Enrollment Trends

Finance now second most popular major among undergrads

**BY STEPHEN GAWLIK STAFF WRITER**

While communication continues to be the most popular major at Boston College, the number of students majoring in the natural sciences is at its highest level in five years.

In addition, for the first time in memory, a concentration in the Carroll School of Management is the second most popular area of study at BC: finance, with 805 students.

These trends are among the highlights of the annual statistical snapshot of student enrollment compiled recently by the Office of Student Services.

When the fall 2006 semester enrollment period closed last month, 966 undergraduates had declared majors in the sciences: biology (641 students), biochemistry (127), chemistry (97), physics (62) and geology and geophysics (39).

The numbers represent a steady increase since 2001, when 690 students declared science majors.

According to Student Services, communication (945 students) continues to attract the highest number of majors overall, as has been the case for the last six years.

The other most popular majors at BC are political science (777), English (770) and history (618), all in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In the Lynch School of Education, nursing has 377 majors, up from 230 in 2001.

Also hitting quarter-century highs in enrollment are art history (66), classics (37), Slavic and Eastern languages (34) and German Studies (27).

Director of Student Services Louise Lounabocker cautioned that the enrollment figures represent a picture taken at a single point in time and that the numbers are typically quite fluid over the course of the school year.

“I am sure that if we did this next month, 966 would have shifted,” Lounabocker said.

Continued on page 4

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**Bedell Takes Research Post**

**BY GREG FROST STAFF WRITER**

Rourke Professor of Physics Kevin Bedell has been named to the newly created post of vice provost for research, Boston College Provost and Dean of Faculties Bert Garza announced.

Garza said Bedell’s scholarly achievements, outstanding leadership of Physics and other administrative experiences made him an ideal choice for the new position.

“Professor Bedell brings the ideal combination of skills — researcher, experienced academic administrator, wonderful teacher and mentor, and unquestionable commitment to Boston College,” Garza said. “I have every confidence that he’ll be great for BC’s research programs.”

Garza added that the new position and the reorganization of which it is a part are designed to strengthen the ties between research and teaching.

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Continued on page 4

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**Alum’s Relief Effort in Gulf Coast Takes Root**

**BY GREG FROST STAFF WRITER**

LIFTING HER VOICE—Former “American Idol” contestant Ayla Brown ’10 performs with the Boston Pops Orchestra at last Friday’s “Pops on the Heights” concert in Conte Forum. The annual event was one of several highlights of Parents’ Weekend. More on page 4. (Photo by Rose Lincoln)

With helping hands from fellow grads, he hopes to do more

When Bill Driscoll Jr. ’05, headed to the Gulf Coast more than a year ago to help with hurricane relief efforts, he planned to volunteer for three weeks before returning north to pursue his dream of working in film and television production.

Thirteen months later, the Milton, Mass., native is still on the bayou and still hard at work. Only now he has been joined by three members of BC’s Class of 2006: Beca Howard, Jen Marsh and Marianne Tierney. Together, they make up the operations staff of Persevere Disaster Relief, a non-profit organization that Driscoll launched earlier this year to rebuild shattered lives and landscapes that Hurricane Katrina left behind.

Driscoll was inspired to start his own non-profit after spending his first six months on the Gulf Coast with Hands On USA, a small relief organization that maximized its resources while keeping red tape to a minimum.

After Hands On USA concluded its Biloxi, Mississippi-based hurricane relief efforts in February, Driscoll decided to stay on. He moved further east along the coast to some of the Mississippi communities hardest hit by Katrina – Pass Christian, Waveland, Gulfport.

