HONOR ROLL

Recent faculty achievements show BC’s commitment to teaching and research excellence, say administrators.

In the past month, five Boston College faculty members have earned distinguished academic honors, all considerable marks of achievement in their fields.

•Assistant Professor of History Thomas Dodman, whose research incorporates interdisciplinary interests such as psychology and sociology, has been awarded a Mellon Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, for the 2016-17 academic year. [Read more at http://bit.ly/222TWpv]

•Associate Professor of Mathematics J. Elisenda Grigsby was named a recipient of a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.

TrustingSet Tuition Rate for 2016-17 Academic Year

The Board of Trustees has set undergraduate tuition for the 2016-2017 academic year at $50,480, a part of a 3.65 percent increase in tuition, fees, room and board, bringing the overall cost of attendance at Boston College to $65,114.

To maintain the University’s commitment to providing access to students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, the trustees voted to increase need-based undergraduate financial aid by 4.1 percent to $114 million.

Boston College remains one of only 19 private universities in the United States that is need-blind in admissions and meets the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates.

Continued on page 5

Giving ‘a Piece of Myself’

Senior Alessandra Maldonado donated her bone marrow to a little boy during last week’s spring break.

BY SEAN HENNESSEY STAFF WRITER

While her fellow Boston College undergraduates departed for home or other destinations, senior Alessandra Maldonado stayed on campus during last week’s spring break to try and help save the life of a little boy.

One week ago, Maldonado went to Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital and donated her bone marrow to a three-year-old child suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), a rare cancer of the blood and bone marrow that affects white blood cells.

“Everything went well. The doctor said it was a fantastic procedure,” says Maldonado, an English major and native of Peru. “The amount of marrow they typically extract is 24 healthy cells, but my body was able to yield 38 healthy cells, which is incredible. The doctor says this amount of cells will give the boy a better chance because it’s more healthy cells fighting for him.”

“I’m sure the boy’s parents are completely overjoyed that the procedure was very successful. I’m very hopeful for him.”

After last week’s procedure, Maldonado spent a few days recovering in a hotel room near the hospital with her parents by her side before returning to campus over the weekend. While the transplant itself isn’t particularly invasive, the recovery can be quite uncomfortable and lengthy.

“I definitely felt the pain and soreness but it’s totally worth it,” she says. “It’s completely unparalleled with anything else that I could ever do. Donating a piece of myself feels different. It’s a tremendous opportunity to help somebody who needs it.”

Maldonado joined the national bone marrow registry through the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, which is a voluntary registry of those who have committed to be bone marrow donors.

Continued on page 5

Faculty Promotions Announced

University President William P. Leahy, SJ, has announced the promotions of 26 Boston College faculty members.

Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences faculty promoted to full professor were Gail Kincke (Earth and Environmental Sciences), Jonathan Lawrence (Political Science) and Rev. Kenneth Himes, OFM (Theology). Also promoted were Accounting faculty members Mark Bradshaw and Sugata Roychowdhury of the Carroll School of Management; Vlad Perju of the Law School; and Eric Dearing of the Lynch School of Education.

Faculty promoted to associate professor with tenure were: Lian Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences; Zhusan Mandy Li and Fen Lee (Accounting); Zhusan Mandy Li and Elida Lukic of the Lynch School; and Jessica Black of the BC School of Social Work. Faculty promoted to associate professor with tenure in the Morrissey College were: Alexa Vennema and Sara Cordes (Psychology); Eramhie Weerapana (Chemistry); Michelle Meyer (Biology); Gail Hoffman (Classics); Michael Grubb (Economics); Maia McAlveay (English); Charles Gallagher, SJ, and Ariana Olh (History); John Baldwin, Dawei Chen, Malekshay Fedorovich and David Treumann (Mathematics); Ying Ran (Physics); and Jennifer Erickson (Political Science).

Office of News & Public Affairs

NOTE:

Boston College hockey postseason action heats up tomorrow, as the women’s team plays Clarkson at 4 p.m. in the semifinals of the 2016 Frozen Four; the winner advances to the final on Sunday. Then at 8 p.m., the men’s team goes up against Northeastern for a shot at the Hockey East final on Saturday; then they’ll await the NCAA Regionals, which take place March 25-26.

