For nearly 40 years, Boston area children with severe disabilities have found hope, and ‘buddies,’ at the Boston College Campus School

BY MELISSA BEECHER STAFF WRITER

Carla Tacelli DiRuzza remembers the overwhelming anxiety and fear she experienced when she had to drop off her son, Christopher, on his first day of school. It was 2003 and the Revere mom constantly worried about her nonverbal three-year-old.

Developmentally and cognitively delayed, doctors told DiRuzza that Christopher would never talk or walk. A special education program was needed, they said, because the public school system could not teach him. Despite researching Boston College’s Campus School and feeling comfortable with the placement, for many days DiRuzza stayed on campus during the school day, just in case Christopher needed her.

It’s been four years since Christopher arrived at the school, which occupies the west wing of Campion Hall. Now, DiRuzza can laugh when she recalls those first few weeks. “They have taught me how to be calm,” DiRuzza says. “I know the volunteers, the therapists, the teachers, they all love Christopher. They love what they do and it has made the difference in his life.”

What kind of difference? “Two months ago, Christopher started walking on his own,” DiRuzza says with pride. “It was our early Christmas present.”

For the better part of four decades the Campus School has quietly been writing success stories like Christopher’s. The school was founded in 1970 as a learning lab that would provide special education services to children with the most severe disabilities who cannot be served in their home communities. The school is also a training site for Lynch School of Education students interested in jobs with the disabled. Master’s students and faculty members often conduct research on how to measure the academic progress and find ways to enhance educational experiences of the disabled and advancements, like the acclaimed EagleEyes project.

Today, 45 students from 30 different communities are enrolled at the school, each with an individualized education plan. Those students enjoy a two-to-one student-to-teacher ratio, which improves when undergraduate and graduate students volunteer as “buddies” in the classrooms. The Campus School Volunteers of Boston College and the PULSE Program work in tandem with certified teachers.

Christopher DiRuzza’s teacher, Sara Davidson, is the early elementary classroom instructor. On a typical day, Davidson leads “circle time” where Christopher and his classmates are each asked to use their senses for a type of welcome and dismissal coordinating a type of welcome and dismissal.

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Program on Catholic Intellectual Traditions Prepares for Next Stage

Three panel discussions are planned for spring 2008 semester

BY SEAN SMITH CHRONICLE EDITOR

The faculty-coordinated initiative exploring Boston College’s Jesuit and Catholic mission has planned three public events for this semester, each built around a major theme related to the modern Catholic university.

Organizers of the Catholic Intellectual Traditions (CIT) program say the three panel discussions — each to be chaired by a BC faculty member — will serve as effective companion pieces to the two CIT faculty seminars launched last fall: “Ways of Knowing and Catholic Intellectual Traditions,” chaired by Bosco Center for Religion and American Public Life Director Prof. Alan Wolfe (Political Science); and “The University and Catholic Intellectual Traditions,” chaired by Acting Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences David Quigley.

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Unlikely BC author writes about gangster life (page 4)
A world record? Easy as pi (page 5)
BC keeps bowling along to success (page 8)

Rombalski Is Named New VP for Student Affairs

BY JACK DUNN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Patrick H. Rombalski, the vice president for student affairs at John Carroll University and a nationally respected voice in student affairs administration, has been named vice president for student affairs at Boston College. University President William P. Leahy, SJ, announced Jan. 11. Rombalski will assume his position on or about June 1.

Described by colleagues as a dynamic leader and community builder with an extensive and varied background in student affairs, Rombalski brings to Boston College more than 18 years of experience at Jesuit institutions. During his six years as John Carroll’s vice president for student affairs (2002-2008), Rombalski enhanced student programs, fostered community among John Carroll’s undergraduate and graduate students, developed co-curricular and volunteer-service opportunities and improved services and outreach to underrepresented student populations.

“Patrick Rombalski is an experienced, committed and energetic student affairs professional with a deep knowledge of the mission of Jesuit, Catholic higher education,” said Fr. Leahy. “I think he will bring broad experience and much enthusiasm to his work with BC students.”

As vice president for student affairs, Rombalski oversaw 14 departments ranging from counseling services to the office of the dean for student development. In his role, he initiated and designed a process for the development of the student affairs strategic plan, chaired the mission coordinating committee, and participated in campus-wide strategic and master plan initiatives. He also served on the President’s Cabinet, the University Planning Group and the University Council.

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Making All the Difference in Their World

For nearly 40 years, Boston area children with severe disabilities have found hope, and ‘buddies,’ at the Boston College Campus School

Campus School teacher Mike Tham works with student Jaci Jagodzinski, one of 45 children from 30 area communities enrolled at the school. (Photos by Lee Pellegrini)
The wide world over
Now in its fourth year, Boston College’s C21 Online program is positively thriving. An outgrowth of the University’s Church in the 21st Century initiative, C21 Online offers a series of formal classes, free mini-courses, WebSearch services and other resources to the BC community and the world at large.

“The world at large” is no exaggeration, either. According to program administrators, C21 Online mini-courses such as The Birth of Jesus: Two Gospel Accounts have drawn more than 10,000 users from 102 countries, notably the US, the Philippines, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and Ireland.

