

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Don't miss the Thesis & Dissertation Workshop!
- Grad Night Out at Big City - Feb. 21!
- All you ever wanted to know about Mardi Gras...and more!

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Thesis and Dissertation Workshop Coming Soon!

When: Friday, February 24, 2006, 2-4:30 pm
Where: Cabaret Room, Vanderslice Hall

This workshop offers graduate students tips, tools, and techniques on how to:

- Select Your Topic
- Present and Defend Your Dissertation
- Choose Your Advisor and Committee
- Write Your Proposal
- Manage Your Time
- ...and Much More!

Presenter: Dr. Wendy Carter, Founder, TA-DA! Thesis and Dissertation Accomplished
Dr. Carter earned her B.A. and M.A. from Stanford University and her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has researched drop-out rates from graduate school with special attention to drop out rates during the thesis and dissertation stage. Her presentation, based in part on that research, motivates and encourages students with workable solutions to their own educational crises.

Please RSVP by February 22 to mgc@bc.edu if you plan to attend.
Please direct any questions to Katie O'Dair at odair@bc.edu or 617-552-3482.

Sponsored by the GSAS Alumni Annual Fund, the Office of Graduate Student Life and the Connors Family Learning Center

Les Miserables Tickets on Sale!

Grad students, don't miss out on your opportunity to see the show that the International Herald Tribune has called "the musical of the century!" Your very own Graduate Student Life Staff has scored tickets to the February 26th performance of Les Miserables (2pm at the Boston Opera House)! Tickets are being sold on a first-come, first-served basis for only 25.00 each! You may purchase two tickets with your valid BC ID. So don't delay! Take a break from the books and see a Broadway show! Tickets are on sale NOW at the Murray Graduate Student Center.

Grad Night Out at Big City! February 21!



Mark your calendar! The next Grad Night Out at Big City is on Tuesday, February 21 from 7-9 pm! Join us for free food, billiards, and foosball, as well as fun giveaways! Big City is located at 138 Brighton Avenue. By "T" take the B Green Line to the Harvard Avenue stop and walk two blocks north.

And Now...

All You Ever Wanted to Know about Mardi Gras and More!



You may already know that Mardi Gras, from the French, meaning “Fat Tuesday,” is so named because it falls on the day before Ash Wednesday, the last day before Lent. (Lent is a forty-day season of prayer and fasting, which is observed by the Roman Catholic Church and many other Christian denominations in preparation for Easter. Like many Catholic holidays, Mardi Gras probably has its roots in pre-Christian seasonal celebrations.) We’re betting that you *don’t* know all the great tidbits of information out there regarding the history and celebration of Mardi Gras in the United States! So read on and learn a little about this rich holiday! Here are your Mardi Gras ABC’s...

Ash Wednesday

The day after Fat Tuesday; the first day of Lent; seven Wednesdays before Easter.

Ball (bal masque, tableau ball)

A masked ball in which scenes from a specific theme are enacted for the entertainment of the club members and their guests. Krewe “royalty” is traditionally presented during the ball. Attendance requirements include appropriate attire and a legitimate invitation from a mystic society member. This term is passed down from similar sixteenth and seventeenth century European events.

Bouef Gras

The fatted bull or ox, the ancient symbol of the last meat eaten before the Lenten season of fasting. A live version was presented in the Rex parade until 1909. A papier-mâché version appeared in 1959 and continues as one of Carnival’s most recognizable symbols.

Carnival

From the Latin *carnivale*, loosely translated as “farewell to flesh”; the season of merriment in New Orleans which begins annually on January 6, the Twelfth Night (the feast of the Epiphany), and ends at midnight on Fat Tuesday. The Carnival season leads up to the penitential season of Lent in which fasting replaces feasting. Parades begin in January and roll daily during the final two weeks before Fat Tuesday. Normally used interchangeably, but incorrectly, with Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday).

Carnival Colors

The official colors of Carnival are purple, green and gold. The colors represent justice (purple), faith (green) and power (gold).

King Cake

An oval, sugared pastry that contains a plastic doll hidden inside. The person who finds the doll is crowned “king” and buys the next cake or throws the next party. The king cake season opens on King’s Day, January 6, the feast of the Epiphany. More than 750,000 king cakes are annually consumed in the metro New Orleans area during the Carnival season.

