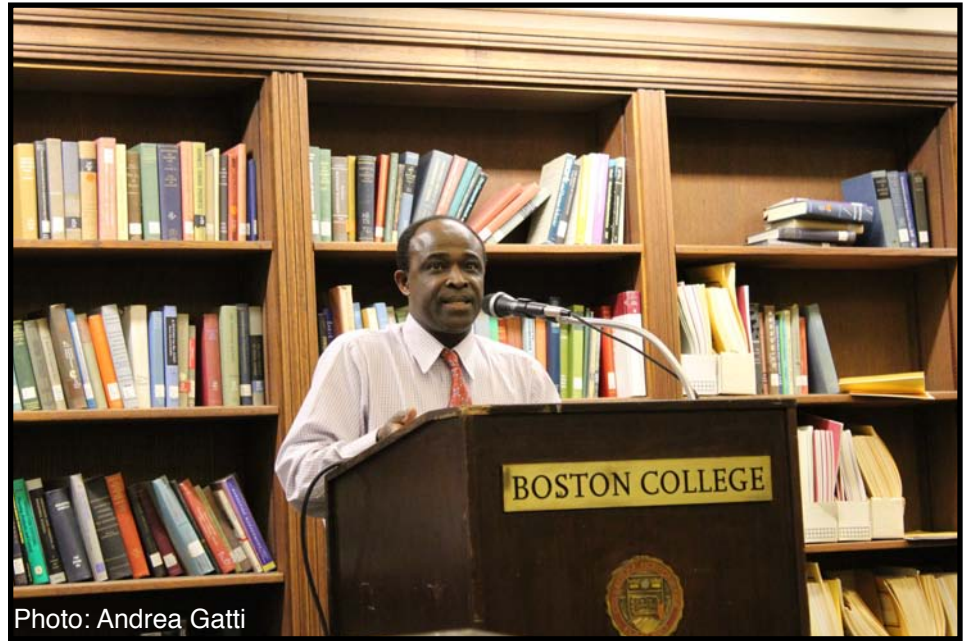
By Nick Moffa, A&S '14

On Friday, March 23, the Presidential Scholars Program Class of 2014 held the second event of their Social Justice Project, called “What’s Your Story? Narratives of Immigration Symposium.” It consisted of four different events that took place in the Fulton Honors Library. The events included a Keynote Address by Kwasi Sarkodie-Mensah, a performance by African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American (AHANA) Collective Theater, a talk by Rachel Hershberg on the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project, and a panel discussion titled “Running Away to Home” with Victoria Luu (2014), her father Tommy Luu, and Bryan Zuluaga.

The first event that took place was the performance by AHANA Collective Theater. An entertaining and engaging first event, it depicted the life of a first generation immigrant in the United States and his relationships with his parents. It was a light-hearted and fun play that set the tone for the afternoon as one of understanding, open-mindedness, story telling, and learning.

Kwasi Sarkodie-Mensah gave the Keynote Address for the Symposium. Mr. Sarkodie-Mensah, the Director of Instructional Services at O’Neill Library, gave an engaging talk describing his life experiences as an immigrant to the United States from Ghana. He had everyone in the audience laughing as he described his academic experiences and the path that would eventually lead him here to Boston College.

The third event was a talk given by graduate student Rachel



Kwasi Sarkodie-Mensah speaks at the Symposium.

Hershberg on the Post-Deportation Human Rights (PDHRP) Project. Currently completing her PhD in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology at the Lynch School of Education and also having completed the Certificate in Human Rights and International Justice, Rachel worked on the PDHRP project for the first 4 years of her PhD program. She spoke not only about the PDHRP project, but also about her findings as she followed nine families in Guatemala and the greater Boston area over the past two years, exploring how they maintain and sustain family across borders under the threats of US detention and deportation policies.

