Moving Forward, Rising to the Top

GGSW has plenty of reason to cheer, but the school is not about to rest on its laurels

BY JEAN SMITH
CHRONICLE EDITOR

Early in his tenure as Graduate School of Social Work dean, Alberto Godenzi began holding an annual luncheon to recognize GSSW faculty members who had enjoyed a productive year in external research funding. The number of attendees at the first such event would have barely filled a dining room table. This year’s luncheon, however, included a list of nearly 50 faculty, students and staff. While attendance at a luncheon might seem an unlikely benchmark of success, it’s nonetheless a revealing one for the Graduate School of Social Work. These past few years have seen major steps forward for GSSW, as measured by many important yardsticks — increases in enrollment, scholarly publications, financial aid, as well as external funding [see box on p. 4] — and most recently its rise from 24th to 14th in the US News & World Report rankings of social work programs. (GSSW had tied for 14th in the 1997 US News rankings.)

Colleagues and observers praise Godenzi, who became dean in the spring of 2001, for GSSW’s progress and cite his leadership and vision in, for example, bringing to the school an emphasis on global practice and aging — areas that are at the forefront of contemporary social work, they note. But Godenzi credits the GSSW community’s willingness to look hard at its strengths, needs, character, and most of all, its identity. By doing so, he says, GSSW has been able to build on its legacy while adapting to 21st-century realities of social work education in the United States. “If you want to move a school forward, you need to know the rules of the game,” says Godenzi. “You have to understand where the market is going, and to accept the role and significance of something like a US News ranking. If people don’t know about you, especially the good things about you, you won’t make an impression. Without that kind of visibility, you just don’t attract the outstanding students and faculty who help you achieve your goals.”

“None of what GSSW has achieved would have been possible without an engaged school community — alumni as well as students, faculty and staff. You need to excite them, and they need to excite you. That is how you transform an organization.” Bill Allen, a 1971 GSSW graduate who co-chairs the school’s Advisory Council, says, “Besides strengthening the school, what Al Godenzi was doing was making it easier for energetic young management students to help create or refine business plans.”

Participating companies range from entrepreneurs to businesses looking to spin-off new ideas. Clinten Manor of MIT’s Electric Research Labs, who co-chairs the school’s Business Plan Competition, says, “There’s a great resource on the campus for local and international companies looking for energetic young management students to help create or refine business plans.”

Carroll School MBAs offer high-quality, no-cost consulting services

BY ED HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

Vince Sawhney, the president of Natick-based Boston National Capital Partners Inc., saw an opportunity to enter into the commercial mortgage market back in 2006. To refine the idea, the entrepreneur turned to an unlikely source: the students and faculty of the Carroll Graduate School of Management. In six months, a team of MBA students had turned his idea into a legitimate business plan. “It was a very good deal for me,” says Sawhney, who teaches a summer course at the school as well. “I got a business plan written by these smart kids in a short period of time and free of charge. They helped us focus and gave us some good ideas about marketing that we adopted and followed through. I was pleasantly surprised at the effort.”

Fr. Paris Nominated for ‘Professor of the Year’ Honor

Provost and Dean of Faculties C. John Paris has nominated Walsh Professor of Bioethics John Paris, SJ, for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s “US Professor of the Year” award. Co-sponsored with The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the award honors excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Candidates are nominated by the school administration or members of the campus faculty, and entries are judged by top American educators and other active participants on the education scene. Boston College’s nominee is determined through a consultative process with deans and department chairs.

Last year, the Professor of the Year program recognized four national winners and state winners in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Fr. Paris is a widely recognized national authority in the field of bioethics and the intertwined roles of law, medicine and ethics. A 1959 graduate of Boston College — he also holds a master’s degree from BC — Fr. Paris joined the University faculty in 1990 as the inaugural Rev. Michael P. Walsh, SJ, Professor of Bioethics. The recipient of the 2007 Teacher of the Year Award from BC’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter, Fr. Paris has authored or co-authored more than 165 articles, law reviews and book chapters, which have appeared in such publications as the New England Journal of Medicine, Pediatrics and the San Francisco Law Review.

He has frequently offered commentary to the media, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Time, Newsweek, National Public Radio and every major TV and cable news channel. Professor of the Year Award entries include six letters of recommedation: two from current

College Bound Program marks two decades

Fr. Paris’ nomination was made in the niche market he sought to serve, although the mortgage crisis of the past year has negatively affected his business.

As the US and regional economies continue to sputter along, a new course has bolstered the Carroll School’s ability to offer students the opportunity to cut their teeth on real business development projects while providing businesses with high quality consulting services at no cost. “First and foremost, this is about teaching students to launch or run a business,” says Lect. Greg Stoller, who teaches MBA courses in entrepreneurship and global business. “But we also think this is a tremendous resource for local and international companies looking for energetic young management students to help create or refine business plans.”

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Forecasting the Heights

In true New England form, Boston College campus weather takes many turns — sometimes in the course of a single day. The University’s first weather station, the brainchild of senior Eric Sanderson, will eliminate some of the guesswork now that monitoring technology has been installed on the roof of the O’Neill Library.

