SUMMER 2022 - ISSUE 7

BEACON

Signal Achievements in Advancing Boston College

INSIDE

A new energy
Charting a course for improved student life

Inspiring educators
Pair of gifts recognize influential faculty

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Long-Lasting Impact

Marianne Short is looking back and paying it forward

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BEACON is a publication exploring the significant advances made possible at Boston College through the generous and forward-thinking philanthropic investments of both individuals and organizations. Their partnership has helped to bring about remarkable progress in the University's academic and societal mission. We are grateful.

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Greetings from the Heights!

The start of a new academic year holds such promise and possibility—and this year is no exception. There is a palpable energy on campus as we get ready to welcome the Class of 2026, as well as our returning students and faculty, to the Heights. They bring with them their dreams and aspirations for the future, ready to engage in formative educational experiences that will change the trajectory of their lives.

Here at Boston College, we are fortunate to be a part of a vibrant community rooted in the Jesuit, Catholic ideals that make our institution so special. This edition of *Beacon* features a number of BC champions whose important contributions help the University to serve as a force for good, both for its students and the world at large.

As you will read, these efforts enhance the BC experience and enrich the lives of those far beyond the Heights, from the transformational generosity of Boston College Trustee and BC Law graduate Marianne Short NC'73, JD'76, P'05, to the anonymous donors who have chosen to shine a well-deserved spotlight on the critical work of the Mary E. Walsh Center for Thriving Children within the Lynch School of Education and Human Development.

While we heap due praise on the philanthropists and difference-makers within our community, we also highlight some of the staff members working tirelessly behind the scenes to better the lives of our Eagles. Frank Bailey is a long-serving veteran of our exceptional Dining Services staff, with the essential task of sustaining our student body and fueling them for success in and out of the classroom. And, just one year into her job as vice president for student affairs, Dr. Shawna Cooper Whitehead is instituting real change to improve our students' holistic wellbeing.

In a time of much upheaval, the University must continue to fulfill its worthy mission of scholarship, faith, and service and educate the next generation of compassionate, discerning leaders while instilling a sense of *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person. Thank you for your partnership—and for all that you do to help Boston College answer society's call.

Sincerely,

David Quigley
Provost and Dean of Faculties

ANSWERING **SOCIETY'S** CALL

BOSTON COLLEGE

A NEW

Vice President for Student Affairs—and marathon runner—Shawna Cooper Whitehead brings fresh eyes to the Boston College experience, helping students achieve their full potential and get the most of their experience at the Heights.

By Diana Griffith

Near right, Shawna Cooper Whitehead runs the 2022 Boston Marathon; she has completed all six major marathons: Berlin, Tokyo, London, Chicago, New York, and Boston

Far right, l-r, clockwise: BC students cheer on Boston Marathon runners; Friends celebrate at Mile 21 concert; Dozens of students serve as orientation leaders each summer; Robsham Theater and BC Bands are among the areas Student Affairs oversees.

ENERGY

Shawna Cooper Whitehead is always on the go. As a working mother. As a marathon racer. And most definitely as vice president for student affairs at Boston College.

When Cooper Whitehead started this role in fall 2021, just as pandemic restrictions began to ease, she saw an opportunity to create a new normal at the Heights, reinvigorate the social life that students lost out on for the better part of two years, and, in the process, establish new traditions for these Eagles.

On Marathon Monday in April, just as Cooper Whitehead was checking off Boston as the last world marathon major on her list, an enhanced BC tradition—Mile 21—was kicking off. Just after 10 a.m., pop star Jason Derulo took to a temporary stage in the Mods parking lot, which sits a few hundred yards from the marathon course and the eponymous mile marker. The singer, who was joined on stage by the Screaming Eagles Marching Band, received a raucous ovation from the gathered crowd of more than 5,000 Eagles.

"One student described it as 'electric,' and another said it was the best day he'd ever had at BC—and he's a senior," Cooper Whitehead said afterwards. "That melted my heart because that's exactly what we hoped to provide."

Engaging students and helping create lifelong memories is only part of Cooper Whitehead's job. Here, she tells us about her first year at BC and what's next.

SHAWNA COOPER WHITEHEAD, DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Education

BS in Elementary Education, University of Illinois

MA in Interdisciplinary Studies: Curriculum and Instruction, National Louis University

EdD in Human Development and Education, Boston University

Raised in the college town of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Cooper Whitehead says she felt called to higher education as a way to contribute at the highest level while still making a difference in individual students' day-to-day lives. She has built a reputation for leading successful student and community engagement initiatives at both secular and Catholic institutions such as Loyola University Chicago, University of Chicago, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Seton Hall University.

At BC, Cooper Whitehead oversees 170-plus staff members in 14 offices, including Residential Life, Health Services, the Career Center, and even Robsham Theater. Together, they help shape the BC experience for every Eagle.

Learn more:

What brought you to Boston College?

SCW: It was an opportunity to be at the institution that very literally has set the tone for what Jesuit education should look like. I wanted the chance to work with leadership and students who are excited about their vision for the future and what we can put out into the world. That has been my primary motivation, and coming to BC has lived up to my expectations and exceeded them.

How can BC help students get and stay engaged?

SCW: It's really important that we provide pathways for students to navigate BC and make use of all it offers, because it can be overwhelming for some. We have such talented and smart students, they want to do everything, and we know that is not possible. That's why we've convened a team from across campus to develop an online engagement program to help guide students through key moments. It's an opportunity for students to "create their own journey," to really make the BC experience unique to their interests and abilities.

What challenges are students facing and how is Student Affairs addressing them?

SCW: College is a pivotal time in a person's life—a new place, with new people, and in some cases making their own decisions for the very first time. For some, they may have been a big fish in a small pond, and now they are trying to find their way in a new place, with new possibilities. That's where we try to provide a lot of guidance to help them identify healthy interests and find support for whatever obstacles they may encounter.

Like any university, we have some students who are struggling with issues around substance use, mental health, sexual assault, social and racial justice, and the like. We work closely with our colleagues in Mission and Ministry, the Provost's Office, and the individual deans' offices to address these issues, and we're grateful to the BC alumni and parents who have provided programming support through the Student Affairs Discretionary Fund.

You've said that diversity and inclusion are integral to BC's Jesuit, Catholic heritage—how has that informed your work with students?

SCW: One of our central Jesuit principles is *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person. That starts with acknowledging that just because we may not agree or have the exact same background [as another], it doesn't mean that we can't respect each other and engage in conversations, even difficult ones. We know that if people stay in silos, in their own homogenous groups, we can't talk with each other and we can't learn.

Starting this fall, we're shaking up Welcome Week and other orientation programs to both integrate and expand our understanding of diversity and inclusion. And we are going to look at the full range of diversity, whether you come from an urban or rural environment, the East Coast or the Midwest; there's much more to it than just race, gender, and the like. It's about what you bring to the table.

What else do you have planned for the coming year?

SCW: One of my personal goals next year is to really celebrate our traditions, like Homecoming and First Flight. And for everyone in our division, we will keep coming together to learn about diversity and how we can best help our students become nimble and adaptable as they move forward in an ever-changing, global society.

Has anything surprised you at BC?

SCW: I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people willing to give toward important initiatives. I will also say that the involvement of senior leadership has also been really exciting because at some institutions, the leaders are untouchable, you can't even engage in conversation. But here, whether it's my regular meetings with Father [William P.] Leahy or my fellow VPs, or reaching out to the schools and other divisions, it has been unbelievably collegial and welcoming. I wouldn't say that was a surprise so much as it has given me solace. I feel like I belong here, that I'm really supposed to be here. And as much as there can be challenging days, I know that the greater good will come out.

Do you have a favorite spot on campus yet?

SCW: Absolutely—my office overlooks Lower Campus lawn, and depending on the day there could be tailgates out there, or a marching band rehearsal, or students playing frisbee. It can be whatever our students need or want at the moment, which is wonderful.

How do you start your day?

SCW: I usually get in early because my days are packed with meetings, and I like a little bit of quiet time with a cup of coffee while I respond to anything that came up overnight. I often also take time to pray and reflect or meditate, just to get myself a little more set.

Do you have any words of wisdom for BC students?

