

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

Volume XII, Issue 3

Spring 2008

Anthropologist urges constant observance



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Mary Catherine Bateson relates stories of her childhood development to present day.

By *Patrick Passarelli, A&S '10*

Amid the cheer of Valentine's Day, Presidential Scholars had the privilege of hearing from the renowned cultural anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson on what it means to be a participant observer in all aspects of life as part of the Evening Speakers Series. Bateson, whose distinguished academic career has taken her to a diverse range of universities, including Amherst College, Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines, Brandeis University, Damavand College in Tehran, Harvard, MIT, Northeastern University and Spelman College, is currently a Visiting Scholar at Boston College's Center on

Aging & Work/Workplace Flexibility, and the author of numerous books and articles. Her topic was "Participant Observation as a Way of Living."

Bateson used examples from her own life to introduce her subject, beginning with the story of how her mother, the famed anthropologist Margaret Mead, prepared her to be a participant observer in order to relate to Bobby, a boy with behavioral issues whom she was about to meet at a friend's house. She found him very difficult to play with, alternating between withdrawal and attack. Later, on the cab ride home, her mother questioned her to find how she made out with him, and what she thought of him. Bateson's response was to say, "Let's go home so I can dictate something about Bobby. I want to do that so if any other child ever has to play with a child like him, they'll know what to expect."

Years later, as an adult living in the Philippines, meeting with families affected by tragedy, and going through her own experience of pregnancy

and childbirth, Bateson applied the same approach, illustrating how both objectively and subjectively evaluating oneself and others, while actively communicating, can be a helpful tool for understanding what motivates human thought, feeling, action, and interaction. She also discussed how gaps in cultural understanding, for example the drastically different conceptions of death and personal suffering in Anglo-American and Filipino societies, may be bridged by such an approach to conversation.

Bateson's advice to enhance life by being actively self-aware struck a chord with Scholars from every field of study. Her insistence on the importance of being constantly observant certainly resonated with the scientists in the group, trained as they are to record and describe everything that goes on in the laboratory, and her artistic method spoke to humanists of what great writing is about – the intersection of two human intellects. "I found the most intriguing part of her talk to be the versatility of her philosophy," said Courtney McKee, A&S '11. "Because as we grow as individuals with diverse experiences, we have to be able to interpret problems in the context of past experience and our current knowledge."

Bateson's holistic approach to understanding human interaction gets to the heart of what the Presidential Scholars Program aims to do, both in the realm of community service and that of academia. Her method of participant observation offers a reflective framework for everything we do in life, whether it be talking to peers around a seminar table or traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi on a service trip. Bateson's response to her numerous questioners was warm, personal and welcoming, illustrating in action what she had engagingly described in her words.

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New freshman tradition begins with salsa

By Hope Sullivan, A&S '11

Near the beginning of the school year, a challenge was presented to the freshman class of Presidential Scholars: to collaborate on and execute an on-campus project that would raise money for charity. The purpose of this exercise, an idea of program Director Dr. Sardella, was to strengthen the bonds of friendship they had forged and to build upon the teamwork experiences they had shared at their Outward Bound ropes course run by Thompson Island in Boston Harbor, while also giving them a firsthand look into the in- and-outs of planning an event on campus. After numerous meetings and debates, the Scholars selected a charitable organization, an event, and a date, March 28. The cause was Heifer International, an organization that seeks to build sustainable communities in underdeveloped countries by raising money to purchase much-needed supplies and to provide education on a myriad of topics including HIV-AIDS, micro-enterprise, and gender equity. The Scholars decided to host "Salsa Dancing: BC Nights," a Latin dance night, complete with a salsa lesson.

Brian Varian, CSOM '11, volunteered to be the coordinator of the event, putting in countless hours to oversee all of the various tasks and to ensure that everyone involved knew what his or her responsibility was. Preparations quickly got underway for Salsa Night, and a venue, the O'Connell House on Upper



Photo: Steven Liu, CSOM '11

Scholars Colleen Maher, A&S '11, and Tue Tran, A&S '11, prepare to salsa the night away.

Campus, was selected. By collaborating with the Office of Residential Life's "Nights on the Heights" project, an initiative to provide more accessible and fun substance-free alternative activities on the weekends, the Scholars were able to procure the O'Connell House for Salsa Night without a rental fee. Pizza and other refreshments were to be provided at no cost. With those details taken care of, salsa lessons were the next order of business. Fuego del Corazon, a BC Latin dance group, generously accepted an invitation to perform a routine and lead beginner salsa classes for the attendees of Salsa Night.