The station, which tracks temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, UV index, solar radiation, and rainfall, is expected to support teaching, research and even some aspects of University operations.

“This was something I wanted to do and would have done for the fun of it,” says Sanderson, an environmental geosciences major and aspiring forecaster. “It turned into a course for me and once we got the word out, everyone was interested and it turned into a pretty important project.”

The station was funded through a $6,200 grant awarded to Asst. Prof. Amy Frappier (Geology and Geophysics), who applied to BC’s Academic Technology Innovation Grant program, which makes yearly awards to encourage the use of technology in teaching and research.

As he researched installing and operating the station, Sanderson was aided by Weston Observatory Director Prof. John Ebel (Geology and Geophysics), lab technician Ken Galli, and BC Facilities Manager Rich Hoy. Robert Herbstzuek from carpentry got the station up and running last month.

For now, the station feeds real-time data to a computer in the Geology and Geophysics Department around the clock.

“This summer in the department offices, monitors will be installed to display the weather data, as well as seismological reports from other equipment on campus. "We’ll be able to provide a look at the motions deep inside the earth as well as what is happening on the surface," says Frappier, who plans to use the station in her new core course Climate Change and Society beginning in the fall.

Ultimately, the plan is to feed data to a dedicated Web site, and provide weather information 24/7 to must-read Web sites like BCInsiders, Agora and the BC home page.

Sanderson, who will begin graduate studies in atmospheric science this fall at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, also authored a detailed manual intended to guide future curators of the station.

He says BC is an intriguing place to weather-watch, something he plans to do after graduation.

“From BC, it’s difficult to predict the temperature, because we’re so close to the ocean,” Sanderson says. “And sometimes the sea breeze doesn’t reach us. It’s complicated, but it’s very interesting watching the weather from this location.”

Title of the Week:

“In A Grotto Da Vida, Baby: Tremain’s Care as a Place of Re-Birth in Wolfram’s Parzival”

Presented by English graduate student Leigh Elinson at the 29th annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum at Plymouth State University.

Clarification:

Off-campus student life conference

A Chronicle story in the April 25 edition concerning the conference on off-campust student life issues held April 15 at Corcoran Commons neglected to mention that the event was organized by the Office of the Dean for Student Development in cooperation with the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs. Chronicle regrets the oversight.

—EH

Belly up

The installation of “Big Belly” solar-powered trash compactors at three busy locations on the Boston College campus has not only cut down on litter, but reduced the cost of daily trash collection.

The new compactors, which provide up to five times the capacity of traditional trash barrels, are located on the north side of the Campus Green, on the north side of Conte Forum and the walkway between Koestla and Gonzagaphy dwell halls on upper campus.

“The ‘Big Belly’ systems have reduced the numbers of collections,” notes Facilities Services Superintendent of Grounds Scott McCoy. “In the past, the grounds staff would often change out the cans at these locations two or three times a day. Now we only have to visit the ‘Big Bellies’ once a day to ensure proper operation and empty if needed.”

McCoy says that grounds crew staffers were at first skeptical of the new compacting canisters installed by Facilities Management in late April, but have quickly become proponents of the new self-powered system. “They recognize the need for innovative new ideas which also teach a valuable lesson about sustainability and a cleaner tomorrow,” McCoy says.

“Plus, they are a big hit with the students,” McCoy adds. “It’s something we can all be proud of.”

—RO

Clippings

...Ecological footprint analy-
sis suggests that global produc-
tion and consumption are now exceeding sustainable levels by more than 23 percent. That’s the backdrop when scientists confirm that 2007 was yet another year of rising carbon and methane emissi-
ons, when hungry Vietnamese-
cows stage massive strikes against Nike, and when major US retailers start rationing rice.”

—Aton. Prof. Peemann Fur-
thwaite (Harv) and Prof. Juliet Schor (Sociology), Boston Globe

“In a Democratic adminis-
tration, Massachusetts supplies a recruitment pool for the admin-
istration.”

—Moody Prof. Kay Schizos-
man, interviewed by the Boston Herald about Bay State political leaders’ loyalties in the Obama-Clinton race
Fr. Paris Is Candidate for CASE Award

Continued from page 1

By Melissa Beecher

Fr. Paris, said the $800 million campaign proposal was adopted in the Institutional Master Plan aim to not only address student housing needs, but also create new and improved facilities for academics — the Graduate School of Social Work, the Connell School of Nursing and a planned Institute for Integrated Sciences among them.

BC has been meeting regularly with Boston officials and neighborhood representatives since announcing the Master Plan in December, said Fr. Paris. If the plan is approved, work could start by the end of the year, he added.

More than 100 faculty and staff members attended the May 2 event of former undergraduate students; two from campus colleagues; and two from supporters on campus, in the community or in the candidate’s profession.

Garza, in his letter nominating Fr. Paris, called him “a gifted teacher of undergraduates, an eminently mentor, creative intellectual and remarkable human being.”