HEART TO HEART

Diversity and race on campus. Students’ busy schedules. Accessibility to faculty. Those were just a few of the topics discussed during the March 2 “Lunches with Jesuits” event, a program sponsored by the Ignatian Society of Boston College and hosted by BC’s Jesuit Community.

Each lunch — they are held four or five times a month in the Jesuit residence at St. Mary’s Hall — brings together four to six undergraduates, one member of the program’s committee and one member of the Jesuit Community.

“It’s not just a meal,” says Vice President and University Secretary Terrence Devino, SJ, who oversees Ignatian Society programs as director of Manresa House. “It’s an opportunity to come in and experience the hospitality of the place that is permeated by our spirit.”

“Lunches with Jesuits” allows the Jesuit community to display their cordiality towards BC undergraduates, explains Fr. Devino. “If your mom invited one of your friends in for supper, wouldn’t she do it to enhance her status on the street. She did it from the largesse of her heart. So too with us. It’s because of our mission that we’re caring and hospitable men.”

Echoing Fr. Devino’s sentiments is Tommy Borah ’18 who, as chair of “Lunches with Jesuits,” is thrilled with the program’s popularity — the lunches are completely booked for the remainder of the semester, he notes. “I think it’s important to have mentors, especially Jesuit mentors. We go to a Jesuit college, so if you’re not interacting with the Jesuits, I don’t think [BC’s] mission can be played out.”

School of Theology and Ministry Dean Mark S. Massa, SJ, hosted the March 2 lunch, prior to which he led a tour of St. Mary’s. Laugh, jokes, smiles and reflections on BC occupied the first half of the discussion, but after the second helping of food, Fr. Massa asked about more serious topics and opened the floor up to the students. An open, candid dialogue followed.

“I think it’s essential in the Jesuit mission to get to know your students,” said Fr. Massa afterward. Ignatius says the thing that should distinguish us as teachers is that the Jesuits love their students and really care and know about them outside of that context.”

Q: The common perception of monasteries is that they were quiet, austere places, but you note that ethnic rivalry, madness, alcohol abuse and personal ambition were common in these religious communities. Brother Colmán: When I first came across this material almost 20 years ago, I was a little taken back, because as you can imagine this was not a side of the religious life that one had heard much about, at least not in Church circles.

But the point in writing and talking about it is that all of human life is present in the monastery. St. Benedict said the monastery was supposed to be a “household of God,” and of course those who chose the monastic life were engaged in serious contemplation and study. The tensions, conflicts, crimes and misbehavior are realities of human nature that assert themselves in any situation where humans are involved. The same, sadly, is just as true today.

Ultimately, we have to consider the fact that monasteries have been around for centuries, and an overwhelming number of those who chose the religious life have gone on to serve the Church and its people with love and devotion.

Q: Were you always interested in history? Brother Colmán: Yes, I’ve always been fascinated by the past – the farther in the past, the better. If you ask me about World War I or the 1916 Easter Rising, I’d be a bit hard-pressed. But ask me about the Black Death? No problem. As a medievalist friend of mine once put it, where history is concerned, after 1500, it’s all journalism.


Read the full Q&A at http://bit.ly/1RMrCrK

IRELAND AWAITS

A website has been created, BC2Ireland.com, to provide a one-stop source for information and reservations (it also includes a link for game tickets) related to the game and travel packages, as well as airfare and places to visit in Ireland.

Dublin’s Trinity College will serve as the “Welcome Village” – featuring an information center and game merchandise store – and, on Sept. 2, an Ireland-USA legal law symposium on Aug. 31; a joint BC-Georgia Tech faculty symposium, “University and the Innovation Economy,” on Sept 1; and, on Sept. 2, an Ireland-USA business breakfast sponsored by IDA Ireland, a morning Mass in St. Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, and a mid-afternoon Boston College pep rally. Also on the schedule will be various receptions and tailgating events as well as local social outreach and service projects.

More than 25,000 fans are expected to travel from the US and Europe to see the game, which is being organized by Irish American Events Limited, a joint venture between Corporate.ie and Anthony Travel. See BC2Ireland.com for additional details and updates.

