Connors, Visser Among Honorary Degree Recipients

John M. "Jack" Connors Jr., 63, a distinguished leader of the Greater Boston business and philanthropic community and one of Boston College’s most devoted alumni, will address the Class of 2007 at the University’s Commencement Exercises on May 21.

A founding partner and chairman emeritus of the national marketing communications company Hill, Holliday, Connors, Cosmpolitan Inc., Connors will receive an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree at the ceremonies, which begin at 10 a.m.

Also receiving honorary degrees at this year’s Commencement are former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney, sports journalist Lesley Visser ’75, Jesuit astronomer Rev. George V. Coyne, SJ. and Isaura Mendes, a Boston anti-violence activist.

Connors has served Boston College in several leadership positions during the past four decades, including two terms as chairman of the Board of Trustees. He remains the Board’s longest-serving member, having joined in 1979, and having just completed his term in 2006. He was also co-chair of the University’s “Ever to Excel” capital campaign.

Throughout Massachusetts, Connors is well known for his civic and philanthropic efforts. He serves as chairman of the board of directors of Partners Healthcare System, which includes the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is also chairman of the board of Dana Farber/Partners Cancer Care and Dana Farber/Harvard CancerCare, and chairs the Board of Fellows at Harvard Medical School.

In addition to being a talentless advocate for Boston’s world-class hospitals, Connors is a highly respected voice in the Catholic community for greater lay participation in the Catholic Church. Connors regularly uses the talent extended to him by his Jesuit education to further the cause of Catholic education.

Boston College will award honorary degrees at this year’s Commencement Exercises to (clockwise from top left): former Trustees Chairman John M. Connors 53, sports journalist Lesley Visser ’75, former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney, local anti-violence activist Isaura Mendes and Jesuit astronomer Rev. George Coyne, SJ. Connors will also address the Class of 2007 at the event.

Presley to Step Down as Student Affairs VP

Vice President for Student Affairs Cheryl Presley, whose warmth, caring demeanor and unwavering faith in BC’s undergraduates endeared her to students, has announced that she will be leaving Boston College at the end of the academic year to pursue other professional interests.

Presley, who has served in her position for nearly seven years, announced her decision to Student Affairs staff and to fellow administrators on Monday.

“After more than six successful and productive years as Vice President for Student Affairs at Boston College, I want to share with you the news of some exciting professional changes ahead for me. I have advised Fr. Leahy that at the close of this academic year, I am leaving Boston College to pursue other professional aspirations and interests. “Although I will continue to have a commitment to university life and student development, other challenges and activities will form the foundation of the next chapter in my life. I am confident that the administrative transition will be smooth for students, staff and colleagues throughout the Boston College community,” said Presley.

Cheryl Presley stated that she was "deeply grateful" for the gifts and blessings she received during her years at Boston College, and proud of her legacy that was the product of much collaboration with many talented and dedicated people in the Student Affairs division.

“I trust that my work at the University will live on in the future as I carry with me cherished memories of friendships, experiences and achievements,” said Presley.

In accepting her resignation, University President William P. Leahy, SJ. thanked Presley for her dedicated service and commitment.

Continued on page 6

April 26, 2007-Vol. 15 No. 16
The Boston College Chronicle
Curtain call

With the Robsham Theater Arts Center preparing to observe its 25th anniversary this weekend, Chronicle invited the theater’s director, Howard Enoch, to list some memorable milestones in Robsham history:

• Then-University President J. Donald Monan, SJ, tapping the stage three times — a custom in the Elizabethan era — to officially open the “new theater” in September, 1981.

• The production of “The Apo- theosis or Consecration of Saints Ignatius Loyola and Francis Xavi- er” in 1991 during the 400th anniversary celebration of the So- ciety of Jesus.

• The establishment of the Thea- ter Department and theater ma- jor in 1993, under the leadership of the late J. Robert Barth, SJ.

then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

• The first Conference on Fi- nancial Markets and the Econo- my in September 1994, featuring talks by Federal Reserve Chair- man Alan Greenspan and Robert E. Rubin, then the Assistant to the President for Economy Policy and later Secretary of the Treasury.

• The first BC 10Op! concert to sell out. (April 1996).

• The first Massachusetts Coun- cil for the Arts symposium in 2005.

• And this month, the 100th Theater Department/Robsham production to be staged, “The Pirates of Penzance.”

For information on Robsham Theater’s 25th anniversary cele- bration, see www.bc.edu/offices/ arts council/festival/autumn/robs- ham25/.

iTuning in at the Heights

Students and faculty will soon be able to take advantage of a new partnership between Boston Col- lege and Apple Inc. through the new iTunes U program.

iTunes U is a free, hosted ser- vice provided by Apple for col- leges and universities that provides easy online access to lectures and interviews, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Through iTunes U, instruc- tors can publicize multimedia and instructional content, while stu- dents can upload their own con- tent to share with professors or with the class. The service is based on the same technology of Apple’s popular iTunes store.

