

Ex Libris

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Sophomore Scholars experience Italian culture



Sophomore Scholars post with Fr. Keenan and Jennie Thomas on the first evening of their trip in front of the Bernini Fountain in the Piazza Navona, Rome, Italy.

By Joseph Baron, A&S '13

During spring break sophomore Presidential Scholars ventured to Rome, Italy. The trip was led by program Director Father Jim Keenan, who lived in Rome for a number of years, and Assistant Di-

rector Jennie Thomas. Father Keenan showed his passion for the city throughout the trip, sharing insight about what is has to offer. While most of the trip was spent in Rome, Scholars also traveled North for a day to explore the city of Florence.

In a place as culturally rich as Rome, it is impossible to see everything in one week; however, the Scholars received a good cross section of the city during their time there. On the first day, the group both saw and were blessed by the Pope himself as he gave the Angelus

to a massive crowd gathered in St. Peter's square. The group got a more in depth look at the Vatican a few days later when they saw the bones of St. Peter on the Scavi tour, taking them underground beneath the Basilica. They also saw the rest of the Basilica and went to the Vatican museum, home of the Sistine Chapel.

Students received a look at the classical side of Rome

with a trip to the Roman forum. Though the senate building was closed for renovation,

the group did see the home of the Vestal Virgins, the arch of Constantine, and they climbed the Palatine Hill. After the forum, Father Keenan led the group to the Coliseum. The church of San Clemente particularly emphasized the history of Rome—a pagan temple was built under a church that was built under another church. San Clemente contained three layers, all that Scholars were able to view, from different periods of Rome's

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Class of 2011 present theses to fellow Scholars



Photo: Jennie Thomas

Senior Scholars pose for a picture after presenting their in-depth theses topics to fellow Scholars.

By Joseph Manning A&S '14

As part of the Presidential Scholars Program, senior Scholars are required to complete a thesis. On April 5th the Presidential Scholars Program gathered to hear five seniors present about their respective thesis topics and the process they went through to

complete them. The seniors who shared their stories were Chris Griesediek (History/French), Hope Sullivan (International Studies/Hispanic Studies), Courtney McKee (Biology), Kari O'Neil (Finance), and Scott Molony (Philosophy/Theology). The presentations served two purposes: expand our knowledge with regard to the work that our peers are engaged in and provide underclassmen with advice about how to approach the sometimes daunting task of writing a thesis (especially important since Fr. Keenan closed the night by assuring everyone that, while some parts of the Program

were changing, the thesis was heretostay).

As one could assume from the diverse majors of the presenters, there was a range of topics discussed and advice given, with each presenter offering a unique perspective on the topic. Chris Griesediek's thesis was

about the history of public defenders in Boston from 1963-1983, and he advised his audience to make sure that they know and understand their department's requirements for a thesis extremely well. Hope Sullivan's thesis was titled "The Narrative of Minority Nationalism in Catalonia & Galicia," and she urged underclassmen to find a good adviser and the importance of cultivating this relationship. Courtney McKee wrote her thesis on the Human Papilloma Virus, and she suggested not overloading while writing a thesis. Kari O'Neil wrote her thesis on post-graduate philanthropy and encouraged juniors to prepare for the unexpected and not to get flustered by minor setbacks. Finally, Scott Molony discussed divinity and intellectual property rights. He emphasized the need to find a topic that "set your heart on fire" and would be easy for you to write about. Despite the diversity of recommendations from the senior Scholars, all of the presentations shared a common theme: start early and manage your time well.

This was a message that resonated with the audience. John Wang, A&S '14, noted that, "The Senior thesis process appeared extremely daunting at first glance. However, after witnessing the various presentations from the upperclassman, my initial anxiety dissipated. Sure there's plenty of time, effort, and planning devoted to the task, but with shrewd time management, as well as diligence, the thesis is absolutely attainable."

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history spanning nearly 2,000 years.

