

# IBC



## THE SPIRIT OF THE HEIGHTS

**THOMAS H. O'CONNOR**

UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN

# A to Z



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Linden Lane Press at Boston College  
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts



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Thomas H. O'Connor

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## PREFACE

### THOMAS H. O'CONNOR


#### Preface

ONE OF THE MANY PLEASURES I HAVE ENJOYED DURING THE 10 years I have served as University historian at Boston College has been the opportunity to see the University through a much broader and more complex lens than from the singular confines of my previous happy home in the history department.


Moving around the campus, speaking with students, faculty members, and administrators, I came to learn things about Boston College I did not know. I rediscovered events I had forgotten, heard stories that shed light on episodes in the past, and recalled aspects of campus life that were part of my own college career. This voyage of discovery was enhanced by what I learned in responding to the numerous telephone calls and inquiries that came into my office from Boston College alumni, newspaper reporters, television commentators, and other members of the media asking all kinds of questions about the fascinating growth and development of Boston College from a small commuter college to a large national Catholic university.

As Boston College grew in size and significance over the years, it developed an institutional history; a compendium of major achievements. At the same time, that same institution acquired a treasure trove of stories, legends, and memories that give it its character and unique personality. In an attempt to capture something of that personality, I have gathered colorful topics, unusual events, and memorable episodes from the collective memory of Boston College for this book.

"Oh, I remember that!" some readers will exclaim. "Oh, I didn't know about that!" others might say. And there will be those who may admit, "I had forgotten all about that!" It is my hope that readers come away from this book feeling that Boston College is an exceptional place where amusing things happen, where important events are taken seriously, where the best of the future has been combined with the best of the past, and where memories of Linden Lane, Gasson Tower, the Golden Eagle, and the sound of the bells chiming the hours of the day are among recollections, large and small, that give this University a very special place in our hearts.



As in any work dealing with the story of Boston College, the indispensable source of information for this book is *History of Boston College: From the Beginnings to 1990*, by Charles F. Donovan, S.J. For items relating to sports on the Heights, I counted on the knowledge of Reid Oslin '68, senior media-relations officer in the Office of Public Affairs. I am extremely grateful to my friends and colleagues at Boston College for their sound advice and creative suggestions. I owe a special word of thanks to Maureen Dezell '75, senior editor in the Office of Marketing Communications, Matt DeLuca '11, former editor-in-chief of *The Heights* student newspaper, and William Bole, contributing writer for *Boston College Magazine*, for their skillful editorial guidance that helped shape the scope and direction of this book. And finally, I am pleased to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Sandra M. MacDonald, staff assistant in the Office of the University Historian, who worked closely with the author in every stage of the writing and publication process.



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University Historian

Boston College

2011

THOMAS H. O'CONNOR IS UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN OF BOSTON COLLEGE and a native of South Boston. His previous books include *Civil War Boston* (1997); *Boston Catholics* (1998); *The Athens of America: Boston, 1825–1845* (2006); and *Ascending the Heights: A Brief History of Boston College* (2008). He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston College and his Ph.D. from Boston University. He began teaching in 1950 at Boston College, and is now a professor of history emeritus. He lives in Milton, Massachusetts.



## AHANA

Expanding the Dream

AFTER THE NAME OF THE BLACK TALENT PROGRAM WAS changed to the Office of Minority Programs in 1976, two students, Valerie Lewis-Mosley '79 and Alfred "Alfie" Feliciano '81, suggested that "AHANA"—an acronym for African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native-American descent—would be a more appropriate term to describe the office celebrating the cultural differences in American society. Approved by the University in 1979, the Office of AHANA Student Pro-



grams (OASP) now develops programs to support and enhance academic performance and student development.

In 1989, Boston College awarded an honorary degree to Sr. Thea Bowman, an outstanding black Catholic leader. The following year, the AHANA House on College Road was named the Thea Bowman Center. AHANA organizations' success in recruiting and retaining students has brought substantial endowments and grants from several national foundations.

During July 2009, the Chestnut Hill Campus was the scene of the largest-ever gathering of AHANA alumni, families, and friends, who enjoyed three days of lectures, musical performances, a golf tournament, and tours of the campus. This summer reunion was intended not only to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the AHANA acronym, but also to "solidify the connection" between AHANA graduates (an estimated 10,000) and the University.

The student-led AHANA Leadership Council is a semi-autonomous arm of the undergraduate student government that develops programs around AHANA issues.

## **ALPHA SIGMA NU**

A Jesuit Phi Beta Kappa

ALPHA SIGMA NU, THE NATIONAL JESUIT HONOR SOCIETY, was originally formed at Marquette University in 1915 as a Catholic counterpart of Phi Beta Kappa.

The society currently has chapters in 32 Jesuit institutions in the United States and abroad. The Boston College chapter dates to 1939 and was revitalized in recent years under the leadership of the chapter's moderator, the late William C. McInnes, S.J.

To qualify for election to Alpha Sigma Nu, applicants must rank in the top 15 percent of their classes, demonstrate loyalty to their schools, and show a record of service during their academic careers.

In 2000, Fr. McInnes was honored as an outstanding figure in the history of the Jesuit honor society. During his tenure as president of the Association of Jesuit College and Universities, he inaugurated the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Awards in 1979. These book prizes are awarded annually to faculty authors at Jesuit institutions in the humanities, the sciences, and professional disciplines ranging from architecture to the law.

## **THE ALUMNI**

To Set the World Aflame

NOT LONG AFTER BOSTON COLLEGE BECAME SETTLED IN the South End, its graduates decided to form an alumni organization to cement friendships, hold reunions, and make their college better known.

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In June 1886, a gathering of some of the 136 living alumni held their first reunion at Young's Hotel in Boston, and agreed to make it an annual affair. It was to such a gathering that University President Thomas I. Gasson, S.J., spoke in 1907, when he announced that Boston College needed a new building and a different location, and asked the alumni to help raise \$10 million for that purpose.

After Boston College moved to Chestnut Hill in 1913, the Alumni Association continued to grow and in October 1919 turned out the first issue of *Alumni Bulletin*, which announced the appointment of the first alumni secretary. The publication's format evolved over the years, and it now appears regularly (and solely) in *Boston College Magazine*. For 36 years, the Alumni Association was quartered in an attractive chalet on Commonwealth Avenue, where class reunions, dances, and football celebrations were held. When student dormitories replaced the chalet in 1988, the Alumni Association found a new home in the gracious setting of Putnam House on the grounds of the former Newton College of the Sacred Heart.

With the growth of the student body at Boston College, especially in the years after World War II, the ranks of alumni have increased substantially. At present, the number of Boston College alumni totals 156,343, and the association has 26 chapters in the United States as well as international chapters in Great Britain, Ireland, and Korea. Altogether, 65,183 alumni (42 percent) live in the Massachusetts; 17,531 (11 percent) are in other New England states; 62,712 (40 percent) come from other parts of the United States; and 3,035 (2 percent) hail from foreign nations. The residence of 7,822 alumni (5 percent) is unknown.

In addition to sponsoring activities and functions and keeping its members informed about Boston College, the Alumni Association provides valuable financial support for the University. Increased alumni participation has played a significant role in *Light the World: The 150th Anniversary Campaign*, an ambitious University effort announced in 2008 to raise \$1.5 billion to improve the undergraduate education experience, fund interdisciplinary research, bolster opportunities for faculty research, and strengthen Boston College's special Jesuit, Catholic educational mission.

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## A M D G

### Initialing a Mission

THE INITIALS AMDG STAND FOR THE LATIN PHRASE *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam* ("For the Greater Glory of God"), the unofficial motto of the Society of Jesus. Jesuit schools and churches often had "AMDG" inscribed on their portals, and it was a longtime tradition for students in Jesuit schools to write these initials on their school papers and exam books. These four letters adorn buildings across Boston College's campus, and appear prominently above the choir loft of St. Ignatius Church on Lower Campus.

## ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Sculpting a Defeat of Satan

STANDING IN THE CENTER OF THE ROTUNDA OF GASSON Hall is a marble sculpture of St. Michael the Archangel in triumph over Satan. This work by Italian sculptor Scipione Tadolini was commissioned in 1865 by Gardner Brewer, a wealthy Boston merchant, for his Beacon Street estate. It was later purchased and donated to Boston College, where, after being heavily damaged in transit, it was installed as a centerpiece of the rotunda of the newly constructed Recitation Building at University Heights in 1913. It was not until 1925, however, that the statue was completely restored.

## THE ARCHITECTS

“A Touch of Oxford”

ON JANUARY 25, 1909, UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT THOMAS Gasson, S.J., announced a competition to determine the best general plans for a series of academic buildings to be constructed atop Boston College’s new location on what he called University Heights in Chestnut Hill. Fourteen architects were invited to take part in this competition.

Archbishop Williams had already chosen the Brighton area as the site of St. John’s Seminary, and his successor, Archbishop O’Connell, would move his diocesan headquarters to the same location. In 1907, a short time after he was named president of Boston College, Fr. Gasson pressed for the purchase of “the magnificent site on Commonwealth Avenue towards Brighton.” On November 11, 1907, the Boston College Board of Trustees voted to purchase the property on Chestnut Hill, and the following January sent out their notice of the design competition.

The architectural firm Maginnis and Walsh of Boston, which had submitted a plan consisting of some 20 handsome buildings, several large athletic fields, and a fully landscaped campus, won the competition three months later. The firm’s plans called for the building of a new campus in the Collegiate Gothic style, which drew on the architecture of the oldest universities in the English-speaking world—a “touch of Oxford,” as one local columnist called it—suited to the topography of the area and appropriate for an academic institution with a proud religious heritage.

The central structure in this ambitious architectural layout was called the Recitation Building, or more commonly just the Tower Building. Surmounted by a massive gothic tower, it would constitute what the architects called the “dominating center of the group.” On June 19, 1909, against the backdrop of a gala garden party on the grounds of what they called University Heights, Fr. Gasson used a silver spade to turn over the sod and break ground for the Recitation Building, which would remain the only classroom building until 1924.



# B

## THE BANDS

From Screaming Eagles to BC bOp!

BOSTON COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE A RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES to hear, play, and perform music on campus.

At Alumni Stadium, no football game is ever complete without the resounding beat of the 180-member Screaming Eagles Marching Band, the largest and most visible student organization at Boston College. Going through its paces before more than 40,000 cheering Boston College fans, the marching band puts on its colorful performance on the field at

halftime, and energizes the crowd in the stands during the game itself. Meanwhile, the talented young women who make up the Dance Team add color and excitement to the band's performances. At Boston College hockey games, as well as at men's and women's basketball games, the Maroon and Gold Pep Band keeps spirits high and enthusiasm at a peak.

In the classical realm, the Symphonic Band is open to all student, faculty, alumni, staff, and local community instrumentalists interested in performing large-scale orchestral works. The University Wind Ensemble of Boston College is a select group of wind and percussion players, whose members are chosen by competitive audition.

The BC bOp! Jazz Ensemble, the premier instrumental and vocal jazz band at Boston College, plays regularly at campus events such as the annual Breaking the Barriers Ball, and has performed at venues ranging from Caribbean resorts to the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the University of Idaho to Carnegie Hall.

## **BAPST LIBRARY**

House of Wisdom

THE SECOND GOTHIC BUILDING CONSTRUCTED ON THE Chestnut Hill Campus was named after John Bapst, S.J., first president of Boston College. Fr. Bapst was born in Switzerland in 1816, and, after graduating from the Jesuit college at Fribourg, joined the Society of Jesus. Fr. Bapst came to the United States to do missionary work among the Indians of Maine. In October 1854, a nativist "Know-Nothing" mob tarred and feathered the priest, permanently impairing his health.

Bapst Library was designed by Charles Maginnis in the same Collegiate Gothic style as Gasson Tower. The Mary Elizabeth Ford Memorial Tower, which bears resemblance to Merton Tower at Oxford University, rises at the northern end of the building. Dedicated on Commencement Day, June 13, 1928, Bapst is rich in art and stained glass as well as architecture. The second floor of the main reading room is surrounded by magnificent sets of stained glass windows displaying representations of saints and scholars, scientists and historians, characters from Shakespeare, and figures from the Bible. The main entrance to Bapst is located at the southern end of the building, facing Gasson Hall. Above the central door of the south porch is the sculptured figure of Mary, portrayed as "Sedes Sapientiae," the "Seat of Wisdom," flanked by prophets and the four evangelists. The spacious first floor of the library was originally used as the University auditorium, but was later converted to additional reading space for students. The interior and exterior of the building were renovated during the mid-1980's, and Bapst now houses the John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections.

## THE BEANPOT TOURNAMENT

Bragging Rights for College Hockey

IN THE GREATER BOSTON AREA, THE ANNUAL BEANPOT Tournament comes as an early sign that the forbidding New England winter will eventually give way to spring.

Inaugurated during the 1952–53 season, the tournament is a round-robin series of hockey games in which the four area NCAA Division I teams—Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University, and Northeastern University—fight for possession of the prized Beanpot. The contest is held each year on the first two Mondays of February, before a packed house of enthusiastic hockey fans at the Boston Garden (officially known as the TD Garden).

Perhaps more than any other sporting event, the Beanpot symbolizes college athletics in Boston. Boston College has won the “pot” 16 times, and the Beanpot Tournament has become an annual “must” for alumni and fans of the four competing schools, each with the hope of securing the local ice hockey bragging rights for another year.

## THE BELLS OF GASSON

Ringling in the Hours

THE FIRST BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE NEW Chestnut Hill Campus neared completion early in 1913. Designed by the Boston firm of Maginnis and Walsh and now considered a seminal example of the architectural style known as Collegiate Gothic, it was an impressive sight. The graceful tower that rose from what was then called the Recitation Building conveyed all the elegance of a medieval cathedral. In February 1913, Boston College President Thomas Gasson, S.J., contracted with Meneely and Company of Watervliet, New York, to manufacture and install four brass bells in that tower.

The largest of the four bells, *do* (F) was named in honor of Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, and is inscribed “Ego Sum Ignatio,” or “I am Ignatius.” The remaining three bells were named for other Jesuit saints: *fa* (B flat) was for Francis Xavier; *sol* (C) for Aloysius Gonzaga; and *la* (D) for John Berchmans. For years to come, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the bells would announce each quarter of the hour, and every 60 minutes they would toll the exact hour. At noon and again at 6 p.m., the Gasson Tower bells sounded the *Angelus* as an invitation to all who heard it to pause for a moment of prayer or reflection. The works originally required a twice-weekly hand-winding, but the bells went automatic in the 1960s.

For generations of students, neighbors, and visitors, the lovely sounds of the tower bells became a familiar part of the Boston College ethos, and the young students who had gone off to faraway places

during World War II found comfort in the nostalgia of a poem by Tom Heath '43, who became a prominent Dominican missionary. His “Proud Refrain,” a hymn to Gasson Tower, was in its time the most celebrated poem penned by a Boston College graduate. It read, in part:

*“What meaning has it, Soldier / A tower bell, and tree?  
Nothing, nothing—only once / It meant my life to me.”*

## BLACK TALENT PROGRAM

Before There Was AHANA

IN 1968, THE NATION WAS PUTTING OUT FIRES. IN FEBRUARY of that year, the Kerner Commission had warned that America was “moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal.” In April, riots had broken out in more than 100 cities, ignited by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Universities, Boston College included, took steps to open their doors to African Americans. At the time, of Boston College’s 6,975 undergraduates, 13 were African-American.

By the fall of 1968, Boston College had launched the Black Talent Program, an effort at racial inclusion in higher education. The program sprang from a “Negro Talent Search” conducted earlier that year by outgoing president Michael P. Walsh, S.J., who made a substantial \$100,000 commitment to scholarships and recruiting at a time when the University was financially strapped and tuition ran \$1,600. The Negro Talent Search is believed to have brought between 34 to 48 new black students to campus that September.

What set Black Talent apart from many programs was that it was managed by its own recruits. In early 1971, at the urging of African-American students who had become involved in the program, the administration of the Black Talent program was handed over entirely to students, who decided who would be admitted and made decisions on scholarships and financial aid. Black Talent ran an all-black dormitory and ancillary programs. For a time, the application form for admission to Boston College through the Black Talent Program bore the image of the red, black, and green Black Liberation flag.

By most accounts, more than 300 students were admitted to the University through Black Talent during the five years students ran the program. Student control, however, became a flashpoint of contention even among black students. Some grew weary of the administrative burdens, and in 1976, four years into the presidency of J. Donald Monan, S.J., the program rejoined student organizations under the University’s administrative umbrella. That year, its name was changed to the Office of Minority Student Affairs, reflecting its extended reach to other minority groups.

## BOSTON “COLLEGE”

The Name that Stuck

WITH THE RAPID GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF Boston College during the 1950s, its expanding graduate programs offering master’s and doctoral degrees, and its recruitment of faculty members of national and international reputation, Boston College had, in effect, become a university. Additionally, citizens of Boston still confused the school with Boston University. The question arose: Had the time come for the institution to change its name to include the word “university?”

