Father Joseph Jiang, the new Assistant Dean at the Woods College, came to BC during the summer. Originally from China, Father Joseph has come to learn more about higher education administration and plans to bring what he learns at Woods College back to Hong Kong. Stationed just down the corridor inside McGuinn 100, we caught up with Father Joseph to learn a little more about his background and his new opportunities at Boston College.

Explain a little about yourself and how you ended up at Boston College.

I was born in China and finished my undergraduate study in the Philippines. After receiving my bachelors, I joined the Society of Jesus to become a Jesuit and then worked several years in some Asian countries. After I finished my studies at Weston Jesuit School of Theology and Harvard University, my superior suggested my further studies to be in the area of history or education. While I was researching for both, I found out that BC has an excellent program for International Higher Education and a world-class research facility. I applied for the program and got accepted. I was very honored to have Dr. Philip Altbach as my advisor. He is a world-class scholar in comparative international higher education.

What are you most looking forward to as Assistant Dean in the Woods College?

My role as Assistant Dean is first to assist Fr. James Burns’ work. I would like to help the Woods College to grow and provide excellent education to students. Serving students’ needs (international and local) and enhancing their academic progress and development of their whole person are two of my top priorities. I am very honored to have this opportunity to work here with a great team.

You will be teaching the philosophy course, Marriage and the Family in the spring, which compares American relationships with other cultural relationships. Since coming from China, do you see any differences between American academic studies and college student with Chinese academic studies and college students? What habits do Chinese students have that could be helpful for students at Boston College?

Chinese students are more focused on memorization techniques when it comes to study methods where as the American education promotes creativity, critical thinking and innovation. Chinese students are trained to remember and memorize what’s been taught and what’s been read, and they focus mostly on their test results as the main gauge for progress. Though most American students chose to study subjects in which they are interested, many Chinese students were taught and trained to be diverse and with multiple talents or skills. Most young girls or boys in China were introduced with many extra – curricular activities at a very young age. Parents introduce their children to activities like painting, calligraphy, arithmetic skills and musical instruments like piano lessons for girls and violin lessons for boys. Many Chinese students place academic success as a top priority.

You also teach Classical Chinese Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences during the fall. Do you have a favorite Chinese proverb that you would like to share?

There are a lot of inspirations we can draw on from the classical Chinese philosophy. I would like to share my favorite Chinese proverb with others: “Every day I examine myself on three counts. In what I have undertaken on another’s behalf, have I failed to do my best? In my dealings with my friends have I failed to be trustworthy in what I say? Have I passed on to others anything that I have not tried out myself?” I think this is closely related to the Jesuit (or Ignatian) spirituality in Christian tradition.
The Woods College is excited to announce two additional advisors, Professor Kwasi Sarkodie-Mensah and Professor Andrea Defusco who will assist the Woods College in advising students. Their many years of service to WCAS students in the classroom make them ideal candidates. Both Professor Sarkodie-Mensah and Professor Defusco feel strongly about the mission of WCAS and care deeply for all the students. Both advisors are enthused to be apart of the WCAS team advising team, which includes Father James Burns, Father Joseph Jiang and Dr. Mary Hennessey. Whether it be academic progress, your program of study, or just a chance to chat, it is strongly encouraged everyone make an appointment with our advising team at some point during the academic year. To schedule an appointment, please telephone 617-552-3900. We look forward to meeting with you as the year progresses! For those who need some brief pastoral and spiritual guidance, Father James Burns and Father Joseph Jiang are happy to assist.

Every year, Boston College selects a book for their incoming freshman class to read before beginning their academic studies. This year, *Make the Impossible Possible* by Bill Strickland was selected for the Class of 2017. Strickland went from living in a low income neighborhood in Pittsburgh to becoming the president and CEO of Manchester Bidwell, a job training center and community arts program. Under Strickland, Manchester Bidwell provides useful skills and an opportunity to network so others may have the same opportunity Strickland had to transform his life. If you are a new student at Woods College and are interested in reading this book, please email Caitlin Walsh at caitlin.walsh.3@bc.edu to obtain a copy. WCAS will be providing complimentary copies to all new students in our program.

