THE
BOISI CENTER REPORT

VOL. 24 NO. 1 • JANUARY 2024

FROM THE DIRECTOR

My favorite evenings during this past fall semester were the ones on which the Boisi Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar met. Composed of 20 very smart faculty from History, International Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Sociology, Political Science, Philosophy, and Theology Departments, as well as faculty from the Connell School of Nursing, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, the Law School, and the School of Theology and Ministry, the monthly dinner seminars focused on religious nationalism, and most specifically on Christian Nationalism in the United States. The evenings always began with lively conversation over delicious meals (the favorite was the chicken pot pie), and then proceeded to discuss profoundly interesting but often-dense readings. Those readings were always "presented" by one seminar member for five to ten minutes, followed by deeply captivating discussion – oftentimes intense but always friendly – over readings like "A Christian Nation?" (a report published by the Brookings Institution), *The Atlantic*'s "A World After Liberalism," and "Discerning the Difference Between Christian Nationalism vs. Christian Patriotism." The discussions were always engaging, and kept me thinking for days afterwards.

On October 20 and 21, the Boisi Center hosted a number of important Catholic poets and authors in an event entitled "The Art of Encounter: Catholic Writers from the Margins." With support from The Institute of Liberal Arts, the Lonergan Institute, Irish Studies, and the Burns Library at Boston College, and the Curran Center for American Catholic Studies at Fordham University, the event was envisioned as a response to Pope Francis' call for openness and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and stories of others, especially those "on the margins." And the event drew some major players in the Catholic literary world: in addition to Alice McDermott and Fordham's Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, speakers included Irish poet Pádraig Ó Tuama, author and host of the podcast *Poetry Unbound*, R/B Mertz, LGBTQ+ activist, author, and writing instructor at Sheridan College in Toronto, Canada, plus Boston College's Kim Garcia and Allison Adair. It was a magnificent and intense two days, with wonderful and often moving presentations from speakers attempting to "widen the tent" in order to welcome individuals and groups sometimes marginalized within the Catholic community.

The Boisi Center branched out into popular culture early in the semester with an event called "Barbie and the Loss of Paradise," which was envisioned as a serious theological response to *Barbie*, arguably the summer's most popular movie. I had the opportunity to interview three very perceptive, and often very funny, commentators: Claudio Burgaleta, S.J., (superior of the Jesuit community), M. Cathleen Kaveny (Darald and Juliet Libby Professor of Law and Theology) and Elizabeth Prodromou (International Studies), all at Boston College. After 35 minutes of marvelous conversations with these engaging speakers, we opened up the conversation to the audience, and some of the best comments were offered by BC's very smart undergrads.

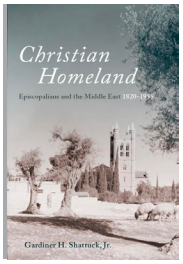
We continue to create content for our Religion and American Life Podcast. This past December, we posted two new episodes. One was a lively, follow-up conversation with Professor Cathleen Kaveny on her *Barbie* article in the *National Catholic Reporter* as well as our panel discussion from September 25. Our second was a delightful conversation with Tanya Tetlow, newly-appointed as Fordham University's first female president. Our podcasts, which are hosted on PodBean, can be found on the Boisi Center's website, our YouTube channel, as well as Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

Among the most popular Boisi events are our lunch conversations, which meet in the Center's conference room from noon to 1pm, drawing BC faculty and students during their lunch hour as well as neighbors and "regulars" from far afield on the Center's contact list. On September 26, Gardiner Shattuck presented an overview of his recently-published book *Christian Homeland: Episcopalians and the Middle East*, while Michael James (director of BC's Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education) offered a presentation on "Hesburgh of Notre Dame: Assessments of a Legacy" on famed Notre Dame President Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. Seth Meehan (associate director of academic programming and special projects at Boston College libraries)

(Continued on page 8)

EPISCOPALIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A luncheon colloquium with Rev. Gardiner Shattuck



At the first luncheon of the academic year, Reverend Dr. Gardiner H. Shattuck, Jr. delved into the history of Christianity, particularly the Episcopal Church's involvement in the Middle East. Shattuck, whose academic background spans American religious studies and American politics, shared his research in his newest book, *Christian Homeland: Episcopalians and the Middle East.*

His research was motivated by the responses to a protest in Boston, where three Episcopal bishops demonstrated Muslim solidarity in response to Israeli actions in Bethlehem. Shattuck's presentation focused on five main areas of Christian engagement in the Middle East, highlighting the activities of Episcopal Church leaders. These areas included evangelization, ecumenical outreach, humanitarian aid, assistance to Middle Eastern Christians seeking refuge in the United States, and influence on U.S. foreign policy.