“He truly integrates the goals of enhancing our students’ intellectual, social and spiritual development,” Garza continued, “an achievement that distinguishes Professor Paris and that many of us aspire to emulate. He never fails to challenge his students to engage and explore the intellectual, ethical, spiritual and political dimensions of the most important questions facing contemporary society.”

Presidential Scholar Caitlin Garza, the Junior Research Award winner, focuses on cognitive neuroscience, the effect of emotion on memory with a focus on the cognitive and neural mechanisms through which emotion influences vividness and accuracy of memory. Kensinger also researches how memory changes across the adult lifespan. One of her notable projects — that human beings remember sad events with greater clarity than happy events — involved asking Red Sox fans to recall details about the final game of the 2004 American League Championship Series.

Kensinger was recently named a 2008 Searle Scholar, an award which provides funding to support the independent research of exceptionally creative and productive young faculty in the biomedical sciences and chemistry. The Searle Scholars Program recognizes individuals who have already done important, innovative research and have the potential for making pivotal contributions to biological research over an extended period of time.

Kensinger is the first from Boston College to receive the honor, which consists of a three-year re- search grant of $100,000 per year and is among the top monetary awards given in chemistry and the biomedical sciences.

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Faculty, Staff Grants Awarded

The following grants were announced at Faculty Day May 2 (see p. 5): Teaching, Advising and Mentoring Expense Grant Recipients: Prof. Mary Arada (CSON); Prof. Robin Fleming (History); Adj. Asso. Prof. Kenneth Merr (Chemistry) and Instr. Nanci Peters (CSON). Teaching, Advising and Mentoring Grant Recipients: Prof. Angela Amar (CSON); Assoc. Prof. Karen Arnold (LSOE); Asst. Prof. Eric Deunting (LSOE); Assoc. Prof. Patricia McGoldrick (CSON); Assn. Prof. Laura O’Dwyer (LSOE); Adj. Assoc. Prof. Kathleen Bailey (Pol. Science); Assoc. Prof. David Donse (Political Science); Prof. Ann Burgess (CSON); Biology Lab Researchers Director Michael Patalli, Asst. Prof. Othalia Lee (CSON); Assoc. Prof. Kenneth Metz (Chemistry); Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Rhodes (Spanish); Assoc. Prof. Robert Signorelli (CSON); Asst. Prof. Lisa Patel Stevens (LSOE). Research Incentive Grant Recipients: Asst. Prof. Sing-chen Chang (Slavic Languages); Asst. Prof. Youder Gillahan (Theology); Prof. Charles Hoffman (Biology); Prof. Jane Hornowitz (CSON); Asst. Prof. Goran Kiziv (Chemistry); Asst. Prof. Sean McCafferty (Social Studies); Prof. John Michalski (Art); Prof. Elizabeth Miller (CSOM); Assoc. Prof. Renato Mili (Mathematics); Assoc. Prof. Jan Engelbrecht (Physics); Asst. Prof. Zachary Morgan (History); Prof. Michael Numan (Psychology); Assoc. Prof. Claire Preoccupant (LSOE); Assoc. Prof. Billy Soo (CSON) and Assoc. Prof. Valentina Zamora (CSOM).

Academic Technology Innovation Grant Recipients: Michael Barnett (LSOE), Prof. Steven Bruner (Chemistry), Asst. Prof. Amy Frapper (Geology), Asst. Prof. Sheila Gallagher (Fine Arts), Asst. Prof. Seung-A Jin (Communications) Prof. Evan Kantrowitz (Chemistry) and Assoc. Prof. Robin Wood (CSON).

Anniversary Mass for Sister O’Keeffe to be Held May 10

An Anniversary Mass for late College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Sister Mary Daniel O’Keeffe, OP, MA ’71, PAD ’84, will be celebrated this Saturday, May 10, at 4 p.m. Sister O’Keeffe died last May 17 at age 73. She joined the AKS administration in 1989 as the school’s freshman advisor and coordinator of advising and also taught courses in Classics and Comparative Literature programs. A tribute to Sister O’Keeffe was posted on the AKS web site: www.bc.edu/schools/cas/EventsFeaturesNews/News/ remember%20sister.html.

GSSW on the Rise

Continued from page 1

berto has done is to ensure a good relationship between GSSW and the University. Because of building the school is, and where it’s headed, Boston College will view social work as a major emphasis in its mission.

Godenzi points to the school’s 18-month planning effort, culminating in the 2005 report “Rise to Excellence,” as an example of the kind of comprehensive thinking that is necessary for a major social work program. In the late 1990s, he says, Hopps facilitated two key faculty hires: Prof. Kathleen McInnis-Dittrich and Assoc. Prof. Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes, who have become major exponents of GSSW’s success in securing external funding. “McInnis-Dittrich as director of the Center for the Study of Home & Community Life, Pitt-Catsouphes as co-director of the Center for Aging & Work,” he says. "This is something that BC as an institution has been working towards for a long time and has a pretty good probability of becoming a reality. The job market has opened more, and there are more opportunities for us to collaborate and do important work."