Other Roman sights included various parts of Jesuit Rome. The group went to the Gesù, San Ignatius Church, and even the rooms of Saint Ignatius. Father Keenan brought the group back to his former residence at the Bellarmino where he took the Scholars to the terrace overlooking the city. The group also spent an afternoon at the Galleria Borghese, where they saw stunning paintings and statues by Caravaggio, Bernini, and Borromini.

On Wednesday, the group saw

a different Italian city, Florence. While there, Scholars visited the Duomo including the famous baptistery doors. They also went to San Marco, which houses famous frescoes by Fra Angelico. The epitome of the day-visit came in the Galleria Accademia where the group saw Michelangelo's great sculpture, David.

Over the course of the week, Father Keenan treated the Scholars to a number of delicious meals. On the first evening, the group ate at the Trattoria da Luigi, which had particularly good saltimbocca. The second evening saw the group at Father Keenan's favorite

restaurant, the Abruzzi, which is famous for its carbonara. Wednesday night was spent in Orvieto on the way back from Florence where Scholars dined at Tipica Trattoria Etrusca. On Thursday evening, Father Keenan was joined by Don and Keith, two of his friends from his days in Rome at Il Barroccio Erfa-ciolaro, well known for its scrumptious pizza. The last night found the Scholars in the critically acclaimed Hostaria Giggetto al Portico D'Ottavia, which is famous for its fried artichokes. Of all the sights seen, the memories made around the dinner table will last the longest.

Social Justice Project

A panel on gang violence inspires students

By Nick Moffa, *A&S* '14

"Who are your heroes?" The question rang out from the rear of the Murray Function Room of the Yawkey Center at the Panel on Gang Violence, the second installment in the Social Justice project "Revisiting Boston: Its Culture, Diversity, and Youth," brainchild of the sophomore class of the Presidential Scholars Program here at Boston College. The first response came from Ms. Donna Gavin: "My hero is my friend Sherry. She was in the life [of prostitution] for twenty years; she had three young kids, she was addicted to drugs, and she was forced to run away because her pimp was going to kill her. Now, she has graduated from college and runs a non-governmental organization (NGO) called Kim's Project, which assists women involved in or at risk for engaging in prostitution." Ms. Gavin, an employee in Federal Law Enforcement, specializes in human and sex trafficking. She spoke about her experiences and encounters with pimps on the street, and illustrated the appeal young girls hold for pimps: they are a very lucrative business, and they are a reusable product. She went on to shock the audience by boldly claiming that girls under the age of eighteen should be charged with prostitution, albeit on a case-by-case basis. "You aren't doing them a favor [by keeping them out of jail]," she continued. "These girls will run away and oftentimes revert to their

old habits and behaviors if they aren't placed in jail. In these cases, locking these girls up actually saves their lives."

Then Brian Bald and his partner, Dennis, spoke about their heroes. Brian explained how his heroes were those who suffer through witness intimidation to see a case through to its very end. "These witnesses experience intense intimidation from all sides from the moment the case starts for the rest of their lives," he replied. Dennis responded with his ideal of bravery: those kids who will not join a gang, no matter what the situation. That was the life Dennis lived as a child, and his strong mother helped him through his childhood to avoid the temptation of joining a gang.

Dennis further explained the difficulty these kids go through and the sad situation they find themselves in: "There are no programs for the kid who doesn't join a gang; there's no incentive. He has

nowhere to turn, and no safe haven where he can hear words of encouragement from those who support his decision." Brian and Dennis are part of the gang unit of a strike force that operates all around and even outside Boston. Their unit's first priority is to identify gang members, specifically the young kids who can still be taken out of the gang. They explained how their main goal is to help kids; for instance, kids go to jail immediately if they are caught carrying firearms. As a result, Brian and Dennis will try to catch kids on other charges to help them avoid jail time. They ended with an emphasis on the importance of motivation: without motivation, no one will change. If they don't want to change, they will not, no matter the program.

"My hero is Andy Crane," spoke the fourth panelist, Louis Sanchez, a

see Gang Violence page 4



Photo: John Wang

As part of the Social Justice Project "Revisiting Boston: Its Culture, Diversity, and Youth," four panelists spoke to Boston College students about gang violence in Boston.

