



## Get The Scoop!

We hope you had a great spring break! We have very exciting events planned, so make sure you scroll down to get involved. Additionally, get to know our staff, some courses, and exciting things our students are up to.

## Schiller Team Member Spotlight



## **Meet Julia!**

Julia Wowkun grew up in northern New Jersey, mostly residing in Franklin Lakes. However, with her younger sister also studying at Boston College, home feels a little bit closer! In January, Julia celebrated a year of working at the Schiller Institute, which has been one of her most formative and rewarding experiences at BC. Outside of her work and studies, Julia was on the Boston College Varsity Cross Country and Track & Field teams for the first two years of her time at BC.

Beginning in high school, with her service as a volunteer firefighter for Franklin Lakes, Julia has realized her passion for helping others. At Boston College, she is a class representative for charity:water, a national organization raising funds and awareness to build wells for communities around the world who do not have access to clean water. Every week, Julia volunteers at the St. Peter's Teen Center in Dorchester as part of her commitment with 4Boston, where she has the opportunity to make meaningful connections with the students at the center, made up entirely of an immigrant population from Cape Verde. At the center, Julia helps the students with homework but mostly supports and learns from them and all they have to share with the world.

Julia can often be found touring the city on foot as she enjoys running with her friends. As a member of intramural pickle-ball and finisher of a couple of half marathons, Julia enjoys meeting new people through her love of being active. While she minors in Finance, her choice to study environmental studies arose from her love for nature, especially realized during her two backpacking trips, one in

Maine and one in Iceland. Her love to travel was founded by her family trips to Calabria, Italy to visit her mom's family--her favorite place she has been to. Julia studied abroad in London for a summer and in Zanzibar, where she was part of the Schiller Institute's Working For and With Communities course. Whenever she can, Julia loves to play with, walk, and snuggle her dog. She is also the oldest in her family among her 11 cousins who bring so much joy to her life.

Looking forward, Julia will be living in Boston this summer during her internship at Santander Bank as an Environmental Risk Intern. Unsure of where she would like to be after graduation, she will keep her passions of exploring, learning, and being of service to others at the center of her table, hopefully working in a way that integrates her studies to help corporations develop sustainably.





**Meet our team!**

**Course Spotlight:**

**SCH13030: Entrepreneurial Leadership in  
Energy, Environment and Health**



**SCHI3030**  
**Entrepreneurial Leadership in Energy, Environment, and Health**  
 Fall 2025 | Th 10:30-11:25am  
 Instructor: Laura Steinberg and Guest Lecturers

This course is a **one-credit professional development course** featuring meetings with leaders of entrepreneurial organizations who represent the Schiller Institute's mission to serve the common good, focusing on our three core areas: **energy, environment, and health**.

This course will offer opportunities for students in any Boston College major to:

1. develop an understanding of **entrepreneurship**, and skills in communication, business and networking
2. connect with **leaders and innovators** working on the cutting-edge of these fields

Previous Guest Speakers include

  
 Ashley Reid  
 Wellist Founder & CEO

  
 Juan Giraldo  
 Waku Co-founder & CEO

 **BOSTON COLLEGE**  
 SCHILLER INSTITUTE FOR  
 INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

You may remember that we highlighted this course back in February. We are excited to share that we'll be offering it in Fall 2025 and hope you'll consider joining us!

## Schiller Core Faculty Spotlight

### Meet Yi!

I was born in Sichuan Province (known for its spicy cuisine), China, just as the country was entering the "open and reform" era. My family moved to Henan Province in central China when I started my grade school education. Growing up during a time of rapid economic growth, I

witnessed firsthand the widespread optimism that tomorrow would always be better. My journey in higher education began with a five-year stint at Tsinghua University in Beijing, where I initially majored in chemical engineering.



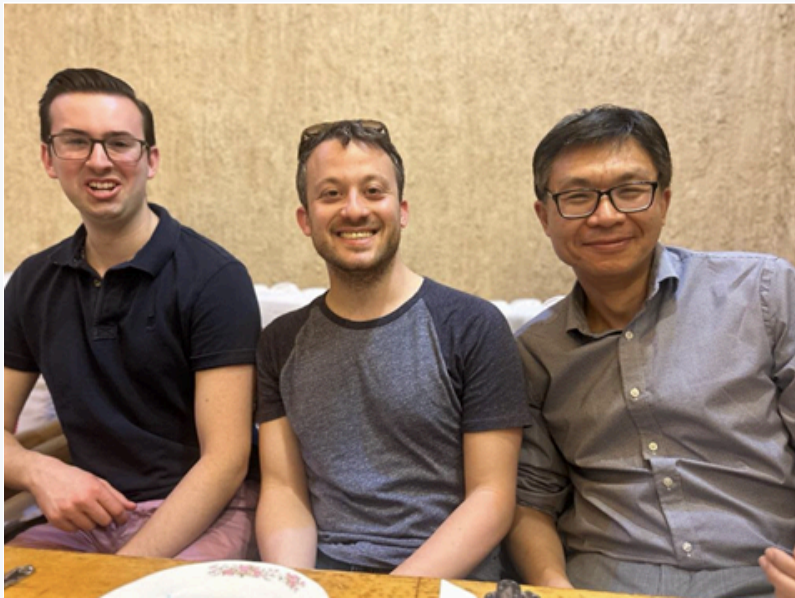
I, however, soon realized the environmental impact of the chemical industry and decided to pursue a second major in environmental engineering. This decision was driven by my desire to apply the same scientific principles to a field that could help mitigate pollution. My passion for environmental issues deepened during my five years of graduate school at Princeton, where I transitioned fully into environmental engineering.

