

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

Volume XIX, Issue 1

Fall 2014

Celebrating The Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program



In recognition of Mario Gabelli's outstanding generosity, the Presidential Scholars Program was renamed the *Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program* on September 25. Pictured above are the current Presidential Scholars with Mr. Gabelli. Francesca McCaffrey A&S '14 expressed her gratitude for the Gabellis' support on behalf of the Program (pictured right). Mr. Gabelli with his children (pictured below). Photos courtesy of Rose Lincoln.



Presidential Scholars Begin Year With Dover Retreat



Scholars pose for a quick photo before returning to campus.

By Jake Ciafone, A&S'18

The first week of college is a whirlwind. Students fill up every corner of campus. Most freshmen seemed relatively quiet during orientation. Books have to be ordered, schedules have to be amended—an entirely new set of faces surrounds you. Walking down to the bus to head to Dover that Sunday morning was a welcoming break from the organized confusion back on campus.

The GPSP Dover retreat offered a chance for freshmen to reconnect with people they had briefly met one weekend in January. Upperclassmen had the chance to catch up with their peers after a summer filled with various internships and travels to multiple continents. After a quick session of introductions and descriptions

of recent activities, the Scholars were joined by Program Alumna Lake Coreth, '11, who is a graduate student at Harvard Law School. She gave an interesting talk about her time in the Program and her activities since graduating. As she discussed her time as a Fulbright Grant Recipient in Argentina, and watching her volunteer interests develop into a thesis, Lake emphasized the value of pursuing one's interests and letting life serendipitously unfold. The passion she expressed for the things she had pursued was inspiring.

Following lunch, each class gathered separately to discuss upcoming events. The freshmen were abuzz with anticipation for the travel seminar to Milan and the Summer Service Learning Program, two events which received great reviews from the

older Scholars. But the retreat wasn't just about bringing each class together. Scholars met in mixed small groups, in order to give the new Scholars a chance to ask the upperclassmen questions about their first year at Boston College. Discussions covered tips on how to develop relationships with professors, opportunities for research, the identity of the Program, and even secrets to beating the dining hall lunchtime rush. At the end of the small group conversations, the entire group reconvened for a debrief on the various discussions.

As the schedule for the day wound down, everyone emerged from the air-conditioned haven of Dover into the humidity of late afternoon to take the traditional group pictures.

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A number of Scholars then gathered for a calming evening Mass said by Father Keenan before sitting down to share a dinner together.

All hope of enjoying a cool evening outside were dashed, however, when a thunderstorm rolled through the area, carrying with it, as Father Keenan calmly informed us, a tornado warning. Not to be daunted by rain or foul

weather, everyone gathered for a night of games, music, and bonding which stretched far into the early hours of the morning. Whether it was spent finding innovative ways to play Jenga, singing around a piano, or just relaxing on the couches, everyone enjoyed the night.

The next morning was spent together as a group. Father Keenan highlighted some upcoming

events, and brought up the topic of connectedness. This led into Scholars sharing their own stories of friendship and loneliness in what became a powerful conversation. The group met for a final lunch together before boarding the bus back to campus. Everyone would agree that the retreat left the GPSP community strengthened and excited to begin another school year.

Alumni Spotlight: Lake Coreth, A&S '11

By Ali Mills, A&S '18

At the annual GPSP Retreat in Dover, MA the Presidential Scholars had the opportunity to hear from alumna Lake Coreth about her time at BC, her experiences after graduation and her advice for current Scholars.

Following her graduation in 2011, Coreth spent about a year working at the New American Academy, a school redefining the American education system. She created a bilingual program for students in order to promote social justice in education. In 2012, Coreth went to Argentina to commence her Fulbright experience. She was awarded a teaching & research Fulbright Grant upon graduation in 2011, but due to Argentina's school year being the opposite of ours, she went there about nine months after graduating. There, she researched Argentinean immigration history, taught a course on US immigration, race and ethnicity, and played on the university's softball team in a small agricultural city. She fully immersed herself in language and culture while completing meaningful research.

After leaving Argentina, Coreth worked at Latino U College Access. This organization helps first generation, low income and bilingual students navigate the process of applying to colleges and applying for financial aid in order to assist those in low income communities to gain an education.

Coreth, now a student at Harvard Law School, left the Scholars with three key pieces of advice. First, Lake recommended that Scholars take



advantage to learn languages and spend time abroad while they are young. She encouraged taking time off between college and graduate school to pursue passions. Second, she advocated continuing with personal interests, even if they are irrelevant to professional interests. Coreth emphasized that life is about making human connections and that she has found that interests and hobbies can set you apart from competition later in life. Finally, she emphasized the importance of taking advantage of the opportunities that the GPSP has to offer, in particular, the alumni network when looking for advice or future jobs. In Coreth's opinion, the most valuable part of the GPSP was the people. She was happy to be back to speak to the current Scholars.

