Football Coach Search Progressing

BY RED OSLIN
STAFF WRITER

Boston College expects to have a new football coach in place by the end of the month, say University administrators who are now actively seeking a replacement for departed coach Tom O’Brien.

O’Brien, who had coached at Boston College for the past 10 seasons, accepted the head coaching position at North Carolina State University on Dec. 8.

“We’re going to go quick, but we’re not going to hurry,” said Athletics Director Gene DeFilippo, who is heading up the nationwide search for the new coach.

DeFilippo declined to name potential candidates who have expressed an interest in the job.

“I want to thank Tom for 10 really, really good years at Boston College,” DeFilippo said. “He left his leadership, the BC team has also qualified for eight consecutive bowl games, including the Dec. 30 Meineke Car Care Bowl in Charlotte, NC, against Navy.

Boston College has won six consecutive post-season games, currently the longest bowl game winning streak in college football.

“There are great people and there’s great excitement at Boston College,” O’Brien told a press gathering in Raleigh as he formally accepted the North Carolina State appointment. “But this is an opportunity and I look forward to the opportunity to be here.”

DeFilippo named defensive coordinator Frank Spaziani in interim head coach of the team.

Spaziani, who also has been on the BC staff for the past 10 years, will handle coaching duties for the bowl game against Navy.

Campus Dialogues on Diversity Continuing

Several initiatives under way to address communication

BY JACK DUNN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Working to improve the on-campus climate for students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds, University administrators are engaged in a series of meetings with student leaders they hope will lead to improved communications on diversity matters and a new protocol on race-related issues at Boston College.

A Protocol Review Committee, composed of students, faculty and staff and co-chaired by Executive Director of Institutional Diversity Richard Jefferson and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Sheila Shaw Horton, is meeting with students to establish clearer definitions of hate crimes and bias-motivated offenses and methods of reporting and responding to such crimes and offenses. The committee is also looking to put together a response network, modeled after the sexual assault and discriminatory harassment networks, to which victims of racial incidents can turn for assistance.

Student representatives, including UGBC leaders Jenn Castillo, executive director of the student life department, Omolara Bawuj, director of academic affairs, John Helfman, director of GLBT Affairs and Senator Jodi Ann Burey, have worked closely with the co-chairs, other administrators and faculty in the hope of finalizing an agreement on these important issues early in the spring semester.

Administrators and faculty involved in the process include Dean for Student Development Robert Sherwood, Residential Life Director Henry Humphreys and Associate Director Justin Price, BC Chief of Police Robart Morse.

“The process of communication that we are engaged in might be as important as the product that it will eventually produce.”

—Richard Jefferson

Campus Minister Sister Mary T. Sweeney, Africa and African Diaspora Studies Program Director Ania Szymonska, Cynthia Young (English) and Prof. Ramsay Lien (Psychology).

“Our While at times they have been far better way to spend the month-long Christmas than staying at home.

“At the rate they’re going they will be rebuilding New Orleans for the next 25 years,” said Jamie Slattery.

“The pair made their way to New Orleans as part of a contingent organized by Persevere Disaster Relief, an organization started by William Driscoll ’05.

“We will do anything from de-salting homes to taking out trees to cleaning up empty lots,” said Kelly Dalton ’09, of Swampscott, Mass., who has been to the region twice since the hurricane struck.

Dalton said the odious task of doing a “Globohound” suit and “power buffing” and cleaning out homes that have been abandoned was a bit better way to spend the month-long Christmas than staying at home.

“There’s been so little media attention given to that area but everyday I think about those families,” said Dalton.

A second group of 40 organized by the AHANA Leadership Council will make their way to Gulfport, Miss., and will work with Derrick Evans, an African and African Diaspora Studies Program faculty member who has been at work in the region since Katrina. Evans is aiding relief efforts in his hometown of Turkey Creek, Miss.

“Evans has established a recognized nonprofit corporation, the Turkey Creek Community Initiative [www.turkey-creek.org].”

As a way of reminding themselves of their good fortunes and to contribute to a worthy cause, Gesundis Maintenance Manager Jamie Slattery and his son, Mason, 18, traveled to New Orleans to assist with clean-up efforts in that city during the week before Thanksgiving.

The Slatterys said it is plan to see the Big Easy is still in need of plenty of attention.

“At the rate they’re going they will be rebuilding New Orleans for the next 25 years,” said Jamie Slattery.

“Kinds of the people were grateful but were very angry about the lack of help from the government,” said Mason.

The Slatterys worked with others clearing and gutting houses that had been abandoned since Katrina. What they saw and experienced would not soon be forgotten, said the elder Slattery. He shared some of the horrific photos that he and his son had taken, such as those of rotting homes, furniture still hanging from trees and an entire house uprooted.

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Mason said, “I would say that people shouldn’t forget how much more help that this place needs, because so many people were left without their homes.”

Continued on page 3
“24”

The 24-hour study space recently established in Bapst Library’s Gargan Hall as a pilot program has become the newest campus “hot spot,” if numbers are any indication.

