

BEACON

Signal
Achievements
in Advancing
Boston College

FULL COURT PRESS

MIKEY AND JAY HOAG
STAND BEHIND
BC STUDENT-ATHLETES

INSIDE

Best intentions

The couple that made
BC's largest estate gift

On the rebound

A new era for BC hoops

Meet the dean

A peek inside
Andy Boynton's office

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BEACON

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WHAT A TIME TO BE AT BC

Hello, fellow Eagles!

When I joined the Boston College community in mid-2020, I shared with all of you that our students will be at the center of every decision that we make. In this edition of *Beacon*, you will read about several other individuals who share my belief in putting students first.

They are University champions whose extraordinary contributions help to strengthen programs and initiatives across the Heights, from athletics to theater arts, from nursing to management, from research to financial aid. Men and women like Andy Boynton and Katherine Gregory, experts in their fields who lead two of BC's top-ranked schools. The Robsham family, whose monumental estate gift will improve many aspects of the student experience well into the future. Basketball coaches Joanna Bernabei-McNamee and Earl Grant, who demonstrate on a daily basis a remarkable ability to bring exceptional young people to BC and guide them on and off the court.

We are grateful for—and inspired by—benefactors Mikey '86 and Jay Hoag, P'14, the driving forces behind our transcendent basketball facility that will begin to rise in the coming year. The facility will bear their name and will help elevate our programs into the ACC elite. With the Hoag Pavilion and incredible coaches leading the way, the future for BC basketball is extraordinarily bright. As Coach Grant says best in the interview on page 25: it's the perfect time to be here.

I am honored to be a part of something that is so in line with my personal beliefs and faith, and I know that with your ongoing partnership and support, BC will continue to inspire its students to lead with integrity and character as they change the world. I'm so glad I'm here to witness it.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kraft
William V. Campbell Director of Athletics



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.



On Andy Boynton's bookshelf, academic texts mingle with a treasure trove of souvenirs from Nantucket and Switzerland.

Irrational PERSISTENCE

John and Linda Powers Family Dean Andy Boynton '78, P'13, of the Carroll School of Management reflects on his leadership philosophy, life during the pandemic, and the many ways that the Carroll School and Boston College have—and have not—changed over the years.

AS



BY ERIC BUSHNELL

a Boston College alumnus, Andy Boynton '78, P'13, savors the continuities between the University he first fell in love with and the one he helps lead today. "A lot of things haven't changed so much. We have the same Jesuit, Catholic values; our campus was beautiful then, and it's more beautiful now," says the John and Linda Powers Family Dean of the Carroll School of Management. This appreciation, however, never veers into nostalgia. Ever with an eye to the future, Boynton has in his 15-plus years of leadership distinguished himself as one of the foremost innovators in the school's history.

In Boynton's office on the fifth floor of Fulton Hall, a maroon and gold T-shirt

with the words "Irrational Persistence" hangs on the wall. It's a memento of his memorable partnership with Provost and Dean of Faculties David Quigley and Thomas F. Rattigan Professor of English Mary Crane, from when they were co-chairs of the Core Renewal Committee. Tasked with envisioning the first major academic overhaul at BC in more than 20 years, the trio coined this motivational (and playfully self-deprecating) phrase to remind themselves of the grit and creativity they needed to achieve their goal.

Irrational persistence still characterizes Boynton's attitude toward his work. In his view, perhaps his biggest accomplishment as dean has been to create an "aspirational vision" for the Carroll School. "We said, 'Let's set out to be great, and then figure out how to get there.' We created big goals and a big vision, and we're always pushing forward," he remarks. In fact, under Boynton's direction, the Carroll School just achieved one of these "big goals." For the first time, the School has made several of its academic minors available to undergraduates enrolled in any school at BC; similarly, Carroll School students can now pursue a minor at any school of their choice.

Boynton understood that this meaningful enhancement to the student experience came with significant risks, if improperly executed: "There was a big demand for these minors right away, and we could have easily outstripped the School's resources. I think the fact that all of us at the School have such great teamwork made it possible," he reflects. "The growth of the School in general has really stretched our limits. It's not the same school it was 15 years ago, right? It's a completely different animal. It takes a lot more resources to run it, but the results are worth it. The journey's been a team

effort at the Carroll School, each step of the way.”

The Carroll School’s growth is just one of the many ways that BC *has* changed over the years, and for the better, Boynton acknowledges. One of the most transformational changes he’s witnessed has been the strengthening of BC’s student formation programs. “The intellectual, spiritual, and social development of our students really comes alive now through the curriculum, Mission and Ministry, and different divisions across the University. When I was a student here, this concept wasn’t explicit; it wasn’t uniform. A lot of work has gone into that, especially over the past 10 years, and it has put BC in a very strong position. It differentiates us, every day.”

As one of the University’s most confident leaders, Boynton looks the part. His mannerisms are informal and entirely unselfconscious; his voice carries. It comes as a surprise, then, to hear him admit, “I’m really kind of an introvert.” He credits his ability to “tune in at work and energize a room” to his 10 years of teaching executive education

“
My job is to
give people
opportunities to
do great things. I
always have that
goal in mind.”

JOHN AND LINDA POWERS FAMILY DEAN
ANDY BOYNTON '78, P'13, OF THE CARROLL
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

In 2015, BC Trustee Associate John Powers '73, P'10 '11 '18, and his wife, Linda, endowed the Carroll School deanship.

in Switzerland. “It was intense. I was dealing with 40 to 50 executives at a time, almost daily, and they’re some of the best in the world. So I learned under those conditions how to project energy and inspire people. My job at BC is to give people opportunities to do great things. I always have that goal in mind,” he says.

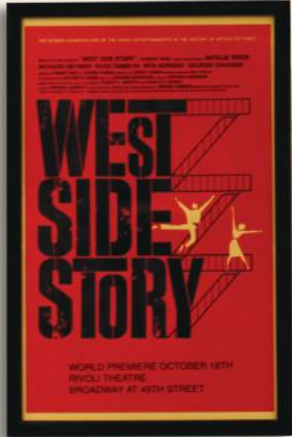
Away from work, Andy Boynton the introvert comes out. “I love to fish—I fish relentlessly on Nantucket, mostly alone.” Andy goes on lots of walks with his wife, Jane, whom he met at BC, and he has four sons, a granddaughter, and two dogs who “all take up a lot of my time,” he says, grinning. The COVID-19 lockdown wasn’t such a big adjustment for him, he insists. “It was actually pretty easy for me, because I’m a relatively boring person. I watched a lot of good shows at home with Jane.”