The week leading up to Salsa Night

was hectic: fliers went up across campus, ads were taken out in campus publications, and a Facebook group was created to inform students about the event. When the big night finally arrived, the O'Connell House was a vision in festive streamers and colored lights. The freshmen put on their festive clothes and their dancing shoes and eagerly awaited the arrival of the first guests. After a thrilling performance by Fuego, everyone in attendance enjoyed a salsa lesson, learning a few steps and enjoying the vibrant Latin music. The rest of the night lent itself to dancing and music and overall fun with friends. At the end of the night, over \$470 had been raised for Heifer, and a good time was had by all.

Shortly after Salsa Night, Dr. Sardella, Assistant Director Jennie Thomas, and the freshman Scholars held a debriefing session to discuss the experience. The discussion focused on what the Scholars had learned, how results could have been improved, and what advice could be offered to future PSP classes who might undertake a similar endeavor. All were in agreement that they were glad to have participated in the project. As Kelly McCartney, A&S '11, said, "I thought overall that Salsa Night was a great success. Regardless of the amount of money we raised the planning process really brought our class together and forced us to work together to accomplish a common goal. Mostly though, it was a lot of fun for everybody who went!"

WELCOME PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2012

Aditya Ashok
Nashua, NH

Alexander Goldowsky
Fairfield, CT

Kyle Marra
Wayne, NJ

Caroline Beyer
Yarrow Point, WA

Samuel Hocking
Randolph, NJ

Jessica Seminelli
Congers, NY

Sarah Collier
Philadelphia, PA

Aleksandra Jachtorowicz
Maynard, MA

Christopher Sheridan
Baltimore, MD

Michael Cuttler
Lido Beach, NY

Karen Kovaka
Corydon, IN

Robert Tracz
Highland Heights, OH

Elizabeth Fair
Mobile, AL

Abigail Letak
Plymouth, MN

Zachary Zimmermann
Grand Rapids, MI

Senior theses reflect breadth of interests

By Brian Varian, CSOM '11

For many Americans, April 15 is an all too frequently dreaded day. For the Presidential Scholars Program, however, April 15, 2008 was a cause for celebration. On that evening, five senior Scholars were given the opportunity to showcase their theses before fellow Scholars and other guests. The theses presented were: "Labor as Sexual Signaling," by Michael Cotter, A&S '08; "I Wish My Paper Airplane Had Wings," by Louis Eppich, A&S '08; "Mechanisms of the Metabolic Syndrome," by Kelly Fitzgerald, A&S '08; "Kufic Korans," by Emily Neumeier, A&S '08; and "Their Mutuall Embracements: Discourses on Male-Female Connection in Early Modern England," by Lindsay Williams, A&S '08 (spelling of mutuall taken from early modern text used by Lindsay). The presented theses reflect both the breadth and multiplicity of highly cultivated interests embodied in the Presidential Scholars Program. And while the topics of these theses are quite diverse, each one was presented with a uniform fervor and passion. Chris Griesedieck, A&S '11, astutely pointed out, "One of the most valuable pieces of advice that I gleaned from the presentations was that a successful thesis requires not just dedication and copious research, but a genuine interest in its subject matter."

Michael Cotter began the evening by stating that income is a sexual signal for men. He presented statistical evidence that men with higher incomes have more sexual partners. For every additional \$100,000 that a man earns per year, he has two additional partners on average. Additionally, the more hours a man works per week, the more sexual partners he has. While much of Cotter's research is based upon recent data and scholarship in the area of psycho-economics, he also relied upon older, better known sources, such as Thorstein Veblen, a sociologist and economist who integrated the principles of anthropology, sociology, and psychology in the development of evolutionary economics. Cotter offered an enlightening presentation of a most creative thesis topic.

Next, Louis Eppich successfully conveyed the premise and structure

of his young adult novel "I Wish My Paper Airplane Had Wings." The central character is Rudy, a 5th grade social outcast. Since Rudy needs a friend, the author (Eppich) gives him one. As Eppich explained, his novel falls under the category of metafiction, where none of the characters are real and where the author can intervene at will. There is another layer of complexity to Eppich's novel. The novel is ergotic, which means that the book requires the active participation of the reader, such as holding the book up to a mirror to read the words. Valuable advice Eppich had for fellow Scholars was to keep a journal. Eppich did this throughout his four years at BC and had a wealth of ideas to draw upon when writing his novel.

Following, Kelly Fitzgerald presented on the staggering increase in obesity that has been sweeping across the United States for the past several decades. Fitzgerald's presentation included an interactive map of the U.S. on which each state was shaded a particular color based upon the percent of its overweight population. Fitzgerald had about thirty years worth of maps, which were presented in rapid succession. The changing colors indicated a startling trend that needs to be halted. Fitzgerald concluded with a biological examination of the root of obesity: free fatty acids.