Social Justice Project

Scavenger hunt encourages Boston exploration

By Sarah Ganton, A&S '14

As night fell on Boston College's Upper Campus on March 23rd, students flowed into O'Connell House and sat in two semicircles of folding chairs around Professor David Manzo of the PULSE program. They rifled through the packets Professor Manzo had distributed – a four-page scavenger hunt taking place all over Boston. It was the first meeting of two in *Boston: The Amazing Race*, the third event in the sophomore class' Revisiting Boston Social Justice program series.

To begin the scavenger hunt, Professor Manzo led the group in a discussion of Boston, its demographics, and its history. He spoke about the diverse neighborhoods of Boston, from Beacon Hill to Roxbury and beyond. He engaged the group in activities designed to test prior conceptions of the city and taught them to look for Jane Jacobs' four generators of diversity in cities – mixed uses, short blocks, building of various ages, and density of population, or “eyes on the street.” He then sent the students on their way, giving them one week to explore Boston and complete as many items on his scavenger hunt list as they could.

The scavenger hunt list took students all over Boston, starting at the Boston Public Library and ending in Roxbury. Along the way, students searched for statues (including a memorial to the discovery of ether) in Boston Common and the Boston Public Gardens, historical sites, the smallest neighborhood in Boston, an excellent slice of pizza, and even Senator John Kerry's house in Beacon Hill. The list was extensive, but it also encouraged individual exploration, allowing students to discover things not necessarily detailed in the original list, such as the Liberty Hotel, housed in what was once the Suffolk County Jail.

The students met with Professor Manzo again on March 30th to tally the results and discuss their experiences. The first, second, and third place teams were awarded gift certificates to the Haley House Bakery Café. Professor Manzo then led a discussion of the discoveries made during the scavenger hunt. The scavengers agreed that Boston is a very “walkable” city, with extensive public transportation, wide sidewalks, and plenty of people out and about.

Through a scavenger hunt in Boston and discussion with Professor



Photo: Jennie Thomas

Professor Manzo leads the group in a discussion of Boston, its demographics, and its history.

Manzo, students learned about Boston and its diversity, but they also learned a new way to look at cities themselves. They came away from the hunt with greater knowledge of urban planning and a greater love of the city they call “home” for nine months each year.



Photo: John Wang

The audience listens as the four panelists reflect on their experiences in relation to gang violence.

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junior here at BC and a broadcasting and communications major. “Andy took me

in when I had no one else, and over the course of time he's taken in a total of five ex-gang members. We all live together in his two-bedroom apartment, and we are like a family. Andy gave me my founding principles and introduced me to Tenacity and Match, the two programs that saved my life.” Louis spoke about his childhood as well: his mother had

multiple sclerosis, and he was raised mainly by his stepdad. He told the stories of how each of his siblings ran away from home, he at the age of thirteen. He explained how he went to the South End and joined the Villa Park gangsters, how two of his best friends were brutally

murdered, and how he eventually got out with the help of Tenacity and Andy Crane. Finally, he ended with an explanation of the stigma he continues to feel in his daily life here at BC, and about how the police will follow him and search him just because of his appearance.

Overall, the Panel on Gang Violence was a fantastic second installment in the “Revisiting Boston” series. Educational and engaging, it gave each person in the audience many things to ponder and consider. Each speaker lent something unique to the panel, and each of their respective backgrounds and perspectives led to fascinating answers to the myriad of questions asked. Each story was stirring and inspiring in its own way, and the awareness raised by this event will hopefully inspire those in the audience to become someone's hero.

Social Justice Project

“And Still We Rise” performs for BC students

By Maggie Scollan, A&S '14

The words of the “And Still We Rise” performers rang out in the Vanderslice Cabaret Room on April 13th, at the final event of the sophomore Presidential Scholars’ Social Justice program. That evening, the sophomores, in collaboration with the Pulse Program, allowed for Boston College students to experience the struggles of the formerly incarcerated and those directly affected by the incarceration of their loved ones.