My research focused on aerosol particles, a significant air pollutant that also affects climate by scattering sunlight and influencing cloud formation. One thing led to another. I became intensely interested in environmental policy, leading me to study economics and conduct research with an integrated assessment model.

After completing my graduate studies, I joined NOAA/Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (the birthplace of climate modeling) as a postdoc, working on improving aerosol representation in global climate models. Over the years, I advanced to become the divisional director of a major section of the Lab, which was responsible for developing one of the world's leading global climate models. My career also included teaching at Princeton, where I mentored many students and postdocs who have since become faculty members at prestigious institutions worldwide.

For the past three years, I've been at Boston College, collaborating with faculty across various disciplines (such as Economics, Chemistry, Computer Science and Human-Centered Engineering) to make climate science more actionable and accessible. Teaching undergraduates has been a particularly rewarding experience, as their work ethics, curiosity and commitment to the common good continually inspire me and give me hope for a better future.





## Our Poet Laureate

I landed on a rather introspective route when writing “i land” (a play-on-words for “island”). My other works often utilize resources and information derived from faculty. However, I wanted to focus on the topic of mental health, and how it heals (or doesn’t) during a break from school, work, etc. It would’ve been ironic to refer to academia when I felt this reflection come from within me. I examine topics such as the difference of seasons in affecting dopamine levels, the

isolating feeling of metacognitive meditation, and the means to which we “relax.” Although spring break is often seen as a surface-level vacation, it also carries implications regarding our view on relaxation.

**-- Jesse Julian**

Jesse Julian *dedicated to the Scoop's post-spring break edition*

**i land**

somewhere in my head  
atop the precipice between  
peace of mind & minding  
the pieces of mine.

puzzled by  
the way it's solved,  
absolved by  
the way it fits.

i land  
somewhere on the coast  
emptied of burden  
like uninhabited seashells  
or the diver's clothes.

i search for survivors.  
shipwrecked—snippets and  
segments of what  
used to be life.

segways into what  
“looks like spring!”  
these destination spots are meant for  
brighter days.

i land  
on brighter pastimes  
than past times:  
hours, days spent  
rotting away

to “relax,”  
get away from  
winter haze  
to summer rays

a raise in dopamine  
is the means to an end—  
the tourist's journey through  
the wonders of my land.



**In Case You Missed It!**

**Distinguished Lecture Series: Mounji  
Bawendi**



Recently, we had the pleasure of hosting a presentation by Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner and MIT professor, Mounqi Bawendi titled: "Why quantum mechanics is fascinating and how it is changing our world."

If you missed this amazing opportunity, don't worry! You can click the video above to watch and listen to the discussion with Mounqi Bawendi!

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## **COP29 Symposium**

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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 included student and faculty panels, interactive exhibits, and discussions about climate justice and the role of finance in addressing climate change. This symposium also featured Esquire Henry, a youth climate activist from Antigua.

Watch Esquire Henry's Keynote speech below:



If you missed the opportunity to join us for the symposium, you can watch the video of our student delegate panel below!



## Upcoming Events

**Rare Earth Mineral Geopolitics in  
Ukraine**



## Rare Earth Mineral Geopolitics in Ukraine: What Are We Actually Talking About?

### ETHAN BAXTER

- **PROFESSOR** OF EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AT BOSTON COLLEGE
- **GEOCHEMIST** SPECIALIZING IN ISOTOPE GEOCHEMISTRY, GEOCHRONOLOGY, AND THE STUDY OF EARTH'S GEOLOGICAL PROCESSES



**WHEN:**  
WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 19TH  
12PM-1PM  
WITH LUNCH TO  
FOLLOW

**WHERE:**  
SCHILLER INSTITUTE  
CONVENING SPACE  
(ROOM 501, 245  
BEACON ST)

Recent weeks have featured media reports of the 'minerals deal' or the 'rare minerals deal' or the 'rare earth minerals deal' with Ukraine. This presentation will reveal the critical minerals that are actually in play, as well as the environmental and geopolitical issues surrounding their extraction and use.

