Undergraduate Applications Pass 30,000 for First Time

BY ED HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

The convergence of demographics, technology and Boston College’s national reputation combined to catapult applications for next year’s freshmen class to an all-time high of more than 30,000, according to admissions officials.

A population bubble of high school seniors, online and shared application procedures, and the continually expanding reach of the University’s academic reputation mean more students than ever before are competing for the approximately 2,250 spots in the Class of 2012.

“We will go over 30,000 applications for the first time and set another record for Boston College,” said John Mahoney, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admission. “The increase translates into an approximately five percent growth over last year’s applications total.”

In all, about 8,000 applicants will be accepted and roughly 30 percent of those students will matriculate at BC in the fall. The signs of BC’s success include 6,800 early action applicants who say the University is one of their top choices — a 13 percent increase above last year.

BC has set a new record for undergraduate applications almost every year in the past decade, and consistently ranks among the top five or 10 private universities nationally for applications received. The University first passed the 20,000 mark in applications eight years ago, and exceeded 25,000 (with a total of more than 26,000) two years ago.

Mahoney and Dean for Enrollment Management Robert Lay say the prime drivers behind the growing interest in the campus are a stellar faculty closely connected to Jesuit undergraduate education and significant investments in the university — from improved laboratories and classrooms to upgraded living spaces and student programs.

“We have seen a remarkable rise in Boston College’s academic reputation,” says Mahoney, supervisor of 40 Admission staff members who read applications and manage the Continued on page 3

Arabic Language Interest at BC Mirrors National Rise

BY SEAN SMITH
CHRONICLE EDITOR

Craig Noyes ‘08 didn’t think he could learn another language, having experienced six years of French instruction he says left him “jaded and frustrated.”

But when he chose Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies as his minor, to go with his major in history, Noyes knew he had to tackle an even more imposing language: Arabic.

“I heard horror stories of how labor intensive it was and how much time it took to learn Arabic,” says Noyes, an East Monches, NY, native. “At the same time, I knew that it would help me with what I wanted to do after graduation, which is conflict resolution and regional studies. There is such a high demand for Arab speakers and an intense interest in the region.

“Although it certainly wasn’t my primary reason for taking Arab, knowing that it would bolster my resume certainly helped me jump in.”

Once the class began, Noyes found — to his pleasant surprise — he was more intrigued than intimidated by the Arabic alphabet. The workload was “moderately intensive, labor-wise, and a good deal intellectually intensive, too,” he says. Most of all, he says, Adj. Aust. Prof. Francis Saltmarch (Slavic and Eastern Languages) helped foster a sense of camaraderie in the class.

“We all got a thrill out of sharing a new realm of education at BC together,” says Noyes. “Trying out something so unlike what you’re used to, you have to be comfortable with yourself and the people you are around. You’re going to make mistakes, so you might as well have fun with it. It made the learning more enjoyable.”

Noyes and his classmates have helped Arabic become the fastest-growing language at BC, with the number of students enrolled jumping from 15 to 160 in the three years since it was introduced.

The popularity of Arabic in higher education institutions is a national trend. According to the Modern Language Association, enrollment in the University’s Arabic program increased by 105 percent from 1998-99 to 2000-01.

“In three more years, Carriere moved up to international competition, representing the United States at various championship events in the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia and Bulgaria. At the same time, he was an honors student at Wakefield High School.

“No Thin Ice for This Skater

Freshman Stephen Carriere prepares for the world figure skating championships — and perhaps a future Olympic moment

BY REID DUSLIN
STAFF WRITER

“Free time” is not an elective on Boston College freshman Stephen Carriere’s schedule. Every day, he tackles a rigorous physical training regimen that would intimidate even the fittest varsity athlete, and he views his first-year academic schedule as the foundation for a future career in medicine.

His dreams even include an Olympic gold medal — or two.

Carriere, a first-year student in the Woods College of Advancing Studies, finished third at last month’s US National Men’s Figure Skating Championships and, at age 18, he’s set his sights on the world’s top figure skating stage and the chance for some prized Olympic gold.

This month, Carriere is off to an international competition in Korea. March will find him in Sweden where he will compete in the world figure skating championships.

In between, he’ll work on reading assignments for his Problems in Philosophy class, one of two courses he is taking this semester.

“It’s pretty difficult to balance everything,” admits Carriere, who commutes from his home in Wakefield each day to an extended on-ice session at the Boston Skating Club in Brighton, followed by twice-weekly class nights at BC.

