

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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Spring 2015

The Graduating Class of 2015



Photo by: Donna Alberico

Photographed with the Scholars above are: Dinner co-chair Steven M. Barry, Fr. Leahy, Michael D. White, Susan Lee White, Jim Keenan, S.J., and dinner co-chair T.J. Maloney.

On April 22nd, the senior GPSP Scholars, Director Jim Keenan, S.J., Associate Director Jennie Thomas, and Administrative Assistant Sarah Gregorian, traveled to New York City to attend the annual Alumni Reception at the Links Club, sponsored by Geoffrey Boisi and Mario Gabelli. The following night, April 23rd, they attended the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. Joining the Scholars were Fr. Leahy, major donors, many alumni and this year's honoree Michael D. White '74.



Photo by: Sarah Gregorian



Photo by: Sarah Gregorian

Sophomore Documentary Highlights Mental Illness in Boston

By: Jackson Bowers CSOM '17

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, the GPSP Class of 2017 premiered their sophomore social justice project, a 30-minute documentary entitled “A Boston State of Mind,” exploring mental health issues in the Boston area. The idea for the documentary was sparked while the Scholars spent six weeks working in various service placements in Boston last summer. While mental health and the stigma associated with it were issues that had been the subject of much discussion on BC’s campus in the past, the Class of 2017 wanted to raise awareness about how mental illness affects those who aren’t college students — specifically, those in the marginalized communities they had connected with in their volunteer work.

The challenge, then, was how to capture such a complex issue with one project. At the time, the Class of 2017 considered themselves amateur filmmakers, after filming and editing two short videos capturing their trip to Italy and their experience living in Shaw House to share with the rest of the program. So the suggestion was raised: “What about a documentary?” After many hours of work (including actually learning how to make a documentary), the Class of 2017, led by producers Jesse Mu and Catherine Cole, premiered their finished work on April 7 to a packed audience including students, professors, and some of the mental health professionals featured in the film.

Overall, “A Boston State of Mind” looks at the unique challenges that people experiencing homelessness or poverty and those from different cultural backgrounds face in regard to disparity in mental health care and stigma. The film offers



Photo by Christina Loric

perspectives from many professionals in the Boston area who work with these populations or research mental illness. Among the issues cited in the documentary are the disparities in quality between private and public mental health care, and the shortage of counseling and related services in inner-city school districts compared to those in suburban districts. In addition, interviewees say mental health resources too often fail to consider unique ethnic or cultural differences among patients, and how these can contribute to or exacerbate stigmas about mental illness.

The Class of 2017 was surprised at how much they themselves learned while making the film, and hope that it will spark conversation on BC’s campus about mental illness and the availability of resources for the underprivileged. Additionally, they hope that the film, which is now available on the project’s website (abostonstateofmind.com), will be shared widely to raise awareness in the greater Boston community and beyond. Panelists included:

Margarita Alegria, PhD is Director of the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research and a Psychology professor in the Psychiatry Department at Harvard Medical School.

Kimberly Ashby is a third-year doctoral student in the Counseling

Psychology program at Boston College. She works at the Boston College Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture.

James Burns, IVD is the Dean of the Woods College of Advancing Studies. Previously, he worked as a professor at Harvard Medical School, University of St. Thomas Graduate School in Psychology, and Boston University.

Benjamin Cook, PhD, MPH is a Senior Scientist at the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School.

Julia Devoy, PhD is a visiting lecturer in the Department of Counseling, Development, and Educational Psychology at the Lynch School of Education.

David Goodman, PhD is the Interim Associate Dean at the Woods College of Advancing Studies and a teaching associate at Harvard Medical School. He is also a clinical psychologist and has a private practice in Cambridge.

Lisa Goodman, PhD is a professor in Counseling, Developmental and Educational Psychology at the Lynch School of Education.

Barry Schneider, PhD is a retired clinical psychologist and a senior lecturer in the Boston College Psychology Department.

Marissa Marandola '16 Receives 2015 Truman



Photo by Claudio Quintana

Marissa Marandola, MA&S '16, has been named a recipient of the 2015 Harry S. Truman Scholarship. A political science major with minors in American Studies and Management and Leadership from Cranston, Rhode Island, Marandola serves as the editor-in-chief of Elements, BC's undergraduate research journal and an executive board member for BC Splash. She is also an Undergraduate

Research Fellow for Professor David Hopkins in the Political Science Department and a peer tutor at the Connors Family Learning Center.