Students can download the content to their Mac or PC, regardless of their location. They can listen to and view that content on their Mac or PC, or transfer it to iPod for listening or viewing when they’re on the road.

“This is a great service to inte- grate media into teaching in a way that students are already familiar with,” said Instructional Design and eTeaching Services Director Elizabeth Clark.

Universities such as Duke, Stanford, Brown and California-Berkeley are also partners in iTunes U. BC is the first uni- versity in Boston to have such a contract with Apple.

In addition to providing a great conduit for digital academic content, iTunes U is also the largest source of legal digital music avail- able online, according to Apple. Students can buy and download music that has both educational and entertainment value, with all copyrights honored and the full support of the music industry. Club said representatives from Apple and Duke will attend eTeaching Day on May 16 to dis- cuss the iTunes U program.

Numbers game

Any time the Red Sox beat the Yankees is an occasion for cheer among fans of the Old Towne Team, but to do so in historic fash- ion as they did Sunday — bashing four consecutive homers in one inning — only increases the pleasure. In fact, so remarkable was the feat that the Boston Globe enlisted three mathematicians, including Assoc. Prof. Nancy Rallis (Mathematics), to calculate the odds of it occurring.

Responding via e-mail to the Globe, Rallis wrote: “What is need- ed in finding the various probabilities that you are interested in is the following ratio: p-the total number of home runs hit in the major leagues, divided by the number of plate appearances.”

Last season, she continued, there were 5,386 home runs hit in 188,072 plate appearances. Thus p is equal to .02857.

The probability of four consecutive home runs is p to the fourth power, or p times p times p times p. That equals .000000673, which in this case means there is a 1 in 1.4 million chance, said Rallis.

There was an added twist to Sunday’s home run derby, as the Globe noted: J.D. Drew, one of the four Sox players to round the bases, also was one of four Los Angeles Dodgers who homered consecutively last September — and both times, he was second in the sequence of batters.

According to Rallis’ calculations, using Drew’s ratio of home runs per at-bat, the odds of this happening are 7 in 100 million, or 1 in 14.3 million.

BC mathematicians are no strangers to Red Sox-related computa- tions. In the wake of the Boston 2004 World Series win, Chronicle asked Mathematics faculty to estimate the number of BC students wearing the familiar “B”-adorned caps around campus. While they did their utmost — one might say they gave 110 percent — to come up with a formula, the mathematicians said the lack of a solid repre- sentative sample made the task too difficult.

In any case, Red Sox fans only hope there will be many more such mathematical marvels for the folks on the third floor of Carney Hall to interpret.

Correction: Devlin Obituary

In an obituary for Boston College Police Officer Thomas Devlin published in the April 12 edition, a quote attribut- ed to Boston College Police Chief Robert Morse incorrectly referred to Officer Devlin as “Mike.” This was an error on the part of the reporter, rather than Chief Morse. Chronicle regrets the mistake.

Correction: Devlin Obituary

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Alums, Students Lend Hands

Nearly 500 Boston College alumni and graduate students teamed up for a national day of service last Saturday, undertaking improvement projects for schools, hospitals and other non-profit organizations at locations from Allston, Mass., to Portland, Ore.

Locally, a group of some 65 MBA students, faculty and staff from the Carroll School of Management worked throughout the day on cleaning projects and general improvements at Jackson-Mahan Community School in Allston, an elementary school for some 500 Boston children.

Community service is a requirement for completion of a master of business administration degree from BC, notes Assistant Dean for Graduates, Susan Warne-Zeit.

At his suggestion, the Carroll School’s program has become a model for the 27 other Jesuit graduate business schools throughout the country that have instituted a “National Jesuit MBA Day of Service” for students and staffs to contribute their efforts to non-entertainment community-related activities.

“This endeavor brings to life the Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person and calls for our students yet another opportunity to move from experience to reflection to action,” Zola said.

BC MBA Association chapters across the country also joined in last Saturday’s day of service. Volunteers from alumni groups from Boston to Portland, Ore. showed up on Monday morning, a week after September 11th, to work with parents and students improving the exterior of St. Andrew’s Nativity Prep, a middle school for inner-city children modeled after the Jesuit-run Nativity Prep in Boston.

“This was our first non-social, non-entertainment event,” says Greico of the project undertaken by the fledging Northwest alumni group.

But I think it is a great project because alumni came in, got it done in a day, and felt pretty good about the contribution they are making.

“We all know what a beautiful campus BC has,” Greico continued, “and we know that students can be inspired by their surroundings. When we at Nativity showed up on Monday morning, they knew that somebody cared. Their environment is now that much more inspiring.”

—Reid Oslin

University to Bid Adieu to Neuhauser on May 7

Boston College will hold a farewell celebration for former Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculties Jack Neuhauser — who is leaving to assume the presidency of St. Michael’s College in Vermont — on May 7 at 4 p.m. in Rohrbach Theater. University President William P. Leahy, SJ, will be among the speakers paying tribute to Neuhauser, who also served for 22 years as dean of the Carroll School of Management. Now a University Professor at BC, Neuhauser first came to the University in 1969 as an assistant professor of computer science.

