

# Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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## Dover Retreat Welcomes Returning and Incoming Scholars



Scholars are all smiles at their first event back together for the new school year

### By Angelo Villadolid '22

The beginning of a new school year presents unique challenges to Boston College students in each class, even to the Gabelli Presidential Scholars. New students are bombarded with new environments and new faces, new rules and regulations from Welcome Week, and their own expectations, anticipations, and apprehensions regarding their new life in college and in their prestigious, yet slightly mysterious, scholarship Program. Returning students also have their own share of adjustment to make, as they move to new homes on campus and take on new jobs and classes, as well as greater responsibilities as upperclassmen. They also have to recover from their activities in the summer. Everyone comes into the school year preoccupied in different ways, and giving them all an opportunity to regroup, refocus, and reconnect is one of the reasons why the Dover Retreat is such an integral part of how the Scholars begin their school year.

On Saturday, August 24th, the Scholars traveled to the Connors Family Retreat and Conference Center in Dover, MA for their annual two-day Dover Retreat. This retreat, as explained by Associate Director Jennie Thomas and Professor Kathy Bailey at the start of the

weekend, serves primarily to welcome the freshmen into the GPSP, to give them advice, reassurance, and general orientation regarding how to approach their studies, extracurricular, and their activities in the Program. It also gives the upperclassmen time to regroup and plan for their own major activities in the coming year. Most importantly, the retreat allows all the students in the Program to meet their old friends and make new ones.

The retreat began with a warm welcome to the students by Jennie, Prof. Bailey, and Father James Keenan, after which the students introduced themselves in turn. The group then focused their attention on alumnus Tim Mooney '09, who shared his experience of how the Program shaped him and prepared him for life after BC. They then had lunch before breaking the students up by class. The freshmen learned about donor relations, Italy study tour, and the faculty mentor program, while the sophomores conferred about their Social Justice Project, a year-long awareness-raising project concerning a social justice issue of their choice. The juniors met to plan their upcoming internships, and the seniors discussed their own plans for after their graduation.

The students were then split

into their Dover Small Groups. Each of these groups consists of students from each class, and they meet not only at the retreat, but frequently throughout the year to check-in, share advice, and enjoy fellowship. At the retreat, the older students showered the freshmen with advice on what they needed to know to start the school year, including where to get textbooks and how to handle different classes. They also made frequent assurances that they were all available to the freshmen as resources for advice, connections, and other such help. After that, Fr. Keenan met with the whole group to explain and emphasize the Program's four core values - global leadership, hospitality, fidelity to partners, and care for the common good. Group photos were taken on the front lawn while alumni began to arrive to join the Scholars for Mass (with Fr. Keenan, assisted by Matthew Monnig '97), and then the BBQ on the back lawn. Later in the night, the students all bonded by playing various games and watching the first game of the college football season. Afterward, the sophomores and some juniors met with the freshmen to answer the new students' questions about student life on campus, and regale them with stories of their past experiences in the program.

# Class of 2020 travels to Jordan

By Kate Peaquin '20

After summers spent working internships across the globe, the class of 2020 came back to Boston this August to embark on the trip to the Middle East. The Scholars spent ten days learning about the political, environmental, and religious contexts of Jordan so as to provide deeper insight into one of the most misunderstood areas of the world: the Middle East. Nearly 24 hours of travel later, the Scholars landed in Amman excited to see what was for many of the seniors, their first glimpse of the Middle East.

The first day in Jordan did not disappoint as the Scholars were taken on an exploration of the Jordanian capital beginning with a tour of the King Abdullah Mosque. At the Mosque, the Scholars were given a background of Islamic history and the ways in which modern Jordanians practice and view their faith. From the modern religious realities of the Mosque, the seniors moved back in time as they explored the ruins of a citadel and amphitheater that were built when Amman was an important Greco-Roman city known as Philadelphia. The true highlight of the day, however, was the lunch. As soon as the class sat down, platters of grilled meats, heaping trays of pitas and hummus, and bowls of delicious salads were brought out. The meal exposed the seniors to Middle Eastern food as well as gave them insights into the extensive hospitality of the Jordanian people that they would experience throughout the trip.

