

# BOSTON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## 2019–2020 ANNUAL REPORT



# Greetings from THE HEIGHTS

## Dear Boston College alumni community,

First and foremost, we hope that you and your families are well and have remained safe and healthy during these challenging times.

We are pleased to share the Boston College Alumni Association Annual Report as a way for you to learn more about the annual offerings brought to you by the Alumni Association—offerings meant to reconnect alumni to each other and to the Boston College traditions we all hold so dear. This report covers the BCAA's engagement events and accomplishments from June 2019 through May 2020, and it highlights initiatives that brought our alumni, parents, and friends together all around the globe.

The BC alumni relations team, in partnership with the Alumni Association Board of Directors, continues to work diligently to offer a variety of thoughtful virtual opportunities to ensure that your connection and relationship with BC remains strong throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal remains simple: to unite all of you and deepen your relationship with the University and with one another. Our councils, networks, class committees, and regional chapters make it easy for Eagles to stay connected through volunteering, networking, and sharing areas of common interest and identity.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we will continue to serve, engage, and create an inclusive space for our entire alumni community of more than 185,000 worldwide. We hope that you will join us on the journey. Without your ongoing support and participation, we can't make any of it happen!

***Ever to Excel.***



**ERIC SILVA '00**  
President, Boston College Alumni  
Association Board of Directors

**LEAH M. DECOSTA**  
Associate Vice President for  
Alumni Relations  
Boston College



Alumni, parents, and friends gathered on campus and around the country at various affinity, class-based, and regional events.



**ALWAYS AN EAGLE**  
Our annual fall program, Always an Eagle, was hosted by local alumni chapters throughout the nation, with **nearly 600 alumni, parents, and friends** in attendance. These signature events are centered on networking and welcoming our newest Eagle alumni into their communities.



**CWBC COLLOQUIUM**

On October 17, 2019, a robust crowd of **over 300** attended the fifth annual CWBC Colloquium, featuring Gayle King, co-host of CBS *This Morning*. Angela Ards, associate professor of English and journalism at BC served as the moderator. The Council for Women of Boston College is dedicated to advancing the role of alumnae as leaders and active participants in the life of the University by supporting its mission through meaningful engagement.



**LGBTQ+ ALUMNI COUNCIL KICKOFF RECEPTION**

On October 24, 2019, the BC Alumni Association hosted a dinner and reception, which launched the LGBTQ+ Alumni Council. Held at the Cadigan Alumni Center, with **over 50 members** of the BC alumni community in attendance, the event featured LGBTQ+ Alumni Council Co-Chair Matt Putuorti '06, who offered opening remarks, and guest speaker Gregory Kalscheur, S.J., Dean of the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences.



**GOLD AHANA ALUMNI BRUNCH**

On Sunday, October 27, 2019, **over 25 members** of the AHANA Alumni Advisory Council and GOLD (Graduates Of the Last Decade) AHANA alumni gathered at Capo Restaurant in Boston. The first event of its kind, the brunch was an opportunity to network and connect over shared experiences at BC.

**BY THE NUMBERS**



**400+**

Events in 2019–2020



**2,830+**

Alumni attended events for the first time



**11,100+**

Alumni attendees



### ANNUAL VETERANS MASS AND REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

On November 11, 2019, the Boston College Veterans Alumni Network (BCVAN) hosted the Veterans Mass and Remembrance Ceremony. **More than 200 people gathered**, making a record attendance for this annual signature event. Joseph Connolly '85 was the keynote speaker, and Col. George Harrington '80 and Col. Dan Arkins '81, former BCVAN co-chairs, led a pinning ceremony, giving each BC veteran in attendance a pin uniquely designed and honoring the Veterans Alumni Network.

### ALUMNI MEMORIAL MASS

The annual Alumni Memorial Mass took place on November 3, 2019, with **over 300 alumni, parents, and friends** in attendance. Thomas Stegman, S.J., dean and professor of New Testament at the School of Theology and Ministry, presided over this very special service that honors the lives of our deceased alumni in recent years.



### WINTER WONDERLAND

Each year, this special Christmas event welcomes **1,500 alumni and their families** to the Brighton Campus for a day filled with family-friendly holiday activities: photos with Santa, crafts with Anna and Elsa, specialty performances, cookie decorating, and more.