SCW: One thing I want students (and their parents) to know is that occasionally, even our highly talented and driven students won't succeed—and that's okay. Maybe they get a bad grade, or they're cut from a team, or they're passed over for an internship. That doesn't determine the rest of their life, in fact, they can learn as much from failures as from victories. College is the time to learn, to try new things, to make mistakes, and then to get right back up—and that's what we are here to help them do. ■

REUNION 2022

From the signature Golden Eagle investiture, which kicked off the milestone 50th anniversary for Eagle graduates of the Classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972, to a boisterous beer garden that launched an equally epic party for classes celebrating five and 10 years out, Boston College Reunion 2022 was an undeniable success. Over two weekends in early June, more than 5,000 alumni from more than 30 BC classes returned to campus in order to rekindle friendships and their appreciation for the Heights. ■

Mary E. Walsh, PhD

Executive Director of City Connects and the Daniel Kearns Professor of Urban Education and Innovative Leadership at the Lynch School of Education and Human Development

A Plan for EVERY CHILD

BY DIANA GRIFFITH

An anonymous gift honors and amplifies the work of City Connects, BC's holistic approach to K–12 student support.

This is a story about two women, strangers, who grew up in similar working-class towns where they saw families struggle to make ends meet. Both were taught to prize education, bucking expectations for women in the 1950s and 60s to pursue professional careers. One earned her doctorate in psychology, joined the Boston College faculty, and became the driving force behind City Connects, a groundbreaking student support program. The other, who prefers to remain anonymous, became an engineer, married a BC alum and, together, they became influential philanthropists focused on helping disadvantaged students.

Their paths converged when, in 2001, the couple established the Daniel E. Kearns '51 Chair in Urban Education and Innovative Leadership, which was awarded to the BC professor, Mary Walsh. United by their shared backgrounds and their beliefs about education, the two quickly became friends.

"Mary and I hit it off from the beginning," recalls the benefactor. "We look at education challenges in a similar way, and we've both seen how poverty affects kids—and also how well they can do when they have the right supports."

Two decades later, the same donor has made a transformational $10 million gift to help secure City Connects' future—and to honor the woman whose vision and tenacity she credits with advancing K–12 students' success across the country and abroad.

With the gift, BC's Center for Optimized Student Support—which houses City

THE MARY E. WALSH CENTER FOR THRIVING CHILDREN

The center advances science, implementation, and innovation to promote healthy child and youth development, learning, and thriving.

cityconnects by the numbers

Who are City Connects students?

1/3 identify as Hispanic

1/4 identify as Black

1/4 English language learners

2/3 economically disadvantaged

> "It was always important that it be scalable. It wasn't enough to just make one school more successful, we wanted a strategy that could make a difference for all schools and all students."
>
> —MARY E. WALSH, PhD

45,000 students served each year

Currently in over **150** public, charter, and Catholic schools across **five** states and in Ireland

Connects—has been renamed the Mary E. Walsh Center for Thriving Children.

"We'd already been working on renaming the center, to better communicate what makes it so unique," explains Walsh, who did not know about the gift in advance or that the center would also bear her name. "I was shocked, just shocked when I learned about the [full] name."

For the donor, naming the center for Walsh was in line with her and her late husband's quiet way of giving back.

"In any of the philanthropy I do, I want the spotlight to be on the people doing the work," she says. "Mary is a gifted leader who has brought together a wonderful team, and year after year, they put in the work. They have the expertise and the vision, and that is what is important."

Scalable Innovation

The center's flagship program, City Connects, puts research into practice through a school-based support system that connects each and every student to a tailored set of prevention, intervention, and enrichment services provided by the schools and local community agencies. The idea grew out of Walsh's experiences as a clinical-developmental psychologist working with low-income and homeless families in Worcester. "That's when I really got exposed to what grinding poverty does to people," says Walsh, recalling children who did not get enough food, who had no winter clothes, who missed school to care for siblings, or who simply had no one to encourage their unique talents and interests.

Eager to make a difference beyond her individual caseload, she joined the faculty in BC's Lynch School of Education and Human Development and began exploring ways to directly address out-of-school challenges that inhibit student success.

"One of my mentors had always told me 'Mary, the best place to live is on the fence between the worlds of thought and action.' He was always about integrating research with practice, and that was profound learning for me and aligned completely with my instincts."

She initially partnered with colleagues in the Lynch School and BC's School of Social Work to launch a "community school," modeled on a successful New

> The data tells us that if we are able to understand who our kids are and what they need, and if we can fill in the gaps as well as support their talents, interests, and hopes, then all kids can be successful. When we lower barriers and give kids the right resources, we know from research that we can alter the course of their development. It doesn't matter how much money you have, what your background is, or what neighborhood you live in, success is equally and readily available for everybody."
>
> —CLAIRE FOLEY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CITY CONNECTS

Winning Outcomes

Time and again, research shows that City Connects works. Compared to their peers, students in City Connects elementary schools:

- were more likely to enroll in, and complete, post-secondary programs.
- achieved better report card scores in reading, writing, and math.
- demonstrated significantly higher statewide test scores by grade 5.
- scored higher on statewide math and English language arts tests in middle school.
- were absent and dropped out of school less frequently in high school.

York City venture. Through that and other experiments, they saw that one of the primary obstacles to overcome was a pervasive lack of coordination.

"We had student teachers in the same schools as student social workers, often working with the same students, but they never connected, there was no communication," recalls Walsh. "I saw so much in that school about what schools could do—and were trying to do—but they didn't have the practical processes in place or the data to show effectiveness. And out of that came City Connects."

Working with a growing team of experts from education and academia—including former Boston Public Schools principal Patrice DiNatale and retired BC professor George Madaus—Walsh developed a system of interventions grounded in the latest research as well as the lived experience of teachers, principals, parents, and students. In 2001, the program officially launched and it has since expanded to a network of more than 150 public, private, and charter schools throughout Massachusetts and other states, and, as of 2020, in Ireland. The program has also been successfully adapted to serve students of all ages in preschools, high schools, and community colleges. "It was always important that it be scalable," says Walsh. "It wasn't enough to just make one school more successful, we wanted a strategy that could make a difference for all schools and all students."

In January 2022, Ireland's Minister of Education Norma Foley (center) visited Winthrop Elementary in Dorchester, to learn more about City Connects, which is now in 10 Irish schools. She is pictured here with (l-r) Professor Mary Walsh, Winthrop Elementary's Director of Innovation & Administrative Support Anthea Lavergne, City Connect's Winthrop School Site Coordinator Nicole Marques, and Winthrop Elementary Principal Leah Blake McKetty.

At the core of City Connects is the site coordinator, a master's-level school counselor or social worker who collaborates with teachers to examine the strengths and needs of each child, taking into account academic, socio-emotional, health, family, and other concerns. Then they develop an individualized support plan, and, critically, ensure it is implemented and updated throughout the year.

As students' needs are met—whether for tutoring, dental care, language services, arts enrichment, or just a safe place to go after school—the impact is far-reaching. Key to the program's success is that rather than adding new demands to an already-stressed school system, the site coordinator helps teachers, families, students, and local organizations work together more efficiently.

"As a teacher, you are so consumed with what's going on in the classroom immediately in front of you that you don't always have time to find different kinds of resources or services that might be beneficial," says Julie Roberts, who's taught fifth grade at an Ohio Catholic school for more than 20 years. "Everybody here feels the same way: We cannot imagine our school without City Connects."

As City Connects grew, the center took shape as a way to not only provide research and logistical support to the program, but also to share its impact and lessons learned with educators, social service workers, and—perhaps most importantly—policy makers.

With 18 full-time staff members, the Walsh Center for Thriving Children produces multiple practice briefs, webinars, and continuing education modules to help others seeking to implement similar programs in their schools. Just this year, the center led a national effort to develop Guidelines for Integrated Student Support. The center also developed and manages MyConnects, the proprietary online information system that empowers coordinators to provide students with the right services at the right time while collecting the data that fuels the center's research.

Shared Visions

From the start, BC's leadership has shown unflagging support for the center, which Walsh describes as "mission-consistent" with the Jesuit approach

City Connects and the Center Timeline

1989–Mary Walsh joins BC faculty

1990

BOSTON Public Schools

2001–City Connects launches in 6 Boston public schools

2000

2001–Donors establish the Daniel E. Kearns '51 Chair in Urban Education and Innovative Leadership at the Lynch School

to both educational pedagogy and service to the community. Funding from foundations and BC alumni, parents, and friends has also helped fuel the center's role as a leader in the integrated student support movement. Walsh points to the Kearns Professorship as a particularly pivotal gift in the center's early stages.