The fourth and final event was the panel with Bryan, Victoria, and Mr. Luu. It began with the challenging, yet inspiring, story of Mr. Luu’s immigration to the U.S., and then proceeded to become the stories of Bryan and Victoria, two students who spoke candidly about their experiences. They described their challenges and successes

here in the U.S. and difficulties inherent in transitioning between being an American and speaking English in school and engaging in a different culture and speaking a different language at home. It was a spectacular end to the symposium, and one that those who attended will not soon forget.

When describing the event afterwards, several of the Presidential Scholars who attended concurred that it was truly a life-altering event. As Matthew Alonzo said (A&S 2014): “The symposium, though the final event in our project, was a beginning in many ways. Many attendees told me after the event that the stories they heard would be conversation starters. The symposium certainly piqued interest in people’s stories—people whom we see every day on the Heights. I don’t think we could have asked for a better effect within BC.” Francesca McCaffrey also referenced its success after much hard work over the course of the

see Symposium page 6

Social Justice Project



Symposium cont. from page 5

past year: “After months of work putting this symposium together, I couldn’t have been prouder of the final product. The speakers blended the academic and the personal in a way that made the issue come alive in a very honest way.” Overall, the “What’s Your Story: Narratives of Immigration Symposium” was a great success and a defining and momentous way to end our class’s yearlong Social Justice Project. We hope that it made a difference not just in the lives of the people who attended, but in the lives of those who participated; it certainly altered our perspectives not only on immigration, but most importantly on those immigrants who call the United States home.

AHANA Collective Theater performs at the symposium (top left). PSP Class of 2014 Scholars Alison Wawarzynek, Maggie Scollan, John Wang, Matthew Alonsozana and Sarah Ganton pose near Devlin Hall to promote the panel on immigration (bottom left).



Photo Courtesy Of: Matthew Alonsozana

Panel cont. from page 2

a deep connection to the United States, a reason that tied in to their political and economic motivations to eventually bring them here.

Mirela Agaj, Lead Food Service Worker for BC Catering, shared her story of immigrating from Albania to the U.S. She spoke of her experience learning English and pouring hard work into jobs that have turned into a successful career. She has almost grown children now, who successfully pair

excelling in academics with having fun with friends and family. This is a lesson Ms. Agaj has taught them well. From her talk, it became clear to audience members that she is a loving mother who both works tirelessly to provide for her children and deeply enjoys spending time with them, whether it is at home, or on a trip to the movies, a tradition she and her children have that she spoke of fondly.

Overall, the panel was an incredibly successful beginning

to the sophomore scholars’ social justice project. As Matthew Alonsozana, PSP’14, one of the organizers of the event, observed, “I think everyone could relate to some aspect of the panelists stories, regardless of whether you are an immigrant or not. As a second-generation American, I really admired the panelists for being so candid with their experiences and for the sheer effort and sacrifice that they all put in to make the American dream their own”.

Senior Thesis Presentations Encourage Underclassmen

By Nick Moffa, A&S '14

On Tuesday evening, April 17th, the Presidential Scholars gathered to hear seniors Sam Hocking, Alex Goldowsky, and Caroline Beyer, present their theses and provide encouragement and advice to everyone present. Although each thesis was vastly different, the advice and recommendations given by all three students were similar. Although Sam, Alex, and Caroline are all well on their way towards completing their theses, their determination and perseverance throughout the difficult and rewarding process reassured all of the Scholars, especially the underclassmen who have not yet decided upon their thesis topics.

The title of Sam's thesis is *Money and Banking with Chinese Characteristics*. He focused on the current successful economic situation in China, embodied in cities such as Chongqing, and the dangers inherent in rampant misallocated investment, represented by cities like Ordos. He explained how Ordos is the perfect example of misallocated investment, since it is a city whose new central district contains purchased, yet completely empty, homes. Sam explained that although Chinese economic growth continues to be strong and persistent, as it has been the last twenty years, investment takes up 50% of GDP while consumption takes up 35% of GDP and decreases every year. He said that although there are numerous explanations for Chinese economic success, such as its one-child policy, its cheap labor force, and its ability to attract investment and provide a strong base for manufacturing firms, his explanation is the excess and

misallocated investment driven by the banking sector.

