

*Ev Librio*

**Anthropologist urges constant observance**

**Aditya Ashok**  
Nashua, NH

**Alexander Goldowsky**  
Fairfi

**Caroline Beyer**  
Yarrow Point, WA

**Sarah Collier**  
Philadelphia, PA

**Michael Cuttler**  
Lido Beach, NY

**Elizabeth Fair**  
Mobile, AL

# Senior theses reflect breadth of interests

By *Brian Varian, CSOM '11*

For many Americans, April 15 is an all too frequently dreaded day. For the Presidential Scholars Program, however, April 15, 2008 was a cause for celebration. On that evening, five senior Scholars were given the opportunity to showcase their theses before fellow Scholars and other guests. The theses presented were: "Labor as Sexual Signaling," by Michael Cotter, A&S '08; "I Wish My Paper Airplane Had Wings," by Louis Eppich, A&S '08; "Mechanisms of the Metabolic Syndrome," by Kelly Fitzgerald, A&S '08; "Kufic Korans," by Emily Neumeier, A&S '08; and "Their Mutuall Embracements: Discourses on Male-Female Connection in Early Modern England," by Lindsay Williams, A&S '08 (spelling of mutuall taken from early modern text used by Lindsay). The presented theses reflect both the breadth and multiplicity of highly cultivated interests embodied in the Presidential Scholars Program. And while the topics of these theses are quite diverse, each one was presented with a uniform fervor and passion. Chris Griesedieck, A&S '11, astutely pointed out, "One of the most valuable pieces of advice that I gleaned from the presentations was that a successful thesis requires not just dedication and copious research, but a genuine interest in its subject matter."

Michael Cotter began the evening by stating that income is a sexual signal for men. He presented statistical evidence that men with higher incomes have more sexual partners. For every additional \$100,000 that a man earns per year, he has two additional partners on average. Additionally, the more hours a man works per week, the more sexual partners he has. While much of Cotter's research is based upon recent data and scholarship in the area of psycho-economics, he also relied upon older, better known sources, such as Thorstein Veblen, a sociologist and economist who integrated the principles of anthropology, sociology, and psychology in the development of evolutionary economics. Cotter offered an enlightening presentation of a most creative thesis topic.

Next, Louis Eppich successfully conveyed the premise and structure

of his young adult novel "I Wish My Paper Airplane Had Wings." The central character is Rudy, a 5th grade social outcast. Since Rudy needs a friend, the author (Eppich) gives him one. As Eppich explained, his novel falls under the category of metafiction, where none of the characters are real and where the author can intervene at will. There is another layer of complexity to Eppich's novel. The novel is ergotic, which means that the book requires the active participation of the reader, such as holding the book up to a mirror to read the words. Valuable advice Eppich had for fellow Scholars was to keep a journal. Eppich did this throughout his four years at BC and had a wealth of ideas to draw upon when writing his novel.

Following, Kelly Fitzgerald presented on the staggering increase in obesity that has been sweeping across the United States for the past several decades. Fitzgerald's presentation included an interactive map of the U.S. on which each state was shaded a particular color based upon the percent of its overweight population. Fitzgerald had about thirty years worth of maps, which were presented in rapid succession. The changing colors indicated a startling trend that needs to be halted. Fitzgerald concluded with a biological examination of the root of obesity: free fatty acids.

Scholar Louis Eppich, A&S '08, discusses his young adult novel, "I Wish My Paper Airplane Had Wings."

# Amnesty International with Joshua Rubenstein

By Kelly McCartney, A&S '11

The Presidential Scholars Evening Speaker Series resumed after spring break with a presentation on Tuesday, March 11 by Joshua Rubenstein, Northeastern Regional Director of Amnesty International USA, and Associate at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies.

Rubenstein spoke to the Scholars on the topic of "Human Rights: in the Library and in the Streets," a subject that drew on Rubenstein's long-time experience as both an author and an activist.

Like many before him, Rubenstein's college years proved to be very formative. A Russian major, he discovered that he did not want to learn Chinese as a second language, decided against attending graduate school in pursuit of a degree in philosophy, and chose instead to spend a year in Israel, a decision that would shape his future life.

While in Israel, Rubenstein became acquainted with a number of Russian Jews who had immigrated to Israel in order to escape persecution. The conversations he had with them sparked a lifelong interest in the Soviet Jewish experience. Rubenstein also decided that he wanted to become a writer while in Israel and supported himself by teaching religious education.