GSSW’s international effort — which includes field placements and partnerships with agencies and organizations overseas — offers particular promise, say administrators. "The Global Practice Concentration has brought in a great deal of interest and attention to the school by both students and outside faculty," says GSSW Associate Dean Thomas Walsh. "As part of this, the school also initiated the first national conference on best practices in international social work last spring, which brought in representatives from more than 50 schools of social work across the country."

"The pioneers of social work, like Jane Addams, were true internationalists," says Godenzi. "Over the years, the profession became more parochial, but in the past decade the view is becoming global. And you cannot really build an international curriculum with two or three-week trips — not that these aren’t valuable undertakings. You need to establish sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with global partners, built into the curriculum."

Whatever the characteristics of an era compared to the one you are in now, and no matter how it immediately follows, it’s not uncommon to find precursors or hints of what’s to come. Such is the case, Godenzi explains, with his predecessor, June Gary Hoppes, who served as GSSW dean from 1976 to 2000. In the late 1990s, he says, Hoppes facilitated two key faculty hires: Prof. Kathleen McInnis-Dittrich and Assoc. Prof. Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes, who have become major exponents of GSSW’s success in securing external funding. "McInnis-Dittrich as director of the Center for the Study of Home & Community Life, Pitt-Catsouphes as co-director of the Center for Aging & Work," he says. "This is something that BC as an institution has been working towards for a long time and has a pretty good probability of becoming a reality. The job market has opened more, and there are more opportunities for us to collaborate and do important work."

GSSW by the numbers

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Overall research funding/year</th>
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Carroll School of Management Lect. Gregory Stifter, center, discusses a business plan with MBA students (L-R) Dani-elle Blanckda, John Ryan, Cyntia Taylor and Aaron Zarwon.

Continued from page 1

Texton Financial and Sesame Workshope to nascent companies sponsored by Carroll School MBA alumni and global entrepreneurs. Last fall, students worked on plans for businesses in regions as diverse as Beijing, China, Tokyo, Japan, and Bordeaux, France. Other projects have included commercialization of research out of BC’s own departments of chemistry, computer science and physics.

In the fall semester’s Business Planning and Entrepreneurship course, five-person teams work alongside a mentor with industry or entrepreneurship experience, as well as a third-year law student who provides advice on legal issues that arise. In the end, each team develops its business plan, and then makes a 5-minute “elevator pitch” to a panel of professors and businesspeople. The top teams compete again to determine the best proposal.

This spring, Stoller rolled out the new Business Plan Continuation Course, where students work individually or in teams with clients to refine plans developed during the fall semester or on new projects.

“When you get the students to work on ideas that come from outside of Fulton Hall, the learning becomes that much stronger,” says Stoller. “Students are working on something that is absolutely real and has a pretty good probability of getting implemented.”

Building strengths in financial analysis, accounting, marketing, communications, business plan writing and presentation pitching, the students say the projects sharpen skills and resumes as they approach graduation.

For Colleen Pendland ’08, who spent this semester refining the business plan her team developed last fall for a group of investors, the experience proved invaluable.

“You are working with a client and you can’t really teach that,” says Pendland, who works in real estate with CB Richard Ellis Capi- tal Markets Group. “You gain the experience of knowing what they want and managing and meeting expectations. They can fire you if they want. So even if we are not making money on this, it could af-fect their business. You have to take this seriously.”

For the fall course, Stoller will assemble 18 outside projects with companies who seek assistance. This year, he expects to see interest grow beyond the 30 to 35 proposals he normally receives.
Bringing Her Energy to Education

For the Lynch School’s Mary Walsh, home is where her heart — and her work — remains

“School’s the place to be”

From the beginning of her career, Walsh knew she wanted to make a difference in the lives of children. But she did not entertain the idea of becoming a classroom teacher. “I could never. It’s the hardest job in the world,” says Walsh, who did marry a school teacher, Dan Hurley, recently retired from the Boston Public Schools.

But the schoolhouse was the place to make the biggest difference with the largest number of children. “It’s the one place in society where children are and it’s the place where they spend the most significant amount of time,” she says. “If you’re going to engage in intervention programs to enhance the life chances of kids, school’s the place to be.”

Today, she’s directing a program that reaches 4,000 children.

Managed from the Center for Child, Family and Community Partnerships, which Walsh directs, BostonConnects is a signature program of the Lynch School and Walsh’s defining project in a 33-year career that has focused on using best practices and sound assessment to design and prove the worthiness of programs that help children and families.

From its first site, BostonConnects has grown into a broad partnership of the Lynch School, city schools, foundations, and community groups that provide a comprehensive array of supports — such as health, mentoring, counseling, after-school and family services — to 14 Boston Public Schools serving 4,000 students. The program expanded to five more schools this year with $9.2 million in new funding — bringing total funding during its nine-year history to more than $14 million. The project research and implementation staff number about two dozen people.

Walsh does not administer from a distance. “She’s involved in everything,” says Kristin Wiencke, a doctoral candidate and research assistant who works on assessing the impact of BostonConnects. “In every aspect of the project, she knows what’s happening on the ground — with training, evaluations, schools and funding. On top of that she teaches and is involved in what’s going on in our department. I don’t know if she sleeps.”

