The Boston College Chronicle

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‘House of Inquiry’ Opens
Manresa House to serve as center for vocational discernment

BY JACK DUNN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Since the establishment of the first Jesuit universities, a major tenet of Ignatian spirituality has been for students to ask, “What does God want me to do?” For those students exploring a vocation in ordained ministry and religious life, the opening of Manresa House, the first center for vocational discernment at Boston College, will help to assist in that exploration.

Opened Nov. 1 in a University-owned property on 24 Mayflower Road, Manresa House will offer information and programming on vocational ministry and serve as a meeting place for students who are contemplating religious service. Sponsored jointly by the Office of Campus Ministry at Boston College and the New England Province of the Society of Jesus, the “house of inquiry,” as it is called, will be directed by Jack Butler, SJ, a BC campus minister and director of vocations for the New England Province.

Manresa House, which contains common meeting areas, four bedrooms, a prayer room, a kitchen and a TV room, will host student candidates for the Society of Jesus for stays ranging from a weekend to several weeks, during which they will meet with Fr. Butler to discuss their calling. They will also be assigned a Jesuit companion who will meet them for dinner and offer formational guidance. Manresa House will also afford BC students the opportunity to interact with vocations from other religious orders and dioceses throughout New England who will be invited to talk about the unique attributes of their ministry.

“The Church in general and the Society of Jesus in particular have increased our sensitivity toward the need for vocational promotion,” said Campus Ministry Director James Epis, SJ. “Our office has always been involved in helping students to reflect on what they will do with their lives. This house, and the work of Fr. Jack Butler, will specify this important option.”

Manresa House is an extension of an outreach effort begun by University President William P. Leahy, SJ, who started a priesthood discussion group in 1998 for BC students who were considering a vocation. His group, which meets monthly in his office, engages students in frank discussions of priestly life and the joys and challenges that such a calling holds. Since its founding nine years ago, approximately a dozen of the group’s participants have become Jesuits in the priesthood. It was in response to the success of the discussion group that Fr. Leahy decided to establish Manresa House this year.

At its opening, several dozen BC students joined Fr. Butler, Jesuit Provincial Thomas Regan, Sister Patricia of the Little Sisters of the Poor speaks with freshmen Abigail Craycraft at the opening of Manresa House Nov. 1. (Photo by Lee Pellegrino) SJ, and a representation of vocation directors ranging from the Archdiocese of Boston to the Legionnaires of Christ in celebrating a resource that holds such great promise for all involved.

“I have thought about a vocation in the past,” said BCsenior Timothy Morinaitis, a philosophy major from Seattle, “and I know there are a lot of people at BC who...

University Completes Protocol for Hate Crimes

“Nothing half-baked about it,” said Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Sheila Shew Horton, co-chair of the Protocol Review Committee, formed last fall in the wake of concerns over diversity and race-related issues on campus.

“First, it’s important to recognize that we did not create new processes, but rather have described ones already in place. The protocol brings together existing information and resources so that the BC community knows what to do and whom to call — and what to expect — in possible cases of hate crimes or bias-motivated offensive conduct.

“The meetings we held were a good opportunity for us to reflect on these processes, as well as our roles and responsibilities, and the degree of communication necessary, in making them work. It also became evident to us that a large segment of the BC community does not know about the processes and resources available to deal with these areas.”

Committee members say the posting of the protocol on the Office of Institutional Diversity Web site will be complemented by forums and orientation sessions that encourage discussion of hate crimes and related matters.

“We may become more aware...”

In Good Company
Chemists Wang and Gao can’t seem to shake each other

BY ED HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

Daowei Wang grew up in a family of farmers in the village that bears his surname, Wang Ten, in China’s Shangdong Province. Jianmin Gao was raised a few hundred miles away, in the city of Liaocheng.

That they both find themselves among the newly hired faculty at Boston College this fall isn’t necessarily a coincidence, insist the young scientists — rather the latest steps in two distinguished academic journeys that have taken the men from China to California and now Boston.

Boston College is the third university where the two chemists have found themselves — and their wives as well — since they first met as undergraduates nearly a decade ago at the prestigious University of Science and Technology China, founded by the Chinese Academy of Science, in Anhui Province.

“It is absolutely not entirely a coincidence that we are here together now,” says Jianmin Gao (left), with Daowei Wang, long-time colleagues who are both faculty members in the Chemistry Department.

As the two interviewed for their posts, they spoke frequently about their experiences and philosophies about scientific research and teaching. In the end, both saw a fit with the Chemistry Department.

“Most importantly, we were both attracted by the department here,” Gao says. “As we met our new colleagues, it was intriguing in that there is so much interest in the work everyone is doing. Everybody seems motivated to bring the best in themselves and their colleagues.”

“Facilities and support for new faculty factored into the decision Wang made.

“We’ve really been treated very well,” said Wang, a physical chemist and assistant professor whose research explores nanometer scaled materials. “BC is very supportive of everything. There is a real commitment to the students and to the (research) facilities. And Boston is a great city.”

While the two men know of

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Photo by Lee Pellegrino

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The Web site also will include summary data on hate crimes and bias-motivated offensive conduct as well as resources for reporting or responding to physical, verbal or other form of attack on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality or ethnicity.

Plans call for the protocol to be made available on the Office of Institutional Diversity Web site within the next two weeks, according to administrators involved in the project.

The Web site also will include information and resources for reporting or responding to physical, verbal or other form of attack on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality or ethnicity.