Neuhauser announced in February that he had accepted the presidency at St. Michael’s effective July 1.

‘Hugs for Heroes’ Donations Accepted Now Through May 1

BC’s University Ministry is holding a campus-wide collection for the US military and aid groups serving in the Middle East. The drive is being coordinated by Father Michael C. Neukermans, S.J., and Father Robert J. O’Connor, S.J., BC’s chaplains.

At the request of a local family, BC’s University Ministry has begun a drive to collect a box of items for the wounded soldiers of America’s war on terrorism. The Drive is being coordinated by Father Michael C. Neukermans, S.J., and Father Robert J. O’Connor, S.J., BC’s chaplains.

The community is encouraged to donate non-food items that will be sent to the military. Individuals or groups interested in donating to this effort should contact Father Neukermans at ext. 2-7036 or via e-mail at mneukerm@bc.edu.

Items being sought for the collection include:

-CDs and DVDs (new or used)
-White thick tube or boot socks

Decals of cars, Studebaker
-Travel size tubes of hand or body lotion
-Chapstick
-Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
-Deodorant

If you would like to make a cash donation, make checks payable to Hugs for Heroes Inc., and mail to Hugs for Heroes Inc., PO Box 572, Dover, MA, 02030.
**BC Undergrads Help Area High Schoolers Get Ready for SATs**

**BY SEAN SMITH**  
CHRONICLE EDITOR

It’s easily one of the least favorite letter combinations for high school students: S, A and T.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test can be an ordeal for students of low-income families in particular, who score some 250 points less than their higher-income peers. But 58 Boston-area high schools — many from modest or underserved socioeconomic backgrounds — are faring better with the SATs, thanks to a mentoring program run by Boston College undergraduates.

The “Let’s Get Ready” (LGR) program — part of an intercollegiate network involving other institutions in Boston and elsewhere in the Northeast — offers almost 200 hours of free SAT tutoring as well as 15 hours of preparation for the college search process. Participants meet twice a week for a week at St. Columbkill’s School in Brighton with their BC coaches and site directors, who encourage the students to view success on the SAT, and in college, as very attainable possibilities.

Judging by numbers alone, thus far the BC LGR program is working. Students from the fall semester’s program recorded an average 127-point increase between the SAT Diagnostic 1 and 3, and an average gain of 140 points between Diagnostic 1 and the actual SAT score. Just as, if not more, meaningful are the positive feelings LGR has generated among the participants — who attend public and private schools, including Brighton and Charlestown high schools, Catholic Memorial and Mount Saint Joseph — and their families. Almost 30 percent of the students in BC’s LGR program would be the first in their family to attend college, and more than a third are eligible for free or reduced lunch benefits.

In the meantime, members of the BC community are encouraged to report any unusual activity. The dispatch line is staffed 24 hours a day.

How big of a police force does the University have, and what kind of training do officers receive?

Boston College Police are part of the Boston Police Department and have 51 highly trained, professional police officers and 25 security officers and attendants who patrolled the campus 24 hours a day. Each officer graduated from a 22-week police academy and has completed crisis intervention and Homeland Security training. All of our officers are required to undertake emergency preparedness, hazardous-materials handling, and firearms training annually.

What is the relationship between BCPD and state and local police departments?

Boston College Police work closely with Boston, Brookline, Newton and Massachusetts State Police and are part of the Boston Area Police Emergency Response Network, which enables us to call upon these departments as needed. BC may not have as large a population as Virginia Tech, but

Site directors for LGR programs receive rigorous training, according to Assistant Director of Programs Jessica Filante, so they can recruit the coaches, arrange logistics — such as transportation for the volunteers and visits to college campuses for participants — and do whatever is necessary to ensure a good mentoring relationship between a few dozen high school and college students.

“It’s a pretty demanding job, to have at any age, let alone when you’re in college,” says Filante. “This program takes a lot of commitment, especially for the high school kids who come to the program after a seven-hour school day.”

Fuzieh Jallow ’08, one of the site directors, has seen LGR from both perspectives. As a student at Boston Latin Academy, she received assistance through MIT’s program. She cites the rapport between students and mentors as its key attribute.

“Students continuously come up to me and tell me that they are enjoying it and how confident they are about the upcoming Diagnostic Test,” she says. “When they have problems, whether it involves the process of homework or the snacks served, they also do not hesitate to tell me. What makes the program work with him on that, and obviously I will say, ‘but it’s also important to be have the opportunity to do these things with peace. It makes the experience all the more real for him.’

That the Boston College program is showing positive results isn’t exactly surprising, given LGR’s track record. Originally begun in 1998 by a Harvard University student, LGR has grown to 26 programs throughout the Northeast, based at Harvard and BC as well as Wellesley, Dartmouth, Brown, Cornell, Colgate and Princeton, among others. All told, the programs have served more than 3,500 high school students, 92 percent of whom have gone directly to college.