Opening on the Monday after Thanksgiving break with little advance notice, the after-hours study space drew some 50 students in its first night, says Bapst Librarian Adeane Bregman, and traffic has been growing steadily — for example, there were 112 users counted at 1 a.m. last Wednesday.

Gargan Hall’s 24-hour schedule will run Sundays through Thursdays for the rest of the academic year, expanding to seven nights during final examinations.

The idea of a 24-hour study area came into focus this past summer, after — in response to student requests for such a space — Gargan Hall and the O’Neill Library Reserve Room were kept open for extra hours at exam time.

A committee chaired by James Kreinbring, executive assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, discussed the possibilities and challenges in creating a permanent round-the-clock study space.

“When students ask for study space,” said Kreinbring, “you certainly want to respond.”

But establishing the 24-hour space was not, as Bregman notes, just a matter of opening a door and posting a sign. “You need a contained space, but you don’t want to have students roaming around campus in the middle of the night, so that means you need to make sure they have what they need on the premises” — including access to bathrooms, as well as snacks and refreshments.

In fact, Kreinbring points out, numerous offices and departments played a role in the project, including the Undergraduate Government of Boston College; Boston College Police Department; and the offices of the Executive and Financial vice presidents, Space Management and the Dean for Student Development. Obtaining and setting up vending machines for the Bapst downstairs lounge — also available after hours — was the work of Dining Services, Facilities Management and Information Technology.

Administrators will review the 24-hour pilot program during the summer and decide whether or not to make it a permanent feature.

Whatever other considerations might be weighed, Bregman says there is certainly an historical and symbolic benefit to using Gargan, which dates to the early years of BC’s Chestnut Hill Campus.

“Gargan is a touchstone for BC to many people,” she says. “I can’t tell you how many alumni make a point of visiting Gargan when they return to campus. And one of my all-time favorite comments was from a student who said, ‘When I come here, I feel so smart.’”

**Tribute to “Pelly”**

Former Boston College baseball coach Eddie Pellagri, who died on Oct. 11 at age 88, will be honored by having his No. 13 jersey retired by the University.

Pellagri, a former major league ballplayer who coached at BC from 1957 through 1988 and led his teams to 559 victories and three appearances in the NCAA’s College World Series, is the first member of the Boston College baseball program to be so honored.

“We will hang a replica of Pelly’s jersey on the outfield wall,” says Athletics Director Gene DeFilippo. The Boston College baseball diamond on Shea Field is already named for Pellagri. Pellagri joins a select circle of Boston College athletes who have had their jersey numbers retired. The group includes football players Doug Flutie ’85, winner of the 1984 Heisman Trophy; 1985 Outland Award winner Mike Ruth ’86; and hockey player David Emma ’91, who won the Hobey Baker Award as college hockey’s best player in his senior year.

**Clippings**

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**Immigration through an Irish lens**

Thirteen immigrant leaders from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe — hoping to emulate the political and economic successes of minorities in the United States — have participated this month in an inaugural program run by the Boston College Ireland Institute, part of the University’s Center for Irish Programs (CIP).

The program, which began Dec. 5 and ends tomorrow, features seminars with faculty members from the Carroll School of Management and Political Science Department, as well as with Office of Governmental and Community Affairs Vice President Thomas J. Ready Jr.

In addition, participants — representing Somaliland, Bangladesh, Chinese, Polish, Romanian, Sudanese and other new communities — are making several site visits to community and political organizations that help promote, support, advocate for and nurture immigrant communities in the United States.

“Although Ireland and Northern Ireland have historically been sites of emigration, for the first time in their history, both countries are experiencing net immigration as a result of continued European Union integration and robust economic growth,” said CIP Executive Director Thomas E. Hachey.

“This influx of immigrants into Ireland and Northern Ireland has been a boon to the economy, but the rapid entry of foreign-born workers and asylum seekers has been an unexpected and challenging consequence of economic and political stability,” said Hachey, noting there are currently approximately 150,000 Polish and 50,000 Chinese people living in Dublin alone.

“Ireland and Northern Ireland are now home to growing Polish, African and Chinese communities, and while these immigrants have been absorbed relatively seamlessly into the economy, some groups have found it difficult and problematic to integrate into the cultural, political and social fabric of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and, as the existing communities have struggled to accept them.”

Funding for programs is provided by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs, by Boston College, and through a variety of partnerships. More information on the Irish Institute is available at www.bc.edu/centers/irish/irishinst/

—Roanne Pellegrini
Archdiocese Communication Director Shea to Join BC

Will succeed Lehane as executive assistant to University President

BY SEAN SMITH

The way Kevin Shea sees it, he’s already worked for two of the three prominent institutions in New England — the Boston Red Sox and the Archdiocese of Boston — and now he’s about to join a third: Boston College.

This Monday, Shea will officially become executive assistant to University President William P. Leahy, S.J. after serving as director of media relations and communications for the Archdiocese of Boston since 2005. He also worked for the Boston Red Sox for 15 years, holding positions in marketing, media and community relations. 

“I think there are many similarities between the three institutions,” said Shea, the successor to Jim Lehane, who resigned last June to become director of the Sandy Hook Community School in Sandy Hook.

