



BOSTON COLLEGE  
**PARENTS**  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER



**PARENT IMPACT REPORT  
2019–2020**

*Pops Off the Heights, September 25, 2020: Read more on p. 13!*



# YOUR LEADERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

DEAR FELLOW PARENTS,

In the last year, we have seen firsthand the strength of the Boston College community, the resilience of our students, and the importance of staying connected. As this academic year begins with unprecedented challenges, we face new opportunities to live in true alignment with the BC values of service, compassion, and care for the whole person.

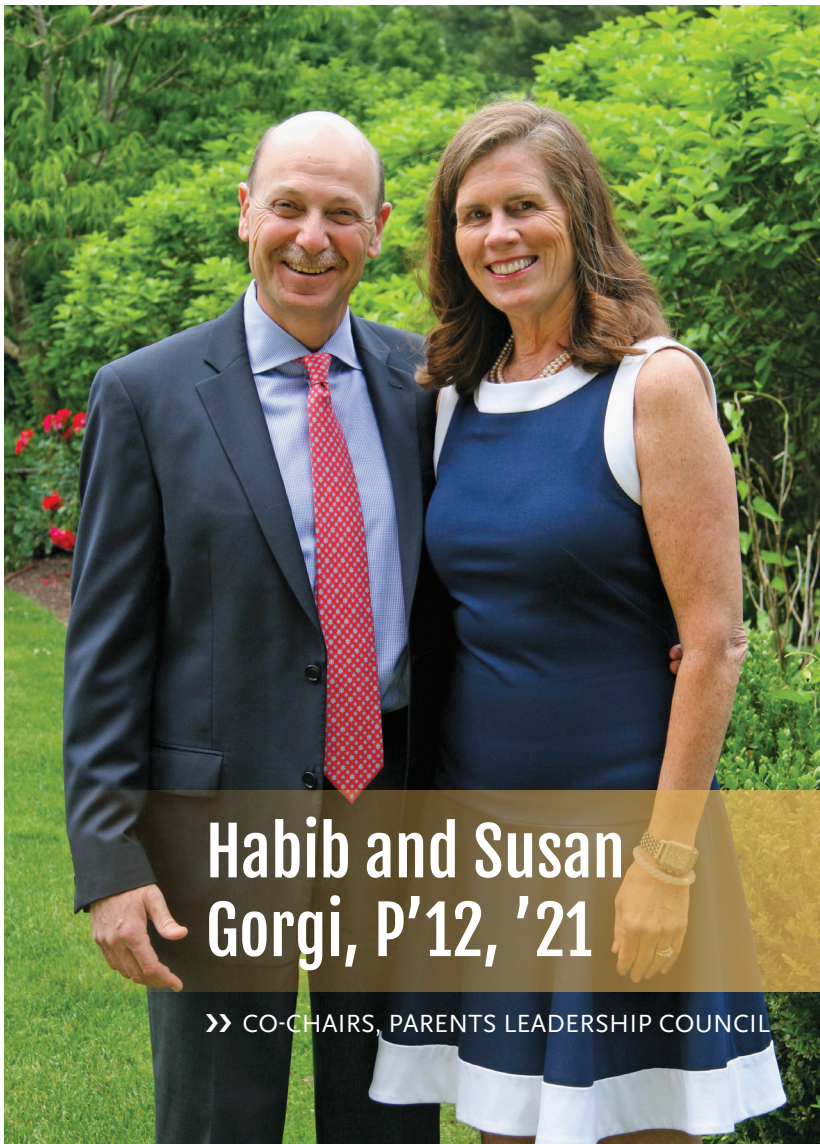
Our daughters, Kate '12 and Maddie '21, have grown in so many ways throughout their time at the Heights. Their growth inspires us to support the University that has cultivated their senses of passion and purpose. Our philanthropy, together with that of the Parents Leadership Council (PLC)—impacts each of the University priorities spanning academic excellence, financial aid, athletics, and formation.

In this year's Parent Impact Report, we feature PLC families who share how membership in the council has enriched their experience with Boston College. These parents exemplify the impact of the Boston College experience—a formative journey for students and parents alike.

We thank our current members for being an essential part of this vital BC community, and we welcome new parents to join us on the PLC. Together, we are the difference.

