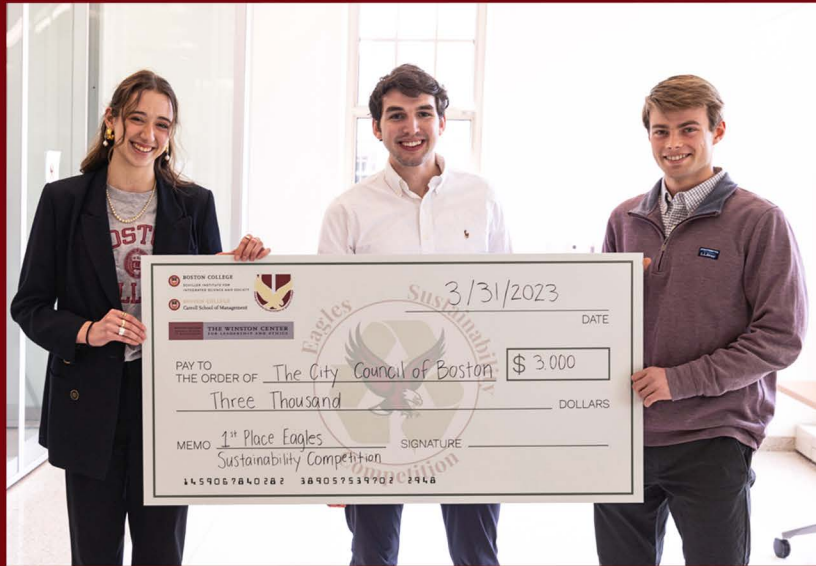




BOSTON COLLEGE
 SCHILLER INSTITUTE FOR
 INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2023 (June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023)





BOSTON COLLEGE

SCHILLER INSTITUTE FOR
INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society experienced tremendous growth during the 2022-2023 Academic Year. As the Institute's mission takes shape during these formative years, we made significant strides which embody our values and our vision, and which position us for continued growth and success. Below I've described some of the key goals of the Institute and the activities from the past year that illustrate our commitment to them.

*The Institute will advance Boston College's distinction as an **international exemplar of boundary-spanning research** addressing key societal problems including climate science and the environment, human health, and the transition to clean energy.*

The Institute hired our first three Core faculty members this past year. **Hanqin Tian** is the Institute Professor of Global Sustainability and jointly appointed as a Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Tian studies the broad area of climate and sustainability sciences, particularly interactions among climate, ecosystems, and humans in order to find science-based solutions to climate change and sustainability challenges. **Yi Ming** is the Institute Professor of Climate Science and Society and jointly appointed as a Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Ming uses climate models, observations, and theories to study the physical mechanisms governing Earth's climate system, and partners with social scientists and communities to boost climate resilience. **Jier Huang** is the Institute's professor focusing on renewable energy and sustainability, and is jointly appointed as an Associate Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Huang develops physical products that convert sunlight and carbon dioxide into fuels that are not only usable, but efficient, clean, and sustainable.

The Institute will be building on this exciting group of initial hires by leading a search for additional Core faculty members this upcoming year, including a social scientist focused on climate science and two researchers at the intersection of climate change and a health-related area.

*Integrating and expanding BC's existing strengths in the sciences with longstanding research strengths in the humanities, social sciences, and the professional schools, the Institute will offer **leadership in multi-disciplinary, collaborative research and pedagogy.***

The Institute supports interdisciplinary research teams through the Schiller Institute Grants for Exploratory Collaborative Scholarship (SI-GECS) program. Through this internal seed grant program, we've awarded 27 grants to 124 faculty collaborators for a total of \$830,000 over the past two academic years. Over 90 postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduate students were trained through these grants.

The Institute achieves the goal of leadership in collaborative research by not only connecting BC faculty and students across campus, but also by studying the science of interdisciplinarity. While conducting the search that brought the three Core faculty members to Boston College, we studied ourselves, leading to the Institute's first peer-reviewed publication about interdisciplinarity. "Fostering an Interdisciplinary Campus Community: Faculty Hiring Committee-Work as Successful Interdisciplinary Collaboration" was published in *Innovative Higher Education* in May 2023.

In addition to our publication, we worked with architects from Payette, the firm that designed 245 Beacon Street, the dynamic building that houses the Schiller Institute, to present an interactive session at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) conference in June 2023. Our presentation examined the design of interdisciplinary academic buildings and built on findings from the Interdisciplinary Research Buildings Workshop that we hosted two years ago.

*The Institute will serve as an **incubator for new interdisciplinary academic programs** at BC and extend the scientific understanding of the nature of interdisciplinarity in the academy.*

This winter, Boston College announced the launch of the new major in Global Public Health and the Common Good, an ambitious expansion of the tremendously popular minor. The major is academically administered by the Connell School of Nursing in strategic partnership with the Schiller Institute. I am excited about this new major and see a great deal of synergy between the Institute's current work and the focus of the Global Public Health and the Common Good major.

In addition, the Institute led a cross-campus committee that was charged to envision the future of data science at Boston College. The committee provided key feedback to proposals for a new Data Science minor, to be administered by the Computer Science and Mathematics departments, and a new Data Science masters program, to be administered by the Lynch School of Education and Human Development. The minor launches in Fall 2023 and the masters will follow next year.

I encourage you to keep up with the happenings of the Schiller Institute throughout the coming year. Thanks to Boston College's web services team, we have an exciting and dynamic new website that is continuously updated with new events, programs, courses, and more. This past year we also launched the SchillerNow newsletter, which is delivered via email twice per semester. I encourage you to **sign up on our website.**

I hope that you find this report both illuminating and inspiring, and that it leads you to reflect upon how each of us can grapple with and engage critical issues facing our world.



Laura J. Steinberg

SCHILLER INSTITUTE CORE FACULTY MEMBERS

The Schiller Institute hired its first three Core faculty members and could not have done it without the tireless support and dedication of the 13-member search committee that spanned 12 departments and four colleges at BC. We published an [**article**](#) about the hiring process in the September 2022 SchillerNow newsletter, which can be found on our website. Thank you to the search committee!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Kirsten Davison, School of Social Work

David Deese, Political Science Department

Welkin Johnson, Biology Department

Andrew Jorgenson, Sociology Department

Chris Lee, Connell School of Nursing

Dan McKaughan, Philosophy Department

Fazel Tafti, Physics Department

John Tristan, Computer Science Department

Conevery Bolton Valencius, History Department

Dunwei Wang, Chemistry Department

Jeremy Shakun, Earth & Environmental Sciences Department

Brian Smith, Lynch School of Education & Human Development

Emily Prud'hommeaux, Computer Science Department

We invite you to get to know each of the Core faculty members below:



Hanqin Tian

Institute Professor of
Global Sustainability

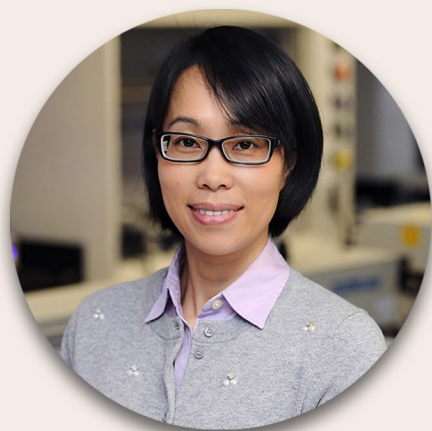
Hanqin Tian is the Institute Professor of Global Sustainability and a Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Tian employs a data-driven systems approach to understanding, quantifying, and predicting drivers and effects of global-scale changes in the biosphere, climate, and human activity. Through the integration and communication of knowledge across the physical, ecological, and human systems, Dr. Tian intends to advance scientific understanding of complex interactions among climate, ecosystems, and humans with the aim of providing science-based solutions to climate change and sustainability challenges.