Krewe

Any of several groups whose members organize and participate, in costume, in the parades and balls during Mardi Gras. This generic term for all Carnival organizations in New Orleans was first used by the Mistick Krewe of Comus, which coined the word in 1857 to give its club’s name an Old English flavor.

Lundi Gras

French for Fat Monday. From 1874 to 1917, the day before Mardi Gras was celebrated by the arrival of Rex aboard a steamboat. The custom was revived in 1987, and Lundi Gras now includes Carnival activities staged by Zulu and Rex.

Mardi Gras

French for Fat Tuesday; the single-day culmination of the Carnival season.

Mystic Society

A secret organization that presents parades, bal masques and other activities for the revelry and enjoyment of its members, incited guests and the public.

Throws

Inexpensive trinkets tossed from floats by costumed and masked krewe members. Among the more popular items are krewe-embled aluminum doubloons, plastic cups and white pearl necklaces. Throws are tossed in response to the cry, “Throw me something, mister!”

A Timeline of Mardi Gras in the United States

(Wow, who knew Mardi Gras had such a past??)

- 1699 Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville settles in the Mississippi Delta, about sixty miles south of present day New Orleans, and names his camp "Point du Mardi Gras," in honor of the Mardi Gras holiday, which occurred on that day, March 3, 1699.
- 1702 D'Iberville establishes a French fort and settlement called Mobile, which serves as the capital of the French colony of Louisiane until its abandonment in 1711.
- 1710 The Boeuf Graf Society forms in Mobile.
- 1711 The First Mardi Gras parade is held in Mobile.
- 1719 The first two shiploads of slaves arrive from Africa.
- 1720's African slaves escape and co-mingle with local Native American tribes, notably the Houma and Natchez. The tradition of Mardi Gras Indians dates back to this common struggle against European colonists.
- 1723 Nouvelle Orle'ans becomes the capital of the Louisiane territory.
- 1741 The Marquis de Vaudreuil, governor of Louisiane, establishes elegant society balls in the springtime, when the New Orleans weather is best.
- 1746 The first references to feathery Mardi Gras Indian costumes
- 1764 The first Acadians arrive in Louisiane. Over time, their name is mispronounced and eventually becomes "Cajun."
- 1783 The first black Mardi Gras group is formed, called the Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association
- 1803 President Thomas Jefferson purchases the Louisiana Territory for the United States.
- 1823 The ban on Creole balls is lifted. The ban has been imposed in 1781 to quell the threat of slave uprisings.
- 1835 The first Mardi Gras floats wheels through New Orleans, initiated by the Cowbellion Society from Mobile. They also organize a masked street procession, with some maskers in carriages and on horseback.
- 1861-1864 The Civil War halts Mardi Gras parades.
- 1867 The first krewe is established to organize a parade in New Orleans: The Krewe of Comus.
- 1871 First recorded "throws" during a parade. A second krewe is established (The Twelfth Night Revelers), and they choose their Queen by drawing a golden bean out of a King Cake. Thus the tradition of the King Cake is established.
- 1872 The King Rex chooses the colors purple, green and gold for their Mardi Gras parade. These are still the official colors of Mardi Gras.
- 1875 Mardi Gras is declared a legal holiday in Louisiana.
- 1889 Electricity lights marchers for the first time.
- 1892 The King Rex gives the Mardi Gras colors meaning: gold for power, green for faith and purple for justice.
- 1918-1920 Mardi Gras is cancelled during World War I.
- 1933 Rain and the height of the Great Depression cause the first and only rain-out for the Rex parade.
- 1941 The first all-female parade rolls, organized by the Krewe of Venus.
- 1942 World War II cancels most of the Carnival. No parades roll, but some celebrations are held. This continues until 1945, the end of the conflict.
- 1949 Zulu has the first celebrity king: Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong.
- 1950 The Duke and Duchess of Windsor visit Mardi Gras and make international news by bowing to the King of the Rex parade.
- 1970 The Krewe of Bacchus holds the first ball that is open to the public.
- 1988 The "Coconut Bill" is passed by the state legislature, which bans Zulu from throwing their trademark coconuts from the float. Zulu begins to gently hand the coconuts to the crowds.

Sources and Further Reading (JUST IN CASE you haven't had your fill yet!)

