



Get The Scoop!

We hope you had a lovely weekend and happy belated Valentine's Day! 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 Kaley!

Kaley McCarty grew up in Huntington Beach, California and spent her twenties in Eugene, Oregon, where she earned a BS in environmental studies at University of Oregon (as a fourth-

generation female Duck!). Following graduation, she discovered her passion for higher education working as the Undergraduate Coordinator for UO's international and area studies programs.

Kaley joined the Schiller Institute as the Assistant Director of Programs in February 2024. While new to the Institute, she is not new to the Boston College community, having moved to Boston in August of 2020 to pursue a graduate degree in sociology, focusing on environmental sociology. She is thrilled to be working at the Institute where she can combine her passions of the environment, climate change, and mental health – though her hands-down favorite part of the role is being able to work with so many thoughtful, caring, and engaged students!

In her free time, Kaley loves spending as much time as possible outdoors, enjoying hiking, backpacking, kayaking, and walking along the Charles. She also enjoys traveling (something she is grateful to be able to do in her role at the Institute!), singing, writing, board games, puzzles, trivia, and a recently discovered love of Star Trek. A fun fact about Kaley is that in pursuit of her dream of exploring "vanlife," she purchased a school bus that she intended to convert when she was 19 before owning a 1975 pop-top VW camper bus for a few years. Though that lifestyle didn't fully materialize then, she still hopes to pursue it in some capacity in the future.



Meet our team!

Course Spotlight:

**SCH3040: Health and the Environment:
People, Policy, and Technology**



This course explores the connection between environmental factors and human health, with a particular focus on the impacts of pollution, climate change, and changes to ecosystems.

Students will examine how these environmental issues affect public health and analyze the roles of public response, policy, and technology in mitigating health risks.

The course is divided into three key areas: Pollution and Health, Climate Change and Health, and Ecosystem Changes and Health. Using an interdisciplinary approach, students will engage with scientific research, real-life case studies, and policy discussions to gain a thorough understanding of environmental health challenges and their solutions.

What Are Schiller Students Up To?



Hi! My name is Elliana and I am the current president of the Schiller Institute's Student Board! I am graduating this May with a double major in Management and Environmental Studies. After I graduate I will be heading home to Phoenix where I'll be attending law school at Arizona State University. I plan on focusing on environmental law with a specific interest in water law!

Currently, I also work in corporate sustainability and environmental compliance as an intern at Sundt. Sundt is a construction company and general contractor with projects all over the country.

They specialize in a wide range of projects from advanced technologies (like Semiconductors and water treatment), mining and industrial, transportation, and traditional building projects. Sundt has received many awards for innovations in sustainable construction and are leaders in green building practices.

Construction is often an overlooked industry, especially for women, I certainly knew very little about it before I started this role. I have really grown to love the complexity and opportunities within the industry though, and recommend looking into it for others who are interested in making a real impact in sustainability and environmental practices.

...And Where Are They Now?

Hello! My name is Thalia Chaves, and I graduated in May 2024 from Boston College with a B.A. in International Studies (concentration in Political Economy and Development Studies), and a minor in Management for Social Impact and Public Good. I have always felt very passionate about environmental advocacy, starting from being told about “the bad men burning the lungs of our Earth,” from my grandmother when I would visit her in Brazil. As I learned more and more about how corporate greed was destroying not only the Amazon rainforest, but our oceans, our marine and animal life, public health, and more, I could not stop thinking about how we could possibly address the climate crisis.



In Schiller, I found my first “home” on campus. I found invaluable mentors in older members of my delegation, Schiller staff, and true friends, especially once I joined the Schiller Student Board. I am now working as a Program Assistant within the Strategic Litigation Program at the Conservation Law Foundation in Boston. In my role, I have been at the forefront of groundbreaking climate litigation against Shell Oil, directly contributing to efforts that hold major polluters accountable--something freshman Thalia could have only dreamed of. As I look to the future, I am eager to continue to explore the role I can play in the fight against climate change, likely

from a legal perspective. I am so grateful for the role the Schiller institute played in making Boston college feel like a place where I belonged and where I cultivated my future calling.

