

# Alumni provide insight on life after graduation

By Karen Kovaka, A&S '12

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*By Aleksandra Jachtorowicz, A&S '12*

On Tuesday, February 17, the Scholars were treated to an historic first in the evening speaker series: Ari Daniel Shapiro, A&S '01, was the first Scholar alumnus to be invited back to speak to those following in his footsteps. Working as a freelance radio/podcast producer, Shapiro has produced pieces that have appeared on such programs as WGBH's *The World* and National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

While at Boston College, Shapiro was

*By Christopher Griesdieck, A&S '11*

College students see it multiple times a day. They check it. They chat about it. Sometimes they even abuse it. But rarely do they have the opportunity to study it. That is where Dr. Ana Martínez Alemán's research on Facebook enters.

On Tuesday, March 31, Dr. Alemán gave a presentation on the social networking website to the Presidential Scholars Program. Alemán, an associate professor in Boston College's Lynch School of Education and chair of the Educational Administration and Higher Education Department, has been conducting a study on Facebook which examined the website in a new way: what can we learn about it from its users? The results, reported in the book she co-authored with Boston College Ph.D. candidate Katherine

# Brennan Symposium brings student leaders together

By *Brian Varian, CSOM '11*

As aspiring leaders for a world shrouded in adversity and ambiguity, Presidential Scholars must approach all the complexities of the current age with an ethically informed perspective. At Boston College, in a milieu formed by the Jesuit commitment to social justice, Scholars continually enter into conversations about the importance of ethics, whether these conversations occur in the classroom, through extracurricular activities, or casually among friends. The Brennan Symposium, held on April 4 and sponsored by Boston College's Winston Center for Leadership in Ethics, offered freshmen and sophomore Scholars an even more unique opportunity to grapple with the ethical challenges of the present day.

Students from a variety of different organizations at Boston College, including the Presidential Scholars Program, attended the Brennan

Symposium, moderated by Dean Richard Keeley of the Carroll School of Management and organized by Jonah Berman, Assistant Director of the Winston Center. The symposium began with activities designed to encourage teamwork amongst students. In these activities, students were challenged to communicate effectively, while at the same time, integrating the contributions of all.

Perhaps the most thought-provoking portion of the symposium involved an analysis of trustworthiness, as related to dealings in business. Given short video clips of several contestants participating in a game show, Scholars were challenged to gauge the trustworthiness of those people, while relying on tone, posture, choice of words, and even dress. Following this exercise, Scholars learned some of the techniques used by the FBI to ascertain trustworthiness. FBI agents can determine trustworthiness with approximately 70% accuracy. The

general population has an accuracy of about 50%. In the exercise, our very own Christopher Griesedieck, A&S '11, achieved 80% accuracy. Such is expected with Scholars!

The Brennan Symposium concluded with a short movie detailing a particularly bewildering ethical dilemma. An extremely simplified account is as follows. A team climbing Mount Everest comes across a deathly ill man. The team can either carry the man back to the camp or proceed up the mountain. If the team carries the man back to the camp, inclement weather along the pass will prevent them from reaching the summit. Other teams are passing the sick man by. Yet, the sick man was reckless climbing the mountain by himself with scant supplies. What should the team do? While the discussion was vigorous, it led to no definitive solution. The ethical discussion initiated with the Brennan Symposium will surely continue amongst Scholars well into the future.



Kelly McCartney, A&S '10, and Lindsey Hennawi, A&S '10, spoke to fellow Scholars at a Tuesday evening meeting this spring.

## Ice Cream Social caps off the '08-'09 school year



Photo: Marjorie Sardella

The end of year ice cream social, held on April 28, was an opportunity to not only enjoy delicious treats, but also to reflect on the end of a successful academic year and wish graduating Scholars much luck and success in their future endeavors. Above, members of the sophomore class enjoy their ice cream sundaes and a reprieve from studying for exams.