The Truman Scholarship was established by Congress to honor the memory

of the 33rd president and supports the graduate education and personal development of standout undergraduates committed to public service leadership. It is awarded on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability and a strong record of public service, and requires a detailed policy proposal that addresses a particular societal challenge.

Marandola is one of 58 students nationwide to win the Truman Scholarship this year, and BC's 10th recipient overall. Her policy proposal addressed charter school facilities regulations in her home state of Rhode Island. She plans to use the \$30,000 scholarship to attend law school and, eventually, pursue a career in education law and advocacy.

Said Marandola, "I am humbled to have received an award that accords so closely with the Jesuit values that I experience on a daily basis on the BC campus and to join a community of colleagues who share my commitment to making the ideal of "men and women for others" a reality in their lives. It is an honor to represent the school and the state that I love as a 2015 Truman Scholar."

Scholars win BCVC SEED for Ghana Project

By: Daniel Lundberg MA&S '17

The Include-Play-Learn Project is an initiative to build an accessible playground area and inclusive library environment at The Epicentre, which is a pioneering state-of-the-art inclusive education center in Accra, Ghana. The purpose of the project is to encourage the development of inclusive attitudes toward disability from an early age through having students with complex disabilities from The Epicentre playing and learning beside children without disabilities from our community. The facility will house new after-school and recreational programs, which will generate sustainable, localized revenue to provide tuition assistance to low-income families, who otherwise could not afford to attend. To learn more about The Epicentre, visit www.epicentreghana.org, and about the project at www.ghanastrong.org.



Photo Courtesy: Lucas Allen

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.

Paul Davey

Mary Rose Fissinger (Marshal)

Marie Pellissier

Andrew Skaras

Grace West

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.

Andrew Boyce

Tate Krasner

Catherine Larrabee

Marissa Marandola

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.

Mary Kate Cahill

Christine Lorica

Jesse Mu

Matthew Perryman

Carolyn Ruh

Russell Simons

Hagop Toghramadjian

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 2015

Daniel Cattolica

Paul Davey

Frank DiRenno

Mary Rose Fissinger

Cara Harrington

Katherine Martin

Patricia Owens

Marie Pellissier

Andrew Skaras

Grace West

Ellen White

Class of 2016

Tate Krasner

Marissa Marandola

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 2015

Amanda Loewy

Class of 2016

Andrew Boyce

Catherine Larrabee

Marissa Marandola

Theta Alpha Kappa Theology Honors Society

In 1976, Professor Albert Clark, F.S.C., established Theta Alpha Kappa for the purpose of recognizing the academic achievements of religion and theology students.

Catherine Larrabee

Pi Mu Epsilon

A U.S. honorary national mathematics society

Mary Rose Fissinger

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.

Mackenzie Arnold, A&S ’17

Luz de America: The Draw of Ecuador’s Retirement Programs and who they leave in the Dark

Austin Bodetti, A&S ’18

What Peace Means for the Oppressed

Mary Kate Cahill, A&S ’17

Liberation Theology

Jacob Ciafone , A&S ’18

Equal Opportunities for Germans

Elizabeth Magill, A&S ’17

Health in a Global Context

Jesse Mu, A&S ’17

Brains, Minds, and Machines.

Christopher Reynolds, A&S ’18

The Ignored Indigenous

Carolyn Ruh, A&S ’17

The Cultural and Religious Influences on Microfinance

John Sipp, A&S ’18

The Eastern Christian Tradition

Hagop Toghramadjian, A&S ’17

Exploring Lebanon’s Inclusive National Identity

Phi Alpha Theta

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

Amanda Loewy ’15

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Fulbright Grant

Frank DiRenno ’15, England

Andrew Babbitt ’15, China

Daniel Cattolica ’15, ETA Alternate, Italy

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Marissa Marandola ’16

US State Department- Critical Languages Scholarship

Isra Hussain ’17

Integrated Science Fellowship

Theresa Rager ’16

Mizna Fellowship from the Islamic Civilization and Societies Program

Austin Bodetti ’18

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.

Cara Harrington

Marie Pellessier

Grace West

Awards

Brendan Connolly, S.J. Award

An award established by the Department of Political Science in memory of Brendan Connolly, S.J., Director of Libraries at Boston College (1959-1974), given each year to a member of the senior class who is distinguished for the same characteristics of wit, loyalty, and love of books as Fr. Connolly himself.

Grace West '15

Cardinal Cushing Award

An award donated by Francis Cardinal Spellman, in honor of Richard Cardinal Cushing, given annually to an undergraduate for the best writing in fiction published in a Boston College undergraduate publication.