The next day, the seniors set



Photo: Leena Rijhwani

Scholars ride camels through the desert of Jordan



Photo: Kathy Bailey

Scholars take a moment to pose for a photo in Petra

out for what is probably Jordan's most well known attraction: Petra. To get to the ancient city, the Scholars had to walk through a narrow pathway that leads through towering rock faces until the rock opens up revealing one of the wonders of the world. After exploring the ancient site and learning about the Nabataean civilization that built the city, the Scholars journeyed to Aqaba. There they enjoyed the warm waters of the Red Sea as they watched the sun set over the Sinai Peninsula. Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Saudi Arabia's borders all meet at the Red Sea and as such it serves as a tranquil space to consider both the historical and modern day political tension that this beautiful area of the world has been witness to.

The next morning, the Scholars got to witness firsthand the environmental threats that face Jordan. Aqaba serves as the only connection to the sea for water-scarce Jordan and has been at the center

of many of the recent efforts to protect Jordan, including the possible installation of a desalination plant at the port. The area is also on the front lines of the effects of climate change, as the Scholars witnessed the bleached coral reefs during a boat tour of the Red Sea.

From the water rich Aqaba, Scholars traveled to the desert of Wadi Rum, where they marveled at the open expanse and large rock formations that composed the valley. For dinner, the seniors were exposed to local Bedouin traditions including dances, copious amount of tea, and star-gazing under the light of the moon.

The next few days exposed the Scholars to the many diverse aspects of Jordan as they visited the well preserved ancient city of Jerash, explored the church of St. George in Madabba, talked to prospective Boston College students at King's Academy, and spent Father James Keenan's Jesuit anniversary on Mt. Nebo where Moses was said to have died. The seniors visited the Caritas Center where they learned about the efforts being made to care for and empower the nearly 1.4 million Syrian refugees currently living in Jordan. At the Jesuit Refugee Service Center, the Scholars got to speak with people who had fled from Sudan, Syria, and Iraq and hear about their experience in Jordan.

Jordan proved to be an engaging, surprising, and informative ten days that the senior class is not likely to forget.

# Class of 2020 travels to Jordan



Photo courtesy of: Leena Rijhwani



Photo: Kathy Bailey



Photo: Leena Rijhwani



Photo courtesy of: Leena Rijhwani



Photo: Leena Rijhwani



Photo: Leena Rijhwani



Photo: Leena Rijhwani



Photo: Leena Rijhwani

# Changing the World: Class of 2020 Summer Internship Experiences



Evey Satterfield '20 at BCG Seattle

Photo courtesy of: Evey Satterfield

## By Izzy Jones '23

From the halls of the White House, to Pretoria, South Africa, the class of 2020 participated in a diverse range of internships. The common thread among all of them was the real world experience that has contributed to the discernment of their future career paths. Here's a quick look into how some of the seniors spent their summer:

Cole Tamburri's internship was a jump into the field of physics - both literally and figuratively - as he spent his summer at the MIT Haystack Observatory doing research on upper atmosphere physics on a prestigious undergraduate research grant from the National Science Foundation. According to Cole, a physics major, the experience gave him a glimpse into what research is actually like in this field. The relationships formed were a key takeaway for Cole, as his mentor with 20 years of experience helped guide him on both the

Photo courtesy of: Trevor Jones



Trevor Jones '20 at the White House

project and his career. He also enjoyed getting to live and interact with his fellow researchers. He will be presenting his research at meetings of the American Geological Society and the American Meteorological Society. Though upper atmosphere physics research seems like a niche experience, he gleaned a wide range of opportunities and possibilities. As he enters senior year, he will be weighing the options of a masters in engineering, a PhD, or even law school to work on policy applications of environmental research. He plans to continue to work on the project this year.