Sam also had plenty of advice for the other Scholars. He encouraged everyone to start early and know his or her limitations. He explained that one's thesis must be feasible and that everyone should beware of over-commitment during senior year. He also encouraged students to develop fantastic relationships with their advisors and to reach out to other members of their advisors' departments as well. He explained, "meeting other members of the department will allow you to receive valuable advice and make a great impression since you are working on your thesis." Finally, Sam told students to genuinely love their topics and have fun!

Alex titled his thesis *Emotional Regulation and Positive Information and Subsequent Memory Effects*. He spoke specifically on how to begin the thesis-writing process, which he explained were simply finding a good advisor and, for science majors, getting involved in a lab. He also advised students to set deadlines for pieces of one's thesis when things look like they are about to become unmanageable, and to plan ahead as early as the summer before senior year. His last bits of advice were to have one's advisor read as one writes, talk with other members of one's department, and be prepared for anything that might come up during research and writing one's thesis. In his thesis, Alex researched the effects of positive information on memory through a number of tests. This allowed him to come to several conclusions, including the idea that enhancing the arousal level of positive information leads to memory benefit while decreasing

the arousal has no impact. He also concluded that positive information is more vivid than neutral issues and that confidence is not related to the accuracy of memory.

Finally, Caroline Beyer discussed her thesis, *Barriers to the Formation of a Cohesive Transnational Advocacy Network on Human Trafficking*. She started off with giving advice, echoing much of what Sam and Alex previously mentioned: start thinking early and find a topic you love. She also said that one should find an advisor with whom you work well, which is more important than finding an advisor in one's field. She also reassured everyone that one should not expect to change the world by writing a thesis. As she described her thesis, she defined transnational advocacy networks (TANs) and human trafficking and explained how problems that extend beyond borders often have solutions that extend across borders. However, she laid out some difficulties as well: no accurate information exists on human trafficking despite the fact that it affects everyone. She explains in her thesis the four main problems with addressing human trafficking on an international level and plans to propose several solutions to address these problems when she completes her thesis.

Overall, the advice given by Sam, Alex, and Caroline was incredibly helpful and reassuring for all of the Scholars who attended. Although they explained some of the challenges one faces in writing a thesis, they also laid out its importance and the rewarding aspects of putting so much time into one research project. In the end, they made the daunting task of writing a thesis seem a little bit more feasible for the other Presidential Scholars.



PSP Alumni enjoy a reception hosted by Geoffrey T. Boisi, '69, P'11 at The Links Club in New York on April 25th. All photos taken by John Raiola.

Alumni Announcements

Dustin Rawlin, PSP '97, a partner at Tucker Ellis LLP, was one of only five attorneys nationwide to be named a 2012 Law360 Rising Star in the area of product liability litigation.

Kristen Grauman, PSP '01, and her husband Mark, welcomed a baby girl, Isla on February 14, 2012. Kristen was also promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in December 2011 in the computer science department at the university of Texas at Austin.

Ben Bireley, PSP '05, and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their second child, Amelia Grace Bireley on February 29, 2012.

Joe Mayerle, PSP '05, will be graduating from his Emergency Medicine residency this July and will be starting to work as an attending in the ED at a hospital in Shakopee, MN.

Marisa (Cochrane) Sullivan, PSP '07, has been accepted to Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, where she received the full tuition Priscilla Mason Fellowship.

Matt Becker, PSP '08, will be getting married in July. He was also promoted to Transportation Planning Supervisor at Andersen Corporation.

Timothy Mooney, PSP '09, will be pursuing his MBA at Harvard Business School in the fall.

Matthew Hamilton, PSP '09, was named a Dean's Scholar at the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California. This full scholarship enables him to earn a master's in multimedia journalism.

Chris Scullin, PSP '10, is leaving Bain & Company and moving back to Boston in August to join Bain Capital as an Associate in their Portfolio Group.

