Where did you grow up? Why aren’t you there now?
I grew up in Huntington and Morgantown, West Virginia and Bloomington, Indiana. My father was a university administrator so we grew up in college towns. Since I graduated from high school in Bloomington, I consider that my hometown. My career has taken me to even more college towns and ultimately to BC.

What path brought you to BC?
BC is the sixth university and the sixth state in which I have worked since starting my professional career. BC approached me about the Vice President’s position five years ago, and I was drawn to its unique Jesuit, Catholic mission and the opportunity to live in New England.

What are you most passionate about professionally?
Student engagement. I am excited about the variety of ways we can help students learn about themselves and find success through being involved inside and outside the classroom. In higher education we are so fortunate to interact with students as they explore who they are and who they want to be. We want to make sure students have the opportunities that help them to lead meaningful lives. I love connecting with former students!

Where can we find you when you’re not working? What’s your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?
I love exploring New England. I have become a bit obsessed with family history and to my surprise much of that history takes place here in New England. Ancestry.com should come with a warning; “can become addictive.” While I am not a great cook, I do enjoy taking cooking classes which often results in me buying cooking gadgets that I rarely use again...I used to own an 18 foot sailboat which was a great way to spend time in the summer. I learned to sail with a group called Womanship whose motto was, “nobody yells.”
Any volunteer activities you’re crazy about?
In the past I was involved in Habitat for Humanity and served on the board when I lived in Wisconsin. I also had the opportunity to help start an adaptive sailing program. As a 20-year member of Rotary International, I have been involved in all kinds of community projects.

Who is your hero? Why?
There are many people that I would consider heroes; the most significant to me was my grandfather. He was permanently disabled in a coal mining accident in his 30s and had only a 5th grade education. Yet he celebrated every day and had an amazing interest in every thing and every one.

Who is your mentor? How did you connect with them?
I have had a variety of mentors at different points in my professional life. One that has been with me since graduate school is Bob Shafer, former Dean of Students and professor at Indiana University. He celebrated his 100th birthday last year and still takes the time to send personal notes of encouragement.

What’s the most unusual place you’ve visited?
The Keno Border Initiative sponsored by the Jesuits in Nogales, Mexico.

What would be impossible for you to give up?
My family and our mutual obsession with ice cream.

What’s one thing you want to accomplish before you die?
Find my family roots in Ireland.