

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear BCARF members,

This has been an unusual year for BCARF, as it has been for most of the people and associations in the world. The global pandemic that suddenly struck us has led to lifestyle changes that almost none of us envisioned.

If someone is reading this in our archives 100 years from now, you should know that our experience has been eerily similar to that of citizens during the 1918-19 pandemic. Public gatherings such as our twice-monthly seminars and program meetings and our monthly book club meetings could no longer be held face-to-face and had to be suddenly switched to online meetings. (In 2020 we had something called the "internet" which allowed us to view and even participate in events via devices called computers or smaller hand-held devices called tablets and phones.) Our annual banquet, where we normally celebrate the end of another academic year and see old colleagues and friends, had to be canceled. (Few members would want to attend such an event wearing a mask and standing six feet apart, which is now de rigueur.) Hopefully, pandemics are not events which will be visited on populations every hundred years.

Nevertheless, our organization is generally healthy and growing and fulfilling its mission "to serve the retired faculty, the university, the community and society, and [to promote] collegiality among us for personal enrichment and active service." In the pages of this newsletter one can read about many examples of scholarship and service by members, and even when we had to resort to online meetings late this past year we continued to have social conversation prior to the formal meetings.

Elected officers for 2020-21 are: Alec Peck, President; Judith Wilt, Vice President; Michael Malec, Secretary; Harold Peterson, Treasurer; Clare O'Connor, Member-at-large; and Matilda Bruckner, Member-at-large. In addition, Paul Spagnoli will serve as Past-

President, and Fr. Joe Duffy will continue as the Jesuit Liaison. Peter Olivieri is our long-time Webmaster. In addition, our book club will continue to meet to discuss eight very different books, and with a little luck Judith Wilt will likely organize a docent tour of a Spring exhibit at the McMullen Museum.

Because of the pandemic we will not be meeting face-to-face in the Fall but will be holding all of our seminars and program meetings online via Zoom. Please check our [website](#) for topics, dates and times. We sincerely hope to return to face-to-face luncheons and meetings sometime in the Spring, and to host another end-of-year banquet next May. The open bar, good food, and chance to catch up with old colleagues always make it an enjoyable evening and we will really be needing that by next May.

Our new office at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway is ready for use whenever the university reopens, and the newly renovated meeting room with all new A/V equipment is awaiting our use in the Spring (fingers crossed!). There have also been renovations to other parts of the building such as restrooms and accessible entrances.

We are awaiting confirmation and details concerning our annual budget and hope to have a number of Retired Faculty Grants available. We have switched the application due date to October in order to allow applicants time to determine if conferences will be held and if travel will be allowed. Details on the grants and application procedure are available on our website.

Please feel free to contact me (peck@bc.edu) if you have any questions or suggestions for new programs or activities. I look forward to a rewarding 2020-21 year of Association activities.

Sincerely,

Alec Peck
BCARF President, 2020-2021

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-2020

PAST PROGRAMS

The monthly lunch, social, business, and program meetings were once again coordinated by Judith Wilt. The Coronavirus pandemic forced cancellation of the meetings scheduled for March, April, and May. Check the calendar in this Newsletter for next year's dates, times, and locations. An email invitation designating speaker and topic precedes each monthly meeting.

SEPTEMBER

Corporations are People Too (And They Should Act Like It!)
Kent Greenfield, Law

OCTOBER

Hollywood's Great Leap Backwards
Martha Bayles, A&S Honors Program

NOVEMBER

Beyond Price: Markets, Cultures, Values
Kalpna Seshadri, English, and **Can Erbil**, Economics

JANUARY

Costs, Rankings, and Enrollment Management at BC
John Mahoney, Jr., Vice President for Enrollment Management

FEBRUARY

Dating Matters: Stories from the Chestnut Hill Campus
Kerry Cronin, Philosophy

BCARF BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

The Book Club, chaired by Jean Mooney, meets monthly in the Donovan Suite for a general discussion focused on a collectively chosen book. BCARF members and spouses participate. The following books were discussed in 2019-2020 (via Zoom from April through June, with the assistance of Clare O'Connor):

- **September:** *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- **October:** *Educated* by Tara Westover
- **November:** *The Cloister* by James Carroll
- **December:** *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean
- **January:** *A Better Man* by Louise Penny
- **February:** *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout
- **April:** *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou
- **May:** *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
- **June:** *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

BCARF RESEARCH SEMINAR

The monthly research seminars and lunches were coordinated by Clare O'Connor. Although the coronavirus pandemic forced cancellation of the scheduled meetings for March, April, and May, three seminars were conducted via Zoom in April and May. Check the calendar in this Newsletter for the 2020-21 schedule. Invitations are posted via email prior to each meeting.

SEPTEMBER

56 Years: Two Journeys
Harold Petersen, Economics

OCTOBER

Teaching Toward Multiculturalism Amid Ethnic Tension/Conflict (Case Study – Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Cynthia Simmons, Slavic and Eastern Languages

NOVEMBER

Coming of Age: The Instructio, Separate Incorporation and Jesuit Higher Education
Rev. Joseph Duffy, S.J.

DECEMBER

The Largest Mass Conversion in History: Sub-Saharan Africans' Embrace of Christianity in the 1900s
David Northrup, History

FEBRUARY

Challenges and Rewards of Remotely Conducting Research in a Third World Country
Alec Peck, Education

APRIL

The Covid-19 Epidemic Brought Down to Basics
Clare O'Connor, Biology

MAY

Good News about Contemporary Africa
David Northrup, History

The Language of Russian Icons: The Art of the Christian East
Dennis Sardella, Chemistry and Presidential Scholars Program



Alec Peck seminar



Dennis Taylor introducing Kent Greenfield



Harold Petersen



Joe Duffy, Cathy Schneider, and Alec Peck



*Dennis Sardella and Robin Wood, with guest
Marion McLaughlin in center*



Joseph Duffy, S.J.



