

Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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The Graduating Class of 2019



Photo: Donna Alberico

Photographed with the Scholars are Jennie Thomas, Fr. Keenan, Fr. Leahy, Guido Barilla, and Kathy Bailey

On April 24th, the senior GPSP Scholars, Co-Director Kathy Bailey, Co-Director Jim Keenan, S.J., and Associate Director Jennie Thomas traveled to New York City to attend the annual Alumni Reception at the Lafayette. The following night, April 25th, they attended the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner at the Cipriani Wall Street. Joining the Scholars were Fr. Leahy, major donors, many alumni and this year's honoree, Mr. Guido Barilla, Chairman, Barilla G. e R. Fratelli.



Photo: Donna Alberico



Photo: Donna Alberico

The Geography of Opportunity

By Molly Funk '22

Tuesday evening, April 9th, students gathered in Robsham's Bonn Theater for a story slam highlighting the injustice and disparity in the "Geography of Opportunity." Every year, the sophomores follow their summer volunteering at local non profits through the Summer PULSE program by selecting a social justice issue that is relevant to the Boston area.

The sophomores noticed a common thread across their service placements: the location in which an individual grows up has a strong impact on the opportunities available to that person later in life, and intersects deeply with racism and other inequalities. They termed this disparity the "geography of opportunity." The sophomores kicked off the project earlier in the year with a panel discussion featuring experts on the topic. This semester, they chose to host a story slam to bring the issue to life through the voices of people directly affected.

The sophomores began the story slam by welcoming local non-

profit employees Carmen Mejia and Alex Aguilar to the stage to reflect on how their lives have been affected by the geography of opportunity and the ways in which they currently work to combat the issue. Both are employed at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, one of the Summer PULSE placements.

Alex spoke first, seated on a wooden stool and surrounded by the audience on three sides in the Bonn Theater. He told the moving story of his years growing up in a poverty-stricken area in Tijuana, Mexico, and his battle with leukemia at a young age. He reflected on the experience of moving with his family to the US and adapting to a new school system without the help of Spanish-speaking tutors. In college, Alex grappled with the prevalence of institutional racism. He was angry that his parents had sacrificed so much, only to suffer at the hands of a broken system. Alex left the audience struck by the injustices evident in his story, but ended his talk on a hopeful note.

Carmen shared her story next. A first generation Mexican American woman, Carmen grew up

in San Diego, California, where her mother sought to shield her from gang activity in the area. Her family advocated for her to receive the best education possible, although she struggled with losing her connection to her cultural heritage in the process. Carmen concluded her talk by stressing the importance of continued conversation about inequalities.

The stories were followed by a "talk back" session in which audience members posed questions to the storytellers. The questions brought up disparities in the education system, media representation, and life and work in Boston. Carmen and Alex got the chance to speak more about their work in the community, in which they connect vulnerable people to health services and provide aid to victims of domestic violence. Thanks to Carmen's and Alex's powerful stories and candor, the class of 2021 ended their social justice project on a high note. The story slam was a rich experience for the audience, leaving attendees with a greater awareness of how the geography of opportunity influences so many aspects of life.



Photo: Sarah Gregorian



Photo: Sarah Gregorian

Second Annual Women's Summit

By Molly Funk '22

On Saturday, March 24th, current women Scholars gathered with GPSP alumnae and BC faculty and staff, for the second annual GPSP Women's Summit, a day of networking, impactful conversations and empowerment. The summit was organized by GPSP alumna Alison Wawrzynek '14, who originated the summit along with the GPSP Women's Network in 2018. Ms. Wawrzynek was assisted in organizing the event by current Scholars Anna Constantini '21 and Sara Samir '21.

