

# 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 Jared Aimone '26*

The 2022-23 year began in its usual fashion for this year's Presidential Scholars—"usual fashion," of course, meaning a one-of-a-kind weekend retreat. This year's 63 scholars, along with their program directors and a handful of alumni, gathered at the Connors Center to catch up with one another, preview the coming year, and bring on the Class of 2026.

The retreat opened in the Estate room with introductions from old scholars to new ones, and vice versa, along with updates from each scholar's summer: internships, research, service, and travels. Upperclassmen heard what their peers had been up to, and freshmen saw a glimpse of what their futures might hold.

Soon after, in the true manner of a Boston College retreat, scholars broke into small

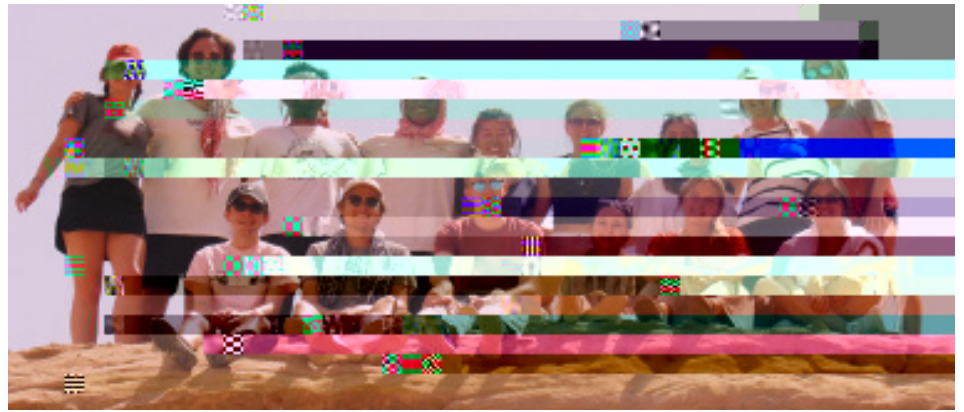
selves toward the coming year. For many, these open conversations were a highlight of the weekend experience. For freshmen in particular, this was an opportunity to hear advice, voice concerns, and connect with upperclassmen of similar interests. As Garret Eichlin '26 said, "Scholars in

my group were phenomenal and pitched opportunities they had taken advantage of. One scholar in particular, Andy Hoffman, was especially helpful as he provided insight into the chemistry department, a subject I am very interested in pursuing."

Following these more conversational "mixed groups," members of each class met with adult leaders to learn more about their coming year: Seniors met with alumni Tate Krasner '16 and Rachel Simon '18 to discuss post-graduate plans, juniors met with alumnus Marty Long '13 to discuss internships, sophomores met to collaborate on their coming social justice project, and freshmen met with Program Director Kathleen Bailey for a welcome conversation and a big col for a wel

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# Class of 2023 Travels to Dubai & Jordan



# Class of 2025 Explores the Canals of Venice

*By Johany Jeune '25*

In August, just before the annual retreat in Dover, the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program Class of 2025 traveled with Director Kathy Bailey to Venice, Italy; an eagerly anticipated trip that had been rescheduled from March due to COVID restrictions. After the Scholars landed in Venice, there was a minor storm, but they eventually arrived, safely but soaking wet, at La Casa Cardinal Piazza where they changed meal in the beautiful city.

Father Jim Keenan, S.J., who had been in Venice for a week prior, met them and guided the Scholars around the city, taking them to the Rialto Bridge, San Marco, as well as the oldest farmacia in Venice. On a day trip to Murano and Burano, they saw stunning ar-

chitecture of the pastel colored houses in Burano, and beautiful artwork and glass blowing sculptures in Murano. History was everywhere, as they traveled to St. Mark's Basilica and the Doge Palace, and then to the Jewish Ghetto, where they learned of the history of Jewish people in Italy.

Outside of the itinerary, the Scholars got to explore on their own. They each developed their own perspectives on what made Italy memorable. A highlight for Moira Ujda, was seeing the art that she had learned about

mosaics in St. Mark's Basilica. Learning the symbolism and history behind everything was a fruitful experience for her.