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Contributing Staff
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Sean Hannesey
Rosanne Pellegrini
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Siobhan Sullivan
Photographers
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Lee Pellegrini

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A ripublic edition of Chronicle is available via email. Send requests to chronicle@bc.edu.
Study: Catholic Schools Face Challenge in Engaging and Enrolling Hispanics

BY ED HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

The slow pace of change in Catholic schools appears to adjust to an increasingly Hispanic Church poses significant barriers to Hispanic families when considering enrolling their children in parochial schools, according to a new Boston College study that reveals complex challenges for school leaders and clergy trying to serve the fastest-growing population of US Catholics.

Despite efforts to increase Hispanic enrollment for the past two decades, the number of Hispanic children attending Catholic schools has remained stagnant at approximately 300,000 – just 2.4 percent of the nation’s 12.4 million school-age Hispanic children, of which approximately 8 million are Catholic.

Cost has often been cited as the most obvious reason, but the first of its kind study “Catholic Schools in an Increasingly Hispanic Church” points to additional factors that stifle school vitality and the Church’s engagement with a young generation that by its sheer size is expected to emerge as America’s most influential group of Catholics.

School of Theology and Ministry President Thomas C. Hoffman Ospino and Barbara Roche Center for Catholic Education Executive Director Patricia Weitzel-O’Neill conducted the National Survey of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families.

Out of 1,488 schools identified as serving Hispanic families, 656 schools in 130 dioceses responded, accounting for 10 percent of all Catholic schools.

Among the findings:

• Just 14 percent of Catholic schools offer them educational services.

• Only 25 percent report us

• 5 percent report us

• Approximately 36 percent offer liturgies at least partially in Spanish.

• Hispanic enrollment is undoubtedly a significant part of the conversation, yet that conversation is little without a critical assessment of the shared mission, school culture, and the structures of Catholic schools,” said Weitzel-O’Neill, whose Roche Center for Catholic Education is part of the Lynch School of Education. “We need to clarify the role of Catholic education for the next generation of US Catholic children and youth — who are mostly Hispanic and increasingly diverse.”

To view the report or learn more about the National Summit on Catholic Schools and Hispanic Families, see the Roche Center website at www.rochecenter.org.

Positive Results in US News Grad Rankings

Boston College’s graduate school programs showed strong showings in all areas in the US News 2017 Graduate School rankings, released yesterday.

The Boston College School of Social Work held its position as the 10th ranked school nationwide, the highest ranking of any of BC’s graduate school programs had strong showings in all areas in the


class of 2016 academic year was 3.6 percent, the Board of Trustees also set the

tuition, room and board increase for four-year private universities for the 2015-2016 academic year was 3.6 percent, according to the College Board.

BC to Host Commemorative Event for the Peace Corps Tomorrow

More than a half-century after his great-uncle President John F. Kennedy issued an executive order to establish the Peace Corps, United States Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III will visit Boston College tomorrow to speak at a special event to commemorate the organization’s 55th anniversary.

At the event, which takes place at 2 p.m. in the Corcoran Commons Heights Room, Kennedy – a long-time Peace Corps program supporter who was a founder in the Dominican Republic from 2004-06 – will share the podium with Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet, who served from 1981-83 served in Western Samoa.

Members of the University community are invited, and students are encouraged to attend to learn more about the Peace Corps’ legacy of public service and the opportunities it offers to make a difference around the world. “Boston College has a long history of producing alumni who serve in the Peace Corps, and we are proud that the University will be a host site to celebrate its 55th anniversary,” said Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Joseph Du Pont, who oversees the BC Career Center and the University’s career services effort.

“This tradition of service continues to this day with many current students considering, joining the Peace Corps once they graduate, and we expect to have another strong class of incoming Peace Corps volunteers from BC again this year,” added Du Pont, who will give opening remarks at the event. “Given our commitment to ‘men and women for others,’ we are thrilled that the Peace Corps and Boston College have such a strong, vibrant relationship. As I reflect on our 55th anniversary, I am excited for the strength of our partnership going forward.”

Boston College consistently ranks among the top colleges and universities in the nation from which the Peace Corps recruits and trains volunteers.

Tuition, Room and Board Set

Continued from page 1

graduate financial aid to ensure a BC education remains available to families with need.”

“Boston College continues to invest in strategic academic priorities while maintaining our commitment to need-blind admissions and meeting the full demonstrated need of all admitted students,” said Provost and Dean of Faculties David Quigley.

