
BOSTON COLLEGE NEIGHBOR

Office of Governmental and Community Affairs

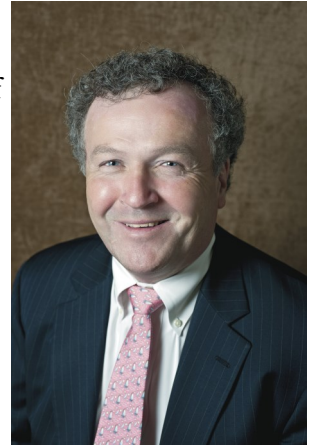
2024

A message from Vice President Tom Keady

Dear Neighbor:

As we embark on academic year 2024-2025, it is once again my pleasure to share the Office of Governmental & Community Affairs' newsletter providing you with updates and information on Messina College, a two-year associate's degree program that opened in July welcoming 100 first-generation students to the Brookline campus, the new fall exhibit at the McMullen Museum of Art, as well as the Lowell Humanities Speakers Series, kicking off on September 11th, featuring talks on history, art, poetry, psychology and sociology.

Our office looks forward to working with you on various projects and hosting you at an upcoming lecture, athletic event, McMullen Museum of Art exhibit or at the annual Boston College Arts Festival showcasing student art, theater, dance and musical performances. If you have any questions regarding the information in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me or a member of my office staff at (617) 552-4787 or email the office at gca@bc.edu



Lowell Humanities Series

A wide range of leading voices in the humanities—representing social history, art, poetry, psychology, sociology, and more—will be welcomed to campus this fall by the venerable Boston College Lowell Humanities Series, which begins on September 11.

“As usual, we have aimed for diverse fields in the humanities, and I'm especially thrilled that almost all of our speakers work in multiple genres or address more than one discipline,” said Professor of History Sylvia Sellers-García, who now leads the series following an interim directorship during the last academic year. “These talented thinkers demonstrate how some of the most influential work in the humanities is not neatly contained by disciplinary boundaries.

“With the upcoming presidential election, I was hoping to feature speakers that could address politics in imaginative ways,” she added.

“Orna Guralnik's lecture will focus on how politics affects our interpersonal relationships, and Reuben Jonathan Miller will address the important topic of voting rights. I hope this year's lectures will stimulate rewarding conversations both in and out of the classroom.”

All events—which are co-sponsored by a number of University departments, programs, and initiatives—begin at 7:00 p.m. and will take place in Gasson 100. All events are free and open to the public. They will be on Eventbrite, an event management and ticketing website; there also will be the option to scan a QR code at the door.

For more information about the Lowell Humanities Series, visit bc.edu/lowell.



The work of distinguished writers, scholars, and artists will be showcased on campus this semester

-University Communications



Now in year five of a partnership with the Boston Fire Department, BC hosts the students and mentors of the Teen Fire Academy for the 2024 summer admission session and campus tour.



Bill Mills, Director of Community Affairs recognized with the 2024 National Night Out Community Service Award by Mayor Wu, elected officials and members of the law enforcement community.



The 15th Taste of Off Campus welcomes off campus students and the community for a meet and greet and to sample the delicious cuisine of local restaurants.

Community Assistance Program

Run by the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of Students, the Community Assistance Program (CAP) continues to enhance the relationship between our host communities and our on- and off-campus students .

Steve Montgomery, the Off-Campus Stu-

dent Community Liaison, works closely with the Boston, Newton, and BC Police Departments, to respond to disturbance calls and address concerns of the community.

Steve monitors areas where large numbers of off-campus students live on weekend nights (including Thursdays), holidays, home football

games, and other high activity dates during the academic year.

Students needing help with city services, landlords, and their neighbors should feel free to contact the BC Community Assistance Program.

To reach CAP on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday evenings, contact the



Boston College Police at [617-552-4440](tel:617-552-4440).

You can also contact Steve during the rest of the week at 617-552-6028 or stephen.montgomery@bc.edu

Messina College welcomes its inaugural class

A few nerves. A bit of anxiety. Some faint traces of trepidation. And a lot of excitement. Pretty much a normal first few days at college for the 110 students in the inaugural class of Boston College's new Messina College.

Students and their parents arrived on July 7 for Move In Day, which included an orientation program featuring remarks by Messina College Dean Erick Berrelleza, S.J., Provost and Dean of Faculties David Quigley, and Office of Undergraduate Admission Senior Associate Director Stephen Koo, who helped lead Messina recruitment efforts.

"The campus feels like a complete transformation has taken place," said Fr. Berrelleza, about a week before students arrived, as crews painted, cleaned, and landscaped the renovated student center and dining room—just one of many projects coming to a close on the former Pine Manor College campus.

"After so many conversations about creating a space that is inviting for our students, over time, seeing that actual transformation now has been a really fun part of my job," Fr. Berrelleza said.



The inaugural class of BC's new Messina College arrived on campus in July. (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)

Messina College is part of the University's \$100 million Pine Manor Institute for Student Success initiative to enhance educational opportunity for underrepresented, first-generation students, and marks the first time BC will offer an associate's degree. In all, Messina will enroll approximately 200 students who will live in dormitories on the campus.

Aligned with BC's Core Curriculum, Messina offers the majors of applied data science, applied psychology and human development, general business, and health sciences. With their degree, students can apply to earn their bachelor's degrees at BC or other four-year colleges and universities; or go on to other programs focused on specialized skills, careers, or public service.

