

# Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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## The Graduating Class of 2016



Photographed with the Scholars above are: Jennie Thomas, dinner co-chair T.J. Maloney, Denise M. Morrison, Fr. Leahy, dinner co-chair Steven M. Barry, and Fr. Keenan.

On April 20th, the senior GPSP Scholars, Director Jim Keenan, S.J., and Associate Director Jennie Thomas, traveled to New York City to attend the annual Alumni Reception at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, sponsored by Geoffrey Boisi and Mario Gabelli. The following night, April 21st, they attended the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner in the Waldorf Astoria Grand Ballroom. Joining the Scholars were Fr. Leahy, major donors, many alumni and this year's honoree Denise M. Morrison '75.



# *Locked Up For Years: Locked Out of Life*

By: Mattie Mouton-Johnston  
CSO '18

On Tuesday, April 5th, the sophomore Presidential Scholars hosted their second event of the year, "Locked up for Years, Locked Out for Life", on the injustices of mass incarceration. Following an emotional spokenword performance in the fall, the sophomores wanted to equip Boston College students and faculty with some hard facts and firsthand perspectives about this social justice issue. With the hope of providing a holistic and encompassing dialogue, the event took the form of a panel with formerly incarcerated persons, academic researchers, and prison activists. Featured panelists included Dr. Judith Willison, Dr. Robert Gaudet, researcher and advocate JoAnn Clinton, Ph.D. student and NIAAA Fellow Brandy Henry, and Dudley Dough Cafe manager Luther Pinckney. This diverse group allowed the roles of race, gender, and socioeconomic inequality to be discussed in their many facets.

Dr. Willison provided incredible insight on the effects of institutionalized white privilege on those implicated in the criminal justice system, especially in light of its disproportionate impact on impoverished persons of color. She discussed the social exile and legal shackles that the formerly incarcerated face after exiting prison. Just as the name of the event suggests, those incarcerated are not only locked up in jail for years, but also locked out of the community for life.

As formerly incarcerated persons, Pinckney and Clinton attested to these detrimental and damaging effects. They deconstructed the "Felon Label" that



defines those who are formerly incarcerated by the one event in their lives that placed them in jail. This label and stigma does not acknowledge the human capacity for change, repentance, and forgiveness. Clinton specifically spoke about the experience of women in prison and her personal experience with solitary confinement. Having served seven years of a 10 year prison sentence, Clinton emphasized that selfpreservation for women in jail relies on the ability to become masculine, thus losing their sense of femininity. She also spoke of the mental health consequences of solitary confinement and she is now a strong advocate against the practice. Pinckney, on the other hand, shared his unusual story of finding a successful career even after being incarcerated at the late age of 31. He stressed that his success is not typical of most formerly incarcerated persons. Pinckney now focuses on rehabilitating the formerly incarcerated into society through the restaurant business. At Dudley Dough, a social enterprise café run by Haley House, Pinckney is able to help ex-offenders prepare for reintegration into society by providing living wages, work experience, and rein-

stilled confidence.

Pinckney spoke of promoting this same confidence as a response to the question, "What can Boston College students do to help mitigate this problem?" The Dudley Dough manager answered that students and faculty alike can participate in programs that promote education in impoverished communities. According to Pinckney, education is the key to opportunities that will break the cycle of incarceration. Gaudet then spoke of the multitude of grants and funds his team has won to promote better resources and guidance to those facing incarceration and encouraged students to do the same. Henry gave other tangible ideas, such as writing letters to state representatives, hosting group meetings on mass incarceration at BC, and participating in the many organizations working to alleviate the effects of mass incarceration on individuals. The event attracted over 200 people and sparked a second panel two weeks later to brainstorm an action plan to effect change in coming years on BC's own campus and within the greater Boston community.

# Russell Simons '17 Wins UGBC President

By Meg Loughman MCAS '19

After a competitive and exciting campaign season, Presidential Scholar Russell Simons, MCAS '17, was elected Undergraduate Government of Boston College president for the 2016-2017 academic year.

With such a strong platform and vast knowledge of the University, Russell is no stranger to UGBC. He joined the organization during his freshman year, and moved his way up the ranks to become this past year's vice president of student organizations. Now, he'll be able to use his knowledge of the organization's ins and outs, as well as of the student body and administration, to more effectively serve BC.

A biology major and medical humanities minor on the pre-med track, Russell has certainly mastered the act of balancing academics and extracurriculars. "For me, my academics have always taken the front seat," he says. "But over time I've come to see that my extracurricular involvements aren't just things that I do for the sake

of doing them, I've actually learned a lot through them as well."

With his running mate Meredith McCaffrey, MCAS '17, Russell created the team's campaign slogan of "Strength in Unity." It reflects the goals that the duo wishes to accomplish in office, such as creating a stronger presence for UGBC with the administration, and making the organization more accessible to the general student population.