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Continued on page 4

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**Continued on page 4**
Neighbors all
Fall is a time for new beginnings, especially when it comes to college, so with that in mind some Boston College students sought to start off the academic year on a positive note with their off-campus neighbors.
On Sept. 21, BC held a “Come Meet Your Neighbor Night” in the Kirbywood and Radnor roads area of Brighton. Some 200-250 people — including students and residents as well as BC administrators — attended the event, which featured a Texas-style barbecue and a DJ.
“It was a great turn-out, and just a really terrific evening, overall,” said Director of Community Affairs William Mills. “Some of the neighbors in attendance were people who have had concerns about BC in the past, and they seemed to feel the event was quite successful. There was a lot of mingling going on — it wasn’t just everyone off in their own groups.”
The event was organized as part of the Campus Community Partnership Initiative, a program designed to strengthen the working relationship between local universities and their host communities.
Helping to break the ice were activities such as a scavenger hunt which required participants to find out certain information about each other, Mills noted. “Everything from ‘someone who was born the same month as you’ to ‘someone who speaks more than one language’ to ‘someone with the most unusual pet.’”
There also was a trick question, Mills adds: “Find someone who has been or is an elected official.” Nobody fit that description. —SS

Sweet talking
Who says talking with a faculty member or academic advisor has to be a read, stilted affair? Certainly not the University’s Academic Advising Center, which today is kicking off “Professors and Pastries,” a web-based event.
“Some of our colleagues interested in the subject are particularly busy from continuing opportun- ities to become better acquainted with the resources, particularly of people here, at BC. The conversations should be helpful to our students who are trying to decide on their future classes, majors, minors, potential career paths and volunteer activities,” Browne says the invitation is open to other faculty and BC colleagues interested in the subject matter of a specific “Professors and Pastries” event.
For as the aforementioned deficiencies are a real concern, the pastries are really tasty and their consumption highly conducive to student-faculty conversation,” affirms Browne, who notes that at the insistence of Academic Advising Center Director Elizabeth Nathans, “we’ve added chocolate-dipped strawberry to the menu.”
For more on “Professors and Pastries,” go to the Academic Advising Center Web page at www.bc.edu/offices/acadvrt. —SS

Correction
A photo caption in the Sept. 8 Chronicle misidenti- fied the grandson of Dr. Eugene McAuliffe: His name is John Dobrowolski ’08. Chronicle regrets the error. —SS

IT Outages, Early Closing Reminder
The Boston College community is reminded that the campus will be affected by two significant events occurring this month: scheduled outages of some information technology resources beginning tomorrow through Columbus Day, and the early closing of University offices next Thursday, Oct. 12, due to the nationally televised BC-Virginia Tech football game.
The interruption of IT services this weekend — which will affect e-mail, Agora and voicemail and other systems — and Oct. 20-22 are necessitated by the relocation of the University’s Data Center and Information Technology Services personnel to a new location on Brighton Campus. See www.bc.edu/unplugged for more details.
Because of the need for campus preparations, and to ease any parking and traffic congestion, for next Thursday night’s football game at Alumni Stadium, all vehicles must be removed from campus as close as 3 p.m. is possible. Parking needs for faculty and students attending late afternoon classes will be addressed by the Office of the Provost.

Stepping up, and forward
BC and four other area universities pledged $10 million in funds and services to help 10 of the city’s underperforming public schools improve test scores and increase the number of students going to college.
Through a five-year plan titled “Step Up,” BC, Boston University, Harvard University, Northeastern and Tufts will provide teacher training, lend teaching assistance as well as tutoring, and may advise schools on their curriculum design. They also will help with student issues, including dental and general-health screenings.

United Way time
The annual Boston College United Way Campaign begins on Oct. 17 with its traditional kick-off breakfast in Gasson 100, featuring remarks by University President William P. Leahy, SJ, and guest speaker Kenneth Hambreg, ’66, vice president and chief financial officer of the Home for Little Wanderers.
More than 70 BC employees will serve as United Way representatives for this year’s campaign, which will run until Nov. 21. In the years since it began holding an annual United Way campus drive, BC has been at the top of local academic institutions in terms of employee participation.
BC campaign chair Anita Ulloa, director of employment in the Human Resources Department, said the United Way is focusing in particular on preventing youth violence and childhood obesity.
“The United Way of Massachusetts Bay is working towards a vision of making the Greater Boston region the best place for children in the country by 2015,” she said. “This means investing in childhood development, building youth opportunities and ensuring sustainable employment and ensuring affordable housing.”
At Boston College we are dedicated to learning and also to making this world a better place. The United Way is one way to contribute towards a better future for our children. When we improve the environments in which they grow up, the community benefits. An investment in their future is an investment in future citizens who can and will give back.”
Raffles will be held each week of the campaign, Ulloa notes, so those who contribute donations early have a better chance of win- ning a prize.
For more information, see www.bc.edu/offices/unitedway.