In one week last month, notes C21 Online Program Manager Barbara Raddke, “The Birth of Jesus mini-course had participants from India, Italy, South Africa, Taiwan and the Caribbean nation of St. Vincent. In one 24-hour period last year, visitors from both the Palestinian Territory and Israel had logged on to another mini-course, The Death of Jesus.”

“The response to these mini-courses is far greater than what we expected,” says Raddke. “We anticipated that we would see a modest use of these resources and that it would be confined to the corresponding liturgical seasons — such as Advent and Christmas for Birth of Jesus and Lent or Holy Week for Death of Jesus. However, in reality we have seen substantial use of these resources all year.”

“I believe this points to the great need for reliable and accessible theological resources, the vast potential inherent in online learning, and the valuable service Boston College is offering to the wider church community.”

About 500 people per year participate in the C21 Online courses, which are $75 each — there are special discounts available, and the courses are free for BC employees. The courses also feature an online discussion community guided by an experienced religious educator, such as Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry Director Prof. Thomas Groome (Theology) and Prof. Fr. Michael Himes (Theology).

The semester’s offerings, which begin next Tuesday, include a new course led by Groome for elementary and secondary school catechists and teachers, Teaching Religion: Creative Strategies and Best Practices, as well as returning favorites The Creed: What We Believe and Parents Handing on the Faith.

Next month will see the return of two other courses, Encountering Mark, Matthew and Luke: The Synoptic Gospels and Spirituality Matters. The program also will debut a Spanish-language version of the Death of Jesus mini-course in time for the Lent season.

For more on C21 Online, see www.bc.edu/c21online.

The Boston College women’s basketball team enjoyed a “meet-and-greet” session with fans young and old following their exciting win over North Carolina State in Conte Forum on Dec. 6. The event was hosted by the Council for Women at Boston College. (Photo by Rose Lincoln)
The Glue That Binds

BC research offers new theory in debate over how electrons adhere in superconductivity

BY ED HAYWARD STAFF WRITER

A team of researchers led by Asst. Prof. Vidya Madhavan (Physics) at Boston College (BC) offered an alternative explanation for the microscopic origins of the “glue” that bonds electrons during high-temperature superconductivity.

Investigating one of the field’s most hotly-debated issues, Madhavan and her colleagues identified a signature of the quantum entity known as spin, as opposed to the traditional particle-like view usually identified by researchers probing the reasons electrons pair up. The findings were published in the Dec. 13 edition of the scientific journal Nature.

“One of the facts that suggest that certain electrons are not the potential candidate for this glue that binds electrons,” said Madhavan, a condensed matter experimentalist who has been at Boston College for five years.

“Our experiments are the first to definitively confirm the existence of the nature of superconductivity as they endeavor to unlock the physical mysteries behind a promising, yet elusive phenomenon.”

To see the work of Boston College Physics Department faculty and researchers published in the journal Nature is recognition of the outstanding, high-quality work being done by Professors Madhavan, Ding and Wang,” said Physics Chairman Prof. Michael Naughton.

“This is the latest advance to emerge from the natural sciences at Boston College and reflects the results of our strategic investment in facilities and faculty in these areas.”

Rombalski Appointed Student Affairs VP

Continued from page 1

Outside of John Carroll, he has worked with two Jesuit universities in overseeing campus-wide discussions on University mission with board members, faculty and students. In addition, over the past seven years he has served as executive director of the John Carroll Center, a national volunteer immersion program for high school and college students working with the poor in Ecuador.

Prior to his appointment as vice president for student affairs at John Carroll, Rombalski served the Ohio-based university as dean of students from 1997-2002. He had previously held positions as director of student life at the University of Scranton (1993-1997), and assistant and associate director of residential life at Fairfield University in Connecticut from 1989-1993.

1986 graduate of Marquette University, Rombalski holds a master’s degree in student personnel from Iowa State University and a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania. He has lectured extensively at Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators conferences, been published in several books on student affairs, and has served as an adjunct professor at John Carroll and the University of Scranton.

Executive Vice President Pat rick Keating, who chaired the search committee that included BC administrators, faculty and students, described Rombalski as a proven administrator with the ability and experience to effec tively engage BC’s students.

“Patrick Rombalski is a seasoned student affairs executive who was selected from a very strong pool,” said Keating. “His background and knowledge will be important assets for Boston College, especially as we move forward with our efforts to more effectively integrate academics and student life at BC.”

Rombalski said he is honored to accept this role at Boston College and looks forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. “It is with a great sense of responsibility and excitement that I accept the position of vice presi dent for student affairs at Boston College,” said Rombalski. “BC is a premier institution of higher education well known for its excellence in student affairs and the Board of Trustees would like to extend a dedicated faculty and staff, all of which, according to the commission’s report, animate Boston College and provide the support and guidance it needs to achieve its ambitious goals.”

One area of need cited by the visiting team, and affirmed by the commission, is that the University engage students in dialogue and research missions to provide more ample evidence of how each of SMART’s strategic initiatives are achieving their goals. The visiting committee and the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, as well as the peer universities led by Wake Forest University President Nathan Hatch, and an interview with the commission’s chair, VISITING TEAM CHAIRMAN Prof. William P. Leathy, SJ, in November.

