



# Social Justice Project

## Sophomore "Strong Month" Highlights Social Justice Initiative

By Owen Lyons, A&S '17

On Tuesday, April 15th, the Sophomore Class of the Presidential Scholars presented the results of their social justice project, consisting of a publication UHÁHFWLQJ RQ WKH PDUDWKRQ bombings of 2013 and how the phrase "Boston Strong" related to the many social justice issues in the city. In addition to the publication, the sophomore class announced the launch of "Strong Month" - a number of online articles, events, and activities to further explore the W R S L F D Q G W R U H A H F W R O W K H S D V W D O G look to the future" in honor of the marathon.

The presentation included D Q X P E H U R I V S H D N H I G W K H A Q V W of whom was Dave Fortier. U X Q Q H U L Q M X U H G D W W K H A Q L V R O L Q H He spoke of the efforts of Boston Public Health and the support for the injured, as well as the 28 runners injured in last year's marathon who ran again this year. Dan Lundberg '16 then spoke about the phrase "Boston Strong" and the educational achievement gap as well as the homelessness prevalent in Boston, declaring that the strength of the city begins, not ends, at the marathon attacks; the motto is only as good as the actions behind it. Lucas Allen '16 addressed the opportunity for action shown in the strength of the city following the attacks, but also acknowledged the necessary critical assessment of this strength. Atia Martin, the Director of the 2 I A F H R I 3 X E O L F + H D O W K L Q % R V W R Q also spoke. Aware of the critical



Photo: Catherine Cole

Speakers Dave Fortier and Atia Martin converse with BC students at the Class of 2016's "Strong Month" launch.

assessment, Martin described the efforts currently made within the city to help the disadvantaged, in the realm of both physical and mental health. She also pointed out the many efforts in emergency P D Q D J H P H Q W P D G H of Public Health, which included everything from direct care of victims to lodging for their families while they were being treated.

Matthew Jose from the Greater Boston Citizenship Initiative, talked about immigration and our responsibilities as citizens. He pointed out that becoming a citizen breaks down barriers for immigrants, but that immigrant communities, called silos, often do not interact positively in Boston and other areas. Finally Katie Urker from Rosie's Place, described the struggles of women in poverty and how they can be their own best advocate. She pointed out that the phrase "Boston Strong" can be misinterpreted,

and that true strength comes from our vulnerability and solidarity; it involves, as Urker said, taking the risk to be human and ceasing to demonize the poor.

The Sophomore Presidential Scholars, with the launch of "Strong Month", raised awareness not only of the social justice issues in the city, but also of the manner in which they are being addressed. The phrase "Boston Strong" can be interpreted in many ways, and the PSP Class of 2016 has taken it upon themselves to see that it is a phrase that promotes true solidarity and charity within the city of Boston.

For more information about this project, please visit the website: [www.strongmonth.org](http://www.strongmonth.org)

members of the class decided to climb to the top of the Asinelli tower during one of the free afternoons. The consensus was that the 498 steps up a narrow staircase to the top were worth the view and the memories. Unfortunately, many discovered (after climbing it) that the students of the University of Bologna believe that climbing it while being a student means you will not graduate – let's hope this superstition is not applicable to other institutions of higher education.

Aside from a home base in Bologna, the freshman Scholars also visited the nearby cities of Ravenna and Parma. Ravenna proved to be the favorite day for many in the class (and not only because it was home to the best dessert had on the entire trip). Famous for its incredible mosaics, Ravenna was where the Scholars had the chance to visit the Mausoleo di Galla Placidia, the Basilica di San Vitale, the Battistero Neoniano, and the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo. These four places were home to Byzantine mosaics that left the class stunned. The sheer beauty and unbelievable detail in the mosaics would have been enough, but when the Scholars thought about the fact that the "newest" mosaic was built 1,466 years ago these artworks became even more impressive. The day visit to Parma brought with it the sunniest and warmest day had in Italy. Many enjoyed pizza with Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, the real "parmesan," and Prosciutto di Parma for lunch while sitting outside. The visit to

# Scholars Learn the Nuances of the Senior Thesis

By Russell Simons, A&S'17

On the evening of

Matthew Alonzo'14 presented "Engaging Film Youth Leaders" in March 2014 at the Philippine Consulate General in New York. He also presented "A Millennial's Perspective on the Gettysburg Address" in November 2013 as part of the BC History Department's celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.

Alicia McKean'15, presented her project "Teachers' and Administrators' Perceptions of the Racial Achievement Gap" at the ACC Meeting of the Minds conference in March. She was also awarded the Learning Resources for Student-Athletes Excellence

Victoria Luu'14, submitted her first paper as a co-author to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Journal of Marine Science entitled "Forecasting ocean acidification's effects on the sea scallop (*P. magellanicus*) fishery using an integrated assessment model."