Cathy Schneider with Prof. Can Erbil

RETIREE NEWS 2020

Philip Altbach, EDUCATION

Phil is working on two small projects for UNESCO, both with Hans de Wit (retiring director of the BC Center for International Higher Education). One is an essay on private higher education worldwide, and the other is a review of higher education internationalization as a background paper for the G20 Summit in Saudi Arabia. Phil and Hans will be involved with CIHE for the coming few years, assisting the Center's new leadership. In the meantime, Phil is "teaching" a weekly Zoom history lesson for middle-schooler granddaughter Catherine Altbach of Silver Spring MD. They recently covered Empress Catherine the Great and also the Russian Revolution.

James Bernauer, S.J., PHILOSOPHY

Jim published a new book in March: *Jesuit Kaddish: Jesuits, Jews and Holocaust Remembrance* (U. of Notre Dame Press, 2020).

Stephen F. Brown, THEOLOGY

I have published an article, "Praepositinus of Cremona and William of Auxerre on *Suppositio*," in *The Summa Halensis*, ed. Lydia Schumacher (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2020), 235-250. I wrote the Introduction to the English translation by James G. Colbert of Fr. Ernest A. Fortin's *Christianity and Philosophical Culture in the Fifth Century* (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2019).

Matilda Bruckner, ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

This spring I was able to finish preparing for publication my former thesis director's last unpublished book, thanks in part to a BCARF grant (2019) to help with the bibliography and index: Peter Haidu (†), *The Philomena of Chrétien the Jew: The Semiotics of Evil*, edited with an introduction by Matilda Tomaryn Bruckner, will be published by Legenda, Research Monographs in French Studies, in 2020. A BCARF grant in 2020 helped finance my trip to San Francisco last March to give a lecture at UC Berkeley, "Hosting Quarrels: Bodies, Books, and Judges 19 in the *Bible Moralisée*, Vienna, ÖNB 2554" (based on the last chapter in my current book project). By then, the effects of the pandemic were already apparent and students had been sent home from the campus. My lecture on the 12th may have been the last live event of the spring semester! Happily, the small group of faculty members and grad students who braved the risks formed a lively audience and a good discussion followed my presentation. Since my return from CA, my husband and I have been sheltering in place (with lots of walks in the neighborhood), and I've been working on a plenary lecture focused on troubadour lyric for a conference in honor of a colleague's retirement, to be held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York, 11-13 October 2020 (assuming it's not postponed to avoid the second wave). In the months ahead, I plan to get back to my ongoing book project ("Biblical Encounters: Inscripting Jewish and Christian Dialogue in Medieval French Literature") to revise the five chapters and send out a prospectus. In the meantime, I am grateful that my two sons and their families are safe and healthy, my three grandchildren continue

to thrive, and my sons and their wives continue to work in their jobs. I only hope that our country can overcome the terrible pains of pandemic, economic distress, the widening gaps of inequality revealed, and the political polarization that continues to weaken our democratic institutions.

Jonathan Bloom, ART, ART HISTORY, AND FILM

My book, *Architecture of the Islamic West: North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula, 700-1800*, will be published in (late) June by Yale University Press, London.

John Dacey, EDUCATION

For the past nine months, John has been publishing a weekly podcast, "New Solutions to the Anxiety Epidemic" (anxcalm.com). He is also working on a new textbook on adolescent development.

Robert Daly, S.J., THEOLOGY

As I plan to change my residence from St. Mary's Hall to our Campion Health Center in Weston, MA – the anticipated date of the move (September) remains uncertain because of the coronavirus restrictions – I am working on two projects: one is an exploratory article on original sin, attempting to rethink it in the context of 21st-century scientific perspectives; the second is working with Liturgy Training Publications of Chicago towards incorporating some of my poetic-homiletic Christmas Stories into a general introduction to the five major feasts of the Christmas Season (Christmas Day, Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, Epiphany, and Baptism of the Lord). Publication of these, if I am blessed with enough time and energy to bring it off, is probably well over a year away.

John Donovan, SOCIOLOGY

John turned 102 years of age this year. On June 8, 2020, he was appointed *Chevalier of the Legion of Honor* by the President of France, a sign of "France's infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II." He had been nominated for this special honor by Rebecca Vallette and Michael Malec in early 2019. John was a lieutenant in the 83rd Infantry Division that landed on Omaha Beach twelve days after D-Day. He was a medic, responsible for the advance triage of wounded soldiers, during a bitter month of fighting in Normandy and then many further months as his division advanced through France, Belgium, and Luxemburg, and eventually into German territory, suffering almost 16,000 casualties. Their campaign included the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and culminated with the liberation of the Langenstein concentration camp in April and Germany's final surrender a few weeks later. (See the 1944 photo on page 5, where John is indicated by the arrow.) John's daughter, Christine Moynihan, reports that he is happy, healthy, and tolerating "social distancing" quite well at his assisted living community. A big hand-shaker before Covid-19, he has now perfected the elbow bump. He was overwhelmed by this most recent honor and is sincerely grateful to Rebecca, Mike, and the Consul General of France in Boston

for their efforts to secure this recognition.

[Editor's note: It is with great sadness that I note the passing of John Donovan on August 14, two months after the submission of his news.]