"It gave me the most amazing thing, which was time," Walsh says about the professorship. "Collaborating with schools takes a lot of time, and that gift is what allowed this to happen. It's a wonderful example of what an endowed chair can accomplish."

The professorship was named for Dan Kearns, a Boston Public School principal who had grown up in Dorchester with the donor's husband. "They played handball together at the YMCA, and where [my husband] went off to college and pursued a career in finance, Dan went and became a teacher," the donor recalls. "He was on the front lines, and we had such respect for his public service."

Around the same time, the donors had launched a program in their own community to support the needs of high school students living in poverty. "They did the hands-on work, enlisting and supporting teachers to mentor these students who were so motivated to succeed despite immense challenges," says Walsh, who served on the foundation's board. "It was doing essentially the same thing we're doing with City Connects, and it's been amazing to see what both programs have accomplished over the years."

Now, after 21 years as the Kearns Professor, Mary Walsh has retired from the Lynch School faculty to devote her attention full-time to the Center for Thriving Children. Fundraising will still be a major part of her work since, as an endowed fund, the anonymous gift will provide annual dividends equal to roughly 10 percent of the center's current budget. With support from this and other donors, Walsh and her team can plan for the future with greater confidence: "It means sustainability, that the work will continue even after I'm gone."

While the center and City Connects will certainly continue to expand, Walsh's true goal is to shift the larger conversation on student support.

"We're never going to go to every school, the point is really to influence how schools do their business," says Walsh. "We're into direct expansion, but we're also into policy, and we're into sharing our practices so others can implement them in ways that make sense for their own communities."

The donor is proud to play her part. "My main hope is simply that Mary and her wonderful team will continue to do their work," she explains. "There's evidence of hope for the kids she and I both care about so much, the low-income kids who just need someone to help them reach their potential." ■

2007–2011
Initial expansion

2012–2019
Continued expansion across US

2020–2022
International expansion

2007–Expands to additional 7 Boston public schools

2008–Expands to Boston Catholic schools; launches first non-Boston site in Dayton, Ohio

2010–Model introduced in high school and early childhood settings, most in elementary schools but some free-standing centers

2010

2011–Launches in Springfield, Massachusetts, public schools

2013–Expands to Springfield, Ohio, Catholic school; launches in New York City public schools; launches community college program in Ohio

2014– Expands to Brockton, Massachusetts, and Ohio charter schools

2015–Launches in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Catholic schools and Hartford, Connecticut, public schools

2017– Launches in Salem, Massachusetts, public schools

2018– Launches in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Minneapolis public schools

2019–Launches in Hamilton County public schools (Chattanooga, Tennessee); launches in Jamestown, New York, public schools

2020

2020–Launches first international partnership in Ireland with 10 Dublin-area schools

2022–Renamed the Mary E. Walsh Center for Thriving Children

LEGAL LEGACY

Distinguished judge, attorney, and philanthropist Marianne D. Short, Esq., NC'73, JD'76, P'05, transforms the future of BC Law with a record-breaking gift.

By Jill Caseria

Visiting BC Law on a spring afternoon with her husband, Ray Skowrya, P'05, is not "like" returning home for BC University Trustee, alumna, parent, and philanthropist Marianne Short. The sprawling campus was, in fact, her base for six years.

A 1973 graduate of Newton College and a 1976 Law School alumna, this renowned judge, attorney, and executive leader has seen the campus and its surroundings transform and expand. And when she returns, fond memories come flooding back: pick-up basketball with faculty and fellow law students at Quonset Hut; countless cups of tea while studying for exams in Stuart House; student events hosted by the Newton College president in Barat House.

For nearly 50 years, Marianne has been a fundamental part of BC, first as an NC undergraduate and then as a BC Law student. In 1985, University President J. Donald Monan, S.J., appointed her as a University Trustee. At age 34, Marianne was one of the youngest on the Board and one of the first women. She is also a member of the Council for Women of Boston College, a former associate member of the Law School Board of Overseers, and has served as a member of her Newton College Class Committee.

FINDING HER PURPOSE

Together at BC, Marianne and Ray have invested in financial aid, scholarships, and the Pete Frates Center at Harrington Athletics Village, and have also established a Sesquicentennial Assistant Professorship at BC Law in their name. Their unwavering philanthropy has created opportunities for generations of Eagles to pursue their interests and fulfill their dreams, both in and out of the classroom.

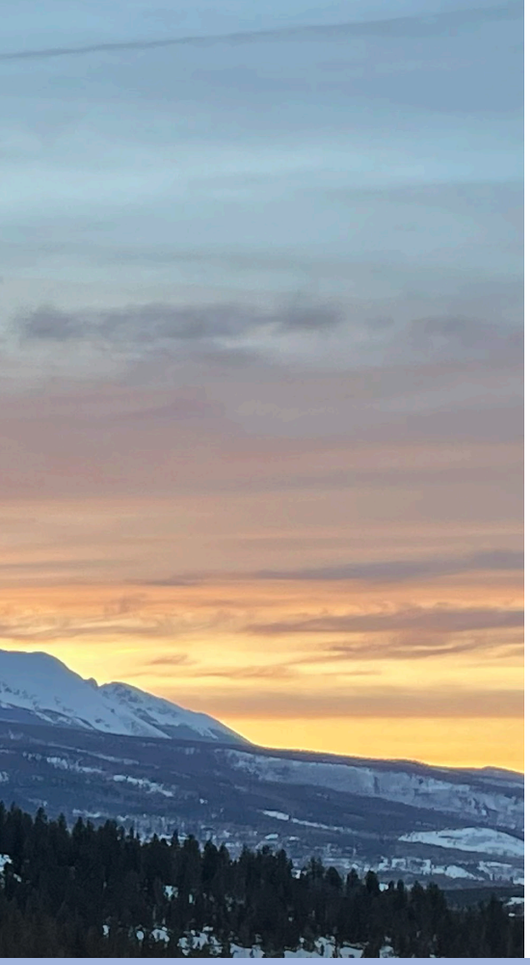
But it's their most recent commitment that truly strengthens the future of BC Law—by establishing the Marianne D. Short, Esq., Law School Deanship. Odette Lienau, professor of law and former associate dean for faculty research and intellectual life at Cornell University Law School, has been named the inaugural dean, effective January 2023. (See sidebar, pg. 23)

At home, Marianne's parents instilled a sense of purpose in each of their seven children. A Catholic education was seen as the means to finding one's purpose. "My father made sure that we were going to college to 'do something' with our lives," Marianne says. "He believed we should stand up and make a difference," she adds. "He was also a tough taskmaster, making us reach for the highest rung possible, as opposed to settling for something." As a result, Marianne was driven, too. She was an excellent student in each of the Catholic schools she attended.

Marianne's mother, a former schoolteacher from New York, read to her little ones daily, often with an infant in her arms and the older children sitting on the floor around her. The Bobbsey Twins and books by Charles Dickens were favorites among Marianne and her siblings.

Each of the Short children had regular chores, which instilled a sense of responsibility at a young age. Daily tasks included feeding the family's sheep and horses, picking fruit, and baking. When there was a bit more excitement, such as the birth of a foal, it was Marianne's job to negotiate with the school bus driver to wait for her older brothers until they were finished with their duties and could board. "I always had to come up with some song and dance about why they were late," she recalls.

As the oldest daughter, Marianne helped care for her three younger sisters and her youngest brother. "Watching the younger kids made me a disciplinarian, but also the best defender of them," she says.