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Electronic editions of the Boston College Chronicle are available via the World Wide Web at http://www.bc.edu/chronicle.
Columbkillie's desperate situation was evident: a large financial deficit, a shrinking student body and facilities badly in need of major repairs.

The grim outlook went beyond St. Columbkillie's, he adds. Two other Catholic elementary schools in adjoining neighborhoods facing similar problems were forced to close.

"St. Columbkillie's is the last remaining Catholic school in the Allston-Brighton community," Keady says. "Fr. Leahy stepped in at that time and helped financially and with some other BC resources."

He then made a proposal to the Archdiocese that resulted in the partnership that we have today. "He needed us, this does not happen.

The partnership, which was announced in the spring and formally signed on Sept. 8, brought experts from the Lynch School and a number of other Boston College departments to St. Columbkillie's throughout the summer to join with parish, diocesan and community representatives to address the elementary school's critical needs.

"We did some serious renovations for the pre-school and kindergarten grades, like new lighting, carpeting, new equipment and furnishing," Keady says. "We purchased a new security system, did some needed cleaning, got new computers and helped put in a new curriculum.

As important as the physical improvements were, the infusion of people and resources via BC has been critical say administrators. BC students are teaching, tutoring and volunteering in the school, and the University has established a program in which current St. Columbkillie's teachers can take graduate level courses at BC tuition-free in exchange for an extended teaching commitment at the elementary school.

"We also hosted two open houses that were well-attended by the students, their families and parishioners. There are 382 students enrolled this year—a significant increase over previous enrollment figures," Keady says.

"What's really important is that the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes have 82 students. That's a very encouraging sign for the future."

Boston College contributions are not limited to traditional classroom activities. After-school recreation and enrichment programs, SAT enhancement classes and English as a Second Language classes for adults have been established. University administrators have assisted in applying for Catholic School Foundation grants and the Brighton school can now join BC in soliciting bids for such services as snow plowing and trash removal. Keady says.

"It's the laboratory model, really, that I think is important," says Fr. O'Keefe. "We will work with the local community and build that school around best practices and best possible education and then find ways to disseminate that information through publication research."

"It is for the children at St. Columbkillie's," adds Fr. O'Keefe, "but it is also for the bigger world, both Catholic schools and public schools.

Michael James, executive director of Boston College's Center for Catholic Education says the St. Columbkillie's partnership could have national ramifications, giving the rash of Catholic elementary school closings — more than 250 in the US in the last two years alone.

"One of the critical contributions that Catholic universities can provide nationally is reaching out to the needs of the local diocese," he says. "The best way to be a good neighbor is by a formal, organized partnership that is to work together."

"We hold that this will become a model nationally. In the long term we are looking at the success of how we implement the partnership, how we design the collaboration between the diocese, the parish and the university, how we are able to provide resources that both develop curriculum and look at facilities, how we do that in a way that can be transportable to other dioceses and how we can provide leadership and consultation to other Catholic universities who are looking for these opportunities."

**Projects Target Usage in Residence Halls, Garages**

One project aimed at conserving electricity in Boston College parking garages and another designed to measure usage in residential halls is a part of the University's on-going energy conservation effort.

Following the campaign's successful debut year in 2005-06, during which the University saved close to $2 million, BC administrators are at work implementing new and creative programs to help reduce energy consumption, ease pollution and save money.

"This is an on-going effort that's ultimately going to reduce BC's costs while doing our part to improve the environment," said Utilities Manager Deirdre Manning.

Manning said a new project initiated last week to replace lights in both campus parking garages will result in more illumination while reducing the amount of electricity drawn by some 40 percent.

"The savings will pay for the retrofit in three years," said Manning. "In addition to the financial benefits, the 352,000 fewer kilowatts used by the lighting each year reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 222 metric tons. That's the equivalent of taking 48 passenger cars off the road each year."