Loretta Higgins, NURSING

My husband and I spent three weeks in China in September. After a 13 hour direct flight from Boston to Shanghai Don and I arrived on Friday, September 6. A math conference in honor of Don's birthday took place on Saturday. That evening we went into a private dining room at the hotel where Don and I were directed to the seats of honor. I was so surprised to see a huge banner that said, "Happy Birthday Professor Loretta Higgins." It was a wonderful celebration. Don, a math professor, has a number of former PhD students in China who are themselves professors. Wherever we traveled, we always had a graduate student or friend as guides. These guides facilitated purchasing tickets and shepherding us around airports, train stations, museums, etc. We flew to the city of Zhangjiajie for our first excursion, the Tianmen Mountain, accessed by a 20 minute ride in a gondola. The mountain is known for the glass walkway around it, hundreds of feet above the ground. At a rest stop, Don told two musicians and our graduate student guide that it was my birthday, and they serenaded me with the happy birthday song in Chinese. We next flew to Guilin where we took a boat ride on the Li river. On either side of the river there were "round-top" mountains. After the tour, we were discharged to what felt like a mile-long covered mall with booth after booth of items for sale. It was reminiscent of being herded into the gift shop after visiting an exhibit at a museum. From the vantage point of a hotel window in Guilin we noticed a crowd had gathered at the park across the street. It was a demonstration by the police dramatizing how they handled citizen protests. Actors portrayed the protesters. The police had bull horns, weapons, and drones. They used the drones to fly over the protesters and release pink and blue vapors that showed how the police would gas crowds. This occurred during the time that protests were going on in Hong Kong where we later saw the government using similarly colored blue and pink gas. We flew back to Shanghai and the next day took a train to the Holocaust Museum in Nanjing where the rape of Nanjing was memorialized. In 1937 the Japanese army

marched into the city, then the capital of China, which was left undefended by the greatly outnumbered Chinese army. Thousands of unprotected civilians were murdered and many women were raped. Some estimates put the total of the dead at 300,000. In Xi'an and Dalian we visited with friends and were invited into their homes in modern apartment buildings. I asked one about getting mail and he said that they never receive any hard copy mail. At the Xi'an zoo, people are put into glass cages and driven through the zoo where most of the animals run free. We were given long skewers with meat on the ends that we shoved through small openings in the glass walls. The lions, tigers, and other animals came to our cage and ate the morsels. We also saw many instances of Chinese patriotism. We were there during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of Communist Party rule, with singing in the parks, flag waving, and other celebrations reminiscent of July 4th in the United States. All in all it was a busy, enjoyable, and informative trip.

Lynda Lytle Holmstrom, SOCIOLOGY

In pre-Covid days, my husband and I had a lovely trip to Seattle to attend a family wedding held outdoors on a beautiful, sunny July day; it doesn't rain *all* the time in our hometown! By early February I was getting skittish about travel. The virus looked like it was on its way to the east coast, but it seemed like there still was a bit of time. So, although nervous, I went to the Eastern Sociological Society conference (Feb. 27 through March 1) in Philadelphia. Judging from the behavior of people there, one would think that no one had ever heard of the coronavirus. What a difference a few days makes! By Saturday March 7, Skye Silver (jewelry silversmiths I had visited on the Isle of Skye, the Inner Hebrides, Scotland) sent an email informing me of how they planned to navigate the pandemic by using the internet; a tsunami of such emails soon arrived. On Friday, March 13, I went to renew my expiring driver's license (and upgrade to a federal REAL ID) while it was still possible to do so. A sign at the entrance of the AAA office said they were trying to practice social distancing. But the office was crowded and very tiny, and the representative who handled my case had his finger on his mouth before he pawed through my documents. Oh well, at least they had a bottle of Purell available. And soon Boston got hit hard. Fortunately, for us, locally, science tends not to be a dirty word. One of the most maddening aspects of the pandemic for me is that so much of the incredible Covid-19 suffering (medical *and* economic) was preventable. There is nothing new about other interests (economic, military, political, etc.) competing with public health interests. Read Henrik Ibsen's play, *An Enemy of the People*. Or watch the iconic film, *Jaws*, for a pop culture version of the same theme. Some of you, or your friends, may be compiling reading lists related to Covid-19. I think that comparative and interdisciplinary thinking is the way to go. You might find interesting *Influenza and Inequality: One Town's Tragic Response to the Great Epidemic of 1918*, by Patricia J. Fanning, about Norwood, Fanning's hometown. It grew out of her doctoral dissertation work at BC with Jeanne Guillemin and me.

Edward Kane, MANAGEMENT

Opportunities to travel to speaking engagements have crashed. I spoke at the IMF on the fragility of European megabanks last October, but my portfolio of four Spring conferences was either canceled or more recently began to turn into ZOOM exercises. I only published one paper this year. It discusses similarities in the corporate cultures of central banks in the US and China. Although I thought I was making a lot of progress on my manuscript, *Banking on Bull*, I feel like the pandemic has made me lose ground. The Covid-19 crisis has created the need for a lot of additional thinking and writing.

Richard Keeley, MANAGEMENT

I just returned from four months in Oceanside, CA where we were visiting – unfortunately virtually for most of the time – with our new granddaughter. I had just finished a second revision of my writing project, a guide to all of Jane Jacobs's work, when the virus descended. That means I will have to revisit her work since she prized density in cities as one of the crucial factors for urban success. There has already been some comment on that aspect of her work but I think I will have to make significant recastings.

Michael Keith, COMMUNICATIONS

Michael's latest book, a collection of "microfictions" entitled *Insomnia II*, was recently published by Mad Hat Press.