Summer Experiences

Oh! The Places You'll Go: Senior Summer Experiences

By Mattie Mouton-Johnston,
CSO '18

Every summer, the rising seniors of the GPSP travel far and wide to challenge themselves in a demanding and rigorous professional setting. By spending six weeks in an organization of their choice, they gain valuable career experience, foster their leadership skills, grow in independence, and learn how these organizations connect to the larger society in general. This year, the 19 seniors of the Class of 2015 were nothing short of exceptional. From researching for the Biblioteca del Dialetto Parmigiano in Parma, Italy, to interning at The National Archives in Washington D.C., to examining retroviruses in a biology lab in our home at Boston College, the seniors came back excited to share their experiences and enjoy their last two semesters at BC.

Paul Davey, A&S '15, spent his summer interning at Haley House, a community improvement organization that includes job training, low-income housing, and a soup kitchen, among other social programming activities. Paul has been volunteering at Haley House since he was a freshman, but this year extended his service in new and exciting ways. Working under the founder of Haley House, Paul played many important roles in the fluidity of this program as a business planner, graphic designer, IT worker, and grant writer. Some of the main projects Paul worked on were meeting and brainstorming with architects for a restaurant which the organization plans to

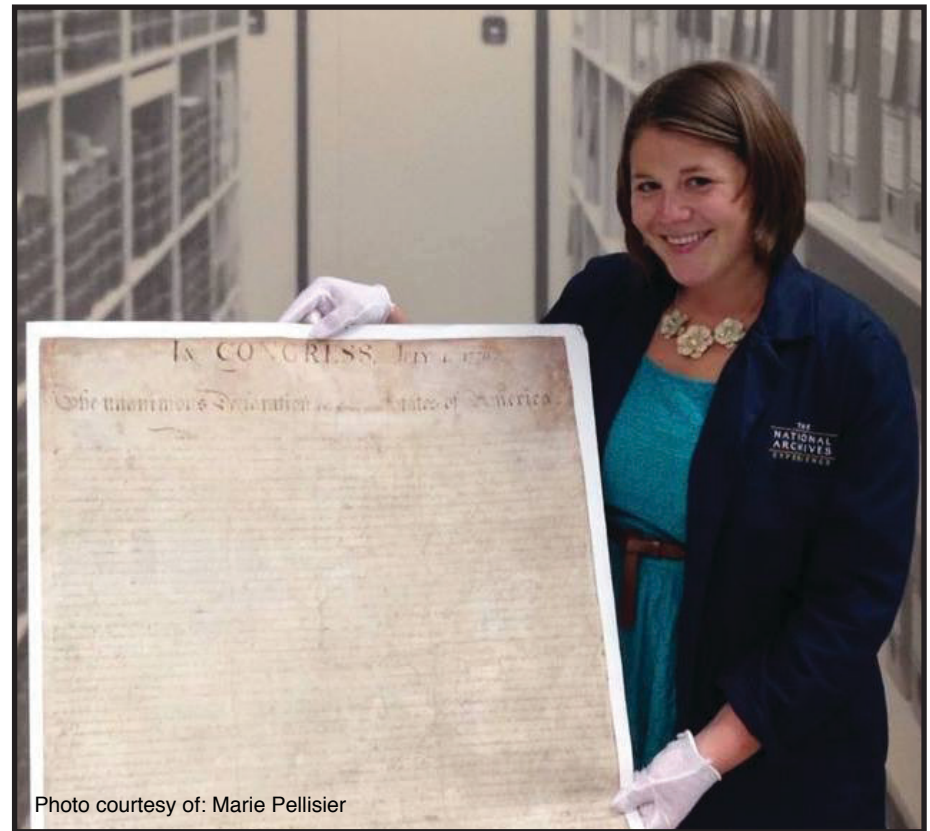


Photo courtesy of: Marie Pellissier
Marie Pellissier A&S '15 handles a replica document at The National Archives in Washington, D.C.

open in the future, developing the newest logo for Haley House's 50th year anniversary, and budgeting for a successful \$25,000 grant to learn about new business models. Because he had so many responsibilities at Haley House, Paul felt he learned a variety of skills in areas he was previously unexposed to, and now has the confidence to take on new tasks and challenges when they arise, despite having no former knowledge or experience.

Similarly, Mary Rose Fissinger, A&S '15, worked for the Centre for Community Resource Development (CCRD) in Belize City, Belize. Belize city has the 3rd highest homicide rate, Mary Rose lived amongst extreme poverty,

gang violence and other dire conditions. CCRD is a small, non-governmental organization that works to change this situation by assisting community improvement and providing job training, like computer and culinary skills, for at-risk youth.