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INSIDE: The joy of sports (page 2)
Pre-med program enjoying boom times (page 3)
Nothing half-baked about Arrupe volunteers (page 4)
Native American voice

The AHA NA Graduate Student Association offered an opportunity Tuesday night to hear a seldom-heard viewpoint on campus, sponsoring a talk in Higgins 310 by Janice Falcone, a top administrator at the North American Indian Center of Boston, which provides social programs for the Native American community.

Falcone, who is director of the center’s Workforce Investment Act program, spoke about the history of North American Native Americans, the challenges they face, and the initiatives the center has taken to address these issues.

The center itself has been coping with its own difficulties: Two years ago, the state sold to a developer more than half of the center’s 1.8 acres of land — space that had been used for youth activities, sacred ceremonies and other events. Earlier this year the center, which is seeking to replace its current building, signed a lease with the state that will allow it to stay on the remaining property for 99 years.

“In keeping with the Jesuit vision of men and women for others, we wanted the Boston College community to have a chance to be educated about Native American issues from a Native American perspective,” said association co-president Marlon Cummings.

While Native Americans make up less than one percent of the BC student population, Cummings says, “their voices should be heard, because they are part of this community: We should know about not only their struggles, but also their accomplishments.”

—SS

Don’t Knock the Thrill of Victory

It’s been said many times this fall: What with the Red Sox, Patriots and Celtics — to say nothing of a certain college football team that plays in Alumni Stadium — enjoying success, it’s a great time to be a Boston sports fan.

But does all this hoopla really make us happy? Well, yes — and in a variety of ways, according to Assoc. Prof. Joseph Tecce (Psychology), who was recently interviewed on the subject by Bloomberg News.

Even if you’re not a regular sports fan who identifies with a team, he explains, getting caught up temporarily in the enthusiasm for the game and the winning atmosphere has its benefits.

“It has a displacement effect: No need to worry about the increase in auto insurance rates. Why be bothered with the leaky faucet or broken backyard fence? No time for that now.

“But the faucet and fence problems don’t go away. And it’s precisely the surge of success of our sports teams that gives us a positive mood and high energy level to tackle those same practical problems. Yes, we can have it both ways. Having fun with sports teams takes our minds off problems today and gives us a good mood and energy level to tackle those same problems tomorrow.”

Sports success has a social component, Tecce adds. “Each win gives family and friends an opportunity for celebrations, not complaints and not disagreements. And there is a herd effect. People are talking to each other more than ever. Even curmudgesons are smiling these days and being social.”

Someone may be all business but it’s hard to resist sharing all the sports successes with others.” Call them superstitious, Tecce says, but some fans become convinced their behaviors are linked to their team’s performance — and are therefore doubly gratified when their actions appear to help bring victory.

One student refused to share his beard until the World Series was over, notes Tecce. Another student would vary his location to coincide with the progress of a Red Sox game: one room for when the Sox batted, another if they were in the field, a third if the game wasn’t going well for them — “in this way, he helps them bat, field, and win.”

Then there was the friend of Tecce who claimed that whenever his wife watched a game on TV, the Red Sox would fall behind, and if she left the room they would surge ahead.

“So when the Sox played a critical game, she decided to make a big sacrifice and not watch with her husband,” says Tecce. “And the Sox won.”

—Sean Smith

Invitation

Members of the University community are invited to join in a celebration of the career of Rev. Edward J. Hanrahan, SJ, on Monday, Nov. 19, from 3 to 6 p.m. in Gasson 100.

Before his recent retirement, Fr. Hanrahan served Boston College for more than 40 years — 22 of them as dean of students and the past 21 as special assistant in the University Development Office.

Anyone who would like to attend Monday’s event should RSVP to Jaclyn Drizas in University Advancement at ext. 20480 or dzidso@bc.edu.

Team spirit

USA Today is conducting its annual search for the nation’s best and brightest students and Boston College faculty are encouraged to submit nominations.

Twenty students will be named to its First Team, each of whom will be featured in a two-page color presentation in the newspaper in February, 2008 and a $2500 cash award. Forty more students will be recognized in the newspaper as second and third team winners.

BC students have been recognized by this competition six times since Elizabeth LaRocca ’94 made the first team. Most recently, history and political science major Jonathan Lennon ’05 made the third team in the 2005 competition.

Beginning this year, students must register electronically and be screened for eligibility. They may register at http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2007-05-17-2008-altstars-collegeapply-n.htm. Other information about the process, including FAQs for nominees and advice for nominators, can be found on the Web site.

Questions also may be addressed to Carol Slaski at 703-854-5890 or altstars@usatoday.com.

Nomination forms must be postmarked by Nov. 30.
University Pre-Medical Program Enrollment Continues to Grow

BY ED HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

Enrollment in Boston College’s pre-medical program grew by 44 percent during the last five years, and pre-med students now make up roughly a quarter of the College of Arts and Sciences, according to University statistics.

Figures also show the medical school acceptance rate for those students who complete the BC pre-med program is well above the national average.

The program’s growth is not lost on students, who admit to being surprised by the number of their peers who filled a campus lecture hall last spring for a program-wide meeting.

“You don’t really realize how many people are involved in this program when you’re in your classes or meeting with an advisor,” says Danielle Carriere ’08, a biology major who plans to apply to dental school. “When you’re all in one room, it’s a little overwhelming. But it’s nice to know you’re not in this alone.”