This quiet contentedness which characterizes Boynton’s personal life, even in a time of crisis, may be another benefit of his “irrational persistence”—the buoyant attitude with which he always leads the Carroll School forward, unfazed by the most daunting challenges. ■



IDEATION WALL
The walls in Boynton’s conference room are coated with whiteboard paint, transforming the space into a “beehive” of innovation and visioning.

5 MOST INTERESTING THINGS IN ANDY’S OFFICE



WEST SIDE STORY POSTER
The original *West Side Story* is one of Boynton’s favorite films. He’s written about the creativity of its production team in two of his books, *Virtuoso Teams* and *The Idea Hunter*. He’s also a fan of the Broadway production, which he saw in the early 1960s.

SWISS COWBELL

This decorative cowbell was given to Boynton in celebration of his 10 years of teaching at IMD Business School in Switzerland—a defining experience.



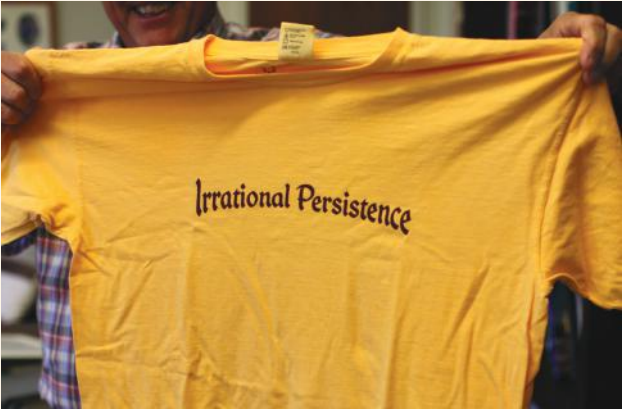
MAP OF NANTUCKET



Nantucket is near and dear to Boynton’s heart. He has been frequenting the island with his friends and family since the early 1970s.

“IRRATIONAL PERSISTENCE” T-SHIRT

Boynton, Thomas F. Rattigan Professor of English Mary Crane, and Provost and Dean of Faculties David Quigley made these T-shirts when they were co-chairs of the Core Renewal Committee. Their inspirational message acknowledges the challenges they faced in implementing such a dramatic academic overhaul, and it continues to inspire Boynton each day.



devoted

E. Paul Robsham Sr., LGSOE '83, and Joyce L. Robsham, P'86

BY JILL CASERIA

Their steadfast commitment to Boston College spanned decades; their final act broke records. Here's the story of the local couple behind the largest estate gift to Boston College.

Parents, philanthropists, and patrons of the arts, Paul and Joyce Robsham have been long associated with Boston College's theater program. But that was just the beginning of a generosity that spans decades and departments. During their lifetimes, the Robshams' numerous contributions over the years touched countless BC students—and with an unprecedented \$75 million realized bequest to Boston College, their legacy at the Heights will endure for generations to come.

amare

TO LOVE

The couple that studies together, stays together.

In 1928, Mickey Mouse made his debut in *Steamboat Willie*, the United States took home gold in both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, and Norwegian immigrant-turned-Boston resident William Robsham and his wife welcomed a baby boy into their growing family. They named him Einer Paul Robsham.

The following year in Brighton, Arthur and Muriel Loring were blessed with a daughter, Joyce.

As students at Brighton High School, Joyce and Paul (as he was known) began a relationship neither one could have imagined would last more than 50 years. She helped him pass Latin, working with him on grammar and syntax. Outside of academics, they shared an interest in the stage. "They were both very involved in theater throughout high school, running clubs, building sets, everything," says Patricia Davis, Robsham estate trustee and family friend.

A high school education wasn't the end of the line for either young graduate—or their relationship. Paul attended Calvin Coolidge College and graduated in 1949, intending to pursue a career in teaching. Joyce graduated from Simmons College.

In 1950, they married.

They met as students at Brighton High School. She was his Latin tutor; he was taken with her. They stayed together for a lifetime.

aedificare

TO BUILD, TO CREATE

Newlyweds Paul and Joyce Robsham began building their life together in Wayland, a town west of Brighton.

On the path to becoming a teacher, Paul enrolled at Boston College's School of Education. But his studies were interrupted by the Korean War. Paul was called to serve his country in the U.S. Army.

When Paul returned to civilian life a few years later, their life as a couple resumed. Paul founded Robsham Industries, a prominent real estate development firm based in Framingham. As president and chairman of the board, he led the team building custom residential communities and commercial properties throughout eastern Massachusetts.

In their free time, Paul and Joyce still shared an interest in the stage. "Paul loved the theater," says Davis. "Near their Wayland home was a dinner theater they'd go to often, and he would invite the actors back to their house. There were always parties and celebrations!"

They were soon blessed with a daughter who died in infancy. Then, in 1963, they welcomed a son, naming him after his father. Baby Paul filled their lives with activity. Growing up, he played hockey and had his sights set on attending Boston College.

In the early 1980s, both E. Paul Robshams were Eagles. After years out of the classroom, Paul Sr. had returned to Boston College to complete his graduate work; his son began studying at the Heights as part of the Class of 1986. In May 1983, mother and son applauded as Paul Sr. was awarded a Master of Education degree at BC's 108th Commencement.

After graduation, Joyce smiled beside her two Eagles as all three Robshams posed for photos on that joyous day of celebration.



E. Paul and Joyce Robsham with E. Paul Jr., circa 1967.

lugere

TO MOURN

It was an automobile accident.

Suddenly and unexpectedly, just days after completing his freshman year at the Heights, Paul Jr. was killed in a car accident. Waves of grief reverberated across campus and throughout the BC community.

BC's then University President J. Donald Monan, S.J., immediately reached out to Joyce and Paul Sr. providing kindness, compassion, and spiritual and emotional

support. "They became very good friends," Davis notes.

Consumed with grief for her son, Joyce retreated.

It wasn't until a trip to the horse racing track with a friend, Davis remembers, that Joyce began to reemerge. "She came back so excited," says Davis. "It was the first time she had smiled since her son died." Joyce found joy and calling in Thoroughbred racing, eventually becoming a well-known and respected horse breeder. She and Paul Sr. even dressed their jockeys in BC maroon and gold.