Rubenstein was given the opportunity to review *The Gulag Archipelago*, Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn's groundbreaking 1973 eyewitness account of the Soviet prison camps. The review established him as a writer, affording Rubenstein the visibility that allowed him to continue writing articles for a variety of magazines and journals, and he has since published multiple books. Among a variety of other topics, Rubenstein has written about the Soviet Jewish writer and journalist Ilya Ehrenburg and the experience of Jews in German-occupied Soviet territories during the Holocaust.

After his time in Israel, Rubenstein began volunteering at Amnesty



Joshua Rubenstein conveys the institutional changes in Amnesty International.

International. Only six months after he began his work at Amnesty, the part-time Northeastern Coordinator stepped down to join the Foreign Service and Rubenstein was hired to take her job.

When Rubenstein first took the position of Northeast Coordinator over two decades ago, Amnesty International had only seven paid employees of Amnesty in the United States. There are now over 170 on staff. As the most senior Amnesty employee in the United States, Rubenstein was well-equipped to discuss the changes and expansions that Amnesty has gone through over the years, which has helped to raise his visibility as a spokesperson for the organization.

One especially significant shift that has occurred in recent years has been Amnesty's increasing involvement in economic and social rights. "For a long time, Amnesty focused solely on civil and political rights," Rubenstein said. "When people started to blame Amnesty's stance in part for causing a lack of focus on economic and social rights, Amnesty expanded and started to

consider those rights as well."

A spirited question and answer session followed as the Scholars brought up issues of abortion, technology, and torture, which Rubenstein responded to with clarity and deftness.

"I thought that the questions asked were really pertinent to current events and that [Rubenstein] offered really interesting perspectives on some controversial issues," said Lindsey Hennawi, A&S '11.

Many scholars were equally interested in learning about how Rubenstein's own experiences shaped his career trajectory.

"It was interesting to see how Rubenstein arrived at his current career almost completely by chance," said Hope Sullivan, A&S '11. "It offered an interesting contrast to all of the students today who enter college knowing that they want to work in human rights."

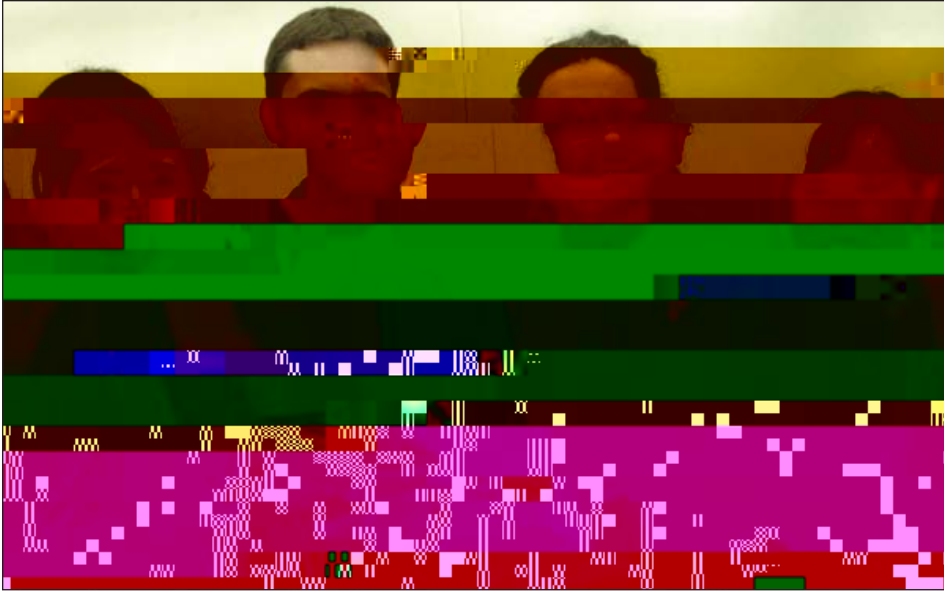
Rubenstein's captivating story of his journey between disciplines and across nations was a definite inspiration to Scholars resuming their own academic pursuits after spring break.