Assoc. Prof. Robert Wolff (Biology), director of Boston College’s pre-medical program, with Danielle Carriere ’08 (left) and Bethel Belai ’11. “I think Boston College has developed a reputation for a very strong pre-med program and that in itself becomes self-sustaining,” Wolff says. “Students feel they are taken care of and get good advising, and they let their fellow students or prospective students know. So some of what we are enjoying is word-of-mouth at a national level.”

The program’s attention to detail has paid off for the students who make it through the application process. In 2005-06, 73 percent of the Boston College seniors who applied to medical schools were admitted. Nationally, the acceptance rate to medical schools stood at 77 percent in 2006.

“The Boston College pre-med, pre-dental, and pre-vet program is among the best in the country,” says Prof. Tom Chiles (Biology), the department chairman. “It is a phenomenal program and Robert Wolff has done an incredible job with it.”

This fall, pre-med enrollment stands at 1,497, compared to the 1,039 students in 2002, according to Student Services data. During the same period, enrollments in the natural sciences increased roughly 40 percent. In all, pre-med students make up approximately 25 percent of the 6,108 students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences this fall.

“When I was looking for a college to attend, I wanted one with a well-organized and well-structured pre-med program and BC fit that,” says Jason Saunders ’08, who is applying to medical schools including Penn, Georgetown, University of Pittsburgh and Temple.

“Some people are worried about what their peers will think if they participate in the Eagle Docs program, providing mentorship and service opportunities to current students. Paul Hesketh, MD, 74, chief of the Division of Hematology Oncology at Caritas St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, is an Eagle Doc who sees the program as an invaluable component to the pre-medical student experience.

“There is nothing more valuable than real world experiences to help students transform theoretical concepts into reality,” Hesketh said.

The Eagle Docs program is a tremendous resource for BC undergraduates, providing an opportunity to be exposed first hand to a whole spectrum of healthcare settings and to ‘test the waters’ in non-threatening and supportive environments.

Kelly Fitzgerald ’08 says Wolff and his staff – including assistant director Patricia O’Kane and Erin Curley – pay close attention to details and make sure students are aware of what’s ahead. In addition, the members of the BC Pre-medical Committee work one on one with students, and Wolff credits the recent success of the program to their commitment to high quality undergraduate advising.

“The one-on-one contacts I’ve had with my advisor and with Professor Wolff make a big difference,” says Fitzgerald, who is applying to joint MD/PhD programs including University of Massachusetts Medical School, Tufts University, University of Connecticut and Yale University. ‘Professor Wolff has been great pointing me in the right direction, or helping to tweak an essay or express something different in order to get my point across.”

A Call for Renewing Conservation Efforts

BY REID DASL
STAFF WRITER

As temperatures fall and energy prices rise, University energy administrators are calling for members of the Boston College community to renew campus-wide efforts to conserve heat and electricity.

Director of Facilities Services Michael Jednak says an energy conservation effort launched last year has led to significant savings in heat and electricity costs, but even more energy belt-tightening is needed this year to keep costs down.

“When we had the last campus going, we were saving about a million kilowatt hours a month,” Jednak notes. “That has ended. We need everybody’s help to get back there.”

Electricity use on campus has skyrocketed over the past six months, increasing 24 percent over the same time frame of a year ago, according to Facilities Services.

Facilities Services Utility Manager Deidre Manning says her office is implementing a variety of programs to remind students to conserve energy in their homes as well as their offices, classrooms and workshops.

“Obviously, energy is expensive for everyone,” she says. “At the Health Fair today (10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Murray Room of the Yawkey Athletic Center), we will be giving out tips on what people can do to save energy at home, and we hope that employees will be more likely to implement these energy-saving practices at work as well.”

Manning said Facilities Management is also working with a student environmental group, EcoPledge, to establish a ‘Bulb Brigade’ to introduce more energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs to the University community.

“We have students who worked with us during the summer, surveying offices and trying to get an idea of what we refer to as ‘plug-in power’ – what people bring to BC stick in the sockets,” she says.

“To some extent, we can control the overhead lighting and retrofit inefficient lighting, but things like halogen desk lamps or even regular desk lamps with incandescent light bulbs use up to 75 percent more energy than fluorescent bulbs. If you multiply that by the number of table lamps used at BC, it can add up to a pretty significant amount.”

Manning says that teams of EcoPledge students will be visiting campus offices this semester to explain the environmental – and economic – benefits of using compact fluorescent bulbs and asking workers to make a switch.

“When these bulbs first came out over 20 years ago, they had a weird orange glow,” Manning says, noting that many people did not like the original product.

“But now, they have a nice bright white light and they do save quite a bit of money.” The compact fluorescent bulbs also reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, she says.

The Facilities Management office is also working with Residential Life staff members to encourage greater recycling in addition to conserving energy use in campus housing units.

CONSERVING ENERGY

• Turn off nonessential and decorative lighting, especially in unoccupied areas.

• Turn off computers, monitors, printers, copiers and lights every night and when not being used. If you can’t turn off the whole computer, turn off the monitor and printer.

• For optimal energy savings, set thermostats to 78 degrees for cooling in summer and 68 degrees for heating in winter; this will save 10-20 percent of cooling costs and 5-20 percent of heating costs.

• Make sure that all windows are closed and locked to keep out drafts.

• Notify the Work Order Center (ext.2-3048) about overheating or malfunctioning windows and doors.

• Support the EcoPledge “Bulb Brigade” when they visit your office space.
Inside the Outreach

Arrupe International Program volunteers like Jeff Stokes (right) use creative methods — including bake sales at football games — to raise funds and create awareness of their group’s mission and activities.