Russell and Meredith's platform is comprehensive yet feasible, a product of the pair's extensive experience doing policy related work in UGBC. Together, and with the help of both the student body and the University as a whole, they hope to move forward with transparent administrative relations, the promotion of LGBTQ+ rights, and the improvement of mental health resources on campus, along with a variety of other issues.

Above all, they aim to accurately represent a broad array of student voices in their new capacity as leaders of the student government. "Meredith and I spent

a good amount of time listening to a variety of student perspectives when we were constructing our platform," Russell says. "We were committed to making sure that the goals we set for the student government reflected the current needs and desires of the student body, while also coming from an experienced understanding of what student government has and hasn't been able to do at BC."

In his time as UGBC president, Russell hopes to work on making campus more inclusive by advocating for increased diversity in the University curriculum, faculty, and student body. Additionally, he envisions a greater purpose for dining spaces to double as group study spaces and to make up for BC's lack of a student center. Both smallscale and big-picture ideas make up Russell's platform, but they all share a common thread they are reflective of the changes being demanded by the student body. "The simplest way to say it is that the intention of our

*Continued on page 5*



Photo courtesy of Russell Simons

# An Evening With Father Leahy

By: Jake Ciafone MCAS '18

On the fifteenth of March, the GPSP had its annual meeting with the University president, Fr. William Leahy, S.J. These gatherings offer a time for direct dialogue with upper-level administration, not only to voice the opinions and reflections of individuals within the Program, but also to gain a sense of Boston College's general direction for the near future.

Receiving Fr. Leahy in Upper Campus' O'Connell House, Fr. James Keenan, S.J. laid out the evening's agenda. Representatives from each class would give an overview of the year's activities, after which the floor would be open for questions.

Claudio Quintana '16 opened the session with remarks acknowledging the 25th anniversary of the Program. This milestone has motivated an ongoing discussion about the values which sit at the Program's core and how they

unite the diverse activities of different Scholars. Quintana outlined these as hospitality, a dedication to the common good, global leadership, and fidelity to the Program's partners—especially alumni.

With this framework adding context to the rest of the meeting, the freshmen began the class introductions. Represented by Katie Gold and Meg Loughman, they focused on their first impressions of BC and their recently concluded trip to Italy. The sophomores spoke about a year spent exploring social justice. Beginning over the summer with service learning, questions about equality developed further over two semesters of raising awareness about mass incarceration. Time spent in Managua, Nicaragua added still more depth to the year's focus. When the juniors introduced their internships for the summer, the conversation turned from their development in the Program to the future beyond.

Picking up on recurring themes of growth, the senior class described how four years in the GPSP had influenced their development, and what they hoped for the Program going forward.

Fr. Leahy asked questions throughout. He was especially interested to learn about the Program's emphasis on hospitality and how it is realized in the broader BC community. The ensuing conversation moved energetically from mental health to religious diversity with several topics in between. The conversation ended with some reflections on leadership. Given the great diversity of interests across the Program, leadership takes many forms. This broad base of experience allowed for a nuanced discussion of the student experience at BC. Though the meeting lasted over an hour and a half, many areas went untouched. It is certain that many Scholars would have loved to continue the discussion.

## Alumni News

**Sean Flahaven '95** (pictured top) wins Grammy for "Best musical theater album for Hamilton" Sean is Senior VP of Theatre and Catalog Development at Warner Chappell Music, and has been with the company for eight years. Hamilton has been enjoying a sold out run on Broadway since it's opening in August 2015, and has been nominated for a record-setting 16 Tony Awards. The cast album, and Sean as Associate Producer, won a Grammy this year for Best Musical Theater Album.



Photo by Donna Alberico



Photo courtesy of Andrew Frey

**Andrew Frey '01** (pictured bottom) is Founder and CEO of Tecela, real estate development company in Florida that focuses on small urban buildings, both developing for its own account and consulting for other urban developers and investors. Its focus since launching in September of 2015 has been on developing a small apartment building in Little Havana and consulting for a retail investor also in Little Havana. Tecela is currently also looking into other development sites and consulting clients.

# Jesse Mu '17 Wins Goldwater Scholarship



Photo courtesy of BC News

By: Connor Murphy CSOM '19

In March, Jesse Mu, class of 2017, was named a recipient of the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, one of the country's highest honors for students planning to pursue graduate work in science, math, and engineering. Mu received one of about 260 awards given annually to students by the Goldwater Foundation. He is planning to get his Ph.D. in computer science with a particular focus on cognitive science, in order to conduct artificial intelligence (A.I.) research.

Mu first found out about the scholarship on Facebook last year, when he saw that somebody he knew had won one. He noted it and applied in the fall.