For public safety reasons, Manning said the lights in both garages must remain lit 24 hours a day, making a more efficient system necessary.

On another front, Manning predicts that the installation of electric meters in nearly every campus residence hall will help administrators better manage the buildings and make students aware of the energy their dorms use. The meters, she said, can provide better, and more timely, information about how much electricity is being used and how it is used.

"You can't manage what you don't measure," said Manning. "We can use information to better determine our infrastructural needs as the university expands and to help identify inefficient equipment."

The meters also offer the possibility of continuing a program begun last year on Newton Campus in which residence halls compete for prizes based on how well they conserve energy. The winner was the Hardy-Cushing residence hall, which cut usage by nearly 11 percent.

"We believe that students, once made aware of the amount of energy they use and the impact it has on the environment, will be interested in helping us conserve," said Manning.

"We're making progress, but there's still much to accomplish. It is crucial that students, faculty and staff realize it is the responsibility of everyone on this campus to do his or her part to conserve."

**Barbara Doty on a recent afternoon at St. Columbkillie's School with her K-2 class. All items in the classroom, including rugs, furnishings and educational materials, were donated by Boston College through its partnership with the school. (Photo by Lee Pollegioni)**
The Boston College Chronicle

OCTOBER 5, 2006

Freshmen Seem Ready for Challenges

Many have taken AP biology or multi-variable calculus, scored among the best students in nation on their SATs and navigated the increasingly selective admission process.

But for members of the Boston College Class of 2010, the biggest challenge they face now at college may be each other.

“Every day I meet someone new who is just as smart as me,” said Frank Trager ’10, a Carroll School of Management student from suburban Chicago. “I just met a kid who’s a sponsored windsurfer. I’ve never met anyone like that.”

Trager is one of 2,284 members of a freshman class that, by many measures, is the most talented BC has ever accepted and that talent has been exhibited both within and beyond the classroom walls.

Inside the classroom, the Class of 2010 — chosen from an applicant pool of 26,584, BC’s largest ever — has composite middle 50 percent SAT scores ranging from 1960-2100 and almost 56 percent of its members were accepted via early action.

Outside the classroom, the Class of 2010’s excellence may be difficult to quantify, but administrators say it is abundant.

“We have people who have excelled in many different things: people with great musical ability, people with student government experience, people with great athletic ability,” said Director of Undergraduate Admissions John Mahoney. “We’ve built a community that will enrich the quality of life for everyone on campus.”

For some members of the Class of 2010 gathered for lunch at Can- payce in McCarthy Commons recently, Mahoney’s words ring true.

“BC is definitely a work hard, play hard kind of place,” said freshman Elizabeth Sherrey of Cherry, NJ. “It’s really a competitive atmosphere.”

Filip Stroic of Lincoln Park, NJ, agreed, but said that BC’s reputation as a strong academic institution as well as its proximity to Boston — was what attracted him, and many of his fellow freshmen, in the first place.

This school has a lot to offer at every level,” said the finance major.

While there’s no telling how the academic success of the class will manifest itself in other areas, observers say it’s fair to assume that academic success goes hand-in-hand with success in other ventures.

“I think for a few years now we’ve been seeing students come in with a high levels of talent and all sorts of experiences before they’ve even started college,” said Associate Dean for Student Development Paul Ciborab.

“We have students who have traveled abroad and held leadership positions throughout high school in areas like student government, student newspapers and yearbooks. These are very talented students. It is a real challenge for us to repond.”

—Stephen Gaitley

Bedell Is Vice Provost for Research

Continued from page 1

For research, Bedell will incorporate the responsibilities of Physics colleague Prof. Michael Naughton, who had served as interim associate vice president for research since Aug. 1 of last year. Naughton replaced Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Smyer, who had been associate vice president for research for more than a decade.

Although Bedell will relinquish his chairmanship of the Physics Department, he will remain a faculty member and continue to contribute to the department through research and graduate student advising. A search is under way to replace Bedell as Physics chairman.

