

Grad Student Life



To reach the Murray Graduate Student Center exit McElroy and cross Beacon to Hammond Street. The Center is the third house on the left.

Inside this Issue:

Introduction to Graduate Student Associations	2
Programs from the Office of Graduate Student Life	3
Campus Updates	4
Mark Your Calendar	6

Edited by Brenda Marvin

Welcome To a New Academic Year

.Dear Graduate and Professional Students,

Whether you are a new or returning student, we in the Office of Graduate Student Life would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Boston College and to fall in Boston. In this issue of *Grad Student Life*, our bi-weekly electronic newsletter, you'll find lots of information about upcoming programs and events taking place in September and throughout the fall. Some are sponsored by the Office of Graduate Student Life; some by your Graduate Student Association; many others by various offices and schools across campus. All are designed to help you meet fellow grad students across the university, to assist you in getting acquainted (or re-acquainted) with your campus and local community, and to ensure that your learning experience at BC is as healthy, balanced, and successful as it can be. We encourage you to take advantage of these offerings and we look forward to seeing you again or meeting you for the first time at an upcoming program. Please also feel free to drop by the Office of Graduate Student Life at your convenience with questions or just to say hello. Our office is located on the second floor of the Murray Graduate Student Center and is open from 9am until 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Best wishes for a wonderful fall term!

Joy Galarneau, Acting Director, Graduate Student Life

Boston College Office of Graduate Student Life

Graduate Student Life offices are located in

The John Courtney Murray, S.J.
Graduate Student Center

292 Hammond Street
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
(phone) 617-552-1855
(fax) 617-552-1839
(web) www.bc.edu/gsc
(email) gsc@bc.edu

Murray Graduate Student Center
2009-2010 Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday, 9am-10pm
Friday, 9am-5pm

DVD Lending Library Hours
Monday-Thursday, 11am-9pm
Friday, 10am-4pm

Your Graduate Student Association Welcomes You

Welcome back, Boston College graduate students! This new school year will be an exciting one for the Graduate Student Association, led by the leadership team of Elyse Purcell (President), Meaghan Clark (Vice-President), and Rakesh Das (Financial Director). This year the GSA plans to focus on building community and providing advocacy for its graduate students.

One of the great ways to get involved on campus and to meet other interesting and committed graduate students is to join one of the GSA committees: The Social Committee, the Service Committee, the Spirituality Committee, the Individual Research and Grant Committee,

the Group Special Funding Committee, or the Scholarship and Excellence Committee.

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact Meaghan Clark at clark.meaghan.3@gmail.com



Your Graduate International Student Association Welcomes You

The Graduate International Student Association (GISA), extends a warm welcome to all of you to at the start of eventful academic year. GISA is a student organization that strives to provide a wide spectrum of educational, social and cultural opportunities to the entire graduate student community with an aim to facilitate meaningful interactions and sharing of cultural heritage amongst them.

GISA has planned and organized events such as the Friday afternoon Tea party, Mini cultural nights, Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshops, and a Holiday Party. Our events are open to all graduate and professional students.

We would also like to encourage you to become a part of our executive board. All are invited to the first informational meeting of GISA on Thursday, September 17th at 5 PM at the Murray Graduate Student Center. We would also like to invite you all for the GISA welcome party on Monday, September 14th at 6:30 PM in Gasson 100. Come celebrate the beginning of another exciting school year with your fellow graduate students. We look forward to see you there.

If you have any questions or need further information, do not hesitate to email Rucha Bhate, President of GISA at: bhate@bc.edu.

Your AHANA Graduate Student Association Welcomes You

On behalf of Grad AHANA, Co-Presidents Dana Mars and Damian Waite are excited to offer best wishes for a wonderful academic year! Grad AHANA is a student group that seeks a welcoming environment that fosters the growth and potential of AHANA students in fellowship, academics, celebrations, representation and leadership while studying at Boston College.

This year we are excited for you to join us at our welcome reception on Tuesday, September 15th from 5pm-7pm on the Devlin Patio. Our first Executive Board Meeting will be on September 23rd from 3:00-4:30 at the Murray Graduate Student Center. All are welcome to attend. Other ways to

become involved in the organization include joining the executive board. In late September we will be organizing a round-table event for Grad AHANA students and their allies to come together to brainstorm how students of color at Boston College can meet around a common purpose.

To request more information or to join our listserve please email Damian Waite at waiteda@bc.edu or Dana Mars at marsd@bc.edu.