Mu originally came to Boston College as a psychology major but quickly switched to computer science after taking his first intro-level course. He realized his affinity for coding and how it allowed him to blend his interests, particularly as the computer science field has grown to involve specializations such as machine-learning algorithms, and A.I., both of which make heavy use of cognitive science.

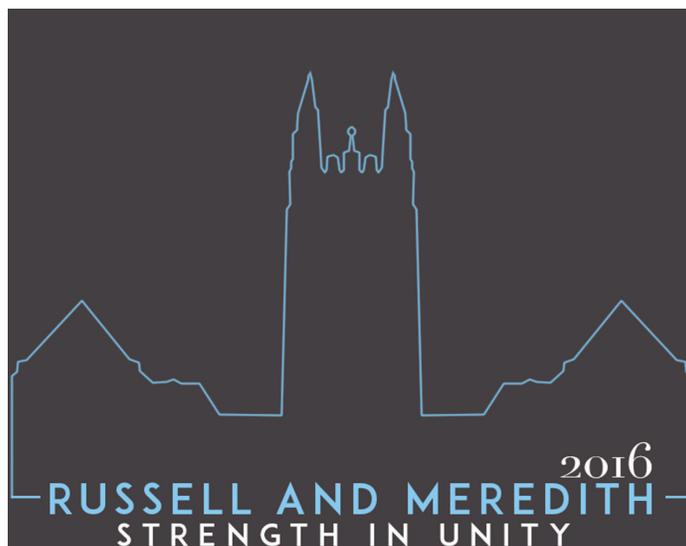
During his freshman year, Mu won an Advanced Study Grant to spend the summer at the Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. There, he researched decision tree algorithms, a predictive modeling technique used in machine learning. For a while, he thought about becoming a software engineer and spending his career working on code, however, during his sophomore year, these interests shifted to his current focus. "The research I'm doing right now, and the research I've actually been doing, has really been in neuroscience," he said. "It hasn't really been computer science research; it's been psychology research with a computational component."

Last summer, Mu was a researcher at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, investigating how computer science can be applied to Parkinson's disease. In November, he gave a presentation at the TedTalk-based program BCTalks titled "Computers as Our Doctors," which showed how computers can sort extremely complex data using cluster analysis to determine which patients in a sample are most likely to have Parkinson's using decision trees. "I think we all have our own areas of expertise—our own majors, our own passions, our own interests," he said in the talk. "But odds are, machine-learning algorithms are directly applicable in your fields."

Right now, Mu's research focus is how humans learn language, and applying those processes to machines to figure out how computers can, too. He is still unsure where he will end up after graduate school, whether in the tech industry, health industry, or academia. But he's excited about research and graduate school, and is looking forward to the possibilities coming up in his field.

## *Simons con't from page 3*

platform is to better the quality of student life," he says. "From our assessments and those of other students, that goal requires doing everything we can to make our campus a more welcoming and inclusive environment." In May, Russell and Meredith were officially sworn



in to their new offices, replacing former President Thomas Napoli, MCAS '16, and executive Vice President Olivia Hussey, MCAS '17. Though they certainly have big shoes to fill, they have also shown an astounding amount of promise for the future of UGBC.

# Awards

## University Honors

### Order of the Cross & Crown

The Order of the Cross and Crown is the Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences honor society for seniors who, while achieving an average of at least A-, have established records of unusual service and leadership on the campus.

*Catherine Larrabee (Marshall)*

*Marissa Marandola (Chief Marshal)*

### Dean's Scholars

Each year a select group of the brightest young scholars in the MCAS junior class are honored by the Dean of MCAS as Deans' Scholars. They are selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, the recommendations from their departmental faculty, their cocurricular initiatives, and the sense of purpose with which they approach their future.

*Mackenzie Arnold*

*Mary Kate Cahill*

*Catherine Cole*

*Chrissy Lorica*

*Liza Magill*

*Jesse Mu*

*Matt Perryman*

*Hagop Toghramadjian*

### 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.

*Austin Bodetti*

*Jacob Ciafone*

*John Knowles*

*John Sipp*

### 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.

*Isra Hussain '17*

*Social Support for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors in Barcelona*

*Chrissy Lorica '17*

*Leonard Feeney and the Boston Heresy Case to Support Archival Research on Influential Jesuits in Boston College History*

*Jesse Mu '17*

*Investigating Computational Approaches to Natural Language Semantics*

*Austin Bodetti '18*

*Learning From and Teaching to Sudanese Refugees in Uganda*

*Jacob Ciafone '18*

*Beyond the Wall: Being Mongolian in Modern China*

*Walker Halstad '18*

*El Arte de la Traducción*

*Ameet Kallarackal '18*

*Global Innovation: Factors Fueling Growth in an Emerging Market*

*Michelle Kang '18*

*Climate Impacts of Revitalizing the Urban Environment in Tokyo, Japan*

*John Knowles '18*

*French Acquisition for English Study: Paris, France*

*Madeline Mouton Johnston '18*

*Cultural Competency in Argentine Healthcare*

*Rachel Simon '18*

*The Harmful Intersection of Law and Machismo Culture: Spanish Acquisition and Women's Rights Research*