Looking ahead to the 100th anniversary of the University’s founding in 1963, Michael P. Walsh, S.J., president at the time, took steps to explore a possible name change. In 1958, he appointed a special committee of deans and faculty members to consider and debate the wisdom of adopting a new name or staying with the original.

The committee met for months, and its final report noted a number of ways in which a new name might reflect the religious, historical, or geographical character of the institution. It listed a series of suggestions from committee members, including Commonwealth University, Chestnut Hill University, Botolph University, and Tremont University. But the committee came to no consensus, and many prominent alumni became increasingly vocal in their opposition to any change of name. As a result, Fr. Walsh announced that Boston College would remain the proud name of the institution that had come so far, that had achieved so much, and that was increasingly recognized as a leading Catholic and Jesuit university.

## BOSTON COLLEGE AT WAR

Two Close Calls

AFTER ENJOYING ONLY A FEW QUIET YEARS ON THE CAMPUS in Chestnut Hill, Boston College faced a serious challenge as her students were called to the battlefields of the Great War. Ironically, almost all Boston College students were rejected when they first applied for the draft, while Harvard students who applied were almost universally accepted. Gradually, however, as need for manpower increased, Boston College students went off to the trenches of Europe. The enrollment at the Heights, which had stood at 617 in October 1916, fell to a scant 125 by October 1918. Fortunately, the government selected Boston College as a site for the Students’ Army Training Corps to train officers, engineers, and scientists. In 1918, a unit of 750 soldiers arrived at the Heights and was billeted in four wooden barracks on the Beacon Street slope of the campus. The assignment was brief, however. In November of that year Germany surrendered and the troops were demobilized.

Some 20 years later, a second world war had far greater ramifications



for Boston College. With the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the nation was engaged in a global conflict with the Axis powers. Once again students and Jesuit faculty members (the latter serving as chaplains) went off to war in all parts of the world. Month after month the college enrollment grew smaller and smaller.

In July 1943, the arrival of an Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) unit brought 432 soldiers to the Chestnut Hill Campus for training in languages and engineering, but on April 1, 1944, all ASTP programs in the United States were abruptly terminated. By the end of that month, the total enrollment at Boston College had fallen to a mere 236 students, and the Jesuits faced the grim reality that the college might have to close. However, with the surrender of Germany in May 1945, more high school students began to apply for fall admission. The crisis had passed.

## THE BOSTON COLLEGE CLUB

A View from the Top

AS BOSTON COLLEGE GREW IN SIZE AND REPUTATION during the 1950s and '60s, its alumni became more prominent in the professional life of what was then known as the "New Boston." John Joyce '61 and several graduates of the College of Business Administration decided to establish a downtown Boston base for social and business gatherings. In October 1970, they opened a lunch and social club at 280 Devonshire Street. In May 1971, however, the club closed because it could not support itself.

For a while there was no more discussion about a downtown club. The late 1960s and early '70s were difficult times at Boston College, with student unrest, antiwar demonstrations, and a serious financial crisis. Those were not the times for risky enterprises off campus. By the 1980s, however, President J. Donald Monan, S.J., had substantially improved Boston College's financial health and prospects, with an increased endowment and improved alumni relations. Energized, Jack Joyce and his colleagues renewed their effort to establish a downtown club. While it appeared difficult to find a site with enough space, convenient parking, and adequate dining facilities, Joyce was notified in early 1990 that the Federal Club, a nonprofit club with dining facilities on the 36th floor of what was then the BankBoston building at 100 Federal Street, would close by 1993.

Joyce, with Jack McKinnon '62 and Owen Lynch '56, began negotiations with the bank, consulted with Club Corporation of America about operating a dining room, and secured the support of Fr. Monan, who liked the idea of a downtown club. Club founders worked carefully with financial staff at the University to make sure that the project was viable, and the role of the Alumni Association clear.

After assuming the presidency in 1995, William P. Leahy, S.J., agreed that a Boston College Club would be formed, and that it would be a

“wholly separate corporation” of the University. The Boston College Club opened on February 7, 1998, with some 1,200 alumni turning out for the gala festivities. With more than 2,300 members, the Boston College Club in the heart of the city’s financial district is now recognized as one of Boston’s premier private social and business clubs. Visitors are visibly impressed by the elegance of the décor, the efficiency of the service, and the spectacular views of the Boston skyline seen through the glass windows that surround the club on three sides. Membership is by invitation. Nominees need not be graduates of Boston College, although sponsorship by a current member in good standing is required.

## **BOURNEUF HOUSE**

The Woman Who Reinvented Boston College Economics

WHEN MICHAEL P. WALSH, S.J., BECAME PRESIDENT OF Boston College in 1958, he was determined to create the type of research-oriented doctoral programs that would transform Boston College into a major university. Toward that end, he appointed Robert J. McEwen, S.J., who had recently earned his Ph.D., as chairman of the economics department.

Shortly after taking office, Fr. McEwen contacted Paul Samuelson, the renowned Harvard economist, to ask his advice on future faculty appointments. Samuelson highly recommended a woman named Alice Bourneuf whom he had met in graduate school at Harvard, and mentioned that she came from a large Catholic family in Newton. Bourneuf was then teaching at the University of California, Berkeley. McEwen immediately hired Bourneuf, who arrived on the campus in the fall of 1959.

In 1960, with funds from the administration to hire four more faculty, and scholarship money to attract new Ph.D. students, McEwen and Bourneuf set out to create a modern department that would specialize in the quantitative and statistical approach to economics used at MIT rather than the more traditional approach to economic history.

With characteristic energy and determination, Bourneuf, the first woman to serve as a full professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, hired the best people she could find to make the economics department at Boston College truly outstanding. Alice Bourneuf retired in 1977 and died in 1980. Bourneuf House on College Road was named in her honor.

## **BRIGHTON CAMPUS**

The New Frontier

A MILESTONE IN THE MODERN HISTORY OF BOSTON COLLEGE took place on June 24, 2004, when the University purchased 43 acres of land and five buildings in Brighton previously owned by the

Archdiocese of Boston. This was the largest single acquisition of land in Boston College's history since the 1949 purchase of 52.7 acres of a surplus state reservoir in what is now the Lower Campus. In August 2007, Boston College signed an agreement with the Archdiocese of Boston for the purchase of an additional 18 acres of land, along with several administrative and academic buildings, on the Brighton Campus.

After a lengthy review of the Brighton property, and a study to determine how it could be best integrated with the Chestnut Hill Campus, Boston College released its 10-year, \$1.6 billion expansion plan on December 5, 2007. It included the site for a new School of Theology and Ministry, a recreation complex, dormitory facilities for more than 600 students, a fine arts district, and new athletic facilities.

Boston College's plans for the Brighton Campus, together with plans for new dormitories and recreation facilities on the Lower Campus, were submitted to the city of Boston for final approval. In June 2009, after a series of public hearings, the City of Boston gave its approval to much of what the University proposed.

## THE BRONZE EAGLE

... And the Dewey Column

ONE OF THE MORE INSPIRING SIGHTS ON THE BOSTON College campus greets visitors who come through the main entrance on Commonwealth Avenue and walk down Linden Lane. A bronze eagle with six-foot wings stands four feet high, perched on a 30-foot-high granite column in front of the towers of Gasson Hall.

The original eagle, cast in Japan, was given to Larz Anderson, a wealthy American businessman and diplomat who served as U.S. ambassador to Japan. The statue was brought to the United States and roosted for many years in a Japanese garden on the Anderson estate in nearby Brookline. In October 1954, through the good offices of Thomas M. Herlihy, S.J., pastor of St. Ignatius Church, the eagle was donated to Boston College and for three years stood in front of Alumni Hall.

The column upon which the eagle perches has its own history. Originally part of an ornate column designed to commemorate the heroic achievements of Admiral George Dewey during the Spanish-American War, it stood in front of Boston's South Station in what was called Dewey Square. As time went on and traffic patterns changed, the commemorative column was removed, and parts of it eventually reached Chestnut Hill. In 1956 a major portion of the column was placed in front of Gasson Hall, where the screaming bronze eagle found a permanent site from which to look out over the beautiful campus on the Heights. Today the eagle sculpture is one of the most photographed locations on Boston College's campus. It has become almost a rite of passage for proud parents to take photographs of newly admitted students or graduating seniors in front of the statue.

## BURNS LIBRARY

Where the Past Is Preserved

WITH THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW MULTIMILLION-dollar Thomas P. O'Neill Library in 1984 as the main University library, President J. Donald Monan, S.J., moved immediately to rehabilitate thoroughly both the interior and the exterior of Bapst Library, which had served Boston College since 1925. Out of this emerged Burns Library.

On the first floor of Bapst, a spacious area previously used as an auditorium was transformed into the large and comfortable Kresge Reading Room, with 60 individual carrels in the mezzanine area for graduate study and research. Ten computers with specialized software were made available, and wireless connectivity was installed throughout the building. On the second floor, Gargan Hall now offers quiet study space for more than 400 students in carrels and at comfortable tables.

Perhaps the most dramatic changes took place in the north end of Bapst facing Commonwealth Avenue, in an area housing the magnificent Ford Tower and a dramatic stone staircase. Largely unused and ignored in the past, it was brought to life and transformed into a new research library dedicated to the memory of Judge John J. Burns '21. The Burns Library now houses the University archives, manuscripts, rare books, and special collections of maps, artworks, newspapers, photographs, prints, and a wide variety of artifacts, all of which are kept in an air-conditioned and climate-controlled secure environment. Burns also mounts an attractive and ambitious exhibitions program.

The Irish Collection of the Burns Library, the largest and most comprehensive in the United States, has been enhanced in recent years by acquisitions of materials on Nobel laureates such as W.B. Yeats and Samuel Beckett. Burns is a noncirculating library, and all research is conducted on its premises. Its resources are made available to all qualified students, faculty members, and researchers.



## **CADETS**

### Fulton's March

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE NEW BOSTON COLLEGE in the city's South End, students sought extracurricular ways to create a sense of unity. They formed religious sodalities and an active debating society, organized a dramatic society, and began publishing a literary magazine.

This growing sense of togetherness was further reinforced when, in October 1870, Robert Fulton, S.J., vice rector and president of the college, announced the formation of a military drill company known as

the Foster Cadets, named in honor of Major General John Gray Foster, a retired Civil War veteran and a recent convert to Catholicism. Attired in Civil War-style uniforms, the students wore caps bearing the letters “BC.”

Provided with surplus weapons, belts, knapsacks, and bayonet scabbards from the Springfield armory, the Foster Cadets engaged in competitive prize drills, marched proudly through the streets of Boston with their fife-and-drum corps, and were assigned a prominent place in the city’s St. Patrick’s Day parade on March 17, 1875.

## THE CANDLEMAS LECTURES

Discovering a Christian Culture

SHORTLY AFTER HE RETURNED TO THE BOSTON COLLEGE theology department from serving as a U.S. army chaplain in the Philippine Islands during World War II, William J. Leonard, S.J., inaugurated the Candlemas Lecture Series on February 2, 1947. Candlemas, the last feast day of the Christian year, celebrates the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and was traditionally observed by the Catholic Church on or about February 2. Fr. Leonard used this feast day as the occasion to stimulate interest and scholarly research in the field of Christian arts and letters.

The Candlemas Lectures were the first in a series of humanities lectures that would become popular annual events at Boston College. Fr. Leonard made every effort to bring prominent writers, artists, and musicians to the Boston College campus to introduce them to young students, many of whom had limited exposure to the creative excitement of the fine arts. With increasing interest and support from foundations, in 1957 the original Candlemas Lectures evolved into the Boston College Humanities Series, which was renamed the Lowell Humanities Series in 1978.

## ANDREW CARNEY

One of the First Friends

BORN IN BALLANAGH, COUNTY CAVAN, IRELAND, Andrew Carney learned the tailor’s trade and in 1816, at the age of 20, came to the United States. He settled in Boston, where he found work as a tailor “at the bench,” and for a time worked for Kelley & Hudson, tailors, on State Street.

Self-reliant, confident, and industrious, Carney formed a partnership with Joseph Sleeper in the 1830s that became Carney & Sleeper, Clothiers of North Street, large-scale manufacturers of ready-made clothing.

He was one of the originators of the First National Bank of Boston, as

well as of the John Hancock Insurance Company. He was also a devoted Catholic and loyal friend to the Jesuits and the new Immaculate Conception Church in the South End. In 1852, when Fr. John McElroy found a piece of land in the South End he thought suitable for a “college in the city,” it was Andrew Carney to whom he turned to arrange the purchase. Carney also provided generous donations for all kinds of charities, including the land and buildings for what became Carney Hospital—a gift to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Andrew Carney died in April 1864, leaving a generous bequest of some \$25,000 worth of securities that helped launch Boston College as a viable institution. Almost a century later, under Rev. Michael P. Walsh, S.J., president of Boston College, ground was broken in April 1963 for a faculty office building called Carney Hall.

## FRANK CAVANAUGH

### The Iron Major

A DARTMOUTH-EDUCATED LAWYER WHO TRIED COACHING college football before enlisting in the 26th Infantry, the “Yankee Division,” in World War I, Frank Cavanaugh was seriously wounded by shrapnel during the Battle of Saint-Mihiel in France. But his indomitable will won him the nickname “The Iron Major.”

After the war, Cavanaugh was hired to coach the Boston College team, which he shaped into the first Eastern Championship team at the Heights. “Cav” was fortunate in having some outstanding talent on his first teams. “Jimmie” Fitzpatrick, for example, could run, pass, and kick, and had already made a name for himself with his winning drop-kick goal against Holy Cross in 1916. During the 1919 season, in a highly publicized game against Yale in New Haven, Fitzpatrick booted a perfect 47-yard dropkick to give the Eagles an upset 5–3 victory over the Eli of Yale. Cav’s team also included Luke Urban of Fall River, Boston College’s first All-American player, a defensive end whose aggressive style of play inspired changes in other college teams’ defensive strategies.

Cavanaugh’s growing reputation made it possible for Boston College to recruit top football players such as Joe McKenney, who grew up in nearby Brighton, and gave up a scholarship to Harvard to play football for Boston College. As a freshman, McKenney broke into the lineup as a quarterback, was elected captain of the 1926 team, and served as head coach from 1928–34.

Frank Cavanaugh left Boston College for other pursuits in 1928, but in 1943, Hollywood produced a movie about his colorful life called *The Iron Major*. It featured the popular star Pat O’Brien in the leading role, and some of the filming was done at the Liggett Estate (now O’Connell House) on the Upper Campus.

## THE CHARTER

Incorporating Boston College

THE BOSTON COLLEGE CHARTER, FORMALLY KNOWN AS “an act to incorporate the Trustees of the Boston College,” was approved by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature on March 31, 1863. Governor John A. Andrew signed it into law the following day. The incorporators were five Jesuits: college founder John McElroy; its first president John Bapst; and Edward H. Welch, James Clark, and Charles H. Stonestreet.

The charter is relatively brief, containing seven sections. It empowers the trustees to grant all but medical degrees; select or remove trustees and officers; set and enforce bylaws; hire faculty and staff; purchase, hold, and maintain real estate; and accept gifts and bequests.

The charter has been amended by the state legislature twice since 1863. In 1907, the name of the corporation was changed to the Trustees of Boston College, rather than the original Trustees of *the* Boston College. In 1971, a tenet limiting the Board of Trustees to 10 members was removed.

## “CHUCKIN’ CHARLIE”

Hero of the Sugar Bowl

IN FEBRUARY 1939, A 30-YEAR-OLD NOTRE DAME GRADUATE named Frank Leahy accepted an offer to become head football coach at Boston College at the munificent salary of \$12,000. Determined to revitalize a rather lackluster team, he recruited new players like Mike Holovak, set up rigorous practices, and installed a new style of offense that emphasized speed and precision. With players like Mike Holovak at fullback, George Kerr at guard, Gene Goodreault at end, and 158-pound “Chuckin’ Charlie” O’Rourke at halfback, the Eagle 11 showed such promise that they were invited to play Clemson in the Cotton Bowl on January 1, 1940—the first time Boston College had ever made a bowl appearance.

Despite their 6–3 loss to Clemson, the Eagles went on to such a successful season in 1940 that Leahy arranged for a game with Tulane University, the number one team in the South. After upsetting Tulane by a score of 27–7, Boston College ended the regular season with a narrow 19–18 victory over its Jesuit rival, Georgetown University, thanks to a memorable play by Charlie O’Rourke.

The “crowning jewel” of the 1940 season, according to Boston College sports historian Reid Oslin, was the victory over the Tennessee Volunteers in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans on January 1, 1941. Playing before a packed stadium of 73,181 fans, Tennessee led by 7–0 at halftime, but then, as a result of a blocked punt, Boston College ran up a game-tying score. By the fourth quarter in this hard-fought game the score was tied



at 13–13. With only six minutes left, the Eagles took the ball on their own 20-yard line and reeled off nine plays that brought them to the Tennessee 24-yard line. In each of these plays “Chuckin’ Charlie” O’Rourke either passed or ran for substantial yardage. Then, faking a pass, O’Rourke cut between left tackle and end, outmaneuvered the Tennessee defenders, and raced through frustrated tacklers to score the winning goal. And then, a few minutes later, he intercepted a desperation Tennessee pass as time ran out.