At Paul Jr.'s high school graduation, 1982.

transformare

TO CHANGE IN SHAPE,
METAMORPHOSE

The Robshams began their transformational support of Boston College.

The friendship the Robshams built with Fr. Monan formed an inseparable bond between them and the University. Over the next several years, the Robshams devoted time, energy, and funds to BC.

“They wanted to provide in whatever way they could,” remembers Robsham estate trustee Jack Downs. “Paul valued education; he always felt it was important to keep learning. Together they focused on scholarships and tuition assistance and creating buildings that would be for the use of the students.”

As a couple, they invested in the Heights for decades, beginning with a gift of nearly \$1 million, after which the University named its new theater in memory of Paul Jr. “We measure the worth of people not by what they have done, but by who they are,” said Fr. Monan at the ceremony in 1985. “And it is love that opens eyes to see who each individual is. We name the Theater Arts Center in honor of E. Paul

“Paul valued education; he always felt it was important to keep learning. Together they focused on scholarships and tuition assistance and creating buildings that would be for the use of the students.”

JACK DOWNS
ROBSHAM ESTATE TRUSTEE



Joyce with one of her beloved horses.

Robsham Jr. because of who he was—a valued student of Boston College and a beloved son to his mother and father.”

Paul Sr. was impressed with Fr. Monan’s leadership of Boston College and felt that helping to grow the school was a cause he and Joyce could support.

Through philanthropy, hosting events, serving as a University trustee and trustee associate, and volunteering whenever time allowed, Paul always had an eye toward improving the student experience, particularly in the fields he and his son had found most meaningful. In the decades that followed, the Robshams invested in several University priorities under President William P. Leahy, S.J., and established funds supporting students, faculty, and facilities. (See “Florere,” page 11.)

The Robshams’ estate plan was originally developed by Paul and amended periodically over time with input and consultation from Joyce and Fr. Monan. And now their realized bequest of

\$75 million—one for the record books—will impact generations of Eagles for years to come.

“Paul’s extraordinary accomplishments in business made him a valuable policy advisor and board member at Boston College,” said Fr. Monan after Paul’s death in 2004. And Joyce, who died in 2018, was a “highly talented, gentle woman who found her deepest satisfaction, as well as her most painful losses, in the circle of her own family.” ■

florere

TO BLOOM, TO FLOURISH

The Robshams’ \$75 million record-setting gift leaves an everlasting legacy at the Heights, building upon their many years of philanthropy to all corners of the University. Their generosity will impact students’ academic, artistic, and social experience for generations.

“Paul and Joyce Robsham have left a lasting legacy at Boston College. I am grateful for their generosity over the years and its impact on generations of BC students.”

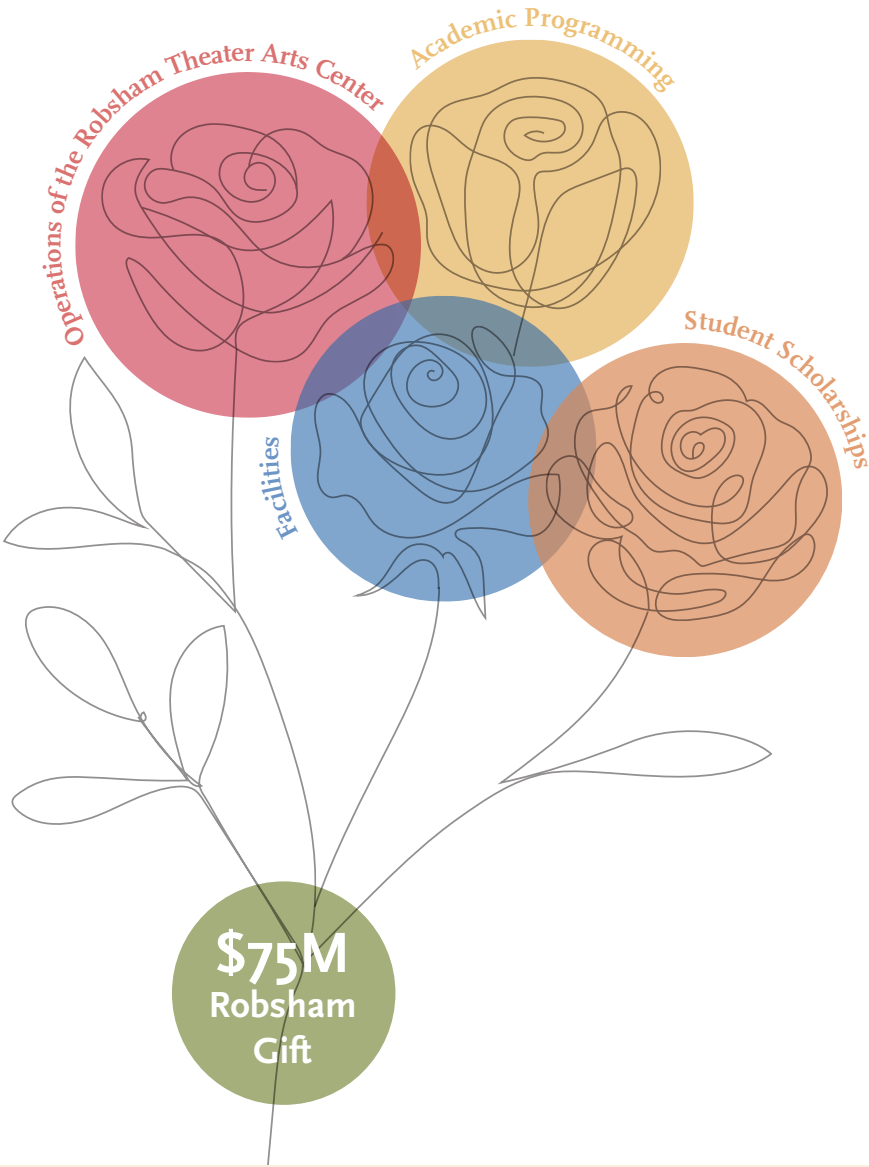
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
WILLIAM P. LEAHY, S.J.

the Robsham effect

How E. Paul and Joyce Robsham transformed Boston College through their philanthropy and service:

leadership

- Board of Trustees
- Trustee Associate



philanthropy

- The E. Paul Robsham Theater Scholarship
- Robsham Scholarship in Theater Arts
- The E. Paul Robsham Theater Program Fund
- The Father J. Donald Monan Professorial Chair in Theater Arts
- E. Paul Robsham Jr. Goalie Scholarship Fund in Men’s Hockey
- The E. Paul and Joyce L. Robsham Psychology Fellowship
- The E. Paul and Joyce L. Robsham Fund for Psychology
- The E. Paul Robsham Fund for Capital Projects
- BC Fund
- Pops on the Heights

THE PLAYER – COACH APPROACH

—
BY DIANA GRIFFITH

A life of hands-on philanthropy and a passion for sports come together in BC's new Hoag Basketball Pavilion.