Patricia Owens '15

“The Royal City Theological Society” in Spring 2015
Stylus

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.

Mary Rose Fissinger '15

Patrick J. Durcan Award

A gold medal, the gift of Mrs. J. Greer, in memory of her brother, Rev. Patrick Durcan, given to the student whose overall performance in history courses has been outstanding.

Marie Pellissier '15

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.

Katherine Martin '15

Thomas H. O'Connor Award

An award established by the History Department in honor of the late Thomas H. O'Connor who taught in the

department from 1950 through 1999, and who also served as Boston College University Historian. It is given each year to a graduating senior in recognition of outstanding achievement in the study of American history.

Grace West '15

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.

FrankDiRenno '15

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.

Cara Harrington '15

John McCarthy, S.J. Award for Social Sciences/History

An award given to seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences for the most distinguished Scholar of the College projects.

Marie Pellissier '15

Grace West '15

J. Paul Marcoux Award

Cara Harrington '15

Papers, Presentations & Other Scholar News

Vivian Chang '16: *Onder, Z., Chang, V., & Moroianu, J. (2015). Nuclear export of cutaneous HPV8 E7 oncoprotein is mediated by a leucine-rich nuclear export signal via a CRM1 pathway. Virology, 474, 28-33.*

Hagop Toghramadjian '17: (2015). *"The Crisis of Democracy in the Arab Middle East."* Southern California International Review.

Tate Krasner '16: Nominee, Atlantic Coast Conference Meeting of the Minds
Presenter, Walsh Exchange, Georgetown University.
Thesis Fellow, Atlantic Coast Conference International Academic Collaborative

Russell Simons '17: Romance Languages and Literatures Book Award.

Lucas Allen '16: *Learning to See Beneath the Surface: A Qualitative Analysis of Family Medicine Residents' Reflections about Communication.* Duggan, A.P., Vicini, A., S.J., Allen, L., & Shaughnessy, A. (In Press). *Journal of Health Communication.* Also, presented at the D.C. Health Communication Conference on April 18

Amanda Loewy '15: *Qualified to go to Regionals and represented Boston College Equestrian Team. Won fourth place in the Novice on the Flat Competition at Interscholastic Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone 1 Region 4 Regionals.*

Lucy Methven '16: Presented at the ASHE (Association for the Study of Higher Education) Conference in November 2014 with Dr. Karen Arnold of LSOE. The paper was entitled "Postsecondary Outcomes of Innovative High Schools: The Big Picture Longitudinal Study" and is currently in the process of being published.

Austin Bodetti '18: Summer Research Grant from the Center for Human Rights and International Justice—to research Islam in Thailand. Travel Grant from the Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy—also to research Islam in Myanmar

Alumni News

Jared C. Fields '01 was elected a Partner at his law firm, Snell & Wilmer, in Salt Lake City, in December. His practice focus is in the areas of securities litigation, real estate litigation, accountant and auditor liability, regulatory investigations and general commercial litigation.

Elizabeth Fair '12 received her Master of Arts degree at the University of Southern Mississippi in Clinical Psychology in May 2015. She is still enrolled in the doctorate program in Clinical Psychology at USM and is currently working towards her PhD.

Michelle A. Knight '98 was recently named Chief Investment Officer of Ropes Wealth Advisors, and also named to the Investment Committee of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Patricia Noonan '07 just starred as Elizabeth Bennet in the world premiere of the new musical Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The musical she wrote - *Learning How to Drown* - will be performed at BC next year as part of the 2015-2016 season!

Patrick Passarelli '10 graduated medical school and matched into the UC San Diego Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency Training Program. He kindly offered to help anyone who has questions about pre-med or the process of applying to medical school.

Megan (Rulison) Scudellari '06 is a freelance science writer and has two achievements to report:

She recently became a health columnist for the Boston Globe. Readers can see her column in the Saturday Lifestyle section.

And, a textbook she co-authored, titled "Biology Now" was published in January. It is a biology textbook for college-level non-majors, published by W.W. Norton and is available on Amazon.com

Chris Griesedieck '11 earned his J.D., graduating from the Georgetown University Law Center this Sunday, May 17th, 2015. In September, he will start work at the DC Affordable Law Firm, a new "low bono" venture between the Law Center and two private law firms in DC. (More information on that is available at http://www.abajournal.com/lawscribbler/article/georgetown_law_2_firms_team_to_create_low_bono_law_firm/).

Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner & New York City Events



Photos taken by Donna Alberico



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