A significant portion of his research revolved around Horatio Southgate, the first missionary bishop of the Episcopal Church. The historical context of Southgate helped Shattuck present the discrimination and violence against Christians in the Ottoman Empire, the response of Protestant Bishop Henry Yates Satterlee, and the later Armenian genocide (1915-1922) by the Empire. Shattuck also explored the creation of the Episcopal-inspired American Committee for Relief in the Near East in response to these events.

A PRESIDENTIAL DINNER

This fall, the Boisi Center's Religion and Public Life minors enjoyed dinner and conversation with President William P. Leahy, S.J.

THE BOISI CENTER FOR RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE
24 Quincy Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

TEL: 617–552–1860
EMAIL: boisi.center@bc.edu
www.bc.edu/boisi

BOISI CENTER STAFF

MARK MASSA, S.J.
DIRECTOR

SUSAN RICHARD
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MADELINE JARRETT
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

EMILY CAFFREY
FALLON JONES
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

Follow us on social media for Boisi Center news and events.

- boisicenter
- @boisi_center
- Boisi_Center
- boisicenter
- Boisi Center
- The Religion and American Life Podcast

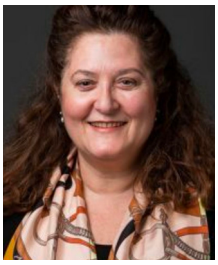
For complete information and resources on all of our events, including audio and video recordings, transcripts, photos, videos, bibliographies, and more, visit our website: www.bc.edu/boisi.

BARBIE AND THE LOSS OF PARADISE

An insightful panel discussion on the theological themes of the summer blockbuster movie, Barbie.

On September 25, 2023, Boisi Center director, Mark Massa, S.J., moderated a panel discussion titled "Barbie and the Loss of Paradise." Respondents included Claudio Burgaleta, S.J, Superior of the Boston College Jesuit Community, M. Cathleen Kaveny, the Darald and Juliet Libby Professor in Theology and Law at Boston College, and Elizabeth Prodromou, visiting professor of International Studies at Boston College. The panel was inspired by Kaveny's recent article in the *National Catholic Reporter* titled, "Barbie Land and Losing Paradise: Theologian Muses on This Summer's Blockbuster." The respondents engaged in a rich conversation that used theological lenses to interpret Barbie and its cultural significance.

The conversation began with Massa asking the basic yet essential question: how is *Barbie* theology? Kaveny responded that Barbie, like theology, is trying to make sense of the world. It explores our temptations, flaws, desires, and questions about the meaning of life. Burgaleta noted that *Barbie* explores how we can become more authentically human and less "fake," which is particularly important as this panel occurred on the eve of the Synod on Synodality, which aims to create a more human and inclusive church. Burgaleta also added that he believes the film is a work of theological anthropology, as it makes statements about what it means to be human and centralizes questions about freedom and authenticity. The respondents also addressed how Barbie examines gender stereotypes, agency, moral responsibility, the debate as to whether Barbie was born free of original sin, and the recurring metaphor of "the fall."



(L-R) M. Cathleen Kaveny, Elizabeth Prodromou, and Claudio Burgaleta, S.J., engaged in a lively discussion moderated by Fr. Mark Massa.

The panel then transitioned to discussing key moments and memorable lines from the *Barbie* movie. Prodromou noted the film's recurring focus on distinguishing secular and sacred beauty. The movie suggests that real beauty is not plastic, as portrayed at the beginning of the film in Barbie Land. Rather, beauty exists in the real, complex world; it exists alongside of and is intertwined with the realities of aging and death. This notion of beauty is illustrated in a scene where Stereotypical Barbie gazes with wonder at an elderly woman. Barbie says, "You are beautiful," and the older woman replies, "I know it." Prodromou remarked on a lesson from this scene: "Beauty is seeing with the heart."

The event concluded with a question and answer session. One student asked if the respondents believed the film intended to critique meliorism in modern society. The student hypothesized that though humans continue to strive to create utopian or heavenly societies on Earth, we are ultimately unable to achieve perfection, and this is represented in the film through Barbie's "fall." Prodromou's response seemed to agree with the student's analysis. She also indicated that social perfection was never even achieved in Barbie Land, as the "Kens" could not find full flourishing in its seemingly flawless society.