"Hopefully people are starting to see the renewed value of physics. It isn’t about balls rolling down an incline, it’s about things like nanotubes and retinal implants, it’s about the integrated work we’re doing within other fields," he said.

Biology faculty cite the research opportunities offered to students and the prospect of regular collaborations with professors as major factors in the major’s popularity.

Prof. Clare O’Connor said families seem to appreciate that BC research labs are small enough for students to actually play a substantive role in research projects.

"Increasingly, we’re seeing students who have also had some research experiences as high school students and would like to continue them in college," she said.

Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robert Wolff (Biology) said students’ growing interest in applying to medical school was another likely reason for the rise in science majors.

"I think the strengthening of all our science departments in general has also made our Premedical Program more attractive to potential applicants, and this has probably also influenced biology enrollments," said Wolff, who serves as the program’s director.

Student Services data supports Wolff’s comment: The number of students enrolled in the Premedical Program (1,261) is well above the 2000 total of 900.

At least one BC student also agrees with Wolff.

"BC students have a strong acceptance rate to medical school and that was certainly a draw for me," said Kathleen Brennan '07, a biology major from Portland, Me., planning to apply to medical school following graduation next May.

"Those of us who had been associate vice presidents for research, Bedell will in incorporate the responsibilities of Physics colleague Prof. Michael Naughton, who had served as interim associate vice president for research since Aug. 1 of last year. Naughton replaced Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Smyer, who had been associate vice president for research for more than a decade.

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Geologist Snyder Hails ‘Incredible Opportunity’

ACC research program made summer trip to Southeast Asia possible

BY REID OSLIN STAFF WRITER

Aust. Prof. Noah Snyder (Geology and Geophysics) joined an Atlantic Coast Conference “team this past summer for an undertaking that had nothing to do with the league’s traditional athletic competitions.

Snyder was part of an 11-member faculty group representing eight ACC schools that conducted water resources research in major watersheds in Southeast Asia, notably China and Vietnam.

This first-time research endeavor, known as the Atlantic Coast Conference International Academic Collaboration, brought together faculty members from a variety of academic disciplines to focus on a research topic outside of the United States. The ACC-CCIAC was founded in 2007, when a research trip to Africa is planned, and in future years.

Snyder, a fluvial geomorphologist, ("Basically, I study how rivers shape the Earth’s surfaces by eroding, transporting and depositing sediments," he explained) was joined by hydrologists, environmental chemists, biologists and environmental policy-makers on the three-week project that focused on environmental concerns, risks and consequences affecting Southeast Asia’s Yangtze, Red and Mekong rivers.

The leaders of the research trip were Stephen克莱恩 of Clemson University’s Biological Studies Department and E. Michael Perdue, a faculty member in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Georgia Institute of Technology.

“It was an incredible opportunity to travel around with 10 other professors who were all interested in different aspects of one big topic,” Snyder says. “There is a constant stimulation and a constant source of conversation and the informal interaction that we had together as a group was really valuable, and a really unusual experience.

“I now know a group of people that I can call upon when I have a question in their particular subject discipline.”

Snyder says the international aspect of the project also provides an additional academic dividend.

“One of the stated goals of the program is to introduce people to new parts of the world. I had never been to Southeast Asia. When we got to meet with academics there we found it is very easy to interact with these people because we share a common profession and inherently a common set of experiences.

“It’s a great entry into a new arena of research.”

Snyder says the ACC-CCIAC is of particular value to faculty members from Boston College – the newest member of the 12-school conference.

“It’s important for Boston College to participate in these sorts of things, because we are sort of geographically separated from the rest of the conference. The core of the ACC is in the Carolinas and a lot of the people seemed to know each other because they go to regional science meetings and the like.

“That all the more reason we should be sure to always have a participant or representative in these types of things,” Snyder says. “Hopefully, we will make the ACC even more than a sports conference.

Additional information on ACC-CCIAC and applications for faculty participation are available at accciac.org/facultygrants.htm.

BC Alumnus Driscoll Vows to Persevere

Continued from page 1

land and Bay Saint Louis – and founded Persevere Inc. almost on the nimble, effective system he planned, and in future years.