He has authored over 300 peer-reviewed papers. Dr. Tian is a coordinating lead author for the International Nitrogen Assessment and a contributing author for IPCC AR6. He has served on the Scientific Steering Scientific Committee of Global Carbon Project (GCP). His honors include being an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the Ecological Society of America (ESA).

Previously, Dr. Tian held the Solon and Martha Dixon Endowed Professorship and was Director of the International Center for Climate and Global Change Research at Auburn University. Dr. Tian holds a PhD in Environmental Biology (Systems Ecology) from State University of New York.

Since joining BC in August 2022, Dr. Tian has published over 20 papers in peer-reviewed journals and gave an invited talks at numerous locations, including the UN Department of Political and Peaceful Building Affair (UN DPR Korea and Geneva Center for Security Policy), UN World Meteorological Organization, and The Global Carbon Project's workshop (University of Exeter). He was named as one of 2022's Highly Cited Researchers by the Web of Science.

SCHILLER INSTITUTE CORE FACULTY MEMBERS



Jier Huang

Institute professor focusing on renewable energy and sustainability

Jier Huang is the Institute's professor focusing on renewable energy and sustainability and an Associate Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Huang's research focuses on developing cutting edge materials with atomic/molecular precision to address fundamental challenges in sustainable energy and climate change. She is particularly interested in using advanced physical methods to understand how solar energy is captured by the materials, how it travels through the materials, and how it can be directed to perform solar energy conversion.

She has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed papers and is a recipient of the NSF CAREER and DOE career research award. Dr. Huang has served as Chair of the Energy Subdivision in the American Chemical Society (ACS) Physical Chemistry Division, Executive Committee Member At-Large in the ACS Physical Chemistry Division, and as a member of the Advanced Photon Source Users Organization Steering Committee.

Previously, Dr. Huang was a Wehr Distinguished Professor and Associate Professor of Chemistry at Marquette University. Dr. Huang holds a PhD in Physical Chemistry from Emory University.

Since joining BC in January 2023, Dr. Huang has published seven papers in peer-reviewed journals and gave invited talks at the Nanomaterials and Sustainability Workshop at Argonne National Laboratory's Center of Nanomaterials, the 243rd Electrochemical Society (ECS) Meeting, and the Quantum Gel Workshop at Wayne State University. She also co-organized a Clean Energy Workshop at BC.



Yi Ming

Institute Professor of Climate Science and Society

Yi Ming is the Institute Professor of Climate Science and Society and a Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Ming uses climate models, observations and theories to elucidate the physical mechanisms governing Earth's climate system and applies the fundamental understanding to practical issues of societal and policy importance. A current focus is on how climate change may affect precipitation patterns (e.g. droughts and floods) and extreme events (e.g. hurricanes, wildfires and winter storms).

He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed papers. His honors include the U.S. Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Norbert Gerbier-Mumm International Award, the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Henry G. Houghton Award and the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Ascent Award.

Previously, Dr. Ming was a Senior Scientist and Divisional Leader at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL), and also a faculty member of the Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (AOS) at Princeton University. Dr. Ming holds a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Princeton University.

Since joining BC in August 2022, Dr. Ming has been awarded three grants, including two from NOAA and one from NSF. He has been actively building networks across the BC and Greater Boston community, which has led to multiple collaborative proposals and built the groundwork for many successful partnerships to come. He was also a reviewer for the DOE E3SM Phase III Review.

RESEARCH

The Schiller Institute is committed to supporting BC faculty, students, and staff conducting interdisciplinary research through grant funding, training, and events aimed at connecting individuals with similar research interests across disciplines, schools and research methodologies.

Schiller Institute Grants for Exploratory Collaborative Scholarship (SIGECS)

The Schiller Institute **awarded 12 grants, totalling approximately \$420,000**, to faculty members across campus in the second year of the Schiller Institute Grants for Exploratory Collaborative Scholarship (SIGECS) program. The SIGECS program supports collaborative research projects and creative activities in the Institute's principal research focus areas of energy, health and the environment. This grant program recognizes that collaborative efforts of faculty/researchers who have different knowledge, perspectives, and expertise can make significant contributions to addressing inherently interdisciplinary societal issues.

The program includes two types of grants: Type 1 grants were awarded up to \$15,000 and Type 2 grants were awarded up to \$50,000. The funded projects included over 50 faculty members from seven of BC's schools: Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Law School, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences (MCAS), School of Social Work, and School of Theology and Ministry. The lead principal investigators were from Biology (MCAS), Computer Science (MCAS), Counseling, Developmental & Educational Psychology (Lynch), Engineering (MCAS), Philosophy (MCAS), Physics (MCAS), Political Science (MCAS), and the School of Social Work. Further details on the funded projects can be found on the table beginning on the next page.

The first cohort of SIGECS grantees (funded during the 2021-22 Academic Year) have produced an impressive collection of outcomes. The full results of their work can be found on the [Schiller Institute website](#), with some highlights below:

- 84 presentations (includes peer-reviewed presentations, invited presentations, community outreach and internal presentations)
- 19 papers published
- 24 new grant proposals submitted, totalling over \$8.3 million
- 14 grant proposals funded, totalling over \$3 million
- Over 40 Boston College undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows trained
- Nomination for a Boston/New England Regional Emmy Award in the Children/Youth category
- PI named as a 2023 Public Voices Fellow with the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication
- Sculpture exhibit installed at multiple places around the country, including the Smithsonian Museum
- Presentation on policy recommendations to U.S. Senate committee