In light of the success of the event, Kaveny joined Massa to continue discussing the aforementioned questions, themes, and theological threads in an episode of "The Religion and American Life Podcast." The episode is available on our website and anywhere you listen to podcasts.

(L-R) Fr. Mark Massa (moderator), M. Cathleen Kaveny, Elizabeth Prodromou, and Claudio Burgaleta, S.J.

THE ART OF ENCOUNTER: CATHOLIC WRITERS FROM THE MARGINS

The Boisi Center co-hosted a conference on Catholicism and the work of authors from the margins.

Alice McDermott

On October 21, 2023, the Boisi Center co-hosted a conference titled, *The Art of Encounter: Catholic Writers from the Margins*. The event was also sponsored by Boston College's The Institute for the Liberal Arts, the Lonergan Institute, Burns Library, Irish Studies, as well as Fordham University's Curran Center for American Catholic Studies. The conference offered various perspectives from Catholics who identify as existing on the margins of the Church and discussed ways to move forward to create a more inclusive community.

The conference began on Friday evening with a keynote address from Pádraig Ó Tuama, an acclaimed Irish poet and theologian and host of the well-known podcast, *Poetry Unbound*. His talk, entitled "I Pray God Rid Me of God," explored how his experiences growing up as a gay Catholic influenced his relationship with God and his theology. He shared painful stories about how priests tried to exorcize him as a teenager. Ó Tuama responded by turning his rage about these experiences into art, reflecting that "I made something from that which wanted to destroy me." Ó Tuama explained how art and poetry can be devices that help us process and metabolize unjust pain, which provided a meaningful context for the remainder of the conference.

The conference continued on Saturday morning with an opening talk from Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, the associate director of Fordham's Curran Center and professor of literature at the university. Her talk was titled "The Out-cast & the Dis-understood: Poetry & the Practice of Love." Recounting an experience of her mother's marginalization in her parish because of her divorce, O'Donnell emphasized the importance of resisting those who draw boundaries around Catholic belonging, and she identified Catholicism as a religion for all.

Following O'Donnell's address, the conference transitioned to a poetry workshop, titled "The Devil's in the Details: Literature and Language as a Way to Salvation." Ó Tuama, the workshop leader, shared his own poems that grappled with the idea that "the devil is in thyself." The session invited attendees to confront and reflect on their inner lives and channel these discoveries into poetry. The session culminated in attendees' sharing lines of their creations.

After the workshop and a shared meal, the conference moved into a panel discussion with R/B Mertz, a poet and teacher of writing at Sheridan College; Kim Garcia, a poet and author who teaches at Boston College; and Allison Adair, a poet and creative writing professor of the practice at Boston College. The panel, "Identity and the Catholic Imagination," began with a presentation from Mertz and then Garcia and Adair engaged Mertz in a Q&A. Mertz discussed their experiences growing up in a fundamentalist Catholic family, being homeschooled, and identifying as trans/non-binary. Mertz also encouraged attendees to look to people on the margins of gender expression within the Catholic tradition, such as Saint Joan of Arc. The panel was followed by a book signing, which allowed for further discussion between the presenters and attendees.

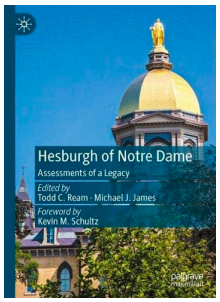
The conference then transitioned to a keynote presentation by Alice McDermott. McDermott was the Richard A. Macksey Professor of the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University prior to her retirement in 2019. Her novel, *Charming Billy*, received the National Book Award for fiction, and her other works have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the PEN/Faulkner Award. Her keynote address, entitled "Pardon and Peace: Encountering Absolution," discussed the themes of her recently published book, *Absolution*. She explained how literature can serve as a way to encounter experiences other than our own and discussed the importance of pardon and peace in the journey toward true absolution. Her comments were a powerful and insightful conclusion to the speaking sessions of the conference, helping to show how literature can enrich the texture of our relationships.

The conference concluded with Mass in St. Mary's Chapel presided by Mark Massa, S.J. The Mass allowed attendees to come together and pray for one another as well for those who feel on the margins of the Church. It also featured the music of pioneering Black priest and liturgist, Reverend Clarence Joseph Rivers. The service reflected the conference's overall aim to offer hope, promote encounter, and embody Pope Francis' call to "widen the tent" and create a more inclusive Church.