By Reid Oslin
Staff Writer

How does one of most traditional fund-raising strategies — the Saturday bake sale — enhance the spiritual component and create awareness of social outreach programs?

Just ask Jeff Stokes ’08, a student leader of one of the Arrupe International Program’s upcoming service and education immersion trips to Guatemala — and brownie baker extraordinaire.

Stokes says student bake sales supported by graduates and fans attending Alumni Stadium football games are the perfect venue to introduce the Arrupe program not only in fund-raising terms, but also in helping to build a community identity for prospective students.

Sponsored by Boston College’s Campus Ministry, each of the 10 Arrupe program involves 12 to 18 students and at least two faculty and staff members who as a group learn about and involve themselves directly with people living in politically and economically marginalized countries of Central and South America.

The Arrupe program also costs some $25,000, making creative fund-raising a necessity for participants.

In addition to the football day bake sales, Arrupe volunteers have come up with a number of fund raising ideas, including t-shirt sales, a pancake breakfast, meal plan point drives, a dormitory room cleaning drive, a dormitory room cleaning service and some old-fashioned letter-writing to friends and mentors to ask for financial support for the effort.

“Our bake sales before football games are especially effective,” Stokes says. “These are usually done at the beginning of the semester because not all of the trip members really know each other at that point. You spend the night before or the morning of the game actually baking with all of these people, and you really start to build community with the people you will be making the trip with.”

With brownies and cookies ready for sale, Stokes says that Arrupe program students find a willing consumer market at pre-game tailgate parties. “We get a great reception from alumni. A lot of the tailgates have all of the food that they could want and most of it is probably more delicious than what we are selling,” he adds with a laugh.

“While we talk around, we are not just selling brownies, we are able to let even more people know what we are doing in the Arrupe program, raise some awareness and let people know that they are buying a lot more than just brownies.”

“A good amount of alumna at games,” Stokes adds, “are really interested in hearing more about what we are doing rather than just buying a brownie and having us move on. They seem to be very receptive to having a little bit of a conversation.”

A theology and political science major from Wrentham, Mass., will be making his second trip to Guatemala during winter break in January.

“It isn’t just a two-week trip, it isn’t something you prepare for, go on, and it ends. This is something that sticks with you,” he says. “It really helps shape the decisions you make on an everyday basis on campus and also with the organizations, professions and vocations that you go into in the future.”

I came back a second time not only to gain experience for myself, but also to help other people gain the experience that I had last year,” Stokes says.

Kelly Sardon-Garrison, director of the Arrupe International Program, said the group’s most recent trip to Guatemala, Belize and Nogales in Tijuana, Mexico, in January. Other groups will travel to Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica and Nicaragua in the spring. Summer trips are planned to Cuernavaca, Mexico and Jamaica.

Each spring students apply for the Arrupe program and those selected participate in a large kickoff event to discuss solidarity in the mission, logistics and fund-raising, said Sardon-Garrison.

“Fund-raising is vital to make the trips happen. But another factor is preparing to go on the trips themselves — not just making sure that we all have passports and all of that,” he says, “but learning about Guatemala or wherever they will be working, learning about its history and its economies.”

Groups meet weekly during the semester leading up to the trip, and meetings include prayer and reflection as well as education and travel logistics.

“After the trip there is another retreat with all of the groups,” Sardon-Garrison says. “They continue to meet and even do some additional service here.”

“It’s a very powerful experience,” he adds. “When the group gets to know each other, it becomes a really supportive community and we really challenge each other to dig deeper into what is going on in this particular immanence and how does it affect my life?”

“It really helps to answer the questions as students try to figure out who they are, and as they discover that layer the next question on: Who are you called to be?”

Associate Deans, Librarian Selected for New School

By Sean Smith
Chronicle Editor

The newly created Boston Col-
lege School of Theology and Min-
sistry (STM) recently strengthened its administrative leadership, as STM Dean Richard Clifford, SJ, announced key appointments: Jennifer L. S. Bader, Jacqueline M. Regan and John P. Stachniewicz as associate deans.

In his announcement, Fr. Clifford announced that Esther Griswold has been named that Esther Griswold has been named as the school’s librarian. She has chaired the team overseeing the transition of Weston’s School of Theology and Ministry, which is shared with the Episcopal Divinity School. During the Weston-BC re-affiliation process, she has chaired the team overseeing the transition of Weston’s more than 100,000-volume collection of books, periodicals, documents and other resources. She will now manage the former St. John’s Seminary Library on Brighton Campus.

Students from BC, as well as STM and St. John’s, will have access to the library, although St. John’s and Weston Jesuit retain ownership of their collections.

Announcing the appointments, Fr. Clifford said: “The three new associate deans — Jennifer L. S. Bader, Jacqueline M. Regan and John P. Stachniewicz — have worked a collective total of 19 years at either IREPM or Weston Jesuit, and thus bring a wealth of experience and dedication to the new Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Each has a particular area of expertise and is committed to working together in the new school.”

“Also bringing years of experience and commitment is Esther Griswold, as the school’s librarian,” he added. “She has already been working closely with the Boston College and St. John’s staffs on the new library.”

Hofmann was particularly im-
pressed by the number of students who were present at the opening. “Their presence gave me a picture of the Church that every- one, regardless of the vocations they consider, should be a part of. Seeing all these people and having conversations on Ignatian spirituality, Franciscan spirituality, is wonderful and will help me to decide where I go from here.”

