



Sophomore Documentary Highlights Mental Illness in Boston

By: Jackson Bowers CSOM '17

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, the GPSP Class of 2017 premiered their sophomore social justice project, a 30-minute documentary entitled “A Boston State of Mind,” exploring mental health issues in the Boston area. The idea for the documentary was sparked while the Scholars spent six weeks working in various service placements in Boston last summer. While mental health and the stigma associated with it were issues that had been the subject of much discussion on BC’s campus in the past, the Class of 2017 wanted to raise awareness about how mental illness affects those who aren’t college students—specifically, those in the marginalized communities they had connected with in their volunteer work.

The challenge, then, was how to capture such a complex issue with one project. At the time, the Class of 2017 considered themselves amateur filmmakers, after filming and editing two short videos capturing their trip to Italy and their experience living in Shaw House to share with the rest of the program. So the suggestion was raised: “What about a documentary?” After many hours of work (including actually learning how to make a documentary), the Class of 2017, led by producers Jesse Mu and Catherine Cole, premiered their finished work on April 7 to a packed audience including students, professors, and some of the mental health professionals featured in the film.

Overall, “A Boston State of Mind” looks at the unique challenges that people experiencing homelessness or poverty and those from different cultural backgrounds face in regard to disparity in mental health care and stigma. The film offers

perspectives from many professionals in the Boston area who work with these populations or research mental illness. Among the issues cited in the documentary are the disparities in quality between private and public mental health care, and the shortage of counseling and related services in inner-city school districts compared to those in suburban districts. In addition, interviewees say mental health resources too often fail to consider unique ethnic or cultural differences among patients, and how these can contribute to or exacerbate stigmas about mental illness.

The Class of 2017 was surprised at how much they themselves learned while making the film, and hope that it will spark conversation on BC’s campus about mental illness and the availability of resources for the underprivileged. Additionally, they hope that the film, which is now available on the project’s website (abostonstateofmind.com), will be shared widely to raise awareness in the greater Boston community and beyond. Panelists included:

Margarita Alegria, PhD is Director of the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research and a Psychology professor in the Psychiatry Department at Harvard Medical School.

Kimberly Ashby is a third-year doctoral student in the Counseling

Psychology program at Boston College. She works at the Boston College Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture.

James Burns, IVD is the Dean of the Woods College of Advancing Studies. Previously, he worked as a professor at Harvard Medical School, University of St. Thomas Graduate School in Psychology, and Boston University.

Benjamin Cook, PhD, MPH is a Senior Scientist at the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School.

Judicial Schorr a

Research Fellow
for Professor Da-

Marissa Marandola, MA&S '16, has been named a recipient of the 2015 Harry S. Truman Scholarship. A political science major with minors in American Studies and Management and Leadership from Cranston, Rhode Island, Marandola serves as the editor-in-chief of Elements, BC's undergraduate research journal and an executive board member for BC Splash. She is also an Undergraduate

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.

Paul Davey

Mary Rose Fissinger (Marshal)

Marie Pellissier

Andrew Skaras

Grace West

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.

Andrew Boyce

Tate Krasner

Catherine Larrabee

Marissa Marandola

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.

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.

Mackenzie Arnold, A&S '17

Austin Bodetti, A&S '18

Mary Kate Cahill, A&S '17

Jacob Ciafone , A&S '18

Elizabeth Magill, A&S '17

Jesse Mu, A&S '17

Christopher Reynolds, A&S '18

Carolyn Ruh, A&S '17

The Cultural and Religious Influences on Microfinance

Awards

Brendan Connolly, S.J. Award

An award established by the Department of Political Science in memory of Brendan Connolly, S.J., Director of Libraries at Boston College (1959-1974), given each year to a member of the senior class who is distinguished for the same characteristics of wit, loyalty, and love of books as Fr. Connolly himself.

Grace West '15

Cardinal Cushing Award

An award donated by Francis Cardinal Spellman, in honor of Richard Cardinal Cushing, given annually to an undergraduate for the best writing in fiction published in a Boston College undergraduate publication.

Patricia Owens '15

“
” in Spring 2015
Stylus

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.

Mary Rose Fissinger '15

Patrick J. Durcan Award

A gold medal, the gift of Mrs. J. Greer, in memory of her brother, Rev. Patrick Durcan, given to the student whose overall performance in history courses has been outstanding.

Marie Pellissier '15

Cardinal O'Connell Theology Medal

A gold medal, the gift of the late William Cardinal O'Connell, given to the student whose overall performance in theology courses has been outstanding.

Katherine Martin '15

Thomas H. O'Connor Award

An award established by the History Department in honor of the late Thomas H. O'Connor who taught in the

department from 1950 through 1999, and who also served as Boston College University Historian. It is given each year to a graduating senior in recognition of outstanding achievement in the study of American history.

