

# INVOLVED. INFORMED. INFLUENTIAL.

PARENT IMPACT REPORT 2020–2021



BOSTON COLLEGE  
**PARENTS**  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



# WE ARE ALL EAGLES



Dear fellow parents,

As we write this from our home in Northern California, the summer is winding down and our thoughts are turned toward the start of a new year at the Heights. We’ve recently begun our term as co-chairs of the Parents Leadership Council (PLC) and are thrilled to share this report detailing the impact of deeply committed Boston College parents, like you.

The stories you will read here also celebrate the joy of community the PLC provides for all of us. Collectively, we represent hundreds of deeply engaged parents—and grandparents—from across the country and around the world. Some of us are brand new to Boston College while others are alumni. What unites us is our generous commitment to BC and to our Eagles’ experience.

Whether it’s meeting new parents, hearing from the deans and administrators about strategic direction, providing philanthropic support, or cheering on the maroon and gold, it’s clear we enjoy being involved. And for us, there has been no better way to engage with Boston College than joining the PLC!

After the year we’ve all been through, our sights have shifted toward the fall and gathering again with you on campus in Chestnut Hill. We’re counting down the days until we can tailgate in our Boston College sweatshirts again and spend Family Weekend with our son and other PLC families.

We can’t wait to reconnect with you and to welcome new parents to BC!

Warmly,

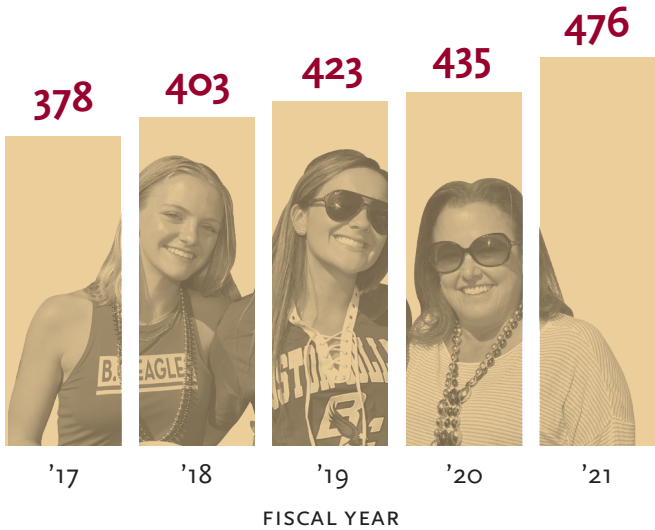
APRIL AND PETER KELLY, P’22  
Co-Chairs, Parents Leadership Council

# CONTINUED GROWTH OF PLC

The Parents Leadership Council (PLC) is an active, diverse group of deeply engaged parents who have distinguished themselves as leaders at Boston College through their annual philanthropic support of the University and through volunteer efforts. Members of the PLC connect with one another and with BC’s academic and administrative leaders through special communications and campus and regional events grounded in our Jesuit, Catholic mission.

## ON THE RISE

Over the past five years, the PLC has grown to include more than **475 domestic and international families**.