Caroline Macneill had similar sentiments. While Caroline reminisced on a memory of eat-

ing at restaurants by the pier and enjoying the great Venetian cuisine, a main novelty for her was exploring Murano. Caroline, much like Moira, touched upon how she found it interesting learning the Catholic culture and history. To her, she had a broadened perspective which enabled her to appreciate

For the GPSP class of 2025, the Italy trip was a bonding experience, aptly captured by the

Rosen, who also gained a lot from the trip. One of his major

# Class of 2024 Complete IPLP Summers

By Garret Eichlin '26

From Stockholm to Seoul, our Scholars traveled to foreign countries across the globe this summer in pursuit of their International Perspective and Language Program (IPLP) placements.

IPLP placements are an

Presidential Scholars Program experience. This six to ten week program typically takes place in the summer before a Scholar's Junior year, and while COVID brought international travel to a grinding halt from 2020 to 2021, Scholars were able to resume travels this past summer. The class of 2024 set their sights on traveling far and wide, for new language acquisition, internships abroad and experiencing different cultures.

Mikayla Quintana '24, a Neuroscience major on the pre-med track, went to Córdoba, Argentina for ten weeks as part of the Child Family Health International Global Health Program

this past summer. Quintana used the time to learn medical skills via internships at public hospitals such as Hospital Tránsito and Hospital Municipal de Emergencias, all while being immersed in a Spanish-speaking environment.

The Argentine dialect

terminology isn't on the typical Spanish course syllabus, and she needed to dedicate

learning these new phrases. It was no wonder that Quintana came back from her trip more

Argentine dialect being an initial barrier to understanding the conversations around her, Quintana did not let it stop her from becoming fully immersed in Córdoba's rich culture.

As Mikayla stated, she felt as if she was a "guest in the culture." She made a point of visiting, and learning as much as she could about the people she was observing in the hospital

every day. When interviewed, Quintana listed off countless sources of cultural immersion she experienced during her time in Argentina, including conversations with members of her host family about the life of a teenager in Córdoba, interacting with students at an English school where she volunteered, and drinking traditional mate tea when in class.

experiences in Córdoba, Quintana noted the unique opportunities she never would have had if not for her IPLP placement.



# Recapping Semesters Spent Around the World

*By Courtney MacDonald '26*

A staple piece of the Gabelli Presidential Scholarship Program at Boston College is the emphasis on developing a group of people who are not just present in their own communities, but are willing to go out of their comfort zones, and immerse themselves in an entirely

# Class of 2025 Complete PULSE Placements

By Jason Adhinarta '25

Presidential Scholars pride themselves in forming tight-knit communities which transcend academic boundaries. The PULSE program which took place over the 2022 summer allowed the class of 2025 to form meaningful relationships

Tuesday night Devlin hall gatherings.

Sharing a living space in Greycliffe hall, allowed us to understand each other's lifestyles and have interesting intercultural conversations. Ai-Kee Cheung (MCAS) remarked "it was such a great atmosphere to be in everyday". Oftentimes, these exchanges offered great ways for the class to mature and become more aware of the global cultures that exist within the Program. For instance, for the dinner the students hosted for Kathy, Jennie, and Sarah, the students organized a three-course meal that consisted of dishes from the different cultures represented in the Program.

For appetizers, Maggie Hynes (MCAS) prepared a serving of bruschetta which res-

onated with many of the students of Italian descent. For the main course, Julian Castro (CSOM) prepared a sancocho antioqueño, a Colombian dish that his mother and grandmother would prepare during festive occasions. And for dessert, the students cut into Kathy's cake which had a satirical decoration directed at the amount of times -  
ars' stay. Overall, the meal was a great time and it laid the groundwork for an environment that welcomed an exchange of cultures within everyone in the class.

Anisha Kundu (CSOM) and Sancia Sehdev (MCAS) also prepared some traditional Indian dishes, such as curry, and would often offer a taste to everyone that passed by the kitchen. Julian had the pleasure of trying their egg curry; which he said was amazing. Additionally, I would dare people to eat century-old eggs, a Chinese-delicacy that was often a source of fear in the Greycliffe kitchen. Julian states that these interactions showed him "that this program was truly a mixture of twenty-three extremely unique and diverse individuals."