When the triumphant Sugar Bowl champions arrived back in Boston they were greeted by 100,000 cheering fans, who braved an all-day snowstorm to greet the Eagles. South Station was completely jammed, the streets outside were clogged with happy onlookers, and Boston traffic was at a complete standstill.

## THE CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Responding to a Church in Crisis

IN THE WAKE OF CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE SCANDALS IN THE Archdiocese of Boston and throughout the United States, President William P. Leahy, S.J., announced that the University would develop “a special academic focus” on issues confronting the Catholic Church, including the need to build trust among lay people, clergy, religious, and the hierarchy, and especially to pass on the faith to young Catholics.

The Church in the 21st Century Center was originally conceived as a two-year initiative to explore the problematic issues highlighted by the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. In 2004, the University established The Church in the 21st Century Center as a permanent resource for exploring critical issues facing the Catholic Church. The center offers symposia, lectures, conferences, books, and papers, as well as video and audio streaming resources, and continuing education programs aimed at helping the Church move from crisis to renewal. All of these activities have enhanced the status of Boston College as a major center of serious theological study and research.

The Church in the 21st Century focuses on four major areas of concern: (1) handing on the faith to the new generation; (2) the roles of lay men and women, vowed religious deacons, priests, and bishops; (3) relationships and sexuality in light of Catholic tradition; and (4) the Catholic intellectual tradition.

## CLASS OF 1913

Ascending the Heights

ON A CHILLY FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 28, 1913, 71 young men stepped off the trolley car that had brought them from the

South End of Boston to the Lake Street Station at Chestnut Hill. They were the members of the senior class of Boston College who had come to see the new gothic building from which they would receive their college degree some three months later.

Wearing topcoats, sporting derby hats, and carrying the small briefcases known as “Boston bags,” the students braved the cold winds and began the long trudge up Commonwealth Avenue to University Heights. They were met on what is now College Road by the president of Boston College, Fr. Thomas Gasson, along with some Jesuit faculty members. The group formed a procession and entered the new Recitation Building through the west porch.

Once inside, the students gathered around Fr. Gasson at what he described as a “historic moment” in the spacious rotunda, where he formally welcomed the members of “the Class of 1913” to an edifice he said would be a source of strength to the Church, a source of joy to Boston Catholics, and a bulwark of service to the nation.

Three months later, in June 1913, these same students returned to University Heights and attended the first commencement ceremonies on the new campus. They were the first students to receive their Boston College degrees from the hands of Gasson at Chestnut Hill.

## **COCOANUT GROVE**

A Celebration that Wasn't

DURING THE 1940S, THE BOSTON COLLEGE FOOTBALL team was riding high. After winning the national championship by defeating Tennessee in the Sugar Bowl in 1941, the Eagles went into 1942 with hopes for an even greater championship season. After winning all nine regular-season games, with a number one rating by the Associated Press, Boston College looked forward to an easy victory over perennial rival Holy Cross, and expected to soon be offered another bowl bid. With players like All-American fullback Mike Holovak and the powerful tackle Gil Bouley, many players and their families had made plans to celebrate their victory at the Cocoanut Grove, a popular downtown Boston nightclub that featured dining, dancing, and colorful floor shows, and specialized in family parties and special events.

But on November 28, 1942, a cold, gray afternoon at Fenway Park, the Holy Cross squad upset the highly rated Boston College team by the embarrassingly lopsided score of 55–12. (With careful pregame planning, the Holy Cross defense consistently trapped Bouley and evaded his tackles, while Holovak was kept to a small fraction of his usual running gains.) As the Eagles and their crestfallen supporters made their way out of the stadium, many had no stomach for celebrating after the game. Most of them simply went home to nurse their wounded pride.

That night, the Cocoanut Grove nightclub, elaborately decorated and

crowded with patrons, burst into flames that trapped helpless men and women inside a building whose doors did not open outward. The smoke, the flames, and especially the toxic fumes of plastic decorations proved fatal to 492 people who perished in what proved to be one of the deadliest single-building fires in American history.

## THE FIRST COMMENCEMENT

*Collegium Bostoniense Inchoatum*

SHORTLY AFTER BOSTON COLLEGE'S 2009 COMMENCEMENT, the University historian received an e-mail from a recent Boston College alumnus noting that event was listed in the brochure as the University's 133rd commencement. As a graduate of Boston College High School, he pointed out that the school's 2009 graduation was billed as the school's 145th commencement. Which is correct?

After a search of early Boston College catalogues, and a look through Fr. David Dunigan's early *History of Boston College*, it seems that although the College opened its doors in September 1864, it was still in a state of flux as an institution. Technically, according to Fr. Dunigan, it was "in the process of formation" (*collegium bostoniense inchoatum*, as he formalized it, in the Latin), containing a mixture of college-age students in an advanced four-year program, and some high-school-age students in a two-year secondary school program. During that early period, the school had end-of-the-year programs called "Exhibitions" but held no formal commencements.

In the school catalogue of 1872, the trustees observed the difference between what they would later call Boston College High School, with its younger boys, and Boston College, whose students were of college age. The institution was referred to as "*Collegium Bostoniense*" and the first formal commencement was held on June 28, 1877. So, while exhibitions were held at first for both the high school and the college, commencements for the College itself did not come until later.

## CONTE FORUM

The Heart of Boston College Athletics

ENCOURAGED BY THE DECISION TO CONSTRUCT A NEW football stadium in 1957, Boston College alumni supported the building of a gymnasium containing a basketball court and a separate regulation-size hockey rink nearby. Built on Beacon Street south of the Middle Campus, the gymnasium was named Roberts Center, after longtime generous benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Vincent P. Roberts. The hockey rink, built parallel to the football stadium, was called McHugh Forum, after Patrick J. McHugh, S.J., a popular college dean.

« To provide larger and more modern facilities for the expanding sports programs on the Heights, the Conte Forum, named after Representative Silvio O. Conte '49, a 16-term Massachusetts Republican and former Boston College football letterman, was constructed on the Lower Campus in 1988. Connected to Alumni Stadium, and with a seating capacity of 8,606 for basketball and 7,884 for hockey, Conte Forum is now the center of men's and women's ice hockey and basketball games, as well as the location of the athletic offices for most varsity sports at Boston College.

Immediately after the opening of the Yawkey Center in 2005, Boston College began three years of extensive renovations to redesign the interior of Conte Forum. The former football team meeting room on the first floor was transformed into a media suite, the video control room was extensively modernized, the student-athlete lounge renovated, and the men's hockey locker room was enlarged.

In addition to its athletic functions, Conte Forum is also large enough to accommodate numerous conferences, concerts, and entertainments, including the annual scholarship fundraiser Pops on the Heights, featuring the nationally known Boston Pops Orchestra.

## THE CROSS AND CROWN

Honoring Service and Leadership

THE ORDER OF THE CROSS AND CROWN IS A STUDENT honor society founded in 1939. It is reserved for members of the senior class of the College of Arts and Sciences who have achieved distinction, with at least an A-minus grade point average, and who have established records of unusual service and leadership on the campus.

A selection committee composed of deans, faculty members, and members of the administration appoint especially distinguished members of the order to serve as marshals during commencement each year.



# D

## **DANCING UNDER THE TOWERS**

How I Met Your Mother

**DURING THE BIG BAND ERA, COLLEGE STUDENTS EVERY-**where danced to the music of Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Charlie Barnet, Woody Herman, Sammy Kaye, and others. Young men who studied at Boston College during this period regularly “put on their dancing shoes” and tuxedos and danced the night away with their dates in full-length gowns in local hotel ballrooms. On less formal occasions, many Boston College students would take the streetcar to the popular Totem Pole Ballroom at nearby Norumbega Park to enjoy listening and dancing to the popular music of the day.

But the highlight of the week for many was the weekend dance held on their own campus, in the main auditorium of Gasson Hall, better known in those days as “the Tower Building.” Young women from several nearby Catholic women’s colleges, like Regis, Emmanuel, and the Newton College of the Sacred Heart, were regularly invited to the dances at Boston College where good Catholic girls would have a chance to meet some good Catholic boys. Several Jesuits usually served as quiet chaperones at the gatherings, watching to see that the boys were properly dressed

in jackets and ties, and making sure that during the slow numbers they didn't get too close to their dance partners.

A generation later, it was not at all unusual to meet students who could recall that their parents had first met at Boston College, while “dancing under the Towers” of Gasson Hall.

## DANTE REVISITED

Parsing the *Paradiso*

THE *LECTURA DANTIS* (LITERALLY, “READING OF DANTE”) is a public reading of all 100 cantos of Dante's three-part *Divine Comedy*. The tradition, which dates to 14th-century Florence, began in March 2000 at Boston College, which may now host the longest running *Lectura Dantis* program in the United States. Boston College readers of Dante's great work started out with the *Inferno*. Since November 2004, they have been immersed in *Purgatorio*, and they expect to complete the *Paradiso* in February 2013.

Each month during the academic year, a group of about 30 Dante enthusiasts, including students from Boston College's Romance languages and literature department and scholars from neighboring institutions, get together to read one canto. A formal presentation by a lecturer is followed by questions, responses, and animated discussions about the author and his work.

Strains of fluent Italian fill the air as the participants gather around a table in Devlin Hall as a bottle of prosecco is uncorked, and toasts are raised to celebrate the legend and the literature of the medieval poet, Dante Alighieri.

## “THE DEAN’S LIST”

Books that Make the Grade

EVERY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY HAS A “DEAN’S LIST”—an annual listing of students with the highest grade point averages that year.

Boston College, however, has an innovative and distinctive version of the dean's list, established by William B. Neenan, S.J., a popular Jesuit faculty member. An economics professor who came to Boston College in 1979 as the first Gasson Chair, Fr. Neenan stayed on to become dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for seven years. He then served as academic vice president. He is currently vice president and special assistant to University President William P. Leahy, S.J.

Concerned with the importance of great literature in shaping the mind, Fr. Neenan in 1982 compiled a “dean's list” of recommended books for the education of men and women. His tradition continues today. The list

of titles includes such classics as James Agee's *A Death in the Family*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*, and Sigrid Undset's *Kristin Lavransdatter*, as well as more recent titles including James O'Toole's *The Faithful* and Dennis Lehane's *The Given Day*.

## DEVLIN HALL

From Pre-med to Postmodern

AFTER BOSTON COLLEGE HAD MOVED FROM THE SOUTH End to Chestnut Hill, President William J. Devlin, S.J., saw the need for a new classroom building that would be devoted to the sciences. Following a major fundraising drive in the spring of 1921, ground was broken for the fourth gothic structure on the main campus. It was named Devlin Hall. Here classes in chemistry, physics, biology, and geology were taught as part of the liberal arts tradition to undergraduates, pre-med majors, and nursing students (who were educated outside the all-male Chestnut Hill Campus, and traveled from downtown Boston to fulfill their science requirements at the Heights).

After World War II, as interest in specialized medical research, space programs, and advanced graduate studies increased, it was soon clear that a greater emphasis on modern science was necessary. During his presidency, Michael P. Walsh, S.J., himself a professional biologist, encouraged the recruitment of highly trained research scientists to the faculty. In 1965, the University broke ground for a new science building, Higgins Hall, which immediately became home to the biology and physics departments. The construction of the Merkert Chemistry Center in 1991 opened up the building to the chemistry department.

Devlin Hall, once home to the sciences at Boston College, underwent its own extensive renovations and was reopened in 1993. Devlin now houses the Undergraduate Admissions Office, and an elegant art gallery, the internationally acclaimed McMullen Museum, which was formally dedicated in 1996.

## CHARLES F. DONOVAN, S.J.

Keeper of the Memories

BORN IN 1912 IN THE CODMAN SQUARE SECTION OF Dorchester, Charles F. Donovan graduated from the Boston Latin School and then went to Boston College, where his success as a member of the Fulton Debating Society suggested a possible career in law. Instead, Donovan entered the Society of Jesus, and after his ordination in 1943, earned a Ph.D. in the philosophy of education at Yale University. He returned to Boston College in 1948 as chairman of the education depart-

ment. Convinced there was no reason Boston College should not have a flourishing four-year coeducational college of education in “so strongly a Catholic center as Boston,” he persuaded the Jesuit Provincial to create a separate School of Education, to which he was appointed dean.

In 1961 Fr. Donovan was appointed to the office of academic vice president, a new position designed to view academic policies from a broader university perspective. Although he continued to function as dean of the education school, after 1966 Fr. Donovan devoted himself nearly full-time to the vice presidency, moving into a small residence on College Road he called Hopkins House, after Gerard Manley Hopkins, the English poet and Jesuit priest. He kept to himself during the turbulent years of the Vietnam demonstrations and the student strike, maintaining a quiet reserve and determined to preserve the academic standards and Jesuit traditions of Boston College. When the storm had finally passed, he commented with obvious relief: “Students are now more willing to let the administration administer and the faculty teach.”

In 1968, Fr. Donovan was named dean of faculties as well as senior vice president, and he focused on the details of faculty recruitment, promotion policies, curriculum development, and external funding in the process of strengthening the academic reputation of the University. In 1979, Fr. Donovan officially retired as senior vice president and dean of faculties, but was immediately asked to remain at Hopkins House as Boston College’s first University historian. He capped his half-century of service with the notable *History of Boston College: From the Beginnings to 1990*.

## THE DUSTBOWL

### Campus Playground

THE FIRST FOOTBALL FIELD ON THE NEW CHESTNUT Hill Campus was called Alumni Field. It was located in the open space on the Beacon Street side of the Tower Building (Gasson Hall) along College Road. Although seating was expanded in 1932, the small stands could not accommodate the large number of fans during the 1940s and early 1950s who wanted to see the Eagles play such national powerhouses as Oklahoma, Ole Miss, and the Georgia Bulldogs.

During that time, Boston College played many of its big football games either at Braves Field (where baseball’s Boston Braves played before moving to Milwaukee in 1953), or later at Fenway Park, until in 1956 the Red Sox management refused to have its baseball turf torn up by football cleats any longer. At this point, Boston College faced a decision—either build a new stadium or give up top-rank football completely. College President Joseph R.N. Maxwell, S.J., decided to build a new stadium, and called upon the Boston College alumni to “get Maxie off the hook” by coming up with the money to pay for the project. They rose to the challenge, with contributions and a subsequent fundraising drive that



allowed Boston College to move its football field from the Upper Campus to a new site on the Lower Campus, where a new stadium that held up to 25,000 spectators was built. Alumni Stadium was formally dedicated on September 21, 1957.

With the construction of the new stadium, the wooden seats on the Upper Campus along College Road were taken down, and the old playing field was left unoccupied. In the coming years, students would use it for running, chasing Frisbees, playing pickup games, putting up makeshift nets for badminton or volleyball, or just lounging around between classes. In a short time, the pounding of feet, blowing winds, and cold New England winters eliminated what was left of the old grass, leaving swirling clouds of dirt and dust that earned the area its nickname: the Dustbowl.

Eventually, the area was used for more organized events—outdoor luncheons, barbecues for alumni weekends, student arts festivals, popular jazz concerts, and commencement exercises—and it lived up to its change of name: the Campus Green. However, among the students who pass through it every day, it remains the Dustbowl.



## THE EAGLE

Genesis of a Symbol

UNTIL 1920, BOSTON COLLEGE HAD NO PARTICULAR athletic symbol, unlike most other colleges at the time. When its track team won the Eastern Intercollegiates in 1920, a Boston sports cartoonist depicted the Boston College team as a stray cat, scrawny and unkempt, licking the intercollegiate plate clean.

This infuriated a local priest, Edward McLaughlin '14, who fired off an angry letter to the editors of *The Heights*, the student newspaper,

complaining about the use of a cat to characterize Boston College, and demanding a suitable response. “Why not the Eagle?” he asked, “symbolic of majesty, power, and freedom? Its natural habitat is the high places. Surely the Heights is made to order for such a selection.” It was J. Robert Brawley ’20, a *Heights* cartoonist, who drew the first Boston College eagle.

Sure enough, Boston College adopted the Eagle as its official mascot. The decision, according to Nat Hasenfus ’22, garnered not only nationwide attention, but also several gifts of live eagles. One of the birds—actually a hawk—was kept in a special cage in the Gasson Tower, until it finally flew away during one of its outings. A second eagle, sent by John A. Risacher, S.J., a former Boston College High teacher, from El Paso, Texas, was kept in a large cage near Devlin Hall for visitors to see until it spent its final days at the Franklin Park Zoo. Fr. Risacher sent a third mascot from Texas to the Heights—this time a beautifully stuffed Golden Eagle that was kept in the athletic department.

In 1961, a Colorado man gave Boston College a 10-pound, two-month-old female eagle, which was promptly named “Margo,” a name fashioned from the school colors of maroon and gold. For five years the bird lived at the Franklin Park Zoo, attended every Boston College home game, and even traveled with the team to away games against Army, Holy Cross, and Syracuse. After Margo succumbed to an aviary virus in 1966, she was replaced by the now familiar human mascot in a colorful eagle costume.