“A world-class education is a right, not an unaffordable luxury, yet too many families have been unable to access the transformative educational experiences afforded by a Boston College education,” he said. “With this award, we are pleased to help more students achieve the college experience of a lifetime.”

“A graduate education at Boston College prepares students for careers in a wide variety of fields,” said Quigley. “We are committed to making a BC education affordable and accessible for our students, and we believe this generous gift is another step in that direction.”

The Board of Trustees also set tuition for graduate programs for the coming academic year, including Boston College Law ($50,620) and the full-time MBA program in the Carroll School of Management ($47,340).

Boston College is ranked 35th in the “Best Value Schools” category among national universities by US News & World Report. It also placed 22nd in Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine’s ranking of the top 50 “Best Values” among American private universities. Overall, the University is ranked 30th among national universities by US News & World Report.

–Jack Dunn
Positive Reviews for Pilot Courses in Renewed Core

BY SEAN SMITH
CHRONICLE EDITOR

The first cohort of pilot courses under Boston College’s core curriculum renewal initiative has received good marks from Boston College faculty and students alike, which core administrators feel augurs well for the current and upcoming slate of pilot classes.

Eight pilot courses debuted last fall: two in the “Complex Problems” model, team-taught, six-credit class of around 80 students that address a contemporary problem; and six pairs of linked classes in the “Enduring Questions” category, distinct three-credit classes taken by the same 19 students that are each taught by a faculty member from a different department but connected by common topics, sets of questions, readings and assignments.

Research conducted by the University Core Renewal Committee (UCRC), created last year to provide governance after a three-year effort to renew and strengthen BC’s undergraduate core curriculum, showed that the number of available seats in 2015 core pilot classes fulfilled many of the core renewal aims, such as to challenge students intellectually, inspire them to examine their values and beliefs, and help them consider future career paths.

These findings – based on course evaluations, surveys and focus group interviews – were part of the discussion at a town meeting held Feb. 29 by the University Core Renewal Committee (UCRC), created last year to provide governance after a three-year effort to renew and strengthen BC’s undergraduate core curriculum. The creative and innovation shown by faculty in designing pilot courses such as Global Implications of Climate Change, Understanding Race, Gender and Violence – both in the Complex Problems category and in the Enduring Questions categories – Truth-Telling in Literature, and linked classes Truth-Telling in Literature and Truth-Telling in History, Bourg said, was an asset to the renewal of the core curriculum.

The core renewal is an opportunity for the core across the University,” he said, noting that core pedagogical innovation grants are available to faculty members interested in developing interdisciplinary core classes (contact bc-core@bc.edu). “One constant challenge is that faculty spend too much time in their own silos. As we’ve seen, the core classes offer a means to put together resonant interests and work with one another.”

Institute for the Liberal Arts Dean Mark Twain summarized results from the research on student and faculty attitudes toward the pilot courses. Freshmen said they found the classes “challenging and interesting,” and – particularly those in the English Core classes – that their thinking had changed in several areas, notably their view of the discipline, their choice of major, and their sense of their place in the world. Students in the Complex Problems courses liked having the perspectives of two faculty members representing two disciplines, and appreciated the courses’ emphasis on reflection.

Also at the Feb. 29 event, a panel of faculty members who had created and taught fall 2015 pilot courses shared their experiences and impressions.

Associate Professor of History Sylvia Sellers-Garcia said she was pleasantly surprised by the level of sophistication in students taking her Truth-Telling in History class. “It’s so critical to encourage them at this point in their lives. They were ready to be challenged, and they felt they were challenged to rethink what they had learned.”

Associate Professor of the Practice in English Allison Adair, whose Truth-Telling in Literature class was paired with Sellers-Garcia’s, agreed that the students seemed to appreciate that resolutions posed by the material were not always obvious or easy.

“I learned as much as the students,” said Associate Professor of Sociology C. Shawn McGuffey, who co-taught Understanding Race, Gender and Violence with Profesor of History Marilyn Johnson. “The class covered issues and events such as the Rodney King beating, truth and reconciliation efforts in countries recovering from conflicts, and LGBT-related violence, and included screenings and discussions of controversial films as well as class excursions to Roxbury and Dorchester neighborhoods.