Luke Murphy, a Biology major, Theology minor, worked at the Centre for Sexuality, AIDS, and Gender in Pretoria, South Africa. He delved into the area of HIV and AIDS, specifically the dynamics of the relationship between an HIV positive man and his HIV negative partner. Luke conducted this research through interviews, asking questions about the disclosure of HIV status, the precautions taken, and the social roles. The end goal was to develop a toolkit for counselors to guide people through relationships like these. With many large organizations focusing on treatment and prevention of AIDS, Luke appreciated the opportunity to look at the sociological and emotional implications of people living with AIDS. He drew on his sophomore summer abroad and other GPSP International experiences as he lived in a foreign culture. In fact, his coworkers commented on how well adjusted he was. He appreciated hearing the ideas and experiences of his coworkers as they all worked together to achieve their common goal. His internship reaffirmed his desire to do epidemiological research before he goes to medical school.

Evey Satterfield, a Neuroscience

major with a minor in Managing for Social Impact, made the trek to Seattle to work with the Boston Consulting Group, a global firm with a wide range of specialties. She consulted with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, working on increasing female access to birth control and HIV prevention in sub-Saharan Africa. Her focus was on developing investment plans and landscape analysis, with regards to how women's health is related to collective health. Collaborations with the United Nations and the World Health Organization also gave her insight into how such organizations function in practice. Her direct involvement was an inspiring experience. She was able to see the results of her work through the delivery of plans enacted by the foundation. As part of a case team, she worked with two other associates and a manager. This collaborative environment allowed for many networking opportunities, and an offer to return to the company following graduation. She is attracted to the diverse applications that consulting work allows for and the meaningful work that it entails. This was a full circle moment, as Evey recalled her service in the Summer PULSE Program following freshman year and saw that experience reflected in this transition to the management side of such efforts.

All of the seniors came away with a real and critical evaluation into a career and most will spend senior year contemplating their post-graduation plans. They gained valuable experience through total immersion into their professional work, overcoming challenges and learning to thrive in the workplace. In whatever career the seniors decide to pursue, they will be equipped with the foundational skills to excel.



Photo courtesy of: Cole Tamburri

Cole Tamburri '20 at MIT

# Oh the Places They Went: The Class of 2021 Goes Abroad

By Kelli Rodrigues '22

Scholars from the class of 2021 spent their summers studying and working abroad, immersing themselves in the cultures of their regions of choice. The students designed their summers in a manner that both catered to their personal interests and was conducive to learning a new language while being exposed to vastly different experiences.

Sara Samir spent her summer in Zurich, Switzerland working for Intrepid Analytics, a healthcare analytics startup founded by a Boston College alumna. Their work focused on using the power of analytics and technology to solve modern day problems in health care. As an intern, she assisted with a project aimed at improving the efficiency of clinical trial matching for patients, as well as simulating molecule dynamics to be used for quickening the drug discovery process. Samir was also exposed to consulting with global pharmaceutical companies to overhaul and remodel their analytics program. In addition to her internship, Samir enrolled in a night class for German at a local school.

Samir's work experiences were supplemented by her weekend adventures throughout the summer. Rather than stay within Zurich for the duration of her summer experience, she dedicated time to exploring different parts of the country and those surrounding. Aside from Switzerland, she traveled to Croatia, Ireland, and Italy in her free time and enjoyed many of the natural and tourist delights they had to offer.

Her most exciting excursion took place in the ski town of Zermatt, Switzerland, where Samir took a scenic hike that brought her around five of the mountain lakes. This gave her a picturesque view of the Matterhorn, which is featured on the Toblerone chocolate

Photo Courtesy of Sara Samir



Sara Samir and Jack McErlean '21 in Luzern, Switzerland



Photo courtesy of: Will Peters

Will Peters and Charlie Powers '21 in Mexico

packaging.

