A message from Vice President Tom Keady

Dear Neighbor:

As we embark on academic year 2022-2023, it is my sincere hope that you and your family are doing well and staying healthy. With the implementation of COVID-19 guidance from the CDC, University health protocols, and the availability of vaccines and boosters, the University provided a safe return to campus this year for faculty, staff and students, as well as for our neighbors. All members of the BC Community who planned to be on campus for the fall semester were required to be fully vaccinated, received a booster shot and have uploaded proof of vaccination to University Health Services or Human Resources by August 15, 2022. For more information on COVID-19 and Monkeypox, please visit the BC Forward website at https://www.bc.edu/forward.

In major construction updates, work on BC’s new Integrated Science Building, now known as 245 Beacon Street, is complete. The building, located on the Chestnut Hill campus, opened in January of 2022 receiving praise from faculty, staff and students as a new center of learning where the interdisciplinary approach to teaching, research and entrepreneurship is fostering creativity, the sharing of ideas, and collaborations on climate, energy and water-related research projects across different departments and disciplines. For more information on the building’s impact, please see page 3 highlighting the US Army Corps of Engineers $6.2M grant to the Earth & Environmental Sciences Department and recent campus visit.

In Boston, construction of the Hoag Basketball Pavilion, an expansion and renovation of the north side of Conte Forum for the men’s and women’s basketball program, the band, as well as accessibility and landscape improvements to Gate C and Gabelli Plaza, began in June of 2022. The project is expected to be completed in August of 2023.

In other exciting news, BC’s Pine Manor Institute for Student Success hosted 43 middle school students from 13 partner schools for a weeklong inaugural summer session of The Academy. To learn more, see article below or visit the BC-Pine Manor Institute for Student Success website https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/sites/pine-manor-institute.html.

If you have any questions regarding the information in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me or a member of my office staff at (617) 552-4787 or email the office at gca@bc.edu.

The Academy

The Academy, a cost-free, summer residential enrichment program for Greater Boston-area middle and high school students—one of four components of Boston College’s Pine Manor Institute for Student Success initiative—held its inaugural weeklong session this summer. Forty-three middle school students from 13 partner schools participated in the session, held from July 31-August 7, according to Joy Moore, vice president and executive director of the institute.

The institute also serves as an umbrella organization for BC’s existing programs, including Learning to Learn, the Montserrat Coalition, and Options Through Education. “The research is clear that young people do better in school and gain greater self-esteem when they have mentors who provide support and encouragement,” said Moore. “The Pine Manor Institute’s programs seek to strengthen each student’s academic abilities and prepare them for success in their post-secondary education and beyond.”

-Phil Gloudemans, University Communications
Construction begins on Hoag Basketball Pavilion

Construction has begun on the Hoag Basketball Pavilion, the future practice home of Boston College men's and women's basketball programs.

Anticipated to open in the summer of 2023, the pavilion will be located at the northwest corner of Conte Forum alongside Gabelli Plaza. The 35,700-square-foot facility will include a strength and conditioning center, a sports medicine center, a nutrition center, player locker rooms and lounge area, and a renovated 10,700-square-foot practice gym.

The Hoag Basketball Pavilion is made possible by a $15 million gift from University Trustee Michaela "Mikey" Hoag ’86, chair and founder of Part the Cloud, an Alzheimer's research movement in Silicon Valley that has raised more than $60 million and funds 59 human trials in nine countries, and her husband Jay, a founding general partner of TCV, a venture capital firm based in Menlo Park, California. Mikey Hoag also is a founding member of the Council for Women of Boston College.

The Hoags—parents of three children, including 2014 BC alumnus Tim—said in a statement: “It was important to us to support both basketball programs and help position them for success for years to come. The belief we have in the future of both programs under [men’s basketball coach] Earl Grant and [women’s basketball coach] Joanna Bernabei-McNamee’s leadership, was a critical factor for us. We feel very fortunate to be able to help future generations of student-athletes improve both on and off the court in this exciting new facility.”

Beginning the week of July 11, traffic along Campanella Way will be re-routed for the duration of the project to accommodate construction. The new route will pass through the Mods parking lot, before reconnecting with Campanella Way in front of the Yawkey Center.

Community Assistance Program

Run by the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of Students, the Community Assistance Program (CAP) continues to enhance the relationship between our host communities and our on- and off-campus students.

Steve Montgomery, the Off-Campus Student Community Liaison, works closely with the Boston Police, Newton Police and BC Police, to respond to disturbance calls and address concerns of the community.

Steve monitors areas where large numbers of off-campus students live on weekend nights (including Thursdays), holidays, home football games, and other high activity dates during the academic year.

Students needing help with city services, landlords, and their neighbors should feel free to contact the CAP program.

To reach CAP on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday evenings, contact the Boston College Police at 617-552-4440.

You can also contact Steve during the rest of the week at 617-552-6028 or stephen.montgomery@bc.edu.
US Army Corps of Engineers, BC to collaborate on research project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a team of researchers from Boston College’s Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences a four-year, $6.2-million grant to study water quality and sediment transport in watersheds and along coastlines of the United States, U.S. Senator Edward Markey announced at a campus event on March 28.