The inaugural class, drawn largely from Boston, other gateway cities in Massachusetts, as well as from some additional states across the country, will spend the next few weeks engaged in the First Year Discovery Seminar, a focal point of other University programs to prepare students for the workload, challenges, and conversations they will encounter. "

Patrick Elvariste of Roxbury, who graduated from Cathedral High School in Boston's South End, is studying data science. He learned of Messina when Dean for Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid Grant Gosselin met with students. "I couldn't believe it. I have always dreamt of going to Boston College," said Elvariste. "I'm looking forward to classes. I want to see what to expect and what the homework will look like. I want to stay focused. I feel like you experience every emotion getting started. What I'm feeling the most right now is excitement."

Rochelli Silverio of Lawrence, who is studying general business, said she appreciates that the program was designed for students like her. "I have always heard about BC. A lot of my teachers went to BC," she said. "When I heard about Messina College, it was great that it was part of BC, but also for people like me who are first generation, immigrants, people who might be defined as 'other,'" said Silverio, who is from the Dominican Republic. One of six children, Silverio said she's looking forward to "having my own place to study, all the support they have for us here, and working hard, like my mother, who works so hard for our family."

Excitement was running high among faculty as well. Assistant Professor of the Practice of Biology Antonio Serrato-Capuchina, formerly of Boston University, earned a doctorate in genetics from the University of North Carolina and did postdoctoral work at Harvard University. A native of Mexico who was 12 when his family moved to the U.S., Serrato-Capuchina said he's excited to support students and hopes to give them the tools that will make their own educational journeys less of an uphill battle than his.

As the first in his family to go to college, he had to overcome not only financial hardship, but also a lack of experience and institutional knowledge about how higher education works. He saw the position at Messina as the perfect combination of teaching and outreach.

"I have constantly been involved in educational outreach," said Serrato-Capuchina. "My mentality is shaped by my own academic path, which was way harder than it should have been. But I have always been a go-getter and I hope to share what I've learned with our students. I want to be a positive force and uplift our students and their communities."

-Ed Hayward, University Communications

Colleen Simonelli receives 2024 Community Service Award

M. Colleen Simonelli of the Connell School of Nursing is the recipient of the 2024 Boston College Community Service Award in recognition for her tireless efforts to help establish a new nursing school at St. John's College, a Jesuit higher education institution in Belize.

Simonelli, a Connell School professor of the practice and associate dean for student services, was lauded for her years of leadership and dedication to nursing and steadfast commitment to the partnership between CSON and St. John's.

Belize is a nation of 400,000 people, served by an estimated 1,200 nurses. Many residents live in remote, impoverished areas with little or no access to quality health care. St. John's President Mirtha "Alice" Peralta reached out to Boston College President William P. Leahy, S.J., and the Connell School of Nursing for assistance in addressing the nursing shortage by

helping to establish a nursing program at St. John's.

Simonelli offered consultation and advice on what would be needed to get a program up and running. She and CSON colleague became trusted advisors and enthusiastic partners, providing Peralta with critical guidance, as well instructional and logistical support.

Simonelli and Cullinan traveled to Belize in 2022 to assess nursing practices at area hospitals. They returned to Belize in 2023, with BC nursing students, to analyze the existing pipeline for nurses and develop a list of supplies and equipment needed for the new school.

The new St. John's College nursing school was launched in October, 2023, with an inaugural class of 63 students.

Simonelli spearheaded a plan for four nurses in Belize to pursue master's degrees in nursing at BC. These nurses, who graduated last month, will be faculty in-

structors in the new school. Simonelli has committed to providing them with support as they embark on their leadership and teaching positions.

"In accepting the call to action to help launch the nursing program, Colleen truly embodied the Jesuit mission of being men and women for others," said Office of Governmental and Community Affairs Vice President Thomas Keady at the May 29 recognition ceremony. He added that Simonelli is a "consummate caring advocate for students, patients, and the nursing profession" and that the new nursing program "will have lasting benefits for St. John's College and Belize."

A maternal child health nurse for more than 30 years, Simonelli's research focuses primarily on optimizing health for



President William P. Leahy, S.J., with Colleen Simonelli

women and their infants. She has taught childbearing theory and clinical course, and has been honored with awards from the Connell School, including the Excellence in Undergraduate Clinical Teaching Award and the Undergraduate Teaching and Mentorship Award.

-Kathleen Sullivan, University

McMullen Museum Fall Exhibit

States of Becoming investigates the dynamic forces influencing seventeen contemporary African diaspora artists, selected by curator Fitsum Shebeshe. The featured artists draw from diverse artistic methodologies and experiences to explore their connections with real and imagined genealogies that signify cultural, racial, national, and geographical belonging.

The exhibition is arranged in three groups: artists who share their homelands' experiences within their current communities; and artists who build bridges between the African diaspora and the United States. The exhibition

aims to contribute to conversations about identity construction and assimilation in the face of emigration and resettling.

The artists represented, who now reside in the US, have ties to 12 countries in Africa and one in the Caribbean, with roots in American cities including New York, Washington, DC, and Los Angeles.

In the Daley Family and Monan Galleries, September 9-December 8, 2024

For more information, please visit www.bc.edu/sites/artmuseum



The Boston College Neighborhood Center, located at 480 Washington St in Brighton, provides free educational services to the Allston Brighton community, including tutoring for school-aged children

and English classes for adults.

Please check out our website (www.bc.edu/neighborhood) for updates about our free educational services for the fall semester.