Boston College has been the perfect fit for me, a great school with great classes that could also accommodate my competitive skating career.”

“Stephen has had an amazing season this year,” says Scottie Bibb, spokesperson for US Figure Skating in Colorado Springs. “His hard work and dedication definitely paid off at US Championships. As we look forward to the 2010 Winter Games, there’s no doubt that we will be seeing a lot more of him.”

Carriere began skating at age five after his mother purchased a pair of hockey skates for him so he could accompany his older sister to a local rink. His skill on the blades was quickly recognized and his parents enrolled him in a US Figure Skating Basic Skills Program at the Stoneham Rink, the skating home of Olympic medalist Nancy Kerrigan.

“The rest was history,” he quips, “beginning with success in regional and national juvenile competitions in 2001.

By 2004, he had advanced through local and regional junior age bracket competitions, qualifying for national novice championship meets and a Junior Grand Prix competition in the Ukraine.

“Then, it was senior nationals and the junior world. "I was kind of used to it," he says of his hectic schedule. When it came time to make Continued on page 4

No Thin Ice for This Skater

Freshman Stephen Carriere prepares for the world figure skating championships — and perhaps a future Olympic moment

INSIDE:
Undergraduate research (page 3)
Ives is head of BC’s new research division (page 4)
Theater’s Cummings writes play on woman’s real-life ordeal (page 8)
Bon appetit

Having undergone a dazzling renovation that would impress even devotees of television’s “Ex- treme Makeover: Home Edition” series, the Faculty Dining Room in McElroy Commons has re-opened to rave reviews and burge- oning patronage.

In the new facility, nestled in McElroy’s third floor, diners will find a beautiful new décor – high-lighted by mahogany veneer pan- eling, new tables and chairs, ap- propriate lighting, new windows overlooking the campus green, a new heating system, carpeting and ceiling – all for a reason: to be more encouraging them to cheer each other on, and to be more concerned with teamwork than ‘winning.’”

Customer service has been im- proved as well, with the addi- tion of an on-site assistant general manager, Sheryl Thompson, three daily wait staff employees and a luncheon reservation system that will guarantee seating for patrons bringing guests or faculty candi- dates.

The room also has a com- fortable lounge area open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each weekday for teachers to meet with students and colleagues.

“The faculty dining room has been go- ing on for years,” says Vice Provost for Faculties Patricia DeLuca, who worked with members of the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Chairs to plan help the renovation with University Leaders and Dining Services officials.

“They listened to us and it’s a powerful symbol that we not only value our faculty, but we listen.”

University Provost and Dean of Faculties Curtberio Garza told faculty members attending last week’s grand re-opening that “without the support of [Univer- sity President] William P. Leahy, S.J., the reinventing of this facil- ity would not have occurred.

“So many faculty have already e-mailed me to let me know how pleased they are with this new ex- terior,” Garza said, “but they also have mentioned how wonderful the staff here has been.”

Garza also commended Asso- ciate Vice President for Capital Projects Mary Nardono and Fa- cilities Management construction teams for completing the reno- vation project in less than eight months.

“This facility has exceeded all of our expectations,” said Asso- ciate Vice President for Auxil- iary Services Patricia Bandol, who oversees the University’s dining operations. “It gives you an off- campus feel – it’s a real ‘club’ or ‘dining experience in every- thing from the ambiance to the food to the customer service.”

The Faculty Dining Room is open to faculty and staff from noon until 2 p.m. weekdays. Res- ervations may be made online at www.bc.edu/offices/dining/loca- tions/mcelroy/fd/frk_reservation. html or by calling ext. 2-4999 after 10:30 a.m.

Correction

A photograph of Boston College quarterback Matt Ryan that appeared on page 6 of the Jan. 17 Chronicle was incorrectly credited to Ian Thomas/ The Heights. Chronicle apologizes for the error.
The Boston College Chief Executives’ Club of Boston has been named the No. 2-ranked CEO event in the world and the top forum of its type in the United States, according to an analysis and report by global public relations firm Weber Shandwick.

“The Chief Executives’ Club of Boston, which operates in association with the Carroll School of Management, was listed behind only the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, among business groups that build thought leadership, executive visibility and reputation alignment in a world-wide venue,” says Robert Lay, an executive at the Boston College Chief Executives’ Club of Boston, which for 30 years has included high-profile topics on business, technology and politics.

