

## BRIEF HISTORY of the BC ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

“Wouldn’t it be something if we were able to join in the research projects again?” “Do other institutions have groups of retired people who want to give something back for all they received?” “Boston College will always be my home away from home.” “Is there anything we can do to become part of the Heights again?” Retired faculty members voiced questions and comments similar to these during sporting events, lectures, retreats, and even during brief chats in the parking lots.

Small informal groups began to meet to explore the idea of a retired faculty group at Boston College. The strongest advocate for such an organization was John Donovan who, in 1988, because of a regulation which made retirement mandatory, believed he would have to leave, but the administration asked him to stay on as a part-time faculty member to teach sociology in the Capstone program. John was delighted, but while he was on campus, he had no place to go. He literally had no place to hang his hat. This bit of isolation kept nagging at him. It was not until the summer of 2002 that he, together with a small number of retired faculty, met with Jack Neuhauser, the Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculties, to talk about a retirement club or group. Jack was enthusiastic about having retired faculty reunited with the University and immediately voiced his support and sponsorship of such a group. At the meeting, it was suggested that Jack Lewis, Joe Orlando, and William McInnes, SJ, attend an upcoming conference of the AROHE (Association of Retired Organizations in Higher Education) to gather information about beginning a retired faculty organization at Boston College. Upon their return, they sent letters to retirees and scheduled planning meetings, where bylaws and a mission statement were crafted and Jack Lewis was elected the first president. The BC Association of Retired Faculty was in business, so to speak.

At the Inaugural Luncheon in May 2003, President William P. Leahy, SJ, addressed the group and indicated his pleasure at having such an organization at the University. On February 3, 2005, University Chancellor and former president, J. Donald Monan, SJ, cut the dedication ribbon at the Donovan Suite as the headquarters of the Association on the fifth floor of 21 Campanella Way.

Because of enormous needs for space on the Chestnut Hill Campus, the retired group was moved to its permanent home on the Brighton campus, at 3 Lake Street, in January 2008. The Donovan Plaque is proudly displayed in the third floor suite, which includes a conference room, a computer-printer room, and a small but beautiful sitting room. A large conference room on the first floor accommodates large group meetings.

This history contains excerpts taken from Boston College Association of Retired Faculty Bulletins II, III, IV, 2005, and 2006 and recollections of the compiler of this study.