Thirty years after starting a successful career on Wall Street, John L. McWilliams ’07 is about to close the deal on the acquisition of one valuable asset that has eluded him all along: a Boston College degree.

When he first set foot on campus in 1972, the Carroll School of Management student knew he wanted to one day work in finance, of six children. “Money was pretty tight in our family and I worked so much that I wasn’t a very diligent student and had a poor academic record.”

A summer opportunity before his final year at BC with a firm on Wall Street resulted in a job offer that kept McWilliams working beyond the start of the school year. That opportunity led to another, and with the help of some colleagues who recognized McWilliams’ unique skills, his career took off.

“I had every intention of coming back to school,” said McWilliams.

Despite having worked more time working than going to school,” he added.

“The only thing that is different is I was able to do so much more.”

John L. McWilliams, left, with fellow Class of 2007 member Ryan Therapense: “I couldn’t believe I was given the chance. I guess you are part of this community for life.” (Photo by Lee Polkogi)

Other children: “Money was pretty tight in our family and I worked so much that I wasn’t a very diligent student and had a poor academic record.”

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“I had every intention of coming back to school,” said McWilliams.
**AROUND CAMPUS**

**Excellence personified**

Their ranks include the likes of University Historian and Boston expert Thomas O’Connor ’49 MA ’50; US State Department Undersecretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns ’78; Blenda J. Wilson PhD ’79, first president and CEO of the Nellie Mae Foundation; US Marine Corps General John J. Sheehan ’62; blind mountain climber, teacher and wrestling coach Erik Frappier and the lie Mae Foundation; US Marine Undersecretary for Political Affairs John M. Stennis; US Marine expert Thomas O’Connor ’51; and Kathleen Hickey ’85, and Erik Corps General John J. Sheehan ’62.

**Prosper ‘85; and Kathleen Hickey**

The Katrina disaster — the study of ancient storms. "The Katrina disaster can provide critical analysis of the earth and environmental sciences, commerce, education, government initiative promoting the study of the ancient language. In collaboration with the Pulitzer prize-winning line from the Irish language TV station TG4 — “everything from a documentary film on the Irish in France to an Irish language dating program.”

When he returns home, says O’Connor, he’ll miss “the drive of the BC students to learn a difficult language that is not their own, that they may never get to use practically but that’s beginning to grow on them for one reason or another.”

As an added bonus to the BC community, O’Connor offers a greeting that will come in handy this week: Bonsaictas na Feile Pádraig lil fhéar ("Happy St. Patrick’s Day to you all").

**Quote/Unquote?**

Weathering the Change in Climate — Geological and Political

Climate and weather events used to be topics that stayed largely in the domain of science, but in recent years have become the stuff of sociopolitical controversy. Asst. Prof. Amy Frappier (Geology and Geophysics), however, plans to stay scientific when she presents "Katrina and Climate: Is There A Link Between Hurricane Hazards and Global Climate Change? A Geographical Perspective," on March 28 from 8-10 p.m. at Weston Observatory.

Frappier says her talk will touch on global warming and its connection to Atlantic hurricanes activity, as well as the differing impacts from region to region and understanding the risk from abrupt climate changes and extreme events.

"The political controversies — what to do about climate change, what to do about New Orleans — are questions that the earth and environmental sciences can help to inform. They can provide critical analysis of risk and the relative efficacy of some proposed solutions."

The observatory is located at 381 Concord Road in Weston. Frappier’s talk is free, but reservations are required. Call ext. 2-8300 or e-mail weston.observatory@bc.edu.

**Old language, new era**

This time of year is famous — or notorious — for bringing out everyone’s inner Irishman, but to some Boston College students Irish Gaelic is something more than the ubiquitous St. Patrick’s Day toast of “Eamonn Go Bragh.”

That’s because Abhann O’Coinn, an Irish-language teacher at Wesley College in Dublin, is on the Irish Studies Program faculty this academic year, thanks to an Irish government initiative promoting the study of the ancient language. In collaboration with the Pulitzer prize-winning line from the Irish language TV station TG4 — “everything from a documentary film on the Irish in France to an Irish language dating program.”

When he returns home, says O’Connor, he’ll miss “the drive of the BC students to learn a difficult language that is not their own, that they may never get to use practically but that’s beginning to grow on them for one reason or another.”

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**Spotlight for Fr. Skehan**

He’s already had a half-bill-

ion-year-old underclass underwrite named after him, but Prof. Emeritus James Skehan SJ (Geology and Geophysics) found this most recent tribute a particularly heartfelt one. Fr. Skehan, who founded BC’s original Department of Geology and served for 20 years as director of the Geological Observatory, was the subject of a special symposium at this week’s annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Northeastern Section, held March 12-14 at the University of New Hampshire.