Among the strengths of BostonConnects are the relationships it has helped to forge with the communities that host its schools. A primary focus is to construct a system within schools that leverages school and program resources to attract extra services and support from community groups, non-profits and others.

Walsh, and her colleagues from inside and outside of the University, have broken apart the old approach to helping “at-risk” students and implemented a new “whole child” model of student supports aimed at removing the “non-academic” barriers to success for urban students.

Fr. O’Keefe notes that it takes a manager’s touch for an academician to generate the funding to support such an ambitious project and also coordinate the many players involved.

“Dedication, that boundless energy, a sense of what people need and an ability to convey that to funders and to stakeholders are critical to the task, he says. “In addition, Mary brings an appreciation of evaluation and assessment data that often is just not found. You often find you have people who do research and those who do practice and the two do not meet. But Mary is able to bring them both together.”

Garfield Elementary Principal Victoria Megias-Batista says Walsh brings a comprehensive approach to solving the problems students have inside and outside of her Brighton school.

“She sees the big picture of what is needed in this school,” says Megias-Batista. “She sees the whole child, the family. Because of that, everybody works with her to complete the whole package. What I admire most is her passion and advocating for what she believes children and families need.”

Heights of Excellence

“Heights of Excellence” profiles faculty members who, through their exemplary teaching and research, contribute to the intellectual and spiritual life of Boston College.

BY ED HAYWARD

Something of a study in perpetual motion, Kearns Professor of Urban Education and Leadership Mary Walsh criss-crosses St. Columbille Elementary School, a red brick building on Arlington Street in Brighton. The apple green hallways are familiar to Walsh, who turns a corner and stops momentarily in front of Room 2 to whisper, “This was my first-grade classroom.”

Not a lot has physically changed a few decades later inside of Room 2. The tiles have gone from light and dark to a patina somewhere in between. Walsh, who now assists her alma mater with student assessment, notes that the old desks are gone. “You can see the holes they filled when they took them out. They used to be nailed to the floor,” says Walsh, toeing the patch jobs, a few of her shoes.

St. Columbille is a few blocks from the house where Walsh and her sister were raised by their parents — her father a factory worker in Watertown, her mother a homemaker. It’s just a few more blocks from the Lynch School of Education, where Walsh has been a professor since 1989 in the Department of Counseling and Developmental Psychology.

There might be more exotic research locales than Brighton Center. But from her vantage point as a clinical-development psychologist, St. Columbille and other city school sites sit directly in that area Walsh so clearly covers as a teacher and researcher.

“For me, the place where I’ve always lived, intellectually, is the space where thought and action meet,” Walsh says. “That, to me, is where the excitement is.”

A sense of place

After earning her doctorate from Clark University in Worcester, Walsh divided her time between teaching psychology at Regis College and doing research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where she evaluated the way patients explain their particular illness and its cause. Her career has focused most often on mental health challenges for children and families in a variety of settings — ranging from health care facilities to schools to homeless shelters, where Walsh researched her 1992 book, Moving to Neohow: Children’s Stories of Homelessness.

Lynch School Dean Joseph M. O’Keefe, SJ, says Walsh’s sense of place — be it academic or geographic — contributes to her focus on schools serving the newest generations of immigrants from Latin America, Africa and Asia.

“Mary is driven by this loyalty to her neighborhood and to her experience of being a daughter of Irish immigrants and the importance of the immigrant experience,” says Fr. O’Keefe. “It has shaped her work. Many psychologists are removed from day-to-day engagement in their local community. But I think Mary puts in the time and plays an important role in the city to be able to enter the world of practitioners. That is one of the important things she does very, very well.”

Her students also feed off of what Fr. O’Keefe and Garfield Elementary Principal Victoria Megias-Batista say Walsh brings a comprehensive approach to solving the problems students have inside and outside of her Brighton school.

“If I hadn’t connected with her, I think I would have missed out on what is such a huge part of my life right now. I would have missed out on something great.”

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Heights of Excellence — profiles faculty members who, through their exemplary teaching and research, contribute to the intellectual and spiritual life of Boston College.

BY ED HAYWARD

STAFF WRITER

Says Merriam, who this year taught part-time in the St. Columbille after-school program. “I couldn’t understand where she got her energy from. I thought, ‘OK. I’ve got my work cut out for me.’ She really sets the bar high.”

For students who say that when they’re running out of steam, Walsh usually digs up a granola bar or other healthy snack. She’s an avid consumer of apples, they note. But often, there is a tin of cookies somewhere in her office. Walsh is typically at work by 7 a.m., usually brown bag lunch. By 4 p.m., she might be on the phone with her husband, offering a cooking tip or two.

Research reports and other projects that are turned in are typically met with Walsh’s trademark response: “Terrific!” and double thumbs up sign.

“I feel like I owe Dr. Walsh so much,” says Merriam, who plans on returning to teach in her native Honduras. “If I hadn’t connected with her, I think I would have missed out on what is such a huge part of my life right now. I would have missed out on something great.”