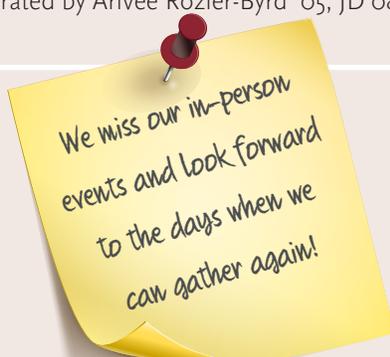
### FIRST-GENERATION RECEPTION AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Hosted by the BC Alumni Association in partnership with the Learning to Learn Office, **nearly 70 first-generation students and alumni** gathered for the first time at the Cadigan Alumni Center on November 7, 2019. The student and alumni panel offered their unique and shared experiences at BC and beyond. Welcoming remarks were given by Boston College Associate Vice President for University Communications Jack Dunn '83, and the panel was moderated by Arivee Rozier-Byrd '05, JD'08.



### WALL STREET COUNCIL TRIBUTE DINNER KICKOFF

The Boston College Wall Street Council hosted **over 200 people** for the annual Tribute Dinner Kickoff on February 25, 2020 at The Plaza in New York City. The evening featured remarks from guest speaker Jacqui Canney '89, P'21, global chief people officer at WPP. Phil Schiller was announced as the 2020 Tribute Dinner honoree. Although the Tribute Dinner was cancelled as a result of the pandemic, just shy of one million dollars was raised for the University's only merit-based scholarships, the Presidential Scholars Program.



## WE CONNECTED

# VIRTUALLY

Social channels and virtual experiences brought our alumni community together during the global pandemic. Many of our in-person events were successfully offered as webinars or as interactive virtual events, further connecting Eagles across the globe.

### SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

 **17,800** followers  
**150+** groups

 **16,500** followers

 **15,300** followers

 **29,100** followers

### ALUMNI EDUCATION WEBINARS

September 2019–May 2020: **eight webinars**

Topics ranged from career offerings to spirituality to grief and loss, healthy eating, financial planning, and franchising.

Presented by **eight** alumni and **one** BC faculty member



There were **30 virtual engagement events** including:

#### EMERGING IN CRISIS

On April 21, 2020, BCAA board member Cathy Savage-Eysie '85 connected with **nearly 100 alumni, parents, and friends** over Zoom. Cathy hosted a conversation about Emerging during Times of Crisis and shared ways of gaining control of your health, wellness, and mindset through several different intentional methods.

#### VIRTUAL TECH ON TAP: NAVIGATING A CHANGING TECH JOB MARKET

On May 5, 2020, Karen Walker-Beecher '87 and Miguel Galvez '12, BCTEC co-chairs, hosted a Tech on Tap online networking event with **over 125 people** from across the country. Two leaders from The Bowdoin Group, Paul Manning and Rachel Kohn, offered an information-packed presentation on the impact of COVID-19 on the tech job market.

# GLOBAL DAYS OF VIRTUAL SERVICE



Each year, Eagles exemplify what it means to be men and women for others through participating in our popular Global Days of Service. Due to COVID-19, we offered new virtual service opportunities this year. Global Days of Virtual Service started in May and ran through the month of June, focusing on supporting the Connell School of Nursing, frontline workers, and the Class of 2020. We received nearly **150 personalized messages of gratitude** to frontline workers and words of encouragement for our newest Eagles.



## EXECUTIVE VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP FORUM VIDEO PRESENTATION

The inaugural Executive Volunteer Leadership Forum was initially scheduled for April 3, 2020. This exclusive program was planned to inspire, educate, and celebrate our dedicated volunteers, who are committed to their leadership roles in the BC alumni community. Although we were unable to celebrate in person, we shared an exclusive video featuring our scheduled speakers (l-r, above): Jeff Hafley, the Gregory P. Barber '69 and Family Head Football Coach; Chris Darcy, MA'09, associate director, Office of Campus Ministry; Kathleen Sim Elasmr, executive director for development, Office of University Advancement; and Kevin McLaughlin '78, former president, Boston College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

## BC WEEKLY DIGEST

The BC Weekly Digest, brought to you by the Boston College Alumni Association and Board of Directors, launched on April 13, 2020, as your go-to source for weekly virtual activities in place of the weekly communication that promoted in-person events. This dynamic e-newsletter features virtual experiences and offerings related to family-friendly interests, health and wellness, spirituality, lifelong learning, and more. The BC Weekly Digest reaches and connects **over 150,000 alumni, parents, and friends worldwide** and ranks as one of our top-performing digital newsletters.