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USA Today: BC Athletics on Top in Academics

Boston College’s combined athletic and academic success on the football field and basketball courts were lauded in the Sept. 28 edition of USA Today, which reshuffled this week’s football top 25 and last year’s final men’s and women’s basketball top 25 according to academic success rate.

Boston College was the only school in the country with its football, men’s basketball and women’s basketball teams all ranked in the nation’s top 10 academically and athletically.

USA Today used figures from a recently released study by the, which vtk tracked more than 93,000 athletes, most on scholarship, who entered school in the four-year period from 1996-99 in computing its Graduation Success Rates. In their second year of use, the numbers are considered more accurate than federally computed rates that penalize schools for players who transfer or leave for such other reasons as early entry in a professional draft.

With this data, USA Today reorganized its weekly ESPN USA Today Top 25 football (coaches’) poll as well as the final 2005-06 men’s and women’s basketball polls.

In the reshuffled poll, the football Eagles, ranked 25th in that week’s coaches’ poll, ranked number one in the country with a 96 percent graduation rate. Notre Dame (95 percent), Nebraska (88), Florida (80) and TCU (78) rounded out the top five academic-athletic programs in the country. BC also was ranked number one in the country when the newspaper reorganized its final top 25 poll at the end of the 2005 regular season.

In men’s basketball, BC ranked 73 percent ranked sixth in the country when USA Today reshuffled last season’s final top 25 poll. The women’s basketball team, with a 92 percent graduation rate, tied for seventh in the newspaper’s modified poll.

“As always, we are very proud of the accomplishments of our student-athletes in the classroom, on the court and on the court,” Director of Athletics Gene DeFilippo said.

—Boston College Athletic Association
Boisi Event Studies

Pledge Issue

Michael Newdow, a California lawyer and physician who has led efforts to remove religious references from the Pledge of Allegiance and American currency, will be part of a panel discussion, "Religious Freedom and the Pledge of Allegiance," on Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fulton Debate Room (Gasson 305).

Joining Newdow on the panel will be Prof. Alan Wolfe (Political Science), director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, the event’s sponsor; lawyer and social critic Wendy Kaminer; and Tufts University Assistant Professor, recent Philip Murzio MA ’95, a scholar of political philosophy and American constitutional law.

Newdow attracted national attention when he took the Sacramento school district to court because it mandated students, including his daughter, must recite the Pledge of Allegiance. He claimed that the presence of “under God” in the Pledge violated the separation between church and state and was therefore unconstitutional.

A California court upheld him, but the US Supreme Court ruled against Newdow, largely on the grounds that he had no legal standing to bring the case, as he had never married his daughter’s mother and was in the middle of a custody battle.

While scrutinizing forms of humor and political correctness, Lewis began to identify specific signatures used deliberately to do more than amuse: to cure, terrify, educate, motivate, persuade, inform, and unite us," said Lewis, who recently wrote an op-ed on the use of humor by politicians in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Because some jokes, improves, sitcoms, political speeches, and radio broadcasts use humor to do something other than to entertain, it becomes more important to understand what specific humor might highlight areas of anxiety or express the most nurturing and loving impulses, informs and misinforms, and exposes as well as covers up the shortcomings of political leaders."

"Insofar as jokes can convey information, provide entertainment, and offer relief from stress, they can highlight areas of anxiety or concern," he said.

The strains of intentional humor I follow - including sadistic humor in popular culture and the positive humor movement - are not uniquely modern or American, though they gathered momentum here over the past 30 years," said Lewis.

He said his motivation for the book dawned after finishing an earlier study of literary humor, Comic Effects: Introductory Approaches to Humor in Literature. Seeking to move beyond the ethical frames under dispute in debates about political correctness, Lewis began to follow controversial and edgy jokes, cycles, and paradigms.

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EagleEyes, the Boston College project that enables people with severe physical disabilities to perform various tasks using eye-controlled computer technology, has been named a 2006 "Technology Award Laureate" in education by the Tech Museum of San Jose, Calif.