Boston College was the launching point for LGR’s major expansion into New England, funded through a grant from Goldman-Sachs. BC’s venture also reflects a new direction for LGR, which was largely a summer academic year program.

“Let’s Get Ready” Site Director Fuzieh Jallow ’08 goes over an SAT problem with Conan Hanlo.

“BC may not have as large a community as Virginia Tech, but there are still many thousands of students here. How can the University reach out to those persons who may have serious emotional or mental health problems?”

Boston College has an extensive threat assessment program to address potential issues among our students. We host monthly campus meetings that include staff from Campus Police, Residential Life, Academic Deans, Dean of Student Development, University Counseling and Health Services, who can confidentially evaluate cases of troubled students. Our Behavioral Evaluation Team has the authority to place students on a mandatory medical leave of absence if it is deemed in the best interest of the Boston College community.

What is BC’s policy on firearms?

Boston College does not allow the possession of firearms on campus. The only exception is for law enforcement officers. We advise students to report any violation of this policy to Boston College Police.

What assurances can you offer the BC community?

While certainly no institution is invulnerable to safety threats, we feel that the emergency and case management teams we have put in place and the procedures under which they operate are designed to make us as prepared and responsive as possible. We will continue to revitalize our plan with the goal of creating a model emergency response system. Once our plan has been revised to meet the federal government’s National Incident Management System Protocol, it will be made public online to the University community.

What should students do to try to cope with the SAT’s pressure?

Students should feel free to avail themselves of our outreach services if they should have questions, concerns or specific needs. These services include:

- Campus Ministry, ext.3-3475
- Student Affairs, ext.2-3280
- Counseling Services, ext.2-3310
- Health Services, ext.2-3225

**Q&A: Safety and Security**

**Continued from page 1**

hensive assessment of all available mass notification technologies that include instant text messaging and public address systems. We are working to implement the best notification system possible to ensure our ability to communicate effectively in the event of any unforeseen incident. For instance, we intend to collect cell phone numbers to allow text messaging and reverse-911 capabilities.

In the meantime, members of the BC community are encouraged to note any unusual activity. The dispatch line is staffed 24 hours a day.

Jallow agrees: “When I am interacting with the students and they ask me questions about what college is like, they share their fears and concerns of the college process, and of course their excitement takes the back seat. I enjoy talking about the same questions and having the same concerns. I know them very well, and I am always there for them — being part of cycle of giving and benefitting others. I was meant to be here to give a helping hand to the kids to go the right direction.”

For West Roxbury resident Linda Abshucker, the presence of caring mentors — like Jallow and Farrington have made LGR more than worthwhile for her daughter Christine, a Front-Roots Academy student.

“No matter how well you do in school or how motivated you are, the SAT and the college application process can be so stressful,” she says. “That’s what makes the BC kids so great. They’re just good, all-around individuals who want to, and know how to, reach out and help others.”

By seAn smith

**THE BOSTON COLLEGE CHRONICLE**

APRIL 26, 2007
A Man of ‘Unbridled Enthusiasm’

Physicist and speed-bowler supreme Mike Naughton says he worries about ‘not knowing enough’, but judging by his track record it’s clear he knows plenty.

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

BY GREG FROST

In his relatively short career, Physics Department chairperson Prof. Mike Naughton has invented a tiny sensor that can detect plastic landmines. He has made significant contributions to physicists’ understanding of superconductivity, authored or co-authored more than 150 journal publications, contributed chapters to a half-dozen books, and holds at least seven patents, with another dozen pending.

If that weren’t enough, Naughton is part of a team of BC physicists trying to solve the world’s energy problems by developing a high-efficiency solar panel, via the start-up company Solarx, Inc. Naughton wants to use that same technology to help treat certain types of blindness.

It’s curious, then, that when his former thesis advisor, James Brooks, is asked to speak about Naughton and his achievements, one of the first things he brings up is... speed-bowling.

“Speed-bowling,” Brooks explains, uses roughly the same equipment as regular bowling: a bowling alley, a bowling ball, and pins. The emphasis, however, is not on aim but velocity: the goal is to simply hurl the ball down the lane as fast as possible.

Naughton indulged in the sport in the 1980s when he was working toward his PhD. Although he was a Boston University student, most of his research was done at what used to be the MIT magnet lab.

“After 45 minutes or so, everyone would come back, smiling and a little sweaty,” he adds. “I never knew anything, I didn’t even know enough to know I didn’t know everything and I always could learn more.”

It’s a saying that pops up often as he describes his career path. He says there was never a “eureka moment” in his childhood when he stood up and exclaimed “Ah! I’m going to be a scientist.” Instead, he drifted into the sciences, graduating from St. John Fisher College (where he also played college hockey) in his hometown of Rochester, NY, with a bachelor’s degree in physics – one of only three such majors in his graduating class.

“After graduation, I knew enough to know that I didn’t know anything,” Naughton says. It was that realization that led him to pursue his PhD, and it’s been driving him ever since.