Alan Lawson, HISTORY

Since last September Mary Beth and I have been living in Providence, which is where I came from in the first place. Just before we left Boston I managed to bring my Longwood Cricket Club career to a fitting end by winning the 80 and up tournament, thus giving me a shiny new silver cup to put on the new bookshelf. Once in Providence I set out to establish a good working balance between my interests in music and history. As luck would have it, the director of the vocal ensemble I toured with in Sicily last summer has also recently moved to Providence and I was able to reconnect as one of his students. At Paulo's suggestion I auditioned for the Providence Singers and with that vibrant group set to work preparing three concerts. In addition, I signed up for another tour of Sicily this summer and later in July a performance in Amsterdam. On the history front I became a member of the well-endowed Rhode Island Historical Society and renewed acquaintance with members of the Brown history department, all with an eye to completing my institutional history of the Greater Boston Choral Consortium and my ever-burgeoning family memoir, much of it relating to Providence and Newport. Then Covid-19 shut down all the musical ventures, and Brown and the Historical Society closed their doors. Nevertheless, in lockdown the choral consortium and memoir projects creep along at their petty pace. I expect they'll be finished about the time we are liberated from the virus and ready to welcome a new President. Warm regards to all the old friends whom I hope to see at some BCARF event soon.

Kevin Mahoney, SOCIAL WORK

Kevin published an op-ed in *The Boston Globe* on May 26: "After Covid-19, a better way to support the elderly and people with disabilities." He argued that "there is a successful alternative to institutional care that allows people of all ages with disabilities to live at home with support: self-directed care."

Paul Mariani, ENGLISH

Paul recently published: *The Mystery of It All: The Vocation of Poetry in the Twilight of Modernity* (Paraclete Press), essays on poetry and the influence especially of that great Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins; and *Ordinary Time: Poems* (Slant Books).

David Northrup, HISTORY

David continues to take pleasure from writing and lecturing, as well as from travel and physical exercise, despite the limitations currently imposed by Covid-19. He gave two presentations to the BCARF research seminar: in December on the Christian revolution in modern Africa and in May (via Zoom) on good news from contemporary Africa. The latter talk had also been delivered at the West Suburban YMCA in November. Before the shutdown he also managed a presentation in a BC history core class on slavery in the Atlantic world. All three talks were adapted from David's newest book, *Seven Myths of Africa in World History*. Two other planned presentations were postponed because of the pandemic. In compensation David accepted an invitation to write an essay on "The Indian Ocean World" for the catalog accompanying the McMullen Museum of Art's show, *Indian Ocean Current: Six Artistic Narratives*, and contributed an essay on the Great Plague of the 1300s and demographic collapse in the sixteenth-century Americas for an issue of the *World History Bulletin* on pandemics. He also chaired, for the third consecutive year, the World History Association's committee to choose the best doctoral dissertation in world history. On the travel front, David and Nancy explored Norway, the Arctic, and Finland with Overseas Adventure Travel in the early autumn and participated in two three-generational family gatherings (one in Paris at Thanksgiving and the other in southern California in January). Subsequently we have been sticking closer to home but find much pleasure in masked walks in local forests and parks and along neighborhood streets and bodies of water. Though exercise classes at the Y were another casualty of the pandemic response, the resourceful folks there were soon Zooming enough live Zumba and other aerobic classes to keep up with David's fitness needs.

Jean O'Neil, NURSING

Jean responded to BC's transition to on-line teaching by doing a class on preparation and test-taking for seniors and graduates getting ready to take the national Registered Nurse licensing exam.

Francis Parker, S.J., MANAGEMENT

I am currently finishing my fifth book-length manuscript to be published, entitled *The Anatomy of a Murder Trilogy*. It deals with the original 1952 court trial, the 1958 novel based on it, and the 1959 film based on the book. John Voelker was the defense at-

torney in the homicide case and then the author, under the pen name Robert Traver, of the bestselling book. Afterwards, Otto Preminger produced and directed the film of the same title. Afterwards, Otto Preminger produced and directed the magnificent film of the same title, starring James Stewart and George C. Scott, still available on Turner Classic Movies and Netflix. Presently I am living at Campion Jesuit Health Center in Weston and am enjoying my life there. We are all fortunate to be extremely well treated.

Alec Peck, EDUCATION

My first year as President of BCARF has been quite busy. Between the re-opening of the new and much improved 300 HPP “Hexagonal Room” where we had (and will someday again have!) our face-to-face meetings, and the move of our office to its somewhat larger new space (complete with bold signage on the door), the physical attributes of our association have improved nicely. I was also quite pleased with the move to online Zoom meetings in the Spring. Turnout for the meetings was very good and the feedback on the speakers was also very positive. I also heard from some members who no longer live in Massachusetts that they were pleased to be able to participate online. Personally, I continued online consultation and support to the staff who carry out the behavior plans that I create with them for residents at the Mustard Seed orphanages in Jamaica. This has been one of the most rewarding activities I have engaged in since retirement. Their needs match up well with the behavior management techniques that I taught at BC for 40 years. Prior to the pandemic, I also continued to assist families of children with special needs by answering calls at the Federation for Children with Special Needs, a major advocacy group headquartered in Charlestown.