The event opened with a conversation with keynote speaker Grace Zunic, MCAS '05. Ms. Zunic is currently serving as Senior Vice President of People at Chobani, a greek yogurt company. Sara Samir and Professor Kathy Bailey posed questions to Ms. Zunic about her experience as a high level professional, the obstacles she faced in achieving her goals, and her work-life balance. Ms. Zunic

discussed her career path, and expressed a particular love for her role in Chobani because it allows her to interact closely with and advocate for the people of the company. One of her recent accomplishments in the position was the implementation of 100% paid parental leave for employees in 2016. Ms. Zunic's talk set an impactful tone for the rest of the afternoon.

The summit also included two small group discussions centered around issues faced by women in modern society. Attendees shared their perspectives and experiences navigating sexism in their lives. The first small group topic was centered around the current social and political culture surrounding feminism. The second was about gender equality in education and in the workplace. These conversations afforded Scholars the valuable opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a woman and an advocate for equality, at any stage of life.

After lunch, GPSP alumna

Patricia Noonan '07 gave an address on the theme of role models and stories. Ms. Noonan is an actress, singer, lyricist and playwright who has written plays centered around the experiences of women, such as *Sweetwater*, the story of female World War II pilots. She was also co-editor for a collection of international women's memoirs, *A Mile In Her Shoes*. Ms. Noonan opened her speech by showing a clip from the movie *Wonder Woman* and discussing the sense of empowerment she felt from viewing a film centered around a strong female character. Ms. Noonan highlighted inequalities in the entertainment industry and how she has used her work to elevate women's voices while highlighting the obstacles they face. Her speech was a call to reject one-dimensional characterizations of women and celebrate their unique stories and a reminder of the importance of storytelling and representation in art and popular culture.

The summit concluded with



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a panel moderated by Ms. Noonan and a variety of accomplished women. The panel included Professor Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones of the Theology and African and African Diaspora Studies Department, Professor Tracy Regan of the Economics Department, GPSP graduate Rebecca Izzo '07, currently working as a law clerk on the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and GPSP graduate Maggie Scollan '14, currently a medical student at Columbia University. The panelists spoke on a range of topics, including the female role

models they'd had as children, the experience of carving out a space in male-dominated fields, and the ways in which empowered women may empower others. Following the summit, senior Scholars, alumnae and other guests gathered for a reception at Cadigan Alumni Center for the chance to continue the conversation and to connect with one another, as befits the Women's Network's goal of fostering and strengthening the relationships between female scholars, alumnae and faculty members with ties to the program.

The summit was an invaluable opportunity for current Scholars to connect and share experiences with alumnae and professors. By providing an open forum, the summit allowed for attendees to learn from each others' diverse experiences.

Freshman Scholar Jenna Mu reflected, "I left the summit with tons of life advice from incredibly passionate and accomplished women." The exchange of wisdom, perspectives and inspiring stories will leave a mark on all who attended the 2019 Women's Summit.



Photo: Sarah Gregorian



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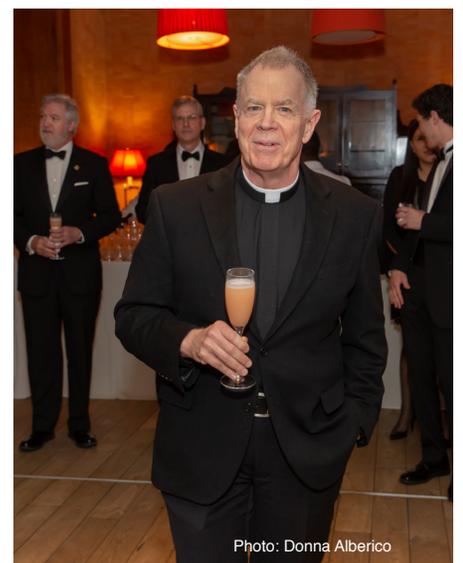


Photo: Sarah Gregorian



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Wall Street Alumni Event and Council Dinner



Awards

Commencement Awards

CSOM Honors Program Community Service Award

Presented to the senior who displayed a commitment to service in the program.