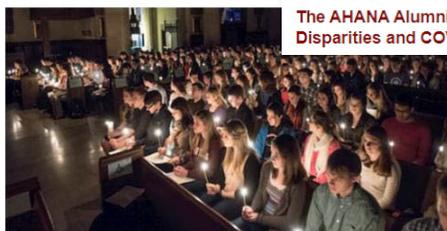


### Featured Event



The AHANA Alumni Advisory Council Disparities and COVID-19

### Spirituality and Faith



### Nightlight Candlelight Mass

Join Campus Ministry for a moment of peace Mondays through Thursdays at 10 p.m. EDT



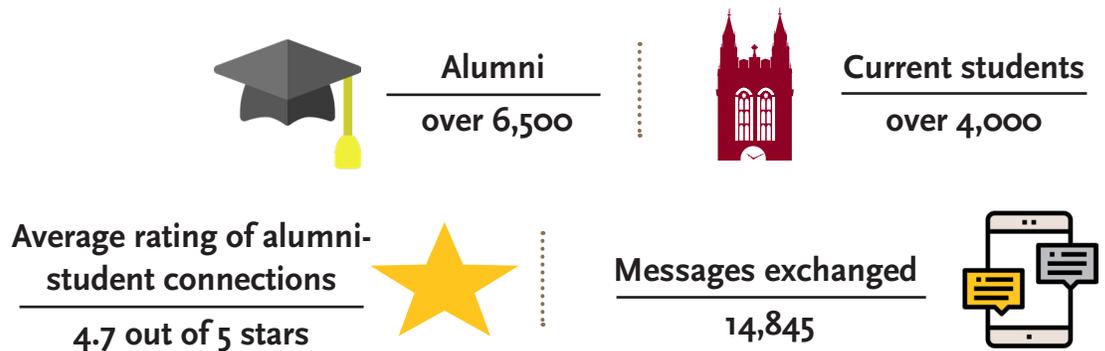
# EAGLE X CHANGE

Eagle Exchange, an initiative led by the BC Alumni Board of Directors, is an exclusive online networking platform connecting the global BC community through lifelong, professional conversations. In partnership with the BC Career Center, within a month of launching in August 2019, we had an overwhelming response of over 2,700 alumni actively on the platform. Since then, Eagle Exchange continues to grow and foster connections with nearly **10,500 alumni and students** across the world.

## Alumni are able to

- Fulfill the key role of a mentor to alumni or students.
- Post a virtual project of their choice for students to gain real-world experience.
- Gain valuable perspective from alumni and students.
- Boost their network by making direct connections with fellow alumni.
- Ask career-related questions through industry-specific groups and discussion forums.

## Eagle Exchange by Numbers



“Eagle Exchange has allowed me to expand my network by giving me the ability to connect with other Eagles based on shared interests, professional backgrounds, and areas of expertise. It has been an easy way to stay engaged with the University and strengthen our BC community. It’s been a rewarding experience to provide students with professional insights and advice. Eagle Exchange is clearly the perfect boost for the student mentoring initiatives.”

—Ileana Jimenez-Garcia '87

“Eagle Exchange demystifies networking and creates an easy conduit for students to get in touch with real people. What is even more poignant for me and a reason I try to stay open to connecting with students is my understanding of the implications for students of color to connect with professionals of color. These may facilitate social integration and educational outcomes for these students. And overall, being able to talk not only about how I got to where I am career-wise, but also about how I navigate these spaces—these are important topics that something like Eagle Exchange can serve as a bridge for.”