Not only did the opportunity provide Samir with an incredible hands-on industry experience, but it also allowed her to appreciate the use of technology in business. As Samir explains, "I was able to learn about recent developments in cutting edge technology and truly appreciate its potential applications." She hopes she can integrate this into a future career.

Will Peters and Charlie Power both interned at the NGO La Chispa in Mexico City, which focuses on social entrepreneurship. Within the nonprofit, Peters sought to streamline the training process for new businesses, while Power worked on creating strategies for revenue growth directly with entrepreneurs. They also helped one of the entrepreneurs involved with La Chispa at The Dark Kitchen, a takeout-only restaurant that caters to the population's significant use of UberEATS and other online delivery platforms. Both Peters and Power have a strong background speaking Spanish, which helped them navigate the city throughout their time in Mexico.

Peters thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to understand the background of social impact work. He commented, "It was fascinating to see entrepreneurship at a variety

of levels and look at the problems they face at different scales." Power felt similarly about his work experience, and he also noted that living in Mexico City shifted his world view and cultivated an appreciation for new cultures and heritages.

As they lived in the same region, Peters and Power traveled together around Mexico. They very much enjoyed the history of Teotihuacan, which was the center of the Aztec Empire. The famous pyramids of the sun and moon, combined with the tall, glass office towers, melded together into a rich history with the modern Mexican culture.

In the end, the Scholars' language skills improved tremendously as they interacted with local entrepreneurs, worked in a professional environment where proper communication was crucial, and explored the beautiful historic attractions around them.

Maddie Bald '21 spent her summer in Antibes, France, a resort town on the French Riviera where she was enrolled in an intermediate-level French language class. Her class was centered on conversational skills and activity-based learning. One of her favorite classes included speaking to locals in a regional farmer's market and reporting back to the class about her experience. Bald was a tremendous fan of such creative exercises and felt that they propelled her French skills far beyond what she had imagined.

After only four weeks, Bald was placed in a higher-level course, which focused on advanced cultural and grammatical topics. In addition to the classes and traveling experiences each week, she learned from supplemental readings and greatly improved her writing skills through essay assignments.

With the towns of Cannes and Nice being within forty minutes of Antibes, Bald used all of her free time to explore the region. She was fortunate to be there for Bastille Day

# Alumni Spotlight: Tim Mooney '09



Photo: Justin Knight

**Tim Mooney '09 at the annual Dover Retreat.**  
*By Grace Christenson '22*

At this year's Dover retreat, Scholars heard from Presidential Scholar alum, Tim Mooney '09, who spoke about the importance of community, discernment, and developing as an individual.

Mooney shared with the Scholars that he underwent immense personal changes during his time in the Program: changes that began at the start of his freshman year when he experienced the culture shock of moving from Michigan to the east coast. This shift in environment, he recalled, proved to be the first of many opportunities in college that allowed him to experience change in a relatively safe environment.

The support he felt during his time at Boston College is one formative aspect of Mooney's experience, and he credits the GPSP with helping him cultivate a strong sense of community. Mooney reminded Scholars that community is a unique and powerful aspect of the Program, as the GPSP provides members with a set group of people with whom to develop lasting friendships from the beginning of freshman year. He advised the Scholars to take advantage of this built-in family as a grounding force as they try new things and venture outside their comfort zones.

With this support network in place at BC, Mooney reflected on the importance of discernment in determining his goals for after graduation. He proposed that there are two kinds of people with differing methods of discernment.

The first type, are like his wife and have a vocation, and know exactly what they want to do. In this scenario, he advised Scholars to think about what they need to do to get there as quickly as possible, and then to persevere until they achieve their goal.

The second, he said, are like him and have to engage in exploration. In this case, he advised that Scholars try new things and then reflect on which of those experiences that bring fulfillment and why. Mooney himself did this, trying his hand at research before entering the corporate world as a consultant at Deloitte upon graduation. He appreciated how consulting gave him new opportunities to try out different sides of the business world, which is

how he discovered his passion for Healthcare Life Science innovation. Eventually, he went on to earn an MBA from Harvard Business School and further pursued his exploration of Healthcare Life Science Innovation at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals.