Boston College president Father William P. Leahy, S.J., said the ranking is “another remarkable example of how Boston College’s mission in that way by showing our students how to be great citizens in the world.”

The BC club is particularly happy with the “top-ranked American business forum” in the list.

"Any time you are listed as second in the world it stands as a tremendous honor for both the Chief Executives’ Club of Boston and for Boston College,” said Peter Ryan, president of the club and CSMO executive director of corporate and government affairs.

“We are humbled by the recognition that our program continues to receive and thank our members, hosts, speakers and staff for making this possible.”

The Institute of Chief Executives’ Club of Boston — with a membership including some 500 executives at the highest levels in their organizations, among them chairpersons, CEOs, presidents, and managing partners — sponsors regular invitational events and provide a forum for the discussion of major issues and challenges facing today’s business leaders.

"We will still continue to see increases in applications from the states where populations are growing, such as California, Texas and Arizona. We are truly a national university." —Robert Lay, Boston College President and Dean of Faculties Cesare Garza

The excellence of Boston College’s academic endeavors will be in the spotlight on March 2 as University Provost and Dean of Faculties Cesare Garza speaks to the approximately 1,000 alumni, parents and friends expected to attend the University’s 57th annual Laetare Sunday celebration.

“The great things that happen on a daily basis in the academic world at BC sometimes don’t make it to the front pages,” said Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations John Feudo. “We want to be able to showcase the day-to-day excellence of our academic programs — our faculty, our students and the work that is being done. Bert is a person who is responsible for overseeing all of that.”

Laetare Sunday marks the midpoint of the liturgical season of Lent, and Boston College has held an annual Mass and breakfast gathering for alumni and friends of the University since 1951, making it the longest-running on-campus spiritual event of its kind in the country.

“Laetare Sunday is an opportunity for us to continue to fulfill Boston College’s mission through our programming,” says Feudo, “which is why it is so important to us.”

“Having somebody like Bert, who is a spiritual person, who lives every day to continue BC’s mission in that way by showing his commitment to Boston College and the University mission, that’s what we want.”

This year’s Laetare event will include a 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Conte Forum Power Gym, with principal concelebrant University President William P. Leahy, SJ, and Lynch School of Education Dean Joseph M. O’Keefe, SJ, who will deliver the homily.

Mass will be followed by a brunch in the main Conte Forum arena that will feature Garza’s talk.

All members of the Boston College community are invited to attend. Tickets are available through the Alumni Association at Ext. 2-4700 or at www.bc.edu/alumni.

Applications Top 30,000

"We still continue to see increases in applications from the states where populations are growing, such as California, Texas and Arizona. We are truly a national university." —Robert Lay, Boston College President and Dean of Faculties Cesare Garza

Continued from page 1 process. “Academically, our reputa-
tion is at a new peak. The good news is that we compete for the best students in the country every year, all the best colleges and universities are also watching a demographic wave crest in their favor. Next year, the number of high school seniors will peak at about 3.2 million, before starting a gradual decline.

While Boston College membership in the high-profile Atlantic Coast Conference has further raised the University’s profile and sparked a rise in applications in southern ACC states, Ma-

honey and Lay say population trends in states beyond New England may be the more important factors in ap-

plication growth. “We’ve had one of the best of any university in the country for top students,” says Lay. “We don’t think our appeal is going to wane. While demographics will level out in the Northeast, we will still continue to see increases in applications from the states where populations are growing, such as California, Texas and Arizona. We are truly a national university.”

Chief Executives’ Club Ranked Tops in US

The Boston College Chief Executives’ Club of Boston has been named the No. 2-ranked CEO event in the world and the top forum of its type in the United States, according to an analysis and report by global public relations firm Weber Shandwick.

“The topics range far and wide — from Eastern box turtle tales to His-

panic folk healing, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa to Edgar Allen Poe — as more than 40 students presented their work at the second annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on Feb. 1.

Students were asked to present the results of their research and grant-

funded travel to their peers and teachers. Paper presentations and panel discussions were spread throughout Gasson Hall and most enjoyed audiences between 10 and 25.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs Donald Hafner, chairman of the University Fellowships Committee, congratulated keynote speaker Political Science Depart-

ment chairwoman Prof. Susan Shell and thanked the approximately 47 million working poor: “I walked in on a Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. to a full waiting room,” said Nauser. “There are approxi-
mately 47 million working poor: people who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but do not work for a place that offers health insurance.”