Michaela "Mikey" Murphy Hoag '86 and Jay Hoag, P'14

Growing up on a sprawling farm in New Jersey, Michaela “Mikey” Murphy Hoag ’86, P’14, was never afraid to get her hands dirty—she fed chickens, baled hay, and mucked out stables with gusto. Devout Catholics, her parents raised each of their six children with a robust work ethic and a belief in the power of direct, personal action to make a difference in the world.

For Mikey, this has translated into a life defined not only by her giving—she and husband Jay are among Silicon Valley’s most notable philanthropists—but also by her hands-on approach to the causes she supports. When she lost her father to early-onset Alzheimer’s, she launched Part the Cloud, a biennial gala that’s raised \$63 million and counting for research.

Now, after nearly three decades as two of BC’s greatest supporters, Mikey and Jay have made a \$15 million lead gift to tip off the Hoag Basketball Pavilion, a state-of-the-art practice facility they hope will elevate BC’s men’s and women’s basketball programs to the next level. They hope their giving will inspire other BC fans to support the project, which is fully donor-funded and part of a comprehensive \$50 million investment in basketball at BC.

“I understand what it means to compete—and to win—and that having the right equipment, tools, and facilities can make the difference,” says Mikey, who spent two seasons on the U.S. Equestrian Team and was a finalist for the 1988 Olympics.

She and Jay—founder of the venture capital firm TCV and an avid basketball player himself—saw that BC’s basketball teams were getting squeezed out of the national rankings in part because their facilities were not on par with those of their ACC peers. Currently, basketball competes with volleyball and other teams for practice time in Power Gym, and they share training and sports medicine facilities with more than 600 student-athletes.

“I come from a big Irish Catholic family, and that Jesuit mentality of ‘roll up your sleeves, get involved, and give back’ has always been something we were raised with.”

MIKEY HOAG ’86, P’14

“We could see it was hurting our teams’ performances and our coaches’ ability to recruit,” Mikey says. “But we believe you can’t just complain from the sideline; you have to do something.”

“Culturally, experientially, and financially, BC benefits from having the best teams—and facilities—possible,” adds Jay, who played point guard in high school and managed intramurals as a student worker in college. “The pavilion has the potential not only to drive success for the basketball teams but also to elevate the University’s profile on a national level.”

Grounded in Mission

Mikey followed her sister Patricia Murphy Stuebe ’78 to BC and immediately fell in love with the Heights. She found joy in the welcoming atmosphere, the retreats and spiritual encouragement, and the way students from all walks of life came together. And, as a young athlete herself, she threw herself into the role of Super-fan, cheering the Eagles on at countless games on campus and away.

In her second year, Mikey had an experience that altered her life—one of her roommates was killed by a drunk driver. Within two hours, then University President Donald Monan, S.J., was sitting with Mikey and her other roommates, offering consolation and support. He continued to stay in touch, determined not to let the grief-stricken girls slip through the cracks.

“I thought to myself, *how lucky am I, that I have a guardian angel watching over me?*” Mikey recalls, and from that moment on, Fr. Monan was a constant in Mikey’s life until his passing in 2017.

“I was just another student. There wasn’t anything special about me, and yet, he cared so much.” It was Fr. Monan’s compassion, and later that of former Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculties William B. Neenan, S.J., that defined the charm of a BC education for Mikey. It’s why BC remains her spiritual home, a place that fills her soul with each return.

It’s also why Mikey and Jay were comfortable sending their youngest son, Timothy ’14, across the country to attend BC. Jay, who attended Northwestern University and has sat on multiple university boards, contends, “I’ve seen a lot of schools, but when we were here for Tim’s Admitted Eagle Day, I knew Boston College was special. Though Tim would be 3,000 miles away, we knew he was in good hands.”



Married 31 years, the Hoags share a love for college sports—and an ever-growing collection of BC Eagles gear.



Rolling Up Their Sleeves

After graduation, Mikey spent two years competing in equestrian events before moving to New York City to live with her BC roommate. There her boundless energy and athletic background drew her first to sports marketing and then to a role at the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She met Jay in 1989, married him a year later and—on their wedding night—moved west to be part of the burgeoning tech scene. In California, the couple became ardent supporters of several local charities, actively working to raise money and awareness among their friends in tech, sports, and finance.

When Mikey founded Part the Cloud in 2012, she had sat on both sides of the fundraising table, as a national nonprofit staff member and as a philanthropist in her own right. What began as a one-time event has become a major driver in Alzheimer's research, funding 64 human trials in nine countries, entering into a partnership with Bill Gates, and earning multiple awards.

Despite the many accolades—and the countless hours that go into each event—it's all in a day's work for Mikey, part of what makes her life meaningful.

"I like being busy; I like feeling that we're working towards something," says Mikey. "I come from a big Irish Catholic family, and that Jesuit mentality of 'roll up your sleeves, get involved, and give back' has always been something we were raised with."

An Alumna Ambassador

In her first years out of school, however, Mikey says she only gave back a small amount to BC at first: "I couldn't afford it!" But after she and Jay found professional success, they looked for ways to give back to their alma maters. An active churchgoer, Mikey had particularly fond memories of the spiritual life she had found at BC, and she was eager to help advance the Jesuit mission through the new Center for Ignatian Spirituality, which opened in 1998.

Since then, the couple have become more involved in life at the University, both as donors and as volunteers. Their philanthropy has touched nearly every part of campus, from the Carroll School of Management's Portico program to

multiple student scholarships, including an endowed scholarship for a point guard on the men's basketball team. They give generously of their time and expertise as well: Jay is regularly invited to speak with students interested in technology and investing; Mikey serves on the Board of Trustees and multiple leadership committees.

From their home in Silicon Valley, Mikey and Jay have nurtured a growing network of Eagles on the West Coast. "We love getting together," says Mikey, who has hosted countless parties, game watches, and service activities for local alumni. "It's become a family within a family, all because we share this special bond in Boston College."