Naughton’s specialty is condensed matter physics, and within that field he focuses on the behavior of electrons when they are confined. As part of his research, he uses large magnetic fields to disturb and control the motion of electrons. This explains why his lab in the basement of Higgins Hall features a device capable of generating a magnetic field a million times the size of the Earth’s own magnetic field.

It is this kind of research that helped him score what he considers his biggest professional achievement: the theory-busting discovery that organic superconductors can survive in much stronger magnetic fields than had been predicted.

The finding, which came about a decade ago when Naughton worked at SUNY-Buffalo, challenges the notion that superconductivity and magnetism cannot coexist.

Naughton and colleagues discovered the odd phenomenon while experimenting on an organic superconductor called TMTSF. It’s a substance that remains at the center of his research at BC.

“In addition to being the most interesting material in the world, I also like to say it’s the most useless material in the world,” Naughton says, noting that he is only partly joking.

“All the interesting stuff involving TMTSF happens under these strained conditions of strong magnetic fields and ultra-low temperatures, and so you’re not going to be able to use it to power a car or float a train.”

It may not have any practical applications for now. But Naughton says it could be adapted in the not-so-distant future to nanoelectronics or quantum computers.

The TMTSF finding may represent his crowning professional achievement, but he says it pales when compared to his top personal concern: his family.

Naughton was still living in Boston when he met his future wife, Peggi, during a trip home to Rochester in the 1980s. (“I was home for Thanksgiving and met her out in a club or something.”) The pair began dating and married in 1988. They have two daughters, one of whom is pursuing her undergraduate degree at BC.

Naughton comes from a large Irish family, and he credits his parents with instilling the kind of common-sense values in him, his four brothers and three sisters that has driven them to be successes in their chosen fields.

“It’s amazing how well you can do with a good family and common sense,” he says. “I’m not the smartest person in the room … but I know I can make contributions and I attribute almost all of that to simple common sense given to me by my parents.”

Naughton’s father, who passed away last year, emigrated from Co. Roscommon, Ireland, at the age of 21. He first arrived in Canada with $1 in his pocket and made his way to Toronto before settling in Rochester, where he started what would eventually become a successful plastering business that Naughton’s eldest brother Kevin runs today.

A few years ago, Naughton and his brothers purchased the land in Roscommon where his father grew up to keep it in the family and out of the government’s hands. They now lease the land – about 43 acres – to a neighbor who uses it to graze cattle, and periodically Naughton and his brothers return and stay in the same house where his dad lived.

Irish now played a role in luring Naughton here from SUNY-Buffalo in 1998, but for him the bigger attraction was the opportunity to be part of a department that was aggressively growing. Naughton credits much of this to his predecessor, Routke Professor of Physics Kevin Bedell, now BC’s vice provost for research, who nearly doubled the Physics faculty during the decade in which he helmed the department.

Nearly a decade after Naughton arrived at BC, the University is gearing for another science expansion as part of the soon-to-be-unveiled strategic plan.

Naughton says BC has experienced growing pains as it balances the value of excellence in science with the cost. But he says the momentum is there – as evidenced by the surge in sponsored research in recent years – and he expresses hope that the University will build an integrated science center and hire more science faculty as part of its strategic plan.

“BC has developed an extraordinary reputation, based on its undergraduate liberal arts background and its highly successful professional schools. Many of us contend that much of what it needs to fully realize its potential is science,” he says.

“It’s a fabulous time to be young and interested in science – the sciences are finding new ways of integrating that are leading to all kinds of discoveries in technologies relevant to the human condition,” he adds.

“We owe it to our students to excel in the sciences as well, and that means science research and education at all levels.”
Honorary Degree Recipients Announced

Continued from page 1

and resources of Hill, Holliday for pro bono work to support dozens of nonprofit and charitable organizations throughout New England.

Munroe became Canada’s 18th prime minister in 1984 after leading the Progressive Conserva
tive party to victory, then four years later became the first prime minister in 35 years — and first Conservative in 100 years — to win successive majority govern
tments.

In Munroe’s nine years as prime minister, his government introduced initiatives such as the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Cana
ernment also introduced a series of privatizations, a low inflation policy, historic tax reform, exten
tive deregulation and expenditure reduction policies that continue to be the basis of Canada’s economic performance today.

A 2000 McGill University study determined that Munroe had the best economic record of any prime minister since World War II, and last year a panel of Canada’s leading environmental groups declared Munroe as the “greenest prime minister in his
tory.”

Munroe also served as co
chairman of the United Nations Summit on Children and his gov
ernment played leading roles in the campaign against apartheid in South Africa, the creation of Le Sante Franchise, the “Greenpeace Peace Award.”

He will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degrees at Com
mencement.

A regular on CBS, ABC, ESPN and HBO sports broadcasts and programs, his voice added another first to her trailblazing career as the first woman to be recognized by the Pro Football Hall of Fame as the 2006 recipient of the Pete Rose
televisel Radio-Television Award.

