

# Ex Libris

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE

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## The Graduating Class of 2024



The Scholars photographed with Kathy Bailey and Jennie Thomas

Alongside Kathy Bailey and Jennie Thomas, the GPSP Class of 2024 travelled to New York City for the annual Wall Street Business Leadership Council Tribute Dinner.





# The Class of 2025 Takes on the Middle East!

By *Sancia Sehdev '25*

After a year during which exciting study abroad plans had scattered Scholars across the globe, the class of 2025 reunited in Dubai at the beginning of their summer for the Middle East trip. Led by Director Kathy Bailey and Professor Tracy Regan, the trip to Dubai and various parts of Jordan provided the Scholars with an excellent opportunity to immerse themselves culturally and learn more about the social, political, and religious influences in the region.

After a fun reunion dinner the evening they landed, the Scholars spent the next day exploring the city center. The creativity apparent through design and architecture took most of the class aback as they observed the views from the metro. "It's almost as if they can build anything their imagination comes up with", observed Caroline Macneill. The trip to the top of the magnificent Burj Khalifa only worked to fortify this belief. It took the elevator less than 60 seconds to get the Scholars to the observation deck on the 124th floor of the tallest human-built structure in the world. The 360° view allowed the Scholars to observe the artificially

developed World Islands, and learn about how development had proceeded in different parts of Dubai over the past few decades. They then spent the rest of their afternoon traversing the vast Dubai Mall, observing how different parts of the mall catered to Dubai's diverse populations and learning more about how the Emiratis shopped.

During the Scholars' time in Dubai, they took it upon themselves to explore the old part of the city, where they visited the infamous Gold Souk and Spice Souk. Kind shopkeepers explained the use of spices like indigo and saffron, and even offered demonstrations. One evening also provided the Scholars an opportunity to make friends with camels from the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, as they made their way to a falconry demonstration where a ranger discussed the techniques used to train falcons and the importance of their ethical upbringing. After a fascinating demonstration, the Scholars made their way to a Bedouin Camp, where they spent the evening learning about traditional bread making and coffee brewing, enjoyed a traditional dinner (where they even got to try camel milk!), and learned the Yola dance.

After their enriching experiences in

Dubai, the Scholars geared up for the next leg of their journey: Jordan. As the Scholars stepped out of the airport in Amman, they were warmly welcomed by two smiling faces they would soon become very familiar with: Basel, an enthusiastic Jordanian tour guide who would always be equipped with relevant insights on culture and historical influences, and Abu Ali, whose unparalleled driving skills and ability to drive a humongous bus through narrow, crowded and steep streets often left the Scholars cheering in awe. Together, they formed the perfect team to guide the Scholars in their adventures across different cities in Jordan.

The Scholars were also lucky in that they arrived in Amman on the Jordanian Independence Day, as the locals celebrated seventy-eight years of independence from British rule. The roads lined with cars decked with the national flag, honking in celebration. On more crowded streets, many cars even played music as their owners took to the streets to dance with other locals. To celebrate the occasion, Basel gave the Scholars shawls in the colors of the Jordanian flag, which allowed them to join the celebrations.

After an incredible (and somewhat chaotic) welcome to the city, the Scholars spent the next few days learning more about Jordan's rich history. In Amman, the Scholars visited the infamous Citadel, where they learned about how the capital city known as Rabbath-Ammon became the Greco-Roman City of Philadelphia and how many transformations the city had experienced. The Temple of Hercules and the Egyptian sculpture provided prime examples to understand this. The Scholars then visited the Roman Amphitheater, where they learned about the culture of music and theater, and even got to test the acoustics and stage out themselves. From Julian's



Photo courtesy of Platinum Heritage

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opera singing to Cyrus and Johany's step skills and Steve's hip-hop dancing, the Roman Amphitheater left the group entertained. Over their next few days of exploration, the Scholars also learned more about Jordanian history, culture and religion through insightful visits to traditional mosaic workshops in Madaba, the Greco-Roman ruins of Jerash, and Mount Nebo (the burial site of Moses).

The trip also gave the Scholars a chance to experience one of the Seven Wonders of the World: Petra. The Scholars found themselves struck by the beauty of the red city and the beautiful gorges that had signs of sculpted images from past eras. As they made their way through the gorges, the Treasury revealed itself in all its splendor, its intricate facade carved directly into the cliff. Petra was nothing short of breathtaking, and it is no surprise that it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After Petra, the Scholars spent the evening in the red sand deserts of Wadi Rum, which gave them an opportunity to live their Dune and Star Wars fantasies. They were served traditional tea and learned about local spices and essential oils. The Scholars then spent their night amidst the glorious dunes, waking up at 4:30 am for a

sunrise hot air balloon ride!