“The passion and devotion they inspire among their constituents is profound. We work with how much people care about the Red Sox, of course; and we’ve seen a renewed level of dedication expressed toward the Archdiocese of Boston these past few years. “I’ve been similarly struck by the vibrant enthusiasm of people who’ve studied, and who work, at BC. It’s clearly an exciting place and I look forward to being a part of it.”

As executive assistant to the president, Shea will oversee the day-to-day operation of Botolph House and serve as Fr. Leahy’s liaison within the University and to the larger community.

A Milton native and 1989 graduate of the College of Holy Cross, Shea has cultivated numerous personal and professional ties to the University — beginning with his grandfather, a BC alumnus who arranged to have his wedding take place on campus. His wife Marlene is also a graduate of the Class of 1995.

Shea notes that when he began his tenure with the Red Sox, the team was still under the direction of CEO John Harrington ’57 and then-Executive Vice President John Buckley ’66, who impressed Shea with their loyalty to their alma mater. The Red Sox later created more formal ties with the University when they established a partnership with BC through the Fenway Sports Group.

As communications director for the Archdiocese of Boston, Shea says he saw firsthand the Boston College’s commitment to aid the Catholic Church, most notably through the Church in the 21st Century initiative, and its assistance to struggling Archdiocesan schools.

“We are also working to ensure that our programs and initiatives are as inclusive and welcoming to all as possible,” said Shea.

Shea and Harrington are among the top 10 states in charitable giving, according to new research by the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College.

“A major characteristic of individuals and perhaps similar works of research. “Generosity is a moral, spiritual or social psychological characteristic of individuals and perhaps families and households,” the authors write. “We do not believe that the term generosity should be associated with our measures, any other measures or not directly study the inner disposition of generosity. In truth, every purported generosity index that has ranked states is, in fact, a charitable giving index.”

The report underscores the fact that in many in Massachusetts, the high cost of housing and other necessities of life places a significant burden on the ability of many families and individuals to make charitable contributions. Yet, unlike some surveys of giving, the current report focuses only on residents with the personal wealth, the current report includes the entire population of the state.

“There are many important decisions on the decisions and individuals and families make about charitable giving,” said Schervish. “Religious affiliation, the presence of non-profit organizations to create giving opportunities, ethnic differences — even the nature of work opportunities, ethnic differences and more local level. The 2006 report includes all of these variables. As in the report’s 2005 report, Schervish and Havens called for understanding of what is involved in putting together a successful protocol.

“Should I and I believe that the process of communication that we are engaged in might be at least as important as the product that it will eventually produce.”

Castillo offered a similar assessment: “We are really pleased to be working with the administration and appreciate the fact that they are letting us partner with them in drafting this protocol. We feel that more student input will only help to advance the University.”

In addition to the Protocol Committee, Executive Vice President Patrick Keating, Provost and Dean of Faculties Cuthbert Garza, Vice President for Student Affairs Cheryl Presley and Dean of Student Development Robert Sherwood have formed the VP Advisory Group that has met monthly with student leaders over the past three years to discuss overall campus climate issues.

Among the UGBC leaders involved in these discussions this year are Castillo, Bovio, UGBC President Santi Bunc, Senator Nyck Bernard, GLC leaders Veronica Joseph and John Hellman, AEC leaders Seye Ayakakusoro and Rose Chou, and Kerry Brennan from the Quality of Student Life Committee.

These two committees have supplemented the work of the Diversity Steering Committee, which is composed of Jefferson, Presley, Garza, Keating and Vice President for Human Resources Leo Sullivan. The Diversity Steering Committee has met monthly since June of 2005 to address and promote issues of diversity on campus. The committee has supported a major employee study and student experience survey that will be released in 2007, and is developing a Diversity Advisory Committee made up of students, faculty and administrators that will advise the Office for Institutional Diversity.

The Diversity Steering Committee also will establish a strategic plan for diversity based, in part, on recommendations made from the employee and student surveys.

“I am pleased that much progress is being made on these important issues," said Jefferson, "I want to thank all involved for their many efforts.”
Holidays at the Heights

A Time for Reaching Out
Continued from page 1

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For almost a quarter-century, Facilities Services Assistant Director Paula Forgett has organized a campus Christmas clothing and toy drive. Nearly 100 needy children — along with their ages (ranging from infant to 18 years old), clothing sizes and gift wish lists — are provided to Forgett from the Department of Social Services and the Italian Home for Children. Anyone interested in obtaining the name of a child from the list can contact Forgett at ext. 2.8875 or forgett@bc.edu. An expenditure of $25-30 per child is recommended. Gifts must be turned in no later than Wednesday, Dec. 20.

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The Office of Student Services is presenting its annual raffle of Christmas gift baskets, with proceeds benefitting the Boston Medical Center, Catholic Charities, Department of Social Services, St. Columbkille’s School in Brighton, the Italian Home for Children and a battered women’s shelter. Last year’s raffle raised more than $4,000. The baskets, which each contain various prizes grouped around a theme, will be on display until Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily in Lyons 207. The raffle will take place on Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets are $1 apiece or six for $5. For more information, contact Jane McGauley at ext. 2.4972.