In his research, Nauser assessed what states are doing to address the problems facing the uninsured and explained what individuals are do-

ing to obtain affordable health care.

Many participants received Ad-

anced Study Grants to fund their areas of study; others aimed to have work published in BC’s many aca-
demic journals.

The award for best presentations were: senior Stacy Brown, Michelle Hibel, Michelle Moe, Smarit Dajani, and CSOM executive director of advanced study grants to fund their areas of study; others aimed to have work published in BC’s many academic journals.

The award for best presentations were: senior Stacy Brown, Michelle Hibel, Michelle Moe, Smarit Dajani, and CSOM executive director of advanced study grants to fund their areas of study; others aimed to have work published in BC’s many academic journals.

The award for best presentations were: senior Stacy Brown, Michelle Hibel, Michelle Moe, Smarit Dajani, and CSOM executive director of advanced study grants to fund their areas of study; others aimed to have work published in BC’s many academic journals.
Catherine Ives has seen an ugly side of academic research. Now, she wants only the best for BC.

BY MELISSA BEECHER STAFF WRITER

Innovative academic research sometimes provokes controversy, and no one knows that better than Boston College researcher and director of Technology Transfer & Licensing Division Catherine Ives, who has seen her work come under fire quite literally.

In 1999, Ives was directing an agricultural project at Michigan State University in a group of FBI-classified domestic terrorists set fire to her office. Funded by the US Agency for International Development, the project aimed to create genetically modified crops that would benefit developing nations in Asia.

The Earth Liberation Front, which claimed responsibility, caused nearly $1 million in damage to the administrative offices. The incident also catalyzed Ives into the national spotlight, where she was identified as the “Frontline,” “Nova” and a slew of other news outlets interested in the work conducted in her lab.

“For a long time, I didn’t feel safe,” Ives admits. “It is hard to describe the feeling of being in a named target.”

Determined not to let the unpleasant incident define her career, and her life, Ives has established herself as a top research administrator. Now, at BC, Ives is ready to deal with issues that, while not as sensational, are nonetheless profound.

This is a new office and with it comes new challenges that necessitate a new approach.

“Almost everything has to be done again,” Ives said. “This is a different job than executing the deal.”

“I get to interface with faculty, scientists and the board of directors,” Ives said. “I hope to be involved in faculty members through the cumbersome process of obtaining legal protection.”

“Catherine Ives, inaugural director of Technology Transfer & Licensing Division. (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)
Arabic Is Fastest-Growing Language at BC

Continued from page 1

rolls in Arabic language classes more than doubled from 2002-06, putting it among the top 10 foreign languages studied in the US, and the number of students — two and four-year — offering Arabic nearly doubled to 466.

While events like 9/11 and the Iraq war have undoubtably helped spark interest in Arabic-related courses, BC faculty and students say there are other, more deep-seated and enduring factors — the potential use in careers and international experiences, or simply curiosity for a part of the world still largely unfamiliar to many Americans.

As BC faculty strive to meet the demands that come with the increased enrollment in Arabic language courses, students are discovering the joys, challenges and utility of reading, writing and listening to Arabic, as well as learning about its myriad cultures.

“Students come to see how rich and nuanced the Arabic world is,” says Adj. Assoc. Prof. Kathleen Bailey (Political Science), coordinator for the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Program. “The courses give them access to Arabic literature and art, and a further appreciation of the Middle East. Obviously, you can’t ignore the impact of current events, but the coursework goes beyond politics.”

For Salameh and his fellow Arabic language instructor part-time faculty member Atif Ghobrial (Slavic and Eastern Languages), the challenge is not only dealing with increased enrollments, but in devising a curriculum that meets contemporary undergraduate needs.

“Arabic is text-intensive, and in past years was taught as a ‘dead’ language — you sit in a graduate seminar and leaf through a document,” explains Salameh, who was born in Lebanon. “But that approach doesn’t work here; we have to build a program that emulates those of other living languages where there is real employment and back-and-forth. That’s difficult is, we don’t have educational materials that would be available for, say, Romance languages.

“So we ad-lib or borrow ideas: For example I might introduce a recipe in class, then invite students to my house to cook it.”

