HISTORIAN AND AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR DAVID McCULLOUGH TO DELIVER 2008 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS MAY 19

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (May 2008) -- Award-winning historian David McCullough, author of the critically acclaimed and best-selling books 1776 and John Adams, will address the Boston College Class of 2008 at Commencement Exercises on Monday, May 19 at 10 a.m. in Alumni Stadium (rain location: Conte Forum). Some 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students will receive Boston College diplomas at ceremonies that day.

Boston College President William P. Leahy, SJ, will present McCullough with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Also receiving honorary degrees at this year’s Commencement are: Brother Celestino Arias, OFM Cap., whose ministry has included youth empowerment in Boston and combating AIDS/HIV in Africa (Doctor of Social Science); American Association of Retired Persons President-elect Jennie Chin Hansen, (Doctor of Nursing Science); Boston College Trustee Associate and former Federal Communications Commission member Anne P. Jones (Doctor of Laws); and Boston College Vice President and Special Assistant to the President William B. Neenan, SJ (Doctor of Humane Letters).

David McCullough has been widely acclaimed as a "master of the art of narrative history" and "a matchless writer" who has won two National Book Awards and two Pulitzer Prizes for his best-selling historical volumes. His books have been praised for their scholarship, their understanding of American life, their "vibrant prose," and insight into individual character. His most recent book, 1776, is a New York Times No. 1 best seller in both hardcover and paperback, with more than three million copies in print. His previous work, John Adams, remains one of the most critically acclaimed and widely read American biographies of all time. It is presently in its 63rd printing and is the basis for a seven-part series on HBO.

In his career, McCullough has been an editor, essayist, teacher, lecturer and familiar presence on public television – as host of "Smithsonian World," "The American Experience," and narrator of numerous documentaries including "The Civil War." McCullough's other books include The Johnstown Flood, The Great Bridge, The Path Between the Seas, Mornings on Horseback, Brave Companions and Truman. In addition to his many literary and historical honors, in 2006 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award.

Brother Celestino Arias is more commonly known as "Brother Tino" on some of the toughest streets of urban Boston and New York City, as well as the far corners of East Africa and South America. Born in New York and raised in Spain, Brother Arias has devoted his life to his Catholic faith and service as a teacher, humanitarian and advocate of the poor and marginalized. He entered the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin in 1990, after graduating from BC with dual degrees in history and philosophy, and fulfilled his post-novitiate formation.
requirements at BC and Maryknoll School of Theology. He holds a master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

In 2000, Brother Arias built the Catholic Charities Cape Verdean program in Boston from the ground up, empowering urban children and local families. More than 200 youths were affiliated with the center last year, receiving counseling and academic assistance or participating in organized sports instead of gangs. Currently working as co-director of postulancy at St. Michael Friary in Brooklyn, Brother Arias manages a program he established: Cap-Aid, the Capuchin Africa Initiative for Development, which helps foster social and human development, combat HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases and promote sustainability in Africa. The program was realized after Brother Arias spent over eight months with the Capuchin Friars of Kenya and Tanzania, where he helped to develop and support a dozen projects for the poor and sick refugees.

From a research assistant at an unknown nonprofit to president-elect of AARP, Jennie Chin Hansen, a 1970 graduate of Boston College, has kept the care for elders the focus of her career. This month, she will become the first nurse, the first Asian-American and the first baby boomer to lead the AARP, the national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to addressing the needs and interests of persons 50 and older.

A two-time delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, Hansen has held leadership roles at the Agency of Health Care Research and Quality, Effective Healthcare Stakeholders group, the Advisory Board of the Institute for the Future of Aging Services and the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program.

In 1980, Hansen took a job in a San Francisco nonprofit organization, On Lok, which provided services for elders in a Chinatown neighborhood. In just three years she rose to the rank of director and pioneered a new approach of elder health care. Hansen's Program of All Inclusive Care to the Elderly, or PACE, has become a national prototype that each of the 50 states has replicated. In 1997, federal legislation made it eligible for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement.

Former Federal Communication Commissioner and current Boston College Trustee Associate, Anne P. Jones has proved herself to be a valuable player in multiple spheres of influence.

Born and raised in Arlington, Jones earned both a bachelor's degree (1958) and a law degree (1961) from BC. She practiced law at the Boston firm Ropes & Gray until she joined the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1968. She held a variety of positions at the SEC, ultimately becoming the director of the SEC's Division of Investment Management and later, general counsel of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Jones to the FCC and, following her confirmation by the Senate, she served in that role until 1983, when she resigned to join the law firm of Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan in Washington, DC.

She retired from practicing law in the mid-1990s, but continues to work as a consultant and remains involved on various boards and commissions. In addition to BC's Board of Trustees, she has served or is serving on the New York Stock Exchange Legal Advisory Committee, Riversource Mutual Fund Group, Development Gateway Foundation, Apollo Computer and
Motorola Inc. Jones has been an active member of the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute and the Federal Communications Bar Association.

**Rev. William B. Neenan, SJ**, came to Boston College from the University of Michigan, where he was a professor of economics, in 1979 to serve as BC's first Thomas I. Gasson, SJ, Professor. Much to the delight of two generations of Boston College students and alumni, he never returned to Ann Arbor.

Fr. Neenan was appointed dean of BC's College of Arts and Sciences in 1980, a position he held until 1987 when he became academic vice president and dean of faculties. During Fr. Neenan's term as AVP, Boston College affirmed its status as a national university, achieving a ranking among the top 40 institutions of higher learning. In 1998, Fr. Leahy appointed him vice president and special assistant to the president.

**Rev. William B. Neenan, SJ**

For the past quarter century, Fr. Neenan has published an annual list of recommended reading, "The Dean’s List," which is eagerly awaited each fall by countless alumni, students and friends of the University. For more than 20 years, Fr. Neenan — a native of Sioux City, Iowa — has also hosted a regular Iowa/Nebraska luncheon for BC students from the Midwest, at which his warm and welcoming personality and homespun humor have proved a popular and reassuring beacon for young students.

###