Sister Lisa Buscher, RSCJ, who directs outreach ministry for the Religious of the Sacred Heart, praised the establishment of Man-
resa House and the benefit it holds for students and the Jesuits who attend the house. “I think it is a great idea for bringing people into the Church who want to talk about their vocations and service to God,” said Sister Buscher, who lives in community with seven sis-
ters on Beacon Street in Newton. “It is an asset and a resource for all of us, and we hope to tie into this place as much as we can.”

Students, vocations directors and colleagues alike offered universal praise for Fr. Butler, whose blend of enthusiasm and charisma makes him an ideal person to lead this important effort.

“Fr. Jack is an absolutely won-
derful person whose energy is con-
genial,” said Moriarty. “What really impresses me is that he looks at each person to see how God is working in their lives. He wants to bring people to Christ, where-
ever they are. That is what attracts people to him.”

BC Offers Vocational Discernment

Continued from page 1

At the Campion House, students from each year are encouraged to talk about their perception of the vocation that God has called them to. “I think going through a series of vocation questions about vocations who aren’t really decided what they want to do. This house gives us a place to talk with others who are considering the same possibilities.”

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pressed by the number of students who were present at the opening. “Their presence gave me a picture of the Church that every-
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ever they are. That is what attracts people to him.”

The rest of us can only strive for. He is truly gifted and his efforts will really help students and the Church.”

Campus Minister Jack Butler, SJ, director of Manresa House, talking with juniors Malia Popp and Jeremy Macks. (Photos by Ernik Curan)

Added Kathleen Spellman of BC Campus Ministry, “I can’t think of anyone better for this. He really connects with students in a way that
University Is Proficient in Promoting a Global Perspective

Local school takes cue from BC’s Global Proficiency Program

A Boston College program is the model for a local high school’s newly launched initiative that encourages students to cultivate international and cross-cultural perspectives via academics, travel, service and other experiences.

Through the Global Competence Program, Needham High School students can earn a certificate detailing activities — from school coursework to volunteer work — that broaden their knowledge of, and familiarity with, foreign languages and cultures.

BC provided inspiration for the Needham GCP with its Global Proficiency Program, which was established in 1999 as a means to coordinate students’ involvement in multi-cultural or international studies. University administrators also worked with Needham school personnel on developing the program to best serve their students.

Aiming BC’s role in the initiative, the Global Proficiency Program creator, Assistant Dean and Director for the Office of International Students and Scholars Adrienne Nussbaum, attended the formal launching of the Needham GCP Oct. 5.

Needham High officials express gratitude to BC for its outreach, direct and indirect, which they say underscores the importance of partnerships between higher education institutions and area public schools.

“We admired BC for developing this program years back and asked, ‘Why couldn’t a high school like Needham do the same?’” says Needham High School Principal Paul Richards, a doctoral student at BC’s Lynch School of Education. “BC gave us the confidence as well as the programmatic knowledge to make it happen.”

Amy Goldman, who is directing implementation of the Needham GCP, adds, “It was wonderful to have the benefit of BC’s insight as we worked to create a program that would meet student and community needs.”

The GPP-GCP connection was forged in a somewhat circuitous way. Susan Bonaito, director of community education and planning at Needham High — and the wife of Boston College Bandes Program Director Sebastain Bonaito — was part of a school task force seeking to foster international opportunities for students. Although the group had productive discussions about the purpose and nature of international experiences, when its work was concluded, she says, “I felt things were still unresolved.”

Then the Bonaitos’ daughter Andrea, who at the time was in the midst of her college search, came upon the GPP while browsing the BC Web site. Andrea (now a BC freshman) pointed it out to her mother, who immediately e-mailed Richards. The school had found the model it was looking for, Susan Bonaito says.

In addition to consulting with Nussbaum on fashioning a GPP-like program, school officials invited Volunteer and Service Learning Director Daniel Ponsetto to discuss criteria for choosing service opportunities.

“We wanted to reflect the globalization trend in business, communication and other aspects of life,” Bonaito says, “it’s becoming more important for young people to have the intellectual, social and emotional skills to work with people from different cultures and backgrounds. We want kids to reflect on what they see and hear, whether abroad or at home, and integrate it into a more sophisticated view of the world in which they live.

“The BC Global Proficiency Program is definitely geared to help kids see that kind of personal development, and we feel confident our version of it will be beneficial for Needham students.”

Nussbaum says the Needham initiative reflects the ongoing success of the GPP — within BC and outside it. Anywhere from 500 to 600 students are registered in the GPP each year, she says, and about 225 to date have received certificates. These documents are added to the students’ undergraduate transcripts, detailing their particular involvement in international study.

In last year, the program received an award from the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals for best practice on a campus-based international programing. In addition, Nussbaum says at least 23 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Taiwan and England and two Massachusetts high schools including Needham — have used the GPP as a model or made substantial inquiries about it.

“What makes the GPP an intriguing concept,” says Nussbaum, “is the student can integrate different facets of their time at BC — whether it’s a course in Arabic languages, a service trip to Nicaragua, or helping with an ESL program in Philadelphia. This is a holistic, comprehensive body of work.”

“It helps shape the students’ own view of his or her education and career path, which is valuable in and of itself. But there’s a practical element: Prospective employers, or graduate programs, will look at the GPP certificate and transcript and place a higher appreciation of the student.”