The project establishes a collaboration between the University and the Engineer Research and Development Center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a 220-year-old agency that delivers vital public and military engineering services to strengthen national security, support economic growth, and reduce risks from disasters.

““The oceans are warming dramatically, and all the evidence points towards catastrophic results,” said Sen. Markey during the visit. “I’m still very optimistic that we can get something done this year to increase the flow of funding necessary to get the science right. We’ll just keep working to get the funding to make sure that this research continues.”

Professor Ethan Baxter, chair of Earth and Environmental Sciences and a lead investigator on the project, said the award reflects expanded expertise and capacity in the department, opportunities created by its new Ph.D. program, as well as its focus on earth systems, particularly the essential role on Earth and in societies of water and its quality.

“As a department, we have embraced this intentionally broad theme of water as a department identity for several years now,” said Baxter. “We have been building strength in areas such as geochemistry, computational geophysics and in field analysis. That allowed us to develop this proposal for the Army Corps of Engineers and bring everything together in a multi-year research program.”

The project will be affiliated with the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, where it will be an integral component of the new Center for Integrated Environmental Systems Research, according to Baxter and Schiller Institute Director Laura J. Steinberg.

Specifically, the project will monitor and simulate the evolution of coastlines, rivers, and related habitats in response to natural and human forced events such as deglaciation, sea-level rise, climate change, nutrient runoff, sediment placement operations, and the construction of dams, levees and other structures. Sedimentological, geophysical, and geochemical analyses will be integrated into numerical models designed to understand the evolution of these systems including coastal erosion, subsidence, and water quality, according to Baxter.

The research will include compiling field measurements of sediment dynamics and river morphology complemented by high resolution LIDAR aerial imaging and other remote-sensing data to chart the long-term evolution of natural and engineered waterways, according to Baxter, joined on the project by his department colleagues, Professors Noah Snyder, John Ebel, Mark Behn, and Gail Kineke, and Assistant Professors Hilary Palevsky and Xingchen “Tony” Wang.

Baxter said there will be an interplay between data collection in the field and computational modeling of historical data, as well as future scenarios.

“The partnership with the Corps is exciting,” said Baxter. “They have existing models they have been honing for decades in areas such as the evolution of water quality, sediment transport in coastlines and river systems, and the stability of coastlines and rivers. A big part initially is collecting data to assess and refine existing models. In addition, on the geophysical modeling side, the partnership will create new models that may introduce new factors.” In addition to establishing the network of environmental sensing equipment, the grant will help provide new and upgraded analytical technologies on campus. The grant will fund at least six graduate students, three post-doctoral researchers and six undergraduate researchers.

-Ed Hayward, University Communications
Barbara Gawlick received 2022 Community Service Award

Despite a lack of arts resources in local schools, and the more recent educational challenges presented by the pandemic, Boston College Music Department part-time faculty member Barbara Gawlick has ensured that the lives of area youths are enriched through music.

For her long-term service initiative—the Music Outreach Program, which she established in 2011 and has directed since then—she is this year’s recipient of Boston College’s Community Service Award. Organized by the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs, the award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a BC employee whose actions exemplify the Jesuit spirit of service to others. Gawlick received the honor from University President William P. Leahy, S.J., at a recognition dinner held on June 1.

Through the initiative, BC students provide weekly instrumental and vocal lessons to some 50 children and teens enrolled in schools located in the Allston and Brighton areas. In turn, the approximately 20 BC undergraduate and graduate students who participate annually gain valuable experiences.

"The Music Outreach Program has served as a critical lifeline in the education of hundreds of inner-city children, who otherwise would not have an opportunity to study music and experience its profound gifts," Gawlick said. “Along with the program's artistic mission, it also strongly aims to address issues of social justice and educational equality.”

According to Gawlick, the program “fosters invaluable relationships between BC student volunteers and the kids they teach. “

“Without the Music Outreach Program, hundreds of children would never know the feeling of pride and joy that comes from learning how to play and sing a song! In order to realize such musical goals, discipline and hard work on both the part of the student and the instructor are essential,” Gawlick added.

-Rosanne Pellegrini, University Communications

McMullen Museum Fall Exhibit


Featuring original art, printed comics, and more, American Alternative Comics showcases over 120 works by forty artists, including Peter Bagge, Lynda Barry, Mark Beyer, Robert Crumb, Julie Doucet, Gilbert Hernandez, Jaime Hernandez, Keith Knight, Aline Kominsky-Crumb, Françoise Mouly, Gary Panter, Art Spiegelman, Chris Ware, and Jim Woodring, among others, with loans from artists, private collectors, and The Ohio State University Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum.

In the Daley Family Gallery.

For more information, please visit the McMullen Museum website at www.bc.edu/sites/artmuseum.

The Boston College Neighborhood Center, located at 480 Washington St in Brighton, provides free educational services to the Allston Brighton community, including tutoring for school-aged children and English classes for adults.

Please check out our website (www.bc.edu/neighbohood) for updates about our free educational services for the fall semester.