*Schiller Institute public lectures are intended for a broad audience and we encourage students, faculty, and staff from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds to attend*

Register here



BOSTON COLLEGE  
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Register Here

## Boston College's Upcoming Graduate Research Symposium





The Boston College School of Social Work, Carolyn A. and Peter S. Lynch School of Education and Human Development, William F. Connell School of Nursing, the Graduate School of the Robert J. Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, and the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society invite the BC community to attend this multidisciplinary research conference.

The university-wide symposium will feature empirical research by almost 40 graduate students from across the university who will share their work through oral and poster presentations. All members of the BC community are encouraged to join us in celebrating the fantastic work of our doctoral and master's level students.

This event will be held **Wednesday, March 26 at 9 a.m., in the Corcoran Commons, Heights Room**

[Learn More Here](#)

[Symposium Agenda](#)

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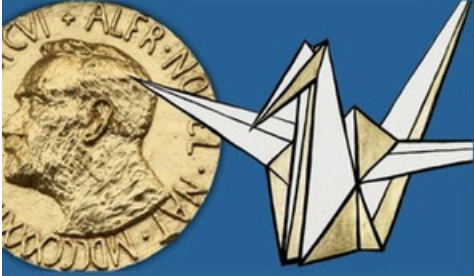
## **Symposium on the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize**



**THE HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS:**

a Symposium in honor of the Japanese Organization Nihon Hidankyō, winner of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize

THE DANIEL C. MORRISSEY '88 AND CHANANNAIT PAISANSATAN, MD, DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES IN ASIAN STUDIES



**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025, AT 2:00 PM FULTON HALL 511**

**SCHEDULE:**

- 2:00pm Welcome by Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, MD, Director of the Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good at Boston College  
Introduction by Franziska Seraphim, History, Boston College, with clips from the Nobel Prize ceremony (Oslo, Dec 10, 2024)
- 2:30pm Panel Discussion with Q&A
- 3:30pm Coffee and Cookies
- 3:45pm Screening of Paper Lanterns (2016) with director Barry Frechette

**PANELISTS:**

- Ran Zwigenberg**  
Penn State University  
*Nuclear Minds: Cold War Psychological Science and the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (2023)*
- Hiromi Mizuno**  
University of Minnesota  
*Engineering Asia: Technology, Colonial Development, and the Cold War Order (2018)*
- Naoko Wake**  
Michigan State University  
*American Survivors: Trans-Pacific Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (2021)*
- James Nolan, Jr.**  
Williams College  
*Atomic Doctors: Conscience and Complicity at the Dawn of the Nuclear Age (2020)*
- Franziska Seraphim**  
Director of Asian Studies, Boston College, as moderator  
*War Memory and Social Politics in Japan, 1945-2005 (2006)*

**RECORDED VIDEO MESSAGES BY:**

- Robert (Bo) Jacobs**  
Hiroshima City University  
*Nuclear Bodies: The Global Hibakusha (2022)*
- Mary Popeo**  
BC alumna and a former Peace Culture Village officer

Please register for this event:



Co-sponsored by the Institute for the Liberal Arts, the Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good, the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, International Studies, Environmental Studies, the History Department, and the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility



For more information, contact Prof. Seraphim at asian.studies@bc.edu

We are excited to announce that we are co-sponsoring a symposium entitled: **"The Human and Environmental Costs of Nuclear Weapons: A Symposium in Honor of the Japanese Organization Nihon Hidankyō, winner of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize"**

In August 1945, two American atomic bombs were dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing approximately 120,000 people. It is estimated that 650,000 people survived the attacks. These survivors are known as Hibakusha in Japanese.

In 1956, local Hibakusha associations along with victims of nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific formed The Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organisations, shortened in Japanese to Nihon Hidankyo. The organization's mission is to promote the social and economic rights of all Hibakusha, including those living outside Japan, and to ensure that no one is subjected to the catastrophe that befell the Hibakusha ever again. Additionally, Nihon Hidankyo has long supported the **"global hibakusha"**: the many largely unrecognized victims of nuclear testing around the world.

Join us **Friday March 21, 2-5pm in Fulton 511** to recognize this outstanding achievement!

[More About Nihon Hidankyo](#)

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.

Also, did you know you can respond to this email? We check our inbox frequently and would love to hear your thoughts about The Scoop, fun opportunities you've had relating to environment, health, and energy, and more. If you let us know, we might feature you in the next edition!

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 **Forward**

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Anything you want to let us know? reach out to us at:  
[schiller.institute@bc.edu](mailto:schiller.institute@bc.edu)

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