Moving from the U.S. to the Middle East, Emily Neumeier condensed her nearly endless expertise on Kufic Koran into a ten-minute presentation. Neumeier was intrigued by how there was a transition from linear script to rounded script in the eleventh and twelfth centuries in the Middle East. She collaborated closely with Professor Shelia Blair, The Calderwood Chair in Fine Arts, on the subject. And then, when offered the opportunity to curate an exhibit at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on this very subject, Neumeier spent her summer internship preparing for the exhibit. She learned a great deal about the day-to-day functioning of a museum, while also contributing original and fascinating scholarship to the BC community.

Finally, Lindsay Williams presented her thesis concerning how women were portrayed in Shakespearean England. As an English major and Women's Studies



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Scholar Louis Eppich, A&S '08, discusses his young adult novel, "I Wish My Paper Airplane Had Wings."

minor, Williams found the inspiration for her thesis in a course that she took through the English department. While most academic scholars maintain that Shakespearean England was a highly patriarchal society, Williams argued to the contrary, providing numerous references in which the tenderness and affection of women was portrayed positively. Lindsay cited the conclusion of Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale* as an example of this positive portrayal.

By the end of the evening, even the freshmen Scholars were considering what topics they wanted to explore for their senior theses. And while the freshmen have ample time to ponder their options, it is never too early to explore areas of interest. Certainly, the senior presenters were extremely passionate about their topics. The fact that each presenter struggled to stay within the time allotted confirmed an exceptional enthusiasm for his or her thesis. Kelly McCartney, A&S '11, best summarizes the evening, "The seniors' passion for their topics was evident in each presentation. It was wonderful to see the work that their time at BC has culminated in."

Amnesty International with Joshua Rubenstein

By Kelly McCartney, A&S '11

The Presidential Scholars Evening Speaker Series resumed after spring break with a presentation on Tuesday, March 11 by Joshua Rubenstein, Northeastern Regional Director of Amnesty International USA, and Associate at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies.

Rubenstein spoke to the Scholars on the topic of "Human Rights: in the Library and in the Streets," a subject that drew on Rubenstein's long-time experience as both an author and an activist.

Like many before him, Rubenstein's college years proved to be very formative. A Russian major, he discovered that he did not want to learn Chinese as a second language, decided against attending graduate school in pursuit of a degree in philosophy, and chose instead to spend a year in Israel, a decision that would shape his future life.

While in Israel, Rubenstein became acquainted with a number of Russian Jews who had immigrated to Israel in order to escape persecution. The conversations he had with them sparked a lifelong interest in the Soviet Jewish experience. Rubenstein also decided that he wanted to become a writer while in Israel and supported himself by teaching religious education.

Rubenstein was given the opportunity to review *The Gulag Archipelago*, Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn's groundbreaking 1973 eyewitness account of the Soviet prison camps. The review established him as a writer, affording Rubenstein the visibility that allowed him to continue writing articles for a variety of magazines and journals, and he has since published multiple books. Among a variety of other topics, Rubenstein has written about the Soviet Jewish writer and journalist Ilya Ehrenburg and the experience of Jews in German-occupied Soviet territories during the Holocaust.

After his time in Israel, Rubenstein began volunteering at Amnesty



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Joshua Rubenstein conveys the institutional changes in Amnesty International.

International. Only six months after he began his work at Amnesty, the part-time Northeastern Coordinator stepped down to join the Foreign Service and Rubenstein was hired to take her job.

When Rubenstein first took the position of Northeast Coordinator over two decades ago, Amnesty International had only seven paid employees of Amnesty in the United States. There are now over 170 on staff. As the most senior Amnesty employee in the United States, Rubenstein was well-equipped to discuss the changes and expansions that Amnesty has gone through over the years, which has helped to raise his visibility as a spokesperson for the organization.

One especially significant shift that has occurred in recent years has been Amnesty's increasing involvement in economic and social rights. "For a long time, Amnesty focused solely on civil and political rights," Rubenstein said. "When people started to blame Amnesty's stance in part for causing a lack of focus on economic and social rights, Amnesty expanded and started to

consider those rights as well."

A spirited question and answer session followed as the Scholars brought up issues of abortion, technology, and torture, which Rubenstein responded to with clarity and deftness.

"I thought that the questions asked were really pertinent to current events and that [Rubenstein] offered really interesting perspectives on some controversial issues," said Lindsey Hennawi, A&S '11.

Many scholars were equally interested in learning about how Rubenstein's own experiences shaped his career trajectory.