Pádraig Ó Tuama

THE LEGACIES OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

Two luncheon colloquia explored the lives and contributions of Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. of Notre Dame and John McElroy, S.J. of Boston College.



Michael James' book cover

On October 17, Michael James, director of the Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education and a lecturer in the Lynch School of Education and Human Development at Boston College, presented his book at a luncheon colloquium titled *Hesburgh of Notre Dame: Assessments of a Legacy*. The book focuses on the life and contributions of Notre Dame's acclaimed president, Fr. Theodore Hesburgh.

One of the most illuminating anecdotes James shared was a story from Hesburgh's childhood, wherein he witnessed his mother consoling one of their Jewish neighbors during a time of heightened anti-semitism. James characterized this experience as Hesburgh's first encounter with the reality of prejudice and the call to seek justice. Inspired by this event, Hesburgh's fight for justice characterized much of his life and, in return, shaped Catholic higher education.

James then discussed Hesburgh's identity at the University of Notre Dame, which was largely related to his work beyond the bounds of campus. He shared a classic campus joke: "What's the difference between God and Fr. Hesburgh?"... "God is everywhere, and Fr. Hesburgh is everywhere but campus." This comedic point led James to discuss how broadly Fr. Hesburgh's work for Catholic higher education spanned, from fundraising, to commencement speeches, to writing essays on patterns of educational growth. The most important thing to Hesburgh was the Church; he was a priest above all. He also remained very connected to his passions for higher education, science and technology, civil and human rights, foreign relations and peace, service, athletics, and leadership. These areas of influence account for James' claim that Hesburgh's vast and varied legacy was bound closely to his devotion, the fruits of which spanned from the campus of Notre Dame to the far-reaching corners of the world.

On Wednesday, November 1, another luncheon explored the legacy of Boston College's founder, John McElroy, S.J. titled "My Time with 'The Providential Man': Observations on John McElroy, S.J., Founder of Boston College." Seth Meehan, the associate director of academic programming and special projects at Boston College libraries, led the event. It was a timely conversation, as Boston College High School recently announced that it would change its main building's name from McElroy Hall to St. Ignatius Hall due to McElroy's involvement with slavery. The luncheon explored the life of McElroy and evaluated his contributions to Boston College as well as the United States' Catholic community at large.

John McElroy, S.J.

Meehan began the luncheon by providing background on McElroy. In 1782, McElroy was born in Northern Ireland, but he moved to Baltimore when he was 21. After living in Baltimore and then D.C., McElroy was sent to Frederick, Maryland, a rural town with a small Catholic population. Meehan described McElroy's extraordinary impact on the community, as he built a free school for girls, an orphanage for girls, a school for boys, and a beautiful church. At age 65, McElroy moved to Boston, where he was tasked by the Bishop with building a college. Meehan discussed how significant it was for McElroy to be able to establish a Catholic school in Boston during the 1850s and 1860s, a time when anti-Irish and anti-Catholic sentiments existed throughout the city.

The luncheon then transitioned to an enriching question and answer session. One individual asked about McElroy's initial vision of Boston College. Meehan described how McElroy prioritized creating a school and church that mutually enriched one another. He also mentioned that although only men could attend BC, the school's initial charter did not limit BC to only educating Catholics, a sign of an inclusive spirit. The discussion about McElroy's life allowed us to better understand the founder of BC and the school's Jesuit tradition while simultaneously encouraging us to reflect on how the school has changed since its conception. Recordings of both of these events can be found on our website, bc.edu/boisi.

NEW PODCAST EPISODE: A NEW ERA OF JESUIT UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP - A CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, TANIA TETLOW

In a new episode of the Boisi Center's podcast, "Religion and American Life," Mark Massa, S.J., interviews the first non-Jesuit and female president of Fordham University, Tania Tetlow. In the episode, President Tetlow discusses the gifts and challenges of entering her leadership position, the benefits of a Jesuit education, and the unique obstacles and opportunities presented to Catholic universities in our political era. This and all of our podcast episodes are available on our website and all major podcast streaming services.

INTERROGATING AUTHENTICITY

Dr. Michael Serazio led a luncheon colloquium on his research on authenticity in media, culture, and politics.