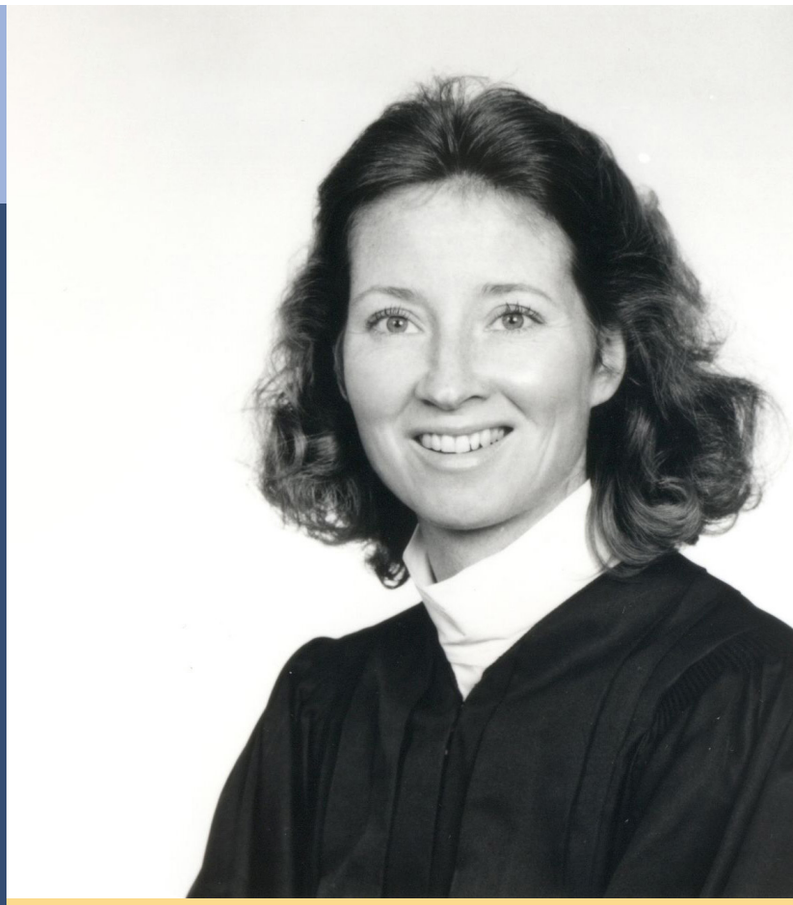
Marianne's home in Dillon, Colorado, "sort of hangs over Lake Dillon, so I have a view of this beautiful pristine lake and the mountains," she says. "It's rugged and a nice place to hike."

Marianne's father, who was first a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and then a business owner in Minnesota, exposed his oldest daughter to his own career at an early age. "I remember sitting in a corner of his home office playing with my Ginny doll while he was negotiating transactions," she says. Her parents often hosted dinner parties at their house with Minnesota politicians such as former vice presidents Hubert Humphrey and Walter Frederick "Fritz" Mondale, before they served in the nation's capital. Marianne and her sisters helped set the table, serve, and clear during those occasions—while at the same time caught bits of the discussion. "I learned a lot from just listening to all of those conversations my parents had with these friends and politicians," she remembers.

When it was time for Marianne to select a college, her parents let her choose—as long as it was Catholic. Newton College of the Sacred Heart spoke to her and the idea of studying in Boston seemed exciting, although it meant living away from her family for the first time.

As an undergraduate, she excelled—majoring in political science and philosophy and exploring her interests in civic and political matters. After earning her bachelor's degree in 1973, BC Law was an easy choice: she wanted to study law in the city she loved. The Law School's philosophy of giving back to the community especially appealed to her. "I didn't want to just be a lawyer," she says. "I wanted to be a litigator and I wanted to be in trial. I wanted to make a difference for others."

> "I didn't want to just be a lawyer. I wanted to be a litigator and I wanted to be in trial. I wanted to make a difference for others."
>
> —MARIANNE SHORT



After 12 years as a litigator in private practice, Marianne was appointed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals in 1988—and became the youngest member of the court at age 37. She retired from the court in 2000 to return to private practice.

Rev. Francis J. Nicholson, S.J.

CALLED TO SERVE

"Back then, law school was portrayed in the movies as a harsh place, where the professor would just yell your name and grill you for an answer," Marianne says. Thankfully, she adds, the classrooms at BC Law didn't resemble that pressure-cooker atmosphere. At the beginning of first semester, she was "a little nervous, unsure of what to expect." Right away, she joined a study group—one that she stayed with for all three years of law school, for support and friendship.

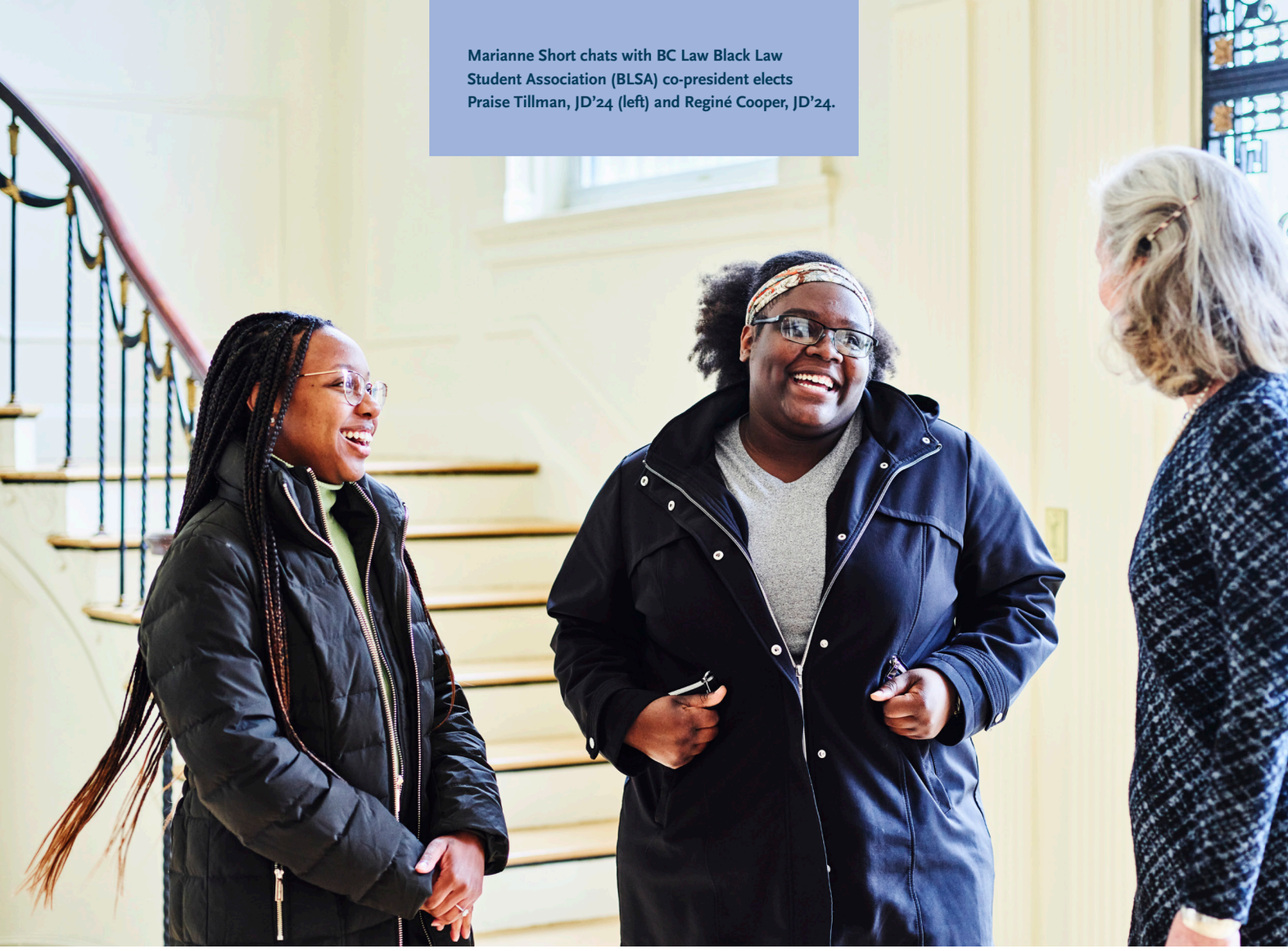
"Overall, our professors were really interested in us learning, as opposed to us failing, or simply showing us that they were smart," Marianne says, citing James Smith, Robert Berry, the Rev. Francis J. Nicholson, S.J., and Mary Ann Glendon among her favorite faculty. "They cared about us and wanted us to make something good out of our careers. They weren't just going through the motions.

"Truthfully, I feel blessed having been educated at Boston College Law School," she says. "I learned the best of law at BC, from professors and from classmates. I have been able to parlay all of that education into a wonderfully interesting career."

Marianne's prestigious path includes 35 years of courtroom and management experience. She began in the attorney general's office in Minnesota, where she tried cases and defended the State, and then she moved on to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, where she served as judge for 12 years. From 2007 to 2012, she rose through the ranks at Dorsey and Whitney, LLP, from associate to partner to managing partner. She was also an active litigation partner, co-chairing the firm's appellate and health litigation practice groups. Marianne then joined UnitedHealth Group as executive vice president and chief legal officer. Today she is officially retired from UnitedHealth Group but will remain as a strategic advisor until spring 2023. Marianne is also a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

"Truthfully, I feel blessed having been educated at Boston College Law School. I learned the best of law at BC, from professors and from classmates."