From China to Chestnut Hill, Their Bond Endures

Continued from page 1

each other when they both studied chemistry at USTC, their friendship developed at Stanford University, where Gao started his PhD studies in 1999 and Wang followed a year later. Their labs were located in the same building and they saw each other on a weekly basis. When Wang obtained his learner’s permit, Gao provided friendly driving pointers.

It didn’t hurt that both men were then dating the women they would eventually marry — also classmates from USTC — who had grown up in the same hometown in China. Gao’s wife, Fangjing Hong, and Wang’s wife, Helen Zhang, eventually traveled to the US to earn doctorates — Hong, at UC Davis and Zhang at UC Berkeley.

Following their graduation from Stanford, both couples ended up in southern California, where Gao undertook his postdoctoral study at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, and Wang completed his postdoc at the California Institute of Technology.

“We were both very busy — it doesn’t take very long for you to get buried in your research. But we were able to stay in touch and our wives stayed in touch,” said Wang, whose wife is completing her PhD studies in Berkeley and expects to move to Boston early next year.

Gao’s wife is a biostatistician at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

While both scientists say it is comforting to have a friend and fellow countryman in the United States, both couples expect Gao and Wang to play crucial roles in the future of the department.

“Professors Wang and Gao represent the very best of creative, young minds in two of the most exciting forefront areas of research in modern science — materials research and chemical biology,” Hoveyda said. “We fully expect them to not only succeed in their ambitious plans to further the frontiers of our field and establish internationally recognized programs, but also to serve as the nucleus for the establishment of world-class institutes in nanosciences and biological chemistry in this university.”
Waiting for a New World, A New Life

BY SEAN SMITH CHRONICLE EDITOR

Sometimes, the very act of writing an autobiography is auto- biographical, as is the case with the new literary memoir by Prof. Maxim D. Shrayer (Slavic and Eastern Languages). The year Shrayer first started work on the book, he began his academic career as a Boston College faculty member. When he finished the book 10 years later, Shrayer had just entered another phase of his life, fatherhood.

In Waiting for America: A Story of Emigration, Shrayer recounts another, earlier significant transition: the two-month period following his family’s departure from their native Russia in preparation for their journey from Europe to the United States. Living in Vienna and then in and outside Rome as he and his parents awaited their US refugee visa, Shrayer found freedoms, and complica- tions, he had never known before, especially in the realm of personal relationships. He also experienced the shock, thrill, and anonym- ity of encountering Western de- mocracies, running into European roadblocks while shuffling Soviet ravboos.

Shrayer eschews familiar themes — the new arrival’s trav- als in America; nostalgia for the ancestral home; the misery and loneliness of a refugee’s plight — in favor of a more nuanced, ultimately upbeat meditation on the metaphorical as well as actual passage immigration heralds.

“The book is, first of all, a story about family baggage, about the inescapability of family ties and traps, and about the blissful burden of memory which immi- grants carry with them to the New World,” says Shrayer, who will be presenting a reading from Waiting for America on Nov. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Devlin 101.

Shrayer describes the book as a “fragmented love story,” in which he — a relatively 20-year- old poet — finds himself “torn between women from the Jewish- Russian refugee community, who bind [him] to their shared Russian past, and European women, who represent the alluring promise of sexual freedom and who encour- age fast-track assimilation.

Waiting for America is, finally, a memoir of emigration/immigra- tion, of severance from Russia that was never a true home to the Jews.”

The book, his eighth, also re- presents a departure for Shrayer as his first full-length literary work written and published in Eng- lish. Originally a writer of Russian poetry and prose before gradu- ally turning to fiction and creative non-fiction in English, Shrayer says he has had a longstanding interest in memoir and autobiog- raphical writing.

“Toss this sort of a book has always been in me, and it was a matter of letting it germinate and come to fruition. I love hybrid genres, and my challenge in this book was to tell a story based on documentary, remembered and reconstructed past, in such a way that it reads like a work of art.”

Shrayer’s academic writing, he says, needed to “keep the attention he could de- vote to Waiting for America, but about two years ago he decided he needed to focus. We completed the work. “My wife was pregnant with our first child, and I wanted to finish the book and send it out into the world,” explains Shrayer, who says he completed much of his final editing of the text with his infant daughter Mira sleeping on his chest. Copies of Waiting for America arrived the day Shray- er and his wife, Karen Lasser, brought their new daughter Ta- tiana home from the hospital.

I am satisfied to know that we went through a lengthy pro- cess, and we now have a docu- ment that outlines exactly what should happen if a hate crime or bias-motivated offensive incident is reported. This clearly demon- strates that the University does not tolerate these types of bias and offensive behaviors from anyone in our community — administra- tors, faculty, staff, and students alike.”

“Continued from page 1

of the issues that are out there,” said committee co-chair Executive Director of Institutional Diversity Richard J. Fenn, Jr. “At the same time, we hope to help sort out what hate incidents are, and what they are not, and how these situa- tions should be handled.”

A key fact of the protocol, committee members say, is that it distinguishes between two overlapping, categories of hate be- havior: hate crimes and bias-mo- tivated offensive conduct. An act that does not meet the specific cri- teria of a hate crime — which the protocol notes involves a police investigation and is punishable by criminal prosecution — may nonetheless violate BC behavioral standards and policies. Students or employees accused of bias-mo- tivated offensive conduct are sub- ject to sanctions or disciplinary action from the University.

“The Boston College President’s Office, said Horten, “when a person who has been the victim of what he or she believes to be a hate crime fol- lows the procedures for reporting, and an investigation finds that it was not in fact a hate crime, as defined. Sometimes this can be a matter of letting it germinate and come to fruition. I love hybrid genres, and my challenge in this book was to tell a story based on documentary, remembered and reconstructed past, in such a way that it reads like a work of art.”