SUMMARY OF SIGECS GRANTS AWARDED IN AY23

PROJECT NAME AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS	PROJECT ABSTRACT AND KEY OUTCOMES
<p>Phase II of Chelsea's Well-being Initiative: A Research-Practice Partnership</p> <p>Betty Lai <i>(Education & Human Development)</i></p> <p>Rebecca Lowenhaupt <i>(Education & Human Development)</i></p>	<p>The project continued to facilitate the Chelsea Children's Cabinet in Chelsea, Massachusetts, which supports youth well-being. The focus was on understanding youth perspectives on their own well-being, so PIs engaged with both the Chelsea youth community and the greater school district to understand the topic and publicly disseminate their work. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration on a youth mental health campaign in Chelsea and partnership meetings with the Chelsea Children's Cabinet • Qualitative interview protocol developed and 28 interviews conducted with youth at Chelsea High School to understand how they conceptualize well-being and how they envision youth leadership • Developed a youth leadership summit, inviting 12 student participants to BC's campus • 1 manuscripts submitted and 1 in progress about youth well-being and community leaders • 9 conference papers, e.g. a presentation with community partners at the <i>American Educational Research Association</i> • 3 grants submitted, including 2 granted: \$40,000 SI-RITEA Grant and \$45,000 Collaborative Fellowship at BC • Training an interdisciplinary team of 6 graduate scholars
<p>Technology assessment of green hydrogen as a significant energy storage component of zero carbon economies needed before 2050</p> <p>David Deese Dunwei Wang <i>(Political Science)</i> <i>(Chemistry)</i></p>	<p>The project gathered new scientific and technological information on the social science implications of green hydrogen and created a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the main barriers to deploying green hydrogen systems. The researchers gathered information through visits to the leading green hydrogen research labs in Japan and South Korea. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research report created on barriers to green hydrogen system adoption • 2 undergraduate students trained
<p>Virtue Ethics Working Group</p> <p>Gregory Fried <i>(Philosophy)</i></p> <p>Along with collaborators from Education, Philosophy, and Psychology and Neuroscience</p>	<p>The Virtue Ethics Working Group formed to investigate the role of the moral and intellectual virtues in students' well-being, whole-person pedagogy, and civic engagement. The group began developing a longitudinal study to measure, analyze, and implement how the deliberate cultivation of virtuous habits, in conjunction with relevant study and classroom education, can develop moral, intellectual, and civic virtues among students, with applications to societal health beyond higher education. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted regular colloquia of participating faculty and students from Philosophy, Psychology and Neuroscience, and the Lynch School of Education • 5 conference presentations, e.g. multiple faculty and student presentations at the Makarios Conference: Character and Virtue in the Christian Tradition in Rome, Italy • Grant application submitted to the John Templeton Foundation • 7 students trained: 6 graduate students and 1 undergraduate
<p>Machine Learning of Hospital Readmission after Heart Failure based on Wearable Devices</p> <p>Sergio Alvarez <i>(Computer Science)</i></p> <p>Corrine Jurgens Christopher Lee <i>(Nursing)</i> <i>(Nursing)</i></p>	<p>This project involved the monitoring of heart failure patients by way of indirect measurements of heart activity obtained from wearable photoplethysmography (PPG) sensors. The results of this project suggest that wearable data monitoring of heart rate variability (HRV) can be a reliable source of information for estimating the readmission risk of heart failure patients while reducing the inconvenience and cost associated with more frequent clinical visits. Notably, wearable-derived HRV measurements were found to correlate well with clinical assessments of symptom burden by trained health personnel. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans to submit abstracts and papers to 4 conferences • 1 grant proposal in progress (NIH R21) • Enabled the establishment of a research collaboration with Tufts Medical Center that will provide ongoing clinical data and facilitate future funding • 1 undergraduate student trained

SUMMARY OF SIGECS GRANTS AWARDED IN AY23

PROJECT NAME AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS	PROJECT ABSTRACT AND KEY OUTCOMES
<p>Digital Mental Health Innovations to Support Scaling Out a Family Strengthening Intervention for Afghan Refugee Families: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration</p> <p>Theresa Betancourt <i>(Social Work)</i></p> <p>Avneet Hira <i>(Engineering)</i></p> <p>Nam Wook Kim <i>(Computer Science)</i></p>	<p>The project developed a digital tool for home-visitors to deliver an evidence-based intervention to promote Afghan refugee child mental health and family functioning. The intervention builds positive parenting skills and healthy parent-child communication about current stressors and future goals, and provides support in understanding the U.S. school system as well as problem-solving concerns about raising children as new Americans. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed rigorous best practices for co-creation of a flexible multicultural mobile-health (mHealth) tool to support refugee families and children and shared with interdisciplinary mHealth researchers, designers, and developers • Trained an interdisciplinary team of 3 students who developed a UI/UX design overhaul for the tool • Project manager led community advisory board meetings on the digital tool • Abstract submitted to the International Congress on Evidence-Based Parenting Support • 1 grant submitted and granted: Academic Technology Advisory Board ATIG grant
<p>Ultrasound for body composition measurements and nutritional status assessment</p> <p>Bryan Ranger <i>(Engineering)</i></p> <p>Jinhee Park <i>(Nursing)</i></p> <p>Donglai Wei <i>(Computer Science)</i></p>	<p>The project developed a novel means of assessing human body composition measurements by utilizing low-cost mobile ultrasound systems. In the course of establishing key partnerships and receiving IRB approval for data collection at both sites, personnel developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for collecting ultrasound images of newborn and created REDCap databases that will store their clinical data. They also developed a machine learning image analysis pipeline. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained 8 students: 3 graduate and 5 undergraduate • 1 paper published in 2022 IEEE MIT Undergraduate Research Technology Conference (URTC) • Grant proposal submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF), as part of their "Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Data Science (SCH)" program for \$1.2M • Established key partnerships between Boston College departments of Engineering, Computer Science, and Nursing, as well as formal clinical partnerships with Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston) and Jimma University Medical Center (Ethiopia)
<p>Extending and Institutionalizing The Boston College Multidisciplinary Faculty Research Seminar on Climate Change</p> <p>David Deese <i>(Political Science)</i></p> <p>Along with collaborators from CSOM, Law, Lynch, MCAS, Social Work, and STM</p>	<p>In its second year, the interdisciplinary climate seminar series convened more than 60 faculty members and graduate students from across Boston College. The seminars triggered shared learning opportunities and collaborative discussions by featuring research from faculty with relevant disciplinary expertise. In addition, the lunchtime gatherings facilitated greater camaraderie among university stakeholders who share an ongoing engagement with climate questions. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 seminars open to all faculty and graduate students interested in climate-related research • Created a seminar newsletter, and published interviews of several presenters in order to publish detailed, yet highly accessible information about their wider and deeper research agendas • Multiple members of the group were selected as part of BC's COP27 delegation
<p>Recycling waste heat in phononics technology via thermal Hall effect</p> <p>Fazel Tafti <i>(Physics)</i></p> <p>David Broido <i>(Physics)</i></p> <p>Siddhartan Govindasamy <i>(Engineering)</i></p>	<p>The goal of the project was to find and characterize materials with a large thermal Hall effect (THE) for next-generation thermal logic devices. The team delivered a unique instrumentation to characterize THE and grew crystals of Cu_3TeO_6 which is currently holding the record for the largest known THE. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 undergraduate students trained • 2 publications in <i>PNAS</i> and <i>Physical Review B</i> • New "Quantum Revolution" course in development for fall 2024