The service we did enabled us to better grasp the social problems that underprivileged communities face. As part of the Missing Them project, we had interviewed NYC locals about how COVID has tremendously impacted their family's lives. We were assigned to various community partners in Boston, to tackle problems such as clothing and food insecurity. In our class, we discussed problems such as legal racial discrimination and the inequalities in education. Steven Roche (MCAS) shared a similar sentiment, "PULSE changed my perspective on how I can be an active agent of change in a world of injustice."

The lessons we learned after PULSE continued after the summer. A few students have continued to serve at Haley House through the semester. Jake Ottiger (CSOM) has decided to follow up on the Innocence Project which aims to absolve those who are wrongfully convicted. Moreover, the class of 2025 is planning to tackle the problem of clothing insecurity in Boston for their Sophomore Social Justice Project.

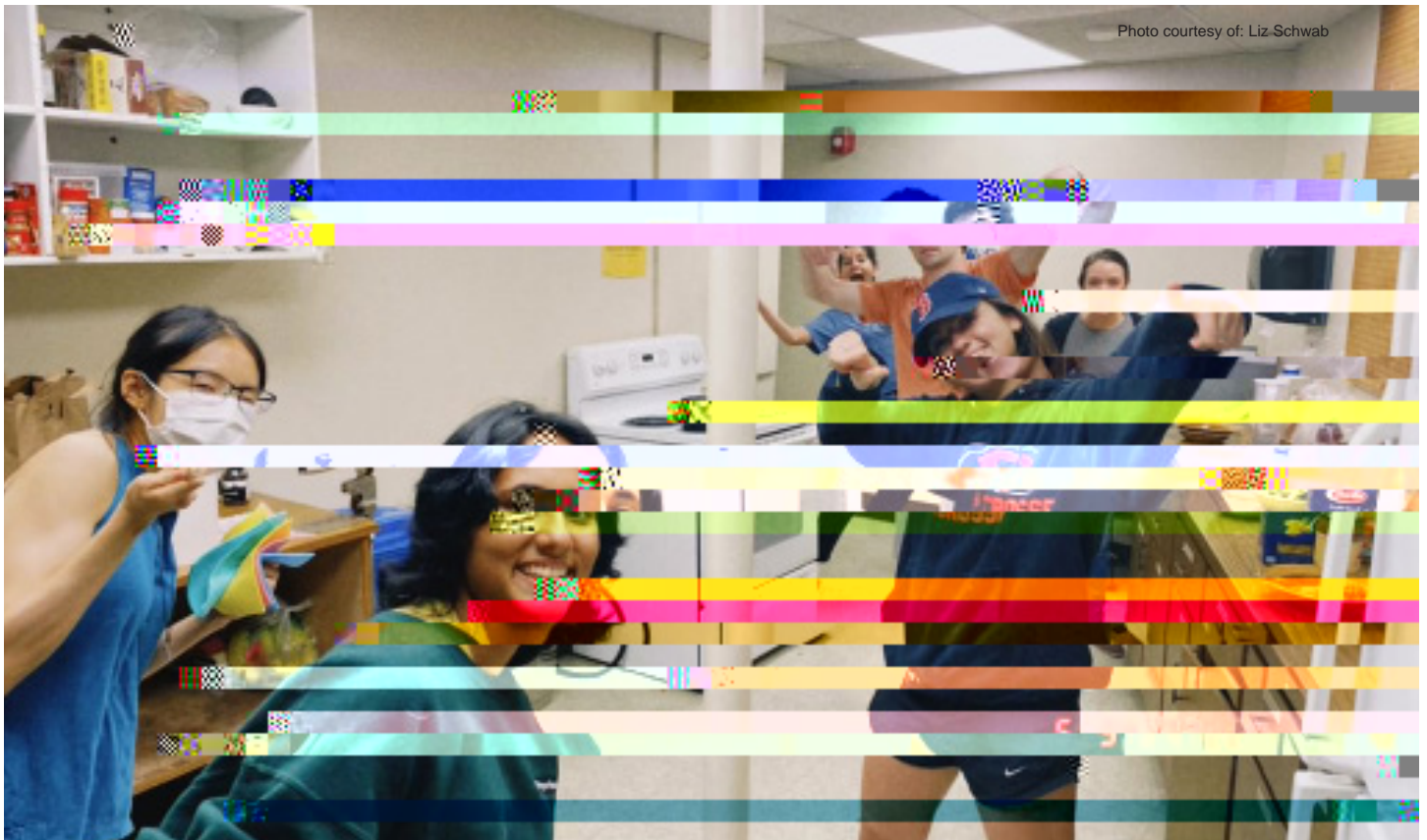


Photo courtesy of: Liz Schwab

The sophomore scholars enjoy some quality downtime after volunteering at their Summer PULSE placements

