

Ex Libris

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When in Bolo: The Class of 2017 Takes On Italy



Photo: Isra Hussain

The Class of 2017 poses for group photos in Bologna, Italy.

By Alexandra La Torre, LSOE'17

On February 28th, the Freshman Class of the Presidential Scholars set out on their weeklong trip to Bologna, Italy with Director James Keenan and Associate Director Jennie Thomas. Sitting on the BC shuttle to the airport, singing Pharrell's "Happy," and sharing stories of various abroad experiences, the Class of 2017 was eager to embark on a journey that would be filled with rich culture, many arches, and plenty of gelato.

The first couple of days

were spent getting acquainted with the city of Bologna. The Piazza Maggiore of Bologna, known for its statue of Neptune and the Basilica di San Petronio, and the Asinelli and Garisenda towers provided the setting for many photo opportunities and served as landmarks that kept us from getting lost in the days that followed. The Basilica di San Petronio was built from 1390 to 1479 and then never completed. Originally planned to be bigger and more extravagant than St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the construction of the Basilica di San Petronio was stopped by the Pope at the time because of the intention to make it so grand. As a class, we had the opportunity to attend Mass at this beautiful and historic site twice while on our trip.

Bologna is also home to the University of Bologna, the oldest university in Europe. Founded in 1088, the University of Bologna was among the first to perform human dissection. The Anatomical Theatre where these dissections took place is still preserved and we were able to receive a guided tour of it and a library that is still housed in the Archiginnasio of Bologna –the original main building of the university.

The Asinelli and Garisenda towers are another one of Bologna's famous sites. Two of the remaining towers from the 180 that were dispersed around Bologna in the Middle Ages; they now serve as a tourist attraction and an important landmark in the city. Many

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Social Justice Project

Sophomore “Strong Month” Highlights Social Justice Initiative

By Owen Lyons, A&S '17

On Tuesday, April 15th, the Sophomore Class of the Presidential Scholars presented the results of their social justice project, consisting of a publication reflecting on the marathon bombings of 2013 and how the phrase “Boston Strong” related to the many social justice issues in the city. In addition to the publication, the sophomore class announced the launch of “Strong Month” - a number of online articles, events, and activities to further explore the topic and to “reflect on the past and look to the future” in honor of the marathon.

The presentation included a number of speakers, the first of whom was Dave Fortier, a runner injured at the finish line. He spoke of the efforts of Boston Public Health and the support for the injured, as well as the 28 runners injured in last year’s marathon who ran again this year. Dan Lundberg ’16 then spoke about the phrase “Boston Strong” and the educational achievement gap as well as the homelessness prevalent in Boston, declaring that the strength of the city begins, not ends, at the marathon attacks; the motto is only as good as the actions behind it. Lucas Allen ’16 addressed the opportunity for action shown in the strength of the city following the attacks, but also acknowledged the necessary critical assessment of this strength. Atia Martin, the Director of the Office of Public Health in Boston also spoke. Aware of the critical



Photo: Catherine Cole

Speakers Dave Fortier and Atia Martin converse with BC students at the Class of 2016’s “Strong Month” launch.

assessment, Martin described the efforts currently made within the city to help the disadvantaged, in the realm of both physical and mental health. She also pointed out the many efforts in emergency management made by the Office of Public Health, which included everything from direct care of victims to lodging for their families while they were being treated.

Matthew Jose from the Greater Boston Citizenship Initiative, talked about immigration and our responsibilities as citizens. He pointed out that becoming a citizen breaks down barriers for immigrants, but that immigrant communities, called silos, often do not interact positively in Boston and other areas. Finally, Katie Urker from Rosie’s Place, described the struggles of women in poverty and how they can be their own best advocate. She pointed out that the phrase “Boston Strong” can be misinterpreted,

and that true strength comes from our vulnerability and solidarity; it involves, as Urker said, taking the risk to be human and ceasing to demonize the poor.

The Sophomore Presidential Scholars, with the launch of “Strong Month”, raised awareness not only of the social justice issues in the city, but also of the manner in which they are being addressed. The phrase “Boston Strong” can be interpreted in many ways, and the PSP Class of 2016 has taken it upon themselves to see that it is a phrase that promotes true solidarity and charity within the city of Boston.

For more information about this project, please visit the website: www.strongmonth.org



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members of the class decided to climb to the top of the Asinelli tower during one of the free afternoons. The consensus was that the 498 steps up a narrow staircase to the top were worth the view and the memories. Unfortunately, many discovered (after climbing it) that the students of the University of Bologna believe that climbing it while being a student means you will not graduate – let's hope this superstition is not applicable to other institutions of higher education.

