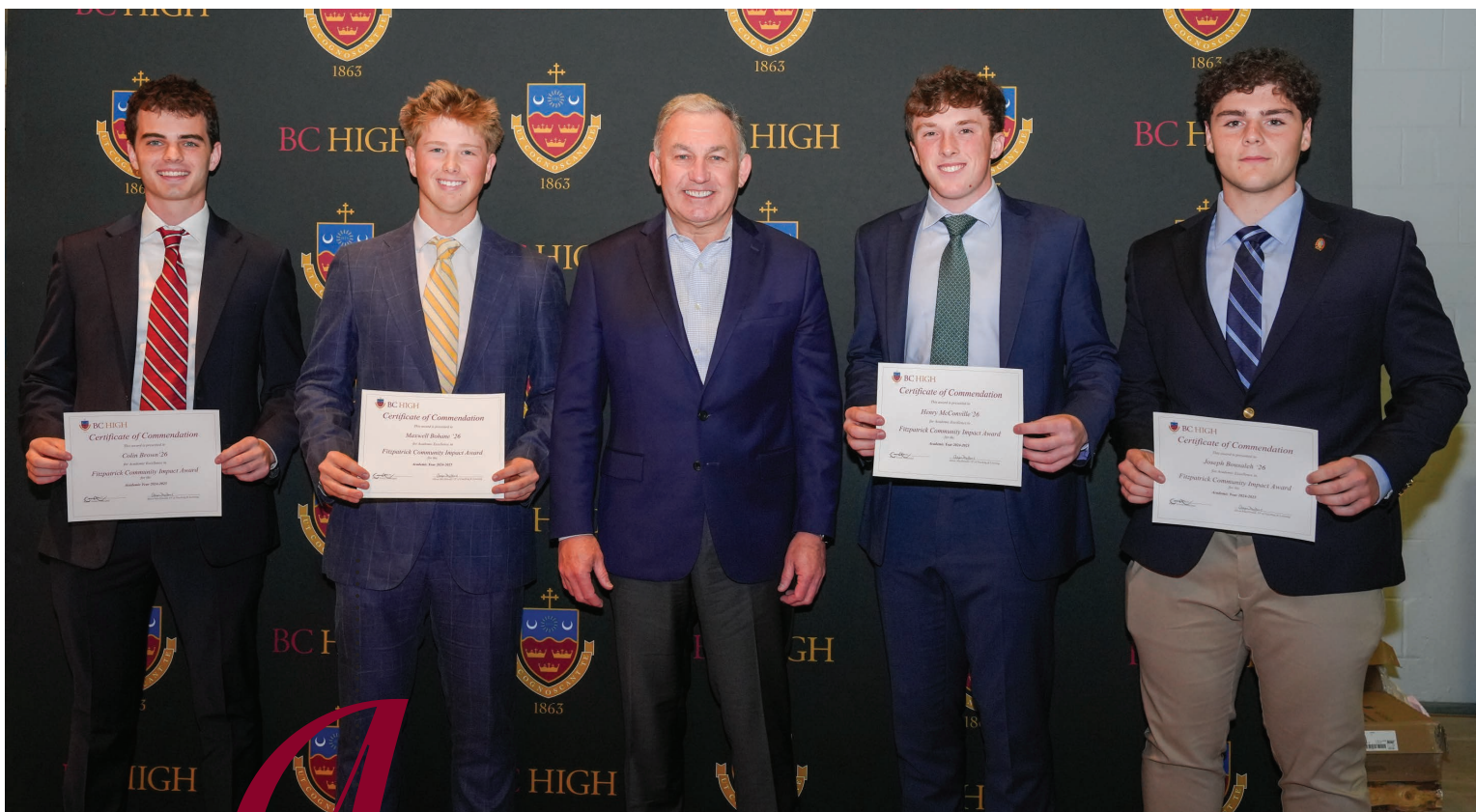


LEADING *the Way:*

MEET THE INAUGURAL WINNERS OF THE

Marianne Emerton Fitzpatrick Award

TO BENEFIT **EMERGING LEADERSHIP**



“As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, ‘To leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.’ That’s what I hope to do — bring communities together and leave them better than I found them.”

— Colin Brown '26

At BC High, a new tradition has been established — one that honors the legacy of **Marianne Emerton Fitzpatrick** by empowering students to lead with empathy, courage, and a deep commitment to community. Through the generosity of her husband, **Bob**, and sons, **Dylan '23** and **Shane '23**, the Marianne Emerton Fitzpatrick Award to Benefit Emerging Leadership, was established to celebrate Marianne’s adventurous spirit and steadfast compassion. It recognizes juniors who have already shown a remarkable dedication to service and leadership. This year, three projects — each as unique as the students behind them — have been selected for the inaugural award, promising to leave a lasting mark on their communities.