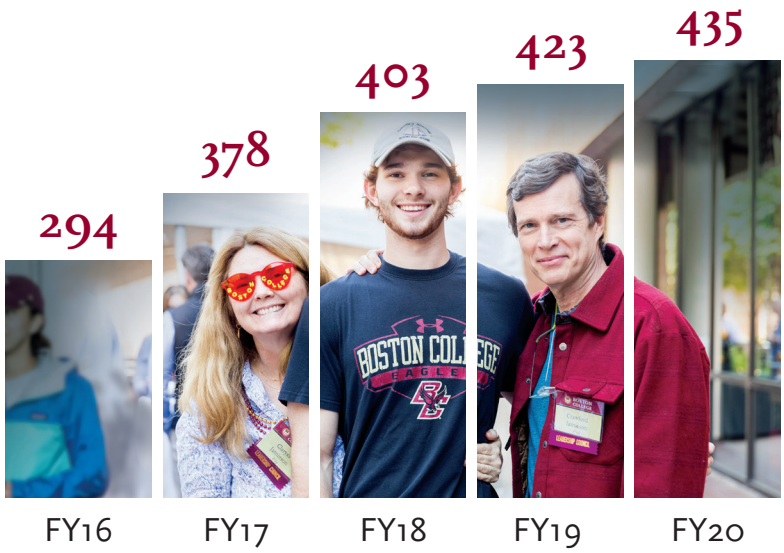
Sincerely,

Susan and Habib Gorgi



# CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE PLC

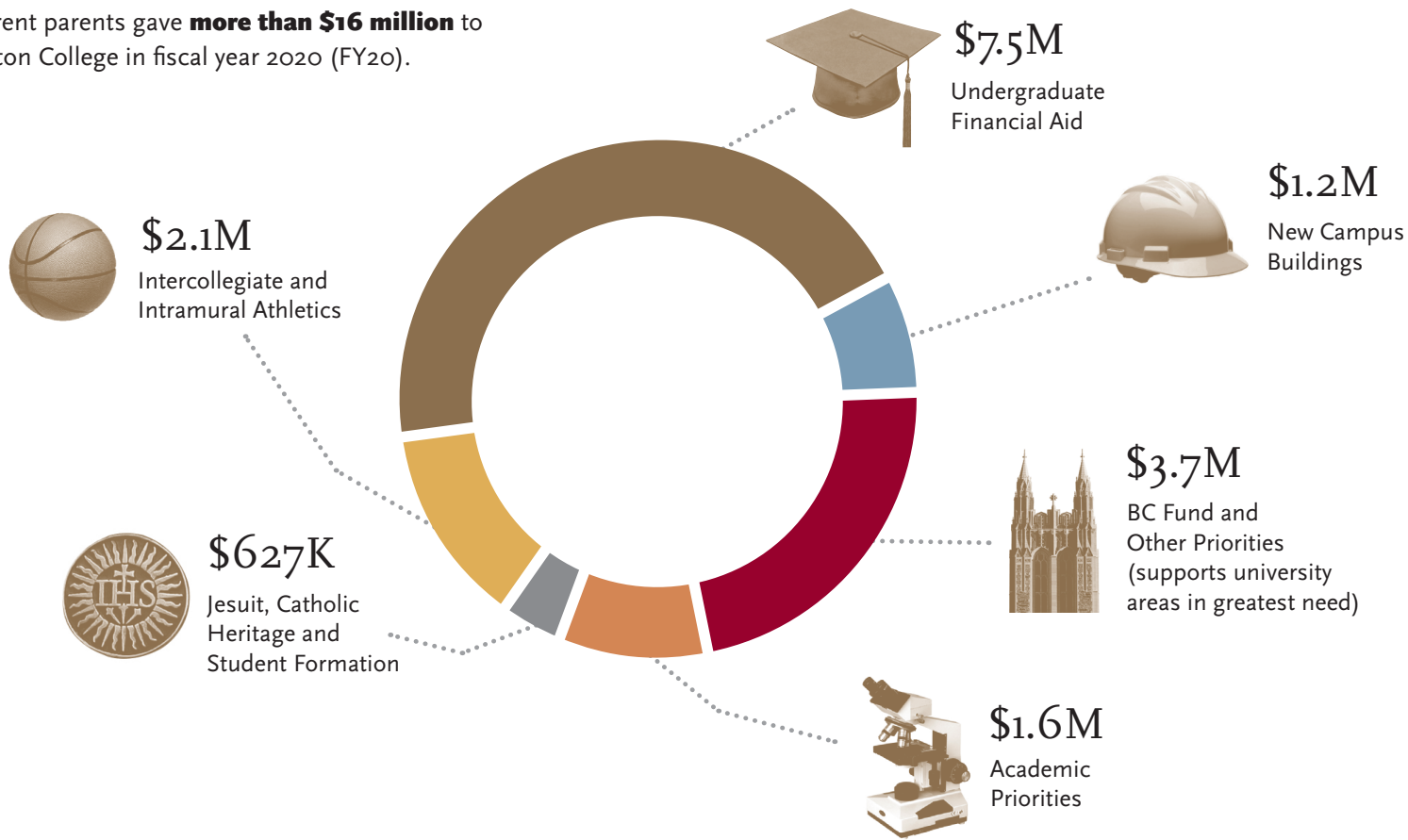
The Parents Leadership Council (PLC) is an active, diverse group of deeply engaged parents who have distinguished themselves as leaders at Boston College through their annual philanthropic support of the University and volunteer efforts. Members of the PLC connect with one another and with BC's academic 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 over **435 domestic and international families.**