**79 countries and all 50 states**  
are represented by BC parents

**118**

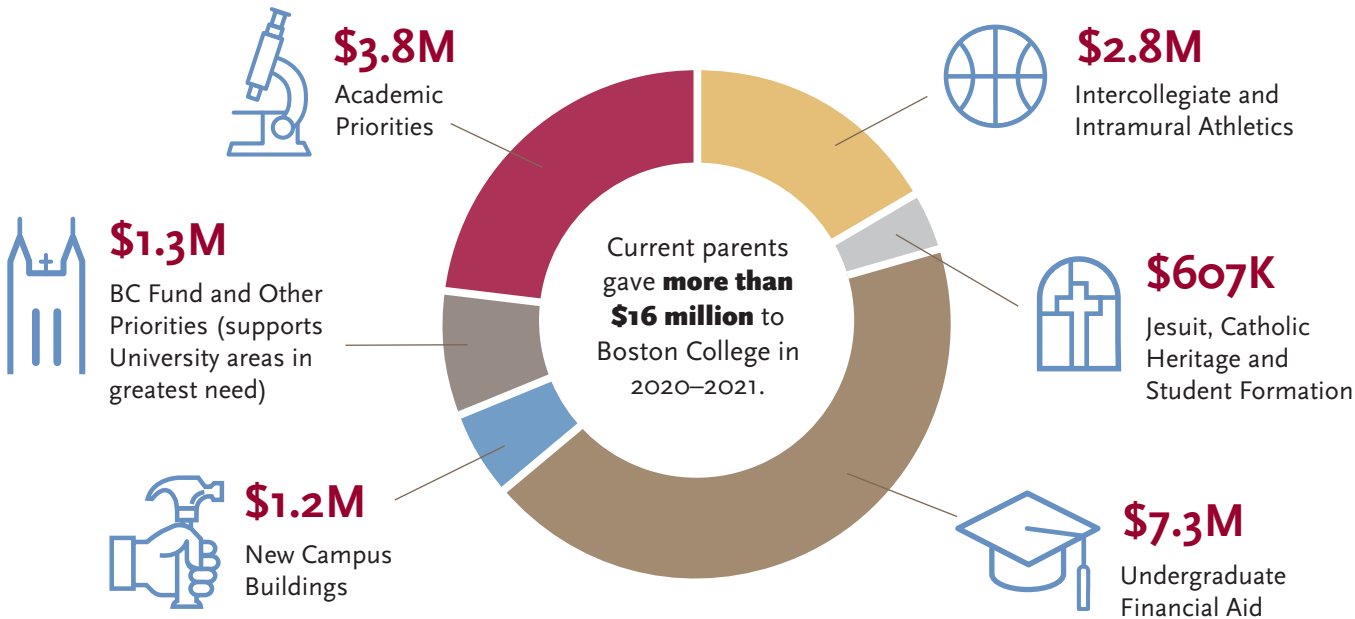
new parents joined the PLC in 2021



**\$1.3M**

from BC parents in support of dean’s innovation funds and faculty research

## STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION



All FY21 data represented is sourced from BC Advancement Information Systems.





Participation in  
anything is how  
you can make a  
difference.”

KIM VU



# THE ADVOCATES

## Ferari and Kim Vu, P’24

YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA

As a junior in high school, Ferari and Kim Vu’s daughter, Anastasia ’24, considered applying to dozens of colleges and universities. But after visiting Boston College and understanding all that the Heights had to offer—from the academic program she wanted to its location—it was her first choice.

For this West Coast family, the idea of being separated by 3,000 miles seemed daunting at first, but today they feel closer than ever.

“Initially, I didn’t love the idea of her being so far away,” admits Anastasia’s father, Kim, “but we are all about encouraging our children to make their own decisions and then supporting their choices.”

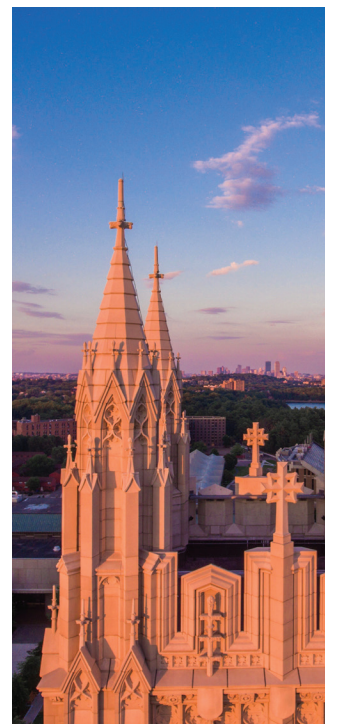
Starting college during a pandemic was not ideal for Anastasia, but she soon found a community of friends and mentors in Compass, an affinity group for first-year students of African, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American (AHANA) descent. Her parents loved hearing that their daughter was building friendships and quickly acclimating to this new chapter in her life.

