
BOSTON COLLEGE NEIGHBOR

Office of Governmental and Community Affairs

Summer 2021

NOTICE—Starting next year, we will no longer distribute a printed newsletter. The content will be available online at the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs website at www.bc.edu/ogca

A message from Vice President Tom Keady

Dear Neighbor:

As we embark on academic year 2021-2022 at Boston College, it is my sincere hope that you and your family are staying healthy and safe as we continue to face the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Based on 2020 best practices and lessons learned around COVID-19 health and safety protocols, social distancing, masking, testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, and now with the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine, the University is able to safely welcome back students, faculty and staff to what we firmly believe will be a more normal year of in-person learning, teaching and working.

Last spring, Boston College mandated that all students, faculty and staff who planned to be on campus this fall must be fully vaccinated or qualify for a religious or medical exemption. Prior to the start of classes on August 30th, the University reported vaccination rates of 99.1% for undergraduates, 99.6% for graduate students and 99.3% for faculty and staff. As breakthrough infections can occur, the University required that all students, faculty and staff planning to be on campus be tested for coronavirus, regardless of vaccination status. In addition to the baseline testing for coronavirus at move-in/return to campus, the University has also resumed targeted asymptomatic surveillance testing this semester, with a particular focus on “high contact” groups such as dining workers, housekeeping staff, resident assistants, etc. Students, faculty and staff are also expected to monitor their health on a daily basis utilizing the BC Check app. At this time and subject to change, fully vaccinated students, faculty and staff are not required to wear masks on campus, (although many choose to do so), with the exception of those indoor facilities/venues open to the public where masks are required as outlined in the Boston and Newton mask orders. For the most current information and updates on COVID-19 vaccine policy and test results, please visit the BC Forward website at <https://www.bc.edu/forward>



In major construction updates, work continues on the Institute for Integrated Science and Society (IISS) building in Newton which is on schedule to be completed in late December and open in January of 2022. Planning is underway in Boston for an expansion and renovation of the north side of Conte Forum as a result of a generous \$15 million-dollar gift from University Trustee Michaela “Mikey” Hoag, ’86 and her husband Jay Hoag. The Hoag Basketball Pavilion will house new locker rooms, dedicated practice space, strength and conditioning, nutrition, hydrotherapy and sports medicine rooms for the men’s and women’s basketball programs, as well as improved office and rehearsal space for the band, greatly improved accessibility and energy efficiency at the Gate C lobby entrance, and new seating, plantings and landscape improvements to Gabelli Plaza.

While we need to remain vigilant and comply with health and safety measures regarding vaccines and testing for coronavirus, it gives me great pleasure to see the BC community and the public back on campus enjoying a football game, a lecture or a visit to the McMullen Museum of Art.

If you have any questions or comments regarding information in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me or a member of my office staff at (617) 552-4787.

Boston Teen Fire Academy Visits Boston College



For the past two summers, Boston College's Office of Governmental & Community Affairs (OGCA) and Boston College Dining Services (BCDS) have supported the Boston Teen Fire Academy summer mentoring and leadership program. Established by the department in 2017, the program seeks to teach teens life skills such as taking initiative, being responsible and working as team, whether as a fire fighter or in their chosen college or career path. Following a request to BC Office of Governmental & Community Affairs Vice President Tom Keady from Mayor Martin Walsh and Fire Commissioner Jack Dempsey to partner in the spring of 2020, Boston College Dining Services prepared and delivered weekly lunches for the approximately 60 teens and 20 staff during the six-week program operating at White Stadium, the BFD Training Academy at Moon Island and various field trip sites.

In 2021 Boston College expanded the partnership by inviting the Academy's high school juniors and seniors to visit the University for a tour, lunch and a college admission information session where they gained valuable insight on the process from Paul Bonitto, Associate Director of AHANA Admission and Steven Koo, Associate Director, Office of Undergraduate Admission. The campus tour was skillfully led by Lubens Benjamin, (CSOM'23) who shared his personal student experience, as well as what BC has to offer in terms of academics, student support, social activities, campus life and recreation.

Juan Sanchez, BFD Diversity Recruitment Officer and Teen Fire Academy founder, commented "this year's experience with Boston College was unique and necessary for our teens to gain perspective on what needs to be done to get in to BC, but also to understand what's expected of you when you become an Eagle. Our meeting with Paul and Steven and our tour with Lubens was aspirational and informative and really allowed our teens to visualize what being a student at Boston College would look like."

Community Assistance Program



Run by the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs in conjunction with the Office of Student Conduct, 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, working closely with the Boston Police, Newton Police and BC Police, responds to disturbance calls and addresses concerns of the community, including new Covid-19 health & safety protocols due to changing conditions and guidance from local, state, and federal officials and agencies.

