



BENTLEY **FirstGen** **Presidential Fellows**

Our Fall Semester in Review

Fall is always an energizing time in the First Gen Presidential Fellows Program, marking new beginnings, renewed purpose, and continued growth. This past fall was no exception as we proudly welcomed 15 new first-year fellows, students who bring curiosity, ambition, and promise as they begin their college journeys. Our fellows continued to live out the program's core pillars of community, curriculum, and leadership. Students engaged in service-learning projects, led student organizations, secured internships, conducted research, attended conferences, and even studied abroad, all while supporting and learning from one another.

This semester was also personally meaningful as I stepped into the role of Director of the First Gen Presidential Fellows Program. It has been both an honor and a responsibility that I hold with deep gratitude. FPF is a program I feel strongly connected to, not only because of its mission, but because of the ways it uplifts first-generation students and affirms their identities as sources of strength, leadership, and

resilience.

As we look ahead to the spring semester, we do so with both excitement and reflection. We prepare to celebrate our seniors as we graduate our third FPF cohort, while continuing to support our younger fellows as they step into new leadership opportunities. Thank you for being part of the FPF journey. We hope this newsletter offers a meaningful glimpse into the impact of our community.

—Isa Beltre Soto
FPF Faculty Director

FPF Fall Highlights





Welcoming our newest cohort

Haley Carlin and Katie Quizhpi

A warm welcome and celebration to our new FPF freshman cohort! Our onboarding event marked an exciting start to the semester, giving incoming Fellows the perfect opportunity to meet and connect with their peers, begin building meaningful relationships, and get to know the FPF community. Attendees received important information about financial aid, explored ways to make the most of their FPF experience, and enjoyed a variety of fun games and activities that encouraged teamwork and laughter. The day concluded with a delicious barbecue, providing a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to continue conversations and celebrate the start of a new academic journey.

ADCOLOR Conference

Brianna Boateng

Walking into a space intentionally built to celebrate and elevate people of color across media, tech, and culture felt grounding. It reminded me why I care so deeply about creating experiences and opportunities for our communities, and why representation in these rooms matters so much. One of the biggest highlights for me was meeting Tiffany R. Warren, the Founder of ADCOLOR. We connected over the fact that soon we'll both be Bentley alum! Seeing someone who walked the same campus halls I currently walk, and went on to build something this impactful, was incredibly motivational. As someone who wants to work in social entrepreneurship, this hit home. I want to build things that actually shift realities for people all across the diaspora. Being in rooms where mission-driven founders and creatives from companies like Kensington Grey and Mielle Organics are pushing boundaries made that vision feel even more possible.



Tri-Alpha Induction

Brianna Boateng

Bentley University proudly celebrated its FirstGen students as they were inducted into Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha), the national honor society for first-generation scholars. This milestone event recognized the academic excellence and resilience of Beyonce Duverge, Brianna

Boateng, Daniela Martinez, Kate Ayala, Katie Quizhphi, Sarai Muniz and Joseph Wright. By joining Tri-Alpha, our FPF students not only receive well-deserved recognition for their achievements but also become part of a supportive network that fosters leadership, mentorship, and community engagement. The induction ceremony highlighted Bentley's commitment to empowering first-generation students and creating a strong sense of belonging, ensuring they have the resources and connections to thrive both academically and personally.



Experiential Learning in Action: Fashion, Fieldwork and First Years

Our first-year fellows took learning beyond the classroom during a Falcon Discovery Seminar (FDS) field trip to explore fast fashion firsthand. Students visited fast fashion retailers to research the “Wicked Problem” of sustainability and examine how marketing influences consumer behavior and industry practices. Working in groups, they created short videos connecting what they observed in stores to key concepts from class. We wrapped up the afternoon at Shake Shack, where students reflected on their findings, shared laughs, and continued the conversation in a relaxed setting. The experience was not only academically engaging but also a great bonding moment for the class, and for some students, it was even their first subway ride into Boston.



Deloitte Mentorship Program

Beyoncé Duverge

The Deloitte/Bentley Honors Mentorship Program has benefited me tremendously as a first-generation college student by connecting me with my mentor who supports both my academic and professional growth. She has guided me through questions I've had about what employers look for in interns, how to prepare for interviews, and how to strengthen my resume. Academically, having a mentor in the same major has been especially helpful. Whenever I've struggled with a subject, she has shared resources and strategies that've helped me better understand the assignment. Beyond one-on-one mentorship, the program has also allowed me to network with other professionals with an abundance of experience and advice. These interactions deepen my understanding of the accounting field and help me envision the kind of career I want to build. The program has played a meaningful role in my life, and I'm grateful for the support and opportunities it has provided.



Student Success

We are proud of our many fellows whose academic achievement qualified them for the President's List and Dean's list this past fall semester!