The Vus direct their philanthropy to AHANA programming at BC. “Bringing awareness to issues and supporting students of color is important,” says Anastasia’s mother, Ferari. “Diversity is an ongoing growth project for everybody across the board.”

Joining the PLC last year helped bridge the physical and emotional gap Ferari and Kim needed to bridge the physical and emotional gap so that Ferari and Kim could feel closer to BC. “The virtual meetings were a great way for us as parents to have more insight into the University,” Kim says. “We feel like we know what’s going on at the school, and we feel more involved—despite the miles that separate us.” They also made a few trips east throughout the year by accompanying their daughter back to campus after winter break and visiting during Easter week.

The couple is excited that the 2021 fall semester will allow for more in-person engagement across campus, for students and parents alike. No matter what the future brings, they are committed to actively engaging with the PLC.

“Participation in anything is how you can make a difference,” Kim says. “It’s just like voting. If you want things to change, you need to get involved.”







# THE ALTRUISTS

## Jeanine and Kevin Clark, P'22

MANCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeanine and Kevin Clark, P'22, are counting down the days to ice hockey season. They are serious fans of the Boston Bruins and Detroit Red Wings—and huge Eagles fans. Cheering on the teams is something they and their four kids look forward to every winter. And after the past year, this winter can't come soon enough.

The Clarks are Michigan transplants. But these last 26 years, they've built home, family, and community in the Commonwealth and at the Heights.

Through their support of Boston College, Jeanine and Kevin have had the opportunity to meet with Andy Boynton, the John and Linda Powers Family Dean of the Carroll School of Management. "Andy is always striving to strengthen all aspects of the Carroll School," says Jeanine. "He remains committed to the liberal arts and STEM programs, he advocates for students, and he welcomes feedback from parents. He exudes energy and passion."

The Clarks' oldest son, John '22, is a senior in the Carroll School. Investment banking is central to his interests and academics, and he's thrown his energy into the student-run Investment Banking Association. "BC was the perfect choice for him," remarks Kevin. "Its size, reputation, and strong alumni network align with his interests and career goals, and he will graduate with a great education and life-long friends."

Joining the PLC when John was a freshman was a natural transition for the Clarks, who have always been involved with their children's schools. Getting to know other BC parents and meeting University President William P. Leahy, S.J., have been among the highlights. The couple also serves on the Board of Regents. "We are taking our involvement with BC to the next level," Jeanine says.

Kevin agrees. "We have seen that at the University level and at the business school, administrators and deans want involvement from families and we really like that. Boston College has been such a wonderful experience for John—and for us as parents," he adds. "The PLC introduced us to great people and provides us with a view into the strategic direction of the University. John is in good hands."



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KEVIN CLARK





It is really our honor  
to advance and  
support the  
University's mission."

WENJING GUO



# THE AMBASSADORS

## Wenjing Guo and Xiaoping Li, P'23

LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND BEIJING, CHINA

Although their Lexington home is just minutes from campus, Wenjing Guo, Xiaoping Li, and their son, Jia Qi '23, had never explored the Heights until recently. "When we first visited Boston College three years ago, we were so compelled by its beauty, its Gothic architecture, and its location," says Xiaoping. But their attraction quickly deepened. "What's most important to us is BC's Catholic and Jesuit tradition of formative education," he continues. "We want our children to be educated as a whole person and become global citizens with BC's motto: men and women for others. Jia Qi is very happy to be an Eagle!"

Wenjing and Xiaoping, who divide their time between China and Lexington, knew joining the Parents Leadership Council was right for them as first-year parents. "We, too, wanted to be part of this great family," says Wenjing. "The PLC gives us a great opportunity to meet other dedicated and committed BC parents, especially other international Chinese parents." This past year they participated in online gatherings and look forward to the return of on-campus meetings and events.

In addition to the PLC, they are members of the Board of Regents. "It provides us even more networks and platforms to better understand the growth of Boston College, current development, its future plans, and its inner workings," says Xiaoping. "It also provides opportunities for us to serve as University ambassadors to promote BC in the greater China region and build friendships with more Chinese parents and alumni."