Now she flies to Boston and back 10 or more times a year—a pace she relishes. "It is a place that fills up my soul," says Mikey. "When I step on to campus, it's where I feel inspired, wanting to do more, to make a difference."

Advocating for Student-Athletes

When they visit BC, Mikey and Jay make a point of meeting with student-athletes and coaches to talk about the current season, find out what's next, and ask how they can help. They have worked closely on a number of BC Athletics initiatives over the years, and in 2010, Mikey received the John P. Curley '13 Award in recognition of volunteer leadership in service of the University and its athletics department.

"From my first day at BC, Mikey and Jay have been there at every turn to encourage and advise," says Pat Kraft, the William V. Campbell Director of Athletics. "Their love for BC and their unique insights as fans, fundraisers, and investors make them a formidable asset to the athletics department and the University."

Mikey's real passion is working directly with student-athletes and helping them make the most of their time at the Heights. She tries to get to know as many players as possible, asking them about their classes, their season, their plans for the future.

"In my four years here, I've never seen an alum who is so interested in improving our student-athlete experience and

actually puts action to it," says Jewel Strawberry '22, an outside hitter for BC's volleyball team. "It's incredible and such an inspiration to us all."

Jewel is president of Eagles for Equality, a student-athlete organization focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, which invited Mikey to speak at their Women's History Month town hall event in March 2021. Mikey spoke about her work and answered questions about her own experiences as a student-athlete and BC grad.

"I know they wanted to hear that I had it all figured out at their age, but that's not how it works," Mikey said later. "Never would I have thought I'd live in California, that I'd be working on Alzheimer's research or be on the BC Board. Life takes you on so many different paths, and that's what I want them to hear—that there's more than one path they can follow."

As Jewel weighs her own post-grad options—whether to continue playing or pursue law school—she says Mikey's message was well received. And, as someone directly impacted by practice space constraints, Jewel says the Hoags' gift will have ripple effects across BC Athletics. "Being able to have a whole new facility—and it looks gorgeous—it's going to level us all up in the ACC; it's going to make a way bigger impact than most people realize," Jewel says.

That sort of broad and multifaceted impact is what the Hoags hope for, says Jay, particularly as today's college athletes are under such great pressure, both academically and competitively. "Fundamentally, I think that providing access to the best facilities—including nutrition, training, and recovery—empowers them to manage their stress and come out on top."

True to form, Mikey and Jay have done more than make the lead gift; they are actively involved in every aspect of the pavilion, from reviewing design iterations to soliciting the remaining funds needed to begin construction. "We're hoping to be that pebble in the water, because none of us can do anything alone," says Mikey. "It's so invigorating to know that, together, we could do something really monumental for BC." ■



Mikey and Jay spend time with student-athletes whenever they can—here, they visit Alumni Stadium with (from l-r) Makai Ashton Langford '21 (men's basketball), Jewel Strawberry '21 (volleyball), Taylor Soule '21 (women's basketball), and Charlotte North '21 (lacrosse).

PRACTICE MADE PERFECT: THE HOAG BASKETBALL PAVILION

Connected to Conte Forum, the new home for BC basketball will be a comprehensive, self-contained facility dedicated solely to the men's and women's programs, led by Clement and Elizabeth Izzi Family Head Men's Basketball Coach Earl Grant and women's basketball head coach Joanna Bernabei-McNamee (for more, see "Idea Exchange," page 22).

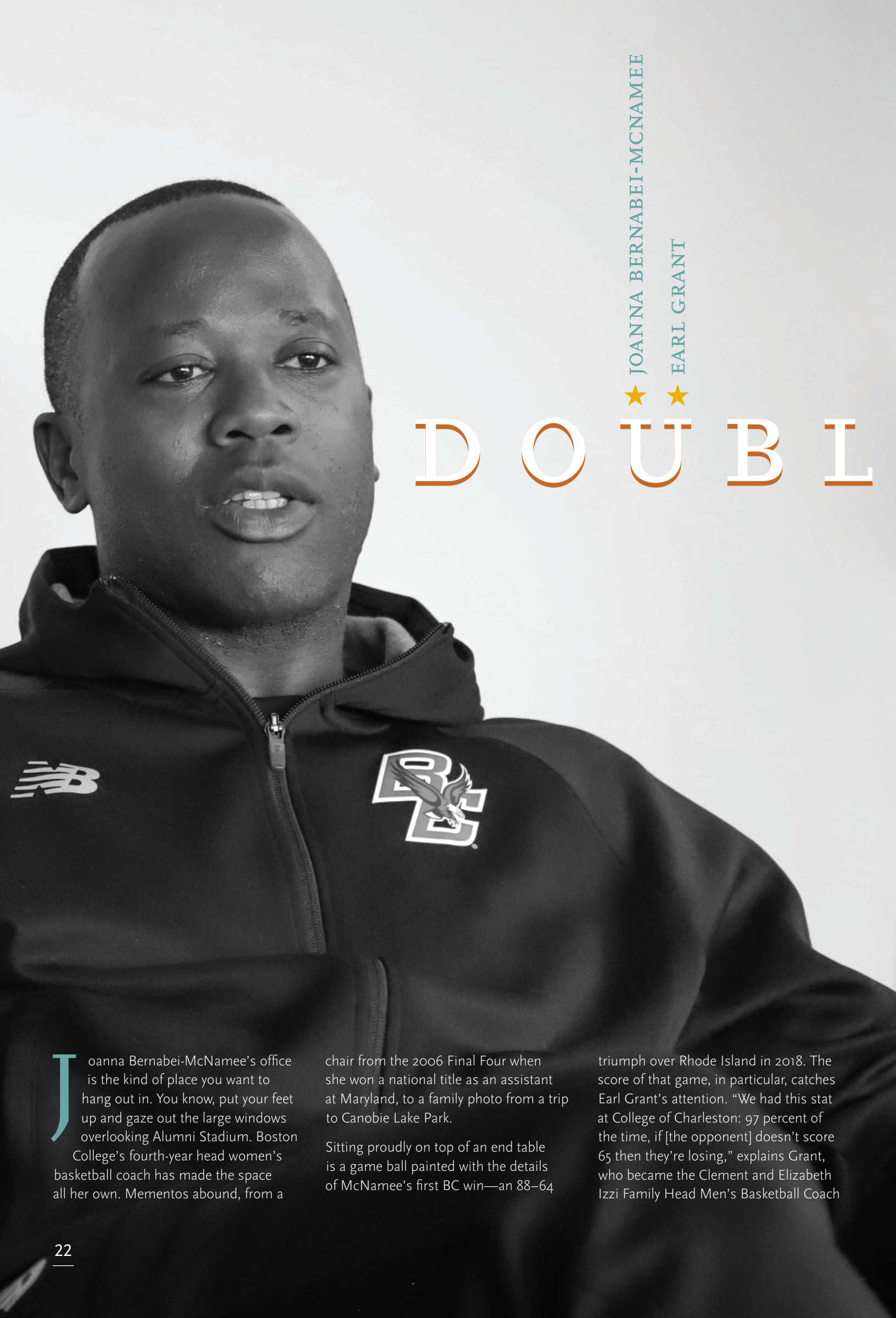
"It's so desperately needed," says Mikey Hoag. "I hope we're giving the coaches the tools they need to recruit and to represent BC in the way we all would love to see."