## EQUESTRIAN CLUB

Horses on the Heights

THE BOSTON COLLEGE EQUESTRIAN CLUB, FOUNDED IN 2003, provides opportunities for students to work with and ride horses and ponies, and to compete in intercollegiate horse shows and competitions.

The Equestrian Club encourages all forms of horsemanship, with weekly meetings, monthly intercollegiate horse shows, and fundraising activities. Membership is open to any full-time, part-time, graduate, or undergraduate student in good standing at Boston College. All full-time members are required to participate in three-quarters of the Club’s functions, must attend all meetings (unless they have a valid excuse), and must pay the established dues.



## FAITH ON CAMPUS

70 Masses a Week

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF BOSTON COLLEGE, THE number of students and buildings was smaller, the number of Jesuits was larger, and most of the students came from local parochial schools. During that time, the practice of Catholicism was readily evident on campus. Weekday Masses were well attended, the annual Lenten Retreat filled the library auditorium, and sodalities were a staple of campus life.

In more recent years, with a much larger campus, far fewer Jesuits, and students from all over the country, religious devotions take place in new and different forms. Instead of a single Sunday Mass attended by almost all the students, more than 70 Masses are said each week. These liturgies take place not only at St. Ignatius Church and at St. Mary's Chapel, but also in residence halls on the Lower Campus, at Trinity Chapel on the Newton Campus, and at Cushing Chapel and St. Joseph's Chapel on the Upper Campus. Many of these Masses are held during the customary daytime hours, but others are held at nighttime and even at midnight.

Instead of a single annual spiritual retreat attended by the entire student body, there are now numerous opportunities for student retreats in various parts of the campus. During 2009–2010, for example, ap-

proximately 1,100 first-year students (close to half of the freshman class) participated in the 48 Hour Experience, a weekend retreat program held a few hours away from campus at locations on Cape Cod and in Maine. Many other students took part in other retreat programs, while still others met informally, once a month from November to May, to discuss the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola.

## FINE ARTS

*Bonis Artibus*

THE SEAL OF BOSTON COLLEGE BEARS THE INSCRIPTION *Religioni et Bonis Artibus* (“For Religion and the Fine Arts”). But while there was a great deal of religion, there were very few fine arts courses in the traditional curriculum of the small, all-male college that made its way to Chestnut Hill. There was architectural elegance, of course, in the soaring spires of the gothic towers of the buildings that graced the new campus. A large mural dominated the assembly room in Gasson Hall, while a series of marble statues lined the rotunda. And the interior of the Bapst Library was always awash in the blazing colors of the stained-glass windows that illustrated the literature of the Bible and the dramatic productions of Shakespeare.

But the fine arts did not really become part of the Boston College curriculum until the 1950s, when the first full-time faculty were hired to teach courses in music, painting, and art appreciation in the new School of Education. Two courses in the fine arts were required of all freshmen in that school, and by the end of the 1960s, the requirement was extended to the core requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1970, fine arts became a full-fledged department as well as an undergraduate major. An artist in residence was appointed, and interest in the subject was growing.

Unfortunately, there was little space on the main campus for offices, classrooms, art studios, or large display galleries. With the acquisition of Newton College of the Sacred Heart in 1974, Boston College’s fine arts department was moved to the Barry Pavilion at Newton, where a former science building was converted into an arts studio, with rooms for classrooms and offices. Despite these improvements, faculty members and students continued to press for a location closer to the main campus, where colleagues, facilities, and library holdings would be much more accessible.

It was not until the early 1990s that suitable office space for the fine arts department was found in Devlin Hall, and several drawing and painting studios were set up in carriage houses along nearby Hammond Street. After the construction of the Merkert Chemistry Center in 1991, additional space on the first floor of Devlin Hall became available for creation of a new exhibition gallery that, three years later, became the McMullen Museum of Art.

## DOUG FLUTIE

Miracle in Miami

A YOUNG QUARTERBACK RECRUITED FROM NATICK HIGH School, Doug Flutie was not expected to play much at Boston College because of his small size. During a game with Penn State, however, Flutie came off the bench and energized his losing team with a display of accurate passing and agile running.

From that point on, Doug Flutie started every remaining game in his Boston College career, leading the Eagles to three postseason bowl games. During his senior year in 1984, Flutie made sports history in the final seconds of a thrilling game against a highly favored Miami team. With time running out in the fourth quarter, Flutie heaved a long “Hail Mary” pass to Gerard Phelan in the end zone, to win the game and create what became known as the “Miracle in Miami.”

Doug Flutie was awarded the 1984 Heisman Trophy, given to the most outstanding college football player in the country. He was the first player in Boston College sports history to win football’s greatest individual award. Further recognition came in May 2007 when the young quarterback was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. And in November 2008, a life-sized bronze statue of Flutie was erected outside the west gate of Alumni Stadium.

## THE FLYING CLUB

Learning to Fly the Unfriendly Skies

WITH HITLER SWEEPING THROUGH EUROPE DURING the late 1930s, and apprehension that America would soon be at war running high, the United States set up a Civilian Pilot Training Program at colleges and universities, including Boston College.

Thomas J. Flanagan, a Somerville, Massachusetts, native who came to Boston College in 1939, was ready and eager to get into the Civilian Pilot Training Program. He was notified at the last minute that he had made the list of trainees—if he could get his parents’ signature and \$100. Rushing back to Somerville, he found no one at home. Fortunately, he bumped into the local parish priest, Fr. Tom Foley, who not only provided him with an acceptable signature, but also went back to the rectory and came up with the \$100.

Tom Flanagan passed the physical exam, and took classes at the Heights in navigation and instruments, many of them taught by John A. Tobin, S.J., head of the physics department. In 1940 the Boston College group formed the Boston College Flying Club. They presented their first membership card to Fr. Tobin; card number two went to Tom Flanagan, first president of the club. He graduated from Boston College on May 15, 1942, and went on to join many of his classmates as aviators in World War II.

## FORD TOWER

A Widow's Mite

EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS OWN STORIES HANDED DOWN from one generation to another, and most institutions have their own undocumented oral traditions and popular lore. One Boston College legend concerns the handsome gothic tower that rises at the northern corner of Bapst Library.

According to the story that has come down over the years, building of the library began in September 1924, but had to be suspended due to a shortage of funds the following year. Many feared that the proposed tower would never be built. It was at this point, according to college tradition, that Mary Elizabeth Ford, an Irish woman described as a domestic servant who lived in nearby Brighton, provided in her will a generous contribution for the completion of the tower.

Although the details still remain scarce, the University Archives does contain a rather cryptic letter, dated August 27, 1926, from Mary's cousin, also named Mary, to the college president, James H. Dolan, S.J., asking that her "suggestion" concerning her deceased cousin's will be placed before the Trustees at their meeting the following September. Significantly, September was the month when work on the library resumed. And when the tower was completed it was given the name of the Mary Elizabeth Ford Memorial Tower.

At a small Catholic college, whose early beginnings depended on the generosity of hard-working men and women, it is not out of the question that this woman would give what probably amounted to her life's savings to assure the completion of Bapst Library.

## FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Scholars Galore

ONE BAROMETER OF THE QUALITY OF A UNIVERSITY'S students is the number of distinguished academic awards they receive. Boston College students have received more than 180 Fulbright Awards, and the University ranks among the nation's top producers of undergraduate Fulbright awards. During the 2010-2011 academic year, BC ranked 15th among U.S. research institutions, with 16 student winners and 62 applicants for the prestigious grants, which support a year's post-baccalaureate study abroad.

Proposed in 1946 by Senator J. William Fulbright, and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, these prestigious awards send hundreds of young Americans each year to foreign countries to conduct independent projects of their own design.

Fulbright Awards allow a year of study abroad for recent graduates or graduate students, providing for their travel costs, tuition, and basic liv-

ing expenses in any of 155 countries. The awards are intended to foster international understanding through the exchange of people, knowledge, and skills. Over the years, Boston College grantees have undertaken such projects as anthropological work in Egypt, sociological work in China, and environmental studies research in Honduras. In 2007, Boston College sent 13 Fulbright grantees to Germany (perhaps the highest number ever sent from one university to one country in a single academic year).

## FULTON DEBATING SOCIETY

Cicero in the South End

BACK WHEN STUDENTS HAD TO BALANCE THEIR HEAVY academic schedules and daily commutes to their college in the old South End, many Boston College students still found time to engage in a variety of extracurricular activities.

Among the first was a popular debating society reported in the first published college catalogue in 1868–69, with Robert Fulton, S.J., dean of the college, as its advisor. In 1890, the students named the organization the Fulton Debating Society in honor of this Jesuit who served as Boston College's president from 1870–1880 and again from 1888–1891.

Starting in the early days of the college, the Fulton Prize Debate established itself as a highlight of the academic year. This tradition continued after Boston College moved to Chestnut Hill. The competition is still held each spring in the ornate Fulton Debate Room on the third floor of Gasson Hall. Portraits of such famous orators of history as Cicero, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun look down upon the proceedings. The names of every Boston College student winner of the prestigious Fulton Prize Debate since it first began in 1890 are painted on the wall.

## FUNDRAISING

Bricks for Boston College

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY, THE PROSPECTS for supporting a small Catholic college in a city notoriously hostile to Roman Catholics must have seemed overwhelming. But with faith in God, a tireless band of Jesuits, and the financial support of immigrant laborers, devoted housewives, and generous benefactors, Boston College survived its early years.

After the college moved to Chestnut Hill in 1913, local supporters continued their efforts to keep the dream alive. Photographs from the period show groups of women, fashionably attired in long dresses and broad-brimmed hats, conducting outdoor fairs, cake sales, and games of chance to help raise funds for the construction of Gasson Hall. In 1921, William Devlin, S.J., president of Boston College, launched a fundrais-



ing drive to build a new science building, aided by the women of the Philomatheia Club.

In 1946, after the veterans returned, President William L. Keleher, S.J., instituted a fundraising drive to build a new classroom building for the College of Business Administration. Students, Jesuits, and volunteers went from building to building in downtown Boston selling cardboard “bricks” to raise the necessary funds.

By the late 1960s, however, it became evident that fundraising drives to support some particular building or academic program were no longer sufficient to sustain the operations of a modern university. In 1972, when J. Donald Monan, S.J., became the 24th president of Boston College, he established a new development program that would use modern fundraising techniques to raise money and grow a permanent endowment capable of sustaining the wide-ranging efforts of a modern university.





# G

## **GASSON HALL**

First up, on the Heights

GASSON HALL, THE FIRST BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED on the Chestnut Hill Campus, was named in honor of Thomas I. Gasson, S.J., president of Boston College from 1907 to 1914.

Born in 1859 in Kent, England, Thomas Gasson was raised as a member of the Church of England. At the age of 13, he came to the United States where he eventually converted to Catholicism. He subsequently entered the Society of Jesus, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1891. In August 1895, he was assigned to Boston College, where he taught ethics and economics until he was appointed president of the small college in downtown Boston in January 1907. It was Fr. Gasson who proposed that Boston College purchase what he called the “magnificent site on Commonwealth Avenue towards Brighton.”

Originally called the Recitation Building, and later known as the Tower Building, the original gothic structure that still dominates the Heights was formally named Gasson Hall in 1952. Its main floor housed the office of the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the college’s Honors Program, and several administrative offices. In the sight of extensive

renovations, however, these office arrangements may change considerably. The large room on the first floor, these days called the Irish Room, was originally the college's assembly hall and the main lecture hall for large classes in theology and philosophy. The Irish Room today serves as a gathering place for dinners, conferences, and special events.

## THE GOLDFISH CRAZE

Gone the Way of Raccoon Coats

BACK IN THE 1930S, THE GOLDFISH WAS AN ENDANGERED species. It was around then that, according to legend, a Harvard freshman named Lothrop Withington, Jr. won a bet by popping a goldfish into his mouth, chewing, and swallowing. News of this event spread quickly to other colleges and universities where students began exploring bigger and better ways of eating goldfish. At Franklin and Marshall, one student swallowed three goldfish, garnished with salt and pepper. Back at Harvard, another student downed 24 of the creatures, followed by sucking an orange, while a University of Pennsylvania student followed 25 goldfish with a steak dinner.

Despite the protests of humanitarians at the “cruel and wanton consumption” of these helpless creatures, and warnings by the U.S. Public Health Service that goldfish might contain tapeworms that could lodge in the intestinal tract, the practice continued at colleges throughout the country, as *Time* reported on April 10, 1939.

Not to be outdone, a Boston College undergraduate named Donald V. Mulcahy was reported to have swallowed 29 goldfish, washed down with three bottles of milk. Apparently, young Mulcahy suffered no serious aftereffects. He graduated with an AB degree in 1940; two years later he earned a master's degree in social work, and eventually joined the Central Intelligence Agency when it was founded in 1947, and spent a long career digesting state secrets.



## HANCOCK HOUSE

### The Stones

THE OLDEST BUILDING ON THE CHESTNUT HILL CAMPUS of Boston College was a small stone residence at 223 Beacon Street, tucked away behind Champion Hall. It is long believed to have been built as a gatehouse on the property originally owned by Amos A. Lawrence, a prosperous Boston textile magnate, who apparently obtained some of the stones from the Hancock House on Beacon Hill.

Thomas Hancock, a wealthy merchant, built the original Hancock house, Boston's first stone residence, on the lower slope of Beacon Hill in 1737. Upon his death in 1764, he willed his property to his wife, Lydia. She died childless in 1776 and bequeathed the property to her nephew John Hancock, the noted Boston patriot and merchant. John's own wealth made it possible to give this house an "architectural splendor," while it also served as a center of revolutionary meetings.

Two years after John Hancock's death in 1793, Charles Bulfinch started building his new State House on property formerly part of the Hancock estate, and despite efforts to preserve it as a historical site, the original Hancock House was torn down in 1863. Parts of it—the door knockers, the front steps—were given away, and there is evidence that Amos A. Lawrence may have taken the corner stones (quoins) for the gatehouse he was building on his Chestnut Hill property the very same year. For this reason, Boston College designated this modest structure the Hancock House.

In 1992, the Hancock House was disassembled in the course of extensive construction on the Lower Campus. In view of its age and historic significance, however, it deserves to be remembered.

## HEARTBREAK HILL

Hitting the Heights

INSPIRED BY THE SUCCESS OF THE 1896 SUMMER OLYMPICS, the Boston Marathon was first run a year later and now ranks as the world's oldest annual marathon. It's held on Patriots Day, a Massachusetts legal holiday that commemorates the victory of the Colonial rebels over the British redcoats at the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Patriots Day was commemorated on the anniversary of that victory each year until 1969; since then, the holiday has been observed on the third Monday in April.

The Boston Marathon now attracts an average of 20,000 registered participants each year, drawing amateur and professional runners from all over the world. With approximately a half-million spectators, the Boston Marathon is New England's most widely viewed sporting event, covered by more than a thousand members of the media.

It is considered one of the more difficult marathon courses, in part because runners must make it over four hills in Newton, including the last, called "Heartbreak Hill," a nearly half-mile ascent that begins soon after the 20-mile mark, and peaks as runners approach Boston College. This is where many marathon runners complain of "hitting the wall," and either slow down or drop out of the race entirely.

The term Heartbreak Hill was coined in the 1936 race when Johnny Kelley, the defending champion, passed the leader, Ellison "Tarzan" Brown, only to have Brown pull away, pass him on the stretch, and go on to win the race. According to one reporter, the loss resulted in "breaking Kelley's heart"—and so the legend was born.

Thousands line the marathon course to cheer on the runners and provide them with water. As the athletes approach Heartbreak Hill, they can see the spires and towers of Boston College off to their right. And as they come to the crest of the hill, they are greeted and cheered by crowds of Boston College students lined up along Linden Lane and the entrance gates of Boston College, shouting out words of encouragement and cheering them on to the finish line in downtown Boston.

## THE HEIGHTS

Boston College's Independent Student Newspaper

ON NOVEMBER 19, 1919, SIX YEARS AFTER BOSTON COLLEGE moved to Chestnut Hill, a four-page publication called *The Heights* made its first appearance as the undergraduate student newspaper. The first few issues were only six-by-nine inches in size.

*The Heights* grew in influence as the years went by, covering campus news, student life, social clubs, and athletic and cultural events. The eagle was first suggested as the Boston College mascot in the pages of

« *The Heights*, as were the names for many of the campus's academic and administrative buildings. *The Heights* argued throughout the years for a strong student government, and for more conversation about such contentious issues as greater racial and sexual integration and the Vietnam War. In the middle decades of the last century, its editorial policy was generally critical of administration policies ranging from dress codes and dormitory rules to academic regulations and promotions procedures.