Ghobrial, an Egyptian native, feels it’s important to seize opportunities for shedding light on cultural differences — even among those of Arabic backgrounds. “I mention how my children, who were both born in the US, find it unthinkable that in Egypt it is not uncommon to marry your cousin, or your best friend’s sister.”

Bailey points out that, with US secondary schools now offering Arabic language courses, BC and other universities will see more undergraduates arriving with solid preparation for advanced study in Arabic.

“It’s definitely going to test the discipline,” she says. “However, we are fortunate in having fabulous instructors, and students who are very committed to the program.”

The undergraduates in BC’s Arabic courses have found the experience generally quite satisfying — although there are also suggestions for more sections, or offerings of more specialized classes in Turkish or Farsi, for instance. Students cite a range of vocational, personal, even spiritual motivations for taking the classes.

For sophomore Christopher Irazo of Syracuse, NY, who is enrolled in the Marine Corps officer program and will be commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation, Arabic is likely to be an indispensable part of his future.

“Today, no foreigners are immersed in Middle Eastern culture more than our servicemen and women. If they can communicate with the population, it can greatly contribute to the success of their missions, and the overall strategy of winning the hearts and minds of the people — every soldier or Marine is a diplomat in the field.”

As a practicing Muslim, junior Zainud Hasamud of Houston had for years written and spoken in Arabic in observance of his faith — but, never having had instruction in the language, he had no idea what it was being said. “I felt much more involved in my religion now and can appreciate the eloquent verses of the Quran as they were meant to be understood.”

Students also say they are gratified to have a sharper, more enlightened view of Arabic peoples. “The best thing I’ve learned,” says John Leavy, ‘11, of Omaha, “is there’s no Arabic anything, no one Arabic culture and no one Arabic language. I had no idea such discontinuity existed in an region portrayed by one continuous bloc of Arabic-speaking and Islam-following people.”

Addis Noyes, “September 11 shocked us into paying attention and learning more about the politics, religions, cultures, histories, and languages of the Middle East. The region is tremendously important and influential - economically, politically, and religiously — and it’s disappointing that such a hot-topic event like 9/11 had to occur before this amount of attention was invested in it.”

“I definitely believe that the Arabic classes have instilled appreciation for Arabic culture simply from showing how misleading that term actually is. There are so many different dialects of Arabic, so many different ethnicities and even religions that use it, and so many different societies and cultures that are influenced by the language.”

February African American Lectures Focusing on History


McDuffie, an assistant professor at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, looks at how black women in the Communist Party USA formulated a “black feminism.”

McDuffie’s talk will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Devlin 101, as well all other events in the series.

Artist, activist and scholar Regine Jean-Charles will present “Terre et cœur: Re-embodifying in Haitian Creole Macadam Dreams” on Feb. 19.

Jean-Charles, who holds a doctorate in Romance languages and literatures from Harvard University, pursues research on how Francophone women writers from Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean represent violence as a historical, cultural and theoretical phenomenon that is deeply gendered.

On Feb. 21, historian Walter Rucker will give the talk “Only Draw in Your Countrymen: African Community and Culture in Colonial New York City.”

Rucker, an associate professor of African American Studies at Ohio State University, is the author of “The River Flows On,” “Black Roots, Commercial Identity Formation in Early American” and co-edited The Encyclopedia of African American Race Riots.


He is an assistant professor of history at Rice University who has researched and written on the two bigger groups of free and forced black migrants across Britain’s 18th century empire and the social world these migrants made in the colonies.

For more information on these lectures, call ext.2-3328 or e-mail mcarterrn@bc.edu.

Office of Public Affairs

Sociologist Christophiskis to Speak on Social Aspects of Health

Harvard University sociologist Nicholas Christophiskis, who is part of a team of researchers studying the popular Facebook Web site, will present a talk, “Social Contagion and Individual Health,” on Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m. in Higgins 300.

A professor of medical sociology at Harvard Medical School and an attending physician at Cambridge’s Mt. Auburn Hospital, Christophiskis will discuss the ways in which individual health practices can be “contagious” and affect friends, family, and peers.

Christophiskis’ work revolves around social networks, such as Facebook, and their impact and influence on behavior. His research also examines the health benefits of marriage and the consequences of spousal illness and widowhood. Ongoing investigations consider the effects of social support on people’s health, the biodemographic determinants of longevity, and the genetic bases for human behaviors.

The event is sponsored by the Office of the Provost with the Connell School of Nursing, the Sociology Department and the Carroll School of Management Marketing Department. For more information, call ext.2-3260 or e-mail courtney.luongo@bc.edu.