Daniel Cattolica'15 presented a paper entitled "For a Phenomenology of Emotion: The Moral and Cognitive Aspects of Epistemic Trust" at the 19th annual SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (April 10-12<sup>th</sup>, 2014). He was also awarded the Dante Alighieri Society of Boston's Pescosolido Family Scholarship for his fall 2013 study abroad in Parma, Italy.

Amanda Loewy'15, rode at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's Zone 1 Region 4 Regional Finals in the Novice Over Fences jumping class.

## Alumni Announcements

Dustin Rawlin, PSP '97, has been named a Rising Star by Law 360. The prestigious list recognizes attorneys under the age of 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. Law360 editors reviewed more than 1,000 attorney nominations across 28 practice areas, selecting only 163 attorneys nationwide to receive the honor.

Kieran Bezila, PSP'98 graduated from Northwestern University with a Ph.D. in Sociology in March, 2013. This coming fall, he will be an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Beloit College in Beloit, WI.

Andrew Frey, PSP'01 was appointed to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority board by Governor Rick Scott. SFRTA operates Tri-Rail, the regional passenger rail, and other mobility programs. He and his wife also welcomed their second child, Pieter Codina Frey on April 20, 2014.

Kevin Meme, PSP'03 graduated from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, with an MBA in Finance. He will be returning to The Boston Consulting Group in Philadelphia. Kevin and his wife, Erica, are expecting their second child this September.

Ellen (Burke) Duffy, PSP'04 was selected as Officer of the Year in 2013 for the University of Florida Police Department, promoted to Sergeant, and moved from being a detective to being a K9 handler. Her new canine partner is a yellow lab named Amber who is trained in Explosive Detection.

Heather (Speller) Vestal, PSP'05 graduated from the MGH/McLean Psychiatry Residency Training Program in June, and accepted a faculty position at McLean Hospital, as the Associate Program Director for the MGH/McLean Psychiatry Residency Program.

Tim Kelly, PSP'09 graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine this past May and will be starting his residency in General Surgery at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York this summer.

Andrew Steck, PSP'10 married Jamie Tiscia, LSOE'10 on April 5, 2014.

Lindsey Hennawi, PSP'11 will be pursuing a Master of Social Work/Master of Public Health dual degree program at Columbia University starting this fall.

Abby Letak, PSP'12 will be pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison starting this fall. She was also nominated for and offered a fellowship for her studies.

Photo: Andrea Gatti

# Awards

## University Honors

### 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.

*Matthew Alonsonna (Marshal)*

*Victoria Luu*

*Joseph Manning*

*Francesca McCaffrey*

*Nick Moffa*

### 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.

*Daniel Cattolica*

*Paul Davy*

*Frank DiRenno*

*MaryRose Fissinger*

*Amanda Loew*

*Grace West*

### 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.

*Marissa Marandola*

### 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.

Class of 2014

*Brooke Loughrin (elected junior year)*

*Victoria Luu*

*Francesca McCaffrey*

*Nick Moffa*

*Alison Wangpek*

### Alpha Sigma Nu

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

Class of 2014

*Francesca McCaffrey*

*Nick Moffa*

*Maggie Scollan*

*Alison Wangpek*

Class of 2015

*Paul Davy*

*Frank DiRenno*

*Cara Harrington*

*Amanda Loew*

*Katie Martin*

Class of 2016

*Lucy Methen*





### Political Science Department Distinguished Sophomore

Each year, the Department designates a small number of its majors as Distinguished Sophomore Scholars following the completion of their freshman year. Just 22 students out of 141 political science majors in the Class of 2016 received this distinction based on outstanding academic achievements.

*Marissa Marandola*

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

#### Fulbright Grant

*Alison Waniek 14, Germany*

### *Commencement Awards*

*School of Arts and Sciences*

#### 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.

*Daïd DePalma*

*Francesca McCaffrey*

#### Donald S. Carlisle Award

An award established by the Department of Political Science in memory of Donald S. Carlisle, Professor of Political Science at Boston College (1968-1997), given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding achievement in political science.

*Brooke Loughrin*

### Mary A. & Katherine G. Finneran Commencement Award

An award, the gift of Misses Elizabeth and Theresa Finneran, given to the student who has achieved outstanding success in studies, while also devoting time and talents to other activities for the enrichment of the College and student life.

*Matthew Alonsozna*

#### Fellowship Matthew Copithorne Scholarship

An award given to a graduate, exhibiting qualities of character, industry, and intelligence, and who plans to do graduate study at Harvard or M.I.T.

**Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner & New York City Events**

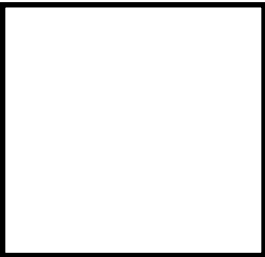
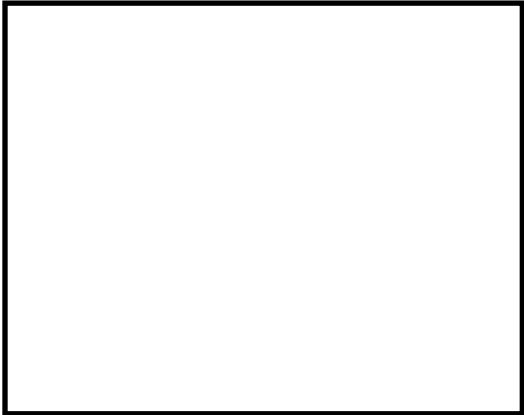
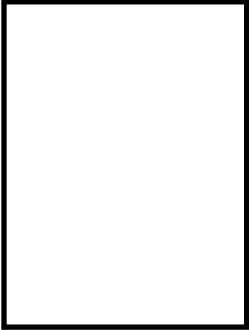
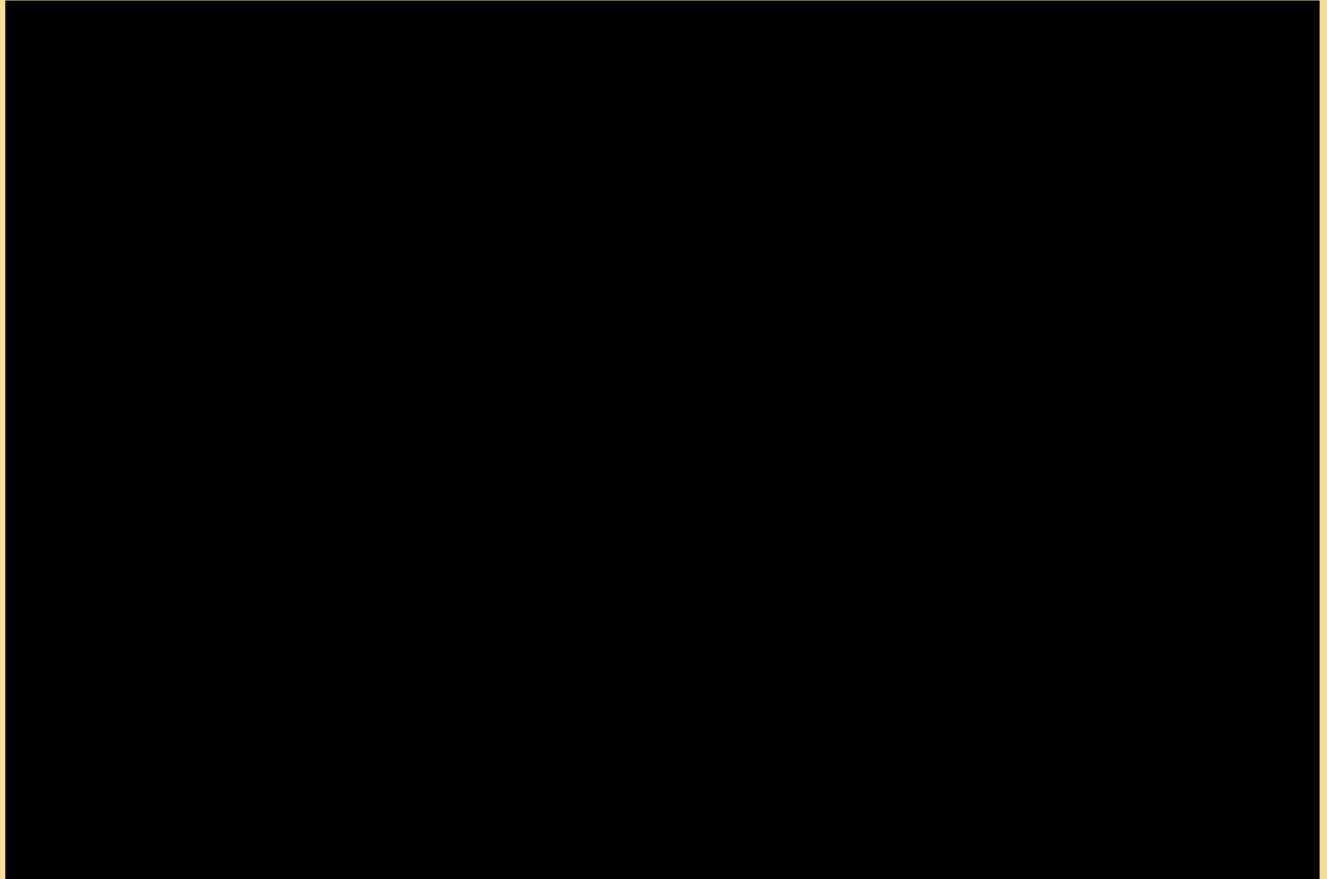


Photo: Jennie Thomas

Photos taken by Andrea Gatti.

# ***Congratulations, Class of 2014!***

On April 24th, senior Scholars, PSP Director Fr. Jim Keenan, Associate Director Jennie Thomas and Adminis-



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