SUMMARY OF SIGECS GRANTS AWARDED IN AY23

PROJECT NAME AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS	PROJECT ABSTRACT AND KEY OUTCOMES
<p>A hybrid analytical-experimental study of the stability and resistance of coupled microbiota</p> <p>Babak Momeni Renato Mirolo (Biology) (Mathematics)</p>	<p>Human associated microbiota plays an important role in maintaining human health and protection against pathogens. This project developed a mathematical framework to formally represent coupled microbiota linked to each other by cross-migration. The researchers found analytical representations that describe how migration affects the structure of each community. A unique and novel aspect of this work was the inclusion of cycles of growth-dilution, which is often missing in prior models of microbiota. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 presentations (Boston Bacterial Meeting and Biology department retreat) • 2 graduate students trained • 2 manuscripts in process
<p>Building a School-Staff Training Program to Improve Transgender Adolescents' Mental Health</p> <p>Maggi Price (Social Work)</p> <p>Paul Poteat (Education & Human Development)</p>	<p>The project developed an online training titled the Gender-Affirming School Practices Program to increase school staff's use of gender-affirming practices. A large study is being undertaken in three phases, the first two of which were supported by Schiller: Phase 1 included identifying training needs and developing curriculum, and Phase 2 involved refining the curriculum and setting up testing opportunities for the curriculum. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 grant applications submitted for Phases 2 and 3, including 1 funded \$50,000 BC-RADS grant and a Spencer Grant and NIMH R34 grant under review • GASP program curriculum developed • 18 stakeholder partnerships • 1 invited peer-reviewed publication in the Oxford <i>Encyclopedia of Social Work</i> • 3 presentations at BC and 8 external conference presentations, e.g. at the APA Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology meeting at the <i>APA Convention</i> • 1 BC Heights article publicizing the project
<p>Discovery of Moire Quantum Catalysts</p> <p>Qiong Ma Dunwei Wang (Physics) (Chemistry)</p>	<p>The project fabricated a novel category of electrocatalysts capable of advancing crucial electrochemical processes. Project personnel successfully identified a suitable substrate for creating moire electrocatalysts, created a new methodology to enhance signal clarity from moire electrocatalysts, and conducted an initial measurement and data collection from their newly created electrocatalyst. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 grant application submitted: successful \$110,000 ACS Petroleum Research Fund Grant • Successful fabrication of prototype electrocatalyst • Trained an interdisciplinary team of 3 graduate students and 1 undergraduate student
<p>Development of an Educational, Multiplayer Video Game to Address Environmental Racism and Drive Political and Community Action</p> <p>Julia Whitcavitch-DeVoy (Education & Human Development)</p> <p>Brian Smith (Education & Human Development)</p> <p>Martin Scanlan (Education & Human Development)</p> <p>Mark Cooper David Deese (Art, Art History, & Film) (Political Science)</p>	<p>Building on prior work educating the public about textile pollution, the project developed a game to engage middle school and older students about textile pollution as a public health and environmental racism issue. Additionally, the project developed a policy database on contemporary and historical textile pollution policies, and created a full-day symposium to present research on the issue and ideate solutions. Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a policy database with national, state, local, and industrial policies concerning textile waste and pollution • Completion of 10+ collaborative design-thinking workshops that led to the development and testing of a game prototype • Founded, organized, and hosted the LEAPS 2023 Conference • Trained 3 graduate students and 4 undergraduates • 1 peer-reviewed publication in <i>Waste Management</i> • 10 presentations at local universities and conferences, e.g., at the <i>19th International Symposium on Waste Management, Resource Recovery and Sustainability</i> • 3 public-facing media pieces, including an op-ed published by BU School of Public Health, and 2 interviews

Papers and Presentations by Schiller Institute Staff

The Institute's **first peer-reviewed article about interdisciplinarity** was published in *Innovative Higher Education* this year. The abstract is below and the full article is available on the Schiller Institute Faculty and Staff Research section of our [**website**](#).

In modern higher education, nurturing successful interdisciplinary collaboration is both an institutional priority and a grand organizational and cultural challenge. Recent scholarship describes the many and varied challenges inherent in the enactment of interdisciplinarity; it also explores how these challenges can be mitigated to spur successful interdisciplinary engagement. While much attention has been focused on interdisciplinary scholarship and pedagogy, might interdisciplinary service collaborations also play a role? This qualitative case study probes a particular type of interdisciplinary collaboration—a cross-disciplinary committee convened to hire interdisciplinary faculty members. Using interview and observational data to uncover the lived experiences of committee members across campus at one U.S.-based R1 institution, this study explores service-work as a potential site of positive experience and successful interdisciplinary collaboration. Illuminated by the Shared Cognitive-Emotional-Interactive (SCEI) platform for interdisciplinary research collaboration by Boix Mansilla et al. (2016), findings reveal myriad positive outcomes tied to faculty's service participation, probe the multifaceted reasons that faculty choose to participate, and explore how they experience this work. Analysis also uncovers limited cognitive yet significant emotional and interactive markers of and factors that facilitate a successful interdisciplinary collaborative process. Evidence of these markers and factors serves to “reframe” interdisciplinary service as an instance of successful interdisciplinary collaboration, a site of faculty learning and a context that fosters campus connections among faculty. In uncovering these benefits of interdisciplinary collaborative service, this work suggests ways in which it may serve as a missing link to build and strengthen an interdisciplinary campus community.

In June 2023, Laura J. Steinberg, Seidner Executive Director of the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Thomas Simister, Director of Space Strategies, Payette; and Diana Tsang, Associate Principal, Payette, gave **a peer-reviewed session workshop at the 2023 American Institute of Architects (AIA) conference**. Schiller Institute senior research fellows Kim Nelson Pryor and Gordon Kraft-Todd also contributed to the session, titled Interdisciplinary Academic Buildings: Research & Design. The workshop examined the design of interdisciplinary academic buildings and included a suggested post-occupancy evaluation (POE) survey instrument for interdisciplinary academic buildings. The presentation also included findings from the Interdisciplinary Research Buildings Workshop that the Institute hosted two years ago.

Research-Focused Events

The **Schiller Institute Graduate Student Colloquium Series in the Sciences** provided graduate students with an opportunity to present their research to student peers. The presentations were structured for an audience of scientists outside of the presenters' fields. The program launched during the Spring 2023 semester and included three presenters:



Qiushi Ma

Department of Chemistry

Lecture Title:
The Charge Transport
Mechanism in Porous
Materials for Energy
Application



Sundaresh Bharathi

Department of Biology

Lecture Title:
Bacterial Genomic Profiling
Reveals Novel Routes to
Immune Evasion and Targeted
Therapeutic Strategies



Eliza Greiner

Department of Psychology and
Neuroscience

Lecture Title:
The Neural Circuitries
for the Control of
Feeding during Novelty



Lunch and Learn: Approaching Data Across the Disciplines was a new informal lunch-time seminar series aimed at sharing methodological approaches and building collaborative, data-focused teams for research in the social sciences and humanities. Through presentations from faculty members and graduate students, this series promoted the cross-disciplinary dissemination of research methods, fostered collaboration in the exploration of large-scale data sets, and built the skill sets of faculty and graduate students. The first semester of the program included the following presentations:

Masha Krupenkin, Assistant Professor of Political Science, presented on cell mobility data and measuring the effect of Covid on economic activity.

Saber Khani, Sociology PhD student, presented on web-scraping and creating a database of faculty interests, and scraping news outlets.

Kate Willis, Assistant Director, Data Visualization Lab and **Noah Snyder**, Professor and Department Chair of Earth and Environmental Sciences presented on using geographical information systems (GIS) and geo-based data for landscape and river mapping over time.

Theresa Betancourt, Salem Professor in Global Practice, **Sarah Jensen**, Research Scientist, and **Matias Placencio-Castro**, Manager for Data Analysis (all members of the Research Program on Children and Adversity, School of Social Work) presented on longitudinal data, cluster randomized trial, and early childhood development in a presentation titled "Unpacking broader impact of interventions: Examining spillover effects of a parenting intervention in Rwanda."