Dia Philippides, CLASSICAL STUDIES

Sincere thanks to the BCARF grants committee for the contribution to my travel expenses which enabled me to speak at a conference on Renaissance Greek literature held on the island of Crete in June 2019. (The peak of Cretan Renaissance literature is roughly contemporaneous with El Greco and Shakespeare.) Though Greece has done well during the pandemic, and international travel will soon resume, we may not all be able to visit the country right away. Through a “Zoom” lens, some of the conference’s “jousting” and the island’s beautiful views will be shared at a BCARF seminar – as a flash of sunlight to warm the darkest month of 2020. Otherwise I’ve kept busy making progress on another long-term project: “The CENSUS of Modern Greek Literature,” a (huge) bibliography for speakers of English (including familiar titles such as the novel *Zorba the Greek* and the poem “Ithaca” by C.P. Cavafy). Our (international, but also BC-based) team anticipates releasing its first results in 2021, as the CENSUS project has been put forth as one of 130 research initiatives in preparation for Greece’s bicentennial celebration in that year. More info at: <http://www.laskaridisfoundation.org/en/the-census-of-modern-greek-literature-project/>.

Dennis and Marjorie Sardella, CHEMISTRY AND PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

As it did for everyone, the arrival of Covid brought our mobility to a screeching halt. A calendar healthily full with family gatherings and visits, meetings, art exhibits and travel plans became blank as one after another fell victim to the pandemic. Events we had been happily anticipating – attending the graduations of our grandson from Harvard and our granddaughter from University of Connecticut, another granddaughter and a grandson from high school (all four with highest honors and awards) – were celebrated remotely, as Zoom took us beyond the confines of our home. On the principle that there is no great loss without some small gain, our empty schedule allowed us to find joy in giving more attention to things we had been promising to do – attending daily Mass (remotely, of course), working in our beloved gardens, enjoying the wide range of birds who visit and live in our yards, doing a bit of daily tai chi and walking, keeping our minds active with frequent games of Scrabble (at which we are working our way up to mediocre), and visiting remotely with loved ones. Marjorie continues to enjoy her photography (these days perforce limited primarily to birds and flowers). Despite the truncation of the in-person BCARF year, she managed to create a video of the year’s events. Dennis continues to work on several writing projects, with no sense of great urgency, and most recently presented a Zoom talk on Byzantine icons to BCARF members and another entitled “Sacred Space, Sacred Time” for the Museum of Russian Icons. We have also accumulated an impressive collection of stylish face masks for the rare occasions when we run necessary errands, and are looking forward with great anticipation to the day, in the hopefully not too distant future, when we can happily retire them. Best wishes to all our BCARF friends for a safe and healthy summer. See you in the Fall (we hope)!

Cathy Schneider, ECONOMICS

My husband and I joined the ranks of grandparents in January with the arrival of our son’s twin boys – not identical, thank goodness. They live in Marlborough, so until the virus shut things down, I had been driving out a couple of times a week to help. It’s a very different regime now, of course. Helping is limited to “no touch” walks, with me pushing the stroller wearing masks and gloves. As far as I can tell, I haven’t scared them. Walking up and down the hills in their neighborhood has been good exercise and is getting more strenuous as they gain weight. Now that the spring rain has mercifully stopped, I spend a lot of time in my, my son’s, and our church’s gardens. Gardening is an easy solo activity, if you don’t count the rabbits and chipmunks. The return of seasonable weather has also made horseback riding more pleasant. My friend’s barn is small, so we have had to arrange for only one of us to be in the barn at a time and to disinfect everything, but once we are out on the trails, we are back to normal. Several of my volunteer activities are on hold, but I have continued to help at one of the Newton food pantries, which has remained open with major adjustments to how it operates. The number of households served by food pantries has skyrocketed, and I expect higher case-loads will continue for a while. Am looking forward to “seeing” some of you on our Zoom meetings in the fall!

Paul Spagnoli, HISTORY

My wife Pam and I enjoyed back-to-back Road Scholar tours in northeastern Italy in September. We visited Venice, Ravenna, Bologna, Padua, and several smaller towns, thankfully before the devastation caused by fall floods and winter Covid-19. The pandemic put an end to trips to our Philadelphia apartment, upstairs from our daughter Laura and her family, at least for the moment. We had to use Zoom to celebrate our granddaughter Dorothy's fourth birthday as well as Laura's promotion to Professor of Instruction in French at Temple University. Enduring the months at home was easier thanks to daily 3-4 miles walks, especially in Newton's Webster Woods.

Rachel Spector, NURSING

"It happens to thee, and thee, and thee; but never to me." I learned this little axiom many years ago as a young nurse; it generated the grit to care for people with countless communicable diseases – polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and so forth – without fear. Now, as a much older nurse, I confronted the coronavirus with the same attitude. I carefully followed the CDC mandates – mask, gloves, distancing six feet, and hand washing, etc, but felt no fear of ever getting it. YET: On Tuesday, April 28, I lost interest in daily events. By Friday, May 1, I added a low grade fever and a dry, non-productive cough to the mix. That afternoon, a Covid-19 test was administered on the roof of the physicians' office building parking lot – the "swab" – with results to be available in three days. I spent Saturday, May 2, in a chair, restless, sleeping, and not eating. On Sunday, May 3, I woke up feeling poorly but walked around, did not eat breakfast or lunch, and slept most of the day. Around 6 pm I became confused but remember being placed on a stretcher and being whisked away. I really could not pay too much attention to the event because I had developed a high fever – 104 – was coughing, and sleepy. The EMT told me we were going to a Boston hospital. I faded in and out of consciousness. When we arrived at the emergency room, I remember being given oxygen via a nasal cannula, and the nurses making me wear both a mask and the cannula together. This made breathing nearly impossible. When privacy existed, I slipped the mask down and took some real breaths. Suddenly the EMTs arrived and informed me that we were going to another hospital as there were no beds in this one. Just as I was falling asleep after admission to the second hospital, another set of EMT's arrived and whisked me off to yet another hospital (three different hospitals in five hours). When they told me where I was, I wanted to bolt – my good friend had died there and I did not want to stay. No choice, I had to stay. I saw a huge deep hole in front of me. I said, "I'm scared." My friend appeared with her arms raised and pushed me back away from the hole, said "don't be scared," and disappeared. The doctor asked, even though they had a copy of my signed DNR and DNI forms, did I want to be on a vent? I remember saying abruptly, "NO." The following is the admission summary statement: "On presentation she was confused and inattentive, was satting at 94% on 6 liters of oxygen, with a fever of 102.8 and a blood pressure of 200/90. After defervescing and BP control her mentation improved." On Monday, May 4, at 2 am, I was moved into a bed in a Covid-19 recovery unit