*Thomas Toghramadjian '19*

*Understanding Challenges to Syrian-Armenian Repatriation Efforts*

*Harrison Tune '18*

*The Modern Project: A Case Study of South Korea*

*Christopher Yu '18*

*Examining the Life of Second Generation Factory Workers in China*

## **Office of International Programs Outstanding Student Award**

The award serves to recognize the dedication to international education of a student at Boston College. Recipients are chosen by the Office of International Programs and the McGillicuddy-Logue Center for Undergraduate Global Studies for their outstanding contributions that foster greater global awareness within the Boston College community.

*Andrew Boyce '16*

## **Commencement Awards**

*Morrissey College 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.

*Tate Krasner*

*Catherine Larrabee*

### **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.

*Marissa Marandola*

### **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.

*Catherine Larrabee*

### **Edward H. Finnegan**

An award in the memory of Rev. Edward H. Finnegan S.J., given to the student who has best exemplified in their four years at Boston College the spirit of the College motto "Ever to Excel."

*Marissa Marandola*



Photo courtesy of BC News

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

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

*Tate Krasner*

## **Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships**

### **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.

*Lucas Allen*

*Andrew Boyce*

*Nick Denari*

*Tate Krasner*

*Catherine Larrabee*

*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.

*Catherine Cole '17*

*Meagan Gonzalez '17*

*Chrissy Lorica '17*

## **Beta Gamma Sigma**

The international honor society serving business programs accredited by AACSB International. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB International.

*Meagan Gonzalez '17*

## **Omicron Delta Epsilon**

The international honor society devoted to the field of economics, it is the recognition of scholastic attainment and the honoring of outstanding achievements in economics.

*Carrie Ruh '17*

## **The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program**

Established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry Goldwater. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue research careers in these fields.

*Jesse Mu '17*

## **Papers, Presentations, & Misc.**

*Isra Hussain:* “Social Support and Behavioral Health of Muslim Migrants” at the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Training for Scholars of Color Conference. Mass General Hospital, April, 2016.

## **Awards won by GPSP Alumni**

*Ellen White '15,* Outstanding Poster Award, National Institute of Health Postbac Poster Day

*Matthew Alonsozana '14,* Named one of *Asian Fortune's* Rising Asian American Stars of 2016

*Kelsey Swift '13,* Graduate Center Fellowship, CUNY, New York, NY

*Caroline Beimford '10,* Carolyn F. Walton Cole Fellowship in Fiction, 2016-2017, New York State Summer Writers Institute Fellowship to work with Mary Gaitskill & Howard Norman, and the John and Shirley Holmes Award for Creative Nonfiction

*Scott Jelinek '10,* Excellence in Teaching award, Institute for Medical Education at Mount Sinai.

*Chris Scullin '10,* High Distinction (Baker Scholar), Harvard Business School

*Andrew Steck '10,* Energy Initiative Energy Doctoral Student Fellow, Duke University

*Joseph Zabinski '10,* National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Fellowship

*William Markis '07,* “R&D Select” Award, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, NY

*Timothy (Carragher) Carwinski '04,* California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Award, March 15, 2016; Access to Justice Award, ACLU of Southern California June 10, 2016

*Rebecca Simmons '04,* Merit Scholarship, Boston University School of Law

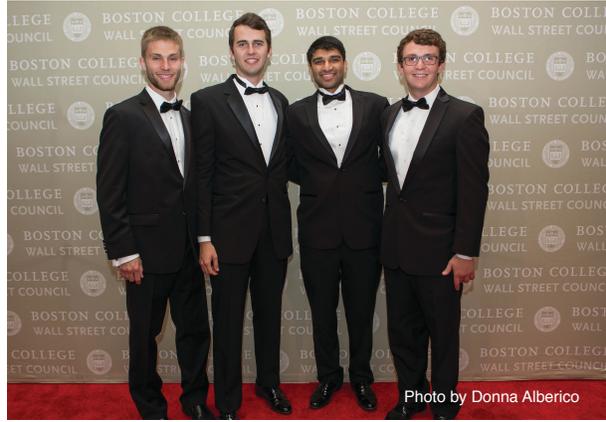
*Mary Lou Bozza '03,* Neighborhood Builders Emerging Leader Award, Bank of America Charitable Foundation

*Jay Cahill '02,* Intelligent Insurer Rising Star 2015

*Erin (Frey) Pearson '99,* Gillings Merit Scholarship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health

*Lynn (Santoro) Sullivan '95,* John S. Brayton Jr. Memorial Outstanding Community Service Award, Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce

# Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner & New York City Events



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