The all-day March 12 symposium, "Rev. James Skehan, SJ — Geologist, Teacher, Mentor, Priest: A Jesuit Journey," featured presentations by colleagues — including fellow BC geologists Weston Observatory Director Prof. John Ebel and Prof. J. Christopher Heppan — and former students of Fr. Skehan. Some of the talks highlighted Fr. Skehan’s contributions to the field, while others provided an overview of current research associated with Fr. Skehan’s work.

"I was very surprised and delighted when I found out this symposium had been organized," said Fr. Skehan, who in 2003 became the first-ever "Beauregard Skehan," which was coined by a paleontologist for a genus of trilobite.

"The geologists who made the presentations are people I’ve known for many years, and who are working on geology in many corners of the world. This was a wonderful honor.”

**The Bos ton College Chronicle**

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Five BC Faculty Net NSF Honors

BY OLEG FRUST
STAFF WRITER

Five junior Boston College faculty are receiving prestigious early-career awards from the National Science Foundation this year, a milestone that puts Boston College among the ranks of top-ranked national research institutions.

“Five Asst. Prof. Steve Bruner (Chemistry), Asst. Prof. Vidya Madhavan (Physics) Asst. Prof. David Martin (Computer Science) Asst. Prof. Noah Snyder (Geology and Geophysics) and Clare Booth Luce Assistant Professor of Computer Science Stella Yu—have earned NSF’s Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards, which carry substantial grants designed to encourage and support promising young teacher-scholars.

Vice Provost for Research Kevin Bedell noted that until this year, BC faculty had not received a total of five CAREER awards over the previous 12 years—and never more than two in a given year. Previous winners include Prof. Max Snapper (Chemistry) and Assoc. Prof. Gail Kineke (Geology and Geophysics).

“This is a sign of great faculty appointments that forerunners of even greater things to come. It’s a significant achievement both for the individual professors and for BC, as it puts us in the company of major national research institutions like Stanford, MIT and Princeton, Bedell said.

“It truly is a reflection of the quality of our faculty and the increased emphasis we as an institution are placing on research and education.”

Together, the five professors are garnering $2.5 million in NSF CAREER funding, to be distributed over the next five years.

• Asst. Prof. Steve Bruner (Chemistry) will receive $575,000 for his study of the intricate way in which plants and microorganisms produce medicinally useful substances used in therapeutic drugs. Bruner’s research program uses an interdisciplinary approach, including structural biology and synthetic organic chemistry, to study the protein machines responsible for the biosynthesis of natural products. A detailed understanding of these systems at the molecular level will enable the rational engineering of these systems and will facilitate the development of more effective and/or novel medicines.

• Asst. Prof. Vidya Madhavan (Physics) will receive $500,000 for her study of “spin,” a property that electrons exhibit in addition to their charge. Spin is the microscopic, quantum mechanical analog of a classical, magnetic moment. It’s a property scientists hope will lead to a new generation of semiconductor-based electronic devices—spintronics—that use both the charge and spin of the electron. Spintronic devices are expected to carry information on both the charge and spin channels, making them faster and more energy efficient.

• Asst. Prof. David Martin (Computer Science) will receive $500,000 over five years for his work on bringing “visual intelligence” to computers by building software that can view an image and react intelligently to its content. For that to happen, machines need to understand what they are looking at—and that is no easy task given the conscious and unconscious processes that let human beings quickly and easily process visual information. Specifically, Martin is working on finding a universal “mid-level” representation of visual information that is between the low-level dots (or pixels) of an image and the high-level conscious experience that most human beings have.

• Clare Booth Luce Assistant Professor in Computer Science Stella Yu will receive $500,000 for her interdisciplinary work in art and vision. In studying how computers might be instructed to interpret three-dimensional images, Yu will examine the ways artists have organized their own two-dimensional canvas to evoke the sense of a three-dimensional scene for viewers. She hopes that studying these artistic techniques will lend insights into the computation of recovering scene layout from pixels.

Boisi Forum on Religion, Free Expression, Journalism March 24

The complex interplay between religious freedom, free expression and journalism will be the subject of a daylong conference hosted by Boston College on Saturday, March 24. “Blasphemy, Free Expression and ‘Jehovah’s Witnesses’” will feature two panel discussions, one comprised of local religious leaders representing Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, the other of journalists and editors who cover the religion beat for national media outlets.

Among other topics, the conference will look at the question of whether religious communities should support hate speech legislation, and the news media’s reporting of the clerical sexual abuse scandal and of Islam and global terrorism.

