

## Get The Scoop!

As the school year winds down and finals approach, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, but remember, summer is just around the corner. We encourage you to take a moment to breathe, prioritize your well-being, and finish strong. Once exams are behind you, summer offers a great opportunity to recharge and reconnect with yourself, with nature, and with your community. Take care of yourself, and make this summer a time of growth, balance, and purpose.

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## Schiller Team Member Spotlight

This semester, you met and heard from everyone working on our team, so now we want to hear from **YOU!**

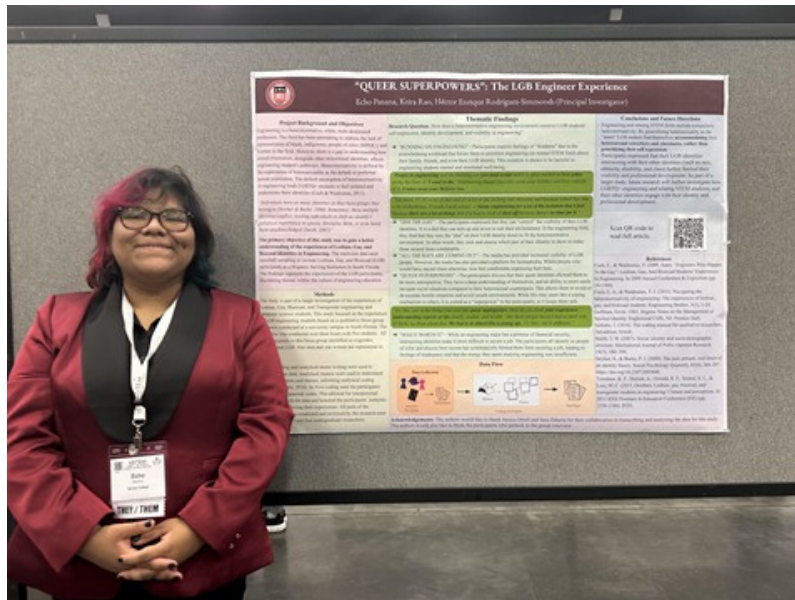
We check our inbox frequently and would love to hear your thoughts about The Scoop, fun opportunities you've had or are going to have this summer relating to environment, health, and energy, and more!

**Next year, we plan to change the team member spotlight into a Schiller Institute Community Spotlight, so respond to The Scoop for a chance to be featured!**

## What Are Schiller Students Up To?

## Meet Echo!

A third-year Human-Centered Engineering student and President of oSTEM at Boston College, Echo shares their journey as a queer student navigating college, finding purpose through advocacy and research.



"Hello! My name is Echo Panana, and I am a third-year Human-Centered Engineering student. I am also a queer student. Since coming out in high school, my queer identity has shaped nearly every part of my life. I was fortunate to have supportive friends growing up, but as I prepared to enter college, I knew that not everyone would be as accepting. During my second semester of sophomore year, my advisor introduced me to Professor Rodríguez-Simmonds, whose research was focused on the experiences of LGBTQ+ engineering students. After an informational interview, I applied to his lab and was accepted. I joined a team of four other undergraduate students in Spring 2024 conducting research in Engineering Education.

For the first time, I had to bring all of myself into the lab—not just as an engineering student, but as a queer engineering student. And in doing so, I began to relearn what that identity meant to me. I realized this lab had become the only space where I could exist fully as both: as queer and as an engineer. As the semester came to an end, I knew that needed to change. I set out to revive the oSTEM chapter at Boston College, to create a space where students like me wouldn't have to choose between being a STEM student and being a queer student.

oSTEM, or Out in STEM, is a national organization dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ individuals in STEM fields. I brought this revival to Dr. Laura Steinberg, who supported my e-board and I wholeheartedly. There's still plenty of room for us to grow, but with the support of the Schiller Institute, my lab group, and the friends I made at the oSTEM conference, I'm committed to building something lasting. I hope to provide community for other queer STEM students—and beyond that, to make our presence and belonging in STEM impossible to overlook."