“The number of available seats in pilot core renewal courses in 2016-17 – restricted to freshmen, as were the 2015-16 classes – was more than double, Bourg noted. At the end of the pilot period in 2018, the UCRC will formulate plans for fully developing a renewed core curriculum, to be approved by the provost.

For more on the core’s core renewal initiative, see http://www.bc.edu/sites/core/core-renewal.html.

Read the full version of this story at http://bit.ly/1PMTF7V.

Contact Sean Smith at sean.smith@bc.edu

Reappraising the Clinton Era

Despite successes, he helped lay groundwork for gridlock, says BC historian Maney

BY SEAN HENNESSEY
STAFF WRITER

The divisiveness and polarizing paralysis that characterizes Washington politics nowadays may seem a recent phenomenon, but a new book by Professor of History Patrick Maney traces its origins to the presidency of Bill Clinton.

The failed push for universal health care, the Whitewater controversy, the death of Vincent Foster and the Ken Starr investigation all provided fuel for the partisan firestorms surrounding the country’s 42nd president, says Maney, author of “Bill Clinton: New Gilded Age President.”

“The seeds had been sown in previous decades but didn’t start to grow until 1990,” says Maney. “This is when Washington politics became a blood sport, with its ‘take no prisoners’ mentality.”

Clinton sparked Maney’s interest in part because of his political beliefs, in the same generation, which made Maney feel “a certain kinship” for both Bill and Hillary Clinton. Maney also wanted to better understand Clinton’s campaigns, which seemed out of proportion to their actions, and why their critics appeared so zealous.

“Sure, they rubbed a lot of people the wrong way by supporting abortion rights, affirmative action, gay rights in the military, and gender equality,” said Maney. “And, of course, stories of the president’s infidelities undeniably upset many. Still, most of their views rested safely in the political mainstream.”

Clinton’s economic and fiscal views were more popular than those of his Republican counterparts: the Defense of Marriage Act, the Defense of Marriage Act, and some other of his husband’s accomplishments, such as helping resolve conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo while distracting others in Haiti, North Korea, and between India and Pakistan.

“He devised a plausible strategic substitute for the containment policy that had guided the United States throughout the Cold War,” Maney adds. “More controversially, Clinton expanded the president’s war-making powers over Congress; anticipated some of the George W. Bush administration’s tactics in the post-9/11 War on Terror; and, by accusing Saddam Hussein of concealing weapons of mass destruction, helped lay the groundwork for the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

“We don’t think of foreign policy when we think of the Clinton administration. We should.”

Clinton earned the nickname “Comeback Kid” for his surprising showing in the 1992 New Hampshire primary, but Maney argues that he should likewise be recalled for his responses to two devastating defeats while in office: the demise of health care reform – “Hillarycare” – and the Republican rout in the 1994 midterm elections. Both episodes helped define his presidency.

“With seemingly no chance of being reelected, Clinton was re-elected, Clinton was re-elected, Clinton was re-elected after barely surviving an impeachment inquiry,” says Maney. “But at that very moment, Clinton was laying flat on the canvas and Newt Gingrich, the new Republican Speaker of the House, standing over him with arms raised in triumph, Clinton was plotting his comeback.

“And what a comeback it was. In 1996, he became the first Democrat since FDR to win a second term. For anyone interested in politics for politics sake, it doesn’t get any better than that.”

Maney says the ability to get up off the mat over and over is Clinton’s lasting legacy.

“Until the extent we’re talking about Bill Clinton 50 years from now, it will be about his resilience – he was down so many times but never out,” said Maney. “A year or two ago, his experience and connections would seem to have been an unqualified plus. But now, he’s in the year of the outsider. Bernie Sanders’ surprisingly strong challenge has also forced Hillary to distance herself from many of the actions of her husband’s administration: the Defense of Marriage Act, deregulation of the telecommunications and banking industries, and the decision to leave unregulated the market in credit default swaps and other risky derivatives. President Clinton’s Iraqi policies are also a potential millstone.

“Instead of running away from the record of her husband’s administration, she might at least embrace some of the economic successes of the ’90s. She might also note that despite the partisan rancor of the times, there was more bipartisanship cooperation than there is today.”