Among the planned new features are:

- Completely renovated 10,700 square-foot practice gym with six instructional areas fully dedicated to basketball
- 1,400 square-foot nutrition center with study spaces and room for hosting team dinners and events
- 1,400 square-foot strength and conditioning center that opens to the practice gym, enhancing training and efficiency
- 1,400 square-foot sports medicine center with an underwater treadmill and plunge pools for student-athlete treatment and rehabilitation
- 2,100 square-foot locker rooms with dedicated lounges for both programs

Jay plays basketball regularly, including a weekend pickup game that's still going strong after 30 years.





JOANNA BERNABEI-MCNAMEE
★ ★
EARL GRANT

DOUBLE TEAM

Boston College basketball is on the cusp of an exciting new era. Head coaches Joanna Bernabei-McNamee and Earl Grant are running point on a return to greatness.



Joanna Bernabei-McNamee's office is the kind of place you want to hang out in. You know, put your feet up and gaze out the large windows overlooking Alumni Stadium. Boston College's fourth-year head women's basketball coach has made the space all her own. Mementos abound, from a

chair from the 2006 Final Four when she won a national title as an assistant at Maryland, to a family photo from a trip to Canobie Lake Park. Sitting proudly on top of an end table is a game ball painted with the details of McNamee's first BC win—an 88–64

triumph over Rhode Island in 2018. The score of that game, in particular, catches Earl Grant's attention. "We had this stat at College of Charleston: 97 percent of the time, if [the opponent] doesn't score 65 then they're losing," explains Grant, who became the Clement and Elizabeth Izzi Family Head Men's Basketball Coach

in March 2021. "I saw that 64 and I thought, good number."

Coach Grant and Coach Mac have a lot more in common than just a penchant for lock-down defense. Combined, they have five middle- or high-school-aged sons with robust social lives and their own athletic pursuits. Both try to recruit

energetic, "high-motor" players who will dive on loose balls and aren't afraid to make the extra pass. Both have ACC coaching experience and came to BC following successful stints at mid-majors. And both understand that their job at BC is not only to win basketball games, but also to mold their student-athletes as

contributing members of the BC student body and, ultimately, as men and women for others.

Ahead of the 2021–2022 season, Beacon sat down with the coaches for a conversation that touched on all this and more. The interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

You were hired to turn your program around and restore its winning ways. What made you want to come to BC?

What is your favorite BC tradition?

How important is the role of philanthropy in your team's success? What role do donors play?

Joanna Bernabei-McNamee: One of the things that was really attractive to me was the fact that we play in the ACC. When I was a younger assistant coach, we played Boston College, and they were one of the top teams in the country in women's basketball. So the idea of me, Joanna McNamee, getting to be the head coach in the ACC at a school that I really admired was pretty exciting.

Earl Grant: I agree. The ACC is the highest level you can go, and I love the challenge. To coach in the ACC at a place like Boston College, with so much rich history—Sweet 16 years, Elite Eights—as a big-time, winning program that hit on hard times recently is a challenge that was too good to pass up.

COACH JOANNA
BERNABEI-MCNAMEE

JM: I love that our student-athletes go and support each other at their different events. It's great to be a part of that tight-knit community. There are many universities—bigger ones especially—where coaches don't even know each other. But here it's much more family-oriented. And that trickles right down to our student-athletes. What Coach [Jeff] Hafley is doing with football and the way the student body has been supporting them and been out for games, we would love to see that, and those traditions, being brought to our arena as well.

EG: Singing the fight song and the alma mater with my team and the student body after a big win—that's what I look forward to and can visualize.

You know what tradition is unbelievable? Pops on the Heights. I just went to my first one. I loved the energy of everyone joining together to raise money for scholarships. Every seat was filled, the floor was filled. So I was able to see what a sellout looks like in Conte Forum.

EG: It is the donors' program—I'm just a small vessel. Being in this profession for 22 years and watching how athletics programs grow, a lot of times it comes from the donors. They've done a great job upgrading just about every piece of this campus, from football to baseball to softball. To see what they're willing to do for basketball is unbelievable. We've already started to have success in recruiting, selling a vision of what the Hoag Pavilion will be. What I've seen so far here are high expectations—they want to win big—and they really are starting to show their commitment to match that expectation. It's exciting. Just a perfect time to be here.

JM: People can choose to give to anything. When they choose Boston College Athletics and find what we're doing worthy, it's so humbling. It's also inspiring, and it makes me want to pay it forward as well. That's the beautiful thing about philanthropy. Like Coach Grant said, we are their program. Alumni donors learned when they were students to be in that service mindset and to be a part of something bigger than themselves. I am impressed that so many continue to live that life.

COACH EARL GRANT

★ WOMEN FOR OTHERS ★

Coach Mac on Service

“

“I'll never forget in my first year here, we had a team meeting during which I said to our players, ‘I want you to come up with three things that, if we improve on them, as a basketball program we'll be better for it.’ And I was shocked. One of their three goals was to get more involved in the community, to do more community service because ‘we feel like we've had so much given to us at BC.’ And I was like, ‘Okay, now this is different.’ You just don't hear that in other places.”

★ THE “TRI-Q” ★

Coach Grant on Recruiting

So you want to play for Coach Grant? Here are the three qualities that make up a special player. The results are already beginning to show: In Grant's first year on the job, BC has the number 22 recruiting class in the nation, landing multiple four-star recruits for the first time in school history.

CHARACTER

“I have to be able to look a kid in the eye every day and feel good about them. I have to look forward to seeing them in the gym.”