“School’s the place to be”

From the beginning of her career, Walsh knew she wanted to make a difference in the lives of children. But she did not entertain the idea of becoming a classroom teacher. “I could never. It’s the hardest job in the world,” says Walsh, who did marry a school teacher, Dan Hurley, recently retired from the Boston Public Schools.

But the schoolhouse was the place to make the biggest difference with the largest number of children. “It’s the one place in society where children are and it’s the place where they spend the most significant amount of time,” she says. “If you’re going to engage in intervention programs to enhance the life chances of kids, school’s the place to be.”

Today, she’s directing a program that reaches 4,000 children.

Managed from the Center for Child, Family and Community Partnerships, which Walsh directs, BostonConnects is a signature program of the Lynch School and Walsh’s defining project in a 33-year career that has focused on using best practices and sound assessment to design and prove the worthiness of programs that help children and families.

From its first site, BostonConnects has grown into a broad partnership of the Lynch School, city schools, foundations, and community groups that provide a comprehensive array of supports — such as health, mentoring, counseling, after-school and family services — to 14 Boston Public Schools serving 4,000 students.

The program expanded to five more schools this year with $9.2 million in new funding — bringing total funding during its nine-year history to more than $14 million. The project research and implementation staff number about two dozen people.

Walsh does not administer from a distance. “She’s involved in everything,” says Kristin Wiencke, a doctoral candidate and research assistant who works on assessing the impact of BostonConnects. “In every aspect of the project, she knows what’s happening on the ground — with training, evaluations, schools and funding. On top of that she teaches and is involved in what’s going on in our department. I don’t know if she sleeps.”

Among the strengths of BostonConnects are the relationships it has helped to forge with the communities that host its schools. A primary focus is to construct a system within schools that leverages school and program resources to attract extra services and support from community groups, non-profits and others.

Walsh, and her colleagues from inside and outside of the University, have broken apart the old approach to helping “at-risk” students and implemented a new “whole child” model of student supports aimed at removing the “non-academic” barriers to success for urban students.

Fr. O’Keefe notes that it takes a manager’s touch for an academician to generate the funding to support such an ambitious project and also coordinate the many players involved.

“Dedication, that boundless energy, a sense of what people need and an ability to convey that to funders and to stakeholders are critical to the task, he says. “In addition, Mary brings an appreciation of evaluation and assessment data that often is just not found. You often find you have people who do research and those who do practice and the two do not meet. But Mary is able to bring them both together.”

Garfield Elementary Principal Victoria Megias-Batista says Walsh brings a comprehensive approach to solving the problems students have inside and outside of her Brighton school.

“She sees the big picture of what is needed in this school,” says Megias-Batista. “She sees the whole child, the family. Because of that, everybody works with her to complete the whole package. What I admire most is her passion and advocating for what she believes children and families need.”
**College Bound for Success**

**BC-Boston College initiative celebrates its 20th anniversary**

**BY MELISSA BEECHER**

Matthew Viala, ’11, ‘couldn’t hide his pride any longer.’

The seventh Boston College Public School students Viala had mentored, coached and taught over the past year last week stood in front of a full classroom of people and discussed how they established TAV, or Teens Against Violence, an outreach program in Boston.

Each of the students had personally experienced or witnessed violence and, over the next year, will be reaching out to middle school students in the city to encourage alternatives to violent behavior.

“I am just so proud of all you,” Viala said to his group, who had created pamphlets, a PowerPoint presentation, a skit, statistical analysis and speaking points to bolster their pitch.

“This group has worked so hard and what they have achieved, it should be commended,” Viala said.

TAV is one of the latest achievements to come out of the College Bound program, which this year is marking two decades of partnerships between Boston College students and Boston Public Schools to keep local schoolchildren focused on higher education. From after-school and Saturday day sessions, the program provides academic enhancement opportunities and college coaching while fostering tomorrow’s leaders.

In celebration of College Bound’s 20th anniversary, students, parents, BC supporters and alumni from the program gathered in Gasson Hall on May 2 for an award ceremony and banquet.

Lynch School of Education Dean Joseph O’Keefe, SJ, said that over the last two decades, many of the students have been changed thanks to College Bound.

“What we have today is made possible because we are standing on the shoulders of some truly wonderful people,” said Fr. O’Keefe.

One of those people honored was Prof. Emeritus George Ladd (LSOE), who after working as liaison to the Boston Public Schools in the 1970s, established College Bound as a vehicle to provide educational assistance to promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The novel concept has become the region’s oldest and most successful campus-based college preparation effort.

To date, more than 200 students have participated in the program; 85 percent of the participants have been the first in their family to attend college.

“Remember,” Ladd told the hundreds gathered for the celebration, “people really care for you. Make us proud.”

This year, students from West Roxbury High School’s Media and Communications Technology Program presented a symposium of work, which included establishing outreach programs on teen violence, drop out rates and peer assistance.

Catherine Wong, the director of urban outreach for the Lynch School of Education, hopes the symposium will become an annual event to highlight the important work of College Bound.

“We want to give all students involved an experience,” said Wong. “We decided to do things a little different this year and have students work on action research projects that they could take back to their schools and use in the enriching and contributory way.”