Patrick Maney: “The Clintons became a kind of national Rorschach test upon which people projected their personal hopes and fears, values and attitudes. And it wasn’t just critics projecting onto the Clintons; ardent supporters were apt to do it as well.” (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)
Senior Hopes Her Gift Keeps Giving

Continued from page 1

until last fall when she was notified that she was a match.

"I was a little nervous but ultimately overjoyed," says Maldonado. "It’s not common to be a match for somebody else, and it was incredible to know that the three-year-old boy has my same genetic makeup.”

But Maldonado hit the emotional rollercoaster when, almost two months ago, she received another call telling her the boy wasn’t stable enough to undergo the procedure.

"It was heartbreaking," says Maldonado. "But then two weeks later, I received notice that the boy was indeed stable enough to receive the transplant. When I heard that, I was even more willing to donate."

The decision to follow through with the bone marrow donation, however, was of great concern to Maldonado’s parents, who were unfamiliar with the procedure.

"It was a shock to them and was something completely unprecedented," says Maldonado. "Sure, they are very familiar with American medicine and the fact that we have the best medical facilities in the world, but when it comes to your child doing something that’s out of the blue and fairly uncommon, it warrants a very worried response. Every surgery has a risk, so for me to be taking on a small risk for somebody I don’t even know didn’t really make any sense to my parents."

But after talking to others and receiving reassurance from medical professionals, her parents flew up to Boston to be at their daughter’s side.

"Having them behind me and having them talk to the doctor with specifics that I wouldn’t have thought to ask — about the anesthesiologist, and the procedure itself — was very reassuring. Having medical professionals walk my parents and me through all of it really helped them understand that this is very safe and routine really put my parents’ minds at ease."

“My mom and dad were able to understand why I was doing it and see that for me, this was a very, very good decision.”

Maldonado follows in the footsteps of 2015 graduate Kayla Hammgren, who donated her marrow to help four-year-old James Strejc conquer leukemia. Hammgren met James last April at the inaugural Walk for Life at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, and Maldonado hopes she’ll have the same experience.

"Holistically, I feel really good about it. I’m just very happy that I was able to do something like this. I sincerely feel in my heart that this is the right thing to do for somebody who really needs me.”

Like Hammgren, Maldonado also hopes she can serve as an example for others to literally give of themselves and save a life.

“For many families, the donation of bone marrow to fight blood cancer is their best option. The idea is that my bone marrow will begin to generate healthy cells for the little boy once the marrow is inserted into his body. This is the boy’s best chance of being saved.”

Maldonado has a message too: More minorities are needed for the national bone marrow registry.

"Since there are a lot of Caucasian people on the registry, Caucasian people have a greater chance of finding a match. Unfortunately, a lot of South American people are unfamiliar with the bone marrow procedure. The message that I want to get across is that it’s a very, very safe procedure, and it starts with joining the registry and hopefully one day being a match for somebody. This is a relatively routine thing, and if you’re a healthy person, everybody should consider donating because you really are saving someone’s life.”

Contact Sean Hennessey at sean.hennessey@bc.edu

Faculty Honors Lauled

Continued from page 1

search careers. [Read more at http://bit.ly/1XYMA44]

• Associate Professor of Psychology Liane Young, whose research focuses on the psychology and neuroscience of moral judgment and behavior, won the 2016 Stanton Prize, awarded annually by the Society for Philosophy and Psychology to a young scholar who has made significant contributions to interdisciplinary research in philosophy, psychology, and/or related disciplines. [Read more at http://bit.ly/1XYMA44]

These recent accomplishments — in addition to numerous others by BC faculty during this academic year — underscore the University’s commitment to excellent teaching and research, according to senior administrators.

“One of the reasons why we do this is that we want to create an environment where that original desire has some support mechanism around it. This is a concept, and because it’s new we don’t know how our students are going to respond. But our job is to provide conversation partners, mentors, environments where this topic can seem lively and the discernment can continue without distraction.”

House of Discernment Is Planned for Students in August

BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

STAFF WRITER

An in-residence house of discernment has been established by Boston College for male students contemplating a call to the Jesuit order and interested in exploring living in a community.

Loyola House, located at 50 Quincy Road, will formally open in August with its first cohort under the leadership of Fr. Casey Beaumier, SJ, director of the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies.

