PREFACE

When most of the members of the Association of Retired Faculty joined Boston College, it was known, mostly locally, as a good, small, largely male liberal arts school lauded for its faithfulness to its Catholic heritage, which was reflected in teaching and scholarship. In what may seem like a blink in the eye of history, Boston College has undergone a metamorphosis which has resulted in the University's being rated among nationally recognized institutions. While it compares favorably to the most preeminent in the country, it still maintains its commitment to Catholic values. From today's perspective, the course of change was continuous growth. New graduate programs were introduced and the old ones expanded. The number of women greatly increased and diversity became an important goal throughout the campus.

But for those who lived it, the transition was not always smooth. Change involves choices and conflicts among those favoring alternatives. Resources were not immediately available to support the aspirations of many. The nation itself was facing similar conflict in the turmoil of the '60s. Strikes, building seizures and bomb scares became part of campus life throughout the country. Our campus was no stranger to these happenings.

The lived history of those times cannot be captured in official documents or statistics; it exists only in the memories of those who helped shape the University during its period of growth. This year seemed right for the Association of Retired Faculty to undertake an oral history study, a collection of faculty memories, and offer it as a gift to those who come after us.

My special thanks go to the Oral History Committee: Dalmar Fisher, Marjory Gordon, Joan Jones, Rosemary Krawczyk, Charles Smith, Jr., Rachel Spector, and in particular to its Chair, Mary Griffin, who labored tirelessly on the project from beginning to end. She was simply the guiding light that made it happen. I am proud of the product that she and her committee generated and, as always, proud to count them among our members.

Norman H. Berkowitz
President
Association of Retired Faculty
FOREWARD

When the University welcomed members of our retired faculty to new quarters in 2005, it was clear that individual members would not be the only beneficiaries. Their presence on campus would advance pursuit of their own intellectual interests, but more importantly, it would provide the inspiration for men and women whose scholarship and dedication have now become the fabric of the University.

The following pages are the first example of the renewed legacy they will continue to create. What makes this collection of reminiscences valuable is that it creates not a scholarly history of the ’50s and ’60s, but rather the personal sentiments and views of 17 distinguished faculty members as they reflect back on that formative period of the College’s life. Their words not only present a wide-angle view of the events that took place; they reveal the sense of dedication to the University that lies at the root of today’s strong community spirit.

Let us hope that this successful volume will generate the appearance of a sequel.

J. Donald Monan, SJ
Chancellor

9/15/09
PROLOGUE

The contributions of men and women of the Greatest Generation to the development of the country after World War II are mirrored in the accomplishments of faculty who helped to move Boston College into the 21st century. Any member of the committee on the oral history project could have compiled this book, but I was privileged to have been assigned the task of melding the memory gems of our colleagues into a jeweled setting for all at Boston College, her alumni, and many friends to enjoy.

Mary D. Griffin, Chair
Former Dean, Lynch School of Education
INTRODUCTION

Among the projects which have sprung forth from the Association in the past, none dealt with oral history. The Executive Committee of the Association of Retired Faculty nominated the following members to draw up a feasibility study on a faculty oral history of Boston College: Dalmar Fisher, Marjory Gordon, Joan Jones, Rosemary Krawczyk, Charles Smith, Jr., Rachel Spector, and Mary Griffin, who was asked to chair the group. Although there was not a Studs Terkel among the members, they were confident they could accomplish the task of demonstrating the need for an oral history study. After a brief plan was submitted to Norman Berkowitz, President of the retired faculty group, the oral history novices were asked if they would be agreeable to “carrying on” with the project. Of course they were. Each had developed a deep passion for the study and was eager to “carry on.”

Well-documented historical data exist, mostly housed in the University Archives, but there is little or nothing which conveys attitudes, feelings, or effects of campus changes on faculty or their work. To know what faculty actually thought about life on the Heights would give color and context to the existing factual data. Were there humorous moments to share? What were reactions to certain events? The Committee on Oral History believed that answers to these and similar questions would be found by asking faculty to tell their stories. It is said that people tend to remember what is important to them. While one can agree or disagree with the storyteller, memory is still the fabric of oral history and the interview is the loom.

The history of our University indicates that the ’50s and ’60s were decades in which significant changes were beginning to be made toward transforming a four-year, all-male, commuter college into a prestigious national university. Seventeen retired/soon-to-be-retired faculty, representative of the four professional schools and the College of Arts and Sciences, who taught at Boston College (several are still teaching) during the time period mentioned, made up the body of faculty willing to take part in the study.

From books and articles written about Boston College, themes and questions evolved, which in turn were the bases of the interviews. Each of the seventeen stories fell into four or five areas: early days on campus; life in a department and as part of the total university community; the troublesome ’60s; a summary of time at Boston College; and finally, a look ahead. The interviewees were prime candidates to tell stories and give personalized glimpses of two of the most exciting decades in the history of Boston College.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely thank William P. Leahy, SJ, President of Boston College, and Rev. J. Donald Monan, SJ, Chancellor of the University and former President, for their continuing support of the BC Association of Retired Faculty and especially for their encouragement in seeing this project through to completion.

Sincere gratitude also goes to Dr. Cutberto Garza, Provost and Dean of Faculties, and Dr. Patricia DeLeeuw, Vice Provost of Faculties, for their constant interest in this study together with their generous financial support.

We owe appreciation to the former Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculties, Dr. John Neuhauser, who is presently President of Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. Dr. Neuhauser greatly assisted the efforts to establish the Association and find a home base on campus for its activities and operation.

To those who helped build confidence, suggest appropriate decades to research, and identify historic events, we thank Dr. Jack Lewis, first President of the BC Association of Retired Faculty; Sarah Boyer, Director of Oral Research for the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Thomas H. O'Connor, University Historian; and David Horn, University Archivist, as well as his assistants, Shelley Barber and Amy Braitsch.

To Tim Czerwienski, our editor, we owe much for his making this a most readable series of personal stories.

We are thankful for the assistance of Ann Crowley of the Office of Human Resources at Boston College for her assistance in identifying possible candidates for the study as well as her guidance relative to the University's privacy policy.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to Susan Devine of the Medical and Academic Transcriptions Office of Braintree, Massachusetts, for her meticulous work in transcribing interview disks into print.

Were it not for Jonathan Sage, audio engineer at Boston College Media Technology Services, and his student engineers, Jaymeson Catsouphes, Alexender W. You, Ryan Shrey, and Isaiah C. Hupp, who set up the studios and taped 25 or more hours of interviews, this oral history study would still be just an idea. We are truly indebted to them for their unique role in this project.