WORK ETHIC

“I don't do well with lazy. I want guys with energy and a motor and a willingness to work.”

HUMILITY

“If a person is humble, they know they don't have all the answers. They will come to this campus and realize they are just one of many students and aren't more important than anybody else.”

You've mentioned how the new Hoag Basketball Pavilion is already helping you recruit student-athletes. What else will it do?

What are your goals for this season?

Coach Mac, you're in your fourth season at BC and this is Coach Grant's first. What advice do you have for him?

JM: The Hoag Pavilion is going to afford us time to work on our craft. Right now our players are often limited to [working out during] their practice time because our spaces are also being used by other teams. Their opportunities are set into a specific time of day, and it doesn't always allow them to get workouts in during off-times.

Thanks to Mikey and Jay Hoag, the new facility will allow us to build a schedule that really allows our players to be true student-athletes. They're going to be able to put time into their academics and not have to come to the gym at eight or nine o'clock at night trying to get in work when they really should be studying or doing other things at that time.

EG: It is going to make us one of the most elite programs in our conference. We already have an elite city, we already have an elite academic situation. BC is like the American dollar. You can go to Tokyo and say, I have a Boston College degree—it's recognizable. When we add this resource—full access to the weight room, full access to the gym, a nutrition center, a health and wellness center to sustain your body through a long season—it shifts the atmosphere.

For Mikey and Jay [Hoag] to start that project, and then for all these other individuals to jump in and be passionate about this sport is just a good sign of where this program is about to go. And I'm just happy and fortunate and humble that I get the opportunity to be here at this time.



COACH JOANNA BERNABEI-MCNAMEE

EG: My goal is to move the program forward. I think winning is a means to an end. For me, it's more about the day-to-day with our student-athletes and building a foundation of: what kind of day did you have? Did you treat people right? Can you look at yourself in the mirror and feel good about what you're doing? Did you compete academically? Did you have a good day in practice? I want my guys to function like winners. I think winning will find you if you continue to do that.

JM: I'm looking forward to this being my fourth year and having a group of seniors who have grown with me from the first day I stepped on to campus. I have a beautiful group of 15 women that I'm around every day. They bleed maroon and gold. They want to make a name for the program, and they think it's really going to start with them. COVID took a lot away from us—two years ago we should have gone to the NCAA tournament for the first time in a long time. And last year was a really rough season. I can't wait to give them everything they deserve as student-athletes and give the community everything it deserves in a women's basketball program. We also cannot wait to have fans in the stands again.

JM: It's funny, he's actually given me great advice since he's been here. I would say my advice for him, he already knows: just fall in love with the process. It's not only about the wins and losses. It's about molding young people and being a role model to them, using your words to inspire as a coach. I'm telling him nothing he doesn't already know, and embracing the community of Boston College, because it's full of unbelievable people.

And for you, Coach Grant. She's got a well-known nickname on campus. Do you have one yet?

JM: He's got a one-syllable last name, he doesn't need one! (laughs)

EG: I've had players call me different things over the years. We'll see what transpires. But for now, most of them call me Coach Grant or just Coach. Call me Coach, that's it! ■



COACH EARL GRANT

THE LACKS LEGACY

KATHERINE GREGORY, PHD'05
DEAN, WILLIAM F. CONNELL SCHOOL OF NURSING

BY JACQUELINE TYNES

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

In this edition, **William F. Connell School of Nursing Dean Katherine Gregory** shares *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, a true story of the woman behind the HeLa cell line and countless modern-day scientific revelations.

Gregory assumed the Connell School deanship in July 2021. She was previously the associate chief nursing officer, women's and newborn health, research, and innovation at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Gregory also was the scientific founder of a company that aims to improve preterm infant nutrition and growth outcomes through software designed to optimize nursing care and clinical workflows, resulting in a patent in 2020.

"Henrietta Lacks's story is especially important now because it serves as a reminder to all of us who work in science and health that some of the patients, families, and communities whom we serve do not trust us or the work we do—and for good reason," Gregory says. ■



“As a scientist and a nurse, I feel that it is our responsibility to build and maintain trust with all of the people whom we serve. New strategies and approaches aimed at developing partnerships are needed. In the era of a pandemic, this is more important to public health than ever before.”