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

The Campus School Story



Tom Brady visits the Campus School



Baldwin and members of BCPD with a student

A unique enclave of learning in the heart of campus has been thriving for five decades, bolstered by advocates from all corners of the University. The Campus School, located in the Lynch School of Education and Human Development, currently serves thirty-two students ages 3 to 21 who have multiple disabilities. In its classrooms, educators, therapists, and nurses work side by side to help students overcome challenges, gain independence, and experience the joy of learning. "Walking in here each day is just energizing," said Tom Miller, a special-education veteran who took over as interim director of the Campus School in January.

The Campus School was the brainchild of the late John Eichorn, a former chair of special education at the Lynch School who was inspired by an on-campus enrichment program for children with cerebral palsy that a colleague ran in 1968. In the fall of 1970, the Campus School opened its doors as one of the first publicly funded private institutions in Massachusetts designed specifically for students with multiple diagnoses. In particular, the school accepted students with cognitive disabilities, as well as children with extreme behavioral challenges who were deemed "uneducable" by the public schools.

From the beginning, graduate students at the Lynch School earned credit hours by working as teaching assistants, introducing new instructional models that have kept the Campus School on the cutting edge of special education. Other partnerships—on campus and beyond—developed over time. In the early '90s, for example, BC computer science faculty asked Campus School students to help test EagleEyes, a groundbreaking new communications system that enables users to control a computer with their eyes.

As public schools expanded their special-education programs in the early 2000s, the Campus School's population shifted to include more students with severe disabilities. Increasingly, educators supplemented their math and history lessons with nonacademic activities, helping students gain self-determination and career skills through participation in theater productions and experience working at the Campus School-run coffee bar. "It was an emerging practice in the field, saying there are benefits outside of a typical curriculum," said Don Ricciato '71, MA'73, Ph.D.'00, who served as director of the school for thirty years. "We were looking at how students learn to socialize, communicate with each other, and interact outside of a lesson."

Today, that innovative, collaborative spirit is still apparent at the Campus School, which welcomes hundreds of Lynch School graduate students and BC student volunteers through its doors every year. While its facilities are now permanent—and new technological and pedagogical advances continue to abound—the smiles of the students and staff are just as contagious as they were fifty years ago.

-Alix Hackett, University Communications

A Second Life

A centuries-old oak tree on the edge of Boston College's Brighton Campus was removed this past spring due to failing health—but rather than disappear altogether, its trunk has undergone an unusual transformation.



Artist Ken Packie working on his sculpture of the Holy Family.

Ken Packie, a Massachusetts artist who specializes in wood sculptures, was commissioned by the University to carve the tree's nearly six-foot-wide base into a three-dimensional portrayal of the Holy Family.

The new sculpture, which Packie completed in late July, is now visible from Commonwealth Avenue as motorists and pedestrians approach the McMullen

Museum of Art. (Those who continue into Newton will be treated to another of Packie's creations: a marathon runner carved from a dying maple tree.) It took Packie just over a month to create the sculpture, which he said was the most challenging assignment of his career.

For Landscape Planning Director Regina Bellavia, whose

team maintains roughly 4,600 trees across the University's three campuses, preserving the oak's memory through art is a fitting tribute. She estimates that the tree was around 200 years old when it was taken down, making it older than the buildings and roadways surrounding it.

"I could imagine, historically, before they cut Commonwealth Avenue through, there

were probably many more of these oak trees, and this one happened to survive," she said. "I'm grateful we were able to witness it for as long as we did. No one ever wants to take down a tree this big, but they are living things so they have a lifespan," said Bellavia. "We decided it was time."

To create his pieces, Packie uses only three tools: a chainsaw, chisel, and blowtorch. With every commission, he takes joy in watching his subjects emerge from wood.

"It's an evolution as the piece unfolds," he explained. "[I'm] taking something that was alive and giving it a second life in a different form."

-Alix Hackett University Communications

McMullen Museum Fall Exhibit

The museum will reopen on September 7th, 2021 with *Mariano: Variations on a Theme*.

The first major exhibition on Cuban artist Mariano Rodríguez (1912–90) in the United States, this retrospective features over 140 oil paintings, watercolors, and drawings from leading museum and private collections, including the artist's estate, which has provided unprecedented

access to rarely seen works and archives.

Organized by the McMullen Museum in collaboration with the Fundación Mariano Rodríguez, major support has been provided by BC Patrons and the Latin American Art Initiative.

For more information, please visit the McMullen Museum website at 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.