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“It’s important to recognize that we did not create new processes, but rather have described ones already in place.” —Sheilah Shaw Horton

Protocol Viewed As Helping Address Hate Crimes

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Two faculty members in the Lynch School of Education department of psychology recently have received several prestigious awards from national psychological associations.

August Long Professor of Counseling Psychology Janet Helmo was selected for the 2007 Distinguished Psychologist Award from the Association of Black Psychologists. The director of The Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture, Helmo earlier this fall received the 2008 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy from the American Psychological Association. Assoc. Prof. Lisa Goodman has won the Bonnie R. Strickland and Jessica Henderson Award for Distinguished Mentoring, as well as the 2007 Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching and Mentoring from the APA Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. She also was named an APA Fellow.

Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services Patricia A. Bando is one of four inductees this year into the Massachusetts Hospitality Hall of Fame. Sponsored by the National Restaurant Association, the Hall of Fame was established to recognize those individuals who have “exhibited extraordinary dedication to the hospitality industry in Massachusetts.” Bando will be officially recognized at the annual Massachusetts Hospitality Hall of Fame Awards Dinner to be held this Monday in Boston.

The Chemistry Department has announced the 2007-2008 John LaMartina Graduate Student Fellows in Organic and Organometallic Chemistry. Tricia May, who is in Vandenberg Millennium Professor Amit Hoveyda’s research group, is examining new N-heterocyclic carbene ligands for applications to asymmetric conjugate addition of allyl and arylmethyl reagents to β-substituted cyclic enones for the formation of all-carbon quaternary stereogenic centers. The new AgNHC complexes allow access to medicinally important compounds of high enantioselectivity and are presently unattainable. A member of Prof. Marc Snapper’s research group, Zhen You has focused on developing the kinetic resolution of hydroxyketones through catalytic asymmetric alkylation using a simple amino acid-based catalyst. The new strategy significantly shortens the routes to various enantioselectively enriched hydroxyketones which are important chiral building blocks for asymmetric synthesis.

Josh Sieber is currently developing transition-metal-catalyzed conjugate allylation processes using alkyhalones as nucleophiles in Prof. James Morken’s research group. The LaMartina Graduate Student Fellowship was established in the 2005-06 academic year through the support of Chemistry Department alumnus John L. LaMartina ’71 and his family.

The following are among the most recent positions posted by the Department of Human Resources. For more information on employment opportunities at Boston College, see www.bc.edu/hr/.

Executive Director, Academic Budget, Policy and Planning, Office of the Provost/Dean of Faculties
Petrol Officer - Academy, BC Police Department
Associate Project Director, Graduate School of Social Work Technology Consultant, Law Library
Application Developer, Information Technology - Applications Services
Staff Nurse, University Health Services
Dean, Connell School Of Nursing
Security Attendant- 2nd shift, Gate Attendants
Central Files/Data Assistant, Prospect Development Assistant Director, Annual Giving, Student & Alumni Participation
Human Resources Assistant
Research Technician, Physics Department
Instrumentation Mechanic, Facilities Management - HVAC Assistant Director, Annual Giving, Classes, Young Alumni
Associate Director, Merchandising, BC Bookstore - Mail Order Receptionist/Staff Assistant, Office of the Provost/Dean Of Faculties
Director of Emergency Preparedness and Management, Office of the Executive Vice President
Assistant Director, Center on Aging and Retirement
Assistant Director, Center for Retirement Research

Newsmakers

• A segment on WGBH-TV’s “Greater Boston” on legislation proposed to change in nursing staff-to-patient levels featured Assoc. Prof. Judith Shindul-Rothschild (CSOM) and BC nursing students in Assoc. Prof. Robin Wood’s Simulation Lab.

• Assoc. Prof. Rev. Robert Imbelli (Theology) offered comments on the Boston Globe regarding the nomination of Mary Ann Glen- don as US ambassador to the Vatican.

• Assoc. Prof. Jennifer Steen (Po- litical Science) was interviewed by USA Today, the Boston Globe and the Associated Press regarding Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign financing.

• Assoc. Prof. Gil Manzon (CSOM) discussed his private equity partners and taxation for a piece in the Boston Globe.

• Assoc. Prof. Robert Murphy (Economics) was interviewed by WCVB-TV’s “Chronicle” regarding Americans and household debt.

• Assoc. Prof. Brian Tomolla (English) published a story in the November issue of Boston magazine on the breakup of John Ruiz and Norm Stone, Boston’s most successful boxing partnership [www. bostonmagazine.com/articles/af- ter_the_gloves_came_off/page1].

• Assoc. Prof. Paul Lewis (English) dis- cussed comedian Stephen Colbert’s now-ended run for the pres- idency in an ABCnews.com story, and in an op-ed he wrote for the Providence Journal (www.providencejournal.com) was later reprinted in the (Raleigh) News and Observer, the Bellingham Her- ald, the Luke Wiley Pilot and the (Minneapolis) Star Tribune.

Publications

• “Center on Aging & Work Co- Director” (CSOM) was co- editor of the recently published Changes in Decision-Making Cap- acity in Older Adults: Assessment and Intervention.

• “Prof. Paul Lewis (English) pub- lished an article on anti-Bush humor, “Take This President... Somebody Please,” in Tikkun magazine.