Michael Serazio's book cover

At the final luncheon of the semester, Michael Serazio introduced his recently published book, *The Authenticity Industries: Keeping it "Real" in Media, Culture and Politics.* He began by presenting the factors to consider in discussions of authenticity, which include conceptions of selfhood, the influence of capitalism, and the role of technology. Serazio offered a critical perspective, suggesting that the pursuit of authenticity in media, culture, and politics often leads to a paradox where the appearance of authenticity is prioritized over its genuine expression. Serazio describes the findings of the 79 interviews he conducted with individuals from various industries, including reality TV, social media, popular music, brand advertising, and politics. In the reality TV industry, interviewees spoke about striking the balance between capturing raw, uncensored footage and the need to hold viewers' attention. In the world of social media, Serazio described how amateur content production and lower production values increased perceptions of authenticity. Serazio also discussed the evolving ideals of authenticity within the popular music industry, noting the shift in perspectives on commercial product endorsements. In the 1990's, engaging in product endorsements was perceived as "selling out," but now it is an acceptable practice for pop stars. He ended by explaining the power of perceived authenticity for political campaigns, noting that voters are more likely to support the candidate they would rather have a beer with, regardless of the politician's policy ideas or political effectiveness. Mistakes (which Serazio's research found were often planned ahead of time) and seemingly off-the-cuff statements also increased the perceived authenticity of a candidate and increased votes, something Serazio highlighted as a factor particularly in Trump's campaign.

Following the detailed presentation, the audience engaged with Serazio through a series of thought-provoking questions. They ranged from topics like self-understanding and self-fulfillment to historical perspectives on authenticity and its contemporary popularity. Serazio's reflections extended beyond his critiques of authenticity. In the context of a question about "real" authenticity, he talked about his family and cultivating genuine human relationships, concluding that relating to others without the intrusions of screens is one way to combat the inauthenticity that surrounds us. A recording of Serazio's presentation can be found on our website, bc.edu/boisi.

Dr. Michael Serazio presented his research on authenticity to a packed room at the Boisi Center.

MEET THE BOISI CENTER'S NEW GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Madeline Jarrett stepped into her role as the graduate research assistant for the Boisi Center in August 2023. Maddie is a third-year PhD student in systematic theology with a minor in theological ethics. Her research engages issues of theological anthropology, particularly as they relate to embodied experiences of grace and limitation. She is also interested in temporality, disability theology, and the theology of Karl Rahner.

Maddie graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2014 with majors in Theology and Psychology. Prior to joining the doctoral program in the theology department, she earned her Master of Divinity from Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry, and she worked as a theology teacher and department chair at Mount Alvernia High School in Newton, MA. Apart from her doctoral studies and work at the Boisi Center, Maddie enjoys taking art classes, hosting dinner parties, and frequenting the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

FAITH-BASED WORK IN MIGRATION

The Boisi Center hosted a luncheon colloquium panel on the biblical call to welcome the stranger.

On Wednesday, October 25, 2023, Owen Fletcher, a junior at Boston College majoring in International Studies and minoring in Hispanic Studies and Religion and Public Life, led the luncheon colloquium panel titled, "Welcoming the Stranger: Faith-based Migration Work in Boston." The conversation was inspired by Fletcher's internship with BC's Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, where he focused on migration and faith traditions. He moderated the panel discussion between Debbie Gotbetter, a board member of Jewish Family Services of Metrowest and the Refugee Resettlement Volunteer Coordinator at Temple Beth Elohim, and Ed Marakovitz, the coordinator of the Paulist Center Immigrant Advocacy Group.

The luncheon began with Fletcher describing his project with the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning. He discussed how his major in international studies sparked his interest in immigration and how this internship allowed him to explore immigration through the lens of Christianity and Judaism. He talked about how many stories in the Christian and Jewish scriptures theologize immigration and allow us to understand how faith calls on us to support others.

To learn how individuals' faiths inspire their immigration work, Fletcher spent this past summer interviewing people in the Boston area about their refugee resettlement efforts. Fletcher emphasized the importance of their work in light of the state of emergency that was declared by Governor Maura Healey in August 2023 due to the significant numbers of immigrants seeking shelter and support in Massachusetts.

The conversation then transitioned to Gotbetter's and Marakovitz's experiences with migration support and advocacy. Gotbetter described how her work with Syrian and Afghan refugees presented enriching opportunities for interfaith dialogue, as she realized how many similarities existed between their faiths. They used these commonalities to create meaningful relationships. Gotbetter also described the challenges of facing a national immigration "crisis" as there is less time and resources available to prepare for the arrival of new immigrants. In recent months, Gotbetter has been learning of immigrants' arrivals only a day ahead of their arrival, whereas she used to be informed of their arrival weeks in advance. Marakovitz echoed the challenges of the current crisis, describing how many migrants from Central America are entering the United States without legal protection. He also shared that Cardinal O'Malley reinforced Governor Healey's declaration of crisis by urging parishes to help migrants and emphasizing the need for cooperative political and religious immigrant assistance.