*By Hector Tyser '25*

Last year I took Professor Bailey's course, Introduction to Modern Politics

was dedicated to the war in Ukraine. As an international student from London, living in Boston, I initially felt far removed from the topic, despite my interest; I felt like an outsider looking in on what it must have felt like for Russian and Ukrainian people as war broke out. The spring semester eventually came to

the majority of Prof. Bailey's long reading list, but I still wanted to know more.

Following my time in summer PULSE,

large posters welcoming and advising Ukrainian refugees as to what to do when they arrived. This got me thinking. A quick

Heathrow and Rzeszów airport in eastern Poland — the public airport via which the UN delivers weapons to Ukraine - was

time between Boston and Miami!).

After more digging down Google's rabbit holes re, I found Siobhan's Trust — the charity for which I would later work. My mind was made. I was going to Ukraine. Of course, this decision was not going to be popular with my parents, especially my mother. iclther.6 (what )0.5 37ter D-p7uQhrñPd0SqEàqEGG,



# Class of 2023 Completes Summer Internships

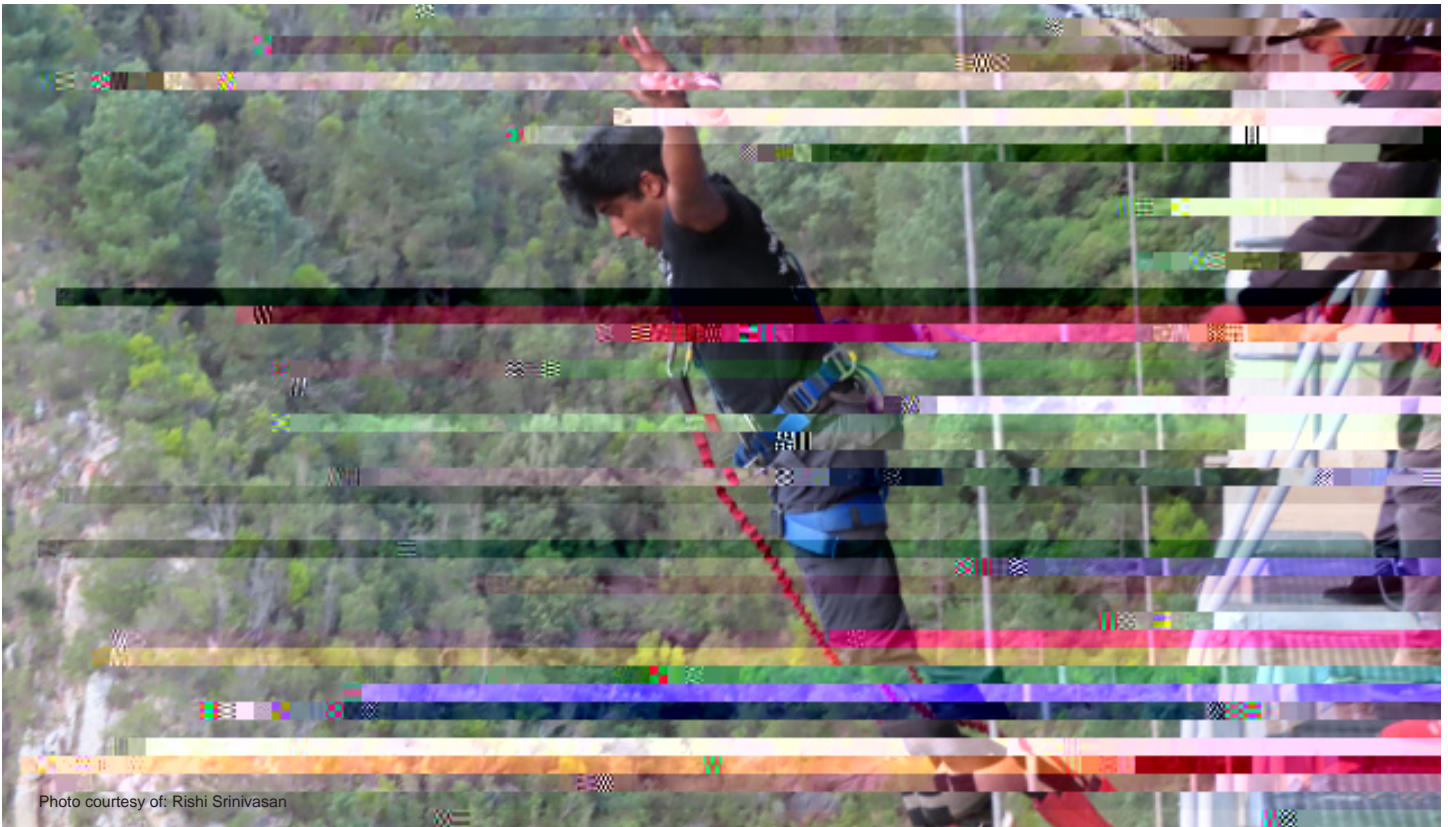


Photo courtesy of: Rishi Srinivasan

## Senior Rishi Srinivasan goes bungee jumping while “interning” in South Africa

*By Sarah You '26*

As the COVID-19 pandemic eased during the summer of 2022, the GPSP class of 2023 traveled across the globe to explore their interests and bring what they learned back to Boston College. Researching Parkinson’s disease, shadowing at a dental clinic, working with the branding and design elements of various concerts at the Pasadena Symphony and Pops, and interning as an analyst at Bank of America are just a few highlights of the internships they participated in.