Honoring a Legacy, Inspiring a Future

The Fitzpatrick Award is more than a recognition; it’s a call to action. Recipients are challenged to identify a concrete need in their local community — whether at BC High, in Boston, or their hometown — and to design a project with a clear beginning, process, and end. The goal: to make a real, measurable difference, and to inspire others to do the same.

This year’s winners — **Colin Brown '26**, Miki House, **Max Bohane '26**, Faber House, and the team of **Joseph Bousaleh '26**, Cizsek House, and **Henry McConville '26**, Day House — embody the very essence of the award. Their projects reflect not only their personal passions, but also a profound sense of responsibility to those around them.



COLIN BROWN '26:

Restoring Wellness, One Court at a Time

For **Colin Brown**, leadership is about rolling up your sleeves and making a tangible difference. His project, inspired by years spent playing basketball in Milton, Hyde Park, and Mattapan, aims to create clean, well-equipped wellness spaces in neighborhoods where athletic facilities are often neglected.

“Growing up, I always noticed the quality of the courts I played on,” Colin shares. “Often the court would be in disrepair with no net on the rim or cracks in the concrete. I’ve realized how unfair it is that kids in nicer towns have access to better athletic areas.”

Colin’s plan is both ambitious and deeply thoughtful. He will begin by meeting with town council members to identify the greatest needs, then use his award to partner with local businesses and volunteers to repair and enhance outdoor spaces. Improvements will range from painting new lines on courts and adding seating, to ensuring water fountains are clean and installing fitness instructional signs. Sustainability is key: Colin envisions an “Adopt-A-Space” program, inviting BC High alumni and community members to help maintain these spaces for years to come.

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MAX BOHANE '26:

Making Friends, Making Memories

Seventeen-year-old **Max Bohane**’s journey began with a simple act of kindness. During the pandemic, he started his “Love Letter” project, sending handwritten notes to isolated seniors and frontline workers. The response was overwhelming, and Max saw firsthand the power of a heartfelt message.

Now, Max’s “Pen Pal Project” connects students from Plymouth River School in

Hingham with residents of The Cordwainer, a local memory care facility. Using notecards he designed himself – purple for dementia awareness, with hands forming a heart – students and seniors exchange letters, forging friendships that transcend generations.

“Having had a great aunt who suffered from dementia, I know pictures can aid in jogging one’s memory,” Max explains. “The design of the card helps residents recognize their pen pals and feel comfort and joy.”

The project has blossomed, culminating in an annual ice cream social where pen pals meet face-to-face. Max has funded the project out of his own pocket, with his mother acting as the “mailman.” With the Fitzpatrick Award, he hopes to expand the program, cover printing and mailing costs, and sponsor more intergenerational activities – like a painting class led by Max himself.

“I think we all need more connection with the elderly in our community,” Max says. “They have given so much to form the community we live in, and we should be eager to keep them included and relevant.”



JOSEPH BOUSALEH '26 & HENRY McCONVILLE '26:

Illuminating Lives, Honoring the Forgotten

For **Joseph Bousaleh** and **Henry McConville**, leadership is about dignity and remembrance. Their project, “Illuminating Lives: Restoring the Headstones of the Forgotten,” was inspired by their work with the Lazarus Ministry, which provides funerals for those who die without family or resources.

“We want to maintain the dignity of all people even after death,” they write. “Oftentimes headstones, especially of those with few remaining family members, can become weathered and neglected, marring the memory of the deceased.”

Joseph and Henry will dedicate their summer to restoring headstones at Milton Cemetery, where they have personal connections. Armed with sponges, brushes, and buckets, they will clean and polish as many as 5,000 headstones – by hand, as a true act of service. Each restoration will be accompanied by a prayer, honoring the life and memory of the deceased.

“I think we all need more connection with the elderly in our community. They have given so much to form the community we live in, and we should be eager to keep them included and relevant.”

— Max Bohane '26

“If this initiative proves fruitful, we hope to partner with the CIIF to offer headstone cleaning as a means of fulfilling service requirements for other students,” they add. “By cleaning headstones, we honor God by honoring others, and at BC High, we are called to do all ‘Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.’”

A Ripple Effect of Leadership

As these students embark on their projects, they carry with them not only the support of the Fitzpatrick Award, but the hopes of a community eager to see what the next generation of leaders can achieve. Their work is a reminder that leadership is not defined by titles or accolades, but by the willingness to step up, to serve, and to inspire others to do the same.

The Marianne Emerton Fitzpatrick Award to Benefit Emerging Leadership is more than a recognition of past achievements – it is an investment in the future. And if this year’s winners are any indication, that future is in very good hands. ■

“By cleaning headstones, we honor God by honoring others, and at BC High, we are called to do all, Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.”

— Joseph Bousaleh '26,
Henry McConville '26