and hooked up to an intravenous infusion, oxygen, and monitors. Around 3 am I was given my first dose of remdesivir and received this medication every day at that hour until May 11. Remdesivir is an antiviral drug that is given by intravenous infusion in the hospital and is being tested in carefully controlled environments. It has been seen as effective in patients who were newly diagnosed with Covid-19 who were not placed on ventilators. A long-awaited study was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on May 22. Essentially it reported that the drug was effective! I believe the combination of remdesivir, oxygen, Lasix (used to treat the pneumonia), Lovenox (used to prevent blood clots), highly skilled nursing care, and sheer determination brought me to a point where on the 6th day in the hospital I was up and out of bed on my own. During my first four days in the hospital (May 4-7) I silently put on my "nurse's persona" and observed an interesting progression: The first night and day I was often confused and slept. By day 3, I was more alert. From the beginning, I knew that the nurses were with me – first every 2 hours, then 3, then 4 – as they checked my blood pressure, orientation, intake and output, and so forth. They also followed the monitors, watched, and communicated with me via an iPad on the other side of the closed door. I was totally isolated and not allowed visitors. Everyone who entered the room was wrapped up in protective equipment – gown, mask, plastic face shield, and gloves. I missed smiles and sometimes hearing words was difficult. My appetite gradually returned. I was given a menu that initially made no sense due to my confusion, but by the fourth hospital day I mastered the art of finding outstanding food. My daughter, who flew in from California, and my son, who flew in from Nevada, dropped off treasured treats each day. Days 5-7 (May 8-10) brought an increasing awareness of improvement and freedom. The physical therapist taught me several exercises for getting out of bed and walking. The nurses trusted me to be on my own to go to the bathroom and walk around my room. The cardiac monitor and then the nasal oxygen cannula disappeared. On Monday, May 11, day 8, I went home! The discharge for the most part was easy, with instructions for strict isolation and other aspects of homecare discussed. My husband was not tested along with me and we did not know if he had had the virus. Therefore, we could not be in the same room, or use the same bathroom and shower for the first few days I was home. My husband had been stranded home alone while I was in the hospital, and he was overjoyed to have noise in our home! He is not a medical person and the information he was given, especially in the early hours, was overwhelming. Follow-up nursing and physical therapy were arranged with the Visiting Nurses. The nurses – I cannot think of one negative thing to say. They were phenomenal. Every time they entered the room, they efficiently and quietly did what needed to be accomplished. Not a single nurse left without a reassuring word, asking if I wanted anything, and if I was comfortable. The other members on the team – physical therapists, dietary, laboratory phlebotomists, physicians, and so forth, were also highly skilled, and kind. The team members for the most part were young and committed. I feel a profound sense of pride in our nursing profession, our colleagues, and members of the team. In closing, there is one important thing to be said: Decide NOW if

you want CPR, to be placed on a ventilator, etc. If your choice is NO, complete the necessary papers and be sure you know where they are. This was my confrontation with Covid-19 as well as I can remember. I know that too many people have not survived and feel profound joy that I am still here to tell this story.

Dennis Taylor, ENGLISH

Dennis continues work on *Shakespeare and the Reformation* which now carries the dedication, “to scholars, several of whom I know or knew, who take on ambitious late-life projects that sometimes they are not able to finish.” He also is embarking on editing Thomas Hardy’s novel, *A Laodicean*. Last October, he gave a talk, “Catholicism, the Indigestible Nugget in English and American Literary Scholarship,” at the conference of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers at Holy Cross. With his wife, Mary, he continues to help his son raise four-year old George.

William Torbert, MANAGEMENT

I'm glad to be able to report that my immediate family – my three BC sons, Michael, Patrick, and Benjamin, and my BC wife, Reichi – as well as I myself have so far survived the pandemic unscathed. I am, however, hoping our hospitals get back to elective surgery soon, so I can get a new right hip and start walking and swimming again. Luckily, just before the shutdown, Reichi and I moved from Newton to a center of Boston condo with no stairs. The one grievous event in my life this past year was the death of my longtime (40+ years) colleague, friend, and neighbor, Sev Bruyn; but he lived fully till his last weeks and was surrounded at home by family and friends. Meanwhile, his amazing wife Louise (whom many of you may know walked from their home to the steps of the Capitol in 1970 to protest the Vietnam War), has just celebrated her 90th birthday; Newton proclaimed it Louise Bruyn Day. Three collaborative papers got published this year: 1) “The Art and Science of Vertical Development,” in *Maturing Leadership: How Adult Development Impacts Leadership*; 2) “Learning for Timely Action: An Introduction to the Cybernetics of Collaborative Developmental Action Inquiry (CDAI),” in *Computing and Human Knowing*; 3) “Team Coaching through CDAI and the GLP (Global Leadership Profile),” in *The Practitioner’s Handbook of Team Coaching*.