Molly Binder '23, majoring in Applied Psychology, spent her summer at a treatment program based out of Judge Baker Children’s center for children diagnosed with ADHD. The program runs for six weeks and provides evidence-based interventions for kids with behavioral or mental health challenges. After a week of training, Binder was assigned to a group

as the undergraduate counselor for the program. She provided treatment to kids through traditional camp activities, and coaching different sports skills. “[This internship] offered a unique opportunity to

engage with a clinical population as an undergraduate psychology student, which is a rare experience to have,” said Binder.

Rishi Srinivasan '23, majoring in Neuroscience on a pre-med track, traveled to Transkei, South Africa, and Istanbul, Turkey, for his summer. First interning at the Zithulele Research Center and Hospital, Srinivasan and his mentor traveled with an X-Ray van to homes and local clinics in Transkei and helped with the process of documenting results of tuberculosis/HIV. Aside from his work, he also had the opportunity to work on tuberculosis research in AA&D in Durban, South Africa, primarily with homeless individuals helping out with administrative and logistical tasks at

the homeless hospital clinic. Srinivasan also interned at the Victoria Hospital in Capetown, South Africa, where he primarily shadowed a pediatric doctor and learned more about how tuberculosis affects the pediatric population of South Africa. Srinivasan said, “this entire experience in South Africa was one of the most memorable and impactful ones of my life... Here I had the opportunity to not only participate in rewarding work, but also truly become a part of a rich community.”

Connor Roukey '23, majoring in Accounting and Philosophy, is interested in a potential future vocation as a parish priest. He interned with the Archdiocese of Boston/St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