According to Fr. Beaumier, this residential house of discernment is the first-of-its-kind at a Jesuit college or university. “A vocation to the Jesuits is a gift from God. Boston College wants to do whatever it can to supportive of Jesuit vocations. I feel valued and cared for as a Jesuit at Boston College. So, offering Loyola House as a model, we hope, might prove inspirational for other areas of the country to do likewise.”

The men living in Loyola House would each have a Jesuit spiritual director. Loyola House would operate in close connection to both the Jesuit communities at St. Mary’s and at Faber House, and offer shared community meals and Jesuit speakers who would talk about their vocation.

Fr. Beaumier, who has lived in the Fenwick residence hall on Upper Campus for the past eight years, will relocate to Loyola House. He noted he will continue his connection with Upper Campus by celebrating Mass at St. Joseph’s Chapel. “Boston College has stepped up and wants to be part of a solution to the vocation crisis. We want to be a resource for men who are seriously thinking about a Jesuit vocation and for our students in the future.”

Vice Provost for Research and Academic Planning Thomas Chiles said the significance of such awards and fellowships should not be underestimated, particularly for early-career faculty members.

“These are highly competitive awards that recognize innovative scholarship and the high impact of the research being done — a direct reflection of the caliber of our faculty,” he explained. “The awards, in turn, serve to allow our faculty to continue their innovative research — and in many ways will position faculty to be competitive for much larger federal awards.

“There are also benefits to the University: In addition to the obvious impact on the faculty, the research supported by these awards is translated into the classroom and in the many opportunities for our students, when they work with faculty of this caliber.”

Office of News & Public Affairs

Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies Director Casey Beaumier, SJ.

“With these new types of connections, we hope to create a different type of Jesuit experience that is attractive and lively as a possibility. If we don’t do that, who will?”

Fr. Beaumier said Loyola House can provide encouragement for students who — often inspired by their positive experiences at Jesuit high schools — enter college thinking about the priesthood but find their desire quashed by the pressure of study and career.

“We want to create an environment where that original desire has some support mechanism around it. This is a concept, and because it’s new we don’t know how our students are going to respond. But our job is to provide conversation partners, mentors, environments where this topic can seem lively and the discernment can continue without distraction.”

Contact Kathleen Sullivan at kathleen.sullivan@bc.edu

Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies

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Contact Kathleen Sullivan at kathleen.sullivan@bc.edu

Jose Antonio Vargas, an undocumented immigrant and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, spoke with audience members after presenting a lecture earlier this month as part of the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics Chambers Lecture Series. (Photo by Justin Knight)
Appel Recognized for His Work on Passive Investors

Assistant Professor of Finance Ian Appel was the co-winner of a research competition for his jointly authored paper challenging the idea that so-called passive investors wield little influence in the marketplace. Appel, along with Wharton School of Business faculty members Todd Gormley and Donald Keim, was recognized by the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC), which said their work “has the potential to reshape investor thinking.” The paper is forthcoming in The Journal of Financial Economics.

Titled “Passive Investors, Not Passive Owners,” the paper reveals how passive investors – those who typically manage index funds – aren’t really passive at all and in fact are more active behind the scenes. “When we think about investors who influence different corporate policies, we usually are talking about the Carl Icahns of the world and activist hedge funds,” says Appel, who joined the Carroll School of Management last September. “The message of our paper is that influence is not just limited to them. Passive investors – the Vangards and State Streets – also have influence over how companies are run.

“Our findings contradict the perception that passive investors, who hold a large basket of stocks and attempt to track a benchmark index like the S&P 500, only care about tracking errors and keeping fees low. That’s not the case at all.” Appel and his co-authors found that passively managed mutual funds, and the institutions that offer them, use their large voting blocs and the institutions that operate them to exert influence on firms’ governance.

“By owning shares, they have a fiduciary responsibility to their investors to vote in their best interests,” says Appel. “That’s one reason why you may think they might make a difference and have an effect on the firms they own.” Appel says an investor doesn’t necessarily have to make a lot of noise to be heard; significant ownership of shares will do it.

“If you own a large share of a company, say 5 percent, and you call up the management, they’ll take your call. And if you say, ‘These are the things we care about, these are the changes we’d like to see made in companies,’ they may be more inclined to listen to you when you own a big chunk of shares and they know you’re not going to sell off those shares any time soon.”