# Triumph over tragedy with Travis Roy

*By Tue Tran, A&S '11*

Boston College's men's hockey team won the national championship this year, catapulting hockey into the front of students' minds. Just two weeks before this achievement, former Boston University hockey player Travis Roy also had students thinking about the sport, but in a different sense. Not only intellectually invigorating, Roy's story about being

# Alumni return with rich and diverse experiences



Alumni Panel Speakers (from left) Catalina Azuero, A&S '00, Jean-Paul Sanday, CSOM '06, Hannah Nolan-Spohn, A&S '05, and Anne Doran Halli-Tierney, A&S '02 pause for a picture after giving valuable advice.

**By Brian Varian, CSOM '11**

The speakers in the Presidential Scholars Program Weekly Lecture Series are always extraordinarily accomplished men and women who offer insights into life beyond the Boston College campus. These speakers are luminaries in their fields, representing the heights of scholarship, service, and professionalism. It is a reflection on the success of the PSP when alumni are able to speak in this capacity.

This year on April 8, the annual Alumni Panel included Jean-Paul Sanday, CSOM '06; Hannah Nolan-Spohn, A&S '05; Catalina Azuero, A&S '00; and Anne Doran Halli-Tierney, A&S '02. While each provided unique insights into his or her experiences at Boston College and beyond, they were unequivocal in their praise of the PSP and its influence upon their scholastic and professional pursuits.

While at Boston College, Jean-Paul Sanday was a Marketing and Operations & Technology Management double major in the Carroll School of Management. He is currently an associate at Summit Partners, a leading private equity and venture capital firm in Boston. Sanday cautioned Scholars against being overly focused on one particular career path and encouraged

Scholars to be open and receptive to unexpected opportunities citing the time he welcomed the opportunity for a summer internship in consulting, even though it is not the typical career path for an investment banker. An interesting project that Sanday is working on is the Level Field Foundation, a charity he established to provide sports facilities for underprivileged youth. The project is progressing under his direction, and the charity received its tax I.D. on the very day of the presentation. Indeed, Sanday noted that it is important to incorporate service into whatever profession one chooses.

Hannah Nolan-Spohn, Class of 2005, was an Environmental Geoscience major. She is currently the programs coordinator for 826 Boston, a non-profit start-up that provides tutoring for children ages six through eighteen. She cited the summer of service after her freshmen year as very influential, especially her placement at Project Bread Foodsource Hotline. However, Nolan-Spohn wanted to structure her career around a more creative form of service, a goal which she was able to achieve as the programs coordinator for 826. Currently, she is working on integrating educational programs at a struggling high school in Boston. Nolan-Spohn went on to discuss two, often polar roles that she fulfills:

working with underprivileged children and fundraising with the wealthy. Each role is a job in itself. While Nolan-Spohn works many hours a week, she brings to

**By Ana Mascagni, A&S '09**

For Presidential Scholar Pilar Landon, A&S '09, the Honors Program's Western Cultural Tradition seminars have traditionally started with a discussion about current events at Boston College. While such discussions are not unique to the one seminar, Pilar is most definitely in a unique position to contribute to and participate in such a conversation. She is the Editor-In-Chief of *The Heights*, BC's independent student newspaper, and as such, is always involved in the latest happenings on campus, be it through interviewing high-profile speakers such as Senator John McCain or by discussing the University's new master plan with administrators.

The job comes with costs, but Landon said it is worth it.

"The hours and stresses of working on *The Heights* are very similar to those I expect to encounter in the working world after college," Landon said. "The experience of balancing a 60-hour work week on top of a full academic schedule is invaluable in the way it teaches time management. I can think of no better sense of accomplishment than knowing that, as I climb into bed at 5 am, there will be a copy of *The Heights* waiting for me when I awake (usually in the afternoon)."

While Pilar has the distinctive opportunity to manage an independent



# **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.

Samuel Dolinger – Marshal  
Emily Neumeier – Marshal  
Margaret Sullivan  
Paul Wendel  
Lindsay Williams

### **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.

Michael Camacho  
Matthew Hamilton  
Nathan Keegan  
Robert Kubala  
Pilar Landon  
Jim Luo  
Timothy Mooney  
Celso Perez

### **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.

Sarah Lang  
Ana Mascagni  
Kelly McConnaughey  
Cecelia McDonald  
Jonathan Pike  
Joseph Zabinski

### **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 2008*

Natalia Bauer  
Samuel Dolinger  
Dillon Gardner  
Emily Neumeier  
Lindsay Williams – Initiated in 2007  
Katherine Wu

### *Class of 2009*

Robert Kubala  
Timothy Mooney

### **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.

Lindsay Williams '08

### **Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society**

Dobro Slovo serves as a means for the recognition of academic excellence in the study of Slavic languages, literature, history, and culture. The Society serves as an incentive for scholarly interest in Slavic life and culture. The Key of the Society is as representative of academic excellence in Slavic studies as the Phi Beta Kappa is for academic studies as a whole.