In its report, the commission noted the potential impact of SMART in improving the University’s academic planning process and the campus master plan designed to support its strategic goals. It concurred with the visiting team that “the ideals of the Jesuit educational mission animate Boston College and provide a strong foundation for continued growth.” Also singled out for praise were a strong senior leadership team, a dedicated Board of Trustees and a dedicated faculty and staff, all of which, according to the commission’s report, animate Boston College and provide the support it needs to achieve its ambitious goals.

Another area of need noted by the visiting team, and affirmed by the commission, is the University’s efforts to more effectively engage students and faculty in discussions on planning progress and using outcomes to make improvements, he said, “so that they can serve as a barometer of student learning at Boston College.”

Boston College has been officially reaccredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE), completing a process that began more than a year ago.

BC was formally notified on Dec. 17 of the University’s decision to continue the University’s accreditation, which is reviewed every 10 years.

CIHE is one of five commissions which form the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), a network of six accrediting associations in the United States.

The reaccreditation process comprises three major steps: a self-study submitted by BC to CIHE last January, a visit in March by a group of experts; and administrators from peer institutions led by Wake Forest University President Nathan Hatch, and an interview with the commission’s chair, VISITING TEAM CHAIRMAN Prof. William P. Leathy, SJ, in November.

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The commission also noted with approval that the Office of the Provost identified “building a culture of assessment” as a major priority for BC.

In addition, CIHE listed several areas BC should address in the fifth-year interim report it will submit in 2012, prior to the next full reaccreditation process. The areas identified include the progress of the BC strategic plan, how well the University assures sufficient resources to support institutional priorities, and the effectiveness of structures for faculty governance.

Reflecting on the letter of ac creditation, Fr. Leathy said, “the visiting committee and the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education recognized the enormous progress that BC has made as well as our continuing challenges for the next decade and beyond.”

Fr. Leathy said he would ask admin istrators, deans and faculty to develop a dedicated plan to help in the effort, but the primary response must come from faculty.

He added that senior administrative and the Board of Trustees would be regularly monitoring success in achieving institutional strategic goals, developing the resources to achieve these aims and ensuring that they have an appropriate voice in areas relating to their responsibility and expertise.

Special Assistant to the President Robert Newton, who chaired the self-study, said, “In the past NEASC visiting committees left campus impressed with our sense of mission, our achievements, and our ambitions. It was no different this time.”

Copies of the BC self-study and the NEASC visiting committee report that were reviewed by the commission are available at the O’Neill Library reference desk.

Office of Public Affairs
Mean Streets

BC custodian-turned-author Richard LeBlanc keeps his subject matter close to home

BY REID OSLIN
STAFF WRITER

The newest published author in the Boston College community doesn’t have a degree in literature or the social sciences, but he’s sure got a PhD in life experiences and the ability to tell a story.

Mr. LeBlanc, who has recently written a hard-edged crime novel, The Contractor, that is centered in the 1950s gang-war era of Boston’s once-notorious Charlestown neighborhood.

LeBlanc grew up in Charlestown when it was a thriving low-income and high-crime district. He readily admits that in his younger days he was no stranger to the violent and often sordid underworld life that he uses as the backdrop for his book.

“I see all of these things out there that just glorify the gangsters,” he says, “like ‘The Sopranos,’ ‘The Departed,’ ‘The Godfather.’ They just romanticize the gangster life.”

“I wanted to write something that shows just how bad these criminal organizations are and what happens in real life,” he says. “I hope that if some young person who might be thinking of going into this lifestyle reads this, he now might want to go out and get a job or go to school.”

The Contractor is set in the mean streets of the Boston of a half-century ago – a hardscrabble venue that is foreign to many current residents of the tonily new Charlestown district and certainly unknown to most in the city’s academic communities.

“When people read it and come back to me, the biggest thing that they say is that it is real,” LeBlanc says.

“Back in the Boston gang wars of the early ’60s, it was almost like the Civil War,” LeBlanc says of those explosive days in the Hub. “You might see one brother – probably from a large family – working for the independent Irish gangs. I could actually drink with both sides, and they knew I wouldn’t take anything back to the others.

“When you went out and you drank you would hear a lot,” he recalls. “The next day when you woke up you remember what you heard but you forgot who told you.”

LeBlanc says it took him a couple of years to pen the text as he drew on the memories of his younger days to weave the story. “But I always tell everybody that it is purely fictional,” he laughs. LeBlanc’s path to becoming an author was not a straight or easy one. “I skipped a lot of school,” he admits. “In one classroom we had a flagpole outside the window. When the teacher turned to the blackboard, I used to hop on onto the flagpole, hang there and drop to the ground. Right down Main Street was a poolroom. I’d go there and play, but I turned out to be a lousy pool player,” he says with a chuckle.

“Basically, if you had to quit school early – and that was pretty near everybody in my neighborhood back in the 1950s – you went out to work and to help your family support itself,” he says. “Only two kids I ever knew got scholarships and went to college.”

By age 15, he was working as a longshoreman on the Charlestown docks, using a made-up Social Security number to qualify for a paycheck. In his early 20s, he competed as a professional boxer, trading punches in weekly match-es at small arenas up and down the East Coast for an average payout of $10 per round — and a frequent broken nose.

After a severe head injury ended his boxing career, he eventually wound up working for Boston College. LeBlanc spent a number of years as a custodian in Lyons Hall and currently works the second shift in O’Neill Library.