<http://mardigras.neworleans.com>
<http://www.neworleansonline.com>
<http://www.novareinna.com>
<http://www.mobile.org>
<http://www.americancatholic.org>

Graduate Student Spotlight: Anthony Ireland



Anthony Ireland is pursuing his master's degree at the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College

"There is a wellspring of cultural and intellectual tradition here"

Where were you born? I was born on the border of the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas, next door to Juarez, Mexico, the Gateway to the North, at South El Paso Hospital on the Eve (5:02 p.m.) of All Hallows in 1968. It was an Olympic Year (Mexico City) and Labor Day Event for mom (I tipped the scale 1 oz. short of 10 lbs).

Where did you do your undergraduate work and what did you study? I did my undergraduate work at New Mexico State University in *Las Cruces* (the City of the Crosses), New Mexico. I graduated with a B.B.A. in Sales and Sales Management. My first real job (some would say it wasn't a real job) was driving the Oscar Meyer Wiener Mobile.

What program of study are you pursuing at BC? I am at the Institute (with the longest acronym at B.C.) of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry (I.R.E.P.M.). My area of concentration is Hispanic Ministry. Basically, it's all about building bridges within and beyond our own borders in the 21st Century through culture, tradition and language.

Why did you choose BC for graduate school? I chose BC be-

cause I am in a process of rediscovering the meaning of being an Ireland (my last name) in a Boston context. Plus, BC seemed like the likeliest place to unearth some understanding to my long lost 8.33 % Irish roots. In other words, I am trying to get in touch with the Irish spark to my already existing heritage (91.67% of the rest of me), so I can have a better understanding of my Mexican-American (English, Scottish, German, Irish, Spanish, Native Mexican Indian) cultural background.

What do you like most about your studies at BC? About BC in general? Well, I like the university specifically because of the people in general. I'm also very fond of the campus' architecture and landscape. There is a wellspring of cultural and intellectual tradition here; you can see and sense this living history in the faces of the people and in the design of its main buildings. People and landscapes leave deep impressions on me.

What do you like to do in your spare time? It's either basketball, racquetball, or lifting weights at the Plex. Sometimes it's eating 50% off at Applebee's (where I wait tables). Or, lastly and perhaps more importantly it can be having a good Irish beer with a friend or two when I arrive at the full sense of satisfying

my taste buds.

What do you like about the Murray Grad Student Center? Reading the newspaper, talking and eating lunch (many times a free one) with other students, drinking a cup of coffee (pep-time), renting a DVD, crashing on a couch, or just plain having the access to check my e-mail.

What is your favorite movie and why? *I am Sam* with Sean Penn (Sam – a developmentally delayed adult), Dakota Fanning (Lucy – like Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds) and Michelle Pfeiffer (Mrs. Harrison – like the late Beatle George Harrison). Why? My favorite band is The Beatles and I've worked in the past with developmentally delayed (spiritually advanced) children and adults and, any silver screen combination, which integrates these two great elements of society with story and song, is sheer genius.

If you had one superpower, what would it be?

If I had one superpower, it would be the United States and I would convince its citizens to be more spiritually united as one super-powerful nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Then, I would share this superpower with friends that live **all across the universe**.

Telling HERstory...

...Janelle Woods



Thursday, February 23, 2006
12:00 pm at the Women's Resource Center, 141 McElroy

Janelle Woods will share her story about the struggles of being a first generation college student and Black American woman and how these challenges drove her desire to enter the field of Higher Education Administration.

Please feel free to bring your lunch and engage in discussion after the talk. Please contact Jess Donovan with any questions at donovatu@bc.edu.

Telling HERstory is a new event sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and the Office of Graduate Student Life, designed to give students (male and female!) the opportunity to learn from inspiring women at Boston College.

Stay tuned for news of the next installment of the Telling HERstory series, coming soon!

Spotlight on...

The Volunteer and Service Learning Center

*"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve...
You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."
--Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Now in its third year, the Volunteer and Service Learning Center serves members of the Boston College community in many ways. These include assisting students, staff and faculty who are seeking opportunities to serve in the greater Boston area, creating a network between existing student service and immersion organizations, and helping departments in their efforts to offer safe, high quality experiences for those who want to serve others. In addition, the VSLC has developed a growing resource center in order to provide students, staff and faculty with tools for education, team formation and theological reflection. Finally, we have opportunities like the Eagle Volunteer Corps, where members of the Boston College community can commit themselves to regular service. Encouraging service to others is a major priority at Boston College. Moved by issues important to all of us – hurricane relief, hunger, education, homelessness, cancer research, and fair trade – the VSLC and the campus community are acting in concrete ways, consistent with the mission of this great Jesuit university.