Upcoming Programs Sponsored by the Office of Graduate Student Life

Veritas et Vinum Returns Listen to a Story Discover a Path

Veritas et Vinum is a Friday gathering of graduate and professional school students featuring BC faculty and administrative leaders telling their stories. The format is both informal and conversational, with each featured speaker talking with graduate students about their career paths in higher education, how they arrived at Boston

College, and what it means to do their work in a Catholic and Jesuit University.

Fulton Honors Library: Location for Veritas et Vinum



Students have the opportunity to ask questions and chat with the speakers. Refreshments will be served.

Veritas et Vinum meets from 4:00-5:30pm one Friday per month in the Fulton Honors Library.

Dates: Friday, September 18th
Friday, October 16th
Friday, November 13th

Stay tuned for details about our speakers.

BC Graduate Intersections The Tightrope and the Trapeze: Tools for Building a Balanced Life

With the demands of school, work, family, and friends has your life become a balancing act? Learn ways to reduce stress, fight anxiety, and maintain your equilibrium during this weekend program at the Warren Conference Center and Inn in beautiful Ashland, MA.

You'll have the opportunity to

meet other students and learn valuable skills to combat tension and navigate the tightrope. A variety of tools will be offered for participants, from time management and meditation to poetry and Ignatian reflective practices.

Learn from each other and from student and faculty facilitators.

The event will take place from Saturday, October 24th through Sunday, October 25th.

For more information and an application please visit our website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/programs/gradintersections.html>

A View of the Warren Conference Center and Inn



Boston College Graduate Mentorship Program

The Boston College Graduate Mentorship Program matches Graduate Students as mentors with undergraduate students from low income, first generation, or underrepresented backgrounds. The program is designed to help participants share experiences around graduate studies, how the choice was made to pursue a particular discipline, and the

challenges and rewards of being a graduate student.

This year's program will run from October 2009 through May 2010. The fall term schedule will require one training session with all participants and mentees, two informal one-on-one meetings between Mentor and Mentee between October and December, an educational meeting in November, and a final event with all participants in December. The spring term session will have a

similar format pending the recommendations of program participants.

The undergraduate students will read and select a mentor based on academic and personal interests. Therefore, it is important to describe your experiences and interests carefully.

Applications are due on 9/30/09 and can be found at: bc.edu/offices/gsc/programs/mentor.html

Campus Updates for Graduate and Professional Students

From Campus Ministry

For information about campus liturgies, consult the web page (www.bc.edu/offices/ministry).

You're invited to a liturgy for graduate and professional students on Thursday, September 3, at 3:45pm at 2101 Commonwealth Ave. (former Cardinal's residence).

The Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated on Thursday, September 17, at noon on O'Neill Plaza.

A day of retreat for graduate students is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, from 10am-4pm at St. Joseph's Chapel. Fr. Michael Boughton, SJ will be joining us to reflect on the theme, "With What You Have Been Given." Cost: \$10/\$5 refundable. To register, get in touch with Sister Mary at Mary.Sweeney.4@bc.edu Spouses are welcome.

Twilight Retreat for Graduate/Professional Students will take place at Murray House on Monday, September 14, 6:30-9pm. This is an opportunity to meet folks from other graduate and professional programs, to gather for dinner, conversation, some quiet time for personal reflection and sharing. RSVP Sister Mary at Mary.Sweeney.4@bc.edu (A second Twilight Retreat is scheduled for September 30.)

If you're **thinking about becoming a Catholic or receiving the sacraments**, the RCIA program might be for you. For more information, email Sister Mary to set up an introductory conversation. The program begins on Tuesday, September 22.

If you're a former **Jesuit Volunteer**, check in with Sister Mary. Each semester we plan gatherings for fJVs who are on campus.

Library Orientation

Learn how to navigate the Boston College Library System with expert advice from the library staff in O'Neill. Join us in O'Neil 307 (Main Floor) at 3:00pm or 6:00pm on Thursday, September 10.

From the GSAS Dean's Office Doctoral Support Group Lunch

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences invites all doctoral students on the campus to attend a support group. Doctoral students determine the topics to be addressed, and a professional academic facilitator provides assistance and guidance to the group. Time: 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Meeting place: 21 Campanella Way, Room 328 for all dates, except November 5th which will be in Room 380. Dates: September 24, October 8, October 22, November 5, November 19, December 3, and December 10.