I live in Somerville now,” he says. “I haven’t been back to Charlestown in a heckuva long time. Most of the people I knew there are living somewhere else or they are dead.”

LeBlanc says he always liked fiction, but never gave much thought to penning his own book even as he was surrounded by a campus full of prolific academic writers and researchers.

“I’m 67 years old now, and I think vanity took a little time off,” he says. “Right now I’m writing and I like to accomplish things. It’s not that I’m proud, but I would use the word ‘satisfied.’

Campus School

Continued from page 1

introduction, choose songs and prompt the teachers to continue with switches and nonverbal cues. The daily event helps children build skills and work on Individualized Education Plan goals.

Christopher is encouraged to use sign language to say “more” and “my turn.” Like most of the students in the class, he smiles, claps and makes sounds to participate in the lesson.

Utilizing weekly Wednesday afternoon sessions, staff have visited the DiRuzza’s home in Revere to help with transitions from school to home and provide pointers on reinforcing what is being worked on during circle time.

Director Don Ricciato, who has been involved with the program for the past 34 years, says the complexity of the medical challenges the Campus School encounters may have increased over the years, but the school’s philosophy has remained the same.

“We always look at ways to adapt the curriculum and instructional strategies so our students are active learners,” said Ricciato.

“We see them for the people they are — beyond their disability.”

The typical profile of a Campus School student is a child between the ages of three to 21 with multiple disabilities. All lack the ability to speak and most have sensory limitations, including low vision, partial hearing loss and cognitive challenges. The majority of students have complex health-care needs and nurses are often paired one-on-one in classrooms administering necessary care.

The program for the challenge, Ricciato said, is to continually update assistive technology so Campus School students are best served and Boston College students have access to the best technology in the field of special education.

Passing through the brightly colored school on a recent day, Ricciato walked from one classroom to another pointing out various methods and therapies used.

“The program has evolved over time and become part of the culture of the campus,” said Ricciato.

That seems to be apparent in Mike Thurm’s class, when during one recent class a half-dozen students in wheelchairs and assistive devices sat learning about the states of matter. By making smoothies, Thurm explained the science, but also allowed students to participate by washing fruit, turning a blender on and off and, when possible, smell or taste the smoothie.

“My students are typical children,” says Campus School teacher Mike Thurm, shown with Caroline Ruggieri. “They get happy, excited, angry and frustrated. They have vibrant personalities.”

“We use food as a multi-sensory approach to the lesson,” Thurm later explained. “The students can smell the fruit, or feel the textures. They see the ingredients and we also work on the sequence of how to make the smoothie.

“My students are typical children. They get happy, excited, angry and frustrated. They have vibrant personalities,” said Thurm, who holds weekly conferences with families and writes daily notes to parents to keep them updated.

Thurm became involved with the Campus School in 1999, when he was a freshman at BC. Starting as a volunteer “buddy,” Thurm and other volunteers would sing, read and visit with Campus School students. Today, Thurm heads his own class and has since received a BC bachelor’s degree in 2003 and a master’s in 2006.

“I never thought that I would be involved in a career like this, but I find it very rewarding,” said Thurm.

Parents like DiRuzza say meaningful curricula and devoted personnel is what sets the school apart. DiRuzza said she was in awe when school staff took a group of children apple picking. Medical attention was available for children who needed it on location, as other students enjoyed a social experience with friends.

“I really believe the Campus School makes your kid part of some-thing,” said DiRuzza. “When you have a disabled child there is no greater gift than that.”

PHOTO BY LES PULGARIN

Photos by Les Pulgarin

“Essential features of this story are numbers, so our students are active learners,” said Ricciato.

“This is a great result for planning, coordination and strategy.”
Grad Student Wins Major Nursing Honor

BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

Connell School of Nursing doctoral candidate Deborah Washington MA ’03 was named one of six national Nurses of the Year by Nursing Spectrum/NurseWeek.

The annual award recognizes “outstanding nurses who positively affect patients, practice, and profession.” Washington, who has served as the director of diversity of Massachusetts General Hospital’s Patient Care Services Department since 1995, was honored in the category of “Advancing and Reinventing Nursing.”

Washington has been a key figure in leading initiatives to promote diversity, equity and inclusion and acceptance of diversity and cultural issues at MGH. She co-designed the first culturally competent care curriculum and was involved with the American Pinning Ceremony, a yearly tradition held during Black History Month that celebrates the contributions employees have made every day.

“I try to stay sharp,” he explains. “The last two parties I attended, I met everyone I could. Coincidentally, I met 46 people at both parties. I know this because I wrote down everyone’s name when I got home. It’s been a huge boost to my mental state.”

“Faith keeps the hope alive,” he says. “I feel as though I am using a different part of my brain, which very well may be the case.”

By Kathleen Sullivan

CIT Program Moves On

Continued from page 1

CIT is a three-year effort to examine how BC’s programs and activities reflect its Jesuit, Catholic character, and detail the opportunities — and obstacles — in strengthening it. A CIT planning committee appointed by Provost and Dean of Faculties Collette Groenen and chaired by Prof. James Keenan, SJ (Theology), is providing support for the second of three discussion sessions and other events that are being planned stages.