"It was interesting to see how Rubenstein arrived at his current career almost completely by chance," said Hope Sullivan, A&S '11. "It offered an interesting contrast to all of the students today who enter college knowing that they want to work in human rights."

Rubenstein's captivating story of his journey between disciplines and across nations was a definite inspiration to Scholars resuming their own academic pursuits after spring break.

Triumph over tragedy with Travis Roy

By Tue Tran, A&S '11

Boston College's men's hockey team won the national championship this year, catapulting hockey into the front of students' minds. Just two weeks before this achievement, former Boston University hockey player Travis Roy also had students thinking about the sport, but in a different sense. Not only intellectually invigorating, Roy's story about being a quadriplegic also struck a chord with those present, asking tough questions about values, goals, and hope. While most presenters of the Evening Speaker Series address the Presidential Scholars, Roy's April 1 presentation was sponsored by a campus-wide coalition of groups and programs, and attracted an audience that filled the large lecture room in McGuinn Hall. Despite that fact, the evening had a feeling of intimacy as Travis kept the attention of the audience with a gentle voice and a great sense of humor.

Roy's story of tragedy had gained national attention and was familiar to many at Boston College because Roy had attended nearby Boston University. His heroic response was less well known, and it was his reflections on his experience that he shared with his enthralled listeners.

One constant in Travis Roy's life had been a habit of writing down detailed lists of goals, checking each one off as it was accomplished. One of those goals was to play college hockey, and Roy stood on the verge of accomplishing this goal as he prepared to play his first game for the defending national champion BU Terriers as a freshman on Friday, October 20, 1995. Tragically, only 11 seconds after he took the ice for his first college game, he was involved in a collision that left him paralyzed from the neck down. Roy required a ventilator to breathe for two months, with blinking as his only means of communication. He had broken his fourth and fifth vertebrae and severely damaged his spinal cord.

Roy's goals of playing college hockey and moving on to a career in the National Hockey League were replaced by more modest but infinitely more difficult ones, such as feeding himself. Roy equated the



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

Travis Roy speaks about setting goals and overcoming obstacles.

sheer effort of lifting a bagel six inches after eight weeks of rehabilitation with bench -pressing 160 pounds before his accident. Another goal, though, was much more audacious: going back to college. He would later be able to check off that goal when he graduated from BU.

During this time, he realized what was most important: family, friends, and goals. Now, Roy spends much of his time traveling around the country to share his story, urging his listeners to set and follow their goals, and to be constantly optimistic. "When I look at my life, I still feel very fortunate," Roy said. "I can still cry, laugh, and enjoy the people around me and the love around me carries me."

During Roy's time at the rehabilitation center, people around the country who had heard the story of his tragic accident sent Roy money, which he used to found The Travis Roy Foundation in 1997, which is dedicated to supporting survivors of spinal cord injuries and to promoting research in search of a cure, supported in part by income from his speaking engagements. He stressed the importance of giving back: "As much has been

given, much is expected." Since 1997, his foundation has given over \$2.5 million in individual grants, funding for research, and donations to rehabilitation centers across the country.

The most powerful moment of the night was when Roy spoke about respecting others: "You have to earn respect? I disagree. We should give people our utmost respect from the start... We need a little more patience and tolerance to solve the issues in our world. Respect from the start."

It was with his heart and spirit that Roy was able to overcome the obstacles in his life. From his talk, the students understood that in just 11 seconds, Roy's life changed forever. That is why Roy wanted to motivate those in attendance to live life to the fullest and set goals beyond expectation: "I believe that each one of us, each one of you is capable of doing things unimaginable."

"Travis Roy's story is important to hear," said Colleen Maher, A&S'11. "In every stage of our lives, we need to have goals and strive to attain them, no matter how big or small."

Alumni return with rich and diverse experiences



Alumni Panel Speakers (from left) Catalina Azuero, A&S '00, Jean-Paul Sanday, CSOM '06, Hannah Nolan-Spohn, A&S '05, and Anne Doran Halli-Tierney, A&S '02 pause for a picture after giving valuable advice.

By Brian Varian, CSOM '11

The speakers in the Presidential Scholars Program Weekly Lecture Series are always extraordinarily accomplished men and women who offer insights into life beyond the Boston College campus. These speakers are luminaries in their fields, representing the heights of scholarship, service, and professionalism. It is a reflection on the success of the PSP when alumni are able to speak in this capacity.

This year on April 8, the annual Alumni Panel included Jean-Paul Sanday, CSOM '06; Hannah Nolan-Spohn, A&S '05; Catalina Azuero, A&S '00; and Anne Doran Halli-Tierney, A&S '02. While each provided unique insights into his or her experiences at Boston College and beyond, they were unequivocal in their praise of the PSP and its influence upon their scholastic and professional pursuits.