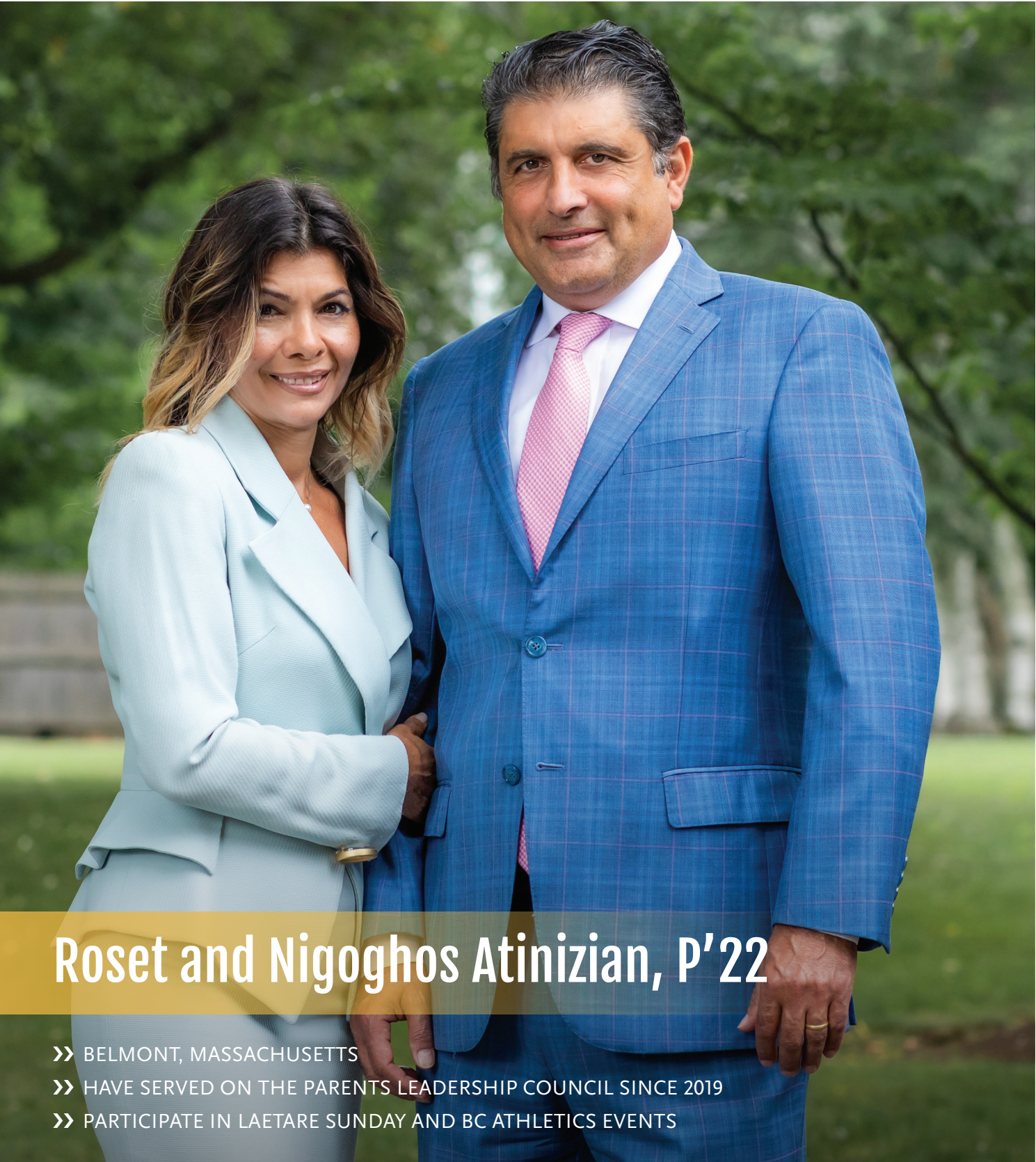
## Strengthening Our Foundation

Current parents gave **more than \$16 million** to Boston College in fiscal year 2020 (FY20).



All FY20 data represented is sourced from BC Advancement Information Systems.





Roset and Nigoghos Atinizian, P'22

- >> BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
- >> HAVE SERVED ON THE PARENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SINCE 2019
- >> PARTICIPATE IN LAETARE SUNDAY AND BC ATHLETICS EVENTS

\$627K  
designated to **Jesuit,  
Catholic Heritage, and  
Student Formation**

75  
**countries and all 50 states**  
are represented by  
BC parents

THE PATH OF  
KINDNESS

THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES, ROSET AND NIGOGHOS ATINIZIAN HAVE EMPHASIZED TO THEIR CHILDREN THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVING OTHERS. They have encouraged them to walk in the path of kindness, creating a family life shaped by altruism, compassion, and leadership.