The first discussion, which takes place March 13, is “The Catholic University in the 21st Century,” chaired by Prof. Robert Goizueta (Theology) and featuring Jon Sobrino, SJ, a figure of controversy who was rebuked last year by the Vatican for his support of liberation theology.

Sobrino has lived in El Salvador for decades and was close to the late Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was murdered in the country’s civil war. Fr. Sobrino escaped death in 1989 when Salvadoran troops killed six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter at the University of El Salvador; he was traveling at the time.

“The objective is not a theological discourse,” said Fr. Keenan, “but an overview of the issues facing the Catholic university in this new age. What are the areas of opportunity and challenge? Where can a Catholic university do the most good?”

“Sobrino has some very compelling thoughts on the subject, which will spark discussion.”

On April 1, Prof. Rosanna DeMarco (CSON) will chair a discussion titled “Sexual Education and the Catholic University,” with her Connell School of Nurses colleagues Prof. Anne Norris and Asst. Prof. Jennifer Allen as panelists. Guest panelists are Georgetown University Chaplain in Residence James Walsh, SJ, and Seton Hall University Dean of Students and Community Development Karen Van Norman.

“The issue at hand here is not freedom of information per se,” said Fr. Keenan, “but rather how we do provide better care for our students with regards to sexual health in light of the Catholic intellectual traditions. For this reason we are inviting people from Seton Hall and Georgetown to see how they address this same issue.”

Inter-religious dialogue will be the theme of the April 16 panel discussion, chaired by Seelig, Professor of Philosophy Richard Kearney and with a panel of BC theologians representing a diversity of religious traditions: Assoc. Prof. Rabbi Ruth Langer, academic director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning; Assoc. Prof. John Mazankowski, a Buddhist lama; Islamic scholar Prof. James Moritz; and Assoc. Prof. Catharine Corrinne, who researches and writes on Judaism.

Times and locations for the events will be announced at a later date.

“The phrase ‘Catholic intellectual traditions’ is very important to this program,” said Fr. Keenan, “and there are no singular, monolithic Catholic intellectual traditions, so you cannot presuppose what it is. By taking into account its different facets — social, religious, national, for example — you enlarging the conversation.

“Witnessing the CIT program is that it is very much a faculty-driven initiative. Where in the past faculty were not particularly engaged in the academic case for Catholic intellectual tradition, more and more are taking a greater interest — and it’s not just from theologians, critical or philosophical disciplines. The presence of other academic and professional perspectives in the program will make it very useful and relevant enterprise.”

Lyden to Discuss ‘Moral Imperative’

Connell School of Nursing alumna Michelle Lyden will discuss her experiences in and views on international health care and service work on Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. in the Murray Room of the Yawkey Center.

The event, “The Moral Imperative to Act: Working for the Common Good,” is sponsored by the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics and the Alumni Advisory Council. Lyden, who earned her undergraduate degree in 1992 and her graduate degree in 1997, is founder and director of the consulting company Global Action. She also is the executive director of Africa operations for Project Healthy Children, established through funding from former President Bill Clinton’s Global Initiative.

For more information on the event, call ext. 2.9926 or e-mail Winston.center@bc.edu.

—Office of Public Affairs
The 2008 election campaign is now in full swing. — Bob DeFilippo

One of the major stories of the season — the most for any team in 23 years. — Athletics Director Ryan

Victory in Orlando has put us among the nation’s football elite. — Athletics Director Ryan

The subject matter this panel addresses is of concern in Europe as well as the US, and we feel that the perspective of someone like Dario will be very valuable to us here at BC. — Charles Derber

The 2008 presidential campaign is now in full swing. — Bob DeFilippo

The ACC basketball championship — our seven Atlantic Coast Conference tournament victories, the ACC basketball championship tournaments. Now that we are a full-share member of the ACC, our share will be approximately $10 million. — DeFilippo

Eagles Are Bowl Champs Again

Massachusetts Lt. Governor Tim Murray will be among the panelists in a discussion on citizen participation, politics and social justice Jan. 28.

Sponsored by Leadership for Change at Boston College, FON- DACA — a foundation advocating for immigrants and ethnic politics, and immigration, is currently working on a study of the social, cultural, and political integration of Muslims and Arabs in the US. The event, which takes place in the center of the BC campus, is free but are required. E-mail Susan Richard at richari@bc.edu or call ext.2-1860. Additional information is available at www.bc.edu/centers/bosi/publicevents/current_se_mester/skerry.html.

Student Leadership Awards nomination sought

The Office of the Dean for Student Development is seeking candidates for the 2008 Student Leadership Awards. The awards honor students who have contributed to campus life, such as through organizing lectures, concerts, poetry readings, discussions and other events or special projects.

Organizations, advisors, faculty, deans, and administrators interested in nominating potential candidates can find forms and information at www.bc.edu/ids/ids/dows/nominations must be submitted by Feb. 8.

Winners will be honored at the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet later in the semester. For more information, contact Karl Bell at bellk@bc.edu or ext.2-8794.

Eagles Bowl Championships Again

Boston College has earned a re- sounding "F" for its appearance in December's Champs Sports Bowl — as in "Fun," "Football" and "Finances."