Grace West '15

Albert J. McGuinn, S.J. Award

This is an award in memory of the late chairperson of the Department of Chemistry and brother of the founder of the Graduate School of Social Work. This award is intended for Bachelor of Science graduates who have most successfully combined proficiency in his or her major field of study with achievements--either academic, extra-curricular, or a combination of both--in social sciences or humanities.

FrankDiRenno '15

John McCarthy, S.J. Award for Humanities

An award given to seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences for the most distinguished Scholar of the College projects.

Cara Harrington '15

John McCarthy, S.J. Award for Social Sciences/History

An award given to seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences for the most distinguished Scholar of the College projects.

Marie Pellisser '15

Grace West '15

J. Paul Marcoux Award

Cara Harrington '15

Papers, Presentations & Other Scholar News

Vivian Chang '16:

Hagop Toghramadjian '17:

Amanda Loewy '15: *Qualified to go to Regionals and*

Tate Krasner '16:

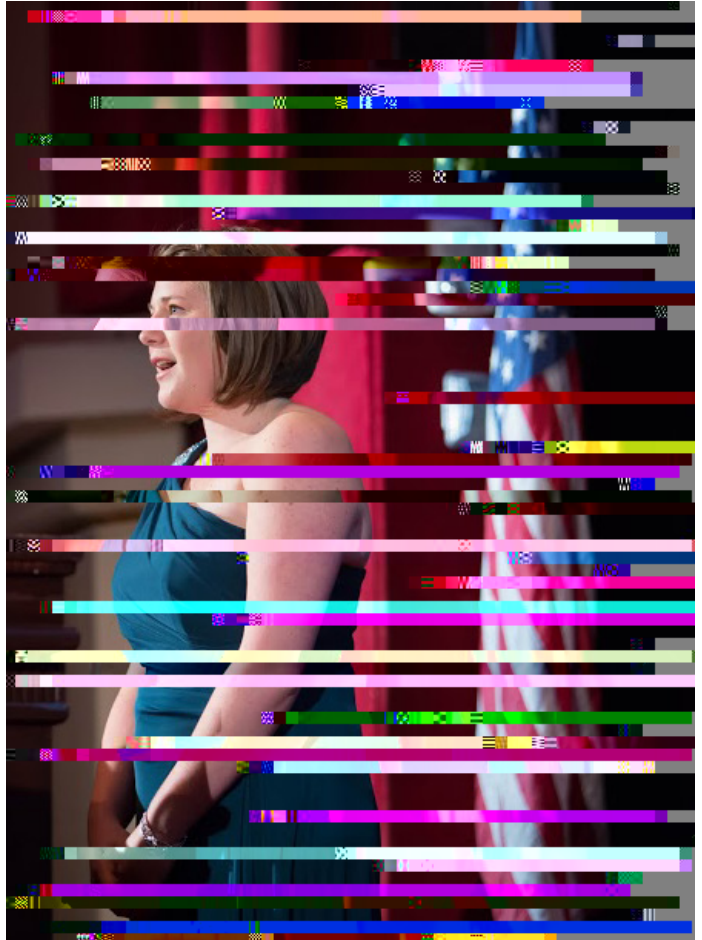
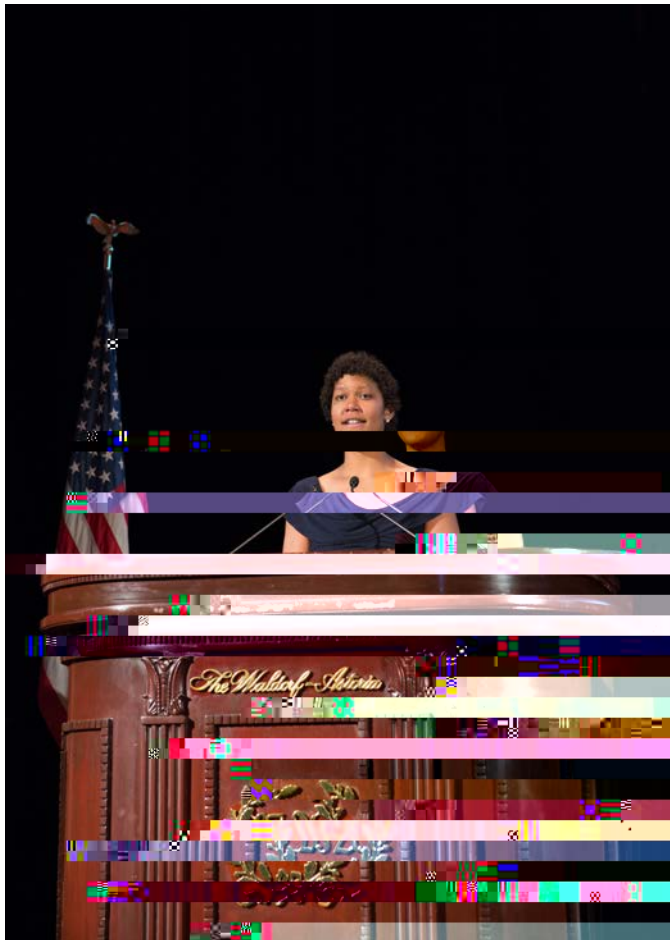
Lucy Methven '16:

Russell Simons '17:

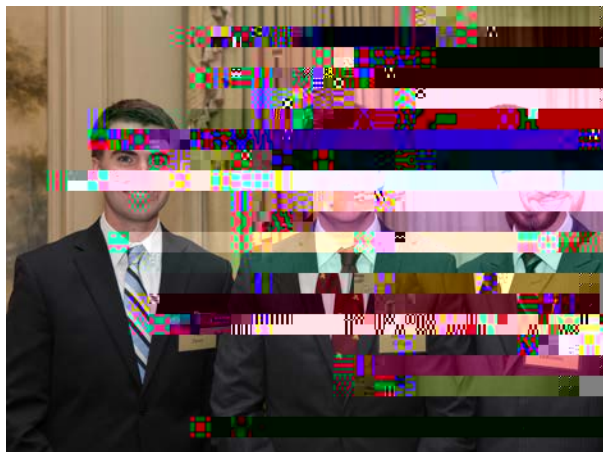
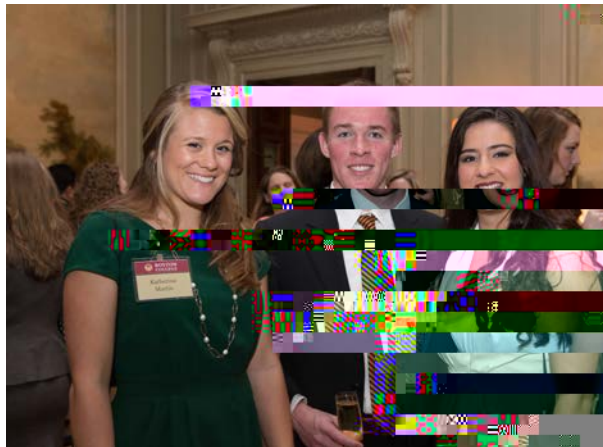
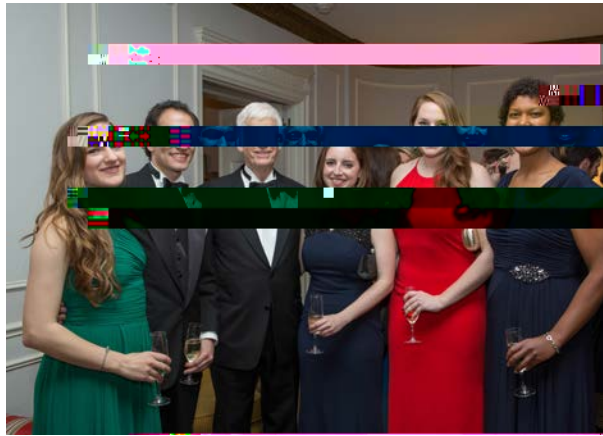
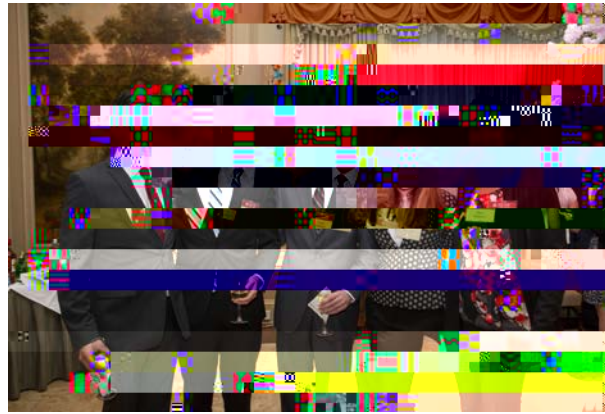
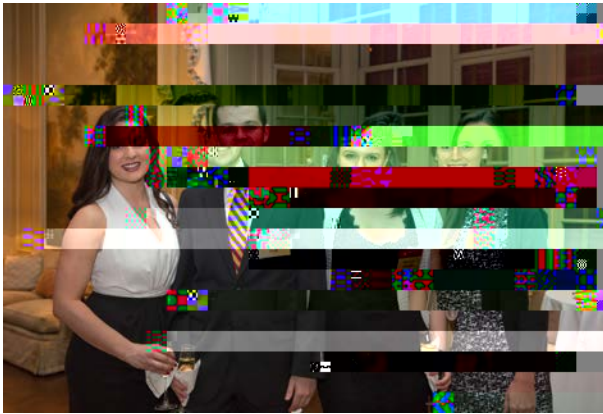
Lucas Allen '16:

Reflections about Communication.

Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner & New York City Events



Photos taken by Donna Alberico



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