• “Prof. Christoph Eykman (Ger- man Studies) published ‘Alltags- liche Dinge an philosophischen und intellektuellen Schriften der Moderne’ in the journal Neophi- losophia.”

Time and a Half

• “Moman Professor of Law Daniel Cooquelle presented ‘Race and Gender Discrimination at Har- vard Law School’ to the Harvard University Nieman Fellowship Program.

• “Adj. Assoc. Prof. Michael Noone (Music) released ‘Missa Super flua mina Babylonis,’ a CD of sacred music by the Spanish Renaissance composer Francisco Guerrero, featuring more than 30 Spanish and British musicians conducted by Noone at the end of a series of concerts in the Cathedrals of Andalucia.”

CSON, Tufts Health Plan Offer Teaching Fellowships

In a response to the national shortage of nursing faculty, the Connell School of Nursing has joined with Tufts Health Plan to establish the Tufts Health Plan Teaching Fellowships — full scholarships for an online nurse teaching certificate program offered at Boston College. The dearth of nursing faculty has a direct impact on the shortage of nurses, says CSON Dean Barbara Hazard. “According to the American Association of Col- leges of Nursing, nursing schools turned away thousands of quali- fied applicants due to an insuff- icient number of faculty, clini- cal sites, and clinical preceptors. Across the country, the faculty vacancy rate is approximately 10 percent.”

This problem is expected to worsen, adds Hazard, with the Baby Boomers having recently retire- ments over the next five years. To help combat this trend, the Connell School has developed a three-course Nurse Teaching Certificate Program, designed for nurses who have completed at least 50 percent of their master’s course work, and who wish to have further academic preparation as educators in clinical practice or for teaching nursing in an aca- demic environment.

Tufts Health Plan has agreed to fully finance three students for the Nurse Teaching Certificate Program in the spring 2008 se- mester.

“I want to thank Tufts Health Plan for their commitment,” said Hazard. “I believe the teaching fellowship will up the teaching program to students who would not otherwise have taken advantage of this opportunity.”

The deadline for applications is Nov. 30. For more information, go to www.bc.edu/teachingcertifi- cate/ or call the Connell School of Nursing 617-552-3142.

—Kathleen Sullivan
The New Orleans Story, In Verse and Prose

One of the most active chroniclers of post-Katrina New Orleans has been poet, playwright, filmmaker, and educator Kalamu ya Salaam, who is appearing at Boston College today and tomorrow.

Today at 4:30 p.m. in the Heights Room of Corcoran Commons, Salaam will join New Orleans schoolchildren in presenting “The Crisis In New Orleans Public Schools,” as part of the Lynch School of Education Symposium Series.

Tomorrow, he will present his poetry about the Katrina diaspora and life in the city since the hurricane’s devastation. The event, which also will feature Salaam’s fellow New Orleans writers Ashley Jones and Christopher Burton, will take place from in Gasson 305 from 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Salaam was director of the Listen to the People oral history project (www.kalamu.com/listen/), which includes video interviews with New Orleans residents on their experiences in the disaster, including the New Orleans City Council president, two firemen who worked throughout the hurricane and a woman who spent five days atop an expressway. He also has been involved in producing videos about New Orleans after the hurricane, ranging from documentaries to fictional movies. In addition, he co-directs Students at the Center (SAC), a creative writing program in the New Orleans Public Schools.

Through it all, Salaam has continued to write prose and poetry about New Orleans and its people, and taken on the role as an ardent advocate for the city.

“Salaam has been at the forefront of efforts to attain a socially just school system for all of New Orleans’s public school students,” says Catherine Michna, a doctoral student in English who is co-organizing the Nov. 16 reading. “Salaam and SAC co-director Jim Randel are known in New Orleans and nationally for advocating neighborhood-based schools and student-centered pedagogy.”

The symposium and reading are free and open to the public.

Prior to his Friday 3 p.m. appearance, Salaam, along with Jones and Burton — both of whom are SAC staff members — will lead a workshop from noon-2 p.m. in Campanon 139 at which they will discuss how students can use writing programs to facilitate radical change in local school districts and city neighborhoods. Those interested in attending must send e-mail to michnac@bc.edu.

—Sean Smith

BC winds up the regular season Nov. 24 at home against Miami.

A Global View of Higher Education

“Cost, Access, and Equity in Higher Education: American and International Perspectives” is the theme of the 2007 J. Donald Monan, SJ, Symposium, which takes place Nov. 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Walsh Hall first floor function room.

Cosponsored by the Fulbright New Century Scholars Program, the Monan Symposium will be led by Monan Professor of Higher Education Philip Altbach, director of the Boston College Center for International Higher Education, and features keynote speakers Bridget Terry Long (Harvard University) and D. Bruce Johnstone (SUNY-Buffalo), as well as an international panel of Fulbright New Century Scholars, including Claire Callender (University of London), Jane Knight (University of Toronto), and Anthony Welch (University of Sydney).

Registration is required—e-mail kopellsa@bc.edu. A light lunch will be provided.

GRIMM REMINDER

A classic Grimm fairy tale came to musical life this past Sunday in Gasson 100, with a staging of the 19th-century opera “Hansel and Gretel,” written by German composer Engelbert Humperdinck. The performance, directed by part-time faculty members Ralph and Barbara Gowllick (Music), featured students at the Dalí School of Music and Movement — including (below) Natasha S. Gowllick as Gretel and Cecilia MacArthur as Hansel — of which Barbara Gowllick is director. Four BC students also took part in the production. (Photos by Jean Seidel)