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Two BC members of a national Latina sorority are organizing a toy drive to help needy families in Boston. Noelia Guerrero ’07, and Dana Condon ’08, members of the Boston chapter of the Omiga Phi Beta Sorority, are working to gather new toys for La Sociedad Latina, a Boston nonprofit that assists families in the Roxbury and Mission Hill neighborhoods.

Members of the Boston College community who wish to participate in the “Three King’s Day” Toy Drive can do so by dropping off new toys at the Sister Theria Bowman AHAANA Center at 72 College Road through Jan. 5. The items will be presented to La Sociedad Latina at the organization’s annual meeting “and Three Kings Day celebration on Jan. 6.

Guerrero says that the toys will be appreciable for children ages infant-13. All donated toys must be new and in their original packaging, she notes.

A highlight of the Connell School of Nursing annual holiday party (held yesterday) is the benefit silent auction organized by Prof. Joellen Hawkins. Sports memorabilia, jewelry, artwork and other items are auctioned off and the proceeds are donated to Rosie’s Place. Last year’s auction raised nearly $1,600.

Connell School of Nursing graduate students held a buoyant first week of December: They held a dinner dance at the Park Plaza Hotel on Dec. 2 that raised $1,000 for The Global Fund (www.theglobalfund.org), which fights tuberculosis and malaria around the world. Then on Dec. 4 and 5, they organized a baked goods sale that attracted donations, toiletries and winter accessories from a wish list of the Society Bomun Jr. Health Center, a Boston agency that provides health care to homeless and disadvantaged teens and young adults.

During the semester break, the Connell School will debut the Global Health Initiative, a new immersion-based service-learning experience in which eight undergraduates and two graduate students will provide nursing care and health education to residents in one of Nicaragua’s poorest communities.

From Jan. 4-14, the CSON group will work with a neighborhood clinic in Nueva Vida in Ciudad Sandino, built originally for survivors of the 1972 Nicaraguan earthquake and further populated in 1998 with families displaced by Hurricane Mitch. The community lacks running water, sanitation facilities, and electricity and there is much acute and chronic illness, inadequate employment, and educational disadvantage.

Along with tax-deductible donations, CSON participants seek contributions of medications and medical supplies such as rubber gloves, tongue depressors, antibiotics, antiseptic creams and lotions, minor surgical instruments, and sterile dressings. Other useful items are soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, insect repellant, dust and sewing supplies, coloring books and crayons, toys, kiddles, books in Spanish, and children’s clothing.

For more information, contact Assoc. Prof. Joyce Pulcini (CSON) at ext. 2.3272 or joyce.pulcini.1@bc.edu.

What else they might do over Christmas vacation, students at the Mary Lyon School of Brighton, can enjoy a little reading, thanks to the Graduate School of Social Work. GSSW student Madeline Howe felt that the school’s Student Coalition for Social Work would make a good fit for her. Howe is an aspiring social worker with a degree in psychology and is currently working at a neighborhood clinic. She is looking for items they can use — almost 120 overall. Faculty and students were invited to select one to two names apiece and buy books for the children. More than 100 members of the GSSW community participated; Howe says the books they purchased cover subjects from sports and animals to Egypt to horror.

At the end of this month, a group of the Graduate School Social Work faculty and students will travel to India, where they will participate in a unique learning experience about human services in the region. As part of their trip, the group will visit Dalit children living in an orphanage, and are looking for items they can use for arts and crafts activities with the youngsters: popsicle sticks, coloring books, pencils and pens, markers and crayons, glue (both liquid and sticks), stickers, fuzzy art balls, glue, glitter paper, pipe cleaners, and Polaroid film.

These items should be packaged and left in the donation box located in the GSSW student lounge in McGuinn Hall.

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Two recently initiated holiday outreach events enjoyed success this month. BC’s second annual Fair Trade Holiday Sale, which took place Dec. 7 in the McElroy Conference Room, raised more than $2,000 to benefit the Minnow Scholarship Fund in Nicaragua and the Fundahuter-CEBES in El Salvador. As a result, at least 15 Nicaragua and Salvadoran children will be able to attend school.

Also, this week the Office of Graduate Student Life wrapped up its third annual Toys for Tots toy drive, surpassing its goal of collecting 500 toys from students, faculty, and staff.

—Compiled by Office of Public Affairs staff

Newton resident Sarah Blake displays her gingerbread house-making talents for her father Kevin at this past Sunday’s “Winter Wonderland” event on Newton Campus, sponsored by the Alumni Association. Toys were collected at the event for donation to the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. (Photo by Suzanne Camarata)

Santa Claus takes time for an interview with freshmen Maggie Bull and John Offer during the annual campus Christmas tree-lighting on Dec. 4. Participants in the ceremony enjoyed performances by student musicians and contributed winter clothing to a local charity. (Photo by Lee Pellegrino)
Committed to Change
Juliet Schor sees link in her academic and social missions

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

BY GREG FROST
STAFF WRITER

It’s an early summer day in Boston, and Sociology Department chair Prof. Juliet Schor is busy doing the work of a public sociologist.