Rebecca Valette, ROMANCE LANGUAGES

Last September, my husband and I celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary by inviting our three children (no spouses, no grandchildren) to spend two weeks in France with us. We visited Tours, where Jean-Paul and I first met in 1957 (I was studying with Sweet Briar Junior Year Abroad), Paris (where we were both students in 1957-1958, and where we married in August 1959), and Normandy (where we spent a relaxing honeymoon before sailing from Cherbourg to New York and boarding the Greyhound bus for the long trip to Boulder, Colorado, to begin our graduate studies). It was a wonderful “trip down memory lane” with our nuclear family. My article “Yeibichai Weavings Featuring Women Dancers” was published in the April/May 2020 issue of *Native America Art*. I am currently working on a biography of

Clitso Dedman, the first Navajo to carve Yeibichai figures. (The Yeibichai dancers appear on the last evening of the Nightway healing ceremony.) And I am still taking flute lessons at the All Newton Music School, although for the last two months I have been meeting with my teacher via Zoom. Keeping up with technology is one way of staying young ... or at least trying not to age too rapidly. Jean-Paul and I are fortunate to still be in reasonably good health. We enjoy our daily walks around the Boston College campus, which has sadly been rather empty these past two months. Let’s hope students are able to return in fall!

Judith Wilt, ENGLISH

A difficult family winter included a brother’s not exactly voluntary retirement, a niece’s discovery that she had been named executor of a friend’s will and had to travel out of state to try and sell his dental practice, and my own experience of several upticks in my muscle-weakening disease. By the approach of spring these had been resolved: the upticks turned down, my brother found a peculiar joy, he says, in resetting all the paving stones leading up to his house in Houston, and my niece completed the long-distance sale of the dental practice -- just two weeks before the unfortunate buyer had to close the offices because of the pandemic. Also, I had felt guilty and cowardly in January backing out of a long planned tour of Moscow and St Petersburg because of worries about my health, but in April I cancelled a substituted trip to Iceland without a qualm. Professionally, I had one essay published in the March issue of *Whispering Gallery*, the journal of the (historical novelist) Dorothy Dunnett Society, and will be working on more of those this summer. I submitted a proposal for a paper based on Kipling’s novel *Kim* to a November conference; since so many fall conferences have been cancelled I’m uncertain whether that one will take place or, frankly, whether I’ll actually feel like boarding a plane to Vancouver even if it does. With all my colleagues at BC I had the national March adventure while teaching my spring seminar. Midway through my one credit course in Spy Stories the writing was on the wall; at the end of what turned out to be my last class on March 11, having already alerted the bookstore about re-ordering copies of our last required novel, I gave my 15 nervous seniors a handout listing exactly the steps I would take to continue our work if the university cancelled all classes the following week. The announcement in fact came out a half hour after the class: as I drove out of the parking garage shortly afterwards I saw students embracing in tears or capping each other in defiant jokes, and next day read in the *Globe* the story of lines of seniors coming out to the hill above the reservoir in the next day’s dawn to watch the sunrise and grieve. I was amazed at how quickly and capably my fellow faculty turned to online teaching to finish the semester, and how well my students responded to the weekly discussion questions I emailed and fielded, to help them move through our last text and write their last papers on it. And I was equally amazed at how quickly our own Retired Faculty Association responded to the enforced cancellation of our own seminars and programs with the assistance of Zoom and Alec Peck’s indefatigable leadership. Like everyone we’ll spend the summer wondering what further

marvels and adaptations the Covid-19 virus will impose upon us, hoping all the while to resume by next spring some good hybrid form of online and in-person interaction with and for members of the Association. I wish I could say I've put this enforced time at home to good use by learning more skills: alas, not so much. My decades-long reliance on restaurants continues, though I have resurrected the skill of frying eggs and cutting fresh vegetables; I can (usually) join a Zoom meeting but not host one (got to be able to do that if I'm going to resume teaching next spring). My Brilliant Niece in Houston has gotten me on Facebook but her instructions on how to profit by this have mostly gone out of my head and will need constant rebooting over the phone. When my usual condo-cleaning service received a cease-and-desist notice from the state I did take lessons from a neighbor on a newly bought Swiffer, but the service will be back in action soon and I will thankfully abandon the search to purchase my first vacuum cleaner since 1990.

Arch Woodside, MANAGEMENT

With two co-authors, Arch published "Service Breakdown Prevention: Delivering Requisite Variety and Training for Achieving the Highly Reliable Service Organization" in the *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*. He also edited a volume (and authored or co-authored all of the papers it contained): *Accurate Case Outcome Modeling: Entrepreneur Policy, Management, and Strategy Applications* (Spring, 2019). His co-authored article, "Nurturing Tourists' Ethical Food Consumption: Testing the Persuasive Strengths of Alternative Messages in a Natural Hotel Setting," appeared in volume 117 of the *Journal of Business Research*.

BOSTON COLLEGE GUIDE FOR FACULTY RETIREMENT

This booklet prepared by the BCARF is intended to offer assistance and information to faculty members who have retired or are nearing retirement. Joseph Duffy, S.J., originally edited the booklet and since then he has worked with successive BCARF presidents to prepare annual revisions. The responses of pre- and post-retirement readers have highlighted its useful information and value. It is available in paper copy and on the website of the BCARF (www.bc.edu/retiredfaculty) where it is updated annually.

RETIRED FACULTY GRANT PROPOSALS INVITED FOR 2020-21

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the normal BCARF grant application process that should have been completed in the spring of 2020. As this newsletter goes to press it is not yet clear whether conditions will permit academic conferences to resume in 2020-21, whether members will be able to travel for research purposes, and whether BCARF will have its normal annual budget for grants. Please check the BCARF website for updated information (bc.edu/retiredfaculty).