When the Eagles defeated Big Ten foe Michigan State 24-21 in Orlando on Dec. 28, it marked the team's 11th victory of the season — the most for any BC football squad in 66 years. It also was the team's eighth consecutive post-season victory, the longest such winning streak of any team in major college football. Boston College has qualified for bowl games in nine consecutive seasons; the Eagles' previous best post-season streak had stood at three.

BC also finished the season tied for 10th place, with Texas, in the final Associated Press poll, the Eagles' highest-ever end-of-season ranking in 25 years.

"A bowl game is a reward for the players for having had a great season," notes Athletics Director Gene DeFilippo. "Our players had a wonderful time in Orlando. They went to Universal Studios, they were to SeaWorld, they went to the Magic Kingdom and did a number of other things that made it a great time.

The good times in Orlando were also shared by upwards of 6,000 alumni and friends of BC who thoroughly enjoyed the myriad of activities available in central Florida to go along with the football festivities.

"It was a great experience for alumni and their families," adds Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations John Fenno. "It was a relaxing time where people really came together as a 'BC family.' There was so much interaction among alumni, players and families down there. It makes you think that this is what it is all about."

DeFilippo points out that the University stands to gain a significant financial benefit from its participation in the Champs Sports Bowl as well. "All bowl monies go to the Atlantic Coast Conference office, whether it is the $17 million that a team gets for participating in a BCS bowl or the $2 million from the Champs Sports Bowl.

The ACC then issues each bowl team an "allowance" for the participants to travel and stay at the bowl venue. "By having that allowance most of the time you are able to meet your costs," he says. "There are times when it might cost you money to go to a bowl game, because you are forced to buy some tickets. This year, we had to buy 12,000 tickets at $60 apiece for the game. We didn't sell all of those tickets, but we had to eat some of that."

DeFilippo said Boston College also brought the University's 2008 plus member marching band to the game, another major expense. "But we thought it was the right thing to do." At the end of the year, the ACC splits up the proceeds from the league's eight-bowl appearances, television contracts, the ACC championship football game and the ACC basketball championship tournaments. "Now that we are a full-share member of the ACC, our share will be approximately $10 million," DeFilippo says.

The nationally televised Champs Sports Bowl game gave a boost to Boston College recruiting efforts, especially in talent-rich Florida, says DeFilippo.

"The fact that we have been to nine consecutive bowls has really...
### Former Dining Services Associate Director John Grogan Dies

A funeral mass was said on Jan. 9 at St. Agatha’s Church in Milton for former Associate Director of Dining Services John J. Grogan, who died on Jan. 4. He was 68.

As the first associate director of Dining Services, Mr. Grogan, who began working at BC in 1975 — over a quarter-century — oversaw the operational and financial management of all the department’s units. Colleagues and friends recalled him as highly organized and meticulous in personal appearance and office management, and — as befitting a US Navy veteran — someone who “ran a tight ship.”

But his coworkers also came to realize that, for all his military bearing and large frame, Mr. Grogan was caring and compassionate as well as hard-working, with a keen sense of humor he would share readily over a meal, at a meeting, or at golf.

During his 25-year service at BC, Mr. Grogan was credited with creating The Golden Lantern Restaurant in Walsh Hall, introducing and installing technology in Dining Services, converting the student meal plan from tickets to the electronic “points” system, and encouraging the development of a diverse workforce in his department.

He also planned original food service designs for the Lower Campus Dining Hall (now Concoran Commons), Walsh Hall, the Eagle’s Nest in McElroy Commons, the renovated Lyons Hall and the Conte Forum and Alumni Stadium concessions. “I credit John as one of the greatest models of change that I’ve ever worked with in my career,” said Auxiliary Services Director Patricia Bando, who was director of Dining Services the last five years of Mr. Grogan’s BC career. “He embraced change unlike many younger team members who backed at the new challenges that we presented. He loved to create or learn new ideas and then forge new pathways of opportunity for our employees, the department and the University.”

A native of Milton and a graduate of Northeastern University, Mr. Grogan served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War and received a Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Grogan is survived by his wife, Virginia, who worked at BC Law School for 24 years; his sons, Robert of Wellesley and William of Sandwich; his daughter Diane Porrino of Florida; 10 grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Burial took place at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

— Sean Smith

### CSOM Consultant Kennedy Dies

A memorial service was held Jan. 12 at the Friends Meeting House in Cambridge for Bruce P. Kennedy, a consultant and research statistician at the Carroll School of Management — he was 68.

Mr. Kennedy, a native of Montclair, N.J., who began working at CSOM in 1988, has been a key member of the cataloging partner at Cambridge Analytics, a research consulting group focused on epidemiology, macro and micro-economics.

Prior to his arrival at BC, Mr. Kennedy was at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he achieved the rank of associate professor and was an internationally recognized health researcher. He published articles in The British Medical Journal, American Journal of Public Health and Social Science and Medicine and authored several books, including The Health of Nations with his colleague Ichiro Kawachi. He and Kawachi were recipients of the 1996 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy.

He is survived by his parents, Philip and Mirth Kennedy, his brothers Scott and Mark and sister Lydia.

— Office of Public Affairs

### Foundation Taps Alumnus Bryk as New Head

Anthony Bryk ‘70, a renowned educational researcher and a former Alumni Association Excellence Award winner, has been named president of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Bryk, who holds the Spencer Chair in Organizational Studies at Stanford University, will assume the presidency in August, the foundation announced last week.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching [www.carnegiefoundation.org] is an independent policy and research center whose charge is “to do and perform all things necessary to encourage, uphold, and dignify the profession of the teacher and the cause of higher education.”