While at Boston College, Jean-Paul Sanday was a Marketing and Operations & Technology Management double major in the Carroll School of Management. He is currently an associate at Summit Partners, a leading private equity and venture capital firm in Boston. Sanday cautioned Scholars against being overly focused on one particular career path and encouraged

Scholars to be open and receptive to unexpected opportunities citing the time he welcomed the opportunity for a summer internship in consulting, even though it is not the typical career path for an investment banker. An interesting project that Sanday is working on is the Level Field Foundation, a charity he established to provide sports facilities for underprivileged youth. The project is progressing under his direction, and the charity received its tax I.D. on the very day of the presentation. Indeed, Sanday noted that it is important to incorporate service into whatever profession one chooses.

Hannah Nolan-Spohn, Class of 2005, was an Environmental Geoscience major. She is currently the programs coordinator for 826 Boston, a non-profit start-up that provides tutoring for children ages six through eighteen. She cited the summer of service after her freshmen year as very influential, especially her placement at Project Bread Foodsource Hotline. However, Nolan-Spohn wanted to structure her career around a more creative form of service, a goal which she was able to achieve as the programs coordinator for 826. Currently, she is working on integrating educational programs at a struggling high school in Boston. Nolan-Spohn went on to discuss two, often polar roles that she fulfills:

working with underprivileged children and fundraising with the wealthy. Each role is a job in itself. While Nolan-Spohn works many hours a week, she brings to her job a sure energy and passion evident to everyone in the room.

Catalina Azuero graduated with a degree in English and later continued her studies at the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill. Upon completing her graduate studies, Azuero served in a number of prestigious legal positions and is currently employed by the law firm of Goodwin & Procter in Boston. At the beginning of her presentation, Azuero dispelled some common misperceptions regarding the legal profession by explaining that, in reality, very little time is spent in the courtroom and that lawyers are more courteous than portrayed on television. Catalina advised the Scholars to consider taking at least one year to pursue a unique passion before beginning pre-professional studies.

The final presenter was Anne Doran Halli-Tierney who was an English major in the pre-med program. She obtained her M.D. from the University of Alabama School of Medicine and is currently a House Officer in Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital, while fulfilling her residency at Brown University. Halli-Tierney has set several ambitious goals for herself, including a fellowship in geriatrics and a two-year program in which she will be teaching clinical workers. Some advice she offered to the Scholars was that they should pursue whichever major interests them, regardless of their plans after graduation. As a doctor, Halli-Tierney finds herself able to integrate the knowledge she acquired as an English major into her profession. While this ability can hardly eliminate the long, arduous hours associated with a medical residency, it does make her job more fulfilling.

The panel was followed by questions from the audience, and Kari O'Neil, A&S '11, stated: "It was interesting to see past graduates of the Program who have made it in the real world. Their insights were helpful and proved that if you work hard, the sky is the limit."

Feature: PSP in publication

By Ana Mascagni, A&S '09

For Presidential Scholar Pilar Landon, A&S '09, the Honors Program's Western Cultural Tradition seminars have traditionally started with a discussion about current events at Boston College. While such discussions are not unique to the one seminar, Pilar is most definitely in a unique position to contribute to and participate in such a conversation. She is the Editor-In-Chief of *The Heights*, BC's independent student newspaper, and as such, is always involved in the latest happenings on campus, be it through interviewing high-profile speakers such as Senator John McCain or by discussing the University's new master plan with administrators.

The job comes with costs, but Landon said it is worth it.

"The hours and stresses of working on *The Heights* are very similar to those I expect to encounter in the working world after college," Landon said. "The experience of balancing a 60-hour work week on top of a full academic schedule is invaluable in the way it teaches time management. I can think of no better sense of accomplishment than knowing that, as I climb into bed at 5 am, there will be a copy of *The Heights* waiting for me when I awake (usually in the afternoon)."

While Pilar has the distinctive opportunity to manage an independent publication with a distribution of 8,000 and an operating budget of \$250,000, she is not the only Presidential Scholar actively involved with a BC publication. Such commitment and leadership is not difficult to find among the Presidential Scholars. Joining Pilar on the Editorial Board of *The Heights*, Tim Mooney, A&S '09, currently holds the position of Opinions Editor and Tue Tran, A&S '11, serves as the Layout Editor.