The Tech Museum Awards honor innovators from around the world who are applying technology to benefit humanity, and seeks to inspire other such efforts. Awards are given in areas such as education, equality, environment, health and economic development through the use of technology. A collaboration between the Carroll School of Management, the Computer Science Department and the Boston College Campus School, the EagleEyes Project also has developed applications programs to work with its technology and thus expand its usefulness.

Biologist Shahabuddin Dies

Funeral services were held Sept. 22 for Mohammed Shahabuddin, a professor emeritus in the Biology Department who died Sept. 21 after a long illness. He was 86.

Dr. Shahabuddin, a native of Bangladesh who joined the Biology faculty prior to the 2003-04 academic year, was an expert in disease transmission by insects. His research focused in particular on identifying crucial insect vectors and mosquito molecular scales that could be targeted to develop effective strategies for blocking transmission of malaria, which afflicts more than 500 million people, and kills nearly two million people annually, many of them children.

In 2003, Dr. Shahabuddin and DeLuca Professor of Biology Marc V askewitch developed an insect-resistant rice strain and called their study of insect-borne infectious diseases.

That same year, Dr. Shahabuddin was a presenter at the Boston Malaria-Mosquito Encounter, which offered a set of educational information and exchange ideas among malaria and mosquito researchers in the Boston area. As an investigator in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, Dr. Shahabuddin and colleagues identified a part of the insect immune system that naturally attacks malaria parasites. The research, detailed in a 2000 article he co-authored for Science, lent hope for the development of transmission-blocking vaccines and mosquito engineered to be parasite-resistant.

Dr. Shahabuddin held bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, and earned his doctorate from the University of Edinburgh.

He is survived by his wife, Shahnasour Begum, and sons Mustahsan and Mumtaz.

Honor Program Co-Founder Albert Duhamel, 86, Dies

Prof. Emeritus P. Albert Duhamel, who taught English at Boston College for nearly 50 years and was a founder of the University's Honors Program, died Oct. 1. He was 86.

"Al was one of the giants of the Boston College English department in the 1950's and 1960's," said Vice President for University Mission and Ministry Joseph A. Appleyard, SJ, who studied under Prof. Duhamel as an undergraduate. "He inspired many of his students—myself included—to follow in his footsteps in the study of the history of English literature.

"In founding the honors program at Boston College, he set a new standard for intellectual excellence," said Prof. Appleyard. 
"Appropriately, he spent the last happy years of his teaching career introducing fresh- men to the great literature of the past."

In addition to his teaching, Prof. Duhamel for several years was book editor at The Boston Herald and hosted a weekly television show on WGBH-TV, "I've Been Reading," for which he interviewed a wide array of authors and other guests, ranging from professional baseball players to best-selling novelists. One of his guests was Julia Child, who in 1962 cooked her first television meal—an omelet—on his show. A number of viewers contacted the station to express their interest in the cooking segment, and

Today, the Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ohio) and other regional newspapers write regularly on various aspects of retirement planning.

Honors/Appointments
• Center on Wealth and Philanthropy Professor Paul G. Scher- vish (Sociology) has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Smith Barney Charitable Trust, Inc.

Grants
• Spring 2007 of Education faculty members Prof. Ina Mullins and Research Prof. Michael Martin $300,000, International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, "Design, Manage and Implement TIMMST 2007."
• Prof. G. Robert Meyershoff (Mathematics): $184,218, National Science Foundation, "FRG: Understanding Low Volume Hyperbolic 3-Manifolds."

• Prof. Lisa Barrett (Psychology): $119,946, National Institutes of Health, "Emotional Granularity: A View From Multiple Levels."

• Distinguished Research Prof. Gabor Kalman (Psychology): $83,992, National Science Foundation, "Collaborative Research: View From Multiple Levels."

• Prof. Raymond Helmick (Theology) was quoted by the

Newsmakers
• Prof. Harvey Egan, SJ (Theol- ogy), was quoted by the Los Angeles Times regarding the spiritual and the medical use of acupuncture drugs in cancer patients.

Center on Aging and Work Co- director David Silver spoke with the New Orleans Times-Picayune about older Americans adapting to new technologies.