NEW RETIREES

Welcome to the following faculty who now join us in retirement as of Spring 2020:

William Armstrong, Chemistry
Elizabeth Bagnani, Accounting
James Bernauer, S.J., Philosophy
Maria Brisk, Education
Mary Cronin, Information Systems
Paul Davidovits, Chemistry
Hans DeWit, Education
Baldassare Di Bartolo, Physics
William Fehder, Nursing
Audrey Friedman, Education
Pamela Grace, Nursing
Francis Herrmann, S.J., Law
Rudolph Hon, Earth & Environmental Science
John Houchin, Theater
Daniel Kirschner, Biology
Paul Kline, Social Work
James O'Toole, History
Marcia Pitt-Catsouphe, Social Work
Catherine Read, Nursing
Robert Reed, Mathematics
Jeffrey Ringuest, Operations Management
M. Hossein Safizadeh, Operations Management
Robert Taggart, Finance
Laurence Tobin, English
Christopher Wilson, English

REMEMBRANCES

Condolences to the families and colleagues of the following:

Arthur Berney, Law
John Donovan, Sociology
Mary Griffin, Nursing
Jeanne Guillemin, Sociology
Stuart Martin, Philosophy
Nancy McCarthy, CSON
David McKenna, CSOM
Robert Scigliano, Political Science
Paul Thie, Mathematics

Individual obituaries can be found in the "Remembering Our Colleagues" section of the Association website.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2019-2020



President: **Alec Peck**, EDUCATION

Vice-President: **Judith Wilt**, ENGLISH

Secretary: **Michael Malec**, SOCIOLOGY

Treasurer: **David Northrup**, HISTORY

Member-at-Large: **Clare O'Connor**, BIOLOGY

Member-at-Large: **Dennis Sardella**, CHEMISTRY &

Jesuit Liaison: **Joseph Duffy, S.J.**

Past President: **Paul Spagnoli**, HISTORY

Additional Contributors: 2019-2020

Website: **Peter Olivieri**

Book Club: **Jean Mooney**

Program Meetings: **Judith Wilt**

Research Seminars: **Clare O'Connor**

Nominating Committee: **Judith Wilt**

Boston College Guide for Faculty Retirement: **Joseph Duffy, S.J.**

Photography: **Marjorie Sardella**

Administrative Liaison: **Jacqueline Delgado**, Center for Centers

Graphic Designer: **Gaurie Pandey**, Center for Centers

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: *Paul Spagnoli*

Creative Services Manager: Gaurie Pandey

Photography: Marjorie Sardella and Paul Spagnoli

The BCARF Newsletter is published annually and is available (along with past issues) on the BCARF website. Notification of its publication will be sent to members via the listserv.

LOCATIONS AND PARKING

All association activities in the Fall of 2020 will take place via Zoom. We hope to be able to resume normal activities on campus in the Spring term 2021 at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway in Chestnut Hill. If so, monthly program meetings and seminars will take place in room 100 on the ground floor, just to the right of the main entrance on the left (south) side of the building. Book Club and Executive Committee meetings are held in the Association's office just to the left of the entrance, opposite the meeting room. Ample free parking should be available in the large parking lot to the left of the building. No BC parking permits are required. Stay tuned for information about the timing and location of BCARF McMullen Museum tours and the end of year banquet, which we hope will be possible.

BCARF EVENT CALENDAR FOR 2020-2021

All meetings except for the annual banquet are on Thursdays. In the fall they will be conducted via Zoom at the times indicated below. In the spring we hope we will be able to resume our traditional schedule, with the normal times indicated below. In addition to the events listed here, we hope to be able to schedule a docent-led tour of the McMullen Museum exhibition in the spring at a date and time to be announced. Invitations to seminars and program meetings will be sent via email in advance of each meeting.

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday, September 3, 10:30 a.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, September 10, noon
Seminar
- Thursday, September 17, noon
Program Meeting
- Thursday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club

OCTOBER

- Thursday, October 1, 10:30 a.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, October 8, noon
Seminar
- Thursday, October 15, noon
Program Meeting
- Thursday, October 22, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club

NOVEMBER

- Thursday, November 5, 10:30 a.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, November 5, noon
Seminar
- Thursday, November 12, noon
Program Meeting
- Thursday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club

DECEMBER

- Thursday, December 3, noon
Seminar
- Thursday, December 10, 10:30 a.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club

JANUARY

- Thursday, January 21, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club

- Thursday, January 21, 11:30 a.m.
Program Meeting
- Thursday, January 21, 1:30 p.m.
Executive Committee

FEBRUARY

- Thursday, February 11, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club
- Thursday, February 11, 11:30 a.m.
Seminar
- Thursday, February 11, 1:30 p.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, February 18, 11:30 a.m.
Program Meeting

MARCH

- Thursday, March 11, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club
- Thursday, March 11, 11:30 a.m.
Seminar
- Thursday, March 11, 1:30 p.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, March 18, 11:30 a.m.
Program Meeting

APRIL

- Thursday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club
- Thursday, April 15, 11:30 a.m.
Seminar
- Thursday, April 15, 1:30 p.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, April 22, 11:30 a.m.
Program Meeting

MAY

- Thursday, May 6, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club
- Thursday, May 6, 11:30 a.m.
Seminar
- Thursday, May 6, 1:30 p.m.
Executive Committee
- Thursday, May 13, 11:30 a.m.
Program Meeting
- Wednesday, May 26, 5:30 p.m.
Annual Banquet in the Murray Room of the Yawkey Center

JUNE

- Thursday, June 3, 10:30 a.m.
Executive Committee Transition Meeting