Upcoming events

VSLC ESL Program begins this week. BC employees who are English Language Learners have been paired up with a BC student for tutoring. Students & employees are meeting once or twice a week to work on reading, writing, and conversation skills. April 8th marks the second annual **Hoops for Hope** three-on-three basketball tournament. The goal is to raise \$30,000 with proceeds going to the Jimmy Valvano Foundation which supports cancer research. Learn more at www.bc.edu/clubs/hoopsforhope. **Locks of Love** is here! BC students are growing their hair, at least ten inches, to donate to this great organization which makes wigs for children in need. A group haircut is scheduled for April 6th. This year's **BC Hunger Initiative** focus is on Heifer International, an organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty. Heifer gives animal to families in need so they can not only have a food source, but also the opportunity to experience "hope, dignity, and self-reliance." The Initiative is already well on its way to reaching it's goal of \$5000, a Heifer Ark. Still, there is much work to be done. The group meets regularly to determine new ways to bring an end to hunger.

Get involved

All of our opportunities are open to all members of the BC community! Become an Eagle Volunteer & access our database of over 100 volunteer opportunities in the Boston area. The time commitment is up to you. The VSLC also has a great resource library, filled with books and videos regarding issues related to social justice. Have a project you want to talk about? Stop by and visit us in McElroy 114!

Get Involved!
www.bc.edu/vslc



The Notice Board

Peer Review of Grant Applications and Manuscripts: The Ethical Issues

Tuesday, February 21, 2006, 12:00-1:00 pm, Higgins 345
Guest: Clare O'Connor, Associate Professor, Assistant Chair, Biology Department,
Former Program Director, NSF

Part of a series of monthly, informal discussions of issues in the responsible conduct of research at Boston College. All are invited to participate. Bring your own bag lunch. Beverages and cookies will be provided. If convenient, RSVP to crprog@bc.edu so we will have an estimate of attendance, but always feel free to just drop in. Direct questions to Stephen Erickson (ericksst@bc.edu).

The Church in the 21st Century Center presents... "Catholic Politicians in the U.S.: Their Faith and Public Policy"

Monday, February 27, 2006
7:00-8:30 pm in Conte Forum

A panel discussion hosted by Tim Russert of "Meet the Press" and featuring James Carville, E.J. Dionne, Ed Gillespie, and Peggy Noonan.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit:
<http://omc.bc.edu/c21faithandpolicy/>

Please note: Seating is limited and tickets (free) are required.

Zipcar is pleased to announce a new location on campus behind the Murray Graduate Student Center! As a member of the Boston College community, you receive a discounted Zipcar membership for only \$25! Zipcar offers self-service access to cars by the hour or the day. They are located in easy to get to parking spaces right on your campus and in neighborhoods throughout Boston, as well as New York, Washington, DC and San Francisco. Using Zipcar is quick and easy. Just reserve online, walk to the car, let yourself in with your Zipcard, and drive. Use Zipcars for errands, shuttling friends to the airport, interviews, shopping or quick road trips anytime of day. It's owning a car without the headaches and costs. Choose from MINIs, BMWs, SUVs and more -- from \$8.75/hour and \$63/day. Includes gas, parking, XM Radio and even insurance. There are two Zipcars on campus, two vehicles on Lake Street behind Campus Convenience and over 300 other cars in the Boston metro area.

To find cars near you visit www.zipcar.com/boston/find-cars.

To learn more or join visit www.zipcar.com/bc.



All University Relay for Life Boston

April 21-22 at Tufts University
Benefiting the American Cancer Society

Become part of the largest non-profit fundraising event in the world! Come experience the power of hope, the power of people, the power of love.

Kickoff and Info Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 pm, Merkert 127

For more information, contact Meg at connolah@bc.edu.

Because every life counts!

Graduate AHANA Movie Night

March 23, 2006
7 pm, Cushing 001

Join Grad AHANA as we view the movie "Crash" and discuss the numerous prejudices, stereotypes, and biases that still exist in today's society. Please RSVP by March 20th to Janelle Woods at woodssjg@bc.edu
Refreshments served

Ethos Water: Every Bottle Makes A Difference

Founded in 2002, Ethos Water takes a unique approach to doing business – it is the bottled water that helps children around the world get clean water.