Visser is the only sportscaster, male or female, who has worked on the network broadcast of the Super Bowl, World Series, NBA Finals, Triple Crown, Olympics, US Open, World Figure Skat
ing Championship and NCAA basketball “Final Four.” This past season marked her 32nd covering the Super Bowl.

Last year she was inducted into the Museum of Television and Radio for her contributions to TV and radio. “I am proud of the positive and rewarding as possible. As I carry with me her
cardinal colleagues and impressive achievements.”

Continued from page 1

ment to the needs of BC’s 8,900 undergraduate students. “Cheryl is a special person who cared deep
ly for BC’s students and worked hard to make their experience as positive and rewarding as possible. I respect her commitment to bringing the University’s mission and the Provost’s Office to more fully actualize the key initia
tives in our strategic plan.”

Presley counts among her most unforgettable experiences the University’s response to Septem
ber 11, and how her staff and others reached out to comfort and support the University. “As the Director of Community and Mission, I am proud of our work in student formation and how Student Af
fairs is working closely with the Office of Mission and Ministry and the Provost’s Office to more fully actualize the key initiatives in our strategic plan.”

Presley entered at the Heights in 2000 from Colorado State Uni
versity where she had served as associate vice president for stu
dent affairs. During her tenure at BC, Presley was credited with expanding outreach to students and strengthening the University’s commitment to student forma
tion. She also moved Student Af
fairs forward in critical areas in
cluding program development and assessment, diversity initiatives, and faculty collaboration. Among the honors and awards, one of the most heartwarming was receiving an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Among the many who will miss her leadership, guidance and energy is President John A. Silber, Associate President for Student Affairs, and during her tenure, President for Student Affairs Shei
lah Shaw Horton. “Cheryl has been a tireless advocate for students. She asked the difficult questions and brought their best ideas, varied opinions and deep concerns to the appropriate venue for resolution. She has modeled the implementa
tion of student formation and en
couraged staff formation as well,” said Shaw Horton.

In addition, Cheryl has strengthened the profession by supporting the National Associa
tion of Student Personnel Admin
istrators Undergraduate Fellows program. Six years ago she en
couraged one student to apply: now the program boasts four or five fellows annually. These are young people who seek the stu
dent affairs profession largely be
cause they see her as a strong role
model. Indeed she is a mentor to many staff, alumni and students and clearly leaves a legacy of ac
complishments, caring and cour
age for all of us to emulate.”

Presley said she will do something positive in the short term and pursue some research inter
ests before embarking on her new professional aspirations, and that she is looking forward to chal
enge, while also preparing to say goodbye to her many friends at Boston College.

“Being part of the BC family will always hold a special place in my heart,” said Presley.

Fr. Leahy has asked Shaw Hort
on to serve as interim vice presi
dent, effective June 1. A national search for a new vice president of student affairs will be con
ducted over the summer. It will be chaired by Keating.

Faculty Day Event May 7

Boston College will hold its annual Faculty Day event, including presentations of awards for outstanding faculty members, on May 7 at noon in the Heights Room of Corcoran Commons.

It will feature a keynote address by the College’s Realtor, who will talk about BC by University President William P. Leahy, SJ, and Provost and Dean of Faculties Cuthberto Garza. A highlight of Faculty Day will be the presentation of the University’s Distinguished Teaching and Research awards.

Faculty Day is sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

—Ofice of Public Affairs
Newsmakers

- University historian Thomas H. O’Connor discussed the significance of Patrick’s Day with The Patriot Ledger.
- Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry Director Prof. Thomas Groome (Theol.) was quoted by the MetroWest Daily News for a story on the possible canonization of Pope John Paul II.

- Comments by Institute for Scientific Research Co-Director Patricia Doherty on a study that said solar flares may disrupt global positioning systems were cited by the Associated Press, and reported by Time, CNN International, the United Kingdom’s What PC, India’s Central Chronicle and Australia’s Brisbane Times, as well as Science Daily and the Boston Globe.

- Prof. Walt Hanyo (LSEO) was quoted by the Washington Post and the Associated Press on stories regarding the use and value of standardized tests mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act.

- Prof. Robert Ross (Political Science) spoke about the Boston Globe on China’s potential to play a role in ending the genocide in Sudan as the Beijing Olympics approached.

- Assoc. Prof. Joseph Tecce (Psychology) offered remarks to the Boston Herald regarding the motive spurring drivers to name their GPS systems.

- Adj. Assoc. Prof. Michael Keith (Communication) was quoted by the Boston Herald on the likely effects of Don Imus’ firing on local talk show programs.

- Prof. Rev. Robert Imbelli (Theology) was interviewed by the Associated Press regarding the impact Pope Benedict XVI has had during his first two years as pontiff.

- Arthur Andersen Professor in Accounting Arnold Wright was quoted by the Boston Business Journal in a story on companies’ scramble to find the talent they need to meet their regulatory obligations under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

- An op-ed by Assoc. Prof. Zine Maghazene (Sociology) on the effect of marriage on social networks was cited by USA Today.