Aside from a home base in Bologna, the freshman Scholars also visited the nearby cities of Ravenna and Parma. Ravenna proved to be the favorite day for many in the class (and not only because it was home to the best dessert had on the entire trip). Famous for its incredible mosaics, Ravenna was where the Scholars had the chance to visit the Mausoleo di Galla Placidia, the Basilica di San Vitale, the Battistero Neoniano, and the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo. These four places were home to Byzantine mosaics that left the class stunned. The sheer beauty and unbelievable detail in the mosaics would have been enough, but when the Scholars thought about the fact that the “newest” mosaic was built 1,466 years ago these artworks became even more impressive. The day visit to Parma brought with it the sunniest and warmest day had in Italy. Many enjoyed pizza with Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, the real “parmesan,” and Prosciutto di Parma for lunch while sitting outside. The visit to Parma also included seeing San Giovanni Evangelista, a church and monastery built in the 1600s, and



Photo: Jennie Thomas



Photo: Courtesy of Jesse Mu

Above: The ladies of the Class of 2017 pose for a picture.

Below: A group of Scholars grab lunch in Bologna with Jennie Thomas.

the Battistero di Parma, a baptistery that is considered one of the most important medieval monuments in Italy. The class also enjoyed seeing (and reenacting some of Shakespeare's Hamlet at) the Teatro Farnese. The Baroque-style theatre was built in 1618 and was almost entirely destroyed during an air raid in World War II but was rebuilt and opened again in 1962.

Although Bologna, Ravenna, and Parma were home to incredible art and architecture, one of the things that all the Scholars enjoyed most was eating dinner together as a group every night.

Dinners included everything from buying roses from a very persistent vendor using Italian (i.e. Spanish with a very thick Italian accent thrown on) to reenacting Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper at the last dinner (featuring David Makransky'17 as Jesus and Russell Simons'17 as Judas). The trip allowed the Scholars to grow closer as a class and become comfortable in an abroad, foreign language environment.

Scholars Learn the Nuances of the Senior Thesis

By Russell Simons, A&S '17

On the evening of April 1st, at one of the PSP's weekly meetings, all twelve of the graduating senior Scholars talked with the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors about the milestones, challenges, and rewards of writing a senior thesis. For Presidential Scholars in all disciplines, the thesis serves as a final, yearlong project focusing on a unique topic in the individual Scholar's area of study. This year's topics range from studying HIV/AIDS monocytosis in primate models, to examining Catholic educational models in urban environments, to exploring the politics of "factionism" in post-revolutionary Iran. At this point in the year, virtually all the seniors have wrapped up their individual theses, as deadlines are only weeks or days away. Having finished the process, the seniors were able to offer valuable insight and advice on what they have learned from the process.

All recommended that Scholars begin thinking about the process early. The thesis is a daunting project that most certainly cannot be done in a short period of time. One of the hardest parts—aside from determining your topic—is finding the proper advisor. Victoria Luu '14, whose thesis is entitled "Water Analysis in the Connecticut River Estuary," stated "You need to consider whether or not they have the expertise to help guide you," said Luu of potential faculty members, "and if you feel confident enough in the subject to carry out the project without much guidance if the advisor you choose doesn't have as much experience in your topic choice." Alison Wawrzynek '14, who studied entrepreneurship in post-reunification Berlin, added that choosing the right advisor could also be instrumental in the success of a project, as certain faculty members might have access to resources that are pertinent to your own work.

When it comes to the writing of the thesis though, the take away message was less advisory and rather daunting: as difficult as the process may be, you'll find a way to get it done. Yet as intimidating as the premise of the thesis is, there are some resounding rewards for your effort. As Matthew Alonson '14, who examined and wrote on healthcare price transparency legislation, notes, "[the senior thesis was] perhaps one of the most challenging [endeavors] of my time here at BC, and yet, the sheer work of researching and just being able to converse on the topic has opened a number of doors for me—intellectual and professional." In the end, Sarah Ganton '14, commenting on her study of ethnic immigrants as representatives of popular culture, summed up the prevailing mindset well. "Writing my thesis was a huge undertaking," says Ganton, "but I am so proud of the end result that I can't be anything but glad I took it on."



Photo: Paul Davey



Photo: Paul Davey



Photo: Paul Davey

Congratulations to PScholars Russell Simons'17, Mackenzie Arnold'17 & Frank DiRenno'15 who ran the Campus School Bandit Marathon in April!

Scholars In The News

Matthew Alonsozana'14 presented "Engaging Film Youth Leaders" in March 2014 at the Philippine Consulate General in New York. He also presented "A Millennial's Perspective on the Gettysburg Address" in November 2013 as part of the BC History Department's celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.

Victoria Luu'14, submitted her first paper as a co-author to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Journal of Marine Science entitled "Forecasting ocean acidification's effects on the sea scallop (*P. magellanicus*) fishery using an integrated assessment model."