# PSP 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 C. Hamilton – Chief Marshall*

*Robert J. Kubala - Marshal*

*Pilar C. Landon - Marshal*

*Celso J. Perez - Marshal*

*Michael T. Camacho*

*Nathan J. Keegan*

*Nicole E. Wong*

### 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.

*Sarah Lang*

*Ana Mascagni*

*Cecelia McDonald*

*Chris Scullin*

*Joseph Zabinski*

### Sophomore Scholars

Each year the most academically distinguished members of the sophomore class are honored as Sophomore Scholars. The young scholars 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.

*Kathryn Goettl*

*Anne Kornahrens*

*Colleen Maher*

*Courtney McKee*

*Scott Molony*

*Leon Ratz*

*Andrew Rivera*

*Shane Ulbrich*

### 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 2009**

*Michael Camacho*

*Matthew Hamilton*

*Tim Kelly*

*Robert Kubala – Initiated in 2008*

*Pilar Landon*

*John Letizi*

*Timothy Mooney - Initiated in 2008*

*Celso Perez*

*Jeff Sun*

*Nicole Wong*

**Class of 2010**

*Cecelia McDonald*

### Alpha Sigma Nu

Alpha Sigma Nu is a national Jesuit honor society. It was started at Marquette University in 1915 and today has chapters in the 28 US Jesuit colleges and universities, Weston, and Berkeley Schools of Theology and Sogang University in Korea. Admission is based on scholarship, loyalty, and service.

*Michael Camacho*

*Robert Kubala*

*Timothy Mooney*

### 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. Grants are for student-designed projects and are awarded for summer "skill acquisition" projects that promise to accelerate the applicant's progress in the major field of study. A list of this year's PSP winners and their projects are below.

**Aditya Ashok, A&S '12**

*First-Hand Exploration of an HIV-Treatment NGO: To support research and an internship with an HIV/AIDS clinic in Ghana.*

**Caroline Beyer, A&S '12**

*Documenting the Conditions of Human Trafficking in New York and San Francisco: To support research and a documentary film.*

**Kathryn Fox, A&S '11**

*The World is a Book: To support language fluency and archeological research at a Mayan Classic-period site in Belize.*

**Lindsay Hennawi, A&S '11**

*Laying the Foundation: To support intensive Arabic language study and conflict-resolution research in Lebanon*

**Aleksandra Jachtorowicz, A&S '12**

*Environmental Concerns in an Urbanizing Society:  
To support an internship with an environmental  
grassroots organization in Ecuador.*

**Kelly McCartney, A&S '11**

*The Way of Words: To support research on the  
converging narratives of pilgrimage in Islam,  
Christianity, and Judaism.*

**Jessica Seminelli, A&S '12**

*Exploring Linguistics Theories: To support intensive  
study of historical linguistics, grammar and social  
cognition at UC Berkeley.*

**Zachary Zimmerman, A&S '12**

*Nur der verdient sich Freiheit wie das Leben der  
am,*



# PSP Awards

outstanding success in studies, while also devoting time and talents to other activities for the enrichment of the College and student life.

*Robert Kubala*  
*Pilar Landon*

## **Thomas I. Gasson, S.J. Award**

An award given to the graduating senior with a distinguished academic record over a four-year period.

*Michael Camacho*

## **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.

*Robert Kubala*

## **William J. Kenealy, S.J. Award**

An award given to the graduating senior who has been distinguished in both academic work and social concern.

*Matthew Hamilton*

## **Tully Theology Award**

An award given to the student who has written the best paper on a theological subject.

*Matthew Hamilton*

## **John F. Norton Award**

An award in honor of John F. Norton '22, Boston College professor (1926-1965), given to the student who best personifies the tradition of humanistic scholarship.