The co-author of the widely acclaimed 1984 book, Catholic Schools and the Common Good, Bryk studied chemistry at BC undergraduate. In 2001, he was presented with the BC Alumni Association Award of Excellence in Education. Bryk holds a doctorate in measurement and statistics from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Prior to his appointment at Stanford in 2004, Dr. Bryk was Marshall Field IV Professor of Urban Education in the University of Chicago sociology department, where he helped found the Center for Urban School Improvement, which supports reform efforts in the Chicago Public Schools. Bryk also created the Consortium on Chicago School Research, a federation of research groups that have produced a range of studies to advance and assess urban school reform.

His current research and practice interests focus on the organizational redesign of schools and school systems and the integration of technology into schools to enhance teaching and learning.

— Office of Public Affairs

### Nota Bene

Kevin Tienney ’09, a physics major in the College of Arts and Sciences, was the recipient of a Best Undergraduate Poster Award at the 2007 Meeting of the American Physical Society’s Division of Plasma Physics, held in Orlando, Fla.

Tienney, whose presentation was one of only five honored from a field of more than 40 undergraduate posters, undertook research on dusty plasmas last summer with Professor Michael Bonitz and collaborators at the University of Kiel, Germany, and was sponsored by the German government’s Research Internships in Science and Engineering program.

Tieniey is continuing his studies of plasma physics as a research assistant with Prof. Gabor Kalman (Physics).

For an unprecedented 10th year, the Irish Institute at Boston College’s Center for Irish Programs has been awarded a major grant through the US State Department’s Boren Fellowship Program. The institute’s executive director, University Professor of History Thomas E. Hachey, has been the principal investigator for these grants during the past eight years.

This year’s grant, totaling almost $800,000, will allow the institute to continue its mission of supporting the peace and reconciliation process on the island of Ireland through the provision of programming on many of the most urgent social, economic, and political issues facing today’s leaders on both sides of the border. Participants of each program afford the opportunity to interact with their cross-border counterparts and to exchange experiences and learn from America’s top academics and practitioners in the field.

Hachey said, “It is a tribute to the exceptional skill and professionalism of the Irish Institute staff that the Boston College program continues to be selected by our Congressional sponsors and Department of State monitors for significant funding in what has been a keenly competitive field at a time of dramatically diminished federal resources.”

Asst. Prof. Jamin Gao (Chemistry) has received a Smith Family Foundation New Investigator Award of $200,000 to support his research into how proteins function. Launched in 1991 by the Richard and Annette Smith Family Foundation, the new investigator program supports newly appointed junior faculty engaged in basic research in the areas of AIDS, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and neuroscience. A chemical biologist, Gao’s lab has implications for potential therapies to a range of diseases, including Alzheimer’s and Type II Diabetes.

### Jobs

The following are among the most recent positions posted by the Department of Career Services. For more information on employment opportunities at Boston College, see the BC jobs website:

- [Boston College Office, Public Equities](www.bostoncollege.edu)

- [Manager, Technology Consultants](www.bostoncollege.edu)

- [Compensation Analyst, Human Resources](www.bostoncollege.edu)

- [Graphic Designer/Communications Specialist, Counsellor School of Nursing](www.bostoncollege.edu)

- [Job Coach, Lynch School of Education](www.bostoncollege.edu)

- [Audiovisual Assistant, Burns Library](www.bostoncollege.edu)

- [Student Support Specialist, Student Services](www.bostoncollege.edu)
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Looking Ahead

January 22
• Building Bridges between Books and Movies,” with Randy Testa, Walden Media, 7:30 p.m., Vandalieck Hall. Admission free with BC ID, $5 other students, $15 all others. E-mail cohenlm@bc.edu.

• Tales from Rocks about the Dance of the Continents,” with Asst. Prof. Yvette Kuiper (Geology and Geophysics), 7 p.m., Weston Observatory, 381 Concord Road, Weston. Reservations required, call ext.2-8300.

January 25
• Bradley Lecture Series: “The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy,” with Donald Malata, University of Oklahoma, and respondent Asst. Prof. Jonathan Lawrence (Political Science), 4 p.m., McGuinn 121. RSVP by Jan. 21 for buffet supper to geersh@bc.edu.

January 26
• Workshop: “Parish Development: Fundraising for Parish Leadership,” 9 a.m., McKenna Conference Room. Admission $15. See www.bc.edu/irepmce, call ext.2-8305.

• Forum: “Activating Democracy: Containment,” with Dennis Costa, deputy secretary Dario France, with Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Tim Pawlenty, 4 p.m., Quincy Room, Yawkey Center. Call ext.2-9296 or e-mail winston.center@bc.edu.

January 30
• Muslims in the United States,” with Prof. Peter Skerry (Political Science), noon, Bosoi Center for Religion and American Public Life, 24 Quincy Way. Call ext.2-1860 or e-mail richards@bc.edu.

• Lowell Lectures Humanities Series: “Building the Climate Movement,” with Bill McKibben, 7:30 p.m., Gasson 100, see www.bc.edu/Lowell.