The Scholars' time in Jordan also provided various opportunities for them to learn about issues of social importance in the region. Conversations with leaders of nonprofits and members of organizations interspersed their visits to various landmarks and sights, complementing their understanding of history with a better understanding of the present-day landscape. For example, the Scholars visited the office of Tamkeen, an organization seeking to enhance social protection for marginalized groups and victims of human rights violations. Their team talked about how vulnerable migrant laborers in Jordan often found themselves, and allowed the Scholars to ask them questions about the work they did and the challenges they faced. The Scholars' visit to the quarters of SOS Children's Village, an organization that aims to provide orphaned children with family systems, also allowed them to learn about the lives of orphaned children and Jordan's restrictive laws surrounding adoption. The Scholars engaged in meaningful conversations to understand how SOS had developed a system to work through these challenges, by creating communities where women could sign up to take care of children

and provide them with a stable family until adulthood. It was also really cool to hear about their plans to make their communities more sustainable as they looked towards their future. The Scholars' conversations with Reem Abu Hassa, the former Jordanian Minister for Social Affairs, also allowed them to understand how Jordan was working to address the issue of child marriage while accounting for cultural differences with the Syrian migrant population.

The Scholars were particularly touched by their visit to the Jesuit Refugee Service, where they met the team and then engaged in small group conversations with various people and families who had come to Jordan from different parts of the Middle East, seeking a safe space for themselves and for their families. While some talked about their life in Amman, some did share more about their life before they got there. It was heartbreaking to hear about how war and conflict had torn apart their families, as some of them mentioned how they had lost close ones. Yet, they also spoke with hope and optimism for the future. A 19 year old girl spoke passionately about her love for Artificial Intelligence and showed them pictures of shoes she had developed that could charge power banks when used while running. She hoped to apply to college in the US to study AI. Another girl proudly showcased her elaborate handiwork. "I especially enjoyed interacting with a man from Yemen who was determined to continue his path as a volleyball coach in the future," said Mairead Gatliffe. "I really enjoyed the positivity and kindness of the refugees and was touched by their ability to continue to learn and grow," she added.

To cap off their incredible journey, the Scholars visited the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth. Here, they experienced the unique sensation of floating effortlessly in the buoyant, mineral-



Photo courtesy of Platinum Heritage

Scholars riding camels captured via drone



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rich waters. The Scholars laughed and relaxed as they covered themselves in the therapeutic mud, enjoying a moment of lighthearted fun amidst their educational adventures.

As the trip drew to a close, the Scholars reflected on their incredible experiences in both Dubai and Jordan. The journey had not only broadened their academic horizons but also enriched their understanding of the world. They returned home with new friendships, lasting memories, and a profound appreciation for the cultural and historical treasures of the Middle East. This remarkable journey was a testament to the transformative power of travel, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of the Class of 2025.





# Wall Street Alumni Event and Council Dinner





# Awards

## Commencement Awards

### Morrissey School of Arts and Sciences

#### 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.

**Katy Gilmore**

#### Dever Fellowship

Writing fund through the English department for a graduating senior.

**Katy Gilmore**

#### Doherty Honors Project Award

This award honors Paul Doherty. It is for the best undergraduate thesis.

**Katy Gilmore**

#### Edward H. Finnegan

An award in the memory of Rev. Edward H. Finnegan S.J., given to the student who has best exemplified in their four years at Boston College the spirit of the College motto "Ever to Excel."

**Fran Hodgens**

#### William A. Kean '35 Award

An award to the graduating senior judged by the Kean Award Committee to be the outstanding English major

**Katy Gilmore**

#### Bishop Kelleher Award

An award donated by Francis Cardinal Spellman in honor of the Most Reverend Louis F. Kelleher, given to an undergraduate student for the best writing in poetry published in a Boston College undergraduate publication.

**Katy Gilmore**

### Carroll School of Management

#### The Kevin Eidt Memorial Scholarship

The Kevin M. Eidt Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to the junior in the Carroll School of Management, who during the past three years has demonstrated a unique combination of academic achievement, character, leadership, and school spirit similar to Kevin's. The scholarship recipient is selected by a faculty committee of the Carroll School of Management Undergraduate Program and announced at the end of each year.

**Fran Hodgens**

## Undergraduate Awards

#### Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy Junior Fellowship

The Clough Center of 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.