Mary Rose worked alongside four full time employees, and was therefore able to become involved in different areas of the organization. Her official title was "Community Development Officer," but Mary Rose participated in much more. Not only did she help with many administrative duties, but she also took an interest in developing the organization's website,

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Photo courtesy of: Amanda Loewy

Amanda Loewy A&S '15 poses with a portrait during her internship at the Denver Art Museum

assessing the financial success of CCRD's partnerships, and conducting a neighborhood survey. Mary Rose feels that she gained a great deal of insight and experience from her time in Belize City, most influentially being her new knowledge of the challenges non-governmental organizations face.

In her time in Nairobi, Kenya, Alicia McKean, LSOE '15, was placed at the Gladways Center School in the Kawangware village through Agape Volunteers. Just over 10 years old, this school serves more than 200 students who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend a public school. Although the schools in Kenya would greatly benefit from a higher quality of teachers, these schools still provide crucial opportunities for children to receive some sort of an education. Alicia found that she grew

immensely in her teaching skills and was always challenged to find new ways of presenting material and keeping the students' attention. Her main goal for her time at Gladways Center School was to make the classroom experience more interactive and conducive for learning, instead of memorizing and solely copying material from the textbooks.

One of the students' favorite activities was Alicia's own open-note version of jeopardy, a fun way that she was able to engage the students while reviewing both old and new concepts. This experience was extremely rewarding and opened Alicia's eyes to the differences between American school systems and the systems in other countries.

While Alicia and Mary Rose ventured to other parts of the world,

both Mary Kate Hennelly, A&S '15, and Frank DiRenno, A&S '15, also had wonderful experiences locally in Boston, Massachusetts. Mary Kate expanded her interests in art history by working at Samsung Projects; an art gallery that promotes artists whose work is considered provocative and challenging to conventional art views.

Through this internship, Mary Kate was educated in the ins and outs of being an art curator. Mary Kate came away from this experience with a new perspective and awareness of how galleries operate. Frank DiRenno, A&S '15 worked as a research assistant at Boston University under Professors Jonathan Bethard and Ethan Baxter. Frank's study revolved around determining the origin of the Opi Val Fondillo, a 5th Century BC population. He collected data by extracting strontium and oxygen from human tooth and bone samples to conclude whether or not the individuals were immigrants or native to the area. Frank's work was even more fulfilling than he originally expected because of the relationships he made with experts in the field and the flexibility of his project to view the samples through different lenses and perspectives.

Each project varied in many ways, including location, areas of study, and work proponents, but all of the seniors shared the experiences of receiving large amounts of responsibility, gaining the opportunity to make a positive impact in their positions, and becoming more independent within a working environment.

Class of 2017 Finds Service, Learning, and Camaraderie During their Summer Experience

To fulfill the Jesuit ideal of being men and women in service to others, during the summer following their freshman year the Scholars explore the problems of hunger, homelessness, and educational inequity in the Boston area through participation in a program modeled after PULSE, Boston College's nationally acclaimed course of study and service. Through their work, Presidential Scholars are challenged to see themselves in relation to acute national problems, to think creatively about the roots of these problems, the nature and efficacy of society's response, and the response that these problems elicit in their own personal and professional lives. In parallel with their service, Scholars read and reflect on a variety of texts—from philosophy, social science, public policy, economics and theology—pertinent to issues of poverty and social justice. Weekly discussion sessions challenge Scholars to integrate these readings with their field experiences and to reflect on the implications for their personal values and professional goals.

By Mary Kate Cahill, A&S '17

On the Tuesday after Memorial Day this past summer, Liza Magill, A&S '17 and Meagan Gonzalez, CSOM '17 woke up at 4:45 AM, got ready in the dark, ate a quick breakfast, and headed out the door of Shaw House on Boston College's Upper Campus to catch the early green line train into the city, which would get them to Haley House for the 6:00 AM shift. Liza and Meagan spent the morning preparing the food at Haley House for the guests who would come in to get their daily morning meal. Later, Meagan and Liza got to sit, eat, and talk with guests about their situations. At the end of their shift, they took the train back to BC and Shaw House and heard about the days of their classmates: some had played with children who struggle with behavioral and emotional issues at the Italian Home, others taught math and science to inmates at the Suffolk County House of Corrections, some developed the website for their organization, and some spent their day working at one of the other organizations where we volunteered.

Each day in The Summer Service Learning Program followed this pattern: waking up, working at our placements, and enjoying each other's company in



Russell Simons A&S '17, Jesse Mu A&S '17, and Paul Davey A&S '15 with Mary Lou Bozza at Haley House

the evening. Our experiences often launched powerful discussions about personal and societal responsibility, and about how we are called to respond when we face abject poverty. Other nights, we abandoned responsibility and played basketball or baked brownies.