Hear co-founder Jonathan Greenblatt talk about the world water crisis, the founding of Ethos Water, the partnership with Starbucks, and World Water Day on March 22.

Thursday, March 2, 2:30 pm, Cushing 333

For more info, contact Seema Bharwani at bharwani@bc.edu.

Mark Your Calendar...



- 2/15 **“Le grand voyage” (Grand Voyage)** 7:30pm, Fulton Hall 511
Part of the French Film Festival at Boston College.
- 2/15 **Music at St. Mary’s: Sapphire Night** 8pm, St. Mary’s Chapel
Music by Hildegard von Bingen and Patricia Van Ness. Performed by Tapestry.
- 2/16 **“In Dialogue: Building Professional Relationships for Ministry”** 5:30-7:30pm, IREPM, 25 Lawrence Avenue
Presented by Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.
- 2/16 **“The Optimists: The Story of the Rescue of Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust”** 7:30pm, Robsham Theatre
Film and discussion with comments from writer/director Jacky Comforty.
- 2/17 **Made in USA** 7pm, Robsham Theatre
Chinese Students’ Association/Korean Students’ Association Culture Show. Tickets are \$5.
- 2/17 **BC bOp** 8pm, Stuart Hall Law Lounge, Newton Campus
Sponsored by Boston College Bands.
- 2/19 **An Afternoon of Irish Song** 2pm, Gasson 100
3 renowned Irish-born singers and a fiddler present a concert of traditional and contemporary Irish/Irish-American songs.
- 2/20 **Opening Celebration of Secular/Sacred: 11th-16th Century Works** 7-9pm, McMullen Museum of Art
Featuring pieces from the MFA and the Boston Public Library, with dessert reception and music by BC bOp.
- 2/20 **“God and Morality in the Public Sphere”** 8pm, Devlin 008
Presenter Fr. Robert Drinan comments on current events, his life, and his recent work, *Can God and Caesar Coexist?*
- 2/21 **Grad Night Out** 7-9pm, Big City, 138 Brighton Avenue
Join us for free food, billiards, foosball, and fun giveaways! Take the ‘B’ Green Line to Harvard and walk 2 blocks north.
- 2/21 **“What Not to Wear: A Career in Fashion”** 7:30pm, McGuinn 121
A conversation with fashion journalist Clinton Kelly ‘91, the co-host of TLC’s series *What Not to Wear*.
- 2/22 **“What’s the Story? Journalism and Power with William Finnegan”** 7:30pm, Gasson 100
William Finnegan is one of the nation’s foremost writers of political non-fiction and a staff writer for the *New Yorker*.
- 2/22 **“An Evening with Brian Doyle: The Fitful Genius of the Human Heart”** 7:30pm, Devlin 101
Featuring award-winning essayist Brian Doyle, author of *The Wet Engine: Exploring the Mad Wild Miracle of the Heart*.
- 2/23 **Janelle Woods, “Telling HERstory: A First Generation College Student & Black American Woman”**
12 pm, Women’s Resource Center (141 McElroy)
- 2/23 **“Combating ‘Evildoers’ in the Developing World: From Eisenhower’s Vietnam to Bush’s Iraq”** 12-1:15pm
24 Quincy Road. Featuring Professor Seth Jacobs of the History Department.
- 2/24 **Thesis and Dissertation Workshop** 2-4:30pm, Cabaret Room, Vanderslice Hall
This workshop offers graduate students tips for dissertation writing. RSVP by 2/22! See page 1 for more info!
- 2/24 **Boston College Symphony Orchestra** 8pm, Gasson 100
Featuring Sibelius Symphony #2.
- 2/27 **“Lectura Dantis: Purgatorio X”** 7:30pm, Devlin 101
Presentation of the text will be in English, with the reading in Italian.
- 2/28 **An Evening of Unity** 7-9pm, Gasson 100
Great food, great cultures, and great entertainment!
- 2/28 **“Writers Among Us: Boston College Readings with Richard A. Blake, S.J.”** 7:30pm, Cushing 001
Blake examines the lives & works of 4 filmmakers: Sidney Lumet, Woody Allen, Spike Lee, and Martin Scorsese.