In late 1969, a university board recommended that the newspaper move toward legal and fiscal autonomy. *The Heights* began to take steps toward independence, and announced in September 1970 that it had officially incorporated as an independent, nonprofit organization—but that the University agreed to continue funding the paper for the remainder of the academic year. »

That arrangement ended abruptly in early 1971, when *The Heights* had a source bug a Board of Trustees meeting and printed a transcript of the meeting in the next issue. The administration pressed charges and had a restraining order put on the information. It evicted *The Heights*, and cut off all funding after the incident. Eventually, the newspaper and administration came to an agreement in which *The Heights* would rent out its offices in McElroy Commons from the University.

In the years that followed, *The Heights*, whose masthead announces its status as the Independent Student Newspaper of Boston College, continued to publish, covering all aspects of campus life and society. In 2004 it received an “All American” ranking, and established a new tradition by turning the once-a-week publication into a twice-a-week edition, distributed every Monday and Thursday at locations on and off campus.

## HOCKEY

### Pucks and Luck

THE MODERN PERIOD IN BOSTON COLLEGE HOCKEY BEGAN with John “Snooks” Kelley, who signed on as head coach in 1932 and 36 years later posted his 500th win during the 1971–72 season. It was Snooks’ 1948–49 team that defeated Dartmouth in the NCAA finals at Colorado Springs and became the undisputed national champion that year.

In June 1994, Jerry York, a Boston College graduate ('67), took over as Boston College's hockey coach and proceeded to lead his team to six Hockey East championships and eight trips to the NCAA's “Frozen Four,” winning one national championship in 2001 and another in 2008 with a victory over Notre Dame. In 2010, the Eagles fought their way up to another NCAA championship by defeating Wisconsin at Detroit's Ford Field. This marked the fourth NCAA championship in Boston College history, the third in this century, and the second in three seasons. For Coach Jerry York, it was his third national title at Boston College, and his 850th career victory.

## THE HOUSTON AWARDS

Nurturing Leadership through Travel

THE AMANDA V. HOUSTON FELLOWSHIP IS NAMED IN HONOR of an international educator, community leader, mentor, and long-time resident of Boston's South End who was the first director of Boston College's Black Studies Program. This prestigious award helps to prepare Boston College undergraduates of African descent for leadership in the United States and in the world by enriching their experiences and perspectives through travel.

The Houston Fellowship underwrites travel-study experiences that enhance recipients' personal, spiritual, and intellectual growth. (Formerly, the Amanda V. Houston Community Service Award was awarded to a public figure in recognition of exceptional community service that had gone unacknowledged.)

## THE HUMANITIES SERIES

Father Frank and his Friends

AS DIRECTOR OF THE NEW HUMANITIES SERIES THAT succeeded the Candlemas Lectures in 1957, Francis Sweeney, S.J., was enormously influential in promoting a greater interest in literature, music, and the fine arts among students at Boston College. A member of the English department and moderator of the undergraduate literary journal, *The Stylus*, Fr. Sweeney was an essayist and a poet whose papers and correspondence rest in the University archives. Modest and unassuming, much of "Frank's" success in directing the Humanities Series was due not only to his own diligence, but also to his ability to attract some of the greatest names in the world of letters to come to Boston College because of their personal friendship with the young Jesuit.

Robert Frost, the famous Pulitzer-winning poet, was a regular Humanities Series visitor; Ogden Nash responded to Frank's requests; Alec Guinness, the renowned British actor, spoke to enthusiastic audiences; and Arnold Toynbee, arguably the most famous historian in the world at that time, spoke to a large audience in the Bapst Library auditorium. These talented artists came because Frank asked them to. In bringing them to what was still a small streetcar college, Fr. Sweeney was able to inspire a generation of students to appreciate more fully the wonders of the world of the arts and humanities.

Now known as the Lowell Humanities Series (in recognition of support from the Lowell Foundation), the series continues as a vital part of cultural life at Boston College, drawing enthusiastic crowds to hear literary figures such as Susan Sontag, Joyce Carol Oates, Maya Angelou, Seamus Heaney, and Harold Bloom.



## IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

First among Companions

THE YOUNGEST OF 13 CHILDREN, IGNATIUS WAS BORN IN 1491 into a family of minor nobility in the Basque region of Spain. Taking to soldiering as a career, he suffered a serious leg wound in a battle with the French in 1521. During his long and painful convalescence, the only books available were religious works about Christ and the lives of the saints. He began imagining himself following Christ and living like a saint, and at one point he experienced a vision of Mary and the infant Jesus. These experiences later became the basis of a book he called *Spiritual Exercises*, a text still used by Jesuits and others during periods of reflection and prayer on the direction of one's life and development of a deeper relationship with God.

Once he had recovered, Ignatius settled in Manresa (now an international site of pilgrimage for Catholics), in central Spain. There, he prayed, fasted, and worked among the destitute and the sick. After a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he decided that he needed an education if he were to serve God effectively. At the age of 33, he studied Latin with schoolboys at Barcelona, then spent the next seven years at the University of Paris, where his closest companions were students highly trained in languages and theological discourse. Challenging them to think about what they were going to do with the unique talents God had given them, Ignatius formed them into the Society of Jesus, perhaps better translated as the "Companions of Jesus." He prepared them to go wherever they were needed to help people in the manner of Jesus and his disciples.



In 1540 Pope Paul III approved this new religious order, and in view of their educational background suggested that teaching could be a highly effective means of forming minds and souls. By the time Ignatius died in 1556, there were already 35 Jesuit colleges across Europe. Some 200 years later, there were more than 700 in Europe, Asia, and Latin America, constituting the largest network of higher education before the dawn of the modern era.

## THE INTOWN COLLEGE

Boston College in the Back Bay

ALTHOUGH BOSTON COLLEGE MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL location in the South End to Chestnut Hill in 1913, it still maintained a close relationship with the Boston community. In the fall of 1919, for example, shortly after World War I, the Jesuits inaugurated a School of Education to alleviate the shortage of qualified male teachers in the Boston public schools by offering both undergraduate and master's degrees. Cardinal William Henry O'Connell soon began encouraging the teaching orders of nuns in the archdiocese to take college-credit courses at this Catholic institution to improve their academic credentials.

Boston College went on to establish several new programs in the downtown area. With the strong urging of Cardinal Richard Cushing, in 1945 the Nursing School was established. A Graduate School of Social Work offered graduate-level courses, and an Evening School began offering college-credit undergraduate courses. Boston College had to house these programs, and purchased a large building at 126 Newbury Street in the Back Bay section of Boston, where its off-campus enterprises became collectively known as the "Intown College."

After World War II, many more women sought professional careers in business, education, and health services. During the 1940s and 1950s, teaching orders of nuns pursued advanced degrees. Meanwhile, the number of nursing students steadily increased, and working men and women sought college degrees in the Evening School at 126 Newbury Street. With the exception of nuns who took graduate courses at Chestnut Hill during summers and Saturdays, and nurses who traveled to the Heights once or twice a week for laboratory work in biology and chemistry, women were still not welcome on the main campus.

This changed in the early 1950s, when Boston College created a four-year School of Education on the Chestnut Hill Campus, which was open to female students. In October 1954, ground was broken for Campion Hall, and members of the first education class completed their senior year in the new building. A contribution of \$1 million from Cardinal Cushing in February 1959 permitted construction of what would become Cushing Hall. Thirteen months later, nursing students were attending all their classes on the Heights.

With the move of the Evening College to the Chestnut Hill Campus in 1959, the student body became more diverse. Married women and mothers took evening classes; working men applied themselves to their studies at the end of their labors, and working women came seeking college degrees. In a short period of time, the face of Boston College had undergone the kinds of changes that would characterize its transition from a college to a university.

## THE IRISH HALL OF FAME

Visions of Grandeur

WHILE PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RECITATION Building on the new Chestnut Hill Campus of Boston College moved forward in 1913, the local press was reporting that a second building was being planned that would have the grandiose name “The Daniel O’Connell Memorial Building and Irish Hall of Fame.” James Maguire, S.J., a 42-year-old Jesuit attached to the Immaculate Conception Church in the South End, came up with the idea for the memorial, and he had secured the support of the Irish-American clubs and associations throughout greater Boston, who were expected to provide the funding necessary for the ambitious project.

The plan called for a gigantic structure near the new Recitation Building, a large circular hall with high gothic arches and massive stone columns surrounded by 32 alcoves, each serving as a museum for one of the counties of Ireland. But as sponsors of the O’Connell Memorial project came to realize the enormous costs involved—and the difficulties Fr. Gasson was having raising money for the first building on the Chestnut Hill Campus—they turned the money they had collected over to Gasson to complete the hall that would eventually bear his name.

## THE IRISH ROOM

The Celtic Air of Gasson Hall

ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT THOMAS GASSON, S.J., WHO OVERSaw construction of the first gothic building on the Heights, was of English parentage, he was fully aware of the significance of the Irish heritage. Once classes had begun in the large auditorium of what was called the Recitation Building, Fr. Gasson asked Boston artist Thomas J. Murphy, an expert in stained glass, to design a window in the assembly hall that would depict an encounter between the pagan ruler of Ireland, King Laoghaire, and the Catholic missionary bishop, St. Patrick, at Tara on Easter Sunday 433.

The artist portrayed a magisterial Patrick in brilliant green robes, holding a crosier and standing on a Celtic axe as he speaks to Laoghaire and

his court, all at rapt attention. The viewer's eyes are caught by the intense green of the leafy circlet worn by the king's pagan advisor, seated to the side with a harp and open book. (Legend has it that although King Laoghaire continued to practice his pagan beliefs, he gave St. Patrick permission to preach throughout the kingdom—marking the beginning of Christianity in Ireland.)

Funds from the proposed Irish Hall of Fame project (see previous item) were used to complete the large assembly room in Gasson Hall—now known as the Irish Room. At the back of the hall, a two-line inscription, in Gaelic, announces “The Irish Hall in Boston / Gift of the Irish Community.” Below is a painted shield, with the coats of arms of the four provinces of Ireland: Connaught, Ulster, Leinster, and Munster. An elaborate border of green and gold Celtic interlacing decorates walls, just below the ceiling. This is a tribute to those original donors who turned over the funds they had raised for their own project for the completion of Gasson Hall.

## IRISH STUDIES

Reclaiming a Grand Heritage

THROUGHOUT ITS EARLY HISTORY, DESPITE THE NUMEROUS references to the Irish heritage of Boston College, there was surprisingly little about the history or the culture of Ireland in the college curriculum. After World War II, the ebullient Fr. Martin P. Harney of the history department taught an occasional popular course in Irish history. He also founded the Blessed Oliver Plunkett Society to promote an interest in Irish culture.

Change came during the 1970s. An extensive review by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges prompted President J. Donald Monan, S.J., to prepare his “Goals for the Nineties,” outlining a program of academic excellence that would put greater emphasis on the distinctive heritage and identity of Boston College.

Out of this thoughtful analysis came the endorsement in 1978 of the Irish Studies Program, created by Kevin O'Neill and the late Adele Dalsimer, and designed to provide an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Irish literature and history. Coming at a time when many second- and third-generation students were eager to learn more about their own heritage, the program was a success, and expanded quickly, providing students opportunities to pursue Irish studies not only at Boston College, but also to study abroad at University College Cork.

The home of the Irish Studies Program is Connolly House, formerly a private estate on nearby Hammond Street, named in honor of two university librarians at Boston College: Terence L. Connolly, S.J., who arranged for the works of the Catholic Victorian poet, Francis Thompson, to become a celebrated part of the Boston College library collection during the 1930s; and Brendan C. Connolly, S.J., who served as the director of libraries from 1960 to 1974, and who was a vigorous advocate for the creation of what became O'Neill Library.



# K

## **JOHN F. KENNEDY**

A Day in 1963

BOSTON COLLEGE WAS GRANTED ITS CHARTER FROM THE Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the spring of 1863, and so the University made preparations to celebrate its 100th anniversary in April and May 1963.

A series of scholarly lectures, theological conferences, academic convocations, special liturgical ceremonies, and theatrical productions were held to mark the University's centennial.

As far as many Bostonians were concerned, however, the undisputed highlight of the centennial year was President John F. Kennedy's visit to the Heights to attend a special convocation at Alumni Stadium on the afternoon of Saturday, April 20, 1963. The handsome young president, with his distinctive Boston accent, won the hearts and laughter of the assembly when he declared how happy he was to be back in a city where people pronounce words the way they're spelled.



## THE LABYRINTH

A Circle of Meditation

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2003, BOSTON COLLEGE PAID TRIBUTE to 22 alumni who were killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, with the dedication of a memorial labyrinth on the Commonwealth Avenue side of the lawn adjacent to Burns Library.

The 50-foot-wide labyrinth, a medieval prayer circle of concentric rings that form a single path to its center, is designed to be a permanent memorial within a space designated for prayer, reflection, and meditation. It is a reproduction of the 13th-century labyrinth laid in stone on the floor of the nave of the Cathedral of Chartres in France. In Europe during the Middle Ages, labyrinths in sacred spaces represented the intersection between the human and the divine.

The 300-yard long, 28-loop labyrinth walkway on Burns Lawn consists of some 600 bluestones, cut to fit perfectly in the circular design.

The dedication ceremony began at noon with the tolling of the Gasson Hall bells, which rang once for each of the 22 victims, whose names were read aloud and later etched on the stones along the labyrinth's outer ring.

With several family members of the deceased alumni in attendance, President William P. Leahy, S.J., blessed the labyrinth and delivered a series of reflections, while Boston College groups provided appropriate musical selections.

## THE LAW SCHOOL

... At Chestnut Hill

BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL OPENED ITS DOORS ON Beacon Hill in 1929, and moved to the New England Power Building on Stuart Street eight years later. By the early 1950s, the school wanted to move to a location closer to the Chestnut Hill Campus.

A member of the City Council at the time was Francis X. “Frank” Ahearn, a one-time Boston College Law School scholarship student and former assistant in the dean’s office. Sympathetic to the idea of the move to Chestnut Hill and still a close friend of the dean, Ahearn got permission from Mayor John Hynes to have a city employee named Butch Kelly talk with three different division heads about the possibilities of purchasing city-owned land on Commonwealth Avenue, opposite the MBTA station at Lake Street, across from St. Ignatius Church.

The problem was, the property was right next to Evergreen Cemetery. But Butch did the talking, while Frank handled the paperwork and arranged with the other councilors to agree to an assessment. Somehow, Ahearn assuaged concerns about possibly disturbing the dead.

Meanwhile, the Trustees of Boston College empowered the treasurer to “acquire from the City of Boston, title to land on Commonwealth Avenue which is to be the site of the Law School.” The parcel of land was duly purchased by Boston College for the sum of \$28,000, which was subsequently returned as a gift to Boston College by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent P. Roberts.

The new building, named St. Thomas More Hall after the patron saint of lawyers, was constructed in less than a year at a cost of \$1.25 million, and formally dedicated by Archbishop Richard Cushing on September 27, 1954. It would be the home of Boston College Law School for the next 21 years, until 1975, when the Law School was moved to its current location on the Newton Campus.

## THE LAWRENCE FARM

A Boston Brahmin Legacy

AMOS AND ABBOTT LAWRENCE WERE TWO BROTHERS WHO became prosperous in the textile industry after the War of 1812. Amos’s son, Amos Adams Lawrence, went into the family business and, 10 years out of Harvard, he acquired Ipswich Mills, one of the largest manufac-

turers of knitwear in the country. As a Unitarian, he was more tolerant of Catholics than his Puritan ancestors, and he was one of the Bostonians who signed the 1853 petition supporting Fr. McElroy's efforts to purchase a piece of land for a Jesuit college in the city.

But young Lawrence did not want to become a "plodding, narrow-minded merchant," cooped up in the city, so he purchased a tract of land in the Chestnut Hill area where he built a country estate, lived a comfortable family life, and enjoyed horseback riding on the weekends until his death in 1886. His family sold the property to Boston College in 1907.

In 1934, years after Boston College had moved to Chestnut Hill, and selected the "Lawrence Farm" as the site for Gasson Hall, President Louis Gallagher, S.J., received a letter from Lawrence's son, Episcopal Bishop William Lawrence, expressing his pleasure with what Boston College had achieved on his father's farmlands. "Boston College, with its beautiful group of buildings," he wrote, "has given a grace and a Benediction to my boyhood haunts."

## LINDEN LANE

Spiritual Lineage of a Tree

IN PRE-CHRISTIAN TIMES, THE LINDEN TREE WAS thought to have a kind of magical power against evil and catastrophe. Later, with the advent of Christianity, it became known as the tree of the Blessed Mother. In folktales, the Blessed Mother hid among the linden's branches, and revealed herself to children. Many wayside shrines were placed under linden trees, which were considered to be lucky because, as legend had it, lightning never struck the trees.

An early connection between the Jesuits and linden trees can be traced to Worcester, Massachusetts, where the main entrance to the College of the Holy Cross, founded in 1843, was named Linden Lane.

In April 1862, some 20 years later, a series of linden trees were planted along the Immaculate Conception Church and the newly erected Boston College in Boston's South End. Twelve trees were planted on each side of the principal walk between the two buildings, and several at the base of the terrace on Harrison Avenue. The lindens were provided by members of the congregation, who paid for their purchase and planting (at a cost of \$2 each), in memory of loved ones. According to Fr. David Dunigan's early history of the college, the two trees directly in front of the Church were called Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carney in honor of two generous benefactors to both the church and the college.