So when their son Kevork '22 decided to follow in the footsteps of his uncle Ari '12 and attend Boston College—an institution founded on the Jesuit principles of having concern for the poor and marginalized, sharing gifts, and pursuing justice—they felt confident about his choice. “Men and women for others” resonated with their Armenian roots. “The network of alumni is filled with good people who want to make a difference in the world,” says Nigoghos. “We are proud that our son is a part of this community.”

Long before he stepped foot on Boston College’s campus, Kevork embodied a spirit of giving and a desire to help those in need. Through his church, and with his family, he has contributed to projects that help the underserved in the Boston area. In 2018, Kevork organized the first Boston Strong Walkathon to remember the lives of the individuals lost during the Boston Marathon bombings five years prior. Today as an Eagle, Kevork continues to make a difference. This year, he will serve as vice president for the Undergraduate Government of Boston College.

As BC parents, the Atinizians focus their philanthropy on student initiatives that intersect academics with Jesuit values—programs that encourage students to take steps in their intellectual formation and develop their moral framework. They are particularly interested in the ways in which the University will provide students with opportunities to walk in solidarity with those in need.

Roset and Nigoghos enjoy being active on campus year-round, and joining the PLC has helped deepen their relationship with the University. “We love getting to know Kevork’s friends and participating in on-campus events like tailgates and football games,” Roset says.

“The PLC is such a wonderful community. We have met several other parents and look forward to doing more, something impactful. We are ready to serve and work with BC,” Nigoghos emphasizes. “This is just the beginning.”