FPF Fellows Who Made the President's List and Dean's List Fall 2025

President's List (Minimum GPA 3.7)

Ariel Arias

Diana Buenrostro

Maria Clara Paradela

Stacey Correa

Bee Gachohi

Joani Guerrero

Aliyah Isaacs

Daniela Martinez

Yulianna Huertas Ortiz

Winifer Perez

Dawyn Urbaez
Amya Washington
Joseph Wright

Dean's List (Minimum GPA 3.3)

Stacy Alexandre
Hamdi Ali
Brenda Asevedo
Gerardo Ayala
Kate Ayala
Brandon Beltre
Luiz Gustavo Bernardes
Brianna Boateng

Isabel Castillo
Jorel Chavez-Green
Socheata Chea
Kevin Cruz
Beyonce Duverge
Diego Gutierrez
Meryem Hakkaoui
Mariam Kalembe

Kimberly Vasquez Lozano
Yarelin Merida
Sarai Muniz
Jouseth Paredes

Conversations with Upper Level Students+ FPF Alumna

A panel brought together first-year students with upper-level multigen students as a mid-semester check-in to support their college journey. This engaging event featured upper-level students sharing real experiences—from overcoming challenges to discovering unexpected opportunities. First-year students had the chance to connect with peers, ask questions, and learn from those who experienced a similar path. They gained practical advice, heard authentic stories, and received words of encouragement. First years walked away with fresh ideas, helpful strategies, and a reminder that there is no single path to success—just the many ways to make the most of their time at Bentley University.

Among the panelists was Joani Guerrero, a second-year FPF student and peer leader in the Falcon Discovery Seminar, who shared her heartfelt journey at Bentley. She highlighted how she embraced the many opportunities available on campus and continues to build meaningful connections that enrich her college experience.

FPF alumna Dayana Gamboni '24, now Marketing Manager at LIV Salon, provided invaluable advice on overcoming challenges and creating opportunities beyond Bentley. Their stories inspired attendees to explore diverse paths and maximize their Bentley experience.



Community Connections

Family Fued, Friendsgiving and Holiday Party

Haley Carlin and Katie Quizhpi

FPF Fellows came together for an unforgettable evening at our Family Feud event! The room buzzed with excitement as students formed dynamic teams, ready to put their quick thinking and creativity to the test. Each round brought lively competition, clever answers, and plenty of surprises, all in a spirited and welcoming atmosphere. Beyond the game, the event fostered a strong sense of community, giving Fellows

the chance to build connections, strengthen relationships, and feel supported within the FirstGen family. This night wasn't just about fun—it was about creating lasting bonds and shared memories. FPFers also came together and organized a friendsgiving and holiday gathering for the program to enjoy!



Notes from the Field

Study Abroad Experiences: Iridiana Arizmendi and Julenio Reinoso

Iridiana: I am currently studying abroad in Rome, Italy for Fall '25. I have spent my time traveling, trying new foods, meeting new people, immersing myself into new cultures, and most importantly, making

memories. Exploring a new side of the world and saying yes to everything has been my motto going through this experience which has helped me create unforgettable stories to look back to. As a firstgen student, it was definitely a challenge leaving the country for the first time and across the globe but I knew how much I have dreamed about studying abroad which was since middle school. Growing up while learning about the importance of education and exploring has built me into the person I am today. FPF has been one of the cores to make this study abroad experience run smoothly with both financial and moral support.

Julenio: My study abroad experience has been incredibly rewarding and eye-opening. Living and studying in Singapore has allowed me to immerse myself in a new culture while gaining a global perspective on business, sustainability, and everyday life. I've learned how different countries approach transportation, urban planning, and environmental responsibility, which has expanded how I think about problem-solving and innovation. Outside of academics, traveling throughout Southeast Asia has helped me grow personally by becoming more independent, adaptable, and open-minded. This experience has strengthened my confidence and will undoubtedly influence how I approach my studies, career, and future goals.



Thank you to our FPF Community

The FPF Program extends its heartfelt gratitude to the faculty and staff of Bentley University for their unwavering support and encouragement. Your dedication has played a vital role in the success of both the program and our fellows. We are especially grateful to the Multicultural Center, Academic Advising and Coaching, Student Financial Services, the Cronin Office for International Education, Tri Alpha, the Pulsifer Career Development Center, Student Affairs, and everyone on the First-Gen Student Support Committee. Your expertise, collaboration, and commitment to our FPF fellows continue to make a meaningful impact, and we deeply appreciate all that you do for them.

We are deeply grateful to our generous donors for their continued

support and belief in our mission. Your contributions have a lasting impact on our students' academic journeys and the growth of our program. Thank you for being part of the FPF family as we look forward to another successful year ahead!

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BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

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