As defined by former American Sociological Association President Michael Burawoy, the label refers to those in the profession who combine learning and scholarship with a drive to act and improve society. The term is well-suited for Schor, a nationally recognized expert on consumerism and trends in work and leisure who has been on a mission to right societal wrongs for most of her career — if not her life.

On this particular day, Schor’s classroom is a sleek, windowless conference room; her pupils are a half-dozen or so executives at a health insurance company. Faced with mounting costs from America’s obesity epidemic, the executives are exploring ways to foster healthier lifestyles, particularly among children. They have invited Schor, whose 2004 book Born to Buy illustrates the extent to which children have become targets of opportunity for corporate America’s marketing machine, to share her views.

Schor runs through a slideshow outlining the major themes from her book: the commercialization of childhood, the fact that food — much of it junk — is the top product category being sold to kids, the way marketers try to drive a “coolness” wedge between children and their parents so junk food is acceptable, and the corresponding rise in childhood obesity rates.

Schor’s audience — several of whom are parents themselves — seems to be bordering on hopelessness. One executive asks what, if anything, can be done. Another executive — the company’s marketing chief — wonders aloud how “coolness” can be tapped to promote healthy eating and exercise in kids.

“It’s time for companies like yours to stand up to societal wrongs for most of her career — if not her life. But it’s the moment Schor has been waiting for.

Schor admits that she developed an orientation to politics and social action at a young age, growing up in the tiny coal-mining town of California, Pa. Her parents — “both very committed social activists,” Schor says — were there because her father had been blacklisted in the 1950s. A surgeon by trade, he went to work for a coal miners’ union and set up a health clinic for miners.

Shaped by her parents’ views and by the nuns
deCember 14, 2006
The Overworked American

It was during her time at Harvard that Schor made a national name for herself, landing on The New York Times bestseller list with a look at a curious trend in American society. Her book, The Overworked American: The Unexpected Decline of Leisure, bluntly repudiated the notion that American-style capitalism was producing declines in work time thanks to continuous productivity improvements. Instead, Schor wrote, the opposite was true: The average American was working longer hours.

The Overworked American marked the first time Schor had written a book for a general audience, and to this day it is the professional achievement of which she is most proud because of the way it resonated with Americans and influenced public policy.

One example Schor cites is the correspondence she had with many readers who said the book changed their lives. She also points to the Family and Medical Leave Act, the landmark legislation that lets workers take unpaid leave due to illness or care for sick family members, which was signed into law a year after The Overworked American hit bookshelves.

“That’s the thing that has been most gratifying: The work had an impact in propelling the work-family agenda,” she says.

Regardless of whether a big shift in corporate policy results, Schor’s presentation to the insurance executives is important because it demonstrates her particular vision about learning and scholarship. To Schor, acquiring knowledge is only part of the education equation; intrinsically linked to that is the duty to act on it and bring about social change.

Influenced at a young age

Schor says — and she has been summoned back to speak to 100 of the company’s top brass.

Regardless of whether a big shift in corporate policy results, Schor’s presentation to the insurance executives is important because it demonstrates her particular vision about learning and scholarship. To Schor, acquiring knowledge is only part of the education equation; intrinsically linked to that is the duty to act on it and bring about social change.

Schor’s audience — several of whom are par
Emergency closings and early deadline articles

For more information, see the shuttle web site at www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus/.

Last issue of Chronicle for fall semester

Today, the Boston College Chronicle is the final edition of the fall 2006 semester. Chronicle will resume publication on a biweekly basis on Jan. 18, with a deadline of Jan. 11 for all copy to be submitted.

For news and updates on Boston College, visit the BCINFO Web page at www.bc.edu/bcinfo.

Exhibitions Open During Break

Three campus exhibitions will continue during the upcoming semester break. Visit the Web sites given below for specific days and hours.


- "Boston College will be closed during the week of Dec. 25-29. For information on campus events, see the University Calendar at www.bc.edu or BCInfo [www.bc.edu/bcinfo].

Fall Sports Wrap-up

Academic Achievement Enhances Athletics’ Success

The Eagles’ field hockey team finished ninth in the country and gained the second first-team All American, including the Scanlan Trophy at left. (Photo courtesy of Boston College Athletic Association)

Patrick Mella finished sixth in the All ACC, Northeast Regional (of 230 runners) and was named All-ACC. Women’s Cross-Country: Mallory Champa ’09 earned All-America and All-ACC honors. BC won the NCAAs Northeast Regional and reached the NCAA Championship round. Head Coach Randy Thomas was named the NCAA Northeast Regional Coach of the Year.

Field Hockey: BC finished 14-6 and ranked ninth in the nation. Sophomore Bob Dirks from the Netherlands was a first-team All-America and the ACC’s Offensive Player of the Year.

Men’s Soccer: Charlie Davies ’09 was the ACC Offensive Player of the Year as he set a school record with 36 points (15 goals, 6 assists). Davies was a finalist for the Hermann Trophy, college soccer’s top individual honor.