This is the fourth time these students have presented and each year the students have come to tell them that what they have been doing is college-level work and that they didn’t expect to do it.

“They might not understand that they are doing statistical analysis, but that is what this is,” said Wong.

Sunny Pao, headmaster of Media Communications Technology High School, said the partnership is a positive experience for all involved.

“I have only known about this program for the last three years and it didn’t take long for me to see what a valuable experience this is for the students who participate,” said Pao. “The goal is to get students to college and that’s what this program represents.”

**CSON Partnership with Local Church Draws Praise**

Outreach is seen to benefit underserved, largely Haitian community

High costs of care prevent the community from being able to reach out to many community members.

Staff writer

Connell School of Nursing faculty and students pitched in at a health fair last month in Mattapan, as part of an ongoing relationship with a local church located in an underserved, primarily Haitian community.

The Inite Pou La Sainte (Unité for Health) Health and Job Fair, sponsored by CSON and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, took place April 19 at the Voice of Gospel Tabernacle Church in Mattapan and it was instrumental in planning and publicizing the event. The students visited the church to work with area residents. Students conduct health screenings, including blood pressure and blood sugar checks, give advice about nutrition and answer questions about medical and general health.

“Health risks are not evenly distributed and factors like race, ethnicity and social class all have an effect on health,” said Ass. Prof. Jennifer Allen (CSON), who oversees the Voice of Gospel Tabernacle clinical group and is described as “the driving force” behind the collaboration of BC, Dana Farber and Voice of the Gospel Tabernacle.

“Many cultural and systemic barriers prevent Boston’s Haitian community from easily accessing the health care services available in the area,” explained Sam Clark, a BC graduate nursing student and organizer of the health fair. “Lan- guage and lack of interpreters in clinical settings make communica- tion difficult, and make misunder- standings common. Non-English speakers often do not receive the essential information and resources needed to live a healthy lifestyle.

**Team College Mogul Takes CSOM Honors**

The Carroll School of Management hosted the annual Boston College Venture Competition, a business plan competition designed to promote and support entrepreneur- ship at the undergradu- ate level at BC, on April 15.

The 2008 winner — and recipients of the $10,000 first prize — was Team College Mogul (seniors Henry Khachaturyan, Miles Lennon and Alexander Lin- dbach), a one-stop resource for entrepreneurs to share ideas and experiences, profiles and reviews of new and existing companies that are launched by students or recent gradu- ates. Group Runner, which products focus on managing the publicity of groups, received $3,000 for second place, and American Laundry, a “green” wireless Internet service provider, received $2,000 for third.

**Presented by Boston Public Schools students at the May 2 reception marking the 20th anniversary of the College Bound Program. (Photo by Frank Curran)**

**POSTINGS**

**Asia University offers scholarships to undergrads**

Prof. Arch Woodside (CSOM) has invited Boston College undergraduates and graduating seniors to apply for four-week scholarships to Asia University in Taiwan.

The scholarships include: $1,200 to support air fare travel from the USA, $700 to return; all tuition and fees paid for by Asia University; and four-week accommodations at Asia University. The course of study includes cultural, language, and cor- porate and government management training as well as tours to cultural sites throughout Taiwan.

Interested students should contact Woodside before May 15 at wood- side@bc.edu.

**Global Progicency Program to honor graduates**

Boston College 2008 graduates who have completed study programs in- ternational study and activity will be honored at the annual Global Progicency Program Certificate Ceremony.

Through the Global Progicency Program, students take courses that will take several courses of a intern- tional nature, and pursue some form of cultural experience. Students receive upon graduation a special transcript from the University. This transcript provides proof of employers or graduate school admis- sion officers with a clear record of a student’s interest in international issues and culture.

This year’s honorees are: David Applegette, Anna Geuke, Alexan- dra O’Donohue, Michelle Bernal, Natasha Henry, Emily Pierce, Shella Brazluf, Melissa McGrath, Andrea Reichert, Kristianne Campos, Ashley Mccraith, Karlin Rosa, Cara Ca- ponzi, Robert Jones, Katie Schermer- hom, Jennifer Disse, Ellen Kim, Shanta Shepherd, Amanda Del Balbo, Sarah Metz, Candace Spradley, Ve- ronica Gentille, Michaela O’Brien and Nathan Strasberg.

Early release schedule will take effect May 23

Vice President for Human Resources Leo V. Sullivan has announced the schedule for the next major policy-related change: From May 23 through Aug. 22, most University offices will close at 4 p.m.

Sullivan issued several guidelines associated with the policy:

- It applies to Friday afternoons between 3 and 5 p.m. and may not be used to alter work hours at any other time.
- The shorter work day applies to those who are normally scheduled to work after 3 p.m. on Fridays. In the relatively few cases where a person’s regular shift ends earlier than 5 p.m. on Fridays, supervisors may not get an extra two hours to use at another time.
- An employee who takes a vaca- tion or sick day on Friday is charged with a half day and does not get an extra two hours to use at another time.