—Frantz Berthaud '08





# BEACON

## LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS

A new discussion series hosted by Jim Husson, senior vice president for University Advancement, launched in April 2020 with over 2,200 alumni, parents, and friends virtually in attendance. Beacon Leadership Conversations (BLC) features dynamic conversations with key University leaders, who share their first-hand perspectives and insights about how BC is not merely adapting but also thriving as we adjust to the new realities of the day.

### Tuesday, April 14

**Jack Butler, S.J.**, Haub Vice President for Mission & Ministry, shared his work focused around student formation as it relates to these challenging times.

### Tuesday, April 28

**David Quigley**, provost and dean of faculties, shared his work focused on academic affairs as it relates to these challenging times.

### Tuesday, May 12

**Joy Moore '81, H'10**, vice president for student affairs and **Craig Burns, PhD**, director for University Counseling Services, discussed their work focused on student affairs as it relates to these challenging times.

### Tuesday, May 26

**Jere Doyle '87, P'15, '21**, Popolo Family Executive Director and Edmund H. Shea Jr. Center for Entrepreneurship; **Jenna Steichen '21**; and **Maggie Yan '22** shared how the Shea Center helps students across the University develop an entrepreneurial mindset, and how they adapted programs like Startup Demo Day for a remote campus environment.

### Thursday, June 18

**Susan Gennaro, PhD, RN, FAAN**, dean, Connell School of Nursing; **Aristotle Boslet '18, RN**; and **Adelene Egan '18, RN, CEN**, had a dynamic conversation about the critical role of nurses during our current health crisis.

### Monday, June 29

**Vincent D. Rougeau**, dean, Boston College Law School, and **Heather Cox Richardson**, professor, Department of History, discussed the history of racism in America and explore the role that higher education, and Boston College in particular, can play in fostering dialogue, deepening understanding, and bridging divides that have long challenged our country.



Guests pictured right:

Senior Vice President for University Advancement James J. Husson, Law School Dean Vincent D. Rougeau, History Professor Heather Cox Richardson

# WE EXPANDED

# OUR ENGAGEMENT

We expanded the scope of our constituent engagement while partnering with other departments on campus to enhance our offerings. These partnerships reflect the wide variety of opportunities available to all alumni, parents, and friends.

## BC Law Alumni Association

Many successful Law Chapter events were held throughout the country this year. Professor Hillinger made visits to Portland, Maine; Washington, D.C.; and Miami, Florida, to meet with former students and local alumni. There was also a successful turnout of over 150 alumni at the Boston Law Holiday Party.

**Law Reunion** took place November 1–2, 2019, at the Four Seasons in Boston, where over 600 alumni and guests reconnected for a weekend to remember.

The **Law Alumni Board** had a successful year led by Stephen Riden '95, JD'99, as president. They partnered with Admission and Career Services, mentored students, provided internships and jobs, and onboarded two new members.

The **Black Alumni Network** thrived this year under the leadership of Mercedes Evans, JD'78. They collaborated with admission efforts, worked closely with the Black Law Students Association, hosted a BBQ for new students, and raised funds for the Ruth-Arlene W. Howe Black Student Leadership Initiative.



## Career Center Programming and Partnership

The **Alumni Job Shadow Program** is an opportunity for students to explore a field or job function of interest. Using Eagle Exchange, students were matched with BC alumni who represent diverse industries, job functions, and locations. Over **200 alumni** participated virtually this year.

**Endeavor** is an annual three-day career exploration program for sophomore and junior undergraduate students that takes place during winter break. This year, we celebrated five years of the program with special keynote speaker Grace Zuncic '05, chief people officer at Chobani.

### Attendance:

Over **100 alumni** came to campus to participate in industry-focused panels and networking with over **260 students**. On the third day of Endeavor, students go into Boston to visit companies and gain the experience of being in a workplace. In 2020, students visited 17 different locations hosted by alumni in the Boston area.

### Applicants:

This year, we had the largest number of alumni applicants and attendees in the history of the program. We received 140 applications for the alumni mentor opportunity, which allows us to carefully select alumni who will offer the diverse perspectives needed to mirror the student participant needs and interests.

## Corporate Engagement

This past year, two corporate breakfasts were held to engage nearly 50 alumni at their workplaces. Events at both Goldman Sachs, hosted by Steve Barry '85, and J.P. Morgan hosted by Kevin Smart '99, featured a University speaker and a Q&A session.