Daniel Cattolica'15 presented a paper entitled "For a Phenomenology of Emotion: The Moral and Cognitive Aspects of Epistemic Trust" at the 19th annual SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (April 10-12th, 2014). He was also awarded the Dante Alighieri Society of Boston's Pescosolido Family Scholarship for his fall 2013 study abroad in Parma, Italy.

Amanda Loewy'15, rode at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's Zone 1 Region 4 Regional Finals in the Novice Over Fences jumping class.

Alicia McKean'15, presented her project "Teachers' and Administrators' Perceptions of the Racial Achievement Gap" at the ACC Meeting of the Minds conference in March. She was also awarded the Learning Resources for Student-Athletes Excellence Award and Rower of the Year.

Marie Pellissier'15, had a paper published in *Elements* this fall entitled "Making Corsets Work: Victorian Working Women and Corsets." She also presented a paper at the ACC Meeting of the Minds conference in March entitled "Savoring The Past: Manuscript Cookbooks, French Lessons and Cooking in Paris."

Lucas Allen'16 was part of an interdisciplinary team that presented at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Boston, MA.

Marissa Marandola'16, presented her research "*Ahlquist v. Cranston*: The Establishment Clause and Public School Prayer" at the ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference in March. She also had an article published in the spring edition of *Elements* entitled "The Great Recession, Youth Apprehensions, and *The Hunger Games*."



Scholars enjoy a "field day" playing soccer on Bapst Lawn

Alumni Announcements

Dustin Rawlin, PSP '97, has been named a Rising Star by Law 360. The prestigious list recognizes attorneys under the age of 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. Law360 editors reviewed more than 1,000 attorney nominations across 28 practice areas, selecting only 163 attorneys nationwide to receive the honor.

Kieran Bezila, PSP'98, graduated from Northwestern University with a Ph.D. in Sociology in March, 2013. This coming fall, he will be an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Beloit College in Beloit, WI.

Andrew Frey, PSP'01 was appointed to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority board by Governor Rick Scott. SFRTA operates Tri-Rail, the regional passenger rail, and other mobility programs. He and his wife also welcomed their second child, Pieter Codina Frey on April 20, 2014.

Kevin Meme, PSP'03 graduated from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, with an MBA in Finance. He will be returning to The Boston Consulting Group in Philadelphia. Kevin and his wife, Erica, are expecting their second child this September.

Ellen (Burke) Duffy, PSP'04 was selected as Officer of the Year in 2013 for the University of Florida Police Department, promoted to Sergeant, and moved from being a detective to being a K9 handler. Her new canine partner is a yellow lab named Amber who is trained in Explosive Detection.

Heather (Speller) Vestal, PSP'05 graduated from the MGH/McLean Psychiatry Residency Training Program in June, and accepted a faculty position at McLean Hospital, as the Associate Program Director for the MGH/McLean Psychiatry Residency Program.

Tim Kelly, PSP'09 graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine this past May and will be starting his residency in General Surgery at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York this summer.

Andrew Steck, PSP'10 married Jamie Tiscia, LSOE'10 on April 5th, 2014.

Lindsey Hennawi, PSP'11 will be pursuing a Master of Social Work/Master of Public Health dual degree program at Columbia University starting this fall.

Abby Letak, PSP'12 will be pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison starting this fall. She was also nominated for and offered a fellowship for her studies.



The Class of 2014 pose for a photo after a reception hosted by Geoffrey T. Boisi, '69, P'11 at The Links Club in New York on April 23rd.

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.

Matthew Alonsozana (Marshal)

Victoria Luu

Joseph Manning

Francesca McCaffrey

Nick Moffa

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.

Daniel Cattolica

Paul Davey

Frank DiRenno

Mary Rose Fissinger

Amanda Loewy

Grace West

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.

Marissa Marandola

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 2014

Brooke Loughrin (elected junior year)

Victoria Luu

Francesca McCaffrey

Nick Moffa

Alison Wawrzynek

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 2014

Francesca McCaffrey

Nick Moffa

Maggie Scollan

Alison Wawrzynek

Class of 2015

Paul Davey

Frank DiRenno

Cara Harrington

Amanda Loewy

Katie Martin

Class of 2016

Lucy Methven

Awards

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.

Catherine Cole, A&S ’17

“If He Beats You, It Means He Loves You”: For advanced language studies and research on woman’s rights in Russia.

Tate Krasner, A&S ’16

Security Shuffle: For research into the political implications of China’s military transformation.

Catherine Larrabee, A&S ’16

Spanish Acquisition for Liberation Theology and Social Advocacy: For advanced language study in Quito, Ecuador

Daniel Lundberg, LSOE ’16

A Marathon of Story, Research, and Empowerment: For research into muscular dystrophy in Ghana.

Jesse Mu, A&S ’17

Our Data-Driven World: For advanced study of data science and language fluency in China.

Hagop Toghramadjian, A&S ’17

Survivors: For language acquisition and research on the resilience of Jerusalem’s Armenian Quarter.