Scholars In The News

Aditya Ashok '12 published an article entitled “An Ethical Case Study of the H5N1 2011 Research Dilemma” in the Ivy Journal of Ethics. He has also been accepted to the White House Internship Program for Summer 2012 and the Truman Albright Research Fellows Program.

Mike Cuttler '12 presented his thesis, *The Formation and Migration of the Connecticut River Estuary Turbidity Maximum*, at the Keck Geology Consortium's Annual Symposium.

Alex Goldowsky, '12, presented his thesis, *Emotional Regulation of Positive Information and Subsequent Memory Effects*, at the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference and at the Honors Program Senior Thesis Night.

Karen Kovaka '12 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.

Jessica Seminelli, '12, published a paper entitled “Language and Identity” in the *Birch*, Columbia University's prestigious journal on Slavic and Eurasian Studies. The piece is an expository essay of literary criticism that juxtaposes different Jewish Russian writers' sentiments of their linguistic and cultural heritage. She is also recently engaged to Peter Wojda, PSP'10.

Matthew Alonsozana, '14, was named a Rising Leaders Fellow, Teach For America, March 2011-May 2012. He also presented *Philippine Perspectives on Public Policy: Disaster Management and Local Health Initiatives*, at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Boston College, February 2012. In December 2011, Matthew was recognized as a member of the IPC research team who helped compose the special report “The Social Impacts on Tropical Storm Ondoy and Typhoon Pepeng,” published by The Institute of Philippine Culture, World Bank, and Australian AID.

Brooke Loughrin '14 received the Critical Language Scholarship award for Persian for language study this summer in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. CLS is a program of the U.S. Department of State and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is part of the U.S. government's efforts to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical need foreign languages. For 2012, 631 students were selected to receive the Critical Language Scholarship award out of over 5,200 students who applied for the award.

Francesca McCaffrey '14, was awarded a university grant to attend the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in March 2012 in Eugene, OR. She also had a short fiction piece published in the Spring 2012 issue of *The Laughing Medusa*.

The seventh annual Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Meeting of the Minds, hosted by the Virginia Tech in March, was a two-day event to showcase the results of undergraduate student research projects by students from the twelve universities of the ACC. The conference is a unique opportunity for students from a variety of disciplinary and institutional backgrounds to come together as both exhibitors and audience with the goal of highlighting undergraduate research excellence from across the ACC. Two PSP undergraduates presented the results of their research projects at the conference:

Matthew Alonsozana '14 – presented *Philippine Perspectives on Public Policy: Disaster Management and Local Health Initiatives*

Joseph Manning '14 – presented *The Impacts of Politics on a Renewable Energy Development in Rural Nova Scotia*

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.

*Aditya Ashok
Elizabeth Fair*

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.

*Brendan Kelly
Rachel Newmiller
Colleen Sinnott*

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.

*Joseph Manning
Brooke Loughrin
Victoria Luu
Alison Wawrzynek*

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 2012
Aditya Ashok
Elizabeth Fair
Alexander Goldowsky
Samuel Hocking
Abigail Letak
Kyle Marra
Jessica Seminelli
Robert (Brian) Tracz
Zachary Zimmerman*

*Class of 2013
Brendan Kelly
Rachel Newmiller
Colleen Sinnott*

Alpha Sigma Nu

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

*Class of 2012
Aditya Ashok
Elizabeth Fair (Secretary)
Alexander Goldowsky
Zachary Zimmerman*

*Class of 2013
Brendan Kelly
Rachel Newmiller*

Phi Alpha Theta

Aditya Ashok, A&S '12

PSP Awards

Sr. Thea Bowman, AHANA Scholar

The Sr. Thea Bowman Scholars Program is an initiative to formally promote and recognize the academic achievements of AHANA and OTE students.

Matthew Alonsozana, A&S '14

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.

Frank DiRennno, A&S '15

The Church of San Pietro a Pozzeveri: To support research into archeology and bioarcheology at a medieval site.