Women’s Soccer: The Eagles advanced to the Final 16 of the NCAA championship-tournament before losing a 1-0 contest to Penn State. Senior Laura Georges of France was selected ACC Defensive Player of the Year and was a semifinalist for the Hermann Trophy as the top performer in women’s college soccer. Freshman Gina DiMartino was named the ACC’s “Rookie of the Year.”

BC student-athlete graduation rate is second in nation

BY REID OULIN

STAFF WRITER

If Boston College and Navy cannot settle their differences on the football field at the Meineke Car Care Bowl in Charlotte, NC, on Dec. 30 (1 p.m., ESPNU), perhaps they can bring their rivalry to the nearest library for resolution.

The two schools — both sporting 9-3 records — are the top two bowl teams in terms of football student-athlete graduation rates and academic progress rates, according to a study released at the end of the 2006 college football season.

Boston College has graduated 96 percent of the football scholarship student-athletes who enrolled in 1999-2000, while 98 percent of the football players who started at the US Naval Academy in the same year have also earned their degrees. Those graduation figures are the highest among the 64 Division 1-A teams that are playing in post-season games this year.

Boston College and Navy are also the best bowl teams in terms of the NCAA’s new Academic Progress Rate (APR) standard, an extensive measurement that is intended to more accurately gauge grades and graduation rates. Navy has a 986 APR, while Boston College is 982 in the most recent study, which does not include the current academic year.

The APR was developed in 2004 and awards points based on how many scholarship athletes meet academic eligibility standards. A score of 925 indicates that 50 percent of a team’s student-athletes are on track to graduate.

A study released earlier this month by Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, shows that 40 schools or 62.5 percent of this year’s bowl teams received an APR score of 925 or higher — up from 59 percent last year.

Seven of the eight Atlantic Coast Conference schools who will be playing in bowl games are rated among Lapchick’s “Top 25” based on APR scores: Boston College, Notre Dame, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Maryland, Miami and Wake Forest.

This year’s Meineke Car Care Bowl will pay in excess of $1 million to each participating team, according to bowl officials, but Boston College will realize an even greater amount from a revenue sharing plan that includes all members of the ACC.

“All of the [bowl] monies go to the league,” explains Athletics Director Gene DeFilippo, noting that BC’s bowls pay participants approximately $15 million and eight ACC teams will play in bowl games this upcoming year. “Each team is then given an ‘allowance’ to go to its bowl game and cover the expenses.”

“In June, [ACC member institutions] will share all of the money from the bowls, the ACC basketball tournament and the television package,” he said.

“At the Meineke Car Care Bowl, Boston College will realize an average amount from each bowl game. Boston College will be playing in bowl games this year. As a result, the ACC will share all of the money from the bowls, the ACC basketball tournament and the television package,” he said.

In June, [ACC member institutions] will share all of the money from the bowls, the ACC basketball tournament and the television package,” he said.

A study released earlier this month by Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, shows that 40 schools or 62.5 percent of this year’s bowl teams received an APR score of 925 or higher — up from 59 percent last year.

Seven of the eight Atlantic Coast Conference schools who will be playing in bowl games are rated among Lapchick’s “Top 25” based on APR scores: Boston College, Notre Dame, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Maryland, Miami and Wake Forest.

This year’s Meineke Car Care Bowl will pay in excess of $1 million to each participating team, according to bowl officials, but Boston College will realize an even greater amount from a revenue sharing plan that includes all members of the ACC.

“All of the [bowl] monies go to the league,” explains Athletics Director Gene DeFilippo, noting that BC’s bowls pay participants approximately $15 million and eight ACC teams will play in bowl games this upcoming year. “Each team is then given an ‘allowance’ to go to its bowl game and cover the expenses.”

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A team of six Boston College undergraduates will share a prize of $9,000, finishing ahead of teams from Harvard, Dartmouth and Tufts and five other schools in the local round.

• Assoc. Prof. Kathleen Seiders (CSOM) was interviewed by CBS4-Boston News for a segment on new wireless shopping scanners.

• Paul Lewis (Economics) appeared on the National Public Radio program “On Point” to discuss his latest book. 

• Emeritus John Dacey (LSOE) was interviewed by McClatchy Newspapers for a story on keeping kids safe on-line. The piece ran in the Chicago Tribune, among other periodicals.

• Stephen Pope (Theology) appeared on NPR’s “On Point,” discussing religion’s evolutionary origins.

• Juliet Schor (Sociology) published a op-ed on the environmental impact of the holiday season in the Boston Globe.


• Carlo Rotella (English) reviewed a biography of former heavyweight boxing champ Gene Tunney in the Chicago Tribune.

Honors/Appointments
• Aust. Prof. Torsten Fleibig (Chemistry) is co-recipient of the Gramaticaio-Neumann Prize, awarded by the Swiss Chemical Society to young researchers for their work in photochemistry.

• Aust. Prof. Steven D. Bruner (Chemistry) received a Career Grant from the National Science Foundation.

