"A QUIET STRENGTH" -- EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT JIM LEHANE BIDS FAREWELL TO BC

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (6-28-06) -- Nine years after arriving from Boston's corporate world with the organizational skills and political savvy to serve as executive assistant to the University's then new President William P. Leahy, SJ, James J. Lehane will leave the Heights in early July to take on a new challenge as director of the Sandwich Community School in his hometown of Sandwich, Mass.

Lehane, a 1969 LSOE graduate whose gentle demeanor, relentless positive energy and unwavering professionalism endeared him to students, faculty and fellow administrators, will be returning to his educational roots in a job that will encompass all of his career experiences.

"I have always enjoyed being a student and a teacher," said Lehane, who will oversee Cape Cod's largest community-based learning center with programs ranging from early childhood to adult education. "In all of my jobs I was always teaching, and now I am going to a place that will allow me to use my love of teaching and my organizational, administrative and supervisory skills and experiences in a manner that will have a positive effect on so many people throughout Cape Cod and the Islands. It is a wonderful opportunity."

Responding to opportunities has been a Lehane trademark throughout his professional career. After graduating from Boston College, Lehane taught English and public speaking in the Scituate, Mass. school system before embarking on a 25-year career at NYNEX, where he served in an upward progression of marketing, public relations and public affairs roles. Most recently, he served as NYNEX's managing director of public affairs, handling institutional policy and strategy, educational partnerships, community relations and corporate philanthropy for the state's largest public utility, before coming to BC as executive assistant to the President in 1997.

While at Boston College, Lehane served as Father Leahy's chief of staff, managing the Office of the President, working with senior University officials in executing the President's initiatives, overseeing the offices of community relations, public affairs, marketing communications and legal counsel, and serving as chief liaison to the Board of Trustees.

It was a job he handled with dignity, patience and grace.

"Jim Lehane has been a steady and trusted presence in so many areas both on and off-campus," said Father Leahy. "I am one of many people who relied on his judgment, wisdom and knowledge of BC and Greater Boston. He accomplished much and gave much to BC over these past nine years and I wish him and his family the very best in the years to come."
It is a sentiment echoed by all who worked closely with him.

"Jim is the consummate professional. He is always positive, knows how to get people to work together and has been an extremely effective problem solver for the President and the University," said Executive Vice President Patrick Keating. "He has always done his job in a very quiet, respectful way. He will be greatly missed by us all."

**At right, the Lehane family with Fr. Leahy at the June 26 farewell in Yawkey Center (Photos by Gary Gilbert)**

Added Executive Director of Marketing Communications Ben Birnbaum, "I have been thinking, in regard to Jim's leaving, that we take intelligence for granted at places like Boston College, because it is a common commodity here. But in Jim Lehane it is linked to patience, experience and generosity of spirit, and that is rare anyplace. He brought a worldly and gentle wisdom to the University and to his engagements with people here, and I'll miss feeling that and witnessing it."

Looking back, Lehane says that he is most grateful for the opportunity to have served Fr. Leahy and his alma mater in this important administrative role.

"I have really enjoyed the incredible people at Boston College," says Lehane. "I have had a lot of good jobs in my career, but never have I been in a place where people so readily pull together. There is a real sense of family here, from the people who cut the grass to the folks who clean the offices to the professors and administrators. It is infectious."

Reflecting on his most memorable moments over these past nine years, Lehane is quick to point out September 11th and the caring way in which the University responded to the nation's worst tragedy. "With all of our attendant fears, bringing the University together and deciding how best to take care of our people was a special moment for me," says Lehane. Several years later, Father Leahy would call upon him to oversee the creation of the labyrinth on the lawn of Bapst Library as a memorial to the 22 alumni who were killed in the terrorist attacks. "The labyrinth dedication was a memorable experience at Boston College because it gave us all a momentary sense of closure, even though we will never truly have closure on this issue," says Lehane.

In addition, Lehane is credited with galvanizing forces on and off campus to deal more effectively with student behavior issues surrounding athletic events and with improving relations with the Boston Police and the City of Boston.

"Having done the Spiritual Exercises, I learned from the 19th Annotation that my calling in life was to try to bring people together, to be a facilitator who brings out the best in people and who helps them to find and use their own talents," says Lehane. "Working here these past nine years helped me to realize how much I was shaped by the Jesuits and how much my faith has been sustained by them. I hope I can take that Jesuit-instilled way of processing life into this next adventure of mine."

Having enjoyed working in the closest proximity to Fr. Leahy, Lehane saves his fondest praise for a President he says is incredibly modest and who lives out the Gospel messages
in his everyday life. "Father Leahy is a person of great patience and equanimity who remains calm in a way that affects everyone around him. He is also a true strategist who sees the big picture better than anyone I have ever known," says Lehane. "I will really miss working with him."

One aspect of Lehane's job he will not miss will be his daily commute from Cape Cod which he managed these past nine years without complaint, arriving punctually every morning at 8:00 a.m. "Both my wife Susan and I are at the stage of our lives where we want to spend more time with each other, our four grown children and our three grandchildren," says Lehane. "I have so much to give back to my wife who sacrificed her career and so much else for our children. It is now time for me to spend more time with her, and the four extra hours I will gain from my former commute will allow me to do so and allow her to excel in a way that she deserves."

Lehane will assume his new role at the Sandwich Community School on July 31. His last day at the Heights will be July 7.

"More than anything else I will really miss the people at Boston College," says Lehane, who was warmly embraced by more than 150 family, friends and co-workers at a University reception in his honor on June 26. "It has been the best professional experience of my life."

-- Jack Dunn, Director of Public Affairs