“And Still We Rise” is a theatre group, led by Artistic Director Dev Luthra, which promotes a healing atmosphere for its performers and raises awareness in regards to questions of criminal justice and social change. The performances of the group are not only meant to offer a new perspective to those unfamiliar with incarceration, but also to help the performers themselves establish a new self-confidence and regain their voice.

The show itself was a combination of stories, with each performer relating to the audience his or her own personal narrative. Through a mixture of monologues, skits, interpretive

movement, and even song, the actors were able to deeply touch each audience member with their tales of abuse, addiction, betrayal, and the development of a will to overcome.

After the performance, the actors opened the room up for questions. This was not only a chance for the audience to further understand the narratives that had been shared, but also to show their deep appreciation of the actor’s courage to perform such emotionally-straining stories.

Many audience members were even able to connect or relate to the stories personally, a powerful indicator of the relevance of messages that “And Still We Rise” emphasizes.

“A saint is just a sinner who fell down and got up.” As one performer so aptly sang, these words reiterate the message the group promotes so well. “And Still We Rise” is a group which promotes the ideas of forgiveness and rebirth through their own experiences and their willingness to share those experiences with others.

Overall, the sophomore Social Justice program concluded with a performance that inspired all to further question, understand and seek out positive social change in our communities.



Photo: Kayte Giorgio

Sophomores Rachel Newmiller and Kevin Morris pose for a picture with Artistic Director of “And Still We Rise,” Dev Luthra.



Photo: Kayte Giorgio

A group of Scholars smile for a picture before watching the “And Still We Rise” performance.

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.

Leon Ratz (Marshal)
Lake Coreth
Shane Ulbrich
Lindsey Hennawi
Colleen Maher

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.

Aditya Ashok
Samuel Hocking
Kyle Marra
Jessica Seminelli
Christopher Sheridan
Brian Tracz
Zachary Zimmermann

Sophomore Scholars

Each year the most academically distinguished members of the sophomore class are honored as Sophomore Scholars. The young scholars 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.

Helen Jiang
Brendan Kelly
Rachel Newmiller
Colleen Sinnott

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 2011

Lake Coreth
Kathryn Fox
Kathryn Goettl
Anne Kornahrens
Christopher Griesedieck
Colleen Maher
Courtney McKee
Leon Ratz
Andrew Rivera
Hope Sullivan
Shane Ulbrich

Class of 2012

Jessica Seminelli
Christopher Sheridan
Brian Tracz
Zachary Zimmermann

Alpha Sigma Nu

Alpha Sigma Nu is a national Jesuit honor society. It was started at Marquette University in 1915 and today has chapters in the 28 US Jesuit colleges and universities, Weston, and Berkeley Schools of Theology and Sogang University in Korea. Admission is based on scholarship, loyalty, and service.

Class of 2011

Kathryn Fox
Anne Kornahrens
Colleen Maher
Kari O'Neil
Jose Perez
Brian Varian

Class of 2012

Aditya Ashok
Elizabeth Fair
Alexander Goldowsky
Christopher Sheridan

PSP 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. Grants are for student-designed projects and are awarded for summer “skill acquisition” projects that promise to accelerate the applicant’s progress in the major field of study. A list of this year’s PSP winners and their projects are below.

Matthew Alonsozana, A&S ‘14

Philippine Public Policy and Poverty Reduction: To support research on the social context of economic and health policy in metropolitan Manila.

Shannon Cook, A&S ‘13

Hidden Argentinian History: To support the study of Argentina’s cultural history through its cuisine.

Brooke Loughrin, A&S ‘14

Women, Islam, and Politics: To support intensive study of Turkish in Istanbul and research on the politics of gender in Turkey and Iran.

Joseph Manning, A&S ‘14

Canadien Approaches to Renewable Energy: To support research on renewable energy programs in Nova Scotia.

Rachel Newmiller, A&S ‘13

*Innocent until Proven Guilty: To support an internship and research into criminal defense investigation for indigent clients.
(A Horace Seldon Advanced Study Grant)*

Sasha Savinkina, A&S ‘13

Paleo-Anthropological Exploration: To support field research of Bronze Age sites in western Siberia.

