

Get The Scoop!

We hope everyone is having a great first few weeks of the semester! As you get into a groove with courses and assignments, we wanted to remind you of some fun things the Schiller Institute has coming up. Scroll below to read about some upcoming events, course reflections, and introductions of our Schiller team!

Schiller Team Member Spotlight



Meet Shelby!

Shelby Seybold, Marketing and Event Planning Assistant and a senior at Boston College graduating this spring, has spent her college years actively shaping the student experience through leadership and involvement in various campus organizations. Over her four years, she has served in multiple leadership roles, working to enhance student life, foster a sense of community, and ensure that everyone felt represented and engaged.

These roles include: the Emerging Leaders Program, Campus Activities Board, Sub-Turri Yearbook, and the Undergraduate Government of Boston College.

Originally from Colorado, Shelby has always had a strong connection to nature and the outdoors. When she's not leading initiatives or involved in her studies, you can find her hiking, enjoying a round of tennis, or exploring local thrift stores for unique finds. She's also an avid coffee lover, often spending time in cafes to recharge and brainstorm new ideas.

Looking ahead to graduation, Shelby is eager to combine her passion for community, sustainability, and creative problem-solving in her career. She hopes to work in marketing for a company that shares her values, focusing on creating meaningful connections with consumers while prioritizing environmental and social responsibility.





Meet our team!

**Course Spotlight: SCHI3030:
Entrepreneurial Leadership in Energy,
Environment, and Health**



This course is a one-credit professional development course featuring meetings with leaders engaged in both for-profit and social entrepreneurship, and whose organizations are aligned with the Schiller Institute's mission to serve the common good, focusing on our three core areas: energy, environment, and health.

This course offers opportunities for students in any Boston College major to develop an understanding of entrepreneurship, and skills in communication, business, and networking while having unique opportunities to connect with leaders and innovators working on the cutting-edge of these fields.

Read below to hear about a student's experience taking the course!

"Before taking Entrepreneurial Leadership in Energy, Environment, and Health, I held a bias

against those who called themselves entrepreneurs. In my view, they were either Silicon Valley tech bros or social media influencers encouraging everyone to start 'drop shipping.' However, the class taught me that entrepreneurship is less about what someone does and more about how they do it. Entrepreneurship embodies creativity, innovation, risk-taking, and a refusal to accept things as they are. I enjoyed the class's emphasis on applying entrepreneurial thinking to the world's most pressing issues. My favourite part of the class was the built-in networking component. Whenever speakers visited, we had the opportunity to engage with them personally. I 100 per cent recommend, if not for the life-changing lessons and fascinating discussions, then for the weekly cookies and light readings."

-- Dominique Williams, SCHI3030 student in Fall 2024

Schiller Core Faculty Spotlight



Meet Edson!

Edson Severnini is an Associate Professor of Economics and a Core Faculty member at the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society at Boston College. Before joining us, he was a tenured Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.Sc. in Economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, and a B.A. in Economics from the University of São Paulo. He's originally from Brazil.

Edson's research sits at the intersection of energy, environmental, and health economics, with a focus on climate change, energy transitions, and the historical impacts of pollution and electrification. His work examines how energy access, environmental policies, and pollution impact local development, health outcomes, and firm behavior, with a particular emphasis on historical contexts. He also investigates the effects of climate change on air pollution, electricity generation, and infectious diseases, as well as the environmental consequences of economic activity. Supported by the National Science Foundation, his research has been published in leading academic journals and earned him the 2023 EAERE Award for Outstanding Publication.

Edson is currently teaching the undergraduate course Health and the Environment: People, Policy, and Technology, an interdisciplinary exploration of how pollution, climate change, and ecosystem changes affect human health. The course emphasizes the critical roles of policy and technology in addressing environmental health challenges.

As a proud first-generation college student, immigrant, and queer scholar, Edson brings a unique perspective to his research, teaching, and mentoring. Outside of academia, he enjoys traveling and spending time with friends, embracing a fulfilling balance between his professional and personal life.



What Are Schiller Students Up To?



Hi! My name is Julia Wowkun and I am a junior at BC. I am majoring in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Entrepreneurship and a minor in Finance.

I first was engaged with the Schiller Institute through Dr. Laura J. Steinberg's class "Entrepreneurial Leadership in Energy, Health, and the Environment." I was attracted to this class because the goal was for us to meet and engage with professionals and leaders in the fields of energy, health, and the environment while also understanding all of the ways a person can become an entrepreneur, even in daily life.

This semester, I am enrolled in Edson Severnini's course "Health and the Environment: People, Policy and Technology" and I am excited to learn from such a distinguished researcher about the relationship between health and the environment.

I look forward to my upcoming Summer 2025 experience at Santander Bank in Boston as an Environmental Risk Intern. Here I will be working as part of Santander's Environmental Risk team, which assesses and addresses potential environmental risks and liabilities associated with real estate lending transactions. This is an exciting next step in my career and I am very thankful for the opportunities and support the Schiller Institute and its faculty have provided for me throughout my time so far at BC. I look forward to continued growth and taking advantage of the amazing opportunities the Institute will continue to offer in the future!

[Read More About Julia's Experience at Schiller](#)

...And Where Are They Now?

Hello! My name is Jack Strang.

I am a first-year law student at Boston College Law School and serve as a class representative in the Environmental Law Society. I hope to contribute to the Environmental Law Teaching Program by teaching Environmental Law to undergraduates.



In the long term, I aim to practice law in the environmental field, although I am still exploring which area will allow me to make the greatest impact. I am particularly interested in brownfields redevelopment, an interest I developed during my engagement with the Schiller Institute.

My primary involvement with the Schiller Institute was as a delegate to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change in 2023, held in Dubai (COP28). As a delegate, I deepened my understanding of climate change through coursework and by attending various events at the conference.