Office of Public Affairs

Catholic Writers Panel Offer Reflections on ‘Hope in Our Time’

A panel of prominent Catholic writers will speak on the meaning of hope at a public forum on Feb. 18 that is being held to commemorate the publication of a book based on a groundbreaking 2002 Boston College event.

The forum, which takes its name from the book, Take Heart: Catholic Writers on Hope in Our Time, will feature Boston Globe columnist Kevin Cullen, College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Clare Dunsford, Adj. Assoc. Prof. Colleen Griffith (Theology), Prof. Thomas Christakis, and Prof. Robert P. Imbelli (Theology). Executive Director of Marketing Communications and Special Assistant to the Provost Ben Binney is the author of Take Heart, will moderate.

Take Heart is a collection of essays whose authors include novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, theologians, philosophers, a documentarian and a former presidential speechwriter. The 35 writers were assigned to “reflect on the meaning of hope and its sources and uses in our time.”

The book was inspired by a panel discussion, “Lasty and the Governance of the Church,” held at BC in September of 2002 in the wake of the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal. The 35 Boston-area Catholics attended that event, which was sponsored by the Church in the 21st Century.

The Feb. 18 forum will be held at 7 p.m. in Devlin 008, and is sponsored by Boston College Media Relations and the 21st Century Center. For information, call ext.2-4576 or e-mail carlibb@bc.edu.

Office of Public Affairs
Postings

For Two Irish Visitors, BC Is ‘Home’ This Semester

BY SEAN SMITH  CHRONICLE EDITOR

Two Irish scholars — one an award-winning poet and short-story writer, the other a widely respected musician — are sharing their talents and skills with the Boston College community this semester.

John F. Deane, 101, founder of the Dedalus Press — a leading publisher of contemporary poetry — and Poetry Ireland, is the Burns Library Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies for the spring 2008 semester. His fellow countryman James O’Brien Moran, a master practitioner and student of Ireland’s Uilleann pipes, is at BC as the Fulbright-Culture Ireland Visiting Professor in Irish Studies.

The Burns Chair is filled every year by a distinguished scholar, writer or artist who uses the library’s resources in their work. Collection Curator for his collection, teaches one course per semester and delivers two public lectures on an Irish related topic.

A native of Achill Island off the coast of Mayo, Deane is the second Burns Scholar of the 2007-08 academic year. His predecessor for the fall semester 2007 was another prominent if somewhat controversial scholar, Brendan Kennelly, with a writing style and voice often described as scabrous and colloquial.

Deane — whose honors include the O’Shaughnessy Award for Irish Poetry and the Marten Toonder Award for Literature — is known for his work with religious poetry, such as his 2006 book of essays In Dogged Loyalty on poets such as George Herbert, John Donne and Gerard Manley Hopkins “who have devoted their imaginative energy to questions of God, belief and service. ” He is currently at work on a book, The Religions of Ireland. Following this, the 19th-century English poet and namesake of an exhibition and seminar room here, is a master practitioner and student of Irish music.

“The relationship of poetry and religion in Ireland seems to be in flux,” Deane says, as the country approaches the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine accompanying its “Celtic Tiger” economic success. “I see us in a state of adolescence,” he explains. “With prosperity there has come a lot of attention to material well-being, and with that a hardening of the Irish heart — a certain loss of moral, ordinary human values of generosity, friendship and consideration.”

Complicating this, he says, is the alienation — for a variety of reasons — of many Irish from the Catholic Church. “People are in a frenzy to find something besides material concerns that provides meaning in their lives. Without religion, there is a lack of something to respond to. And so there is an overemphasis on ‘easy’ fiction, TV shows — fast, unde- manding — and serious poetry, and art, will always suffer material Deane, meanwhile, has thus far found winter in Boston a boon to his own work. In fact, he is in a distinct minority of people who also are hoping for more snow before the arrival of spring.

“Obviously, we do love winter in

Bums Library Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies John F. Deane (left) and James O’Brien Moran, Fulbright-Culture Ireland Visiting Professor in Irish Studies. (Photos by Gary Gilbert)

O’Brien Moran will present a multimedia lecture and performance on the legendary piper, folklorist and singer Seamus Ennis, and on March 27 will perform a concert of “Musi- c, Stories and Songs” beginning at 7 p.m. Both events take place at Connolly House.