—MARIANNE SHORT



Marianne Short chats with BC Law Black Law Student Association (BLSA) co-president elects Praise Tillman, JD'24 (left) and Reginé Cooper, JD'24.

As a student, alumna, and University Trustee, Marianne has seen significant physical change to Boston College over time. But at its core, the University has stayed true to its mission, she says. "BC has gone from being a good school for boys and sports to really so much more. It's a community influencer and a defender of rights on all kinds of fronts. You've got to give the Jesuits a lot of credit for what they've built and sustained and changed with the times. They are incredibly smart and incredibly educated and they hold everyone to that same standard." When she joined the Board of Trustees 37 years ago, it was made up of 12 Jesuits and 12 laypeople. "Today the Board has expanded," she says, remarking, in particular, the strides that have been made by University President William P. Leahy, S.J. "When you look at the depth and the quality of people who come on, and the different voices around the boardroom table, it's remarkable. Father Leahy has really diversified the Board in both ethnicity and in mindset."

Throughout her entire academic career, Marianne's education was guided by Catholic nuns in grade school and college, and then by priests and professors at a Catholic, Jesuit institution founded in the values of Ignatian spirituality—such as authenticity, integrity, service, and justice. From her teachers and her parents, she learned the significance of what it means to be authentic and true to oneself, to have a deep sense of purpose, and to serve the community.

Marianne's career and her latest philanthropic commitment reflect these fundamental ethics, as well as her belief in the future of BC Law. "I care about law and I am a lawyer through and through," she says. "I also care deeply about the Law School, so this gift is very personal to me. We've been blessed with unbelievable deans at BC, and I know that this gift will continue the long legacy of public service that has been a foundational part of the Law School for years. That's what has set BC Law apart from other institutions. There's such a feeling of giving back within the BC education, paired with the desire to volunteer in the community. Not every law school has this kind of spirit," she says.

"I learned at a young age that if you are searching for something for yourself, you may or may not be happy in life," Marianne concludes. "But if you are doing something for others, you will always be proud of that. And I think that's really true." ■

> "There's such a feeling of giving back within the BC education, paired with the desire to volunteer in the community."

Odette Lienau, The Inaugural Marianne D. Short, Esq., Dean

After a nationwide search, Boston College named Odette Lienau, professor of law and former associate dean for faculty research and intellectual life at Cornell University Law School, as the inaugural Marianne D. Short, Esq., Dean at Boston College Law School. She will assume the role in January 2023.

A distinguished legal and political scholar and internationally renowned expert on sovereign debt issues, Lienau has centered her research and teaching interests on international economic law, debtor-creditor relations, international politics, and political and legal theory. She has served as a consultant and expert for the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank, and offered Congressional testimony on the international debt architecture before the United States House Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security.

Learn more about Odette Lienau

BC LAW BY THE NUMBERS

95.6%
Employment rate for the Class of 2021

#15
'Go-To' Law Schools for Large Firm Hiring
(National Law Journal)

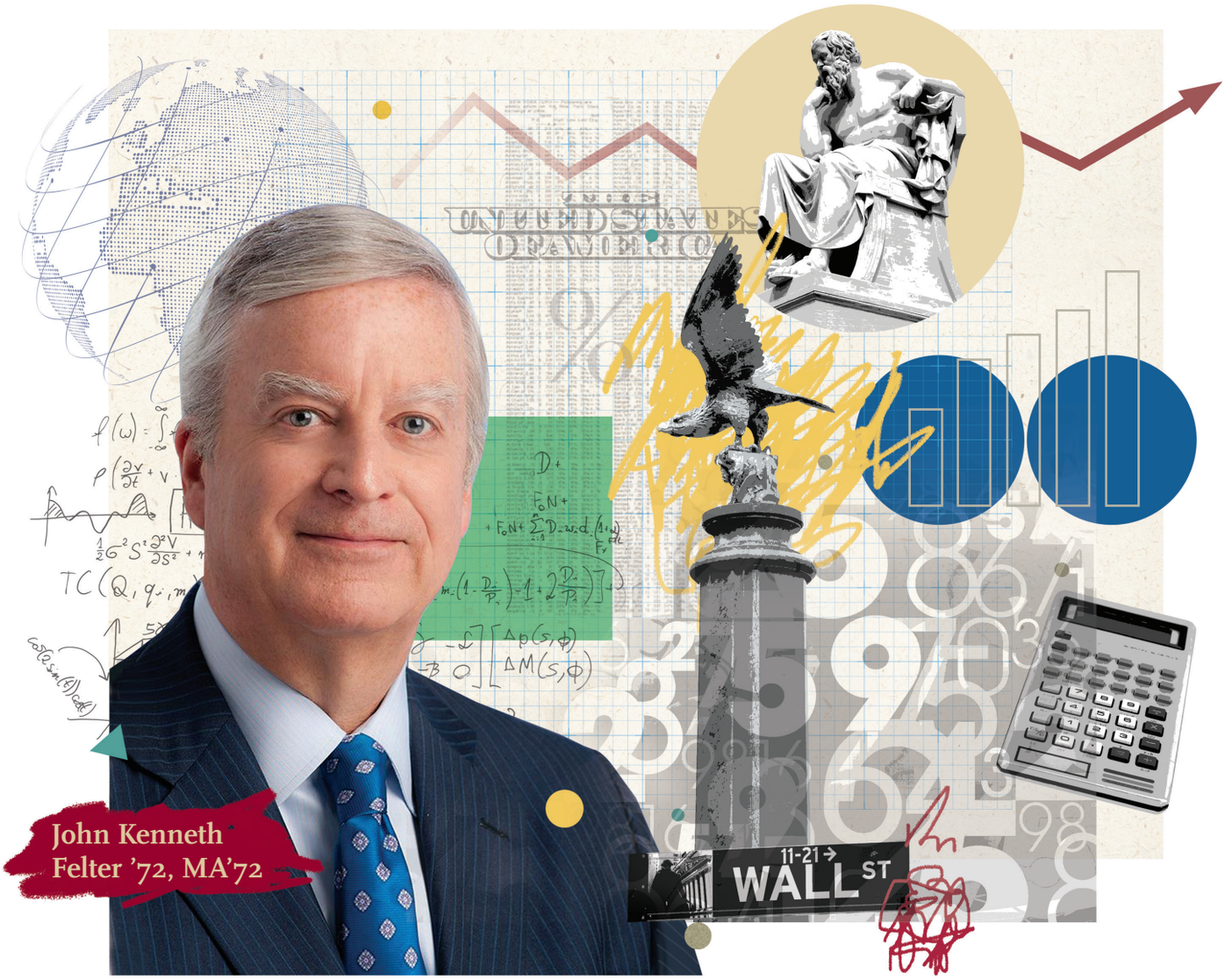
#25
Best Law Schools
(Above the Law)

#9
Best Professors and Best Quality of Life
(Princeton Review)

3.69 median **GPA**

165 median **LSAT**

for fall 2021 entering class



John Kenneth Felter '72, MA'72

Investing in the BEST

With a new gift, John Kenneth Felter '72, MA'72, aims to provide Eagles with the same kind of life-changing education that he received at the Heights.

BY ERIC BUSHNELL

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

These are the words John Kenneth Felter '72, MA'72, used to describe beloved Boston College economics professor Richard W. Tresch at the latter's retirement party in 2018.

Tresch's teaching at BC was legendary, Felter recalls—a sentiment shared by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as Governor Charlie Baker awarded Tresch a citation upon his retirement to acknowledge his "dedicated service to Boston College as a preeminent teacher, stalwart administrator, contributor to the social sciences, and esteemed author and public-sector theorist." His former student put succinctly the enormous impact Tresch had on him and so many BC students: "Dick is a great teacher. Dick inspires," Felter says.

Felter has never forgotten the importance of great teachers—indeed, he's made it a top priority to support them. That's why, when he made a gift to BC to establish an endowed faculty position earlier this year, he did so in honor of Tresch.