Margaret Sullivan '08

### **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.

Kathryn Goettl '10

*Material Expressions of French and Mexican-American Catholicism: To support a comparative study of Catholic cathedrals, chapels, and shrines in France and the American Southwest.*

Scott Jelinek '10

*Micro-Economics, Institutional Policies, and HIV/AIDS in Mozambique: To support a study of the impact of standard of living and cultural attitudes on health care delivery.*



# PSP Awards

Colleen Maher '11

*The Things We Know Best: To support research into memory and attention functions in electro-convulsive therapy patients in Dublin.*

Cecelia McDonald '10

*The Next Billion: To support language fluency and research into fostering micro-finance projects in China.*

Celso Perez '09

*Bioethics, Public Health, and Catholic Theological Ethics: To support participation in the European Academy of Bioethics conference in Germany.*

Jonathan Pike '10

*The Eco-village Development Concept: To support research into local sustainable development practices in Senegal.*

Leon Ratz '11

*The Effect of Global Trade in Conventional Weapons on Human Rights Violations: To support a research internship on weapons export/import regulations with Amnesty International in London.*

## **CRC Press Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award for General Chemistry**

Courtney McKee

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

### **Fulbright Grantees**

Fulbright Grants support an academic year of graduate research or field-work in Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Latin America and the South Pacific. Academic or artistic projects in a wide variety of fields are funded.

Emily Neumeier '08 (Turkey)

### **State Department Critical Language Scholarship**

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the Critical Language Scholarships Program offers intensive overseas study in the critical need foreign languages. The Program is part of the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), a U.S. government interagency effort to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical need foreign languages.

Margaret Sullivan '08 (Tomsk, Russia)

## **Commencement Awards**

*School of Arts and Sciences*

### ***Natalia Bauer***

#### **Max Wainer Award**

A gold medal, the gift of Anneliese K. Wainer, Ph.D., '72, in honor of her husband, Max Wainer, given annually to the senior who is deemed the outstanding student in classics.

### ***Sam Dolinger***

#### **Brendan Connolly, SJ, Award**

An award in honor of Brendan Connolly, S.J. (1913-1974), Director of Libraries at Boston College (1959-1974), a witty and deeply loyal man who loved books and respected learning. This award is made to a member of the senior class who is distinguished for the same characteristics.

#### **Princess Grace of Monaco Award in French**

An award offered by Dr. Helene Day, Consul of Monaco, and Dr. Paul William Garber and Dr. Phillip C. Garber, Consuls of Chile in Boston, given to a senior who has excelled in French.

#### **Max Wainer Award**

A gold medal, the gift of Anneliese K. Wainer, Ph.D., '72, in honor of her husband, Max Wainer, given annually to the senior who is deemed the outstanding student in classics.

### ***Kelly Fitzgerald***

#### **Dr. Joseph S. Stanton Award**

A cash award, the gift of Doctors Richard Stanton '38 and Joseph R. Stanton '42 in memory of their father, Dr. Joseph Stanton, M.D. The award is given to the student who has been accepted to a medical school and who has been outstanding in character, loyalty, leadership, and scholarship at Boston College.

### ***Dillon Gardner***

#### **Albert J. McGuinn, SJ Award**

This award is in memory of the late Albert McGuinn, S.J., long-time Chairman of the Chemistry Department at Boston College, and presented to the senior candidate for the Bachelor of Science degree. The recipient has most successfully combined proficiency in a major field of study with achievements, either academic, extracurricular, or a combination of both, in the social sciences or humanities.

*Emily Neumeier*

**Frank J. Bailey, Sr. Award**

An award, the gift of the Bailey family, in memory of their father Frank J. Baily, given to the graduating senior with a distinguished academic record in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.

**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



## **Scholars in the News**

Two PSP undergraduates presented the results of their research projects at the ACC Meeting of the Minds conference held at Florida State University in April:

**Robert Kubala '09:** *Scientific Translation: Gustav Fritsch in the History of the Neurosciences*

**Scott Jelinek '10:** *The Multiple Layers of HIV/AIDS*

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Bread for the Journey

## **True Excellence Begins With Aspiration**

*The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.*

- Michelangelo