"Work during the day was great, but conversations at the end of the day with each other is what made it special," said Mackenzie Arnold, A&S '17. Conversations around the seminar table also helped transform our summer weeks. To accompany our service

work, we had a seminar class each Friday, where we discussed service in the context of social justice and read many seminal texts about marginalized populations in America, such as Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* and Jonathon Kozol's *Savage Inequalities*. This seminar differed from normal classes because we each brought our own lived experience of service to the table. Suddenly we weren't talking in abstracts but about people whom we knew and cared about. "You can discuss injustice all you want in an academic space, but nothing

came close to [The summer Service Learning Program] in terms of giving you experience and knowledge of how these issues occur all around us and what they actually mean for the people living through them,” said Jesse Mu, A&S ‘17.

One weekend, we all

headed into Boston and went kayaking on the Charles River; another weekend, we headed into the South End for the SoWa food truck court and open market. Some weekends we stayed in together to watch movies. We got to know each other just as we got to know the people at the

places where we worked. At Shaw House we lived service through community, and we had a great time doing it.

Class of 2016 Scholars Travel the Globe

By Austin Bodetti, A&S ‘18

Presidential Scholars in the class of 2016 spent this past summer traveling across the world. The GPSP provides the opportunity for Scholars to study languages of their choice while interacting with members of the international community. This summer, Presidential Scholars visited countries including France, Morocco, and Singapore, continuing the GPSP tradition of diversity in experiences yet consistency in developing those experiences toward an academic goal.

Maureen McGrath, CSOM ‘16, studied in France. She cautioned the Presidential Scholars about expenses in Europe, but encouraged them to travel there. Isaac Akers, A&S ‘16, traveled to Morocco. He had studied French for some time at Boston College, but decided to pick up Arabic as well, dividing his work in both between day and night. Isaac advised Presidential Scholars that trying to do too much, such as learning two languages rather than one, could be exhausting. However, he urged them to consider possibilities outside standard

language studies if Presidential Scholars felt well prepared in their languages of choice. Tate Krasner, A&S ‘16 added to Isaac’s suggestion. He chose to intern in Singapore, furthering his study of unmanned aerial vehicles rather than learning more Chinese. ‘I felt comfortable enough with Chinese that I thought twice about going to China.’ While in Singapore, Tate met important contacts to assist him in his academic research.

Seniors who had studied abroad last summer also provided their advice. Daniel Cattolica, A&S ‘15 and Grace West, A&S ‘15 contrasted their experiences. Daniel had studied in Italy, learning the Parmesan dialect of Italian. His studies helped prepare him for his senior thesis, which he has started writing. Grace had started to learn Swahili in Tanzania, where she found that most of the learners were missionaries rather than students. Though Grace, unlike Daniel, never used Swahili in later research, she advised Presidential Scholars to avoid feeling pressure that their language summers needed to further research. Patty Owens, A&S ‘15 who had studied Tibetan in India, provided some final advice. She suggested that



Photo courtesy of: Maureen McGrath

Maureen McGrath CSOM ‘16 takes in the view from the Eiffel Tower

Presidential Scholars could combine their language summers with plans to study abroad for fall semester, increasing cultural immersion and language acquisition.

Whether interning or studying in Africa, Asia, Europe, or South America, Presidential Scholars of the current junior class finished this summer with a better understanding of how their diverse interests will prepare them for life at home and abroad.

Welcome GPSP Class of 2018!



Austin Bodetti
Newtown, CT

Andrew Cammon
St. Louis, MO

Jacob Ciafone
Castle Park, CO

Daniel Creighton
Geneva, IL

David Fu
Omaha, NE

Walker Halstad
Westminster, MD

Ameet Kallarackal
Roswell, GA

Michelle Kang
Guilderland, NY

Samantha Kim
Los Angeles, CA

John Knowles
Missouri City, TX

Mariah Larwood
Ukiah, CA

Alexandra Mills
Southborough, MA

Christopher Yu
Hong Kong, China

Madeline Mouton-Johnston
Austin, TX

Christopher Reynolds
Wilmington, DE

Rachel Simon
Hillsboro, OR

John Sipp
Somersworth, NH

Riley Soward
Los Altos, CA

Harrison Tune
Orlando, FL

Alumni Announcements

Scholar alumna **Taylor (Heyen) Tinmouth '06** and Leigh Tinmouth A&S '07., Law '10 were married at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 26, 2014.

Liz (Babinski) Baker '02 and her husband Brent welcomed a daughter, Tessa Katherine, on January 3, 2014.

Sam Sawyer, SJ '00 was ordained a priest in June 2014 at the Fordham Church in New York.

Megan (Rulison) Scudellari '06 was awarded the 2013 Clark/Payne Award for Young Science Writers by the National Press Club and the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.

GPSP Alumni:

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Groups!**