Yet, according to Mooney, there is much more to navigating life after BC than discernment. He reiterated the importance of making mistakes, and leaning on your established support structures. Existing within a supportive community, he said, becomes much harder upon moving beyond the walls of BC, where students live, eat, and study together; this makes learning to enter into new situations and create support for yourself essential. Mooney also emphasized the importance of asking for help and staying in touch with people along the way. The Program can serve as a resource as Scholars enter into the world and try to figure out different paths for the first time.

Part of navigating post-college life, Mooney said, is deciding who you are as a person outside of your work. Mooney suggested developing hobbies and passions now that will help you balance out work and avoid burnout down the road.

He left the Scholars with an impactful piece of advice and a provocative question: "Do the things that support the identity you want to create," he said. "In the world, you have to figure out that there are many different ways of being a person. How do you want to go about it?"

## *Summer Abroad cont. from page 5*

when she was able to appreciate the music of the Fete de Musique, where bands throughout France performed, as well as a sold-out game of the Women's World Cup.

Antibes itself is home to many wonderful restaurants in its Old Village, as well as a Picasso museum in an old Grimaldi castle. Bald thoroughly enjoyed her proximity to such beautiful and historic sites, and she took advantage of all that southern France had to offer.



Photo Courtesy of: Jacob Kelleher

**Jacob Kelleher '21 in Peru**



Photo Courtesy of Maddie Bald

**Maddie Bald '21 in France**

# Class of 2022 Puts Their Social Justice Education into Practice Through Summer PULSE

To fulfill the Jesuit ideal of being men and women in service to others, during the summer following their freshman year the Scholars explore the problems of hunger, homelessness, and educational inequity in the Boston area through participation in a program modeled after PULSE, Boston College's nationally acclaimed course of study and service. Through their work, Presidential Scholars are challenged to see themselves in relation to acute national problems, to think creatively about the roots of these problems, the nature and efficacy of society's response, and the response that these problems elicit in their own personal and professional lives. In parallel with their service, Scholars read and reflect on a variety of texts—from philosophy, social science, public policy, economics and theology—pertinent to issues of poverty and social justice. Weekly discussion sessions challenge Scholars to integrate these readings with their field experiences and to reflect on the implications for their personal values and professional goals.

By Aroub Yousuf '22

About a week after our freshman year came to a close, the seventeen rising sophomores reunited within the walls of Greycliff Hall, our beloved home for six weeks. With the transition from Shaw House to Greycliff, we were a bit apprehensive at first, as a mystery month-and-a-half awaited us. Similarly, as the first week of service approached, none of us knew what to expect. Many alarms sounded at 5 o'clock Monday morning, as the hustle began. Most of us would be out of the door before the rest of Boston awoke so that we'd reach our placements on time. Whether teaching at a prison or cooking in a shelter, we quickly acclimated into the environment of our service sites.

Before long, we all had stories about our co-workers and guests, and we had the opportunity to share these insights at our Friday seminars with Prof. Meghan Sweeney and Shanteri Baliga from the PULSE program, along with guest professors. Our enriching experiences volunteering four days a week, topped with a three-hour seminar every Friday, provided a holistic approach to service comprised of work and reflection. In addition, the weekly readings by authors such as Dr. James O'Connell and Bryan Stevenson gave another dimension to the service which we performed, placing our experiences within the broader framework of structural injustices.

During our Friday seminars, we examined stereotypes and biases that we have internalized as a result of media propaganda and systemic flaws. We were able to become more aware of these biases and address them, ensuring that each person is treated with dignity. Will Riherd shared a moving anecdote with the class musing how society forms a single perception of what a prisoner is, however, at the Suffolk



Members of the class of 2022 at the end-of-summer BBQ

County House of Correction, he encountered several individuals who transformed his perspective. He recounted that "D", an inmate, was talking about his desire to be reunited with his four daughters. Will then realized that "D" was more of a father than an inmate.