The event, which takes place in Higgins 300, also will include a keynote speech, “The Livable Experiment: Why Religious Freedom Requires the Right to Offend,” by Charles Hayes, a senior scholar at the First Amendment Center.

Also offering remarks will be Erik Owens, assistant director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, who is sponsoring the conference with the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, Jesuit Institute, Boston College Magazine, and the Winston Center for Ethics and Leadership.

Panelists for the event will be Imam Talal Eid, founder and director of religious affairs for the Islamic Institute of Boston; American Jewish Committee Greater Boston Chapter Executive Director Larry Lowenthal; Rev. Edward M. O’Flaherty, SJ, director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of Boston; and Eastern Nazarene College Associate Professor of Religion Rev. Eric Severson. Center for Christian-Jewish Learning Executive Director Philip Cunningham will be the panel moderator.

Also participating will be Gustav Niebuhr, associate professor of religion and the media at Syracuse University, and reporters Michael Paulson of the Boston Globe, Hanna Rosin of the Boston Globe and Monica Brady-Myerov of WBUR-FM. Moderating the discussion will be Paulson of the Boston Globe.

For more information, see the Boisi Center Web site, www.bc.edu/boisi/.
Decades Later, A Degree

Continued from page 1

liams, who did return to BC last January.

This spring, McWilliams is slated to graduate from CSOM, finally completing the degree in finance that he started all those years ago. “Education is more valuable to me now than it was 30 years ago — it’s just where I was at the time, I have to be honest about that.” McWilliams admits to some realizations in his earlier days that contributed to his walking away from his formal education.

“I was not the most socially adjusted kid. But I’ve learned that you make mistakes in your life, you deal with consequences, you own them and you move on,” he said.

McWilliams, who retired in 2001 to spend time with his young son and wife, may have made his share of mistakes, but apparently not in his professional life. When he was working at the specialist firm Spear, Leeds & Kellogg Specialists, LLC during the summer of 1975 for a friend of a friend, senior managers quickly recognized his special gift for calculating large columns of numbers in his head, a valuable skill in an era when transactions were calculated with paper books, before the rise of computers in trading.

“I had a knack for running numbers in my head,” said McWilliams, who was working as a front-line trading assistant by the end of that summer. “Something that was rare for a person of his little experience.”

The rest is history. In the ensuing years McWilliams would go on to become a partner in two firms and cover major institutional investors in New York, Chicago and Boston. In the late 1980s he started his own venture and bought a seat on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. After walking away for a while, and then the world, he moved to San Francisco and took a position with an investment bank where he worked during the halcyon days of the late 1990s bull market.

“I have fallen uphill in life, and taken advantage of opportunities and been in the right place at the right time,” said McWilliams, McWilliams’s family relocated to the Greater Boston area two years ago as his son enrolled in a local private school. The close proximity caused McWilliams to consider calling CSOM’s Associate Dean Richard Knutby to inquire about returning to Boston College — and he received an answer that was as gratifying as it was surprising.

“I couldn’t believe I was given the chance,” says McWilliams. “I guess you are part of this community for life.”

Despite all his experience in the fast-paced, high-energy world of Wall Street trading, the return to the classroom has been full of challenges for McWilliams.

“I can calculate a lot of numbers in my head, but if you haven’t taken algebra in 30 years you’re going to make a lot of mistakes,” he lamented.

The hardest adjustment, said McWilliams, is learning how to work in group projects with young-er students.

“After having been a partner and executive in several companies, the dynamic is definitely different than it was years ago.” But, he says, “everyone is so accepting, and people defer to each other’s strengths.”

McWilliams said one lesson learned on Wall Street was that, to be successful you need to surround yourself with intelligent people. At BC, he says, “it’s easy to do after taking classes with the likes of some outstanding faculty members like Adj. Lect. Michael Barry (Finance), Prof. Carlo Rotella (English) and Prof. Amy Lacombe (Accounting),” to name just a few.

“The other students are in awe of Johns,” says Barry. “He brings something to every class that they wouldn’t normally get — he has a different perspective.”

McWilliams, in turn, says that while he was very successful as a trader, BC faculty know much more about finance than he ever will.

McWilliams’ advice to some of his classmates is to not follow in his footsteps.

“The other students are in awe of Johns,” says Barry. “He brings something to every class that they wouldn’t normally get — he has a different perspective.”

It looks like we will be enrolling a terrific Class of 2011,” Mahoney said.

Undergrad Applications Top 28,000

Continued from page 1

13 percent increase in applications to the Carroll School of Management, which also saw a sizeable increase a year ago.