Economics professor Richard W. Tresch

> **What I found so interesting about his Principles of Economics class was not only the substantive subject matter, but also Dick's teaching style. He was a master of the Socratic method. He challenged students to apply economic theory to real-world situations."**
>
> JOHN KENNETH FELTER '72, MA'72

Felter remembers his first course with Tresch vividly: "What I found so interesting about his Principles of Economics class was not only the substantive subject matter, but also Dick's teaching style. He was a master of the Socratic method. He challenged students to apply economic theory to real-world situations." Felter, who had never studied economics, was inspired to make it his major as well as the subject of his Scholar of the College project, and to simultaneously earn his master's in Economics, all within four years.

Throughout the half century since his graduation, Felter has been a loyal supporter of the Economics Department and the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, where he's worked to promote excellence in teaching. In fact, since he retired as a partner and trial lawyer at the prestigious international law firm, Ropes & Gray LLP, Felter has taught a popular Cross Currents course at BC, Thinking about Law and Economics (and Psychology), which captures the interdisciplinary ethos of the University's most distinctive academic offerings. Felter also teaches at Harvard Law School and in the Economics Department at Harvard College.

Felter has established a number of endowments at the Morrissey College that offer vital support to its faculty, including the Felter Family Endowed Faculty Fellowship and the Felter Family Economics Department Doctoral Fellowship. His newest contribution was established with the aim to "support and recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching."

The University has found such a teacher: on March 17, the *Boston College Chronicle* announced that Theodore Papageorgiou had been named the inaugural Felter Family Associate Professor. Papageorgiou, whose research focuses on labor and transportation economics, says he is "humbled to join the growing group of endowed chairs at Boston College." He finds great joy in working with BC students, remarking that they are "intellectually curious, genuinely want to learn, and are kind." "[BC students] are a pleasure to teach," adds Papageorgiou. In June, Papageorgiou was awarded the Frisch Medal of the Econometric Society in recognition of his research on costs involved in the global transportation of goods (see sidebar).

With the arrival of new faculty talent such as Papageorgiou, the legacy of Dick Tresch—of brilliant scholarship and fully-dedicated undergraduate teaching—remains as powerful as ever at the Heights. ■

First Frisch Medal for Boston College

THEODORE PAPAGEORGIOU, PhD

INAUGURAL FELTER FAMILY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

EDUCATION

- BA, University of Athens
- PhD, Yale University

EXPERTISE

- Labor Economics
- Macroeconomics
- International Trade

This summer, Felter Family Associate Professor Theodore Papageorgiou was presented with the prestigious Frisch Medal of the Econometric Society for his research paper, "Geography, Transportation, and Endogenous Trade Costs," published in *Econometrica* and co-authored with his wife, Myrto Kalouptsidi (Harvard University), and Giulia Brancaccio (New York University).

The researchers challenge the assumption that transportation costs are constant, demonstrating that trade imbalances, and the availability of routes and port locations, profoundly influence the cost of international trade and shape its policies.

Papageorgiou is the first BC economist to become a Frisch honoree, several of whom are Nobel Prize laureates. "I am deeply honored and humbled," he says. "I am very lucky to be able to work at such an amazing and intellectually stimulating department and University. This would not have been possible without the support of a great group of colleagues."

Scan QR code to read the full Frisch Medal announcement.

"The great thing is, besides not getting invited to Anna (second from the left) and Julia's (first from the right) off-campus parties, we feel just as connected to the University now as we did when they were at the Heights."—Fred Seigel

IT RUNS IN THE **FAMILY**

What began as parents supporting the University their daughters came to call home has blossomed into a dynamic philanthropic relationship, reflecting the family's priorities and passions.

BY KEVIN COYNE

To this day, Donna Seigel, P'13, '19, remembers the minutiae of the moment—where they stood in the high school hallway, the fluorescent lighting, the banners for graduating seniors—when her daughter's friend told them the news. "He had gotten into his dream school, they'd even offered him some financial aid. He just didn't have the money to make it work," she recalls.

"He was a great student, a good athlete, a hard worker, a good young person who deserved to go to the school of his dreams," adds Donna's husband, Fred. "But the gating issue for him came down to financial resources."

"It immediately put things in perspective, since we were so excited about [our daughter] Julia being admitted to Boston College," Donna says. "Of course, we knew that this kind of thing happened, but seeing the impact on a personal level really broke my heart."

More than a decade removed from that conversation, that memory still guides the Seigels like a compass. No, it didn't signal the start of their support for financial aid—they were already staunch advocates for educational equity, social justice, and myriad other causes—but it remains a clarifying moment in their philanthropic journey.

Since then, both their daughters, Julia '13 and Anna '19, have graduated from Boston College, forming lifelong friendships and receiving transformational educations at the Heights, and the elder Seigels have become leading supporters of financial aid and a number of groundbreaking programs at BC—not that you could tell by talking to them.

For Donna and Fred, meeting the Eagles they support like Erica Osiecki '18, MA'20, is just the icing on the cake.

DRIVING IMPACT, ONE PRIORITY AT A TIME

The Seigels choose to bolster financial aid through:

- POPS ON THE HEIGHTS
- ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
- PRESIDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
- BC FUND

The Seigels support of the School of Social Work's mission through:

- SEIGEL FACULTY RESEARCH FUND
- SEIGEL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP FUND
- SEIGEL ENDOWED GLOBAL PRACTICE FUND
- CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

As New Hampshire residents, Donna and Fred make a point to support financial aid students from the Granite State.

"Scholarships are forever."—Fred Seigel

> "There aren't many need-blind universities; it's a powerful statement about how BC thinks about opportunity for young people." —FRED SEIGEL

The Seigels have thrown their full backing behind Dean Yadama and his vision for the School of Social Work.

Having attended numerous Pops on the Heights galas during their daughters' time at BC, the fundraising event remains a pillar of the Seigels' philanthropy.

For Fred and Donna, it's all about the impact they can have, working in tandem with the University, to make sure the possibility of a BC education isn't withheld from anyone just because they can't afford it.

Their inclination to provide access to education is born of personal experience. Coming from families without much in the way of resources—Fred was the first in his family to attend college, and Donna was one of seven children—they relied on student loans to pay their relatively inexpensive tuition costs. Now, with the costs of higher education increasingly difficult for working families to afford, the Seigels' choice to bolster financial aid—through Pops on the Heights, endowed scholarship funds, the President's Discretionary Fund, and more—became that much simpler. "Scholarships are forever," Fred says. "So the fact that BC is need-blind was very significant to us. There aren't many need-blind universities; it's a powerful statement about how BC thinks about opportunity for young people.

"The more we got to know BC, especially the leadership, we really got a sense that this was an institution we wanted to support. And after spending some time with Fr. Leahy, everything crystallized—the mission became really clear to us."

Growing up, philanthropy and the necessity of education were practically in the air Julia and Anna breathed. "We grew up talking about politics and social need," Julia recalls. "Ingrained in us from a young age was this strong belief in filling those gaps by giving where we

can." Anna adds, "our parents stressed access to education as a way to impact generations of people."

During Julia's first semester at BC, she took The Courage to Know with professor Brian Braman, which, along with club water polo, gave her a real sense of belonging. She's only a bit jealous of current Eagles who get to enjoy the new swimming facilities in the Margot Connell Recreation Center, but remains deeply grateful for the relationships formed in the classroom and poolside in the (poorly ventilated) Plex. "Finding that sense of community was so wonderful," she says.

When Anna told Donna and Fred that she was following Julia to the Heights, they were ecstatic. "We had seen the impact BC had on Julia for the four years she spent there, and we were so excited for Anna to receive all those benefits—from the lifelong friendships to the academic and professional development under outstanding faculty," Fred remembers.

Anna enrolled with a declared political science major and minored in women and gender studies, working under Sharlene Hesse-Biber, director of the Women and Gender Studies program. The experience proved invaluable. "My professors were amazing," she says, "taking me under their wing as a TA and research assistant, then helping me get into grad school." Also central to Anna's BC experience were her involvement with Young Democrats, as well as the Women's Center, which she cites as "the highlight of so many students' time at BC."

"Everything [Julia and Anna] were looking for, they found at BC," Donna says. Moreover, Julia and Anna credit the University for preparing them exceptionally well for their respective graduate studies. Seeing how much their daughters relished their time at BC, the Seigels established several funds to enable more deserving students to enroll at the University.

As the Seigel's relationship with BC has deepened over the years, they've expanded their philanthropy beyond just financial aid, supporting a number of causes that mirror their passions.