The planting of linden trees on the new Chestnut Hill Campus of Boston College took place in the early 1900s, some time after the construction of Gasson Hall (1913) and St. Mary's Hall (1917). A photograph in Fr. Charles Donovan's *History of Boston College* shows young lindens lining the road in 1924.



# M

## THE MACE

Carrying the Eagle to Commencement

THE CHIEF MARSHAL WHO LEADS THE ACADEMIC PRO-  
cession onto the field to begin the annual commencement at Boston  
College carries before him a large golden mace. The mace was originally  
a wooden staff carried by royal messengers, and may also have served  
as a weapon to protect a royal official, or as a colorful symbol to lead  
faculties in official ceremonies. By the 14th century, however, the mace  
had assumed a more ceremonial function, and survives today as a symbol  
of academic dignity.

The Boston College mace was designed by Francis Sergi, S.J., and  
crafted by Patrick J. Gill & Sons in 1938, the 75th anniversary of the  
founding of the college. It features an eagle perched on a globe inscribed  
with the words *Religioni et Bonis Artibus* (“Dedicated to Religion and the  
Fine Arts”). The globe is set in a crown-like vessel with alternate crosses  
and fleurs-de-lis. On the side of the vessel is the shield of the Boston Col-



lege seal, with the motto “Ever to Excel” written in Greek and inscribed on an open book. At the base of the shield is a silver dove descending, symbolic of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

## MAROON AND GOLD

Colors of Our Own

IN THE EARLY YEARS, WHEN BOSTON COLLEGE WAS LOCATED on Harrison Avenue in the South End, members of the student body had no particular colors of their own. Students on their way to various athletic contests had no striped ties or armbands to wear and no pennants to wave. And so T. J. Hurley, class of 1885 and composer of such perennial favorites as “For Boston” and “Alma Mater,” was chosen to head a committee to determine a set of colors that would be distinctively Boston College’s.

After considering the colors of rival Jesuit institutions Holy Cross, Fordham, and Georgetown, Hurley and his committee finally decided on maroon and gold—in part, because the papal colors were maroon, purple, and gold; in part because no other Jesuit colleges had those colors. The student body enthusiastically accepted the recommendation, and commissioned the first official banner.

## ST. MARY’S HALL

The Jesuit Residence

THE SECOND GOTHIC BUILDING CONSTRUCTED ON THE Chestnut Hill Campus, St. Mary’s Hall was named after St. Mary’s Church in Boston’s North End, to which the Jesuits were called in 1847. While Gasson Hall was available for classroom instruction from 1913 to 1917, there were no residence facilities for the Jesuit faculty. The Jesuits had to commute daily by streetcar and automobile from the old college in Boston to the new campus in Chestnut Hill.

Shortly after New Year’s Day in 1917, the Jesuits moved in to St. Mary’s Hall. With its gothic windows encircling the lower floors, the new building was designed to conform to the impressive architectural plans for the University. The upper three floors contain living quarters for the Jesuits; the first floor comprises a Jesuit dining room, common room, visitors’ parlors, and library. In the north end is located St. Mary’s Chapel, a “gothic gem,” as one Jesuit described it, with a marble altar, oak pews, a carved oak ceiling, and a choir loft. In 1930 a southern wing was added, providing a covered cloister walk running north and west to enclose a small garden and provide a quiet space for the Jesuits to pray and meditate. Today, St. Mary’s Hall is home to the largest number of Jesuit faculty members, full-time and part-time, of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States.

## JOHN MCELROY, S.J.

Making History Twice

BEST KNOWN AS THE FOUNDER OF BOSTON COLLEGE IN 1863, John McElroy, S.J., made his name in history long before that, as one of the first two Catholic priests who served as chaplains for the United States Army.

During the 1840s, large numbers of Irish immigrants joined the U.S. Army but found themselves without a single Catholic chaplain. With the declaration of war with Mexico, a Catholic country, in May 1846, President James K. Polk considered the radical idea of assigning Catholic priests to accompany soldiers, primarily as a way of offsetting criticism that the war was an anti-Catholic effort. Taking advantage of a meeting of Catholic bishops in nearby Baltimore, Polk arranged a private meeting with Archbishop John Hughes of New York. He proposed that Catholic priests could not only serve the troops, but also reassure the Mexican people that American troops would not disrespect their religious beliefs or despoil Church property.

Seeing a clear advantage to this proposal, Archbishop Hughes traveled to Georgetown College, where the Jesuit Provincial recommended two candidates: the 64-year-old John McElroy, S.J., a well-known preacher and retreat master, and 39-year-old Anthony Rey, S.J., a vice president at the college. Fearing that public hearings would raise the troublesome question of church-state relations and Catholic influence, President Polk sidestepped the possibility of a difficult congressional debate by quietly commissioning the priests as private “contractors.” At the same time, he ordered all military commanders to respect the priests’ positions.

The appointment of the first two Catholic chaplains had little significant effect on the military situation in Mexico. Fr. Rey, who marched with the troops and ministered to the wounded and dying at the battle of Monterey, was killed by highway bandits in January 1847. Fr. McElroy, who remained in the town of Matamoras to tend the sick and say Mass, became so ill that his superiors finally ordered him back to the United States. Nevertheless, from an historical perspective, the appointment of the two Catholic priests did serve as an important precedent for the future, when the presence of large numbers of Catholic troops in the U.S. Army would require the services of many more Catholic chaplains.

## THE MCMULLEN MUSEUM

“The Little Museum that Could”

DURING THE 1970S, BOSTON COLLEGE BEGAN IN EARNEST to develop the fine arts as an academic discipline. There was little space, however, on the main campus for offices, art studios, or large display areas. The acquisition of Newton College in 1974 provided offices,

classrooms, and space for studio art, but there was still no large area for displays and exhibitions. It was not until the 1990s, when Devlin Hall was renovated, that suitable space was found on the main campus for the fine arts department. In 1991 additional space was found on the first floor for the creation of a new exhibition gallery that in 1996 became the Charles S. and Isabella V. McMullen Museum of Art.

One function of the McMullen Museum is to preserve the permanent art collection of Boston College, which dates back to the 19th century and continues to grow through gifts and acquisitions. The collection includes gothic and baroque tapestries, Italian paintings of the 16th and 17th centuries, and American paintings of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The museum also serves to cultivate an interest in the fine arts, explore the traditions of diverse cultures, and inspire faculty and student research in the visual arts. McMullen offers exhibition-related programs that bring students, faculty members, alumni, and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Its 1999 exhibition, "Saints and Sinners," featuring Caravaggio's *The Taking of the Christ*, attracted the largest audience for any university exhibit up to that time. In 2001, the McMullen's exhibition of the works of the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch was the largest American exhibition of Munch's work since 1978. The *Boston Globe* called a 2004 retrospective of the work of Surrealist Roberto Matta "splendid." Stephen Kinzer of the *New York Times* lauded the McMullen for being in a vanguard of museums creating exhibitions that "reach far beyond traditional art history." And the *Wall Street Journal* has hailed it as "the little museum that could."

## THE MODS

Living Modularly on the Lower Campus

AS BOSTON COLLEGE BEGAN TO MAKE THE TRANSITION from a small commuter college to a large university during the late 1960s, the growing demand for student housing became a serious problem. In 1969, shortly after he became president, Fr. W. Seavey Joyce had to shelve plans for a new high-rise, two-tower dormitory because of engineering problems and high interest rates for new construction.

Boston College pursued various stop-gap arrangements for student housing in the spring of 1970, but neighborhood opposition killed plans to acquire the Somerset Hotel in Kenmore Square, or to house students in Towne Estates in nearby Brighton.

With the fall semester coming fast, and with insufficient housing available for incoming students, Boston College ordered more than three dozen two-story, duplex, modular apartments, which were brought to the Lower Campus in a parade of flatbed trucks from Connecticut. A small crowd gathered on the Lower Campus to watch the arrival of the first "mod." Sure enough, the flatbed truck arrived, halted, and waited for the

crane to lift the first mod and swing it into place. Suddenly, as the crane lifted the mod off the truck, the crane toppled over, and the mod fell to the ground and shattered to pieces. This was enough to convince critics that the project was a foolhardy experiment.

But in the weeks and months that followed, trucks kept coming, and modular apartments were lowered into their places. Altogether, starting in August 1970 and continuing through the first semester, 43 modular apartments were erected, capable of housing 516 students.

Despite the disparaging remarks of critics who insisted that the new-fangled, ready-made mods would last only a year or two, and that students wouldn't like them at all, the modular apartments on the Lower Campus endured as a popular student housing choice into the 21st century.

## MURAL IN GASSON HALL

### The Big Picture

FOR MANY YEARS, BOSTON COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATES sat in the large auditorium of Gasson Hall taking notes during lectures in theology, philosophy, and history. Looming over the stage was an enormous (27-by-12 foot) mural that covers almost half the front wall. It's unlikely many students knew much about the elaborate allegorical painting, *The Church, the Educator of Mankind*. The mural shows the apostle Peter on a throne holding the crosier that symbolizes his authority as first pope, flanked by trios of great men who exemplify "the 16 profane and sacred arts." Moses, King Edward, and Lord Russell appear under the category of law; Columbus, Marquette, and Cabot are under exploration; and Daniel O'Connell, John Carroll, and Jan Sobieski (the 17th-century Polish king) represent patriotism. Seven large candlesticks signifying the seven churches described in the Apocalypse surround the throne. A silhouette of Boston College's Gasson Hall is visible along with representations of great cathedrals and universities of the world.

The mural was the work of Brother Francis C. Schroen, S.J., a self-taught artist who decorated interiors of Georgetown and Fordham before he arrived at Boston College, where he painted all the murals in the Gasson rotunda, in the Fulton Debating Room, and in a large conference room most recently used by the Arts and Sciences dean.



# N

## **NEIGHBORS**

The Campus and the Community

BOSTON COLLEGE HAS LONG TRIED TO BE SENSITIVE TO the needs and desires of its neighboring communities. With the recent acquisition of land in the Allston/Brighton section of Boston, the University has attempted to show itself a good neighbor by sharing its talents,

resources, and personnel with that community. Many students, staff, and faculty members from the college regularly volunteer to provide a wide range of social, educational, and recreational programs.

In 2006, for example, Boston College, the Archdiocese of Boston, and St. Columbkille Parish established a partnership to preserve Catholic, parish-based education in Brighton. This was the first such collaboration in the United States between a Catholic university and a parochial school. Boston College and St. Columbkille School also joined forces to offer a summer day camp on the campus for as many as 120 campers ages three to 14, featuring classroom activities, field trips, and sports programs.

Boston College also collaborates with Boston Partners in Education in the “Read Aloud” program at two Brighton public schools, the James Garfield and the Mary Lyon, as well as at St. Columbkille. Each Thursday a team of Boston College faculty and staff volunteers spend their lunchtime reading aloud to children in kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms.

In addition, Boston College provides 50 tickets to all football, basketball, and hockey games to adult residents of Allston/Brighton. Whenever possible, tickets are donated to youth sports organizations or charitable groups. From early June to mid-August, Boston College reserves 30 slots five days a week for community residents to use the swimming pool and the equipment of the Flynn Recreational Complex at no charge.

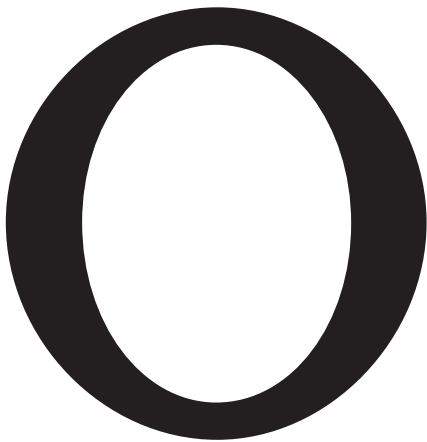
## **NEWTON CAMPUS**

40 Acres on Centre Street

LOCATED ON CENTRE STREET, NEWTON COLLEGE OF THE Sacred Heart was originally a private Catholic women’s college chartered in 1946. The college was staffed by members of the Society of the Sacred Heart, a French order of nuns founded in 1800. Faced with many of the social and financial problems that confronted a number of small private colleges during the late 1960s and early 1970s, Newton College proposed a consolidation with Boston College.

The two colleges announced their decision in March 1974 and in June, Boston College assumed the liabilities of Newton College, and acquired its assets, including a 40 acre-campus with a number of handsome buildings that included classrooms, a science building, a library, a residence hall, and a lovely chapel.

The following year, Boston College Law School moved from its Chestnut Hill location in Thomas More Hall to more spacious facilities on the Newton Campus, where a new four-story law library opened in 1996. This new campus also provided additional dormitory space for Boston College undergraduates. A free shuttle bus regularly travels the mile-and-a-half route between the Chestnut Hill and Newton campuses.



## **O'CONNELL HOUSE**

Gift from a Prelate

IN THE CENTER OF THE UPPER CAMPUS IS O'CONNELL House, a mansion built at the turn of the 20th century for approximately \$300,000 and later donated to William Henry Cardinal O'Connell. An 1881 graduate of Boston College, Cardinal O'Connell was named fifth

bishop of Boston, and second archbishop. He was the first Bostonian elevated to the rank of cardinal.

One of the only examples of Welsh-inspired architecture in the United States, it was built by the Storey family and modeled on Gwydir Castle, a popular tourist attraction in Wales that dates to the 14th century. The mansion became part of the estate of Louis Kroh Liggett, whose family lived there from 1916 to 1937, when he donated the property to the Archdiocese of Boston. In 1941, Cardinal O'Connell made a gift of the estate, together with nine acres of adjoining land, to his alma mater.

During the 1940s, the building was converted into classrooms for the new College of Business Administration, while a quadrangle of stables and carriage houses in the rear were used for athletic offices and dressing rooms. O'Connell has served as a Jesuit residence, a movie set, a classroom facility, and a dorm for football players. In the early 1970s, the overcrowded university considered tearing down O'Connell. Students fought to save it, and the building was renovated instead. It is home to the University student union and other co-curricular programs.

## O'NEILL LIBRARY

Tip of the Hat to Beloved Alum

FROM THE TIME OF ITS COMPLETION IN 1928, BAPST Library served as the main library of Boston College. By the 1970s, it was clear that a library designed for approximately 1,000 undergraduates could no longer meet the demands of a modern university with a student body of more than 10,000.

Soon after he became president in 1972, Fr. J. Donald Monan made the construction of a new library one of his main priorities. After preliminary studies, in 1978 the Architects Collaborative was commissioned to design a library on the hillside across from Gasson Hall.

Great pains were taken to see that the new library, which is constructed of Rockville granite and large enough to hold a million books, did not clash or compete in height with Devlin Hall, St. Mary's Hall, and especially Gasson Hall. Only three of the building's five stories rise above eye level on the crest of the hill, and two are located on the downhill side. Warm, welcoming, and thoroughly up-to-date inside, O'Neill also offers a spectacular view of the Boston skyline.

The \$28-million O'Neill Library was dedicated in 1984 with a speech on the plaza by its namesake, then-Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. '36.





# P

## THE ST. PATRICK MURAL

Venerating One Patrick, Remembering Another

THE SUDDEN DEATH IN JANUARY 1935 OF 50-YEAR-OLD Patrick J. McHugh, S.J., affectionately known as “Packy,” rocked the Boston College community. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1920 to 1935, he was such a beloved figure that members of the Class of 1927 wanted to provide an appropriate memorial in his honor on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the class.

Joseph Barrett, a student at the Massachusetts School of Art, was commissioned to create a mural triptych on the upper wall of the third floor of Gasson Hall. Its central image is of St. Patrick standing in a field of shamrock, clothed in a sweeping chasuble in Irish green. On either side are nine smaller paintings depicting major events in the saint’s life.

On the left part of the St. Patrick mural is a painting of St. Columbkille; on the right is a rendering of St. Bridget. Beneath the triptych is the statement:

*Presented by the Class of 1927 in Memory of  
Rev. Patrick J. McHugh, S.J., Dean 1920–1935*

Joseph Barrett completed the work in such a hurry that he neglected to sign it. In 1996, Charles F. Donovan, S.J., University historian, and J. Robert Barth, S.J., then dean of Arts and Sciences, accompanied Mr. Barrett and his wife, Peggy, to Gasson Hall to paint his signature on the St. Patrick mural—exactly 60 years after he had completed the painting.

## THE PHILOMATHEIA CLUB

Ladies to the Rescue

RAISING FUNDS DURING THE 1920S TO SUPPORT THE increasing expenses of a small but ambitious Catholic college was a constant source of worry for the administrators of the institution that had staked out its future on Chestnut Hill. That was particularly true when it came to maintaining a respectable athletic program.

James Carney, a Boston businessman and chairman of the Boston College Athletic Board, had raised money from alumni and private donors. In 1915, he turned to a new source of support: an auxiliary organization made up of a number of prominent Catholic women, who would assist in raising funds to support the college's athletic programs. Under the direction of its first president, Mrs. Edwin A. Shuman, the group decided to call itself the Philomatheia ("Devotion to Learning") Club. It also voted to expand the scope of its financial support beyond athletics to include the cultural and intellectual life of the college.