O’Brien Moran also will give classroom presentations to BC stu- dents in collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Ann Morrison Spinnity (Mu- sic).

“I hope my presence can be of some use,” says O’Brien Mo- ran, who expresses his gratitude to the Center for Irish Programs, the Fulbright Commission and Culture Ireland for the opportunity to work in Boston. “I’m very happy to be here, which has catalyzed a real presence in Irish music, arts and culture. The caliber of scholars and musicians here is remarkable.”

Welcome Additions

— Aust. Prof. Thomas Crea (CSSW)
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Research interests: Services for Children and Families, Team Decision-making, Foster Care Placement Dynamics. Special Needs Adoption, Home Study As- sessment Methods, Fatherhood, Quantitative Methods, Program Evaluation Courses: Program Evaluation

While at UNC-Chapel Hill pursuing his doctorate, which he received last year, Crea worked as a teaching assistant, research assistant and visiting clinical instructor. His practice experience includes serving as a supervisor and caseworker at a special-needs adoption agency in Georgia. Crea is currently a subcontracted investigator on the project “Self-Evaluation in Family to Family,” sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and a investigator and consultant on the ongo- ing evaluation of a home study methodology for assessing prospective foster and adoptive families. His publications include co-authored articles in such journals as Families in Society, Child Welfare and Child and Family Social Work.

— Assoc. Prof. Kenneth Kersh (Political Science)
PhD, Cornell University

Research interests: American political and constitutional development, Ameri- can political thought, and the politics of courts

Cours es: American Constitutional Law; Civil Liberties; American Constitu- tional Development

Prior to arriving at BC, Kersh was a professor of politics at Princeton Uni- versity and also taught at Lehman University. He is the co-author of The Supreme Court and American Political Development, and his book Constructing Civil Liberties: Discontinuities in the Development of American Constitutional Law was awarded the American Political Science Association J. David Greenstone Prize.

A graduate of Williams College, he holds a juris doctorate from Northwestern University and also taught at Lehigh University. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut. He currently is a visiting professor at BC in Political Science.

— Aust. Prof. Rene Olarte Alavé (CSSW)
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

Research interests: International social and economic development; civil society and nonprofit organizations; civic engagement, voluntarism and civic service; community participation and capacity building; social services

Olate’s previous teaching experience includes stints at the social work schools of Washington University in St. Louis and Pontifícia Universidade Católica in his native Chile. Since 2004, he has been conducting research on youth service in 12 Latin American countries, a project funded by the Ford Foundation and the Interamerican Development Bank. Olate also has worked as a teaching consultant, resident coordinator and lecturer for the Social Development Institute (INDES) in areas such as social management, social service delivery, and citizenship and social participation.

— Sean Smith "Welcome Additions," an occasional feature, profiles new faculty members at Boston College.

For Two Irish Visitors, BC Is ‘Home’ This Semester
Newsmakers

• Several faculty members offered comments to the media on Mitt Romney’s withdrawal from the presidential race: Moakley Professor of Political Science Kay Schlossman in BostonNow; Prof. Marc Landy (Political Science) and Assoc. Prof. Robert Murphy (Economics) in the Boston Herald; and Prof. Alan Wolfe (Political Science), director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, in the Salt Lake Tribune.

• Assoc. Prof. Jeffrey Cohen (CSOM) was interviewed for CFO.com magazine on issues of auditors and audit committees.

• Psychology Today featured research by Prof. Lisa Feldman Barrett (Psychology) on the neuroscience of emotion.

• Adj. Assoc. Prof. Richard McGowan, SJ (CSOM), spoke with the Boston Herald about anti-casino activism in Massachusetts.

• Lynch School of Education Dean Professor Andy Hargreaves published an op-ed in the UK’s Times Education Supplement on the need for a vision in education.

• Prof. Emeritus John F. Travers (LSEOE) recently co-authored Children’s Literature: A Developmental Perspective.

• Prof. Beth Kovaleski Wallace (English) published the essay “Postcolonial M melancholia in Ian McEwan’s Sensatedry” in Studies in the Novel. She also edited the section covering the 18th century period in Women’s Worlds: The McGeau-Hall Anthology of Women’s Writing.

• Collection Services Librarian Brendan Rappe has published The Rev: Charles Kingsley: An Annotated Bibliography of Secondary Literature.