*Celso Perez*

## *Congratulations, Class of 2009!*



On April 24, senior Scholars, PSP Director Dr. Sardella, Assistant Director Jennie Thomas, and PSP Photographer Marjorie Sardella attended the annual Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner in New York City. Joining the Scholars at the Waldorf Astoria were Fr. Leahy, major donors, and this year's honoree Alfred F. Kelly, Jr., President of American Express. Front row (left to right): Timothy Kelly, Celso Perez, Nate Keegan, Amy Kyleen Lute, Nicole Wong, Pilar Landon, Matthew Hamilton, Jim Luo, Michael Camacho. Back Row (left to right): Jeff Sun, Timothy Mooney, Robert Kubala, Marjorie Sardella, Dennis Sardella, Fr. Leahy, Alfred F. Kelly, Jr., Jennie Thomas, John Letizi, Nicholas Ackerman.

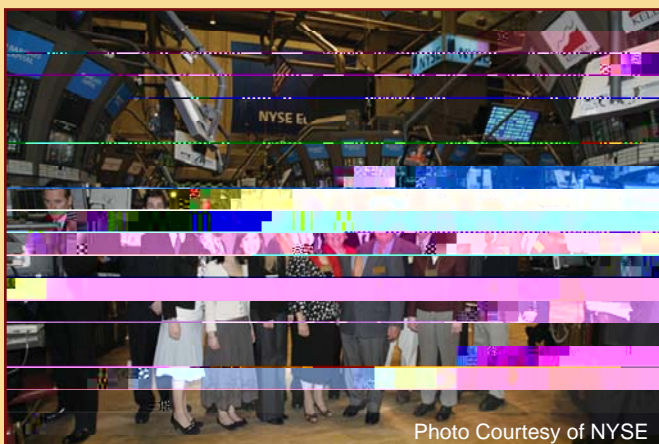


Photo Courtesy of NYSE



Photo Courtesy of NYSE

On the morning of April 25, the class of 2009 and Program administrators were given the honor of ringing the opening bell to start the trading at the New York Stock Exchange (shown above). They then took a tour of the facilities and are pictured (at left) on the floor of the NYSE amidst the hustle and bustle of the fast-paced world of Wall Street.



## Scholars in the News

**Nate Keegan '09** participated on a panel at the annual conference for the International Careers Consortium on April 2 at Bentley University. The panel he presented on was called "International Careers: The Student Perspective". In addition, Nate delivered an essay at Princeton University's Juventud Despierta Conference to an audience of over 200 people on the Importance of Non-Hispanic Advocates in the Cuban Struggle for Democracy.

The 3 students listed below were awarded "Best Presentation" for the research that they each presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. They shared this honor with 7 other students.

**Leon Ratz '11** – *Biting the Bullet on the Arms Trade:*

*the Case for a Global Arms Trade Treaty*

**Scott Jelink '10** – *Micro-Economics, Institutional Policies and the HIV/AIDS in Mozambique*

**Cecelia McDonald '10** – *The Next Billion*

The fourth annual Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Meeting of the Minds, hosted by the North Carolina State University in April, was a two-day event to showcase the results of undergraduate student research projects by students from the twelve universities of the ACC. Two PSP undergraduates presented the results of their research projects at the conference:

**Scott Jelinek '10** - presented *The Multiple Layers of HIV/AIDS Devastation in West Africa: Exploring the Cultural, Economic, and Educational Impact*

**Leon Ratz '11** – presented *The Effect of Global Trade in Conventional Weapons on Human Rights Violations*

**Colleen Maher '11** was selected to participate in the Department of Pediatrics Summer Research Program at Case Western Reserve University and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland Ohio. Colleen is one of only a few selected nationwide for this prestigious program. In addition, Colleen was inducted into Psi Chi, the Psychology Honors Society, this year and she presented her work from last summer, *The Things We Know Best: To support research into memory and attention functions*



## Bread for the Journey

### Leadership by Example: Walking the Talk

*No leadership tool is as effective as the example of the leader's own life: what he or she does, what values his or her actions reflect, and how well the "walk" matches the "talk." Personal example makes the difference between deep, long-lasting influence on others and "just a piece of paper" leadership that breeds cynicism.*

**-Chris Lowney, *Heroic Leadership. Best Practices From a 450-Year-Old Company that Changed the World***