The popularity of business schools rises and falls with the economy, which affects how students see management careers, Mahoney said.

“The stock market has performed reliably, major investment firms are hiring and BC has wonderful ties on Wall Street,” said Mahoney. “We have also been favorably reviewed by publications like BusinessWeek [see story on page 3]. All of these factors contribute to the rising stock of the Carroll School.”

Mahoney noted that the spike in applications at BC has been experienced at colleges and universities across the country, reflecting a demographic trend that is expected to subside within a few years.

“Everybody at our level — the Ivies, elite highly competitive schools, private universities — is up five to 10 percent in applications. We are experiencing much of the same thing everyone else is,” said Mahoney.

“Ten or 15 years ago if I was giving a talk to a group of high school students and heard of a kid applying to 10 schools I would say, ‘That’s too many.’ Today, I can’t in good conscience do that. They really do have to cover their bases. In this climate there are fewer automatics,” he said.

Boston College will notify applicants at the end of March whether or not they have been accepted. Students offered admissions have until May 1 to make up their minds.

“It looks like we will be enrolling a terrific Class of 2011,” Mahoney said.

Richard R. Schrock, a winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will deliver a series of lectures this month at Boston College as the Chemistry Department’s University Lecturer.

Schrock will deliver one lecture a day from March 21-23. Each lecture will take place at 4 p.m. in Merkert 127.

Schrock is no stranger to BC, having shared a close working relationship for the past decade with Joseph T. and Patricia Vanderstrand Millennium Professor of Chemistry Amir Hoveyda, who is also the department chair.

Hoveyda called Schrock “one of the world’s foremost influential scientists” and said his upcoming lectureship was particularly special because of the pair’s longstanding collaboration, which has been funded since 1999 by a joint National Insti-

Bodine to Discuss Iraq March 29

Barbara Bodine, the former United States ambassador to Yemen, who later served as an administrator in the US reconstruction of Iraq, will present a talk, “Cassandra’s Curse, Panama” on March 29 at 5:30 p.m. in Thea Tolman Auditorium.

New from the Senior Foreign Service, Bodine spent much of her 30-year diplomatic career in the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula. She was ambassador to Yemen from 1997-2001, a period that included the terrorist attack on the USS Cole and served as deputy principal officer in Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq War and, in 1990, as deputy chief of mission in Kuwait.

During the Iraq invasion and occupation. In March 2003, she was appointed as coordinator for post-conflict reconstruction for Baghdad and the central governments of Iran, returning to the State Department that summer.

In addition to receiving the Secretary of State’s Award for Valor for her work in occupied Kuwait, Bodine’s honors at the Department of State include the Secretary’s Career Achievement Award and the Distinguished Service Award. Bodine’s appearance is sponsored by the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Program. For more information, e-mail baileyk@bc.edu.

—Office of Public Affairs

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Hoveyda called Schrock “one of the world’s foremost influential scientists” and said his upcoming lectureship was particularly special because of the pair’s longstanding collaboration, which has been funded since 1999 by a joint National Institutes of Health grant. The collaboration has resulted in the publication of nearly 60 research papers in top journals and a new class of catalysts called Schrock-Hoveyda catalysts that are sold commercially.

For more information on Schrock’s visit, contact ticchi@bc.edu or see events.bc.edu.

Richard R. Schrock
Seeing the Vision Through

For more than a decade, GSSW’s Kevin Mahoney has led a major effort to improve care for the elderly and disabled. Now comes the biggest challenge yet.

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

BY SEAN SMITH • CHRONICLE EDITOR

Foment: to instigate or foster; promote the growth or development of

“Foment” is a favorite word of Prof. Kevin Mahoney (GSSW), and with good reason. While he may not be out on the streets inciting revolution, for many he has spearheaded a popular, consumer-directed initiative that represents a significant turn in American health care.

As Mahoney sees it, elderly and disabled Americans should have the freedom to decide how to meet their personal care needs, rather than face the limits of conventional home health care. The Cash & Counseling (C&C) program, of which he is director, provides an array of services, the reward for trying to implement an initiative like Cash & Counseling includes dealing with worker’s compensation guidelines or tax laws, for example, and myriad other necessary details.

While Mahoney is by no means in all by himself — and is quick to credit the many who make C&C possible — it is his name at the top of organization, and in good times or bad he is the C&C go-to guy, as well as a prominent national figure in the home care approach. Colleagues and friends laud Mahoney’s temperament and patience in keeping focused on the big picture, and above all, embodying the compassion that C&C upholds as its hallmark.