**Sam Peterson '25**

#### ACS Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry

**Hayoung Cho '25**

#### 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.

**Jason Adhinarta '25**

**Hayoung Cho '25**

**Hunter Linton '25**

**Caroline Macneill '25**

**Liz Schwab '25**

# *Non-University Awards, Honor, Fellowships or Scholarships*

## **John Kozarich Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship**

**Hayoung Cho '25**

### **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.

**Jared Aimone '26**

**Garret Eichlin '26**

**Samiksh Jain '26**

**Martin Kentas '26**

**Sarah You '26**

### **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. 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.

**Jared Aimone '26**

**Hunter Linton '25**

**Connor Nicholas '27**

**Patrick Sheesley '27**

**Grace Snell '27**

### **Omar A. Aggad Travel and Research Fellowship**

The Omar A. Aggad Travel and Research Fellowship was established through the generous gift of a Boston College family to inspire BC graduate and undergraduate students to expand their understandings of the Arab world, and of the relationships between Arab societies and the West. The donors have a particular interest in helping students to understand the Palestine-Israel issue, and supporting research and activities designed to promote peace in the region.

**Samiksh Jain '26**

### **John Randall Award**

The John Randall Award is presented to the undergraduate writer of the best essay on American literature and culture in honor and memory of author and BC Professor John Randall.

**Callie Walsh '27**

### **All ACC Academic Team**

All-ACC Academic Teams are awarded to students based on academic and athletic achievement.

**Anisha Kundu '25 (fencing)**

### **Southeastern Medical Scientist Symposium at the Emory University School of Medicine, First Place Undergraduate Poster Presentation Award**

**Mikayla Quintana '24**

### **The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program**

Established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry Goldwater. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue research careers in these fields.

**Sancia Sehdev '25**

### **Thrive Capital Fellowship 2024**

Thrive Summer Fellowship will provide a select group of rising college juniors with an 8-week paid internship, a stipend to offset education costs, and exclusive access to the Thrive team and portfolio organizations. Over the course of the internship, Thrive Summer Fellows will be paired with a Thrive employee as a mentor, attend exclusive Fellows events aimed at developing entrepreneurial acumen, and work on projects in partnership with Thrive’s Investment and Impact teams in-person at our New York headquarters.

**Jake Ottiger '26**

### **Alpha Sigma Nu**

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

**Hayoung Cho '25**

**Anisha Kundu '25**

**Sam Peterson '25**

**Liz Schwab '25**

### **Beta Gamma Sigma**

Founded in 1913, Beta Gamma Sigma is the international business 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

**Anisha Kundu '25**

## *Alumni Announcements*

### **Iota Sigma Pi**

Iota Sigma Pi is a national honor society in the United States. It was established in 1902 and specializes in the promotion of women in the sciences, especially chemistry.

### **Hayoung Cho '25**

### **Lambda Pi Eta**

Lambda Pi Eta (LPE) is the official communication studies honor society of the National Communication Association. LPE was founded at the University of Arkansas in 1985 and has grown into a national organization with more than 400 active chapters at colleges and universities across the country. After it reached a reasonable size, LPE became a member of the Association of College Honor Societies

### **Liz Schwab '25**

### **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.

### **Jason Adhinarta '25**

### **John Bottei '24**

### **Hayoung Cho '25**

### **Katy Gilmore '24**

### **Andrew Hoffman '24**

### **Ashley McKnight '24**

### **The Orville Family Endowed Scholarship**

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) administers senior undergraduate scholarships established in memory of a loved one or to honor an individual's contributions to the sciences. These scholarships are intended to help further the education of outstanding students who are pursuing degrees in the atmospheric and related oceanic or hydrologic sciences.

### **Steven Roche '25**

*Sean Patrick Flahaven '95* won his third Tony Award on June 16, as a co-producer of the Best Play winner, *Stereophonic*. The Broadway show was the most Tony-nominated in history and most award-winning show of the theatre season. Flahaven previously won Tony Awards for *Hadestown* (Best Musical, 2019) and *Company* (Best Revival of a Musical, 2022).

*Chris Scullin '10* recently left Bain Capital Private Equity after 12 years to join Norwest in Menlo Park CA. He will continue to invest in growing software businesses but in earlier stages, and would welcome the opportunity to reconnect with any members of the GPSP community who might want to collaborate!

*Andrew Boyce '15* was promoted at Skywater Technology Foundry from Process Development Engineer Staff to Process Development Engineer Senior Staff in May 2024

*Daniel Cattolica '15* just completed a dual Master's in Education & CA Single Subject Teaching Credential in English and finished his first year at Mitchell Middle School in Rancho Cordova, CA. His colleagues voted him Teacher of the Year. He also served as the basketball head coach and track/field assistant coach.

*Maureen McGrath '16* graduated with her MBA from Wharton in May 2024.

*Hagop Toghramadjian '17* and his wife Natasha (also BC class of 2017) welcomed their first child, a son named Avedis Thomas, on January 20. Avedis means "Good News" in Armenian.

*Michelle Kang '18* will be attending MIT in the Sloan MBA Class of 2026 beginning this coming fall

**GPSP Alumni:**

**Follow us on LinkedIn!**