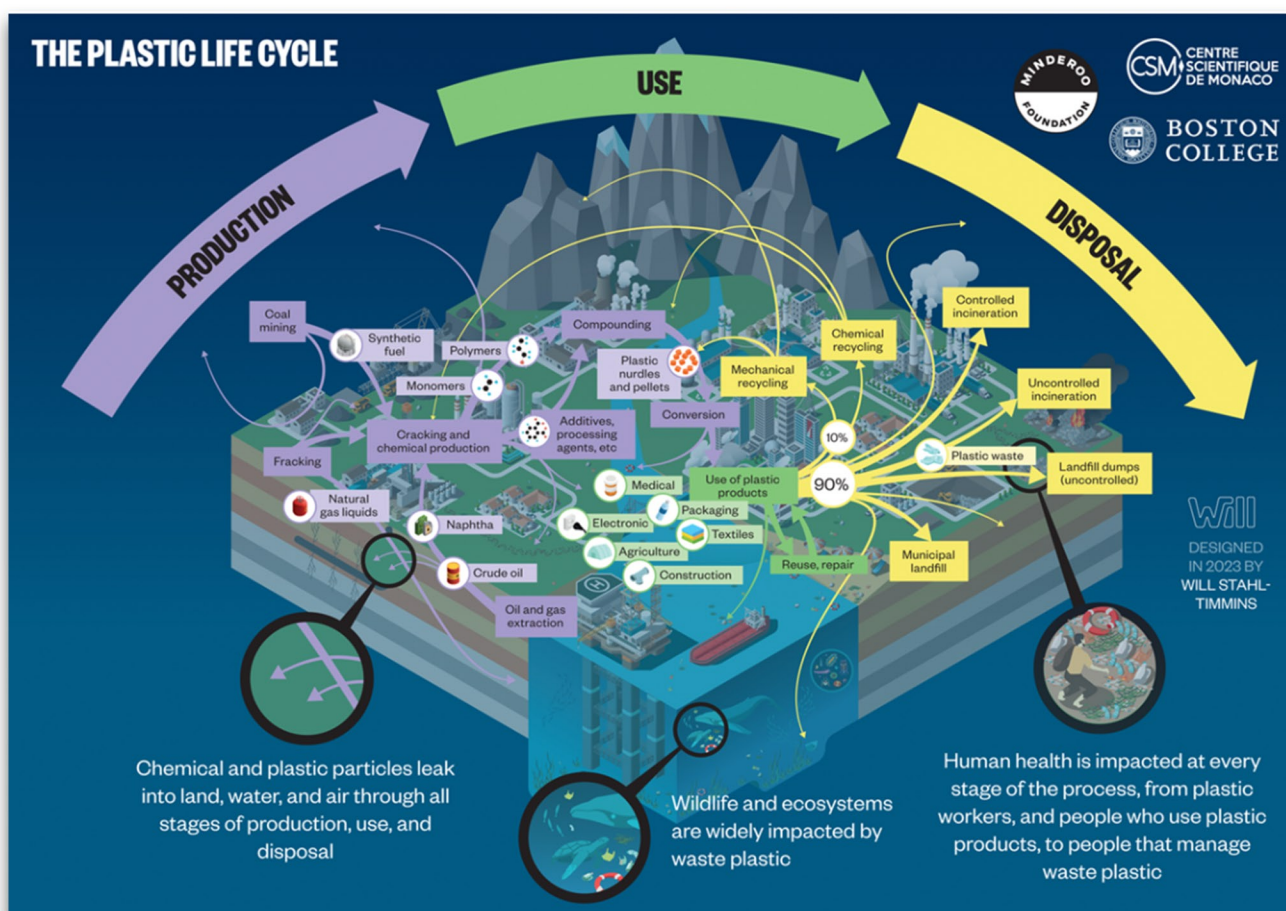


The **Schiller Institute Research Symposia** was a series of four research symposiums, with presentations of work supported by the first year of the Schiller Institute Grants for Exploratory Collaborative Scholarship (SIG ECS). The symposia provided opportunities to showcase the work of our SIG ECS faculty grantees. These collaborations strengthen the quality of projects, uncover synergies across diverse research agendas, and identify future avenues of inquiry.

Global Observatory on Planetary Health

The Global Observatory on Planetary Health is a research center within the Schiller Institute under the direction of Dr. Philip J. Landrigan. The Observatory's work is supported by UN Environment, the Minderoo Foundation, the Centre Scientifique de Monaco, the Barr Foundation, the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation and the A-Team Foundation. In all of its work, the Observatory trains and mentors post-doctoral fellows, undergraduate and graduate students and thus builds capacity in planetary health for future generations.

One of the projects completed in AY23 was the **Minderoo-Monaco Commission on Plastics and Human Health**, which presents a comprehensive analysis of plastics' impacts on human health across its life cycle. It examines direct health impacts, including those caused by chemicals used in plastics, as well as indirect health effects mediated through plastics' damage to the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. The report estimates plastics' health-related economic costs and constructs a framework to support further expansion of these economic analyses. It considers the ethical and moral implications of the unending production, consumption, and disposal of plastics, which fall disproportionately on the poor and disadvantaged, especially in the Global South. Finally, the report identifies knowledge gaps and research needs. The report, along with a special collection of related articles can be found on the [Annals of Global Health website](#).



Credit: Designed in 2022 by Will Stahl-Timmins.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

To prepare the next generation of scholars, advocates and leaders, the Schiller Institute's academic programs and courses offer BC students many opportunities to develop their ability to think in disciplinary-spanning ways and to develop 21st century skills in such areas as communication, data analysis, critical thinking, and global citizenship.

The Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good (GPH&CG)

The program for Global Public Health and the Common Good is directed by Dr. Philip J. Landrigan. Building on the academic minor which began in Fall 2019, the program announced a **new, 12-course academic major** this past winter. The major will launch in September 2023. It will be academically administered by the Connell School of Nursing in strategic partnership with the Schiller Institute.

Both the major and minor require that students apply to join the program. In March 2023, the Global Public Health and Common Good program accepted 54 new minor students and a first official cohort of 18 new major students. Both the major and the minor received strong interest; there were twice as many minor applicants as the program can accept, and three times as many major applicants than could be admitted. As of June 1, 2023, there are 115 students actively enrolled in the minor and 141 have graduated since May 2020 with the official minor.

The program's faculty continues to grow as well. Dr. Ashley Longacre was hired as an Assistant Professor of the Practice in the Connell School of Nursing this past academic year. Dr. Shelley White will join the faculty this upcoming academic year as the Director of Experiential Learning. More information about the program can be found on the **GPHCG website**.

Students from the GPH&CG program presented at the Student Research Day portion of the Hamilton Symposium on Rare Genetic Diseases (pictured below with Dr. Landrigan).



Development of Data Science Curriculum

Seidner Family Executive Director Laura J. Steinberg led a cross-campus committee that was charged to envision the future of data science at Boston College. The committee included representatives from the Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Political Science departments within the Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, along with representatives from the Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, School of Social Work, Woods College of Advancing Studies, and the University Libraries.

The committee provided key feedback on proposals for two new academic programs. The Data Science minor will be administered by the Computer Science and Mathematics departments, and will launch this upcoming academic year. The Data Science masters program will be administered by the Lynch School of Education and Human Development and will debut in Fall 2024.

New Schiller Courses

The Schiller Institute debuted three new courses this academic year, all using the newly created SCHI course code.

SCHI2000: Spatial Data Science and Applications taught students basic concepts of spatial thinking, geospatial technologies, AI and Machine Learning, and a cloud-based platform used to create a Digital Earth. The course was created because we live in a digital and data-intensive era, and geospatial technologies have penetrated every aspect of our lives, from digital maps and location services on our smartphones to managing city infrastructure, natural resources, and the environment. The course was taught by visiting scholar Susan Pan.