Two years ago, Michael Camacho, A&S '09, co-founded *Dialogue*, BC's undergraduate essay journal that attempts to bridge the divide between academia and life. "We want to create dialogue, spark intellectual interest, and in some ways bring what students have learned in the classroom into

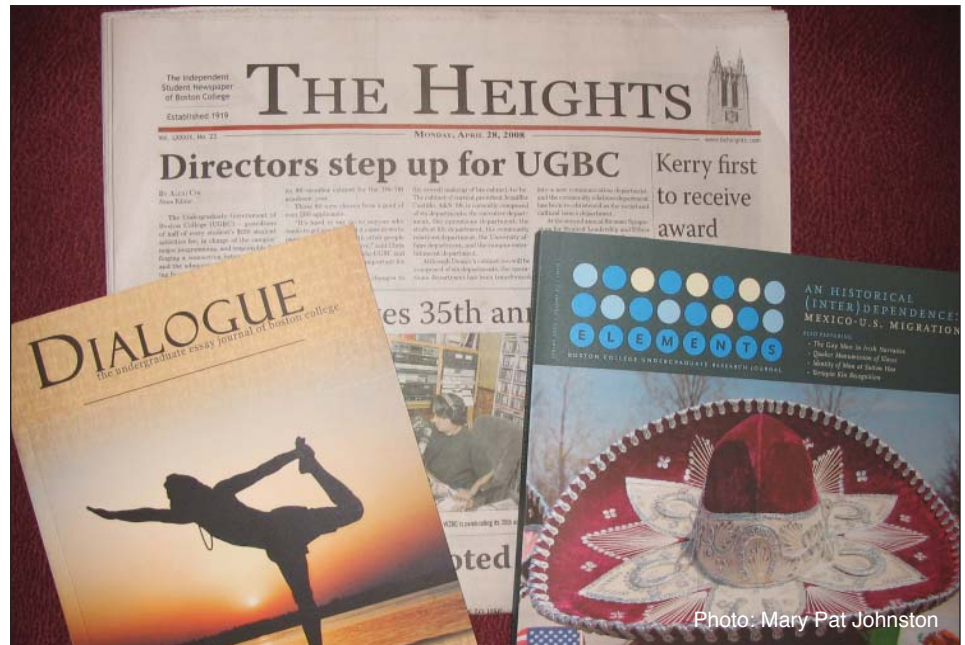


Photo: Mary Pat Johnston

Scholars are actively involved in many campus publications including *Dialogue*, *The Heights*, and *Elements*.

contact with everyday life," he said, addressing questions of what led to the journal's founding. Michael, who currently holds the position of Editor-in-Chief, is accompanied on this year's *Dialogue* board by Natural Sciences Editor Dillon Gardner, A&S '08, and Philosophy/Theology Senior Editor Robert Kubala, A&S '09.

Also in the genre of non-fiction, there is *Elements*, the undergraduate research journal of BC. Founded by Greg Wiles, A&S '06, in 2004, *Elements* showcases academic papers written by BC students. Greg also served as the journal's first Editor-in-Chief. The *Elements* staff currently includes Tim Kelly, A&S '09, Managing Editor; Katherine Wu, A&S '08, Deputy Editor and Senior Natural Sciences Editor; Erin Groden, A&S '10, Natural Sciences Layout Editor; Anne Kornahrens, A&S '11, Natural Sciences Editor; Paul Wendel, A&S '08, Senior Social Sciences Editor; Caitlin Peterson A&S '08, Social Sciences Editor; and Brian Varian, CSOM '11, Social Sciences Editor. Erin describes her experience as having been very enlightening. "Being a Biology major, editing research papers on natural sciences helps me to see the manifestation of the material I

am studying on a more concrete level," Groden said.

Like Erin, many Scholars see their involvement in these organizations as an extension of their studies. Tue Tran, A&S '11, is a Communication major and became involved with *The Heights* as soon as he decided that he wanted to pursue journalism as a career. Others, like Pilar, chose to do it because they had been involved in similar organizations in high school, or because it offers them an opportunity to pursue writing recreationally.

Tim Mooney, A&S '09, joined *The Heights* his freshman year after having been the editor of his high school paper. A Political Science major, he now holds the position of Opinions Editor. "I really enjoy being in a production atmosphere," Mooney said. "In class you can't always see what your work is for, but with the newspaper you have something tangible to show for it the next day."

Whatever the reasons behind their decisions, there was broad agreement among the Presidential Scholars who are involved in publications that it offers them a unique opportunity to expand their awareness of local and global issues and, at the same time, participate actively in the BC community.

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.

Samuel Dolinger – Marshal
Emily Neumeier – Marshal
Margaret Sullivan
Paul Wendel
Lindsay Williams

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.

Michael Camacho
Matthew Hamilton
Nathan Keegan
Robert Kubala
Pilar Landon
Jim Luo
Timothy Mooney
Celso Perez

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.