Additionally, our delegation shared key takeaways with the broader Boston College community during a symposium in the spring. Attending COP28 in Dubai was one of the most impactful experiences of my life and solidified my desire to pursue a career in law.

Our Poet Laureate

An acclaimed journalist during the COVID pandemic, Ed Yong did a wonderful job highlighting the multitude of reasons COVID played out the way it did, ranging from public attitudes to public health efforts. A major takeaway, however, is that it's not quite over—not for marginalized communities, the underrepresented, the chronically ill, etc. Yong pushes us to escape the ant mill by recognizing and repairing the cracks in the system. My poem, “A Time Capsule Holds Our Grief,” utilizes repeated phrases reminiscent of epitaphs and the extended metaphor of burial and a time capsule to emphasize some of the failures and questions that humanity is left with following the pandemic.

-- **Jesse Julian**



Recent Events

Eagles Sustainability Competition

The Eagles Sustainability Competition is an opportunity in the Spring semester for students to showcase their academic interests and knowledge while encouraging sustainability on Boston College's campus. In interdisciplinary teams of 2-3, students craft innovative recommendations to address sustainability.

The winning idea will incorporate campus data, research, and creativity to bring a fresh perspective to how our campus partner can reduce its environmental footprint and enhance its overall sustainability. The top three teams will win a cash prize with the winning team receiving \$3,000 and the opportunity to have its proposed ideas implemented.

Yesterday, February 3rd, an information session was held for teams that wish to apply, however, if you wish to participate and missed this session, please check out the website below and reach out to us with any questions at: elleen.kim@bc.edu

Eagle's Sustainability Competition Website



Upcoming Events

Welcome to Zumba

The Schwarz School, run by David and Subi Waithaka, is located in the Pwani Province of Tanzania and serves 130+ students from preschool to 2nd grade. For many, the school represents the first opportunity to obtain an education, and attracts many students from local laborer families and the Datoga tribe. The Schwarz School brought together a community in its remote area of Tanzania, becoming a common place for locals to gather and engage in sport. The school wants to do even more for the community; it plans to construct dormitories, a water filtration system, and provide basic medical services.

Through connections from Professor Bailey here at BC, Cyrus Rosen ('25), John Mendizabal ('23), and Steven Roche ('25) are grateful for the opportunity to have volunteered at the school and live in the community last summer. Living there for several weeks showed the strength of the community, from helping each other work in the fields to the uplifting environment in the school. On February 11th, the event 'Welcome to Zumba' will showcase a ~25 minute documentary followed by a Q&A. The event will focus on the Schwarz School community, its

dreams, and challenges, as well as how students and faculty can get involved and/or volunteer at the Schwarz School.

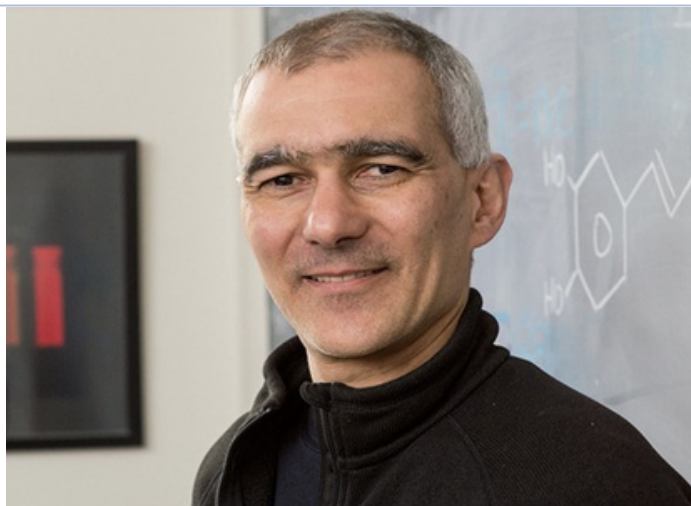
We hope to see you there!

February 11th, 7pm at Merkert Hall, Room 127

While registration is not required, we encourage it, so if you could register at the link below, we would appreciate it!

[Register Here](#)

Distinguished Lecture Series: Mounji Bawendi



Join us for a panel discussion titled "My Life in Science: Why quantum mechanics is fascinating and how it is changing our world," featuring Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner and MIT professor, Mounji Bawendi.

This public discussion is intended for a broad audience and we encourage students, faculty, and staff from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds to attend.

The lecture will take place on **Wednesday, February 19 from 12pm-1pm in the Schiller Institute Convening Space (Rm 501) at 245 Beacon**

Lunch reception to follow (1pm-2pm).

[Register & Learn More Here](#)

COP29 Symposium

The COP Symposium at Boston College is an annual event organized by the Schiller Institute that showcases the experiences of BC's delegation at the most recent Conference of the Parties (COP), the UN's largest annual climate conference. The event includes student and faculty panels, interactive exhibits, and discussions about climate justice and the role of finance in addressing climate change. Esquire Henry, a youth climate activist from Antigua, will give the keynote and engage in a Q&A.

Delegates reflect on COP outcomes and design the symposium to replicate the actual COP event. The symposium highlights the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, diverse perspectives, and BC's unique inclusion of undergraduate and graduate students in global climate discourse.



Save the Date for the COP29 Symposium:

February 21, 2025 at 11am to 3pm in the
Schiller Institute Convening Space (Rm 501) at
245 Beacon Street!

[Last Year's COP28 Symposium Highlights](#)

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

Thanks for being a part of our Schiller Institute family and we hope to see you in two weeks when The Scoop comes out again! Make sure to send The Scoop to your friends and family, so they can be part of our community as well.

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Anything you want to let us know? reach out to us at:
schiller.institute@bc.edu

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