## Notre Dame Weekend

During the weekend of November 22–25, over **500 Eagles** came together for an action-packed weekend, as the BC football team faced rival Notre Dame. In partnership with Athletics, the Alumni Association hosted a welcome reception in Chicago Friday evening before the game, a game-day train to South Bend, and a pregame tailgate.

## Faith Feeds

Faith Feeds, a newly launched initiative in conjunction with the Church in the 21st Century Center, brought the BC community together to enjoy fellowship through shared discussion on a variety of topics, including hope, love, and relationships. A kickoff event was held in Washington, D.C., and has led to Faith Feeds sessions hosted by many other alumni chapters virtually and in person.



Having a faith conversation with old and new friends is as easy as setting the table.

## Wall Street Council Executive Committee

The Wall Street Council Executive Committee added six new members over the past year: Jacqui Canney '89, P'21, global chief people officer, WPP; Ken Giuriceo '95, partner, Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc.; Heather Miner '00, partner, global head of investor relations, Goldman Sachs; Kate Balch O'Neill '08, COO, LIVING-DANCE; Jennifer Theiss '06, global head of private markets sales, IHS Markit, and Grace Simmons Zuncic '05, chief people officer, Chobani.



## Wall Street Council Young Alumni Committee

The Wall Street Council's inaugural Young Alumni Committee was formed in fall 2019. Seventeen alumni volunteers serve on this committee, which has already had a transformative effect on the Council's programming and outreach efforts, both in-person and online. A complete list of Young Alumni Committee members can be found on the council's website at [www.bc.edu/wsc](http://www.bc.edu/wsc).

WE SUPPORTED

# OUR UNIVERSITY



**52,383**  
Gifts



**4,266**

Graduates Of the Last Decade donors

**23,414**

Undergraduate alumni donors



**46,788**

Total donors

## Eagles for Eagles

Many Eagles immediately rallied to support their fellow Eagles who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic—947 gifts raised \$1.32 million to enable BC to meet the emerging needs of our students, faculty, and entire BC community. Together, you stepped up in a big way to help BC address these unexpected challenges.



# GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to stay connected with BC, engage with fellow alumni, and make our University stronger.

 Update your information

 Attend events

 Make an annual gift

 Follow social media

 Join your local chapter

Connect with **EAGLE****CHANGE**





# BOSTON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## *A heartfelt* **THANK YOU**

**KEVIN J.  
McLAUGHLIN '78**

FORMER PRESIDENT,  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
2017-2020



“ The Boston College Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Alumni Relations team would like to sincerely thank Kevin J. McLaughlin '78 for his remarkable leadership and service to the University and our alumni community. During his three-year term as president of the Alumni Board of Directors and previous years as a volunteer leader, Kevin exemplified what it means to be an Eagle through endless service to others within the Boston College community. Kevin led with his heart and continuously went above and beyond the call of duty as board president. It's truly been an honor and privilege to work alongside Kevin in this capacity and I look forward to his ongoing involvement with the BCAA.”



**LEAH M. DECOSTA,**  
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

“ With Kevin, engagement is a goal and a value, which made it an honor to serve with him. Look at the recognition of new affinity groups, or how the board itself has become a more visible channel, or new ways to connect with the global BC community. It's quite a legacy. Thank you!”

**ILEANA JIMENEZ  
GARCIA '87**  
Former Vice  
President, Alumni Association Board  
of Directors



“ A man for others! Unfailingly energetic and optimistic, Kevin challenges us to do more, do it better, and do it with joy. My hope today is that Kevin puts aside humility for a moment and celebrates the enormous legacy he is leaving behind: so many accomplishments, each of them seeds that will grow for a generation to come!”

**ERIC J. SILVA '00**  
President, Alumni  
Association Board of  
Directors



“ Kevin has the utmost passion for Boston College and for connecting our University mission with the alumni community. Kevin has expanded our affinity networks, traveled to support local chapters, and hosted his own events to foster alumni engagement. Kevin epitomizes the spirit of “Ever to Excel.” Thank you for your BC leadership, and Go Eagles!”

**JENNIFER L. THEISS '06**  
Former Vice President, Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