SCHI5010: Forging Just, Effective Climate Policy in the UN COP Process is part of the Institute's leadership role in sending BC's delegation to the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP). The one-credit fall semester course provided an academic overview of COP from a historical, political, and social perspective. The course is required for student members of BC's official delegation traveling to the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, and open to other interested students through departmental permission. The course was facilitated by David Storey, Associate Professor of the Practice of Philosophy, and included guest lectures from experts on global public health, the history and political science of climate negotiations, youth activism, and environmental justice. The students also had a special briefing from Catherine Goldberg ('16), Senior Climate Policy Officer, U.S. Department of State. The Institute's role in the COP delegation is discussed further later in the report.





SCH3001&3002: Working For and With Communities: Community Engaged and Project Based Learning for the Common Good is a

multi-faceted course that included weekly class sessions during the spring semester and a three week immersive experience in Siem Reap, Cambodia during the beginning of the summer. This year was the pilot program for the new course model and included eight undergraduate students, along with two faculty members: Tara Casebolt and Russ Powell, both Core Fellows / Visiting Assistant Professors. The weekly course meetings were led by faculty and subject matter experts and prepared students to collaborate within and with a community, as well as to work on two community-identified projects: an initiative to reduce and reuse plastics and a project to create accessible farming environments which allow people with varying abilities, including landmine survivors, to maintain personal gardens and farms. The Institute partnered with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) on the course. The learning objectives for the course included developing an understanding of leadership models that align with community-engaged approaches, to represent Jesuit approaches to engaging with others, and to develop competence in scoping, analyzing and implementing a problem-based solution. The course was designed by Jim West, Assistant Director, Programs for the Schiller Institute.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Schiller Institute offers many opportunities for students to get involved in interdisciplinary programs and events related to energy, environment, and health.

Eagles Sustainability Competition

The **Eagles Sustainability Competition** challenges teams of 3-4 undergraduate students to propose solutions to a sustainability-related issue on BC's campus. The inaugural competition was held in March 2023, and this year's prompt was to address the environmental impact of Boston College Athletics' game days. Teams were required to be interdisciplinary (i.e. at least two different academic majors needed to be represented) and were asked to provide data-driven ideas and solutions. University librarians created a Sustainability Research Guide and led a research information session to help teams develop and research their ideas. Teams presented their projects in 15-minute presentations to a panel of faculty, staff, and alumni judges.

The City Council of Boston College team won the competition and the \$3,000 top prize. The team included junior Fran Hodgens (Accounting for Finance and Consulting, Business Analytics, CSOM) and sophomores Charles Neill (Human Centered Engineering, MCAS) and Faith Drescher (Elementary Education, Applied Psychology, Lynch). The prizes were sponsored by the Schiller Institute, Carroll School of Management, Undergraduate Government Boston College (UGBC), and the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics.



The competition planning committee included Greg Adelsberger, Director, Finance & Operations, Schiller Institute, Josephine Xiong, Associate Director, Undergraduate Program, Carroll School of Management, and three members of the Undergraduate Government Boston College (UGBC) Division of Environmental Sustainability: Giovanna Eichner, Liz Healy, and Brooke Adams. The competition will be back in Spring 2024 with a new prompt.



The Schiller Institute and Carroll School of Management also assisted multiple teams who participated in the Questrom \$50K Sustainability Case Competition at Boston University. One Boston College team made the finals of the competition. The team included an interdisciplinary mix of undergraduate and graduate students: Aditya Rao (BA in Environmental Studies), Sam Slater (MBA), Hilary Nwainya (PhD in Theology), and Nora McSwain (BA in Environmental Studies).



Entrepreneurship

The Institute recognizes the importance of entrepreneurship in solving critical societal issues related to energy, environment, and health. During the year, we began a collaboration with the student club Entrepreneurs for Social Impact, which is sponsored by the Edmund H. Shea Jr. Center for Entrepreneurship. The collaboration produced the following events:

So you want to be a Cleantech Entrepreneur? This panel included speakers from the Boston cleantech entrepreneurship ecosystem, and provided a great learning opportunity for students thinking about starting their own company. Panelists were from Cleantech Open Northeast, which runs the world's largest clean technology accelerator program; Greentown Labs, which is the largest climate tech startup incubator in North America, The Engine, which is a venture capital firm that invests in early-stage companies solving the world's biggest problems, and SparkCharge, which is a startup that created a mobile EV charging system and was featured on Shark Tank. The panelist from SparkCharge was BC alum, Jordan Neerhof, Director of Grants & Government Affairs.



Social Impact Entrepreneurship Series: This series invites entrepreneurs to campus to share their story, specifically focusing on companies that make a social impact. The series featured Mona Potter, MD, Chief Medical Officer at InStride Health and Patricio O'Donnell, Vice President and Head of Translational Medicine at Sage Therapeutics. Dr. Potter strives to bring together the best of academics, technology, and operational efficiencies to offer insurance-based access to care that works. Dr. O'Donnell combines an outstanding academic career in neuroscience with experience in drug discovery and development for neuropsychiatric indications.

Co-sponsored Events

The Institute co-sponsored multiple events organized by and/or for the benefit of students during the year, including:

Halfway to Earth Day. In partnership with student club EcoPledge and the Environmental Studies program, the Institute hosted the first annual Halfway to Earth Day event in October. The volunteer opportunity provided students with an opportunity to plant trees in the West End of Boston.

Environmental Racism Panel. Collaborating with student leaders from the UGBC's Environmental Sustainability branch, the Institute continued its Confronting Environmental Racism series with a panel that featured BC faculty: Lacey Satcher (Assistant Professor of Sociology), Michael Glass (Assistant Professor of History), and Laura Hake (Associate Professor of Biology); and the Reverend Vernon K. Walker (Program Director of Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW)).

Futures Workshop. The Institute partnered with the Environmental Studies program to invite professor Pat Keys from Colorado State University to campus. His work involves "futures," where he studies climate change impacts, human adaptation, and creative scenarios developed through machine learning and science fiction storytelling. Dr. Keys used Boston as a backdrop and climate, health, and regional changes as lenses for workshop participants to explore the nexus of climate, social, and technological change out to 2050 and design the scaffold of a story-based scenario.

Hack the Heights. The Institute once again co-sponsored the Hack The Heights event, which is a hackathon organized by the Computer Science Society at Boston College. The group's goal is to promote coding for students across campus.

Arnold Arboretum walk. The Institute collaborated with the Center for Student Wellness and the Environmental Sustainability division of UGBC for a trip to Arnold Arboretum. Students were provided with a roundtrip bus ride between BC's campus and the Arboretum. The event was part of Mental Health Awareness Week.

ENVS Spring Research Symposium. The Environmental Studies Program hosted its annual spring research symposium in the Schiller Institute Convening Space. The symposium features a poster session where senior environmental studies majors present their senior theses.

CARE course final presentations. In partnership with the Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center, Schiller co-sponsored the Community Advocacy and Research Engagement (CARE) course. The sponsorship included providing funding to the students in the course, to support research expenses. In addition, the final presentations for the course were held in the Schiller Institute Convening Space.

Make-a-thon. The Institute was among several campus partners in BC's first ever make-a-thon. The event was organized by the student organization MakeBC. Similar to the concept of a hackathon, a make-a-thon challenges students to create a physical object in 24 hours. Students were given a choice of four tracks to compete in: Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Developmental Technologies, and Art. Seidner Executive Director Laura J. Steinberg spoke about the importance of innovation and creativity at the event and the Institute sponsored the prize for the Sustainability track, which was judged by Senior Research Fellow Gordon Kraft-Todd.