“That influence can lead to governance changes such as more independent directors on corporate boards, removal of takeover defenses and more equal voting rights.

“Our evidence suggests they successfully influence firms’ governance choices in ways that improve long-term, firms-level performance,” says Appel. “Vanguard talks about how they send a letter to many of their portfolio companies where they outline what they consider to be important aspects of corporate governance, and how companies are run.”

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Read a longer version of this article at http://bit.ly/1nuEAKM.

Contact Sean Smith at sean.smith@bc.edu
BOSTON COLLEGE IN THE MEDIA

Assistant Professor of English Aaron Hunt’s book Personal Business: Character and Commerce in Victorian Literature and Culture was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2015.

In Personal Business, Hunt argues that an emphasis on abstraction and impersonality as the crucial features of the Victorian economic experience has led to a partial and ultimately misleading vision of Victorian business culture. She asserts that the key to understanding the relationship of literary writing to economic experience is what she calls “personal business” — the social and interpersonal relationships of Victorian commercial life in which character was a central mediating concept.

Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries, a publication of the Association of College & Research Libraries, is the premier source for reviews of academic books and digital resources of interest to scholars and students in higher education.

–Rosanne Pellegrini

Carroll School of Management doctoral candidates Qianqian Yu and Eliana Crosina were among 20 winners of the Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship, which awards grants of $20,000 to support dissertations in the area of entrepreneurship.

Yu’s research focuses on how management turnover affects innovation in venture-backed private firms, considering such questions as whether the turnover leads to more and to higher quality innovation, and whether it is more important to add new managers or remove existing ones. Crosina explores the effect of “entrepreneurial hubs” on entrepreneurial activity and identity development. She will examine how such hubs help early-stage businesses that are struggling to develop identities cope with challenges by legitimizing their activities and offering a forum for identity experimentation.

Boston College was one of only four schools this year to have multiple winners of Kauffman Fellowships, which have helped launch the careers of emerging world-class entre- prise leaders. This year one have gone on to find positions in top-tier universities, research arms of federal agencies, and private industry.

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The research team also included current senior Jaimee Carvalho and now-BC alumni Sean Cahill, Kristin L. Canfield, Nicholas Clements, Kelsie Dorn, Jennifer Fuku- man, Elizabeth Gavin, Caroline M. Kirwood, Kristen House, Michael Kadow, Erica Navarro, Elizabeth M. Powers, Tracy Rizik, Meiderna Sanchez and Nicholas A. Volpe.

Contact Rosanne Pellegrini at rosanne.pellegrini@bc.edu.

The works inspire us to consider what makes a poem ‘good’ and what poems are ‘good for,’” according to Lewis, who spearheaded the project and edited the anthology. “At times opinionated, amused or mournful, Boston’s citizen poets created a becoming modesty, a sense that they were writing not for the ages but for and about friends, relatives and fellow citizens, that they drew inspiration not from the muses but from the lives they were living.”

The anthology will be formally launched at a series of public events during April and May, including at O’Neill Library on April 14 at 4 p.m.

“Lewis will speak at the April 14 event and BC alumni who worked on the anthology as undergraduates also will take part.

“The migration of archives onto the Internet in recent years has made it possible to engage undergraduates in collaborative, digital, archival research in the civic humanities,” said Lewis. “In the past, scholars needed to visit numerous bricks-and-mortar libraries to examine copies of the old magazines. I am so proud of these magazines. I am so proud that this anthology is finally being published, having helped in and watched the growth and development of this project.”

The project appealed to Harrison Kent ’13 because “it was completely original research. Paul gave us the opportunity to rediscover pieces of literature that practically no one had seen for hundreds of years, which is obviously an amazing project for an undergraduate student. It was as much an archeological dig as it was a study in literature, which is what made discovering these lost treasures so fun and exciting. It’s a truly singular piece of academia, and I’m very glad that we get to share our favorite findings with the rest of Boston — and the world — now that the collection is being published.”

The celebration of Irish culture and history that takes place around St. Patrick’s Day has an added dimension this year, since 2016 is the centenary of the Easter Rising. A quick look at some Irish-related events at BC over the next two weeks:

- Gaelic Roots concert with Michael Tubridy and James Keane, March 22 [www.bc.edu/gaelicroots]