Andrew Constantine

CSOM Honors Program Semper Esse Excellentia Award

Awarded to a senior who challenges themselves beyond the classroom. While maintaining high academic standards, the truly well-balanced student strives to develop the whole individual, as the Boston College motto “Ever to Excel” challenges one to do.

Katie Gold

The Frank J. Bailey Sr. Award

Established by his daughter Kathleen Bailey, lecturer in political science, for a student with “a distinguished academic record in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies.”

Sarya Baladi

Giffuni Prize

An award sponsored by the Giffuni Family Fund in honor of Vincent Giffuni '65, given to a senior who has written an outstanding thesis in economics.

Sydney Apple

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

Awarded to a senior outstanding in character and achievement.

Andrew Constantine

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.

*Sydney Apple
Sarya Baladi
Tommy Toghramadjian
Ellie Warner-Rousseau*

Raymond F. Keyes Marketing Award for Service

Katie Gold

Scholar of the College

Scholar of the College is a special designation conferred at Commencement on seniors who have successfully completed particularly creative, scholarly, and ambitious independent research projects while maintaining an overall cumulative grade point average of A- or better.

*Sarya Baladi
Becky Reilly*

Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships

Beta Gamma Sigma

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

Katie Gold

Fulbright Award

The Fulbright Program, including the Fulbright–Hays Program, is an American scholarship program of competitive, merit-based grants for international educational exchange for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists and artists, founded by United States Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946. Under the Fulbright Program, competitively selected American citizens may become eligible for scholarships to study, conduct research, or exercise their talents abroad.

*Austin Bodetti '18
Joshua Elbaz '19*

Undergraduate Awards

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.

Jaq Pyle '20
Carly Sullivan '20

Cardinal Cushing Award

An award given annually to undergraduates who produce the best work in fiction published in BC undergraduate publications.

Tim Morrissey '20
Sarah Santoro '20

Advanced Study Grant Winners

Advanced Study Grants are for student designed projects and are awarded for summer "skill acquisition" projects that promise to accelerate dramatically the applicant's progress in the major field of study.

Sara Samir '21 (Switzerland)
Robert Cerise '22 (Russia)
Jenna Mu '22 (Boston)

Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy Junior Fellowship

The Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy is an interdisciplinary center whose goals are to enable and spur some of the most innovative work on relevant aspects of social and political organization. Through its programs and initiatives, the Center aims to become one of the most innovative institutions for reflection on the promise and challenges of constitutional democracies around the world.

Ellana Lawrence '22

Alpha Sigma Nu

Alpha Sigma Nu is a national Jesuit honors society started in 1915. Admission is based on scholarship, loyalty, and service.

Carly Sullivan '20

Papers and Presentations & Misc.

Sarya Baladi '19 presented "Arab-Americans and the United States Census" at Georgetown Qatar's Annual Undergraduate Research Conference in March 2019.

Harry Shanmugam '21 Best Delegate in the UNHCR Committee at C'MUN conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Alumni Announcements

Sean Patrick Flahaven '95 won a Tony Award on June 9 as a co-producer of the Best Musical winner, *Hadestown*, which picked up 8 Tonys in all.

F. Dominic Longo's '97 book *Spiritual Grammar*, is being released in June, in paperback, by Fordham University Press.

Mary Lou Bozza '03 got married to Gary Wang on June 8th at St. Cecilia's Church in Boston and several other Scholars were in attendance (Steve Calme, Paul Jackson, Kaitlin Mara, Marisol Orihuela, Ari Shapiro, and Paul Davey).

Michael Hemak '05 wife Kjersti welcomed their second child, Austin Chet Hemak.

Kat Barnes '07 and husband Tim welcomed their first daughter, Tessa Joy, on May 5th 2019

Matt Hamilton '09 was one of three investigative reporters with *The LA Times* to win a Pulitzer Prize for their series of stories about a former USC gynecologist accused of sexually abusing hundreds of students during three decades at a campus clinic

Anne Kornahrens '11 was awarded the NSF Director's Achievement in Equal Opportunity/Diversity and Inclusion Award

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