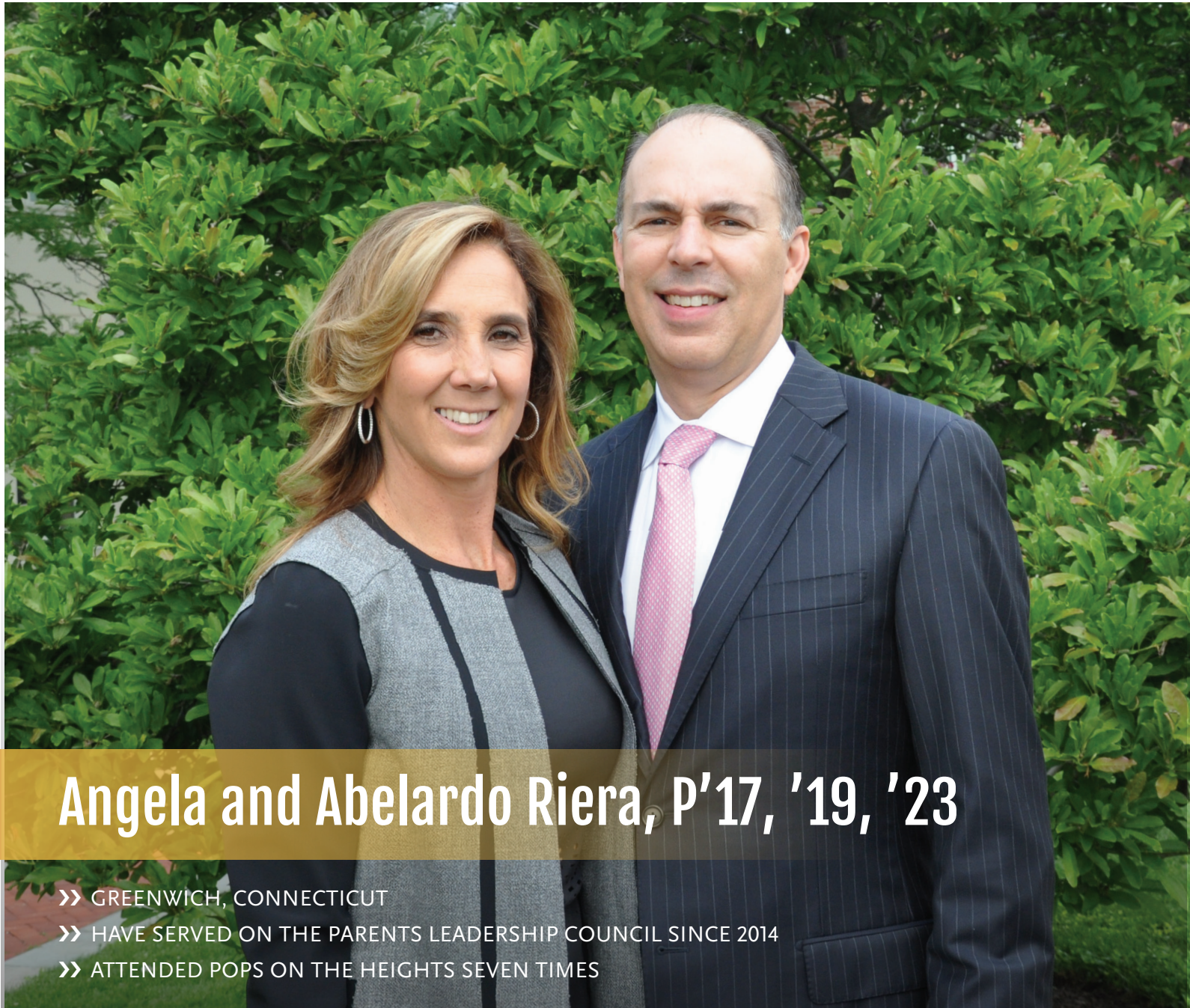
PARENT  
SPOTLIGHT

“The network of alumni is filled with good people who want to make a difference in the world. We are proud that our son is a part of this community.”

—NIGOGHOS ATINIZIAN



# LIVING THE MISSION TAKING ACTION



Angela and Abelardo Riera, P'17, '19, '23

- >> GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT
- >> HAVE SERVED ON THE PARENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SINCE 2014
- >> ATTENDED POPS ON THE HEIGHTS SEVEN TIMES

\$8M

Raised by BC parents for  
**Pops on the Heights Scholarships**

\$7.5M

for **undergraduate financial aid**

CHANCES ARE, NEARLY ALL BOSTON COLLEGE FOOTBALL FANS IN RECENT YEARS HAVE WITNESSED OR ATTENDED ONE OF ANGELA AND ABELARDO “ABE” RIERA’S LEGENDARY TAILGATE PARTIES. Their signature pregame celebrations have been their favorite way to connect with BC families they have met through their children, Veronica ’17, MS’18; Marie ’19; and Jose ’23. “It’s been incredible,” Angela remarks.

Beyond tailgating, the Rieras are also passionate supporters of the Flynn Fund, which provides resources to student-athletes both on the field and in the classroom. The Rieras are known for cheering from their seats—while also actively contributing to the excellence of our student-athletes and spreading the warmth of the BC family.

For the Rieras, being in the BC family means helping to grow it. Each year, Angela and Abe support financial aid through Pops on the Heights: the Barbara and Jim Cleary Scholarship Gala. They treasure the opportunity to build relationships with their Pops Scholars. “We feel fortunate that we are in a position to be able to make a difference in the lives of students,” Angela says. “Education is the key to closing the gap. There are so many smart students who deserve a BC education—an experience that can provide opportunity and success.”

Angela and Abe have witnessed how the principles of Jesuit, Catholic education and holistic student formation have impacted their children. “They really live BC’s mission,” says Abe. Veronica, a regional sales director at Datasite, and Marie, an advertising operations associate at The Walt Disney Company, regularly donate to organizations they believe in. “Our daughters are starting to be philanthropic, helping people who are in need. They want to give back,” Angela says. “That’s a reflection of the Jesuit values they learned, and that’s what we love about the school,” adds Abe.

Joining the Parents Leadership Council was a natural transition for Abe and Angela, who have always enthusiastically participated in their children’s education. “Our kids love that we are involved,” Angela says. “We stay active in their lives, we know what they are learning, and we understand what the University’s values are.”

As their youngest son, Jose, enters his sophomore year, Angela and Abe don’t see his graduation in 2023 as the conclusion of their relationship with the University. “We want BC to be our home forever—and we never want to give up our tailgate spot!” Angela laughs.

“Education is the key to closing the gap. There are so many smart students who deserve a BC education—an experience that can provide opportunity and success.”

—ANGELA RIERA





Amanda and Bill Van Pelt '87, P'22, '24

- >> HOUSTON, TEXAS
- >> HAVE SERVED ON PARENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SINCE 2018
- >> PARTICIPATE IN BC ATHLETICS EVENTS