So if you have any interest in any of the Schiller Institute's programs, please do not take yourself out of the running. Do not tell yourself no, because you haven't even given them a chance to tell you yes.

If you would like to connect to discuss any of my experiences, get any advice, or just want to chat, please reach out to me! My email is thaliachaves2002@gmail.com.

With love, Thalia Chaves.

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



Pictured here from left to right: Thalia Chaves, Munachi Onyiuke, Elliana Steely, Hayoung Cho

Our Poet Laureate



In honor of Black History Month, I chose to highlight a Black poet that particularly inspires me for her commitment to activism and justice through the humanities. Amanda Gorman is an award-winning writer, cum laude graduate of Harvard University, and inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate. She focuses on issues of race, marginalization and oppression, feminism, and African diaspora.

One of her most notable spoken word performances occurred at the 2021 presidential inauguration, in which she delivered “The Hill We Climb.” By analyzing her work from an eco-poetic lens, I aim to illuminate the nuances of her writing and commentary, and how this calls upon ideas of ecological justice and appreciation for the planet.

-- **Jesse Julian**

[Read Jesse Julian's Analysis](#)

Upcoming Events

Updated Location for tomorrow's Distinguished Lecture featuring Mounqi Bawendi



We're excited to announce that we've had so much interest in tomorrow's Distinguished Lecture by Nobel prize winner and MIT professor, Mounqi Bawendi, that we've changed locations to a bigger venue! Please note that **tomorrow's (Feb 19) 12pm talk will now be held in Stokes S195.**

Bawendi is renowned for his pioneering work in nanoscience, particularly in quantum dots – one of the first engineered nano-materials – which have become ubiquitous in displays and other applications. Their properties intrinsically reflect the magic of quantum mechanics. In his talk "My Life in Science: Why quantum mechanics is fascinating and how it is changing our world," Bawendi will discuss their origin story, development, and applications during a span of almost 4 decades, as well as his own journey of

scientific exploration. This story reflects the importance of curiosity driven science to propel innovation and technological progress. We hope to see you there!

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

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

Global Conversations Presentation ft. Esquire Henry

The Global Conversations program is hosting its first session of the semester next Thursday, **February 20th, from 4-5pm in the Schiller Institute Convening Space (Rm 501) at 245 Beacon Street!** Get the opportunity to have a special in-person conversation with climate activist Esquire Henry from Antigua, who will serve as the keynote speaker at the Schiller Institute's COP29 Symposium, the following day. Mr. Henry is an advocate for climate justice and sustainability in the Caribbean region and around the world; this is a great opportunity for students with an interest in climate issues, the Caribbean region, and international youth social movements.

For questions, please email
global.conversations@bc.edu

[Read About Esquire Henry](#)

[Sign Up Here!](#)



oSTEM Event with The Hatchery

The poster for the 'oSTEM@BC SCREEN PRINTING' event has a white background with a colorful, abstract pattern of dots and lines in shades of purple, pink, and blue. At the top, the text 'oSTEM@BC' is written in a playful, multi-colored font. Below that, 'SCREEN PRINTING' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. To the right of the text is a simple line drawing of a tote bag. The event details are listed in blue text: 'Thursday, February 20', 'Hatchery Makerspace,', '2nd floor', and '6pm-9pm'. There are two QR codes: one on the left with the text 'Sign up here!' below it, and one on the right with the text 'Complete the Makerspace Orientation' below it. At the bottom, it says 'Questions? Email yurcisin@bc.edu' and 'Follow us on IG: @ostembc'.

Join oSTEM in the Hatchery for screen printing on your very own tote bag!

Make sure to do your Hatchery training before the event. We hope to see you there!

Sign Up 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.



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](#)

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. Click on the Discover Boston College button below to listen to two upcoming podcast episodes that will be released today, Feb 18th, and Thursday, Feb 20th to hear directly from our COP delegates about their experiences and what to expect about the symposium. We hope to see you there!

[Listen to the Podcasts 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.

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!

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

[Sign up here](#)



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