As noted above, the Uni- versity’s policy is to provide coverage in all offices during normal working hours and expects employees to work their regular schedules. Any proposal for an exception to this policy should be directed to Sullivan’s attention.
The Boston Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs (NSHMBA) presented Boston College with two honors at its recent gala dinner in Boston.

In addition, NSHMBA awarded a scholarship to Carroll School of Management undergraduate student Joseph M. O’Keefe, spoke on behalf of BC.

The Boston Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs (NSHMBA) presented Boston College with two honors at its recent gala dinner in Boston.

The following honors were presented at the Graduate and Professional Student Awards Ceremony, held April 23 in the Murray Room of Yawkey Center.

Grad, Professional Awards Presented

The following are among the most recent positions posted by the Department of Human Resources for more information on employment opportunities at Boston College, see www.bc.edu/undergraduate/press/GraduateJobs

Senior Research Associate, Academic Technology Services

Administrator Assistant, Lynch School of Education

Accounting Specialist, Student Services

Senior Research Associate, Academic Technology Services

Graduate Student in Management: Florian Leka, Diane MacLaughlin (Academic Achievement), Tina Wilson (Commitment to Community), Jessica Wessels (School Award).

Lynch School of Nursing: Emmons Bowers (Academic Achievement), Sally Haynes (Commitution to Community), Saule Fierwana (School Award).

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences: Yingying Dong (Academic Achievement), Elia Blais-Moreau (Commitment to Community), Mark Seney (School Award).

Research Excellence Award: Jessica Johnson, GSSW

Mentorship Excellence Award: Justin E. Hager, CGSOM

John Courtney Murray, SJ, Award for Student Life: Fionnuala Patka,

The World Aflame Award: Marissa Loun, GSAS

For his dedication to others, given in recognition of the University's sponsorship of, and growing relationship with, the association. Carroll Graduate School of Management Enrollment Director Shelley Burt accepted the award on behalf of BC.

Grady Bowers (Academic Achievement), Tania Richmond (School Award).

Nota Bene
At the Boston College Arts Festival celebration on May 19, students displayed their research in a poster session, and four gave oral presentations. The event honored nearly 60 students who engaged in research activities with faculty mentors during the Biology Department’s annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research on May 2. The event was sponsored by the Fine Arts Department, the BC Arts Council, and the BC Student Activities Fund. Honorees included faculty members Marilee Ogren and Charles Reznikoff. The event also featured performances by the BC Chorale, the BC Symphony Orchestra, the BC Winds, and the BC Jazz Ensemble. The festival concluded with a performance of “Urinetown” at Robsham Theater.

For more information, visit www.bc.edu/bcinfo/events.

Lecture: “Amicita in the Manipulus Florum of Thomas of Ireland: Flowers from Ancient Gardens,” by James McEvoy, Queen’s University, Belfast, 7 p.m., McGuinn Third Floor Lounge.

May 20

• Conversations With...Series: New England authors and illustrators discuss their work, 7:30 p.m., location TBA. See www.thefcb.org or e-mail cohenlm@bc.edu for details.

UNIVERSITY EVENTS

May 23

• Boston College Law School Commencement Exercises, 2 p.m., Newton Campus.

MUSIC • ART • PERFORMANCE

May 16

• Concert: “Family Night at the Pops,” Annual concert held at Symphony Hall for alumni, parents and friends of Boston College. Tickets range from $30-$90. See www.bc.edu/familypops, call ext.2-3469 or e-mail kate.love@bc.edu for information.

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS

• “Tree of Paradise: Jewish Mosaics from the Roman Empire,” at the McMullen Museum of Art, through June 6.

• “Fighting Irishmen: Celebrating Celtic Prizefighters 1820 to Present,” Burns Library, through June 10.

• “Forecasting Earthquakes: A Statistical Approach,” with Assoc. Prof. Daniel Chambers (Mathematics), 7 p.m., Boston College West Observatory, 381 Concord Rd., Weston. Reservations required due to limited seating, call ext.2-8300.

Ex-Governor Cellucci Is First Rehnquist Award Winner

Former Massachusetts Governor A. Paul Cellucci, JD’73, is the inaugural recipient of an award named for late United States Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. Cellucci formally received the Rehnquist Memorial Award at a banquet held April 24 at the Law School. James Rehnquist, son of the chief justice, was the presenter.

The award will recognize a member of the legal community who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in serving the public, according to BC Law Federalist Society President Guillaume Buell. "We have named the series in memory of the late chief justice because of his decades of service to the United States while on the Supreme Court," said Buell. "He was an appropriate choice to receive the award.

"Ambassador Cellucci is a role model for any law student aspiring to serve the public," said Buell. "From his time in the Massachusetts Legislature, and as United States ambassador to Canada, Ambassador Cellucci has demonstrated all of the qualities of service and leadership that Chief Justice Rehnquist similarly displayed during his time on the Supreme Court. While many politicians can only stake their reputation on rhetoric of hope and expectation, Ambassador Cellucci had one of the most successful governorships in the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and served his country admirably during a time of war. Few graduates of Boston College Law School have done more for their state and country."