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## Our Poet Laureate

"I've been enjoying the final days of the school year, where everyone basks on the quad in newfound sunlight. Witnessing the seasons changing is truly magnificent. Yet on my walk to the train station, a specific tree has a plastic bag entangled in its branches. It's unfortunately out of my reach—trust me, I've tried—yet this bag seems to have stayed there throughout all the changing seasons. For me, this image symbolizes the fight

for environmental justice—a tree that continues to grow despite its restraints, and the question of what we can do to save it. I am specifically inspired by this imagery as we watch our graduating seniors depart, who will hopefully continue to carry on a fight for freedom and justice that the Schiller Institute embodies and motivates."

**-- Jesse Julian**



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## Reflecting on Green Week

As part of Schiller Institute's Green Week 2025, students participated in three interactive

workshops, EcoPoetics, Votive Making, and Nature-Inspired Sketching, exploring connections between art, environment, and sustainability. The EcoPoetics Workshop, organized by Schiller Institute Poet Laureate, Jesse Julian, our Marketing and Event Planning Assistant, Dominique Williams, and the Writing Center, inspired Dominique to reflect on her cultural ties to nature and use creative expression for climate engagement and healing.



"This year, under the warm glow of the spring sun and a mist of dew and cherry blossom perfume, students gathered for a celebration of art and the environment. Through this year's three Green Week art and sustainability workshops, the Schiller Institute invited students to an interdisciplinary exploration of the interplay between the art we create and enjoy and the natural environment which inspires and responds to creativity.

My greatest takeaway from this workshop was a reminder to place the natural world at the centre and subject of our canvas rather than its

periphery. In the art we make and consume, how often is the subject human or manmade, while nature only serves as the backdrop. Our engagement with nature is often focused on what we can derive from the environment. For example if conversations are held around environmental health it is often framed as a precursor to our own health and well being. Surrounded by nature and choosing to sketch trees, leaves, bark and flowers, it reminded me that the environment carries its own innate value, as a subject on my canvas, but also as the recipient of care, attention and protection."

-- **Dominique Williams**

[Read More About Dominique's Experience](#)

## News from Schiller Institute Related Student Groups



Before beginning their freshman year at Boston College, Margaret Hynes, Maria Fernanda De Nadai, and Hayoung Cho connected virtually to launch a student-led initiative dedicated to partnering with communities worldwide to meet



basic human needs and lay lasting foundations for opportunity, sustainability, and resilience.

Together, they co-founded the Boston College Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Chapter under the generous sponsorship of the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society and with mentorship from the Boston Professional Chapter of EWB. The chapter has also been supported by Kaley McCarty, Laura J. Steinberg, Gregory Adelsberger, Siddhartan Govindasamy, and Amin Mohebbi.

EWB is a global network of student and professional volunteers who collaborate with under-resourced communities, both locally and internationally, to design and implement sustainable, climate-conscious infrastructure.

Guided by community voices and rooted in mutual respect, EWB projects address essential needs while fostering leadership and engineering skills in all participants. With a commitment to ethical partnership, safety, and long-term impact, EWB empowers communities to lead lasting change and build a more resilient future.



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## Finals and Summer Break



As we enter the end of the semester and the start of finals, we encourage you to take care of your physical and mental health. Finals can be a very stressful time, but you don't have to go through it alone.

If you are in need of extra support, know that you can always reach out to University Counseling Services or any of the resources below! Additionally, we invite you to text or call a trusted



friend, family member, or mentor to talk about these feelings.

Remember that just like your physical health, your mental health is extremely important and impacts things like mood, academic abilities, energy levels, relationships, and decision making. Self-care is not selfish! It's necessary to ensure good mental health. Below we have some resources you can check out if you're interested in mental health or self-care.

**Murray Center for Student Wellness**

**BC Lean on Me Anonymous Text Line**

**Managing Stress Worksheet**

**Thanks for being a part of our Schiller Institute family and we hope to see you next semester when The Scoop comes out again! Remember to practice self-care after the semester is over and enjoy summer break.**

**Was this forwarded to you? Don't miss out on The Scoop!**

**Sign up here**





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