

FOREWORD

The *Boston College Fact Book* captures and summarizes much of the important current and historical information about Boston College. The *Fact Book* is intended to serve as a reference for information about the University's faculty, students, alumni, personnel, facilities, and budget.

The 2003-2004 *Boston College Fact Book* reflects year-end data from the 2002-2003 fiscal and academic years. In certain instances, information relating to the fall of 2003 (academic year 2003-2004) is presented. Much of the information contained in the *Fact Book* is cumulative and references annual data for the preceding five- or ten-year period. Other information is presented in a single year format.

We are grateful to the many departments and individuals who provided data for this book - the 31st edition of the *Fact Book*. The majority of the information is extracted from reports produced on a regular basis by the various source offices. Inquiries and comments regarding specific data should be addressed to the responsible office (noted at the bottom of each item). The *Fact Book* is also available in its entirety at <http://www.bc.edu/factbook>. We welcome your comments and suggestions for additional information that might be included or improvements in the way information is presented.

James Kreinbring, Editor
Christine Buscemi
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THE MISSION OF BOSTON COLLEGE

Strengthened by more than a century and a quarter of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic and societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Boston College pursues this distinctive mission by serving society in three ways:

- by fostering the rigorous intellectual development and the religious, ethical, and personal formation of its undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in order to prepare them for citizenship, service, and leadership in a global society;
- by producing nationally and internationally significant research that advances insight and understanding, thereby both enriching culture and addressing important societal needs; and
- by committing itself to advance the dialogue between religious belief and other formative elements of culture through the intellectual inquiry, teaching and learning, and the community life that form the University.

Boston College fulfills this mission with a deep concern for all members of its community, with a recognition of the important contribution a diverse student body, faculty, and staff can offer, with a firm commitment to academic freedom, and with a determination to exercise careful stewardship of its resources in pursuit of its academic goals.