Victoria Luu, A&S '14

Quantifying Ocean Acidification: To support research into the global effects of CO2 emissions absorbed by seawater.

Alison Wawrzynek, A&S '14

An Analysis of Modern Globalism: To support German language study and research into economic change in Germany.

Grace West, A&S '15

Afro-Moravians in the North Carolina Piedmont: To support archival research into the black experience within a Moravian religious community.

Ellen White, A&S '15

Global Environmental Microbiology: To support skill acquisition in an NSF-supported workshop on microbiology techniques.

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Aditya Ashok '12

Fulbright Grant

Zachary Zimmerman '12, South Africa

Lilly Graduate Fellowship

Karen Kovaka '12

Boren Scholarship

Matthew Alonsozana, '14

Commencement Awards

School of Arts and Sciences

The General Excellence Medal

A gold medal, a gift of the Philomatheia Club, given to the student who has achieved general excellence in all branches of studies during their entire four years at Boston College

R. Brian Tracz

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

Abigail Letak

Jessica Seminelli

William A. Gamson Award

An award established by the Department of Sociology in honor of William A. Gamson, given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding academic achievement in sociology.

Abigail Letak

PSP Awards

Scholar of the College

The Scholar of the College award is a designation awarded at Commencement to exceptional students who have excelled academically in their undergraduate studies and who have done substantial, independent work of the highest quality for a significant part of their senior year under the supervision of faculty scholars.

Abigail Letak
Kyle Marra
R. Brian Tracz

Albert J. McGuinn, S. J. Award

This is an award in memory of the late chairperson of the Department of Chemistry and brother of the founder of the Graduate School of Social Work. This award is intended for Bachelor of Science graduates who have most successfully combined proficiency in his or her major field of study with achievements--either academic, extra-curricular, or a combination of both--in social sciences or humanities.

Aditya Ashok

The Shannon Lowney Award

Given annually to the senior who has excelled in history and has shown a concern for social justice issues, this award is named in honor of the late Shannon Lowney, a 1991 history major graduate.

Aditya Ashok

Brendan Connolly, S.J. Award

An award in honor of Brendan Connolly, S.J. (1913-1974), Director of Libraries at Boston College (1959-1974), a witty and deeply loyal man who loved books and respected learning. This award is made to a member of the senior class who is distinguished for the same characteristics.

Samuel Hocking

***Congratulations to all
award recipients!***

Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner



Top left: Seniors Elizabeth Fair, Caroline Beyer, Karen Kovaka and Abigail Letak pose at the Waldorf Astoria before the dinner. Middle: Jessica Seminelli speaks to the guests at dinner. All photos taken by Andrea Gatti.



Top right: Seniors Kyle Marra, Michael Cuttler, Zachary Zimmermann, Samuel Hocking, Alexander Goldowsky, Aditya Ashok and Brian Tracz. Bottom center: Seniors pose before dinner.



Congratulations, Class of 2012!



Photo: John Raiola

On April 26, senior Scholars, PSP Director Fr. Jim Keenan, Assistant Director Jennie Thomas and Administrative Assistant Andrea Gatti 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 and his wife Mario J. Gabelli, Chairman & CEO, GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Regina Gabelli.

Front row (left to right): Karen Kovaka, Jessica Seminelli, Elizabeth Fair, Caroline Beyer, Abigail Letak.
Back row (left to right): Kyle Marra, Aditya Ashok, Zachary Zimmermann, Michael Cuttler, Fr. Leahy, Regina Gabelli, Mario J. Gabelli, Fr. Keenan, Samuel Hocking, R. Brian Tracz, Alexander Goldowsky.



Photo: Andrea Gatti



Photo: Jennie Thomas

On the morning of April 29, the Class of 2012 and Program Administrators enjoyed the city by walking to lunch at *Becco's*, an Italian restaurant owned by Joe Bastianich '89 and Lidia Bastianich.