“I’ve always found him an affable person, able to work with many different stakeholders,” says Ellen Mahoney, executive director of the Institute for the Future of Aging Services, a policy research institute within the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

“There are a lot of logistics in managing a program like C&C, which involves both state and federal governments. You have to be able to compromise, avoid adversarial relationships, sell the program well in a way that’s positive — and still be able to achieve your goals. Kevin can do that, no question.”

Lori Simon-Rusinowitz, a faculty member at the University of Maryland Department of Public and Community Health, research director of the Cash and Counseling Demonstration and Evaluation Project, and long-time collaborator with Mahoney, says: “Kevin is incredibly bright, attentive to detail and has more energy than any 12 people in a room combined. But perhaps his most important quality is his ability to listen to people, really listen, and to see all sides of a picture. That’s incredibly important for an undertaking like Cash & Counseling.”

At BC, one person in particular has a unique perspective on Mahoney: his sister Ellen, an associate professor in the Counsell School of Nursing. She tells of a studious, loving big brother whose soft-spoken demeanor belies his ability to command attention and respect — and his ability to move pulling a surprise, such as the time he delighted the audience watching him accept an award from the Gerontological Society of America by bursting into a Garth Brooks song.

“He’s so engaging,” she says, “and people not only like him, they trust him.”

Next step for C&C

These are heady days for Cash & Counseling, the flagship program in the Graduate School of Social Work’s Center for the Study of Home and Community Life (of which Mahoney is also director). The recent federal Deficit Reduction Act has made it easier for states to introduce a C&C option, opening the possibility that more will follow suit.

Meanwhile, C&C cites several studies showing its effectiveness: C&C programs do not cost substantially more than traditional personal care services via a state-contracted home care agency, and they improve delivery of personal care services to participants, the majority of whom report significant improvement in their lives, a trend also found among primary caregivers.

To be sure, C&C is not without its problems, as even its proponents acknowledge. Federal and state officials raise questions about the qualifications for workers the consumers hire under C&C, or whether paying family caregivers will lead them to provide less care for free, and there are unresolved issues concerning the Internal Revenue Service’s guidelines and policies for reporting tax payments on the workers’ consumers hire.

Mahoney and others believe, however, that momentum is building behind C&C. “You have to prove it’s a valid option, and I think it’s clear we have,” says Mahoney. “The challenge is to move on from the pioneer states, the early believers, and continue to build support.”

That means you get a whole new set of questions as you figure out how to make this a sustainable system. But I find it exciting.”

From the heart

Personal experience isn’t always a reliable indicator of where one’s professional interests lie, but Kevin Mahoney has an inside view into the twin pillars of C&C’s focus — the elderly and persons with disabilities — he says has been important in his work.

Both his sons, Jay and Rob, have struggled with physical and developmental problems. Rob, the younger, had pediatric epilepsy resulting, at age 10, in the removal of his right temporal lobe and hippocampus. As Mahoney notes, the doctor said Rob would never be able to read. But 12 years after the operation, Rob passed his tester’s test and now has his own car.

Yet Mahoney points out that Rob, for all the progress he has made, faces issues shared by many people with disabilities. His transition to legal adulthood meant an end to the latticework of federal or state educational, vocational and financial programs that had provided him support during his youth. So he and the family have to grapple with a maze of agencies to find a job, suitable housing and social supports that adequately serve his needs.

Similarly, Mahoney can look within his own family for a role model of what might be called “successful aging”: his Grandma Mahoney, who lived to be 102. Kevin and Ellen Mahoney fondly recount her predilection for games like Scrabble or checkers, where she displayed a loving but no-nonsense approach ("She played it straight — wouldn’t let the grandkids win," says Ellen. "She showed a lot of respect in that way, and that’s why everyone loved her.") A former schoolteacher and a widow for more than 30 years, Grandma Mahoney took a keen interest in current affairs and thought her grandchildren should do the same.

“She’d send me a clipping of something she’d read in the news and would say, “Look into this,”” says Kevin. "Addh Ellen, “And you can be sure she’d check to make certain he did.”

When she was 100, Grandma Mahoney moved to assisted-living quarters, a decision that Ellen Mahoney says was a tough one for the family — and to an extent unknown at the time: “My father thought it was the best thing he did for her. But a friend told us later that she had said it had been the best thing she did for him.”

Says Kevin, “Obviously, we are not the only family who has had a child with special needs, or an elderly relative requiring assistance. But quite truthfully, some of the most important things I learned were from what we’ve gone through.”

