



Volume XXVII, Issue 2

Winter 2023

Spring Break in Ireland for the Class of 2026

The freshmen stop for a group picture while sightseeing

Class of 2024 Travels to the Middle East

During this Winter Break, the Junior Scholars had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait with Prof. Tracy Regan and GPSP Director Prof. Kathy Bailey. They spent nine days in the two locations ready to learn about the history of the areas and about people's daily lives. While it's hard to sum up the trip in a one-page article, there were a few main themes of the experience: sightseeing, learning about history and culture, interacting with locals, and eating good food.

The sightseeing was incredible: the Scholars had the chance to explore the Dubai Marina, an area near the hotel with shopping, restaurants, skyscrapers, and yachts galore. In addition, they went to the massive Dubai Mall and made their

Alumni Guest Speaker: Ameet Kallarackal '18

At the Gabelli Presidential Scholar Program Selection Process Welcome Dinner, current and prospective Scholars, as well as faculty members, were given the incredible opportunity to hear from Ameet Kallarackal '18. In an introduction by GPSP Director Kathleen Bailey, Ameet's collegiate activities and post-graduate experiences were highlighted. Ameet graduated from the Carroll School of Management with a concentration in computer science and a minor in philosophy.

While at Boston College, Ameet founded the BC Philosophical Society, played on the club soccer team, participated in the Bollywood dance team, and co-founded a startup called "Campus Insights," which was later acquired by Harvard Student Agencies. Currently, Ameet is co-founder and CEO of Fisherman, a software startup dedicated to help brick-and-mortar businesses online.

Ameet began his address to the attendees by reflecting on his experience nearly ten years ago – when he applied to BC. Ameet was drawn to the idea of getting

GPSP Prospie Week Returns to Campus

After three years of pandemic-induced disruptions, almost sixty “prospies” from across the United States, as well as the international community, were selected to enter the public arena also known as the Boston College campus, learning from current Scholars while living in their dorms.

From March 15-18, prospies participated in activities from their meticulously curated schedules to gauge what life as a student would look like, not just as a potential Presidential Scholar but also a BC student, while being simultaneously interviewed by esteemed faculty and members of admissions.

After a first evening of tours, dinner and a dessert open house with admissions and GPSP staff, prospies retreated with their hosts to the respective dorms to calculate their next moves for the following few days of evaluation. The next morning began with a presentation by Director Kathleen Bailey, highlighting the key aspects of the Program and alleviating the palpable tension with kind words of encouragement. They attended classes with current Scholars in their intended majors or just classes

they were curious about, gaining insight into the educational atmosphere of BC.

Alongside interviews, seminars simulating a traditional classroom environment, and a Presidential Scholars Research Panel discussion, prospies ventured to the Murray Function Room for the Welcome Dinner featuring an invigorating keynote speaker—Mr. Ameet Kallarackal '18, Co-Founder and CEO, Fisherman Technologies, Inc. It was a multifaceted address that spotlighted Kallarackal's journey through his

four years in the Program and how it continues to inform his life as a Forbes' '30 Under 30' entrepreneur today.

During his undergraduate years, apart from pursuing the scholarly echelons of philosophical thought (even presiding over BC's Philosophical Society), Kallarackal was an active member of the club soccer team, the Bollywood-fusion dance team Masti, and the Boston College Students Against Mass Incarceration. “I just loved how passionately he talked about his numerous international trips in fuencing c n

Alumni Announcements

won a Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album on February 5 as producer of *Into the Woods* (2022 Broadway Cast Recording), starring Sara Bareilles and written by Sean's late mentor (and subject of his Scholar of the College thesis), Stephen Sondheim. Sean previously won a Grammy Award in 2016 as a producer of the Broadway cast recording of *Hamilton*.

and husband Matt welcomed Hope Speller Vestal on Valentine's Day.

was promoted to Principal at Bain Capital and relocated to the Bay Area to help launch and lead the West Coast presence.

will be starting an infectious diseases fellowship at the University of Rochester Medical Center this coming July.

Anne Kornahrens Ward '11 and husband Andrew welcomed a baby boy, August Kornahrens Ward, to the world in March. She was recently appointed as a 2023 U.S. delegate to the International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) Assembly and will be attending the 52nd International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) General Assembly and World Chemistry Congress in The Hague, Netherlands in August.

Kelsey Swift '13 successfully defended her dissertation, *What is the 'E' in ESOL? Linguistic Borders, Normativity, and Race in Adult English Education*, earning her PhD in Linguistics.

Vivian (Chang) Baumgartner '16 has a new job: IT Product Manager, Commercial Trade Channels, and a new address: Paris!

Andrew Cammon '18 recently hosted an impactful conference with over 100 health leaders at the 2023 Stern Healthcare Association Conference.



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122 College Road • Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