- Assoc. Prof. Ronald Tacelli, SJ (Philosophy) was quoted by the Boston Globe regarding spirituality and healing.

- Prof. Solomon Friedberg (Mathematics), writing in an op-ed in the Boston Herald, discussed the importance of adequately preparing elementary school teachers to teach mathematics.

Honors/Appointments

- University Professor of History Thomas E. Hachey, executive director of the Center for Irish Programs, was selected by Irish America as one of the “Top 100 Irish Americans in 2007.”

Publications


Grants

- Lynch School of Education faculty members Prof. Ina Mullins and Research Professor Prof. Michael Martin were awarded $600,000, Massachusetts Department of Education, “TIMSS 2007 Benchmarking,” $300,000, International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, “Design, manage and implement TIMSS 2007,” $150,000, International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, “TIMSS Advanced (2008).”

- Prof. David Martin (Computer Science) was quoted by Science Daily, “Integrated Advertising and Measurement: A New Model for the Digital Age.”

- Associate Professor of Computer Science Xingxing Yu, $63,964, National Science Foundation, “CAREER: Art and Vision: Scene Layout from Pictorial Cues.”


- Mathematics Department Director Stanley Bezuszka, SJ: $2,200, various grants, “SKA Radio Tape Research Contract.”


Mathematician Friedberg, Colleagues Earn NSF Grant

Prof. Solomon Friedberg (Mathematics) is part of a team of researchers recently awarded a $1.5 million, three-year National Science Foundation grant that will fund research to resolve long-standing questions in analytic number theory and to develop new connections between number theory and geometry.

Friedberg and his colleagues will also organize workshops and conferences in the area and disseminate their findings, which will delve into such areas as combinatorial representation theory, multiple Dirichlet series, and moments of L-functions.

Other institutions taking part in the project are Brown, Columbia and Stanford universities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Minnesota and City University of New York.

“In the past three years, I and my collaborators have found a remarkable new connection between certain constructions in number theory and the geometry of root systems, the objects that were much in the news recently thanks to the research announced at MIT,” said Friedberg. “We’re very excited to have the opportunity to study and develop these connections and to see if we can use them to resolve some long-standing problems in number theory.”

Friedberg’s research on this topic is also being supported by the National Security Agency.

—Office of Public Affairs
Budding filmmaker Saya April Hillman ’00 will be on campus tomorrow night, April 27, for a special benefit screening of her first film, a documentary titled “dating rubik’s cube,” to be shown in Devlin 008 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.).

Proceeds from the screening will benefit the Benebikira Sisters Foundation, which is supporting the efforts of the Rwanda-based Catholic order to improve health care and education, and promote reconciliation, in Rwanda and the adjacent region.

The film’s premise is straightforward: 12 people discuss the ups and downs, successes and failures and joys and sorrows of dating and personal relationships. The interviewees range in age and represent a variety of professions and Chicago neighborhoods; some are single, others married or divorced.

Shot in three months on a budget of $150, “dating rubik’s cube” won honors for Best Short Documentary at the Illinois International Film Festival last year, drawing praise for its honesty and openness.

Yet the film was only supposed to be a “practice piece” for Hillman, a means to prepare herself for a more demanding project: a documentary on the lives of children from a low-income Chicago neighborhood.

“I brainstormed topics for which it would be easy to find interviewees, who’d be willing to talk about their experiences,” says Hillman. “Dating was by far the clear winner — who doesn’t like recounting a horrible first date story? Relationships are the bulk of what we talk about anyway, so I figure I’d just be bringing a video camera into the mix.”

Hillman solicited the advice of peers, who told her she would need $2,500 for a camera, a $500 microphone, light systems and a production assistant — and promptly discarded their suggestions. She played every role for the film: videographer, producer, editor, marketer and, most of all, interviewer. The sessions lasted an average of four hours apiece and produced some 31 hours of footage.

“Of the most common reactions I get from audience members is, ‘It was like we were sitting around my living room, sharing our war stories.’ That’s how I felt with the interviewees and the tone I for which I was striving — real, relatable and honest.”

Hillman adds, the choice of the Benebikira Sisters Foundation as the event’s beneficiary is no accident: She plans to travel to Rwanda this summer to do some filming.

Tickets are $5 for students, $15 non-students, and can be purchased through the Robsham Theater ticket center, either in person or over the phone at ext.2-4002. For more on Hillman and “dating rubik’s cube,” see www.macnoseehproductions.com.

— seeon smith

BC Filmmaker Hillman Picks Subject Close to Heart

May 3
• Translating Faith Into Success: What It Means in the Business World and in the Church” with Charles Geschke, co-founder of Adobe Inc., 4 p.m., Gonzaga Hall, call ext.2-4057, email: lambdin@bc.edu.

May 5
• “Care at the End of Life: Current Challenges and Ethical,” 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Haggis 263, call ext.2-8057, email: lambdin@bc.edu.