On October 30, 1915, members of the Philomatheia Club enjoyed the first football game played on Alumni Field—as the first women ever to attend an athletic event on the Heights. The following February, the club had its first major fundraising event at the Copley Plaza Hotel, where members raised \$1,700 to support the football team's away games. Leading off with a gift of \$1,000, these same women helped direct Boston College's successful \$2 million building campaign in 1921.

Under the vigorous leadership of its third president, Mrs. Vincent P. Roberts, who directed the Philomatheia Club for a half century, the organization raised funds for the college, established scholarships for Boston College students who lived locally, sponsored lecture programs, and saw its numbers grow steadily to more than 1,000 members by the early 1930s.

Although its officers continued to meet well into the 1980s, the Philomatheia Club's role as a singular place of influence at Boston College slowly began to diminish after the 1940s. At first, women moved away from charity work in order to participate in the work force dur-

ing World War II. After that, increasing numbers were drawn into full membership of the various schools and colleges of the University itself as students, faculty members, and administrators.

## **EDGAR ALLEN POE SQUARE**

Enabling the Return of the Raven

A WEAVER OF STRANGE TALES, A POET OF HAUNTING verse, and creator of the modern detective story, Edgar Allan Poe was raised primarily in Richmond, Virginia, and spent most of his creative years in Virginia and New York. He was, however, born in Boston, Massachusetts, and signed his first work “By a Bostonian.” In time, however, Poe distanced his identity from his place of birth. On one occasion, after an unsuccessful poetry reading in the city, he wrote that he was “heartily ashamed” of his Boston roots.

On the occasion of Poe’s bicentennial in January 2009, Boston College Professor Paul Lewis of the English department took the lead in an effort not only to have Boston honor the literary accomplishments of Poe, but also to have the city reclaim the author as one of its own. Working with colleagues and students, Lewis organized a two-day celebration on the Heights called “The Raven Returns to Boston” with a series of speakers and an exhibition of student works inspired by Poe, followed by an independent film about the life and death of the American author.

On April 27, 2009, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, with Professor Paul Lewis in attendance, dedicated the intersection of Boylston Street and Charles Street, off Boston Common, as Edgar Allan Poe Square, in honor of the bicentennial anniversary of the author’s birth in Boston. “Poe is Boston’s most influential writer,” said Lewis, “and it’s a shame to ignore him.”

## **POPS ON THE HEIGHTS**

Bringing Symphony Hall to Conte

ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE EVENTS OF EVERY FALL season at Boston College is the annual Boston Pops on the Heights Scholarship Gala. Beginning in 1993, with John Williams conducting, and continuing under the baton of Keith Lockhart, Pops on the Heights quickly developed into a sellout production for parents, students, alumni, and supporters of Boston College.

The annual fundraising gala, whose proceeds provide student financial support, is held in Conte Forum, home of Boston College basketball and hockey. Benefactors and sponsors are seated at tables of 10 on the main floor, where they are served a gourmet dinner. Guests seated in the loges and balconies enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch. The Pops Orchestra’s

program of classical music and popular Broadway tunes is highlighted by performances of the Boston College University Chorale singing with the world-famous Boston Pops.

## THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

A Signature of Leadership

ON FORMAL AND CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS, THE PRESIDENT of Boston College will wear a golden medallion over his academic robes. A symbol of high office that dates from medieval times, the Presidential Medallion was designed by Allison Macomber, artist-in-residence at Boston College from 1963 to 1979.

At its center is a sunburst that surrounds the official seal of the university. Depicted at the top of the medallion is the badge of the Society of Jesus. On the left side is Christ the Teacher with the elders clustering around him in the Temple. On the right side is the figure of the Jesuit patroness, Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom. On the lower part of the medallion is the Lamp of Knowledge inscribed with the word TUTELARIUS, signifying "Guardian of Learning."

Each link of the medallion's golden chain is inscribed with the name of a past president of Boston College and his term of office.

## PULSE PROGRAM

Ideas in Action

DURING THE LATE 1960S AND EARLY 1970S, STUDENTS at Boston College were involved in antiwar protests, civil rights issues, and demands for academic changes. But many students were also concerned with the prevalence of drugs, delinquency, racism, and poverty in the neighborhood beyond the campus. They felt isolated from the realities of pressing social issues.

In October 1969, the UGBC took the lead in establishing a social action program through which Boston College could play a meaningful role in shaping social change. The PULSE Program for Service Learning that was established was a quick success. Students worked with the Jamaica Plain Youth Center on local problems, assisted teachers of a pilot preschool cerebral palsy Montessori class, and engaged in a number of other projects.

With the late Joseph Flanagan, S.J., then chairman of the philosophy department, as a key supporter, the Boston College administration provided PULSE with a budget and faculty consultants. Students now receive academic credit for their service when it is combined with course work, demonstrating the University's concern for social problems beyond the campus limit.

# R

## **RATIO STUDIORUM**

The Jesuit System of Studies

BOSTON COLLEGE FOLLOWED THE TRADITIONAL CLASSICAL curriculum, known to the Jesuits as the *Ratio Studiorum*, a Latin phrase that designates a particular system of studies. This was an educational program, first laid out in 1599, that emphasized scholarly research, intellectual excellence, and strong moral and religious values. The *Ratio* was in place when Boston College was located in the South End, and it was brought to the new location in Chestnut Hill.

Although the study of Greek as a requirement for the AB degree was dropped in 1935, the traditional Jesuit curriculum continued in effect through the 1950s and 1960s. Regardless of a student's major field of concentration, every student was required to take the prescribed 10 courses (28 credits) in Thomistic philosophy—logic, epistemology, metaphysics, cosmology, fundamental psychology, empirical psychology, rational psychology, natural theology, general ethics, and special ethics. In addition, all students were required to take courses in theology, English, history, foreign languages, mathematics, and science. This highly structured curriculum was designed to turn out a broadly “educated gentleman.”

The first major modification in the *Ratio Studiorum* came during the late 1960s, a time when reaction to the Vietnam War and general opposition to authority brought turmoil to college campuses all over the country. Some students at Boston College called for an end to all liberal arts requirements, while others questioned the heavy concentration of required courses that allowed few opportunities for advanced electives. A University committee on liberal education eventually created what it called the Core Program, which prescribed a reduced number of required courses in theology, philosophy, history, and other liberal arts courses, making it possible for undergraduate students to take a greater number of elective courses. In this way, Boston College was able to affirm the Jesuit tradition of liberal arts education while allowing its students to prepare for advanced graduate and professional degrees.

## THE RECPLEX

A Calming Proposal

THE FLYNN RECREATIONAL COMPLEX ON THE LOWER Campus—popularly known as the “RecPlex”—is named after William J. Flynn ’39, director of athletics at Boston College from 1957 to 1990.

Captain of the Boston College football team in his senior year, Bill Flynn returned to the Heights in 1945 to teach in the mathematics department and serve as an assistant football coach. He became alumni secretary, then director of athletics. During his tenure, he supervised most of the athletic facilities on the Lower Campus, including Alumni Stadium, Conte Forum, and the recreational complex that now bears his name. Flynn enjoyed a national reputation in athletic circles, and served as president of the NCAA.

In 1970, during a disruptive period of anti-war demonstrations, a student strike, and precarious finances, Flynn calmly proposed the building of a student recreation complex, to be financed by the University with the help of a \$25 annual student recreation fee.

## THE RED CROSS CLUB

... and the Disaster Action Team

THE RED CROSS CLUB OF BOSTON COLLEGE, ASSOCIATED with the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay, is made up largely of undergraduate student volunteers.

The club organizes bimonthly blood drives, maintains a Disaster Action Team that is on call Monday nights, and offers CPR and first aid certification programs that are designed to teach skills necessary to provide basic care for injuries and sudden illnesses until professional assistance arrives. The club collects school supplies to distribute to children via Boston College service immersion programs.

## RESERVOIR LAND

52 Acres for \$10,000

IN EARLY TIMES, BEFORE BOSTON BECAME A CITY, THE Charles River was its main source of water supply. Residents drew their water either from private wells or from public cisterns and community pumps in various parts of town.

As the population grew during the early 1800s, so did pollution of the Charles River, forcing Bostonians to develop one of the country’s first municipal water systems. First, they drew water from Jamaica Pond and distributed it to the town through wooden pipes. Then, as Boston’s population continued to expand, the city had to search for water sources fur-

ther west, and construct larger reservoirs, including two located at the foot of the Lawrence Basin at Chestnut Hill.

As time went on, the Metropolitan Water District continued to look for greater sources of water even further west, and in 1946 created the Quabbin Reservoir at a point where the Connecticut River joined the Swift River. This new reservoir furnished such a plentiful source of water for the Boston metropolitan area that the state declared the smaller of the two reservoirs at Chestnut Hill unnecessary.

In 1948, once it learned that the smaller reservoir was inactive, Boston College quickly purchased the 52.7 acres of land for the mere price of \$10,000. (Filling in the basin did cost an estimated \$750,000.) Truckloads of landfill were brought in regularly over several years until the last of the water disappeared in 1969, replaced with materials excavated from the construction of Route 128. Boston College now had land on which to develop a whole new Lower Campus.

## **RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION**

After Boston College, What?

SOME FACULTY MEMBERS SERVE AT BOSTON COLLEGE for as long as 30 or 40 years, and for many of these men and women, the prospect of retiring and then losing all further contact with the University is unthinkable. It would be like dropping off into empty space.

John D. Donovan '39, one of the founders of the sociology department, came up with the idea of a retired faculty association for those who wanted to retain active ties to Boston College. With the help of Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculties John J. Neuhauser and the support of other members of the administration, the association was formed in 2003 and given quarters on the fifth floor of 21 Campanella Way. It has since moved to 3 Lake Street on the Boston College Brighton Campus.

Members hold monthly meetings, invite prominent speakers, arrange museum tours, organize book readings, and hold an annual banquet. Members of the association have also undertaken an oral history project, conducting interviews with retired faculty members who were at Boston College during the 1950s and 1960s, a time of significant social and institutional change.



# S

## SAINTS IN MARBLE

Young Jesuits in the Rotunda

MARBLE STATUES OF WELL-KNOWN JESUIT SAINTS SURROUND the impressive statue of St. Michael the Archangel that dominates the center of the rotunda in Gasson Hall. At the west end of the rotunda is the statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus.

At the east end of the rotunda stands a statue of St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1568–1591) holding a rosary while clasping a holy book in both hands. A young Italian nobleman who studied in Spain and then entered the Society of Jesus in Rome, the young Jesuit had completed his novitiate when he died at the age of 23 from the effects of a disease, while he was attending the sick in a hospital during a plague.

Close by is a statue of St. John Berchmans (1599–1621), holding rosary beads as well as a copy of the *Spiritual Exercises* by St. Ignatius. Born in the Netherlands, Berchmans graduated from a Jesuit college, entered the



Society of Jesus, and was pursuing his philosophy studies in Rome when he died at the age of 22.

The statue to the right of the Honors Room represents St. Stanislaus Kostka (1550–1568) holding the Infant Jesus in his arms. Born in Poland, he studied with the Jesuits in Vienna, and was accepted as a member of the religious order in Rome. His life in the Society of Jesus was brief, however; after only 10 months he died at age 18.

Except for St. Ignatius, the Jesuits whose marble statues grace the rotunda were canonized in part because they were models for the young. Members of the Society of Jesus, exceptional for the purity of their lives and their devotion to the Blessed Mother, they were also students of approximately the same age as those who attend Boston College.

## THE SEAL OF BOSTON COLLEGE

Symbolizing Faith, Origins, and Mission

IN 1914, THE YEAR AFTER BOSTON COLLEGE MOVED TO Chestnut Hill, the school created a new college seal that would illustrate its historic origins and religious mission. The circular seal's most prominent feature is a shield at its center, which comprises three parts. At the top of the shield is the badge of the Society of Jesus—the inscription IHS (derived from the first three letters of “Jesus” in Greek) flanked by two crowns. Those denote the arms of old Boston, in Lincolnshire, England, originally known as St. Botolph's Town. It was from this English town that several prominent Puritans came across the Atlantic to found the town of Boston in 1630.

At the center of the shield is an open book with the words *aien aristeuein* (“ever to excel”) across the pages. This phrase is gleaned from chapter six of Homer's *Iliad*, in which young Glaucus recalls the words with which his father sent him off to fight in the Trojan War: “Ever to excel, to do better than others, and to bring glory to your forebears....” Beneath the book is an illustration of the three hills of Boston—the “Trimount” that later became “Tremont”—signifying the origins of Boston College as a “college in the city.”

Except for some minor variations, the seal of Boston College has remained essentially the same since 1914.

## JOSEPH COOLIDGE SHAW, S.J.

A Proper Bostonian

DESCENDED FROM ONE OF BOSTON'S MOST PROMINENT families, Joseph Coolidge Shaw was a Unitarian, attended Harvard College, and specialized in the study of several European languages. After graduation, he went off to further studies in Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and

Rome, where he met several Catholic priests and in a short time converted to Catholicism. During his travels, he also acquired hundreds upon hundreds of valuable books.

Shaw returned to Boston in 1843, attended Harvard Law School for a year, and then decided to enter the priesthood. Ordained by Bishop John Fitzpatrick in 1847, he became convinced that he should become a member of the Society of Jesus, and entered the novitiate at Frederick, Maryland, in September 1850.

Unfortunately, Shaw's life as a Jesuit was short. In less than a year he was dying of tuberculosis, and in February 1851 he dictated his last will and testament. Along with a lengthy list of personal bequests to his family and friends, he bequeathed the sum of \$4,000 to be used in "establishing a school or college of the Society [of Jesus] in Boston...." After that, he directed that his library, "consisting of about 1,200 volumes on theological and spiritual subjects," as well as another 500 or 600 more volumes on "lighter topics," should be given to such a college or seminary of the Society "as should be established in Boston."

Joseph Coolidge Shaw, S.J., died on March 10, 1851, at the age of 30. At that moment, there was no Catholic college in Boston. It would be 12 more years before Boston College would receive its charter. Fr. Shaw's bequest, therefore, displays not only commendable generosity, but also a remarkable sense of the future. He was clearly convinced that there would be such a Catholic college, that it should be directed by the Society of Jesus, and that it should be located nowhere else but in Boston. He was, indeed, a proper Bostonian. Today, 350 of the original books collected by Joseph Coolidge Shaw are in the Burns Library at Boston College.

## COMMANDER JOHN J. SHEA

"Dear Jackie"

DURING THE POST-WORLD WAR II YEARS, A GENERATION of Boston College undergraduates grew up in the shadow of Commander John Shea—almost literally. At that time, there was a large room in the basement of Gasson Hall that served as a common room. This was where the guys gathered (there were no women on campus in those days) to smoke, play cards, eat their brown-bag lunches, talk, gossip, hold their class elections, and get their reading done for the next philosophy class. Overhead, the bells chimed out at their regular 15-minute intervals, and on the paneled wall hung a large, full-length portrait of Commander John J. Shea, USN, in his dark blue naval uniform. It was for this reason that it was called "The Commander Shea Room."

John J. Shea had graduated from Boston College in 1918, then enlisted in the Naval Reserve, earned his wings, and was commissioned an ensign in the United States. In 1930 he was executive officer at Squantum

Naval Air Station, and in 1941, now risen to the rank of lieutenant commander, he was called to active duty on the aircraft carrier USS *Wasp* for action in the Guadalcanal campaign. On September 15, 1942, three Japanese torpedoes crashed into the carrier in the vicinity of the magazines and gasoline tanks, rocking the vessel from stem to stern. Despite exploding ammunition and flying debris, Shea took charge of fighting the fire on the flight deck, and was eventually engulfed by the flames as he attempted to rescue shipmates. The Official Naval Report listed him as one of 193 *Wasp* officers and crewman “missing in action.”

To the postwar student body, but especially to the veterans who were returning to complete their education under the GI Bill of Rights, Commander Shea was both a hero and an inspiration. But he became famous far beyond Chestnut Hill because of a “Dear Jackie” letter he wrote to his young son in June 1942, only three months before his death. It was a poignant reminder not only of the honor and duty of fighting to preserve equal rights to life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness, but also of living a life infused with the principles of love, fairness, and religion.

“Be a good Catholic,” he told his young son, “and you can’t help being a good American.” These were the same ideals and principles that the members of the postwar generation tried to carry over into their own lives after they left Boston College. Many of these old alumni come back to the campus and see that Commander John J. Shea Field has been dedicated to the memory of one of Boston College’s most distinguished graduates.

## THE SOUTH END

Where It All Begins

ONCE JOHN MCELROY, S.J., HAD SETTLED DOWN INTO HIS work as pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Boston, he set about looking for an appropriate site for the construction of Bishop John Fitzpatrick’s dream of a “college in the city.” After McElroy purchased some of the Leverett Street property near Causeway Street (the so-called Jail Lands) in 1853, anti-Catholic groups raised zoning issues, eventually forcing McElroy to sell the land back to the city. Four years later he found what he considered a less controversial location in the newly developed South End.