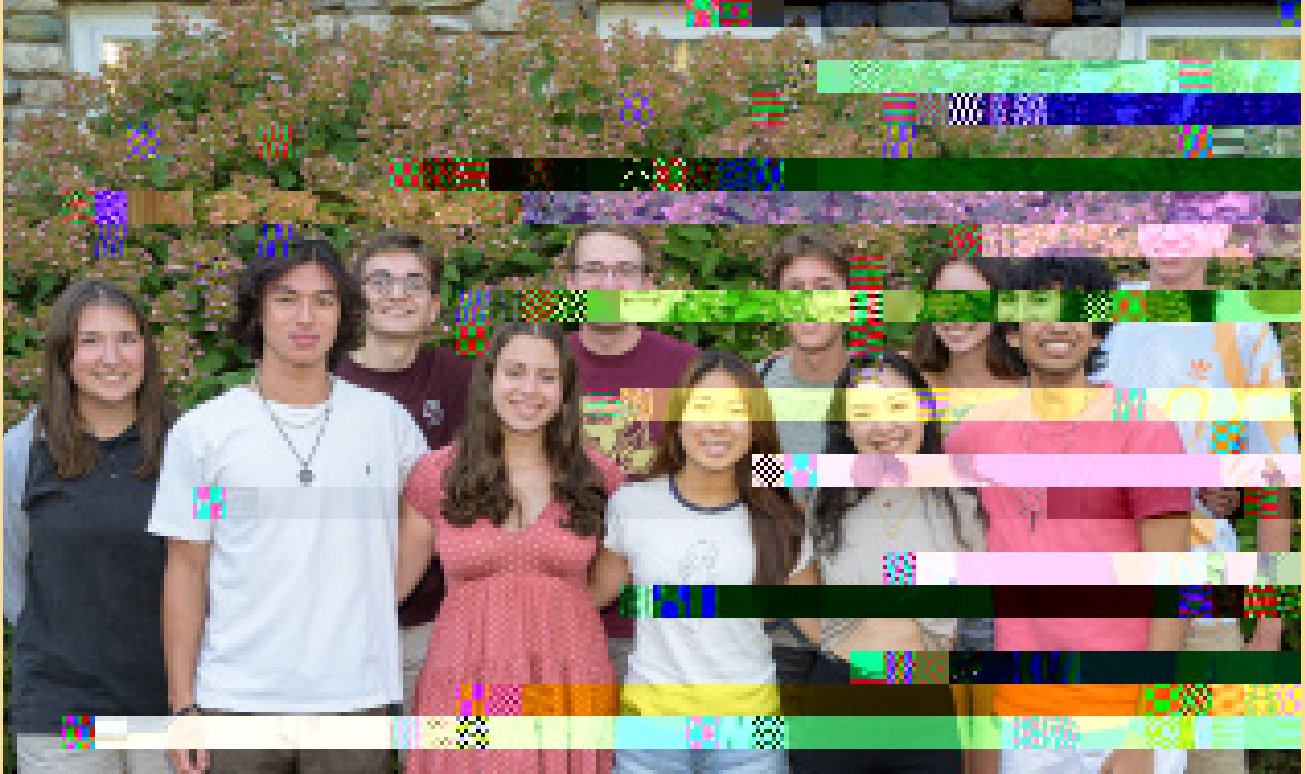
career,” Roukey remarked. He spent most of his internship at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Brookline, MA, and occasionally assisted with special projects and events at the Archdiocesan Central

the West Regional Bishop. Roukey set up for Mass, coordinated volunteer schedules,

He also coordinated many major liturgies at the parish and assisted in organizing parish social events such as their annual cookout and young adult barbecue.

These experiences were just a small experience the Class of 2023 had during the past summer. Despite the different locations and positions, each Scholar experienced, they all came out more certain of what they wanted to do in the future.

## Welcome GPSP Class of 2026!



**Caroline Ahn**  
Fulton, MD

**Jared Aimone**  
Long Beach, CA

**Evan Dao**  
Randolph, MA

**Lauren Heinzelman**  
Bainbridge Island, WA

**Samiksh Jain**  
Mumbai, India

**Martin Kentas**  
New York, NY

**Courtney McDonald**  
Salinas, CA

**Sarah You**  
Wuhan, China

## Alumni Announcements

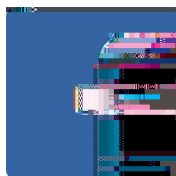
and his wife Nicole welcomed Rowan Robert Scullin on October 10. Brother Rory (~2.25 yrs old) is excited to share his trucks. They also moved after 10 years in Boston to Larkspur, CA in the SF Bay Area in June, returning to their home state of CA

completed her PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno in May 2022 and is now working as a Postdoctoral Scholar within UNR's Department of Biology

was Promoted to Senior Project Manager, Genomic Center for Infectious Diseases at the Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard in July 2022

was a collaborator on a multi-media art installation called "Aftermath" exploring the global health impacts of textile waste that was exhibited at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History

received his M.S. in Astrophysical and Planetary Science from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and advanced to a Ph.D. candidacy



### GPSP Alumni:

Join our GPSP Facebook & LinkedIn Groups!



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