Meaningful though they may be, family experiences only go so far in preparing one for negotiating the waters of health care policy and programs. Then again, as Ellen Mahoney describes it, her brother while growing up would exhibit the kind of fascination for detail that would turn out to be useful later...
A Scholar In Search of Bridges

Gasson Professor sees liturgy as providing critical connections to real-life issues

By REID OLIN STAFF WRITER

Keith Pecklers, SJ, this year’s holder of the Gasson Chair in Theology at Boston College, is widely recognized as one of the foremost authorities on Catholic liturgy in the world.

But Fr. Pecklers, who has lived and worked in Rome since 1992 as professor of liturgy at the Pontifical Gregorian University and professor of liturgical history at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of Sant’Anselmo, prefers to think of his calling in far simpler terms. “It’s all about ‘bridge-building’,” he says. “I see my own role that way as a Jesuit, always looking for bridges: for people, to concerns, to other things. The liturgy is the bridge.”

“Basic premise about liturgy is that it needs to connect to life and real-life issues. You can go to church and fulfill an obligation, but what if we do in church doesn’t impact upon, for example, ethical issues, social outreach, ecumenical religious concerns, the Church in the future?” he asks. “If we are not asking those questions within the liturgical field, then there is something wrong with the picture.”

The Thomas I. Gasson, SJ, Chair, the University’s first endowed professorship, was established in 1975 with a gift from a Jesuit Community. It supports a distinguished Jesuit scholar’s visiting professorship in any discipline at the University.

As Gasson Professor, Fr. Pecklers has applied his extensive “bridge-building” skills accordingly. “What I have tried to do with the Gasson Chair is to be as engaged as possible in my limited time here, and to use the chair to sponsor projects that push forward the future.”

This approach is reflected in several events Fr. Pecklers has helped organize while at BC. One is an upcoming discussion on March 20 with Nella Cassouto, an Israeli woman, and Ali Abu Awad, a Palestinian man, both of whom have lost family members to violence. The event takes place at 4:30 p.m. in Gasson 305, also features Thomas Fitzpatrick, SJ, director of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Jerusalem.

Fr. Pecklers has also helped arrange for an April 17 campus visit by Lord Brian Barber, who will deliver the Jesuit Institute’s annual Canisius Lecture. “Cardinal Danneels is one of the most prominent Cardinals in the church in terms of his courage in speaking out on all kinds of issues,” Fr. Pecklers says.

In cooperation with the BC Center for International Rights and Social Justice, Fr. Pecklers is sponsoring an April 26 lecture by Rafael Luciani, director of theology at the Catholic University Antexi Bello in Caracas, who will speak on “The Socialist Revolution of Hugo Chavez and the Future of the Venezuelan Church.”

Last fall, he co-sponsored a lecture and panel discussion on recent developments involving the Roman Catholic religion with Anglicans and Methodists.

“Somebody might ask, ‘What does liturgy have to do with that?’” he says. “I think that kind of question – looking at ecumenical relations, looking at some of those issues – that a liturgy priest would sponsor that is important.”

“In my own Gasson Lecture, I tried to raise some of these same sorts of questions and concerns about where we are heading as a church 40 years after Vatican II, and what role the liturgy play in some of that?”

In between his duties at Boston College, Fr. Pecklers has delivered lectures on Catholic liturgy in the 21st century at several college campuses and in November returned to Rome where he helped organize the Archbishop of Canterbury’s historic visit to the Vatican.

He also is a frequent commentator on Catholic liturgy and Church affairs for ABC television and other networks.

“In Rome, they seem to think that I am on ‘sabbatical’ over here,” he laughs, “just reading books and sitting in a library all day.”

“I have been extremely impressed with Boston College on all sorts of level,” Fr. Pecklers says. “On the level of the Church, I have been extremely impressed by the great seriousness, as a Jesuit University, the whole mission is taken on the part of the administration and how that plays out in all the different ways throughout the University – retreats, social outreach, all the parts of the Jesuit approach to education and the way people are formed. Boston College has taken a leadership role.”

Welcome Additions

• Ass’t. Prof. Gergana Yordanova (CSOM)
  PhD, University of Pittsburgh
  Research Interests: Consumer behavior
  Course: Marketing Principles
  Yordanova, a graduate of the American University in Bulgaria, studies consumers’ self-control and decision-making abilities and the factors that influence them, particularly in such areas as dieting and money management. Her research has been presented at major marketing conferences such as the Association for Consumer Research, the Society for Consumer Psychology and Marketing Science. While pursuing her doctorate at Pittsburgh she taught principles of marketing and consumer behavior, and last summer led a course in consumer psychology at the Chicago School for Professional Psychology.
  — Reid Olin

“Welcome Additions,” an occasional feature, profiles new faculty members at Boston College.
Newsmakers

• Drucker Professor of Management Sciences Alicia Munnell, director of BC’s Center on Retirement Research, was quoted by Newsday and the Chicago Tribune regarding Americans’ retirement security, and by the Baltimore Sun for a story on the risks baby boomers face when they expect to rely on an inheritance to fund their retirement.

• Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry Director Prof. Thomas Groome (Theology) discussed an op-uturn in fundraising success for the Archdiocese of Boston with The Boston Globe.

• Adj. Assoc. Prof. Rev. Richard McQuaid, SJ (CSOM), was interviewed for a front-page story in the Los Angeles Times about declining sales for California’s state lottery.

• Center on Aging and Work Co-Director Assoc. Prof. Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes (GSSW) was quoted in the Chicago Tribune regarding corporate preparation for America’s aging workforce. The piece was also published in the Chicago Tribune, among other news outlets.

• Academic freedom and government authority in Hong Kong were the subjects of an op-ed piece by Assoc. Prof. Timothy Cunningham (History) for its regional Championship of Jessup Moot Court by defeating a team from Harvard Law School and was undefeated in all six arguments they faced in the competition held recently in Washington, DC. Jessup Moot Court is an international competition run by the International Law Students Association and the American Society of International Law. Over 500 teams compete across the world in various locations.

• Prof. Joelden Hawkins (CSON) received the Nicholas A. Cummings Annual Award, given each year to a National Academies of Practice member who has made enduring professional contributions and whose contributions to the community are of an outstanding caliber.

Honors/Appointments

• Aust. Prof. Benjamin Howard (Mathematics) has been awarded a Sloan Research Fellowship.

• Aust. Prof. Victoria Crittenden (CSOM) and graduate student Eric Schaeffer ’07 co-authored “Litigation in the Pharmaceutical Industry: The Impact on Marketers,” which was presented at the Association for Marketing and Health Care Research conference in Wyoming. The paper won the Best Paper award in the student/faculty co-authorship category.

• Aust. Prof. Paula Mathieu (English) has won the 2007 Rachel Corrie Courage in the Teaching of Writing Award.

• A team of Boston College law students won the Northeast Regional Championship of Jessup.

Grants

• Monan Professor of Higher Education Philip Altbach and published in the South China Morning Post. He was also quoted by the Los Angeles Times in two stories addressing US education institutions expanding into India.

• Center in the 21st Century Center Director Tim Muldoon was quoted by the Dallas Morning News for a story about a new bishop for the Dallas diocese.

• Honorable David S. Nelson Professorial Chair Dr. Anderson J. Franklin told the Bay State Banner about his research on the emotional and psychological stability of African Americans.

• Carroll School of Management Corporate and Government Affairs Executive Director Peter Rollins, the organizer of the popular Boston College Chief Executives Club, was profiled in the Boston Globe.

• United Press International interviewed Prof. Thomas Seyfried (Biology) on new research showing that a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet designed to treat epileptic children may also fight brain cancer.

Notable Mentions

• Center for Christian-Jewish Learning Executive Director Philip A. Cunningham and Associate Director Rabbi Ruth Langer were among those honored on March 11 at the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School’s Chaijinks 2007 “Building Interfaith Bridges” celebration.

• At the event, which took place at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill, they received the Lester Gilson Community Service Award.

• The program showcased the work of the center in bringing the highest quality academic rigor to researching and teaching about the encounters between Christians and Jews through the centuries and to building enhanced understanding between Christians and Jews.

Prof. Lisa Feldman Barrett (Psychology) was one of three recipients of the Cartell Sabbatical Awards for 2007-08. The awards, sponsored through the James McKeen Cartell Fund, provide support for the science and the application of psychology.

• Center on Aging and Work Co-Director Assoc. Prof. Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes (GSSW) was invited to speak at the US Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing “The Aging Workforce: What Does it Mean for Businesses and the Economy?”

IREPM to Host Workshop on Religious Violence

The Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry will sponsor a workshop, “Responding to the Roots of Religious Violence and Foster Hope for Religious Peacebuilding,” from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on March 24 in Higgins 263.

• Prof. Zhifeng Ren (Physics): “$15,000, Telelyte Scientific & Imaging, LLC, ‘Growth Aligned Carbon Nanotubes.’”


Publications

• Volunteer and Service Learning Center Director Daniel Ponsotto, served as Coordinating Editor for the recently published Saint Mary’s Press College Study Bible.

• Center on Wealth and Philanthropy Director Prof. Paul Schervish (Finance) printed a companion guide for reflection on the new feature film “The Ultimate Gift.”

Time and a Half

• Seelig Professor in Philosophy Richard Kearney presented “Narrative, History, Fiction,” at University of Amiens, France and “Hermeneutics of Narrative: Between History and Story” at the National University of Ireland, Dublin.