• Adj. Assoc. Prof. Drew Vanno (Fine Arts) was named to the Education Committee of the Austin Film Festival and appeared on a panel at this year’s festival to discuss the merits of a film school education.

• Aust. Prof. Roberto Avant-Mier (Communication) was elected to the position of Division Chair to represent the Latina/o Communication Studies Division and La Raza Caucus within the National Communication Association.

Publications

• James R. Mahalik (LSOE) co-authored “Physical health, self-reliance, and emotional control as moderators of the relationship between locus of control and mental health among men treated for prostate cancer” with doctoral student Shawn M. Burns (LSOE) in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine.

Grants


• Ellen Winner (Psychology): $80,000, The Dana Foundation, “Effects of Instrumental Music Training on Brain and Cognitive Development in Young Children: A Longitudinal Study.”

• Assoc. Prof. Rebekah Levine-Colye (LSOE): $52,917, Northwestern University, “Welfare Reform and the Well-Being of Children.”


• Research Prof. Sandra Bertman (GSSW): $50,000, Anonymous Donor, “Program of Medical Humanities and the Arts in Health Care.”


• Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project Director Adj. Lect. Francine Sherman (Law): $10,000, Peachtree House Multi-Service Center, “Girls Health Passport Project.”

• Prof. John Michalczuk (Fine Arts): $5,000, Foundation for Mental Courage, “Gulag Documentary.”

Time and a Half

• Adj. Lect. Michael Raiger (Philology) presented “From Givenness to Gift: Hutter’s Principle of Intentionality, Sense’s Concept of Empathy, and John Paul II’s Ethics of the Gift” at The Phenomenology of John Paul II Conference held at Duquesne University.

• Prof. Dwayne E. Carpenter (Romance Languages) presented “The Aboulaye: A Seedbed of Fiddlers, A Web of Controversy” in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese Languages & Cultures at Princeton University.


• Prof. Marvin Kraus (Economics) was a discussant and also presented “Returns to Scale in Networks” at the North American Regional Science Association Meetings in Toronto.

• Connell School of Nursing Associate Dean of Graduate Programs Patricia A. Tabilski, participated in a roundtable discussion titled “Nursing Care of Older Women” published by AWHONN LifeLines. In addition, Tabilski recently presented the following: “Genome-wide Nursing Research Program” at the American Nurses Credentialing Center; “Effect of Music and Noise/Light Reduction Program on Sleep and Agitation of Nursing Home Residents with Dementia” at the American Geriatric Society Meeting in Chicago; and “Health Assessment of the Older Adult” at the Ninth Annual Karen O’Neil Conference at Caritas Norwood Hospital.

William Youngren Dies; Taught Literature and Music

William Youngren, a retired associate professor in the English Department whose interests extended through both the literary and musical realms, died Nov. 26 in Epoch Senior Healthcare of Chestnut Hill. He was 75. 

Prof. Youngren joined the Boston College faculty in 1970 and taught courses in literary theory, 18th-century literature, jazz, Wagner, Haydn and Mozart before retiring in 2001. 

The author of Semantics, Linguistics, and Criticism, his academic interests included German and English 18th-century and Romantic periods, and in developing courses on the relation between music and literature. 

Colleagues, friends and family members recalled him as an avid piano player who could appreciate the jazz stylings of Jelly Roll Morton as well as the operas of Richard Wagner. Prof. Youngren wrote music criticism for The Atlantic Monthly and published a book in 2003 on the songs of C.P.E. Bach, based on the dissertation he completed for a doctorate in musicology at Brandeis University.

“He was a brilliant man — alert, alive intellectually,” said Marriott Professor of English Emeritus John L. Mahoney, interviewed by The Boston Globe.

“The variety of his interests, and the variety of his academic competencies, was amazing,” a resident of Evanston, Ill., Prof. Youngren earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Amherst College in 1953 and a doctorate in English literature from Harvard University in 1961. Prior to BC, he taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Smith College.

Prof. Youngren is survived by his wife Virginia, daughters Valerie and Eric and son Austin.

—Office of Public Affairs
In Any Event, It’s a Lot of Work

Commencement, confabs, concerts: David Early and BOC do it all

BY STEPHEN GAWLIK STAFF WRITER

After 32 years of service to Boston College, Bureau of Conferences Director David Early is finally ready to reveal a shocking secret.

“Boston College never actually hired me,” he says.

The former Lyons Hall grill cook first arrived at BC in 1974 as an employee of a food service firm that was under contract to run the University’s dining operations. When it became apparent that the company was about to be sold, BC took on its employees, a few of whom continue to work at the University.

“I was lucky that I never sat for a job interview and I never filled out an application,” laughs Early, who eventually became a manager in Dining Services until he took his present job in 1989. “But the paychecks kept coming so I kept coming to work.”

December is one of those months when Early truly earns his paycheck. Even as BC’s academic and administrative activity begins to wind down for the coming semester break, Early and the Bureau of Conferences staff are hard at work helping offices and departments pull together holiday parties and other events.

“Don’t get me wrong, we attend a lot of those parties, too,” said Early. “But this is a busy time of year in here.”