During the early 1800s, after most of Beacon Street area had been occupied, there was no other residential area available for the city’s prosperous businessmen, merchants, and retired sea captains. Enterprising developers, therefore, began dumping tons of gravel into the muddy waters along the south side of the thin strip of land (the “Neck”) that connected the old Shawmut Peninsula to the mainland.

As early as the 1840s, the so-called South End began to take shape as an attractive and well-designed community, complete with lovely parks, broad streets, and handsome bow-front houses. Boston’s City Hospital

was constructed on Harrison Avenue between 1861 and 1864, a number of Protestant churches were built along Tremont Street and Columbus Avenue, and Bishop Fitzpatrick selected the South End for his new Cathedral of the Holy Cross. It was there that the Society of Jesus chose to construct its Church of the Immaculate Conception, and two years later, in 1863, the South End became the site for Boston College.

Unfortunately, the promising future of the South End was suddenly eclipsed, as developers began filling in the waters along the north side of Boston Neck. The project began in 1858 when earth from Needham gravel pits was carried to Boston in railroad cars to create an even more fashionable residential area called the Back Bay. With its expansive streets and gracious boulevards, and its rows of handsome mansions, the Back Bay quickly drew wealthy patrons away from the South End.

During the 1880s and 1890s while the Back Bay flourished, the South End steadily deteriorated, its lovely homes and streetscapes giving way to crowded corners, rundown boarding houses, and dingy saloons. The new Cathedral of the Holy Cross was all but obscured by a rusting elevated railway that ran along Washington Street with a deafening clatter. The constant noise, the depressing conditions, and the lack of usable space for healthy athletic activities in the area soon made it clear that Boston College would have to look for a more suitable location elsewhere.

## STUDENT ATHLETES

### Scholarship and Sports

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS AMONG COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, parents, alumni, and members of the general public regarding the potential conflict between academic standards and athletic prowess led the NCAA to develop a Graduation Success Rate (GSR), which measures graduation rates of student athletes at Division I institutions in the United States.

According to the NCAA's report issued in November 2009, Boston College had 21 varsity teams with Graduation Success Rates of 100 percent—the largest number of teams with perfect scores of any intercollegiate Division I athletics program in the country. In addition, Boston College football—with a GSR score of 91—was one of only six major college teams (Football Bowl Subdivision) with a score of 90 or better.

These rankings are not only an indication of the serious emphasis placed upon the Jesuit tradition of academic excellence, but also a reflection of steps taken to make sure that these standards are maintained. In 1984, J. Donald Monan, S.J., worked with a special committee that resolved that there should be a single set of standards of “academic good standing” for all students, and that meeting those standards should be a condition for participation in athletics. Subsequently, an athletic advisory board was established with a special faculty advisor assigned to athletics,

and the Office of Learning Resources for Student-Athletes was created to help student athletes meet the University's academic expectations. These measures eventually helped Boston College gain national recognition as an educational institution whose students engage in outstanding sports programs and understand that academic performance comes first.

## **STYLUS**

A Literary Journal that Reported the News

THE BOSTON COLLEGE LITERARY MAGAZINE, *STYLUS*, WAS founded in January 1883 in response to a student petition circulated by members of the class of 1884. At first, *Stylus* came out once a year and served as the college yearbook as well as the newspaper and literary magazine. Its original size was 10 by 12 inches, and there were about 12 pages per issue.

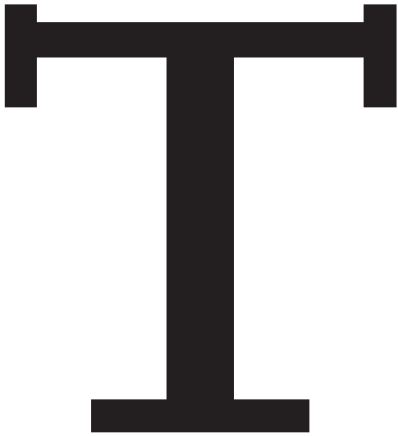
Works of fiction and poetry appeared on the first five pages, followed by editorials, news items, alumni news, and notices about various school societies. Advertising, usually in the form of "business cards," took up the final three pages. The journal proved popular with the students (who then numbered less than 300), and *Stylus* had to boost its press run to 600 in its third year because of interest among alumni, staff, and neighbors of Boston College.

By the time Boston College moved to Chestnut Hill, *Stylus* had taken on the general style and format of a modern journal. With the foundation of the new weekly student newspaper, *The Heights*, in November of 1919, *Stylus* began to reassess its role as a conveyor of news. It left the reporting of things like campus news and sports events to *The Heights* but since then has remained the main publication for the literary compositions, poetry, and artwork of undergraduate students at Boston College.

## **SUB TURRI**

As Old as the Heights

THE OFFICIAL YEARBOOK OF BOSTON COLLEGE IS *SUB turri*, Latin for "Under the Tower." Members of the class of 1913 produced the inaugural edition in acknowledgment of the golden anniversary of Boston College, and in anticipation of what the student editors called "the dawn of the newer and brighter life, in its worthier home" on the Heights.



## THE TREE OF LIFE

The Spirit in Bronze

ON OCTOBER 3, 2004, *THE TREE OF LIFE* FOUNTAIN WAS unveiled following Parents' Weekend Mass. Commissioned by the University's Christian Art Committee and sculpted by Peter Rockwell, son of artist Norman Rockwell, the 10-foot bronze statue and fountain represents an olive tree, with symbols derived from the Trinity entwined in its branches.

*The Tree of Life*, located between O'Neill Plaza and Linden Lane, was

commissioned to enrich the campus “aesthetically and spiritually,” according to Franco Mormando, associate professor of romance languages and a member of the University’s Christian Art Committee. It is part of an effort by Boston College to introduce, on campus, art that expresses Christian spirituality and tradition.

## **TRIPLE EAGLE**

Expanding the Definition

TRADITIONALLY, A GRADUATE OF BOSTON COLLEGE HIGH School who went on to Boston College and Boston College Law School was referred to as a Triple Eagle. As time went on, the term was expanded to include anyone who received an undergraduate degree at Boston College, and then received any two additional Boston College degrees, such as a master’s degree, a doctoral degree, or an honorary degree.

## **THE TRUSTEE TRADITION**

Mapping the Future

THROUGHOUT MOST OF ITS EARLY HISTORY, THE BOARD of Trustees of Boston College was made up entirely of members of the Society of Jesus. In 1959, as he contemplated the kind of changes required of Boston College’s transition from a college to a university, University President Michael P. Walsh, S.J., established a Board of Regents composed of lay businessmen, bankers, financiers, and education specialists, who would work with the traditional all-Jesuit Board of Trustees.

The all-Jesuit board continued to work as a separate body until 1972, when it was consolidated with the lay group into a single Board of Trustees. After J. Donald Monan, S.J., came to office as president in September 1972, the University—which had become a highly complex institution with multimillion-dollar budgets, multiple colleges, and expanding personnel—was able to draw upon the professional and financial expertise of prominent leaders in business, science, technology, and education.



## THE UNIVERSITY CHORALE

A Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

CHORAL MUSIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN A VITAL PART OF STUDENT life at Boston College. In the South End, the Society of St. Cecilia, named for the patron saint of musicians, provided music for daily Mass and other religious services, and always performed at the end-of-the-year ceremonies. Following the move to Chestnut Hill, what was now the Boston College Glee Club played an active role in college events, and in 1938 it contributed a musical concert in downtown Boston as part of Boston College's diamond jubilee. The club was also a popular attraction on other college campuses, especially in joint concerts with such women's institutions as Regis College and Newton College.

After a period of relative inactivity during World War II, the Glee Club acquired new life, and in October 1947 performed for an enthusiastic audience of 8,000 patrons in a concert at Boston Garden. In 1955, well-known composer and conductor C. Alexander Peloquin was brought in as conductor. Things changed considerably during the 1960s with the admission of women into the formerly all-male club, which became known as the University Chorale. During 1963, the centennial year, the Chorale presented *Missa Domini*, a Mass Peloquin wrote for the occasion.

In September 1975, the University Chorale performed another Peloquin composition, "A Prayer for Us," in anticipation of the American Bicentennial, and in October 1984, the Chorale gave a rendition of "God My Glory" at the outdoor dedication of the new O'Neill Library. In the spring of 1989, the University Chorale traveled to Rome, performed at the Vatican, and had an audience with Pope John Paul II. On April 20, 1990, the Chorale celebrated Peloquin's 35 years of conducting at Boston College with a concert at Boston's Symphony Hall. He retired from Boston College three years later and died in 1997.

In recent years, the University Chorale has maintained an active schedule both on campus and abroad.





## **VETERANS MEMORIAL**

Remembering the Fallen Eagles

ON VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2009, BOSTON COLLEGE dedicated a 68-foot-long, low granite wall in honor of the 209 Boston College alumni who had lost their lives while serving in the military during wartime. The principal speaker on this occasion was Retired Marine Corps General John J. Sheehan '62, the only Boston College graduate to earn a four-star flag rank.

The Veterans Memorial is located on the lawn of Burns Library where the grass slopes toward the entrance to Linden Lane. It is constructed of the same Weymouth granite stone used on the exterior of many Boston College buildings, and capped with pieces of polished dark granite engraved with the names of the University's war dead.

The memorial was established following a decade of work by a group of alumni veterans, including Paul Delaney '66, and Alumni Association chaplain William McInnes, S.J., a World War II veteran who passed away a month after the dedication. The group raised nearly \$500,000 in contributions, and worked closely with various officers and administrators of the University to realize the project.



## **MICHAEL P. WALSH, S.J.**

... and the Transformation

WITH A RAPIDLY CHANGING CAMPUS, A LAW SCHOOL, A business school, a nursing school, and a school of education, in addition to the original College of Arts and Sciences, it was obvious to everyone, including University President Michael P. Walsh, S.J., by the early 1960s that Boston College was no longer a small, four-year liberal arts college. Walsh, who was inducted as president in 1958, was determined to transform Boston College into a full-fledged university, with greater emphasis on original research and scholarly publications. Fully convinced that the Catholic university was the place where, in the often cited words of Notre Dame's Theodore Hesburgh, "the Church does its thinking," he refused to concede that graduate and professional education was the exclusive domain of public and nonsectarian universities.

Fr. Walsh encouraged departments to begin doctoral programs in a variety of academic disciplines, and instructed new chairmen to recruit the most talented research scholars they could find. At the same time, he raised undergraduate admissions standards, recruited the best graduates of Jesuit high schools throughout the country, and established an Honors Program to stimulate both students and teachers. And to attract a greater number of resident students, he proceeded to build more dormitories on the Upper Campus.

By the time he resigned from his 10-year presidential term, Boston College was in the process of substantial changes that would eventually establish its reputation as a major national research university.

## **WESTON OBSERVATORY**

Seismic Happenings

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF BOSTON COLLEGE, YOUNG Jesuits of the New England Province pursued their studies in theolo-

gy and philosophy at nearby Weston College (in the town of Weston), a constituent college in the University. After 1965, when Jesuit scholastics began taking their philosophy at the Heights, Weston College moved to Cambridge.

Adjacent to a so-called mansion on the old Weston grounds was a functioning observatory, which had grown impressive with gifts of seismographs and other technical equipment from Georgetown, from Holy Cross, and from other sources. In 1947, Weston Observatory was made a financially and academically constituent part of Boston College. After the observatory was moved to a more modernized building in 1949, Daniel Linehan, S.J., an internationally recognized seismologist, founded the Department of Geophysics as a Boston College department, and served as director of the Weston Observatory from 1950–1972.

Meanwhile, in 1958 James Skehan, S.J., a productive researcher and writer with a Ph.D. from Harvard University, was authorized to establish the Department of Geology at Boston College. In 1968, the two departments were merged into what became the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, with offerings at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. The seismic unit at Weston continues to function as a geophysical research laboratory for both departments, and the Weston Observatory is now part of a worldwide network that regularly reports on earthquakes and other seismic activity.

## **WHERE'S BOSTON?**

### Reinventing a City

ONE AFTERNOON IN APRIL 1956, W. SEAVEY JOYCE, S.J., dean of the School of Business Administration at Boston College, was returning from a conference in San Francisco. As the plane banked slowly to begin its approach to Logan Airport, the young Jesuit looked down at the scene below and exclaimed: "Where's Boston?" At this height, he could not make out any distinguishable features in the dark mass below—mainly because there were few if any such features in Boston, at that time. There was no distinctive skyline, no impressive skyscrapers, no public plazas, or any identifiable structure except, perhaps, the Custom House Tower, to proclaim that this was the Athens of America.

This experience undoubtedly heightened Joyce's interest in supporting an idea proposed two years earlier by several alumni: Boston College should sponsor an all-day conference of business leaders, public officials, and labor union representatives to consider seriously the major problems facing Boston. The first such conference, titled "Greater Boston's Business Future," was held in May 1954. It proved to be such a success that the event became a campus and civic fixture: the Citizens Seminar.

The seminar became a vehicle for discussing the challenges facing the old city and to promote ideas for a prosperous future. Its first meet-

ing took place on October 26, 1954, with Mayor John B. Hynes delivering the opening address titled “Boston, Whither Goest Thou?” The mayor laid out a sweeping vision of a “New Boston,” including a government center, a convention center, a world trade center, and a Back Bay Center modeled after New York’s Rockefeller Center.

An impressive range of speakers drew large audiences to Boston College for the all-day conferences, which probed such concerns as public transportation, tax policies, labor management relations, foreign trade, urban architecture, and hundreds of other topics. A social hour, followed by an evening dinner, brought together leaders from all parts of the city—many of them “old foes,” as the *Boston Herald* described them, who, Governor Christian Herter noted approvingly, “freely and fully” explored the problems of the day, and helped pave the way for a new and more distinctive city.

## **WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER**

A Place of Their Own

THOUGH TWO WOMEN HAD BEEN AWARDED BOSTON College degrees as early as 1926, it was only in 1970 that women were allowed to enroll without restriction in the College of Arts and Sciences. Women now were also able to participate as full undergraduates in the College of Business Administration, as well as in the School of Nursing and School of Education. Despite the growing numbers of female students, however, there were still not many female administrators, and few services were available for women students. A number of women, frustrated in their attempts to have a separate office on campus, formed the Women’s Action Committee (WAC), and set about opening a center of their own.

After putting together a small library of books and pamphlets, organizing a staff, and laying out some coffee and food, the members of WAC sent out invitations to administration officials to attend the formal “opening” of the Women’s Resource Center in a room on the second floor of McElroy Commons. Perhaps some officials realized that the room was actually a women’s restroom, but many came anyway.

According to one of the organizers, the opening was a huge success: “All the food was gone, it was crowded and noisy, and we had a celebrity guest,” she said. That guest was the new president of Boston College, J. Donald Monan, S.J., who was among those attending the reception in what normally functioned as the ladies’ room. A short time later, on International Women’s Day of March 8, 1973, a Boston College Women’s Resource Center was officially opened— this time on the first floor of McElroy Commons. This center was designed to provide a sense of identity, a resource center for jobs, careers, and medical advice, and a specialized library of books by women for women.



## **ZBC**

The “Voice of Boston College”

WZBC-FM IS A 1,000-WATT RADIO STATION THAT BROADCASTS at a frequency of 90.3 MHz and can be heard throughout the greater Boston area. It is owned by the Trustees of Boston College and operated by full-time undergraduates in McElroy Commons 107. It is a nonprofit, noncommercial entity.

Originally founded as WVBC (“Voice of Boston College”), it began in 1960 as an AM station, broadcasting solely to the University community through the electrical wiring of on-campus buildings and dormitories. Thirteen years later, Boston College radio took a big step in applying for a license to open and operate WZBC-FM as a nine-watt station at 90.3 on the dial.

With the advent of WZBC-FM, the station expanded its listenership to the outside community. Through locally based programs, WZBC-FM seeks to link area residents with the University.



Every family has someone—an aunt, an older brother—who is the keeper of a family lore. For Boston College, that person is Thomas O'Connor, dean of Boston historians. “Why the Dustbowl? An Eagle? Where is Ford Tower? What is this AMDG?” For answers to these questions, many others, and for BC lore galore, you will want to read Professor O'Connor's *The Spirit of the Heights*.

William B. Neenan, S.J.  
Vice President and Special Assistant to the President  
Boston College

#### FROM THE PREFACE

IT IS MY HOPE THAT READERS COME AWAY FROM THIS book feeling that Boston College is an exceptional place where amusing things happen, where important events are taken seriously, where the best of the future has been combined with the best of the past, and where memories of Linden Lane, Gasson Tower, the Golden Eagle, and the sound of the bells chiming the hours of the day are among recollections, large and small, that give this University a very special place in our hearts.

#### LINDEN LANE PRESS AT BOSTON COLLEGE

[www.bc.edu/lindenlanepress](http://www.bc.edu/lindenlanepress)