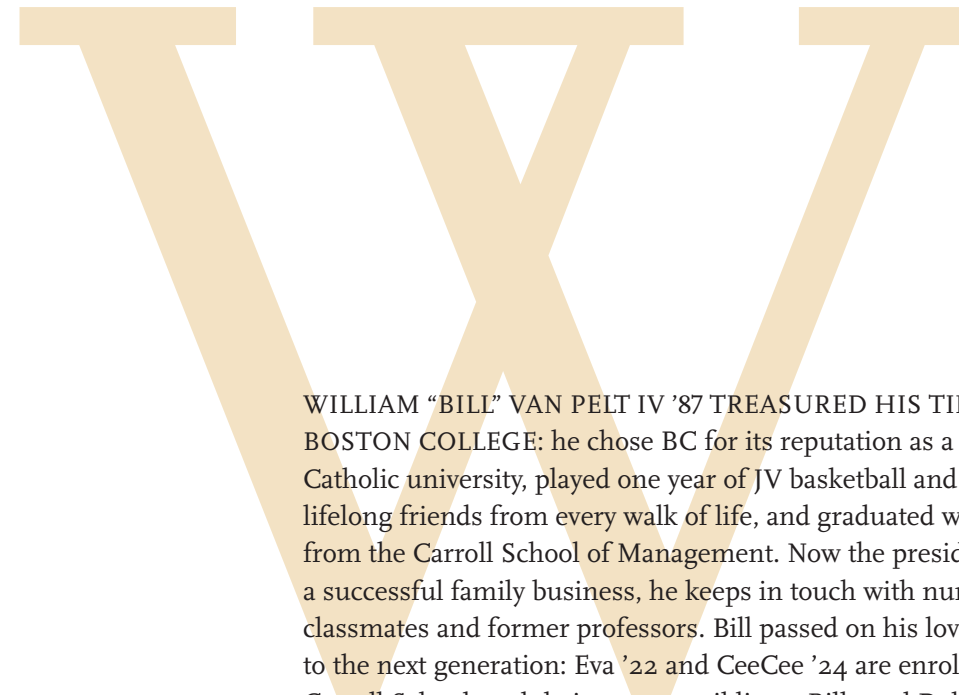
\$2.1M

to support **intercollegiate and intramural athletics**

2,000+

**families** attended  
**Parents Weekend** in 2019

# THE EAGLE TRADITION



WILLIAM “BILL” VAN PELT IV '87 TREASURED HIS TIME AT BOSTON COLLEGE: he chose BC for its reputation as a premier Catholic university, played one year of JV basketball and made lifelong friends from every walk of life, and graduated with honors from the Carroll School of Management. Now the president of a successful family business, he keeps in touch with numerous classmates and former professors. Bill passed on his love for BC to the next generation: Eva '22 and CeeCee '24 are enrolled in the Carroll School, and their younger siblings, Billy and Delaney, say BC is high on their lists.

“We always told them they can go to any school they would like—as long as it’s in Chestnut Hill,” Bill says with a laugh. “But seriously, they both had different reasons for choosing BC, and we’re confident it’s the exact right place for both of them.”

The proud parents joined the Parents Leadership Council in Eva’s first year, making friends with other BC families and learning more about the University’s strategic plans for the future.

Recently, Bill and Amanda brought the whole family together to discuss their philanthropic goals. Reflecting on their family’s love of sports and of BC traditions that are important to Bill, the family chose to make a meaningful gift to BC Athletics.

“Athletics at BC creates a vibe on campus, it wouldn’t be the same campus experience without sports,” says Bill. “I remember being able to talk with anyone at BC; it’s an open community, and sports is one of the activities that foster that environment.”

Amanda describes their work on the PLC and their gifts to BC Athletics as a way to enhance their daughters’ experiences at the Heights. “There are so many ways we can help our kids, even after they go off to college,” says Amanda. “The best part about the PLC is you can support BC in areas of interest to your child and, in doing so, make their experience at BC even more enjoyable.”