When Donna and Fred first met Alberto Godenzi, the late dean of the Boston College School of Social Work (SSW), they were deeply impressed. "They've got this top-10 program, and the graduate students go on to do all this remarkable work, which they're clearly not in for wealth creation," Fred says. "We left that evening really enthralled with [Dean Godenzi] and the school, and reached out afterward to see where we could help. The same impression Dean Godenzi made on us, we feel as strongly about Dean [Gautam] Yadama; he's an extraordinary leader."

> "Everything [Julia and Anna] were looking for, they found at BC."
>
> —DONNA SEIGEL

Julia and Anna echo their parents' enthusiasm. "Hearing how intentional they are about things like hiring diverse faculty and expanding opportunities for marginalized students, or how nimbly they allocated resources for struggling students throughout the pandemic was really invigorating," Anna says.

Identifying with the School of Social Work's mission to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized, Donna and Fred established the Seigel Faculty Research Fund, Seigel Graduate Fellowship Fund, and Seigel Endowed Global Practice Fund. Additionally, they've thrown considerable support behind the SSW's Center for Social Innovation, which houses the Black Leadership Initiative and the Latinx Leadership Initiative, and advances social interventions combating poverty, racial inequities, climate change, and more. The School's focus on matters of diversity and inclusion, in particular, became a natural fit with the family's collective commitment to advancing social justice.

"What makes helping BC easy is the leadership," insists Fred. "When you have exceptional leaders who have a vision and execute with passion, you want to build it with them. What's always energized us about BC are leaders like Fr. Leahy, Jim Husson, Dean Yadama—good, caring people who continue to move the school forward. There's always something new at BC. We just want to be part of it." ■

In BC and its wider community, the Seigels have found a powerful partner in their mission of increasing access to education.

OFFICE HOURS

CHOPPING IT UP with *Frank Bailey*

Meet the top chef who determines where BC's food comes from and where it needs to go.

Immediately following Boston College Commencement, a transformation takes place. As if propelled by a collective exhale, students depart for their summer adventures and a calm falls over the Heights. That's when Frank Bailey, P'26, does some of his best—and most rewarding—work.

As associate director of food and beverage for BC Dining Services, Bailey is responsible for all that is served in the dining halls and at catered events 364 days a year, work that involves menu engineering, purchasing, cost analysis, and more.

A native of Martha's Vineyard, Bailey was always destined to be a chef. He got his start in the restaurant industry at a young age, and found himself working every day during the island's summer tourist season. In high school, he had an opportunity to train in Lyon, France, and later graduated from the Culinary Institute of America. Bailey came to Boston College in 2001 to open the President's Dining Room in Maloney Hall and has never left. Along the way he has been a second cook, production manager for catering, and most recently executive chef, a position he occupied for eight years.

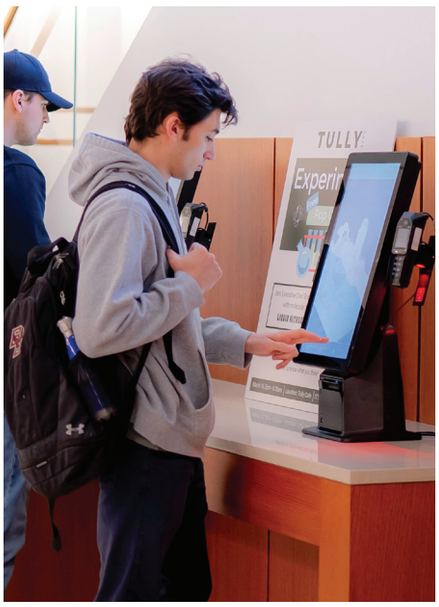
Bailey assumed his current role during the COVID-19 pandemic, which, for a man whose job is mainly logistical, was exceptionally challenging. However, because BC Dining is self-operated with a full-time staff of 250, it doesn't partner with a food contractor like many other universities. That made a big difference during the pandemic.

"The pandemic hit and you saw schools all around here laying off their staff. Boston College took a very different path with it," Bailey says. "We were able to keep all of our full-time employees on board and busy working. In the true mission of Boston College, that meant providing food to homeless shelters, preparing meals for others in need. The feeling at the end of the day was great and for our employees to have an opportunity to do something a little different and be part of something bigger, it was huge. They're still talking about it today."

Keeping the entire operation in-house means BC Dining also shoulders the load for signature events like Commencement and Reunion, conferences, and on-campus weddings, in addition to managing athletics concessions and, of course, operating BC's dining halls. Still, Bailey never loses sight of the main objective and says his staff understands students are the most important part of the job.

"During exam time, we used to tell our teams, 'Hey, these students are stressed. We need to be there to support them.' It's not cooking but it's still something we can do. Now we don't have to prompt anyone—it's automatic. They write little notes on takeout boxes, like 'good luck today.' It's such a small gesture, but it's so impactful."

> Boston College is like a small city where we're all interconnected, and our number one mission is customer service. It's the simple things like checking in with students, keeping an eye out to see if someone looks like they're struggling. We want them to think of us as more than just the people that are providing their food."
>
> —FRANK BAILEY



A student orders through a touchscreen kiosk in 245 Beacon Street.

Special moments like these payoff during events like Reunion, which is right up there among Bailey's favorite times of year. "I'll run into people that worked for me 15 years ago. It's just a fantastic feeling—the fact that you made enough impact that they not only remember you, but they seek you out," Bailey says. "That's what keeps me going."

Interacting with students and employees past and present is only part of what buoys Bailey. He also enjoys witnessing how patrons move about the servery and what types of foods they gravitate toward or avoid.

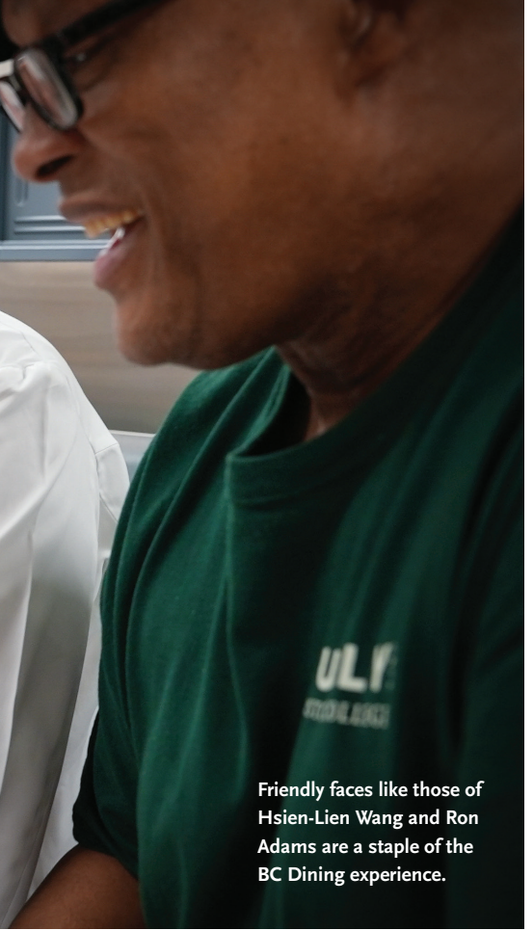
Bailey notes that today's Eagles are better educated about food than ever before—they tend to eat healthier, more global foods, and the number of vegetarians and vegans has grown, albeit slowly, over the years. While student tastes may be savvier, they can also be ephemeral, and BC Dining occasionally tries to capitalize on trends like those found on the social media platform TikTok or through pop-up experiences.

Bailey's task is to consider not only where BC's food comes from, but where the entire operation needs to go. Increasingly, he relies upon technological advances and data in his decision making, critical assets to have under his chef's hat in a time of supply chain uncertainty. Perhaps the best example of these advances is on display at the Tully Family Cafe and Commons in BC's newest building, 245 Beacon Street, where students can now order from touchscreen kiosks in addition to their mobile device while enjoying convenient, contact-free pickup through smart lockers.

"The largest auditorium is right across the way so we know when our biggest hits are coming because students have learned they can place an order 10 minutes before class ends—presumably, they're still paying attention—walk out, scan their phone on the locker, grab, and go," says Bailey, who has a dashboard on his phone that he uses to track real-time data. "To have something available to them that is freshly made custom to their order and have it ready when they come out is a huge perk. And it's a baby step to where we're headed."