Sarah Lang
Ana Mascagni
Kelly McConnaughey
Cecelia McDonald
Jonathan Pike
Joseph Zabinski

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 2008

Natalia Bauer
Samuel Dolinger
Dillon Gardner
Emily Neumeier
Lindsay Williams – Initiated in 2007
Katherine Wu

Class of 2009

Robert Kubala
Timothy Mooney

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.

Lindsay Williams '08

Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society

Dobro Slovo serves as a means for the recognition of academic excellence in the study of Slavic languages, literature, history, and culture. The Society serves as an incentive for scholarly interest in Slavic life and culture. The Key of the Society is as representative of academic excellence in Slavic studies as the Phi Beta Kappa is for academic studies as a whole.

Margaret Sullivan '08

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.

Kathryn Goettl '10

Material Expressions of French and Mexican-American Catholicism: To support a comparative study of Catholic cathedrals, chapels, and shrines in France and the American Southwest.

Scott Jelinek '10

Micro-Economics, Institutional Policies, and HIV/AIDS in Mozambique: To support a study of the impact of standard of living and cultural attitudes on health care delivery.

PSP Awards

Colleen Maher '11

The Things We Know Best: To support research into memory and attention functions in electro-convulsive therapy patients in Dublin.

Cecelia McDonald '10

The Next Billion: To support language fluency and research into fostering micro-finance projects in China.

Celso Perez '09

Bioethics, Public Health, and Catholic Theological Ethics: To support participation in the European Academy of Bioethics conference in Germany.

Jonathan Pike '10

The Eco-village Development Concept: To support research into local sustainable development practices in Senegal.

Leon Ratz '11

The Effect of Global Trade in Conventional Weapons on Human Rights Violations: To support a research internship on weapons export/import regulations with Amnesty International in London.

CRC Press Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award for General Chemistry

Courtney McKee

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Fulbright Grantees

Fulbright Grants support an academic year of graduate research or field-work in Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Latin America and the South Pacific. Academic or artistic projects in a wide variety of fields are funded.

Emily Neumeier '08 (Turkey)

State Department Critical Language Scholarship

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the Critical Language Scholarships Program offers intensive overseas study in the critical need foreign languages. The Program is part of the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), a U.S. government interagency effort to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical need foreign languages.

Margaret Sullivan '08 (Tomsk, Russia)

Commencement Awards

School of Arts and Sciences

Natalia Bauer

Max Wainer Award

A gold medal, the gift of Anneliese K. Wainer, Ph.D., '72, in honor of her husband, Max Wainer, given annually to the senior who is deemed the outstanding student in classics.

Sam Dolinger

Brendan Connolly, SJ, Award

An award in honor of Brendan Connolly, S.J. (1913-1974), Director of Libraries at Boston College (1959-1974), a witty and deeply loyal man who loved books and respected learning. This award is made to a member of the senior class who is distinguished for the same characteristics.

Princess Grace of Monaco Award in French

An award offered by Dr. Helene Day, Consul of Monaco, and Dr. Paul William Garber and Dr. Phillip C. Garber, Consuls of Chile in Boston, given to a senior who has excelled in French.

Max Wainer Award

A gold medal, the gift of Anneliese K. Wainer, Ph.D., '72, in honor of her husband, Max Wainer, given annually to the senior who is deemed the outstanding student in classics.

Kelly Fitzgerald

Dr. Joseph S. Stanton 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.

Dillon Gardner

Albert J. McGuinn, SJ Award

This award is in memory of the late Albert McGuinn, S.J., long-time Chairman of the Chemistry Department at Boston College, and presented to the senior candidate for the Bachelor of Science degree. The recipient has most successfully combined proficiency in a major field of study with achievements, either academic, extracurricular, or a combination of both, in the social sciences or humanities.

PSP Awards

Emily Neumeier

Frank J. Bailey, Sr. Award

An award, the gift of the Bailey family, in memory of their father Frank J. Baily, given to the graduating senior with a distinguished academic record in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.

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.

Richard and Marianne Martin Award for Art History

In memory of Richard and Marianne Martin for their dedication to the ideal of art, and for their unstinting devotion to the goals and values of Boston College.

Two awards are given by the Boston College Friends of Art: one to an outstanding scholar in Art History, the other to a student who excels in Studio Art.

Lindsay Williams

Janet Wilson James Essay Prize in Women's Studies

An award in memory of Professor Janet Wilson James, historian and feminist scholar, given to a senior distinguished for scholarship in Women's Studies.

William A. Kean Memorial Award

An award, the gift of James M. Kean in memory of his brother, William A. Kean '35, given to that member of the graduating class deemed the outstanding English major.

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.