"We are very inspired by Boston College," adds Wenjing. "It is really our honor to advance and support the University's mission."







# THE FAMILY

## Maureen and Richard "Dick" Graff '69, P'95

DENVER, COLORADO

## Kristin and Andrew "Andy" Dickinson, P'24

SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA

Kristin Dickinson, P'24, lives in California with her family. Her parents, Maureen and Dick Graff '69, live in Colorado. It took a virtual Parents Leadership Council meeting for them to "see" each other for the first time in months. "While we talk frequently, we had not typically used video for family calls," Kristin says. "So I was excited when I scrolled through the attendees and saw my dad."

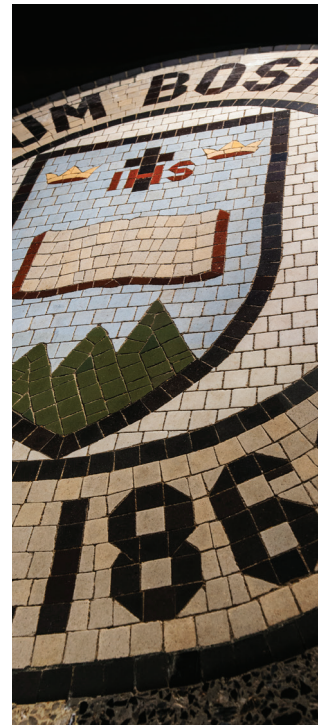
The Graff family has deep connections to Boston College. Maureen and Dick dated when Dick was an undergraduate at the Heights. Their son, Brian, is a member of the Class of 1995, and now their granddaughter, Elise '24, is starting her sophomore year.

Last fall, Maureen and Dick joined the PLC as Eagle grandparents. "Over the years, we have had connections to Boston College through our friendships and our philanthropic support," says Dick. "But the PLC is a new way for us to further engage with the University." Throughout the decades, they have witnessed countless physical changes to the campus, but one thing has stayed constant, Dick adds: "its mission to educate leaders." They were delighted when Elise announced she was following in her grandfather's and uncle's footsteps.

For Elise's parents, joining the PLC made sense from the start. "The PLC has been a great way for us to be in touch with BC and connect with other parents," says Andy, Elise's father. "Both seemed especially important over this past year. Although we were calling in to virtual meetings from California, we never felt disconnected or isolated from what was happening on campus." Adds Kristin, "It's also great to be able to share this experience with my parents."

"Our priority with all of our kids is to support their education and the future of the schools they attend," says Kristin. Andy takes it a step further. "We want to be role models to our kids," he says. "We want to show them that supporting the University isn't only important during their four years on campus, but something that's important for them to continue for the rest of their lives. Our support today is just the beginning."

For now, they're focused on everything that's in store for them this fall. And Dick can't wait to visit his granddaughter at the Heights for the first time. "I look forward to Elise providing us with a tour of campus," he says, "including the Schiller Institute, where she will be attending classes this year, and experiencing BC from her perspective."



RICHARD "DICK"  
AND MAUREEN GRAFF



It's great to be able  
to share this experience  
with my parents."

KRISTIN DICKINSON



ANDREW "ANDY" AND  
KRISTIN DICKINSON





If we can help in planning or moving something forward, we will roll up our sleeves and lend a hand to see it through.”

ANNE WARGO



# THE CHAMPIONS

Anne and Keith Wargo ’90, P’24

WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

In spring of his senior year, Keith Wargo ’90, P’24, was among the Boston College business students crowding the dressing rooms of Mr. Tux in Brighton. He and the others were invited to the Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner in New York City—and they needed formal wear to fit in among the members of the Board of Trustees and the Wall Street Council.

Today, 31 years later, Keith is an established leader in the banking and finance industries and a member of the Wall Street Executive Committee—and he wears his own tuxedo to the annual black-tie affair. He and his wife Anne, a leadership consultant, have a broad philanthropic history with the University, supporting academic and athletic programs over the years while also helping Eagles break into the business community in New York City and beyond.