Time and a Half

• Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Laurence (Political Science) presented “Bren, in the Welfare State” at the Doris Lessig Society’s panel at the Modern Language Association convention in Chicago.

• Assoc. Prof. Matteo Iacovelli (Economics) presented “The Role of Housing Collateral in an Estimated Two-Sector Model of the US Economy” at the Allied Social Science Association Annual Meetings in New Orleans.

• Assoc. Prof. Eva Garrouette (Sociology) recently invited to present “Health Research in American Indian Communities” as part of a panel at Harvard University. She also gave an autobio- graphical talk at the University of Colorado at Boulder as part of a seminar series focusing on the life stories of contemporary American Indian leaders (A version of the talk will appear as a feature story in the Winter 2008 Boston College Magazine).

Gallaugher Takes MBA Students for a TechTrek

Assoc. Prof. John Gallaugher (CSOM) and his class of MBA students recently returned from the fourth annual Graduate TechTrek “West, a two-week crash course on the West Coast tech world that takes them to some of the most high profile companies in the world, including Google, Microsoft and Apple.”

TechTrek has flourished, according to Gallaugher, because of the commitment of the BC alums working in the information technology sector who either host or connect the course with companies leading the innovation economy.

“TechTrek is something special because our students get to learn how businesses grow from start-up to blue chip from the organizations that support them and finance them. You go from start-ups with headbang chairs or lawn furniture in the conference room all the way to the gerk Disneyland that is Google.”

Company visas also included Amazon.com, Sun Microsystems, Oracle, Gentech/Actua, Talkwood Ventures, Cisco, Cybersource, AT&T Wireless, Intuit, Intel, eBay, Network Appliance, and an exclusive peek at MacWorld. Next up: Undergraduates travel to the Silicon Valley for spring vacation for their week-long TechTrek.

“SeVenn, EleVenn, and Be the term@bc.edu.

101. Call ext.2-3238, e-mail mca@bc.edu.

Jean-Charles, 4:30 p.m., Devlin Macadam Dreams,” with Régine

ing Violence in Gisèle Pineau’s

•“Terre et chair: Re-embody

bc.edu.

Murray Room, Yawkey Center.

Shindul-Rothschild, 4:30 p.m.,

Yourself in the Media,” with Jack

•PhD Colloquium: “Putting Your

february 19

ForLife/RelayForLifeNewEngland

ding a rehearsal. (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)

Choreographer Amanda Engborg, ’08 dur

mings discusses dance sequences with

“…”With the media to explain what happened during her captivity and why Nichols gave himself up to authorities the next morning.

“On a storytelling level, the thing I found most astonishing was that this woman spoke for 20-25 minutes without notes, without a question. She brought the whole event to a stop,” says Cummings. “I can’t recall another moment when anyone spoke for 25 minutes without interruption on TV news.”

That press conference and other multi-media content will be com-

BC SCENES

“…”With the media to explain what happened during her captivity and why Nichols gave himself up to authorities the next morning.

“On a storytelling level, the thing I found most astonishing was that this woman spoke for 20-25 minutes without notes, without a question. She brought the whole event to a stop,” says Cummings. “I can’t recall another moment when anyone spoke for 25 minutes without interruption on TV news.”

That press conference and other multi-media content will be com-

BC SCENES

“…”With the media to explain what happened during her captivity and why Nichols gave himself up to authorities the next morning.

“On a storytelling level, the thing I found most astonishing was that this woman spoke for 20-25 minutes without notes, without a question. She brought the whole event to a stop,” says Cummings. “I can’t recall another moment when anyone spoke for 25 minutes without interruption on TV news.”

That press conference and other multi-media content will be com-

BC SCENES

“…”With the media to explain what happened during her captivity and why Nichols gave himself up to authorities the next morning.

“On a storytelling level, the thing I found most astonishing was that this woman spoke for 20-25 minutes without notes, without a question. She brought the whole event to a stop,” says Cummings. “I can’t recall another moment when anyone spoke for 25 minutes without interruption on TV news.”

That press conference and other multi-media content will be com-

BC SCENES

“…”With the media to explain what happened during her captivity and why Nichols gave himself up to authorities the next morning.

“On a storytelling level, the thing I found most astonishing was that this woman spoke for 20-25 minutes without notes, without a question. She brought the whole event to a stop,” says Cummings. “I can’t recall another moment when anyone spoke for 25 minutes without interruption on TV news.”

That press conference and other multi-media content will be com-