Are you a new faculty member to Woods College? If yes, Father Burns would like to provide you with a complimentary copy of David Royse’s book, *Teaching Tips: For College and University Instructors*. *Teaching Tips* isn’t just a “How-To” book on teaching in higher education settings. Royse’s book draws on research findings as well as his personal experiences in what he describes as “the trenches” of higher education. The book provides helpful hints on syllabi writing, and active learning techniques, just to name a few. If you are a new instructor or been here previously and are interested, please request a copy by emailing Caitlin Walsh at caitlin.walsh.3@bc.edu.

Some of you may have noticed the absence of the candy and soda machine in the WCAS office and no, this was not part of the Healthy You campaign going on at B.C. As the Woods College continues to grow, the office space has been revamped. We now have two computer terminals available for students and a brand-new office space. This fresh look also gives an idea of the future move to St. Mary’s Hall in December 2014. If you haven’t gotten an opportunity to take a look, please come to McGuinn 100 to see it for yourself!
The Red Bandanna Run, a charity 5K race in honor of Welles Remy Crowther, ’99 BC grad and 9/11 hero, is being held Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 9 a.m. The registration is $20 for all students, not just BC, and $25 for non-students. Walkers are welcome. Even if you are not a runner, there is always a need for volunteers during the race. For more information about the 5K or if you are interested in registering, visit www.bc.edu/redbandannarun.

Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous combines the fellowship of men and women who share their experiences, strengths and hopes with each other to solve their common addiction problems and helps others to recover from addiction.

The only requirement for membership is a desire for recovery. There are no dues or fees for membership; it is self-supporting through individual contributions. A.A./N.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

The primary purpose is to stay sober and help others to achieve sobriety.

Professor Ted Murphy is delighted to announce a free writing workshop on Saturdays during the fall semester! The tutoring sessions are available on Saturdays from 12 p.m.—2 p.m. in Fulton Hall, Room 115. The dates are Oct. 19th, Oct. 26th, Nov. 9th, Nov. 23rd and Dec. 7th. The tutoring lessons are available to all WCAS students as well as faculty. If you or someone you know are interested, please email Cheryl Wright at cheryl.wright@bc.edu.

Are you a veteran? What’s your story?

BC ARMY GAME

Don't miss this first year of a renewed BC Tradition! Join the Woods College of Advancing Studies Alumni Association as we celebrate BC Homecoming. As a current WCAS student, we invite you, your family and friends to show your BC Spirit and support our football team as they take on Army on October 5th.

FANFEST

Stop by and stay a while at the FANFEST pre-game tailgate. There will be a designated WCAS area with food and drink for purchase and a number of activities for the entire family. FANFEST is free, starts at 10 A.M. and ends 30 minutes before kick-off.

BC vs. ARMY FOOTBALL GAME

WCAS Alumni Association has made available a limited number of tickets for the BC vs. Army Football Game. The price is $20 per ticket and kick-off is at 1P.M.

Pre-registration is required. For your convenience, please use the following link to purchase football game tickets and to pre-register for FANFEST.


Any questions? Please contact Eva Maynard, Assistant Director, Affinity Programs, Office of University Advancement, Cadigan Alumni Center at 617-552-4757.

GO EAGLES!

Roxana von Kraus, a mother of a U.S. Marine officer, began the Agape Veteran’s Writers Workshop last year in fall 2013. The workshop runs from September 25th through October 30th and meets on Wednesday evenings in Stokes Hall 103 South from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Offering creative support and valuable peer feedback, the workshop brings your stories to life. There is no fee attached to this service for all U.S. veterans. Please enroll via email: agapeveterans@gmail.com. More information as well as flyers are available in the Woods College office, McGuinn Hall Room 100.

A.A./N.A. Meetings

Boston College offers an on-campus meeting Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. in the basement of Greycliff, 2051 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton (Corner of Commonwealth and Foster Street).

For additional support, Tim Burke at Alcohol Intervention Meeting is the designated B.C. contact person. His email is burketm@bc.edu or telephone 617-552-0741.

GO EAGLES!