Boston College student Owen Fletcher (Class of 2025) organized and moderated the panel.

The luncheon ended with a thought-provoking question and answer session with Fletcher, Gotbetter, Marakovitz, and the broader audience. One audience member asked how their work is being impacted by the rise of hate groups, referencing a recent event wherein a neo-Nazi group marched in front of Governor Healey's house, chanting "keep New England white" in opposition to the state's immigrant aid. Gotbetter and Marakovitz recognized the challenges this hatred poses to their work; they explained how their organizations have needed to add new safety measures and shift the strategies they use to protect and support immigrants and their advocates. Gotbetter acknowledged the irony of these security challenges, as their work aims to "welcome the stranger," but practical security measures such as locking doors and having police attend events can hinder the practice of this scriptural imperative.

Debbie Gotbetter (middle) and Ed Marakovitz (right) engaged in a panel moderated by Owen Fletcher (left).

offered a glimpse into his ongoing biography of BC's founding president on November 1 with an overview of his research with "My Time with 'The Providental Man': Observations on John McElroy, S.J., Founder of Boston College," while Michael Serazio of BC's Communications Department offered an engaging conversation entitled "The Authenticity Industries: Keeping It 'Real' in Media, Culture, and Politics." A special treat for us was the presentation by Owen Fletcher – a smart junior in Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences and a concentrator in Boisi's Religion and Public Life minor – on "Welcoming the Stranger: Faith-based Migration Work in Boston." That presentation was based on Owen's internship with BC's Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, ably directed by Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, and included an interview with Debbie Gotbetter (Jewish Family Services of Metrowest) and Ed Marakovitz (Paulist Center's Immigration Advocacy Group).

The Boisi Center was delighted to co-sponsor two events hosted by Professor Natana DeLong-Bas of our Theology Department: "No Crisis, No deal? US-Iran Nuclear Tensions Amidst Regional Detentes" on September 21 with Dr. Farzan Sabet and "Water and Iran's Environmental Problems" with Dr. Kaveh Madani on November 15.

We're delighted to announce that two of our very smart BC colleagues have now been appointed as "affiliated faculty" with the Boisi Center. Elizabeth Prodromou, visiting professor in the International Studies Program, and Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, are happily now part of the undertaking here at Boisi.

None of these wonderful events could happen without the creative energy and attention to detail of Boisi's crackerjack staff: Susan Richard, administrative assistant for the Center, Madeline "Maddie" Jarrett, graduate research assistant and doctoral student in theology, and two very talented seniors in the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, as well as Religion and Public Life minors, Emily Caffrey and Fallon Jones, who quite happily work with us as Undergraduate Research Fellows ("URFs" in BC-Speak).

Stay tuned: more to come soon.

~ Mark Massa, S.J.

COMING UP THIS SPRING AT THE BOISI CENTER

JANUARY 31, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00PM, RSVP REQUIRED
"A Century of the Iraqi Hawza: How Clerics Shaped Protests and Politics in Modern Day Iraq"
Professor Marsin Alshamary

FEBRUARY 6, 2024 | 6:00 - 7:30PM, RSVP REQUESTED
5th Annual Wolfe Lecture on Religion and American Politics: "Religious Nationalism and the Dimming of Religious Freedom"
Dr. Stephen Schneck

MARCH 20, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00PM, RSVP REQUIRED
"Donald Trump, Child of Darkness: Niebuhr and the Christian Realist Defense of Democracy"
Dr. R. Ward Holder

MARCH 23, 2024 | TBD, RSVP REQUIRED
4th Annual Graduate Conference, "Digital Humanity: Artificial Intelligence and the Art of Human Connection"

APRIL 3, 2024 | 5:30 - 7:00PM, RSVP REQUESTED
21st Annual Prophetic Voices Lecture: "Prophetically Provocative: Jesus as Mime, Mirror, and Muse"
Rev. Nancy Taylor

APRIL 10, 2024 | 5:30 - 7:00PM, RSVP REQUESTED
"What Happened at the Synod?"
James Martin, S.J.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND ALL OUR EVENTS, VISIT: BC.EDU/BOISI