Jobs

- Health Services Aide, University Health Services
- Administrative Assistant, Lynch School of Education
- Editorial Assistant, Psychology Department
- Physics Research Technician, Physics Department
- Staff Assistant, University Advancement
- Teacher, Children’s Center
- Administrative Assistant, Carroll School Of Management, Corporate and Government Affairs
- Head Librarian, Social Work Library
- Personnel Officer, Human Resources
- Assoc. Director, Stewardship, Donor Relations

For more information, call ext. 2-8057 or e-mail lambl@bc.edu.
Every so often, the Boston College campus calendar absolutely overflows with musical events — and that’s certainly the case over the next two weeks. A sampling:

This Saturday at 9 p.m. in Gasson 100, Composers in Red Sneakers — a group co-founded by Prof. Thomas O’boe Lee (Music) to promote the work of young composers on the way to significant careers — will present “Duets,” a concert with Eduardo Leandro (marimba) and Yoon-su Kim (cimbalom): performing works by Delbou Cane, Tom Davidson, Howard Frauinz, Ezra Landers, Lanning McCloskey and Gunther Schuller.

“Same is a night, same time, the University’s popular jazz ensemble BC 160 presents “The League 160” in Robsham Theater. The event, which celebrates the group’s 20th anniversary year, also — as its title suggests — is a salute to the upcoming baseball season. In fact, to help promote the concert, BC 160’s group printed up baseball cards with pictures of ensemble members in classic baseball poses.

“On Sunday, the Music at St. Mary’s series welcomes Cappella Clau- sura, which will perform “Planctus Mariae,” a liturgical drama on Jesus’ death from the point of view of the three Marys. The concert takes place at 9 p.m. in Gasson 100.

“BC student tunemakers will have a chance to show off their music as a singer/songwriter competition sponsored by the Music Guide and the Under- graduate Government of Boston College March 23 in the Chocolate Bar, beginning at 7 p.m.

“Gasson 100 will be the setting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 25, for a piano recital by part-time faculty member Sandra Hebert (Music), who will perform works by Bach, Rachmaninoff, Brahms and Whitman Brown.

“Soprano Katherine Weiss ’04 will return to her alma mater on March 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Gasson 100 for a concert of compositions by Barber, Copland, Liszt, Rouen and Schubert. She will be accompanied by pianist Alla Karchan.

“The next night, March 27, the student group United in Chant will hold a “Night of Prayer and Coffeehouse” as part of their “Jesus Week” celebration. The event, which will take place from 8:10-9 p.m. in the Votive Hall third floor lounge, promises worship music, coffee and cookies.

“The Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop and Lecture Series will wrap up its 2006-07 schedule on March 28 with a concert at 7 p.m. in Connolly House by Jerry O’Sullivan, a gifted and well-respected player of the Irish uilleann pipes. O’Sullivan has won acclaim for maintaining the historic traditions and melodies of the instrument while expanding its range into new genres of music and media.

Information on all these events is available at events.bc.edu.

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THE BOSTON COLLEGE CHRONICLE

REDINGS • LECTURES • DISCUSSION

March 15
• “Regensburg and Beyond: Pope Benedict and Religious Freedom” with Robert Arujo, S.J., Pontifical Gregorian University, 3:15 p.m., Law School, Newton Campus.

March 13
• Annual Prophetic Voices of the Church Lecture with Rev. Profes- sor Peter J. Gomes, Harvard Uni- versity, 7:30 p.m., Heights Room, Corcoran Commons, call ext. 2- 1800, email richardg@bc.edu.

"Irish diplomacy is the ability to tell a man to go to hell so that he actually looks for way to do that is to see and hear for yourself. In particular, if a state is struggling for some reason, I’ll make a point of going there.”

Mahoney brings all these qual- ities to GSSW, ably fulfilling a role that, for all his work with C&C, colleagues say should not be overlooked: as educator, and in some ways a proselytizer in the realm of scholarship, teaching and elderly issues, an aspect of social work that is taking on increased importance. In fact, Mahoney’s experience provides valuable background for his courses, such as this semester’s class on Research Methods: For one recent session, he invited Ellen to discuss her studies on problems and strat- egies involved in bathing patients with Alzheimer’s.

"Mahoney believes a focus on gerontological social work is vital for the future needs of the profes- sion, to say nothing of society it- self. “There are still so many MSW candidates who come in interested in working with children,” he ex- plains. “The students who want to work with elders tend to be those who have already had experience in the helping professions, working with the elderly, or with those who are living in controlled settings.”