Poet Laureate

An important part of the Schiller Institute’s mission is to meld the humanistic with the scientific. To address this aspect of our mission, we appointed a Poet Laureate. The first Schiller Poet Laureate is undergraduate student Jesse Julian (MCAS, class of 2026). We first met Jesse when she won the Schiller sponsored prize for the event, What The Constitution Means to Us: A Celebration of Constitution & Citizenship Day. Jesse’s poem from that event can be found below:

it’s still in work today
Jesse Julian

summer, 1787.

fighting for the principle
 protecting liberty for all
 finding direction; what’s right in what is left
 when search and seizure is now considered theft

freedom of speech
 freedom of religion
 freedom of assembly
 freedom to petition

framework for the government
 made with good judgment
 altered with Amendments
 to fix the accidental dents

i live under protection
 away from misdirection
 in this country, i feel safe
 but there’s still so much to change

like women’s rights and healthcare
 and breathing cleaner air
 controlling the pandemic
 and better academics

in fall, 2022.








In her role as Poet Laureate, Jesse wrote a series of beautiful, thought-provoking poetry that served as an introduction to multiple events that the Institute hosted during the year, including our SIGECS Research Symposium and the lunch and learn series. Jesse was also featured as one of the introductory speakers at Cleantech Open Northeast's kickoff event for their annual accelerator program. Her poems can be found on the [Schiller website](#).



Student Employees

The Institute's success is thanks in part to multiple talented student employees.

 <p>Kimberly Black</p>	<p>Kimberly is an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of the Arts in Communications and Film Studies. Her primary responsibilities included marketing and communication support for the Institute. She designed the novelty check presented to the winners of the Eagles Sustainability Competition, and edited the videos of the winning teams. She also designed this annual report.</p>
 <p>Grace Dennis</p>	<p>Grace is an undergraduate student, who graduated in May 2023 with a Bachelor of the Arts in History and Journalism. Her primary responsibilities included marketing and communication support for the Institute. She designed multiple event posters for the Institute, including What the Constitution Means to Us and Dispatches from Sharm, as part of Schiller's programming around COP27.</p>
 <p>Saber Khani</p>	<p>Saber is a Sociology PhD student. He participated in the Institute for Liberal Arts summer 2022 internship program for PhD students in the humanities and qualitative social sciences. Saber's primary project was to create a database of faculty research interests at Boston College, utilizing web scraping and other data collection and analysis techniques.</p>
 <p>Elizabeth Perez</p>	<p>Elizabeth is pursuing a dual degree in the School of Social Work and the School of Theology and Ministry. She is the graduate assistant for the Global Public Health and the Common Good program. She primarily supported communications efforts for the minor, including the bi-weekly newsletter and creating flyers for events.</p>
 <p>Sara Zakaria</p>	<p>Sara is an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of the Arts in Communications. Her primary responsibilities included marketing and communication support for the Institute. She designed the logo for the Eagles Sustainability Competition. She designed multiple event flyers, including everything for the Social Impact Entrepreneurship Series.</p>

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (UN COP)

Boston College is an official Observer Organization for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, also referred to as the Conference of the Parties or COP. This highly influential annual global event serves as the center of global climate change policymaking. Boston College sent a delegation of 20 students, faculty, and staff to COP27, which was held in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt from November 6 – 18, 2022. The Schiller Institute assumed responsibility for all aspects of BC's engagement with COP when Jim West was appointed as the official designated contact point between the UN and BC.

Delegation

The Institute organized a campus-wide application and selection process to choose the delegation. Each year, the UN and the host nation allocate badges to each observer organization. For COP27, BC was allocated 10 badges, which permitted 20 people to attend over the two week conference. Those badges were highly sought after as over 300 students and faculty applied to be part of the delegation. The Institute coordinated a 10-member interdisciplinary committee consisting of faculty, Schiller staff, administrators, and one undergraduate student, to select the Boston College delegation. The applicants were assessed on a variety of criteria with the ultimate goal of selecting a delegation that represents the University through a diversity of disciplines, experience and cultural perspectives.



The delegation traveled in two groups with David Deese (Professor of Political Science) serving as faculty lead for the first group and David Wirth (Professor of Law) and María Piñeros-Leaño (Assistant Professor of Social Work) co-leading the second group. The delegation included two additional faculty members, six graduate students, eight undergraduate students, and Jim West as the staff lead. The delegates represented the Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Law School, School of Social Work, and the Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, including Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies, Global Public Health and the Common Good, International Studies, Political Science, Sociology, and Theology.

New Course: SCHI5010: Forging Just, Effective Climate Policy in the UN COP Process

As noted earlier in this report, the Institute offered a new one-credit course in the fall semester to provide an academic introduction to the Conference of the Parties from a historical, political, and social perspective. The course was required for student delegates and open to other interested undergraduate and graduate students. The course also included skill development, such as practicing an “elevator pitch” so that students could succinctly explain their areas of interest.

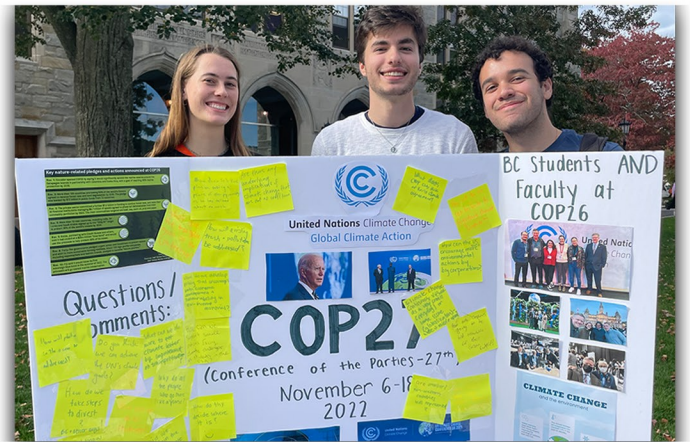
Events and Programming

In accordance with the UN badging process, the University has a limited number of spaces for students and faculty to attend COP every year. The Institute is dedicated to engaging the campus community beyond the delegation on issues related to climate change policymaking and hosted the following events in the lead up to and following the conference:

On the Road to Sharm El Sheikh: BC@UNCOP Series. To increase understanding and awareness of global climate change policy and action, the Schiller Institute hosted an event featuring Somini Sengupta, International Climate Change Correspondent for the New York Times. Sengupta gave a talk and also moderated a panel of BC faculty experts, including Lacey Satcher (Sociology), Hanqin Tian (Schiller Institute and Earth and Environmental Sciences), Sandra Waddock (Business), and David Wirth (Law).



What is BC Doing in Egypt? A Conversation with BC's COP27 Delegates. Members of UGBC's Environmental Sustainability division and undergraduate COP delegates tabled on the quad to provide members of the BC community with an opportunity to share their questions and opinions that they would like the BC delegation to address while attending the conference.



Dispatches from Sharm. The dispatches provided interested members of the BC community the opportunity to hear from the student and faculty delegates representing BC in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt while at the UN Climate Conference. The delegates shared their on-the-ground perspective and answered questions from the conference.