We all had similar encounters to share that challenged stereotypes and sculpted our understanding of humanity. Through real-life experiences at service paired with readings about the philosophy of the person, our existing perceptions were shattered. Joshua Fording remarked, "At the Suffolk County House of Correction, I tutored inmates in math in preparation for the HiSET Exam. At Haley House, I prepared and served food to the guests and helped advertise for the annual block party. The program was a very rewarding and humbling experience, and I learned a lot about the world, myself, and what it means to serve other people."

Beyond the work, our weekends were filled with adventures in Boston and the surrounding

area. From hikes and beach days to exploring the North End and Back Bay, we can now officially call ourselves Bostonians! But more importantly, we can truly call ourselves a family. We bonded everywhere, from the kitchen in Greycliff, to train tracks in the middle of nowhere. Whether it was a dance party while doing dishes in the dorm, or a game night, we now know each other's endearing quirks. Together, with the impactful service, insightful readings, and valuable time spent bonding with this incredible group of people, we came to the consensus that these have been some of the best weeks of our lives.

## Dover Retreat cont. from page 1

The next morning, Prof. Bailey outlined the events for the coming year before the sophomores took over to present their Social Justice Project. The final event of the retreat consisted of the upperclassmen pitching their respective extracurricular activities for the freshmen to participate

in, from leadership clubs to artistic activities to sports.

The Scholars then packed their bags and boarded the bus back to campus. Having been equipped with new knowledge, connected with new and old colleagues, and assured by the security of

the resources of the Program, the students returned to campus ready to take on the new year with confidence. As always, a promising year awaits the Presidential Scholars, who will no doubt take the opportunities they've been afforded to learn, grow, and achieve great things.

# Welcome GPSP Class of 2023!



Photo: Justin Knight

**Caroline Bald**  
Birmingham, AL

**Mercedes Hoyos**  
Dallas, TX

**Benjamin, Siegel**  
Newport Beach, CA

**Molly Binder**  
West Hartford, CT

**Isabelle Jones**  
Jonesboro, AR

**Rishi Srinivasan**  
Andover, MA

**John Bottei**  
Nashville, TN

**Julia Kim**  
Louisville, KY

**Neha Suneja**  
Amstelveen, Netherlands

**Liam Dietrich**  
Medway, MA

**Rebecca Nadler**  
Ridgewood, NJ

**Charles Viehl**  
Altadena, CA

**Gregori Estime**  
Miami, FL

**Aidan O'Neill**  
Hockessin, DE

**Hannah Yoon**  
Newtown Square, PA

**Lauren Gillet**  
Cooper City, FL

**Connor Roukey**  
Abington, MA

## Alumni Announcements

**Mark Noferi '96** has been appointed as a Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge at the Board of Immigration Appeal in the U.S. Department of Justice

**Amanda Heron Parsons '97** is now the Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Metroplus Health Plan in NYC

**Kevin Meme '03** was recently promoted to Partner at Boston Consulting Group. His work focuses on mergers, strategy, and large-scale transformation for consumer, retail, and healthcare companies

**Will Dowd '06** was recognized in September at the Massachusetts Book Awards State House ceremony acknowledging significant works of non-fiction for his debut book "Areas of Fog" which was also named as a "must read" in 2017.

**Scott Gentile '06** has been named President of Hunter College's chapter of Phi beta Kappa Society, the Nu Chapter of New York. They are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Hunter's PBK Chapter this academic year, as well as the 150th Anniversary of Hunter College itself.

**Nicole Wong '09** married Max Montgomery (BC '09) in Oakland, California. In attendance were fellow GPSP '09 Scholars Amy Kyleen Lute, Matt Hamilton, Robbie Kubala, Tim Mooney & Celso Perez.

**Andrew Steck '10** and his wife Jamie welcomed their second child, Leo James Steck, on July 11th

**Vivian Chang '16** is now a Global Marketing IT Account Manager at Merck in Boston



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