PARENT  
SPOTLIGHT

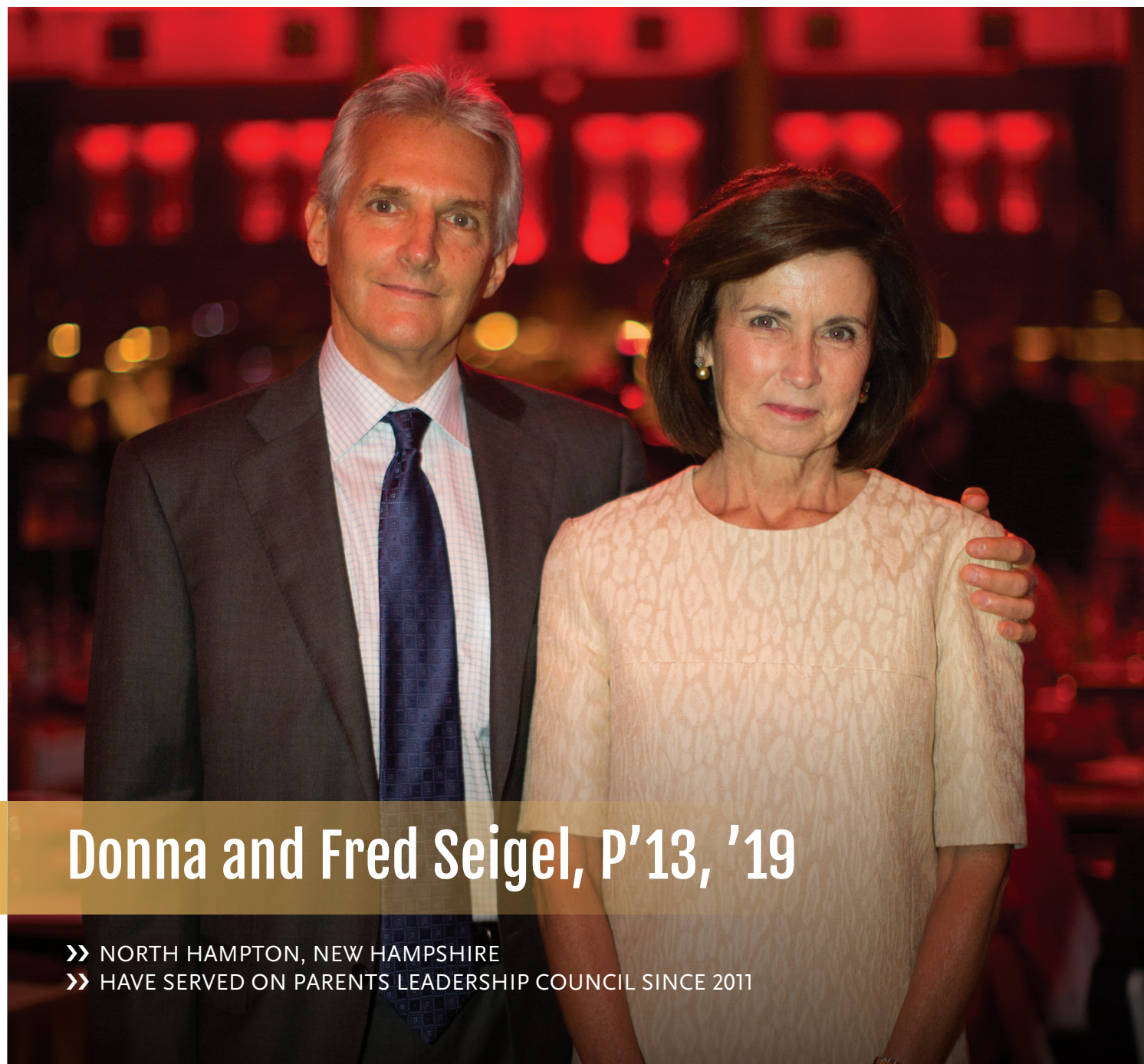
“

BC may be one of the largest Catholic universities, but it still has a family feel to it. The Leadership Council is a way for parents to participate in that BC family.”

—BILL VAN PELT



# THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT



Donna and Fred Seigel, P'13, '19

» NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
» HAVE SERVED ON PARENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SINCE 2011

“When you think about BC, you can’t help but think about Fr. Leahy and the remarkable job he’s done leading the school.” —FRED SEIGEL

FRED AND DONNA SEIGEL MAY NO LONGER HAVE CHILDREN AT THE HEIGHTS, BUT THAT HASN’T STOPPED THEM FROM STAYING CONNECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY THEY’VE COME TO KNOW AND LOVE THROUGH THEIR DAUGHTERS.

“There are many wonderful organizations out there to support, but what we’ve found is that, with BC, we have a greater ability to really make an impact,” says Fred. “There are countless opportunities to do good, to make a real difference for our young people and our world. And that’s what is most important.”

Inspired by BC’s commitment to expanding access and equity through need-blind admission and generous financial aid—a cause near to their hearts, Donna says—they became ardent supporters of Pops on the Heights and soon established several current-use and endowed scholarships.

“There just aren’t that many great institutions that are need-blind. When you think about the impact that has on young people who are looking for a quality education, you can’t overstate the significance of that,” explains Fred, the president and COO of Beacon Capital Partners, a real estate investment firm, and a leader in multiple civic and charitable organizations.

Through the PLC, they also came to know University President William P. Leahy, S.J., and other BC administrators well. Impressed with their leadership, the Seigels expanded their giving to include the Presidential Discretionary Fund and the School of Social Work. Their philanthropy provides resources for diverse, innovative faculty and student projects—from solar energy implementation and entrepreneurship in rural India, to exploring the personal and systemic impact of poverty in the United States.

“When we thought about where we could make a significant impact, we turned to Dean [Guatam] Yadama and the School of Social Work,” says Fred. “Every gift we make to support their faculty, their research, and their students has a multiplier effect, sending ripples throughout the communities they serve. And that is why BC will always be a priority for us.”



All the people I’ve met and the things I’ve been exposed to through BC have helped me realize what’s possible and what’s out there, broadening my horizons and expanding my perspective. The Seigels took a genuine interest in me as a person, and were concerned about how well-rounded I was and who I was becoming. I’m truly grateful for their generosity.”