Despite the bells and whistles that accompany the student dining experience in 2022—plus the disruption caused by food delivery services like Uber Eats, DoorDash, and more—Bailey knows that BC still has a secret weapon: the human touch.

"Boston College is like a small city where we're all interconnected, and our number one mission is customer service," says Bailey, a consummate team player who lights up when speaking about his staff.



Friendly faces like those of Hsien-Lien Wang and Ron Adams are a staple of the BC Dining experience.

"It's the simple things like checking in with students, keeping an eye out to see if someone looks like they're struggling. We want them to think of us as more than just the people that are providing their food."

This approach is part and parcel of *cura personalis*, the Jesuit ideal that signals care for the whole person. Not only do Boston College students receive a formative education in the classroom, but they are impacted by their relationships everywhere at the Heights, even from those sources one might least expect.

Bailey tells the story of a former student-athlete who was overwhelmed with his practice and academic schedule and on the cusp of dropping out of school. The student sought out a Corcoran Commons cook with whom he was familiar, and the cook relayed a personal experience from his own life. After that relationship was formed, things turned around for the student.

"He didn't feel like he needed a counselor, or to put himself in an uncomfortable position. He just needed someone to talk to," Bailey says. "We might not be the first people you think of, but we're available because we do feel like a part of that community." ■

The new Tully Family Cafe & Commons at 245 Beacon Street not only offers nourishment but also a place for members of the BC community to connect and share ideas.

5 INTERESTING THINGS IN FRANK'S OFFICE

Frank Bailey has an official workspace on Brighton Campus, but in a 10- to 11-hour work day, he only spends about two hours in it. The remainder of his time is usually spent visiting staff, observing operations and interactions in the campus dining halls.

"Remaining connected helps us operate in such a busy and hectic environment all the time," says the 21-year BC veteran. "You get that feeling where everyone—from folks working in the dishroom to the chefs in our kitchens to the managers—they all want to be part of the team. And you never want to let your team down when you're that connected."

PRIZED PRINTS

"A print of The Angelus by Jean-François Millet reminds me that no matter how busy I may get, I should also take some time for reflection. The other, of Strawberry Shortcake, serves a similar purpose and was gifted to me by a former employee. She picked it up at a yard sale and just knew in her heart that I needed it."

SHOES. LOTS OF SHOES.

"I log around 20,000 steps a day, and a former employee taught me that changing your shoes mid-day helps with foot pain."

THE KNIFE SET

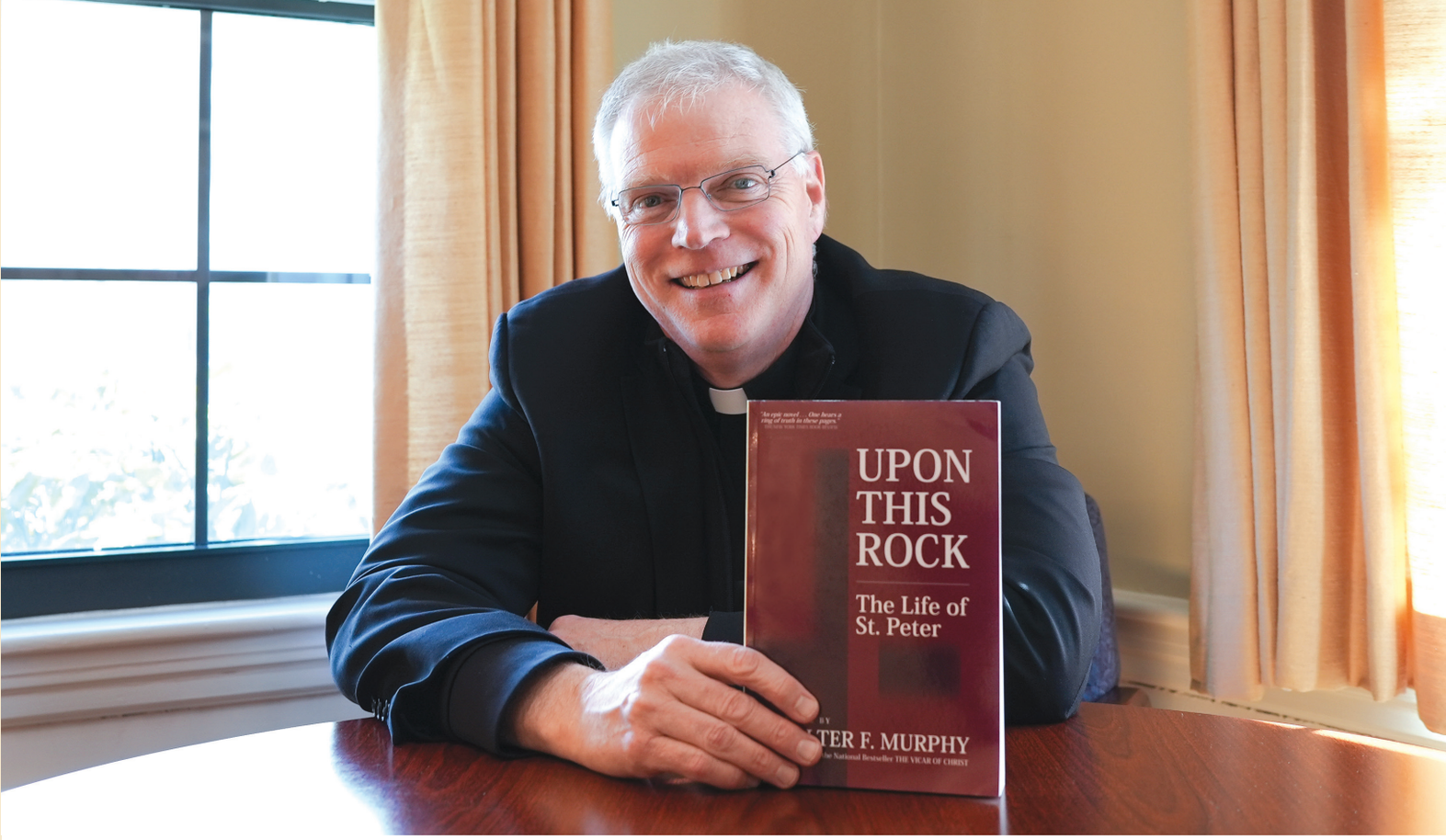
"This one is kind of obvious, but it is the single most important thing in my office for my line of work. My favorites are the Dalstrong Kiritsuke chef's knife and the Victorinox 8-inch chef's knife."

UTENSILS...FOR WRITING

"Every chef has at least one Sharpie on them at all times—it is sometimes the only thing that will work. Also, I always need to have a notebook and this exact pen at the ready."

PROOF IN THE PUDDING

"One of the items I am most proud of is a plaque from the Division of Student Affairs citing me as an "Outstanding Campus Partner." It reminds me that with everything going on, the students and their campus experience are the most important thing."



BEACON BOOK CLUB

SAINTS **Among Us**

JOHN T. BUTLER, S.J., HAUB VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE DIVISION OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

The legacy of William B. Neenan, S.J., at Boston College is beyond measure. For nearly 35 years, he personally curated the "Dean's List" and shared it with the BC community. We honor and continue that treasured tradition through Beacon Book Club.

In this edition, Haub Vice President for the Division of Mission and Ministry John T. Butler, S.J., better known at BC as "Father Jack," shares *Upon This Rock*, a spiritual novel by Walter F. Murphy about the life of St. Peter from the moments after Jesus's arrest and his denial, through the time of Peter's death.

"Over 20 years ago, I read a book of Murphy's that I thoroughly enjoyed. At first, I shied away from *Upon This Rock* because, as a rule, I do not like spiritual novels. To my surprise, not only did I like it, but I stopped reading it for enjoyment and made it part of my prayer life.

"We often think of saints and popes as these larger-than-life figures. Yet in this novel, Peter is a regular human being struggling with life, faith, and his multiple relationships. In other words, he was one of us. For me, I could resonate with a person of faith who loved Jesus and yet stumbled along the way.

"As a Jesuit, we have a form of prayer called Ignatian Contemplation. We imaginatively put ourselves into the scene and allow the action of the Spirit to move us in interacting with the characters in scripture. For me, *Upon This Rock* was an Ignatian contemplation, and I hated to come to the end of the book." ■

"We often think of saints and popes as these larger-than-life figures. Yet in this novel, Peter is a regular human being struggling with life, faith, and his multiple relationships. In other words, he was one of us."

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