• Prof. Judith McMorrow (Law) was quoted by the Boston Globe for a story on efforts to mediate a dispute between Mus- lims and Jews in Greater Boston over construction of a mosque at Revere Beach. Also, his op-ed on the consequences of religions becoming exclusive clubs was published by Science & Theology News.

Madeleine Gabor Kalman, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Education, said that the field's growing emphasis on research provides a "standard for intellectual excellence," and he is interested in the study of the history of English literature.

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean Michael A. Sayer has been appointed the new committee on Graduate Education and Doctoral Competitiveness of the Council of Graduate Schools. The committee, composed of higher education and business leaders, will assist in developing a policy paper that focuses on the specific roles of universities, government and business in ensuring that the nation's graduate education capacity is nurtured and advanced in the next decades. The committee will participate in a legislative conference in Washington, DC, next April.

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The 2006-07 Robsham Theater fall season, which includes classic works by Shakespeare and Sophocles and the staging of a popular “cult” 1970s musical, will open next Friday, Oct. 13, with a joint Robsham-Theater Department production of Shelagh Stephenson’s “An Experiment with an Air Pump.”

Directed by Adj. Asst. Prof. Patricia Riggins (Theater), the play, based on actual historical figures and events, offers a provocative perspective on the interplay of science and art, and the ethical issues concerning the pursuit of both.

Robsham and the Theater Department also will collaborate for a production of “Antigone,” famed from Oct. 18-20, directed by Robsham Associate Director Sheppard Barnet. Written by Sophocles in 442 BC as the final play of his Oedipus trilogy, this tragedy incorporates such universal themes as conscience-versus-law, individual-versus-state, the conflict of power and passion, and the complex nature of pride.

Another Shelagh Stephenson play will be featured at Robsham’s Bonn Studio from Oct. 26-28, when the Boston College Dramatics Society presents “The Memory of Waste.” Three sisters, reunited after the death of their mother, struggle over who remembers which events more clearly. They find that individual memories and experiences can become fuzzy, and family stories told over and over again can be re-shaped and detailed until they erase the original memory.

Bonn also will be the setting from Nov. 2-4 for the Contemporary Theater of Boston College production of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” Created by Richard O’Brien (who played the character “Riff Raff” in the film version), this rock’n roll-flavored spoof of old horror movies—among other things—has been a success on screen as well as stage, and is famous for its audience participation.

The tone shifts dramatically for the Robsham-Theater Department staging of “Macbeth” from Nov. 16-19. This enduring Shakespearean tale of guilt, revenge, money, politics, and the issue of power over the body and mind will be directed by Adj. Asst. Prof. Patricia Riggins (Theater), an associate professor of English, and Adj. Asst. Prof. Patricia Riggins (Theater), an associate professor of English.

For more information on campus events, see events.bc.edu and www.bc.edu/abcinfo

BC Among the ‘Fittest’ Colleges, Survey Says

Men’s Fitness Magazine has named Boston College one of America’s 25 fittest colleges in its annual ranking that appears in newsstands this week.

BC was named the third fittest college, behind Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and Colgate University, based on a survey of 12,500 students at 115 colleges and universities.

The rankings are determined by student responses to 17 questions about their diet, lifestyle and exercise habits on campus.

“It is a common-sense study,” said Neal Bouton, editor in chief of the popular fitness magazine. “We take a look at the kinds of food offered in college cafeterias, the range of exercise opportunities available on campus, how much alcohol students consume, etc., and formulate our rankings based on students’ input. The top schools offer a range of nutrition and exercise choices and provide a very balanced lifestyle within which everyone can exist.”

The student survey questions covered topics such as hours studied, minutes spent exercising, hours spent sleeping, hours per week students exercise, how many hours students spend studying, how many hours students spend eating, how much alcohol students consume, etc., and then formulated rankings based on students’ responses. The top schools offer a range of nutrition and exercise choices and provide a very balanced lifestyle within which everyone can exist.”

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For more information on the fall Robsham Theater season, see the Robsham Theater Web site at www.bc.edu/abc/ or call ext.-4800.