Busy doesn’t begin to describe life in the BOC Walsh Hall offices. Each year the department handles between 13,000 and 14,000 reservations from faculty, students and alumni groups for the use of space in the dozen campus buildings that can accommodate events and meetings. Of that, the crew of five annually manages or provides some service for about 8,000 events ranging from simple departmental meetings all the way to the University’s annual Commencement Exercises held each May.

“Sure, it’s a lot of work, but we’ve done it with about the same size staff and budget that we had when I started here 17 years ago,” said Early, praising the efforts and dedication of BOC administrators Jim Mutini, Tim Rice, Sheri Young and Catherine Jamieson.

“Commencement would be a disaster without Dave Early,” said University Secretary Joseph Duffy, SJ, whose office coordinates Commencement each year. “Dave is always very accommodating and very available to problems and issues that arise. He’s very sensitive about maintaining the University as a place that cares, both on and off campus.”

BOC staff assist with all levels of planning, from preparing the room to determining meal menus, and work to make sure everything is done on time and on budget. BOC collaborates with other BC offices such as the Facilities Services Custodial and Grounds Maintenance departments, Catering, the Boston College Police Department and the many vendors who provide tables and chairs, tents and flowers. This spirit of cooperation is integral to making campus events successful, Early says.

“I know 95 percent of the people at BC, and I love meeting people and love talking to them — that’s the reward,” said Early. “Hearing back from people and knowing that they and their guests had a good time is pretty nice, too.”

In addition to its event-planning role, BOC serves as the clearinghouse for groups to reserve space for meetings and events on campus.

“If the rugby team wants to have a meeting in a classroom or we want to have a dinner for 100 people in the Heights Room, it all comes through us,” said Early.

Early says his favorite annual event is Commencement, which takes six months to plan and represents the culmination of the BC experience.

“Commencement is the most important event of the year,” said Early. “We have to make it special as possible, and make sure it goes perfectly.”

Of course, not everything always goes perfectly, and Early’s job has given him a front row seat at some of the more humorous near misses, avoided disasters and close calls that are a natural part of the game in event planning. One year, an incident at Commencement represented the manifestation of his worst nightmare.

As it had for years, explains Early, the University that day used a disguised flared trailer for a stage, which was rolled into Alumni Stadium and supported by a system of hydraulic lifts. Early was standing off to the side watching as the ceremony unfolded.

“Suddenly I notice that the stage is sinking very slowly,” he said. “The hydraulics must have failed.”

A few quick calls got a crew of tradesmen on the scene and the sinking was halted — just in the nick of time — and without anyone on stage missing a beat.

“There we were right in the middle of Commencement with guys pounding away trying to get that thing to stop collapsing. Looking back it’s easy to smile, but that could have been a disaster,” he said.

A crisis at a recent Pops on the Heights event required some quick action by the BC Police. Early says.

“They were all set to start the concert and someone [in the Pops Esplanade Orchestra] realized that they didn’t have the sheet music,” laughed Early. “So we had to put them in a BCPD cruiser and get them downtown and back before the show started.”

Early says he’s most proud of the 2000 Finance Conference, which was held in Conte Forum and included a visit by then-Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, leading executives from top technology firms and plenty of national media attendance.

“Most people didn’t realize it at the time, but the night before there was a hockey game in Conte Forum that went into overtime. So we really had to scramble to get the floor over the ice put down and all the staging and lights set up.

“We worked from about 10 p.m. to 10 a.m., but it went off without a hitch and we were ready for all those executives.”

Says Fr. Duffy, “Dave is always on top of the situation. If things are going badly behind the scenes no one will ever know it. That’s one of Dave’s great skills.”

Practicing What She Teaches

Continued from page 5

eye on her focus on the link between consumerism and obesity among US children.

“Juliet’s work is helping us understand relationships between how food is marketed to children and the growing global obesity epidemic. It is an instructive example of a multidisciplinary approach that is economics and sociology,” he says.

Critics, including some colleagues at BC, have questioned whether her role as a public sociologist involves stepping too far into the arena of advocacy, especially in issues related to the Catholic dimension of Boston College. But Schor says one doesn’t have to dig very deep to see that social change is part of her department’s DNA.

The actual title of Boston College’s PhD program in Sociology, she notes, isn’t just “Sociology,” but “Social Justice and Social Economy: Class, Race and Gender in a Global Context.”

“That has a huge impact on me when I found that out,” Schor says, recalling how the discovery of the program’s name helped influence her decision to leave Harvard for the Heights.

“At Harvard there’s an iron curtain between scholarship and service, and it’s very deliberate,” Schor says, “I think that’s a problematic distinction — it’s an unremedying distinction to both sides of the equation.”

Schor says it is important for Boston College and especially the Sociology Department to build on the tradition of engaged scholarship.

“Today’s students are very concerned about issues of inequality, exploitation, poverty, the failures of the global system, the unraveling of the social fabric here at home,” she says. “To the extent that we have a tradition here of both teaching and scholarship that engages those problems and uses teaching and scholarship as a means to try to solve them, I think that’s a huge strength.”