May 9
• “The Impact of Science Fiction Film on Student Understanding of Science,” with Prof. G. Michael Barnett (LSOE), 7-9 p.m., Weston Observatory, 381 Concord Road, Weston, call ext.2-8300 or email weston.observatory@bc.edu for reservations.

May 26
• Annual Boston College Arts Festival, noon-10 p.m., through April 28, various locations, see www.bc.edu/art, call ext.2-ARTS, email: arts@bc.edu.

May 31
• “The Pirates of Penzance” 7:30 p.m., Weston Observatory, 381 Concord Road, Weston, call ext.2-8300 or email weston.observatory@bc.edu for reservations.

Music • ART • PERFORMANCE
April 24
• “A New Key: Modern Belgian Art From the Simon Collection” McMullen Museum, through July 20, noon to 5 p.m., weekend hours: noon to 5 p.m., for more information call ext.2-8597 or email armstrong@bc.edu.

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS
• “A Key Modern Belgian Art From the Simon Collection” McMullen Museum, through July 20, hours: Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., weekend hours: noon to 5 p.m., for more information call ext.2-8597 or email armstrong@bc.edu.

WEAKLY MASSES
• St. Joseph Chapel (Gonzaga Hall – Upper Campus) 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., Trinity Chapel (Newton Campus) 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., St. Ignatius Church, Lannan Chapel – Lower Church, 9 p.m., Heights Room, 10:15 p.m., St. Mary’s Chapel (Spanish Mass) 7:30 p.m.

May 1
• Boston College Chamber Music Society, 7:30 p.m., Gasson 100, call ext.2-6004, email: concert@bc.edu.

ATHLETICS
April 27
• “McGillis Memorial Spring Football Game and Family Fun Day, 11 a.m., Alumni Stadium, call ext.2-GoBC, email: athletics@bc.edu.

Celebrating 10 Years of Singing Sacred Music in Sacred Places

Keeping with their mission to “sacred music in sacred places,” the Boston-based Seraphim Singers perform in St. Ignatius Church on May 5, beginning at 8 p.m.

The event, which is part of the Seraphim Singers’ 10th anniversary celebration, has a couple of Boston College connections: Assoc. Prof. Eileen Sweeney (Music) is a member of the group, and among the pieces they will perform is “Song of the Seraphim,” composed by St. Ignatius Music Director Michael Harro, a part-time faculty member in BC’s Music Department (and a former Seraphim Singer himself).

Sweeney, whose academic specialties include ancient and medieval philosophy, finds her music an anchor, a grounding element for the group’s mission. She says, “Being involved with the Seraphim Singers is very much a part of my identity.”

Seraphim does one or two premiers or performances every season and Jennifer also finds lesser performed smaller works that are musically interesting and challenging.

“We consider the wonderful repertoirie, I like the opportunity to sing in a small group and to sing so much a cappella music. The size of the group and the kind of music we do allows for more musical expressiveness for singers. And like many members of the group I am interested in and moved by sacred music, which is what the group is committed to. Understanding and singing it is a spiritual as well as a musical practice.”

— sean smith

Discourse, 7:30 p.m., Gasson 100, call 781-330-2-0470, email: church21@bc.edu.

The annual BC Arts Festival officially kicks off at noon today, with events taking place throughout the day. See www.bc.edu/arts for more.

• “On the Other Side of the Desk: The Experience of Being Gay in Seventeenth-Century Rome” withPatricia Waddell, Syracuse University, 4 p.m., Burns Library.

April 30
• Bone marrow donor drive, 10 a.m., Gasson 100, call 781-330-9902, email: venablek@bc.edu.

April 27
• Catholic Women’s Discussion Group, noon, call ext.2-3489, email: wecf@bc.edu.

April 24
• “On the Other Side of the Desk: The Experience of Being Gay at Boston College,” panel discussion, 7:30 p.m., Gasson 305, call ext.2-6346, mormando@bc.edu.

May 1
• “Agape Latte” 8:30 p.m., call ext.2-0470, email: church21@bc.edu.

May 3
• “Translating Faith Into Success: What It Means in the Business World and in the Church” with Charles Geschke, co-founder of Adobe Inc., 4 p.m., Gonzaga Hall, call ext.2-4057, email: lambdin@bc.edu.

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May 31
• “The Pirates of Penzance” 7:30 p.m., Robsham Theater Arts Center, through April 29, call ext.4002, email: marion.doyle@bc.edu.

• “Naked Mask” 7:30 p.m., O’Connell House, email: nakiing@ned@gmail.com.

April 27
• CCE Presents: “Killing The Box Office” 7 p.m., O’Connell House, through April 28, call 781-738-6445, email: rossy@bc.edu.

• Film: “dating rubik’s cube,” with director Saya April Hillman ’00, 8 p.m., Devlin 008, email: castigli@bc.edu.

For more on BC campus events, see events.bc.edu or check BCInfo [www.bc.edu/bcinfo] for updates.

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