Their motivation to give back stems from an opportunity Keith received as a young BC graduate. “I was the second analyst Goldman Sachs hired from BC,” he reports. “That drive stuck with me as I moved to other firms throughout my career.” He’s paid it forward, recruiting more than 50 Boston College alumni and students for positions and internships on Wall Street. “What BC imparts in people is a humility and a drive that I don’t see in many students from other schools,” Keith says. “What differentiates those from BC is attitude and personal character.”

Keith and Anne also donate their time. In 2018, the pair shared their advice and wisdom with students during a Lunch with a Leader hosted by the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics.

The Wargos’ daughter, Caroline ’24, is a student in the Carroll School, following in her father’s footsteps. And a year ago, Keith and Anne joined the PLC. “It is a great way to meet like-minded parents who are interested in supporting the University,” Anne says. “We—like many of the parents we’ve met—are hands-on kind of people,” she adds. “If we can help in planning or moving something forward, we will roll up our sleeves and lend a hand to see it through.”





# THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS, COUNTLESS STORIES

Eagles from all walks of life, every corner of the country, and around the globe, arrive at the Heights with their own experiences and perspectives. One student is an NFL prospect, whose mother is his biggest supporter. Another left a family legacy in the trades to attend law school. A third applied to his dream school despite extreme financial difficulties due to long-term family illness. What they share in common is their promise. Your generosity helps make that promise real when you become a Beacon for our students. We believe that any student who has earned admission through our rigorous admission process should be able to accept the offer to become an Eagle—regardless of their family’s financial circumstances.



Read more stories and learn how you can Be a Beacon at [beabeacon.bc.edu](https://beabeacon.bc.edu).

“ I would not have been able to come to Boston College, or study abroad, or do the Catalyst program without a scholarship. Every experience I have had has been possible purely because of aid.”



STEVEN LEGERE '21

- Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences
- Majors: Economics, political science
- Weymouth, Massachusetts

“ The scholarship has given me the opportunity to come to BC and learn what I am passionate about, so when I go into the real world I can make the biggest impact possible.”



SOPHIA RODRIQUEZ '23

- Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences
- Major: Environmental studies
- Queens, New York

“ What keeps me motivated is the realization that I only have four years here. This is just a small glimpse of what I have down the road of my life. I am here for my education, to learn about myself, and to serve the people I want to serve.”



ISAIAH PUENTE '23

- Carroll School of Management
- Concentration: Economics
- Los Angeles, California

# A SPECIAL COMMUNITY OF LEADERS

There’s a reason why leadership is the PLC’s middle name: members of the PLC lead in many ways, and all of us at BC are inspired by the difference you are making in our community. In addition to contributing your insights and perspectives on our conference calls and serving as ambassadors at our University events, PLC parents are recognized as members of the 1863 Society. All BC parents who make a planned gift are welcomed to the Shaw Society.

## 1863 SOCIETY

Honoring the year in which Boston College was founded, the 1863 Society recognizes leadership donors who invest in the University’s commitment to excellence with an annual leadership gift.

Visit [bc.edu/1863](https://bc.edu/1863) to learn more.

## THE SHAW SOCIETY GIFT PLANNING | BOSTON COLLEGE

Boston College invites all who secure the University’s bright future through planned gifts to join the Shaw Society. Now more than 3,000 members strong, the society honors Joseph Coolidge Shaw, S.J., who helped establish Boston College with his legacy gifts of books and the proceeds of his life insurance policy.

Visit [bc.edu/shaw](https://bc.edu/shaw) to learn more.





BOSTON COLLEGE  
**PARENTS**  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

For more information on the Parents Leadership Council  
and how to join, visit **[bc.edu/plc](https://bc.edu/plc)**.

**Questions?** Contact Rita Kincaid, Director, Parent Development,  
at [rita.kincaid@bc.edu](mailto:rita.kincaid@bc.edu) or 617-552-9021.