—NICK YENNACO '18  
Recipient of the Fred A. and Donna J. Seigel Scholarship



The College Transition Program showed me that people at BC care about first-generation students like me. But I wouldn’t have been able to attend at all if it wasn’t for the Seigel Scholarship. At BC, I learned how to approach academic counseling in a way that’s formative and supportive of students’ needs, and allows them to develop self-advocacy. I’m proud to live out the values BC strengthened in me.”

—ERICA OSIECKI '18, MA'20  
Recipient of the Seigel Family Pops Scholarship



PARENT  
SPOTLIGHT





# BEACON

## LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS

In light of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Boston College has developed ways to connect virtually with leading members of our community. PLC members were invited to participate in Beacon Leadership Conversations, which featured guests speakers:

**Vincent D. Rougeau**, Dean, Boston College Law School and **Heather Cox Richardson**, Professor, History Department

**Susan Gennaro, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Dean, Connell School of Nursing, and graduates of the Connell School of Nursing

**Jere Doyle '87, P'15, '21**, Popolo Family Executive Director, Edmund H. Shea Jr. Center for Entrepreneurship, and current BC students

**Joy Moore '81, H'10**, Vice President for Student Affairs and **Craig Burns**, Director of University Counseling Services

**David Quigley**, Provost and Dean of Faculties

**Jack Butler, S.J.**, Haub Vice President for Mission and Ministry

Members of the PLC were well represented on each call and presented their questions on topics like racial justice, the experience of health-care workers, student formation in the time of COVID-19, and more. Stay tuned for more opportunities to engage through Beacon Leadership Conversations this year! Visit [bc.edu/blc](https://bc.edu/blc) to watch the recordings.



Guests pictured above: Senior Vice President for Development James J. Husson, Law School Dean Vincent D. Rougeau, History Professor Heather Cox Richardson

PHOTO BY KARI SHEA ON UNSPLASH

### BY THE NUMBERS

**20** BC IS **1 OF 20** NEED-BLIND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES THAT MEET FULL DEMONSTRATED NEED

**40%** OF BC STUDENTS RECEIVE NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID



“We have an incredible graduation rate—**92 percent**—and much of that is due to our ability to support students all the way through their Boston College experience.”

—GRANT GOSSELIN '97, MA'02  
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE  
ADMISSION

**SUPPORT FROM THE PARENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** has been and continues to be crucial in helping the University maintain its commitment to educating students regardless of their financial circumstances.

Financial aid is a cornerstone of Boston College, stretching back to its founding as a school for poor immigrants without the means to afford an education. BC is one of only 20 private universities in the country that meets the full demonstrated need of students accepted in our need-blind admission process and its approach to financial aid is as unique as the University itself.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying economic fallout, the need for financial aid at Boston College has risen sharply. In response, the University has launched **Be a Beacon**, an ambitious one-year financial aid campaign dedicated to ensuring that the students shaped by their time at the Heights represent the best of what BC can contribute to the world, and not which families can contribute to tuition. Learn more at [bc.edu/beaconsforBC](https://bc.edu/beaconsforBC).

Already, BC parents have risen to the challenge, giving generously to Be a Beacon for these students. Thanks to your support, the University continues to remain true to its mission of providing a formative educational experience to talented, passionate young men and women.



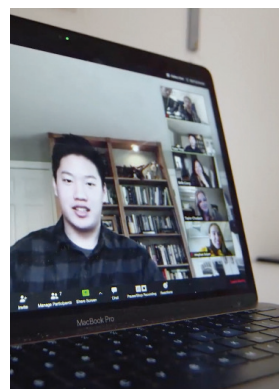
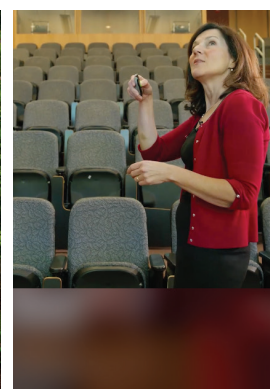


# Pops Goes Off the Heights

In September, Boston College welcomed parents, alumni, students, and friends to a virtual celebration shining a light on the transformative impact of scholarships.

The BC family was treated to dazzling performances from the Boston Pops; maestro Keith Lockhart; superstar Josh Groban; and student soloists Olivia Constantino '21 and Tiffany Brooks '21, and stirring remarks from Chris O'Donnell '92, P'22, '23, and Steve Pemberton '89, H'15, MA'19, P'23.

Throughout its 28-year history, the momentous BC tradition known as Pops on the Heights: the Barbara and James F. Cleary Scholarship Gala, has **raised more than \$80 million for student scholarships**, thanks in large part to the generous members of the Parents Leadership Council.



# 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 Colleen Murphy, associate director, parent  
development, at [colleen.murphy.7@bc.edu](mailto:colleen.murphy.7@bc.edu) or 617-552-6216.