Maggie Scollan, A&S ‘14

The Bones of Black Friary: To support archaeological skill acquisition and research in osteology of medieval Ireland.

Colleen Sinnott, A&S ‘13

Health Clinics in Quito: To support research on public health policy and delivery in Ecuador.

Kelsey Swift, A&S ‘13

The Refugee Experience of Displaced Iraqis: To support intensive language study and research on refugee services in Jordan.

Alison Wawrzynek, A&S ‘14

Globalism and Cultural Identity: To support research on the effects of English proliferation on multi-lingual Morocco.

Brian Tracz, A&S ‘12

*Neuroscience beyond the Neuron, Consciousness beyond the Brain: To support research on the intersection of philosophy and neuroscience.
(An ACC-IAC ASG Thesis Research Grant)*

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Fulbright Grants

Lake Coreth ‘11, Argentina

Kelly McCartney ‘11, Vietnam

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program

Christopher Sheridan ‘12

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Aditya Ashok ‘12

Skaggs-Oxford Scholarship

Anne Kornahrens ‘11

Commencement Awards

School of Arts and Sciences

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.

Anne Kornahrens

Courtney McKee

Scott Molony

John Bapst, S.J., Philosophy Medal

A gold medal, in honor of John Bapst, S.J., given to the student whose overall performance in philosophy courses has been outstanding

Shane Ulbrich

PSP Awards

Edward H. Finnegan, S.J., Award

An award in 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."

Leon Ratz

Tully Theology Award

An award given in memory of the late Dennis H. Tully, given to the student who has written the best paper on a theological subject.

Scott Molony

Dr. Joseph Stanton Memorial Award

A cash award, the gift of Doctors Richard Stanton '38 and Joseph R. Stanton '42 in memory of their father, Dr. Joseph Stanton, M.D. The award is given to the student who has been accepted to a medical school and who has been outstanding in character, loyalty, leadership, and scholarship at Boston College.

Andrew Rivera

Joseph R. Stanton, M.D. Award '42

This award is a gift from Stanton Medical Associates in memory of Joseph Stanton, M.D. '42. The award is intended for a graduating senior who has been accepted by a medical school and who has been outstanding in character, loyalty, leadership, and scholarship at Boston College

Courtney McKee

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

Kathryn Goettl

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

Colleen Maher

John F. Norton Award

An award in honor of John F. Norton '22, Boston College professor (1926-1965), given to the student who best personifies the tradition of humanistic scholarship

Shane Ulbrich

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.

Colleen Maher

Leon Ratz

Andrew Rivera

Normand Cartier Award

The Normand Cartier Award is given to a senior who is a member of the Lambda Psi Chapter of the Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society and has demonstrated leadership in promoting French and francophone literature and culture in the Boston College community.

Kathryn Goettl

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.

Christopher Griesedieck

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.

Courtney McKee

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.

Lake Coreth

The Rev. James D. Sullivan, S.J. Award

Awarded to a senior outstanding in character and achievement.

Brian Varian

Dean's Letters of Commendation

Kari O'Neil

Congratulations, Class of 2011!



On April 28, senior Scholars, PSP Director Fr. Jim Keenan, and Assistant Director Jennie Thomas 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 Eugene M. McQuade, Chief Executive Officer, Citibank and Peggy McQuade.

Front row (left to right): Kari O'Neil, Kathryn Fox, Anne Kornahrens, Kelly McCartney, Kathryn Goettl, Courtney McKee, Lake Coreth, Hope Sullivan, Lindsey Hennawi, Colleen Maher.

Back Row (left to right): Jennie Thomas, Tue Tran, Brian Varian, Andrew Rivera, Christopher Griesedieck, Fr. Leahy, Eugene M. McQuade, Peggy McQuade, Shane Ulbrich, Jose Perez, Steven Liu, Scott Molony, Leon Ratz, Fr. Keenan.



On the morning of April 29, the class of 2011 and Program administrators were given a boat tour of New York City (shown above). They then enjoyed lunch as a group in Manhattan (pictured at left.)

BOSTON COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
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