February 4
• Atlantic Worlds Series: “Race and Rights: The View from Irish-America, at the Turn of the Twentieth Century and the Turn of the Twenty-First,” with Matthew Frye Jacobson, Yale University, 4 p.m., Connolly House, see www.bc.edu/atlanticworlds.

February 5
• Writers Among Us Series: “Ireland’s Magna Laudinies and the Nation’s Architecture of Containment,” with Assoc. Prof. James Smith (English), 7 p.m., Gasson 305. Call ext.2-4576 or e-mail carlilf@bc.edu.

University Events

January 21
• Martin Luther King Jr. Day. All University offices closed.

January 17

January 26
• Performance by Ukrainian folk dance ensemble Syzokryli, 7 p.m., Robsham Theater. Tickets $15, $10 for students and senior citizens. Call (978)687-6947 or e-mail rakowskd@bc.edu.

Athletics

January 19
• Men’s hockey: BC vs. BU, 7 p.m., Conte Forum.

January 20
• Women’s basketball: BC vs. Wake Forest, 2 p.m., Conte Forum.

January 26
• Men’s basketball: BC vs. Virginia Tech, 4 p.m., Conte Forum.

February 1
• Men’s hockey: BC vs. North Dakota, 7 p.m., Conte Forum.

For more on Boston College events, see events.bc.edu or check BCinfo (www.bc.edu/bcinfo) for updates.

Music • Art • Performance

January 17

January 26
• Performance by Ukrainian folk dance ensemble Syzokryli, 7 p.m., Robsham Theater. Tickets $15, $10 for students and senior citizens. Call (978)687-6947 or e-mail rakowskd@bc.edu.

Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble to Perform at Robsham Jan. 26

The Boston College Ukrainian Society will host a performance by Syzokryli, a renowned Ukrainian folk dance ensemble from New York City, on Jan. 26 from 7-11 p.m. in Robsham Theater.

Syzokryli, founded 30 years ago, has performed at such venues as Alice Tully Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, the Feld Forum at Madison Square Garden and Constitution Hall in Washington, DC, and has toured Ukraine as well.

Following the performance, the Ukrainian Society will hold a semi-formal dance in O’Connell House. Admission to the performance is $15, $10 for students and senior citizens, the price for the semi-formal is $5. Proceeds will benefit the Archbishop Sulyk Ukrainian Student Scholarship fund at BC.

For information, call (978)687-6947 or e-mail rakowskd@bc.edu.

Curtain Rises Tonight on Robsham Spring Schedule

The Robsham Theater Arts Center spring schedule begins tonight with the Theater Department Workshop production of Pulitzer Prize winner Marsha Norman’s “Getting Out.” The play chronicles the struggles of Arlene Holsclaw, recently released from prison and, with a newfound religious strength, determined to put her troubled past behind her.

“Getting Out” will be at Robsham’s Bonn Studio through Jan. 19. A unique production conceived and directed by Asst. Prof. Scott Cummings (Theater), “Ashley’s Purpose,” will be staged at the Bonn Studio Feb. 20-24.

This original dramatic composition gathers writing from a variety of sources, including Boston College students, to relate the true-life experiences of Ashley Smith, who after being held hostage by a wanted criminal held a press conference to relate her story. “Ashley’s Purpose” explores themes and issues such as crime as entertainment, privacy versus celebrity and the ethics of mass media.

A romantic getaway gone awry provides the setting for Charles Mee’s “Wintertime,” which plays at the Bonn Studio March 13-15. A young couple opts to spend New Year’s alone at a family retreat, only to discover that the man’s parents, and their respective lovers, have the same idea. Suspicionss and jealousies flare as the couples sort out the complications, and try to draw strength from the power of love.

April 3-5 will feature an evening of two one-act Ellen Byron plays performed by BC Contemporary Theater that paint a moving picture of the fragility of the American Dream. The first, “Graceland,” centers on the unlikely friendship of die-hard Elvis fans Bev and Rosie, who each desire to be the first to enter The King’s fabled Memphis home. The second, “Asleep on the Wind,” is a prelude to “Graceland,” depicting a meeting between Rosie and her brother that will change her life forever.

The following weekend, April 10-12, is the Dramatics Society production of “White Chocolate.” William Hamilton’s farcical satire follows the exploits of a high-society couple that awaken one morning to find that they have inexplicably become African American.

Robsham’s spring season concludes with a staging of the popular and critically acclaimed music “Unirntown,” by Mark Holman and Greg Kuris, from April 23-27. The story is set in a Gotham-like city that, beset by a devastating 20-year water shortage, has outlawed private toilets and forces its citizens to use public facilities — and pay an admission fee to boot. Drawing inspiration from Brecht and Weill, “Unirntown” chronicles one man’s efforts to lead a revolution against the government and the company that holds a monopoly on the city’s toilets.

In addition, Robsham will be the venue for performances and events sponsored by the Philippine Society of Boston College (Feb. 2), Dance Organization of Boston College (Feb. 6-7), the Organization of Latin American Affairs (Feb. 16), as well as the BC Dance Ensemble Spring Dance Show March 27-29 and the BC bOp! Spring Concert April 5.

For show times, admission prices and other information, see the Robsham Web site at www.bc.edu/roshaminfo for times, admission prices and other information, see the Robsham Web site at www.bc.edu/roshaminfo.