From the Volunteer and Service Learning Center

Welles R. Crowther Red Bandanna 5k Run/Walk

When: Saturday, September 19th 2009
Where: On campus at the Gasson Hall Eagle
Time: 9am Start, Check-in begins at 7:30 in Gasson 100. To pre-register and to learn more about Welles, a '99 BC grad and 9/11 hero, visit: www.redbandannarun.com
Questions: Contact the VSLC at 2-1317 or volunteer@bc.edu

Research Study Opportunity

Opportunity for Black American women (age 18 and older) to participate in research and win one of 5 gift certificates, including a \$100 gift certificate to Spafinder! The survey can be accessed through the link: <http://www.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=130066> and takes about 10 minutes. All answers are anonymous and confidential. Meg Connolly is a counseling psychology doctoral student conducting this research. If you have any questions, please e-mail her at megconnolly@gmail.com. Thank you for your help!

Campus Updates for Graduate and Professional Students

From the Office of Student Services Health Insurance Waivers

The Office of Student Services would like to remind you that September 18, 2009 is the last day to waive Boston College's medical insurance for the fall semester. All students who are registered in a degree program and non-degree students who are registered at least 75% of the full-time credit load are charged directly by Boston College for medical insurance.

Refer to the Student Services website (<http://www.bc.edu/studentsservices>) for more information.

Students currently enrolled in a health plan that is comparable to the Boston College sponsored plan may waive coverage online at:

<https://portal.bc.edu/portal/page/portal/MyServices/MedicalInsurance>

Waivers submitted between September 19, 2009 and January 29, 2010 will be valid for the spring semester only. Please contact the Office of Student Services with any questions. We can be reached by phone at (617) 552-3300 or (800) 294-0294 or by email at studentsservices@bc.edu.

From Instructional Design and eTeaching

Instructional Design and eTeaching is offering series of workshops that will include:

- * Overview of Instructional Technologies Available
- * Intro and Advanced Sessions on Blackboard Vista
- * eTeaching 101: Putting Course Content Online
- * Improving Participation Using Collaborative Tools
- * Weaving in Multimedia Into Your Course Content
- * Amplifying Your Course: Creating Your Own Audio and Video

To see the workshop descriptions and register, go to: <http://www.bc.edu/eteachingworkshops>

IDeS also offers custom workshops to address specific instructional needs upon request. If you would like to set up a custom workshop, please feel free to contact me.

From the Office of Student Services Information Regarding Tuition and Bills

Boston College Payment Plan

Graduate students who wish to use the Boston College Payment Plan (BCPP) are required to make a minimum down payment of 25% of the semester charges. A 3% participation fee will be assessed on the remaining balance. This deferred balance is then divided into three installments (due October 15, November 15, and December 15). Upon receipt of the BCPP application, the Office of Student Services will send participants a confirmation of enrollment and a payment schedule. Monthly billing statements may be viewed in My Bill. Students who anticipate a problem with paying their bill should contact the Office of Student Services.

Online Billing and Payment

All billing notices are sent to your BC email account. When you receive your billing email, you should logon to your Agora portal account and select "My Services" and then click on "My Bill." This link will take you to BC's online billing website where you will be able to view and pay your bill online. BC students and authorized third parties, such as a parent, guardian, or sponsor, will be able to view your bills and make payments electronically through the online billing system. You may also access the web payment option at <http://agora.bc.edu/web.payment/>. For more information concerning billing and payment, visit <http://www.bc.edu/mybill>.

Tuition and Fees

All graduate students are billed per credit hour. Tuition payments are due on September 15th, 2009. **Note well:** The University does not accept credit card payments for tuition and fees, except for students in the Woods Graduate College of Advancing Studies (WGCAS). This policy is necessary due to the extraordinary costs associated with accepting credit cards.

Mark Your Calendar...

September

- 3: Grad Night Out (7:00-9:00pm, Big City)
- 8: GSA BBQ (12-1:30pm, Murray Graduate Student Center Lawn)
- 14: GISA Welcome Party (6:30, Gasson 100)
- 15: Graduate AHANA Welcome Reception (5:00-7:00pm, Devlin Patio)
- 17: GISA Informational Meeting (5:00pm, Murray Graduate Student Center)
- 18: Veritas et Vinum (4:30-6:00pm, Fulton Honors Library)
- 19: Welles Crowther Red Bandanna 5k Walk/Run (9:00am, Gasson 100)
- 23: Grad AHANA Executive Board Meeting (3:00-4:30pm, Murray Graduate Student Center)
- 24: Doctoral Support Group (12:15-1:15pm, 21 Campanella Way, Rm 328)

October

- 9: Graduate Intersections Applications Due Today
- 16: Veritas et Vinum (4:30-6:00pm, Fulton Honors Library)
- 24-25: Graduate Intersections (Warren Conference Center, Ashland, MA)

BC Calendars
On the Web:

Student Life Calendar
www.bc.edu/studentevents

University Calendar
<https://events.bc.edu/cgi-bin/publish/webevent.cgi>

Academic Calendar
www.bc.edu/acal