COP27 Faculty Panel: Do the UN Climate Change COPs Make a Difference? BC faculty delegates who attended COP27 discussed the accomplishments and setbacks of COP27 and the UN COPs in general.

Climate Change Teach In. A group of graduate student delegates hosted a “teach in,” which is an informal learning opportunity. The students taught a group of students about the areas they tracked during COP27, which gave delegates the opportunity to share about the topics they were most passionate about in a more robust manner.

COP28 Information Session. To increase awareness of COP and encourage students to apply to future COP delegations, the Institute hosted an application information session with members of the COP27 delegation.

EVENTS

In addition to the events noted previously in the report, the Schiller Institute hosted and co-sponsored many additional events during the academic year. These events are designed to bring members of the campus community together and to generate conversation about energy, environment, and health.

Events hosted by the Schiller Institute

A defining feature of the Institute is its identity as a place which draws upon and supports the expertise and perspectives of faculty across all of Boston College's departments, schools and colleges. The **Schiller Institute Welcome Celebration for New Faculty** invited all new faculty members at Boston College to enjoy a cocktail reception and hor d'oeuvres with colleagues, mingle with Institute faculty and staff, and learn about the Institute's programs and grants. During the fall and spring semesters, we hosted a series of **Schiller Institute Faculty Social Hours**. Each event had a specific theme and provided faculty members with an informal social setting to connect about similar research and pedagogical interests. The themes this year were Climate Change, the Energy Transition to Clean Energy, and Water Scarcity; Data Science, Data Analytics, and Data for the Common Good; Health, Food Insecurity, and Environmental Pollution; Community Engaged Research and Pedagogy; Science and the Integration of the Scientific Disciplines; and Climate Change: Adaptation, Impact, and Science.



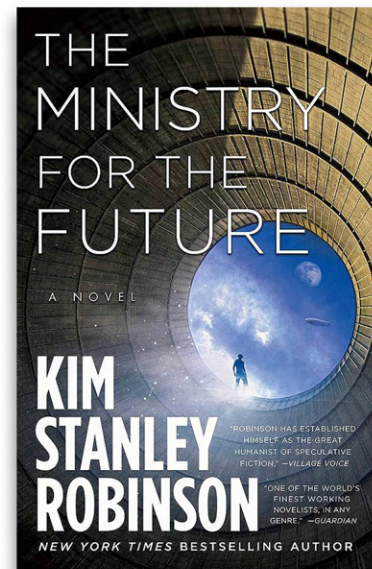
The **Schiller Institute Distinguished Lecture Series** debuted this year. The first lecture featured Dr. L. Ruby Leung, a Battelle Fellow at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and a member of the National Academy of Engineering, who spoke about earth system modeling for actionable science. The second lecture was by Dr. Fei-Fei Jin, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Hawaii at Manoa, who spoke on quantifying global warming sensitivity and El Niño-Southern Oscillation instability.

Co-sponsored Events

In addition to events hosted by the Institute, we co-sponsored many exciting events with campus partners throughout the year. These events included:

What The Constitution Means to Us: A Celebration of Constitution & Citizenship Day. Since the founding of the United States, the American Constitution has been central to our public life. It has inspired hope, and it has provoked despair. It has remained in place, as few other national constitutions have. Yet it has also repeatedly been changed, and some today think it needs to change again. At a moment when its basic meaning seems more contested than ever, how should we look at the Constitution today? This was the question at the center of “What the Constitution Means to Us,” the Clough Center’s first annual celebration of Constitution and Citizenship day. Loosely inspired by Heidi Schreck’s award-winning play, this event featured a panel of eight cross-disciplinary scholars from Boston College faculty. It also showcased the work of select undergraduate and graduate students from across the College’s schools. The Schiller Institute sponsored the prize for the best student submission related to energy, environment, or health, which was awarded to first year student Jesse Julian for her poem it’s still in work today.

Kim Stanley Robinson: The Future of Climate, Technology, and Society. Kim Stanley Robinson is an American science fiction writer and spoke as part of the *Lowell Humanities Series*. David Storey, Associate Professor of the Practice of Philosophy, met Robinson while attending COP26 as a member of BC’s first COP delegation. That connection ultimately led to Robinson’s visit to campus where he spoke about many aspects of climate change and his book, *The Ministry for the Future*.



Film Screening: The U-Boat and the Rocket: The Fate of Two German Brothers in Postwar America. The documentary is a collaboration between film makers and scientists examining a story that focuses on the aftermath of World War II in the area of science and ethics.

American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting. Along with the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Institute co-sponsored the opening reception of the American Society for Environmental History annual meeting, which was held in Boston. Professor Conevery Bolton Valencius and Associate Professor Ling Zhang were instrumental in the development of the conference.

Global Engagement Portal. The Global Engagement Portal is an immersive, high-definition internet video connection that joins two small rooms across the world to provide a sense of spatial continuity, allowing participants to engage with one another naturally, at real-life size, making eye contact. The Schiller Institute co-sponsored the portal, which included sessions with conservationists about climate action and youth climate activists from East Africa. These speakers and portal attendees discussed how the climate crisis is impacting communities similarly and differently, and strategies for taking action on climate.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

The Schiller Institute is committed to building community on campus. These efforts include events among the departments in 245 Beacon Street, activities that are inclusive of all BC faculty, students, and staff, and programs that share what we have learned about creating community on and off campus.

2023 Boston College Diversity and Inclusion Summit

Schiller Institute faculty and staff led a panel titled “**Building Community through the Schiller Institute**” during the 2023 BC Diversity and Inclusion Summit. Our panel session covered the various programs, courses, and research by the Schiller Institute that further the Diversity and Inclusion Summit theme of “Power of Community: Growing Our Capacity for Compassionate Belonging.” Attendees learned about Schiller’s efforts and discussed how to adapt these initiatives to their own context in order to positively affect their own sphere of influence at Boston College. Attendees were invited to hold themselves accountable by staying in touch with Institute staff while creating new programs or initiatives that deepen a sense of belonging or increase intercultural knowledge.

Passport to Innovation

We continued the popular **Passport to Innovation** program during the Fall 2023 semester. The program encourages students to explore all neighborhoods of 245 Beacon Street, helping them learn about the departments and activities in the building. Participants “traveled” through the building by completing a task designed by each of the seven departments in the building. For each completed task, students received a stamp and became eligible for a prize at the end of the competition. The Passport will return in Fall 2024 and more details can be found on the [Institute website](#).

Activities to Build Community

To further its relationship with the other departments in the building, the Institute organized activities to interact with each other in informal settings. The Institute formed the 245 Beacon’s **Walk Across Campus** team, which participated in the eponymous university-wide wellness initiative to encourage employees to be active. In the lead up to the Kim Stanley Robinson event mentioned earlier, the Institute provided copies of *The Ministry for the Future* for building occupants and other interested faculty, students, and staff, and hosted a **book club** to generate excitement and conversation in advance of his speaking event. The Institute also organized a **thank you event for student employees** in the building. Student employees were invited to stop by for a treat during one of the study days as a way for staff throughout the building to thank them for their work during the year.

The Institute was also featured at the **formal unveiling of 245 Beacon Street**. In September 2023, hundreds of Boston College trustees, benefactors, faculty, staff, and students attended an evening headlined by Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Romer (now the Seidner University Professor in the Carroll School of Management), a panel showcasing new Schiller Core faculty and other faculty members from the building, and presentations by faculty and students.