ACC-IAC ASG Thesis Research Grant

These grants are for Juniors only, and are supported by special funding through the ACC-IAC Creativity and Innovation Program of the Atlantic Coast Conference. They are awarded for skill acquisition or preliminary research conducted during the summer before Senior year, to make possible more creative and ambitious Senior projects.

Daniel Cattolica, A&S ’15

Investigating Montalbano: Andrea Camilleri’s Sicily and the art of the detective novel

Frank DiRenno, A&S ’15

History in Teeth: Isotope Analysis of the Origins of Two Historic Italian Populations

Patty Owens, A&S ’15

Voices in Exile: Writing English language translations of Tibetan poetry

Grace West, A&S ’15

Research on prayer and the Civil Rights Movement

Figurito Family Award for Achievement in Italian

Presented in the name of Joseph Figurito, Professor of French and Italian at Boston College for one half a century, to a student for scholarly achievement in Italian.

Daniel Cattolica, A&S ’15

Omicron Delta Epsilon - Economics Honors Society

Alison Wawrzynek ’14

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta recognizes those who show a passion for history and demonstrate academic achievement in the field.

Amanda Loewy ’15

Grace West ’15

Sigma Pi Sigma - Physics National Honor Society

David DePalma ’14

Ryan Polischuk ’15

Awards

Political Science Department Distinguished Sophomore

Each year, the Department designates a small number of its majors as Distinguished Sophomore Scholars following the completion of their freshman year. Just 22 students out of 141 political science majors in the Class of 2016 received this distinction based on outstanding academic achievements.

Marissa Marandola

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Fulbright Grant

Alison Wawrzynek '14, Germany

Commencement Awards

School of Arts and Sciences

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.

David DePalma

Francesca McCaffrey

Donald S. Carlisle Award

An award established by the Department of Political Science in memory of Donald S. Carlisle, Professor of Political Science at Boston College (1968-1997), given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding achievement in political science.

Brooke Loughrin

Mary A. & Katherine G. Finneran Commencement Award

An award, the gift of Misses Elizabeth and Theresa Finneran, given to the student who has achieved outstanding success in studies, while also devoting time and talents to other activities for the enrichment of the College and student life.

Matthew Alonsozana

Fellowship Matthew Copithorne Scholarship

An award given to a graduate, exhibiting qualities of character, industry, and intelligence, and who plans to do graduate study at Harvard or M.I.T.

Nick Moffa

Giffuni Prize

An award sponsored by the Giffuni Family Fund in honor of Vincent Giffuni (BC'65), given to a senior who has written an outstanding thesis in economics.

Alison Wawrzynek

Wendy Berson Language Award

An award, the gift of Mrs. Solomon Berson in memory of her daughter, Wendy Berson, given to the senior who demonstrates excellence in the area of Romance Languages in general and, specifically, the ability to speak one or more languages with great expertise.

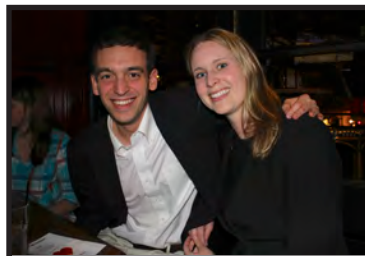
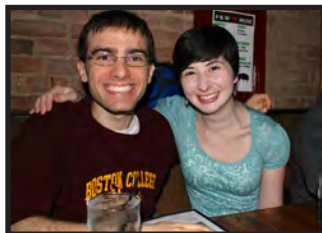
Alison Wawrzynek

Fellowship William J. Kenealy, S.J. Award

An award in memory of the late William J. Kenealy, S.J., Dean of the Boston College Law School (1939-1956), whose life was distinguished by a passion for social justice. This award is given to the graduating senior who has been distinguished in both academic work and social concern.

Nick Moffa

Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner & New York City Events



Photos taken by Andrea Gatti.

Congratulations, Class of 2014!

On April 24th, senior Scholars, PSP Director Fr. Jim Keenan, Associate 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 honorees Peter S. Lynch '65, H'95, P'01, Vice Chairman, Fidelity Investments; Treasurer, The Lynch Foundation and Carolyn A. Lynch, H'09, P'01, President and Chairman, The Lynch Foundation (not pictured below).



Photo: John Raiola

Front row (left to right): Jennie Thomas, Francesca McCaffrey, Margaret "Maggie" Scollan, Brooke Loughrin, Alison Wawrzynek, Victoria "Tori" Luu, Andrea Gatti.

Back row (left to right): David DePalma, Nicholas "Nick" Moffa, John Wang, Marye Moran, Fr. Keenan, Fr. Leahy, Peter S. Lynch, Matthew Alonsozana, Sarah Ganton, Joseph Manning.



Photo: Andrea Gatti

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