Congratulations Class of 2008!



The senior Presidential Scholars traveled to New York City for the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner, which was held on April 24. The Scholars dined at the Waldorf Astoria with Fr. Leahy, major donors, and this year's honoree William C. Weldon, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Johnson & Johnson. Front Row (l to r): Kelly Fitzgerald, Margaret Sullivan, Emily Neumeier, Angela Brewster, Caitlin Peterson, Lindsay Wilcox, Lindsay Williams, Natalia Bauer, Katherine Wu, Jessica Fuller. Back Row (l to r): Michael Cotter, Paul Wendel, Dillon Gardner, Marjorie S. Sardella, Rev. William P. Leahy, Barbara Weldon, William C. Weldon, Dr. Dennis J. Sardella, Molly Baum, Samuel Dolinger, Matthew Becker, Louis Eppich, Jennie Thomas.

Scholar and Alumni Updates

Scholars in the News

Two PSP undergraduates presented the results of their research projects at the ACC Meeting of the Minds conference held at Florida State University in April:

Robert Kubala '09: *Scientific Translation: Gustav Fritsch in the History of the Neurosciences*

Scott Jelinek '10: *The Multiple Layers of HIV/AIDS Devastation in Western Kenya - Exploring the cultural, economic, and educational impacts inflicted by HIV/AIDS*

Scott Jelinek '10 also published a paper titled "Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS on Sub-Saharan Africa" in *The Eagletarian*, Boston College's Economic Research Journal. He also published a paper titled "Cultural Respect and Awareness: A Health Care Imperative" in *Ethos*, Boston College's Bioethics Research Journal.

Robert Kubala '09 was invited to present *Gustav Fritsch and the History of Electric Fish* at the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences Conference in Berlin, June 19, 2008 and served as the Musical Director for "A New Brain," presented by Boston College Contemporary Theater.

Emily Neumier '08 was the curator of the exhibition Kufic Korans at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts this year and presented a paper this spring at the South Florida Symposium on Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books. She was the only undergraduate student to present at this symposium.

Emily Neumeier '08 published a paper titled "The Façade of Sultan al-Mu'ayyad Shaykh's Hospital in Cairo" in *Al-Noor*, Boston College's Undergraduate Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Journal.

Celso Perez '09 received the Brian Hall Leadership Award which is presented to the individual who has created positive change within a student organization and its student membership, as well as contributed to the overall quality of student life.

Celso Perez '09 was presented with one of the seven Genius Awards by *The Heights* for helping to bridge the difficult divide between the gay community and the BC administration. He was also elected co-president of the GLBTQ Leadership Council for the '08-'09 academic year.

Celso Perez '09 presented his paper *Mutuality and Pleasure: A Discussion of the Female Orgasm in Contemporary Catholic Sexual Ethics* at the 2008 BC Research Symposium and was recognized for his presentation.

Kelly McCartney '11 and **Nicole Wong '09** were selected

for the 4Boston Council and Matt Hamilton '09 was named one of the Directors of 4Boston.

Ryan Beck '10 was appointed as the (Co-) Executive Director of Environmental Issues for UGBC for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Chris Scullin '10 was named a Political Science Distinguished Sophomore.

Sarah Lang '10 was honored with an Achievement in the Arts award by the BC Arts Council for her work in theater at this year's Boston College Art's Festival.

Joseph Zabinski '10 was recognized by the Consul General of Germany in Boston for excellence in German studies and was also awarded a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to conduct research in physics in Dortmund, Germany this summer.

Leon Ratz '11 is a Center for Human Rights and International Justice Research Grant recipient. Awarded to only one undergraduate and one graduate student each year.

Alumni in the News

Richard Aberman '07 will be attending NYU Law this Fall with a scholarship in the Leadership Program in Law and Business.

Ellen (Burke) Duffy '04 is now a Special Agent with the US Department of Education, Office of Inspector General. Upon completion of the training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, she was presented the Director's Award, which is given to the individual who best represents the core law enforcement values such as integrity and courage. She was also awarded for the top academic performance in her class.

Marlene Carvajal '00 was awarded the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship in 2007 and has been living in Germany since.

James Hebbeler '97 received the DAAD Research Grant for study in Tuebingen, Germany (academic year 06-07) and the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (academic year 08-09) for his dissertation research while pursuing his Ph.D. in philosophy at University of Notre Dame.

Patricia Noonan '07 recently became a member of the Actors Equity Association.

Marisol Orihuela '03 received the Liman fellowship to conduct an immigrant rights' project at the ACLU of Southern California next year.

BOSTON COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
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Bread for the Journey

True Excellence Begins With Aspiration

The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.

- Michelangelo