KATHERINE GREGORY
DEAN, WILLIAM F. CONNELL SCHOOL
OF NURSING

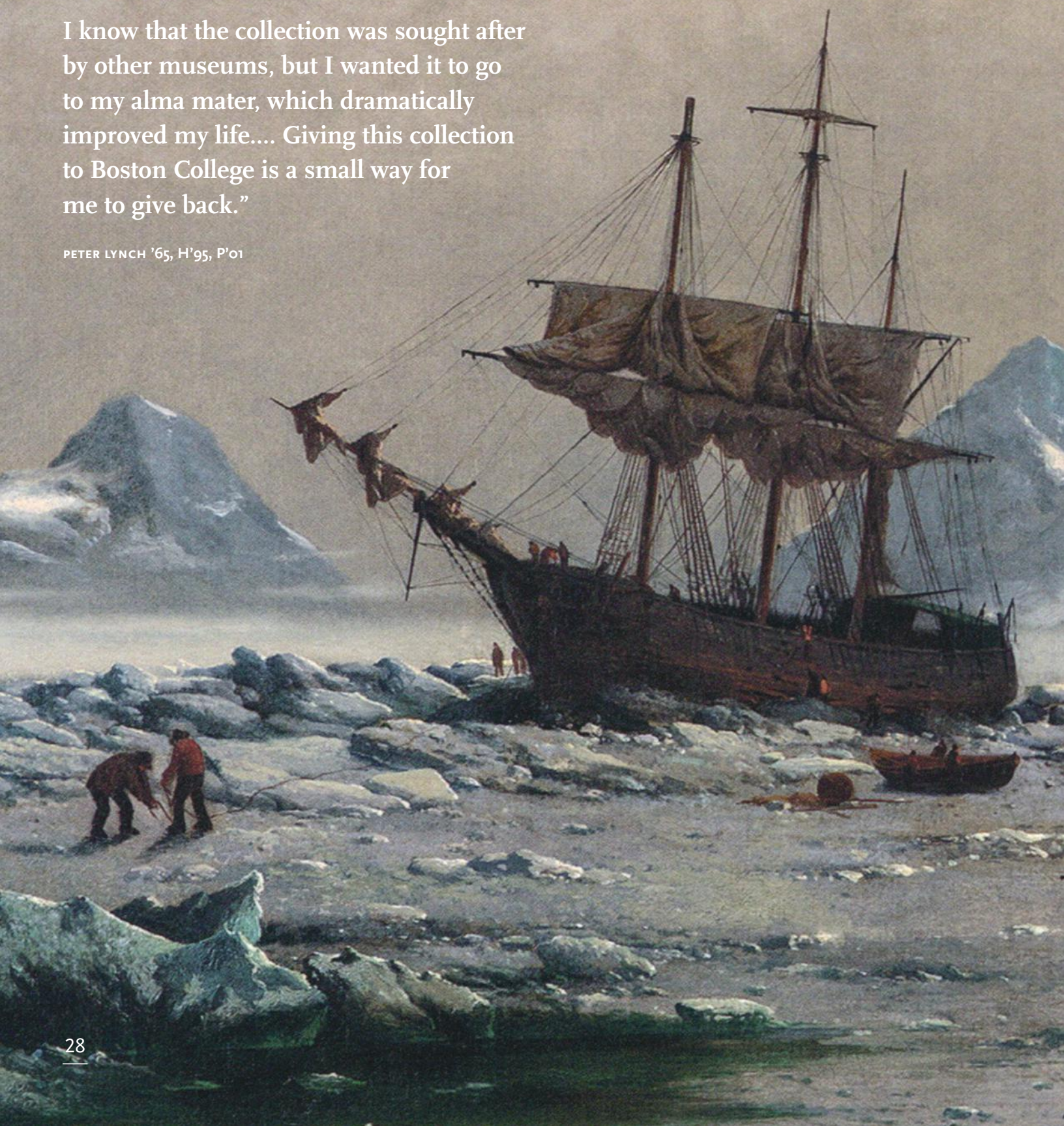
Collectors' Items

TREASURE TROVE OF ARTWORK FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF CAROLYN AND PETER LYNCH SET TO INSPIRE GENERATIONS OF BC STUDENTS.

“

I know that the collection was sought after by other museums, but I wanted it to go to my alma mater, which dramatically improved my life.... Giving this collection to Boston College is a small way for me to give back.”

PETER LYNCH '65, H'95, P'01



THE CAROLYN A. AND PETER S. LYNCH COLLECTION at the McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College

Works by Picasso, Homer, Cassatt, Hassam, Rivera, and many more of the world's most acclaimed artists will take up residence at the McMullen Museum of Art, thanks to a monumental donation from the private collection of Peter Lynch '65, H'95, P'01, and his late wife, Carolyn. In total, 27 paintings and three drawings worth more than \$20 million will make their new permanent home in the stately museum perched atop the Brighton Campus of Boston College. Lynch also donated \$5 million to support the ongoing curation

and exhibition of what will be called the Carolyn A. and Peter S. Lynch Collection.

“I know that the collection was sought after by other museums, but I wanted it to go to my alma mater, which dramatically improved my life, and where my father taught mathematics and physics, my wife proudly received an honorary degree in 2009, and my daughter Annie spent four wonderful and productive years,” asserts Lynch. “I am an extremely lucky person who has been so blessed in life. Giving this collection to Boston College is a small way for me to give back.”

Carolyn and Peter Lynch.



Mother and Child, Mary Cassatt



Racing Yachts, James Edward Buttersworth

“

Carolyn and Peter Lynch's generosity and their focused, discerning collecting over many decades have brightened the future of the McMullen Museum's offerings to New England and beyond. We are profoundly grateful to them.”

NANCY NETZER, ROBERT L. AND JUDITH T. WINSTON DIRECTOR OF THE MCMULLEN MUSEUM



Farewell to Mayo, 1929, Jack Butler Yeats

Curator's Commentary

Peter Lynch said his motivation for the gift was to inspire among the BC community and the public a deeper understanding of art and its importance as a form of expression. Indeed, the artwork will help initiate new research and share new insights and contemporary interpretations among its multiple audiences, says Nancy Netzer, the Robert L. and Judith T. Winston Director of the McMullen Museum.

The quality of the collection has attracted attention outside of Boston College. Notably, Theodore E. Stebbins Jr., the consultative curator of American art at Harvard University's Fogg Museum and former curator of American paintings at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, described the collection as "an extraordinary compilation of artwork" that includes masterpieces any museum in the nation would desire.

"This collection reflects Peter and his love of the sea and nature," said Stebbins. "He and Carolyn acquired wonderful seascapes and marine paintings as well as remarkable non-marines that include some of the masterpieces of the collection such as Martin Johnson Heade's *Orchid and Hummingbirds Near a Mountain Lake*, which is an extraordinary painting and the best Heade orchid artwork ever painted.

"Winslow Homer's *Grace Hoops* is an unusual, wonderful, touching painting about young women at that age, and Albert Bierstadt's *Newport Rocks* is a gem; there is nothing like it. Bradford's *Among the Ice Floes* is a stunning painting, representing Bradford at his absolute best. Each painting is beautiful and tells a unique story of American life. It is an extraordinary collection for Boston College and the community."

"[The collection is] an extraordinary compilation of artwork that includes masterpieces any museum in the nation would desire."

THEODORE E. STEBBINS JR.
CONSULTATIVE CURATOR OF AMERICAN ART AT
HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S FOGG MUSEUM



Orchid and Hummingbirds Near a Mountain Lake, 1875-90, Martin Johnson Heade



Among the Ice Floes, 1878, William Bradford



Newport Rocks, 1859, Albert Bierstadt



Grace Hoops, 1872, Winslow Homer



View of Gloucester Harbor, 1858, Fitz Henry Lane

“Carolyn and Peter Lynch’s generosity and their focused, discerning collecting over many decades have brightened the future of the McMullen Museum’s offerings to New England and beyond. We are profoundly grateful to them.”

NANCY NETZER, ROBERT L. AND JUDITH T.
WINSTON DIRECTOR OF THE MCMULLEN
MUSEUM



Near the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains, 1861, Albert Bierstadt



To read the full announcement and learn more about the collection, visit bc.edu/lynchcollection or scan the code.



Rain threatened the Chestnut Hill campus of Boston College on Friday evening, September 24, but nothing could dampen the spirits of those gathered in Conte Forum for the 29th annual Barbara and Jim Cleary Scholarship Gala, better known as Pops on the Heights.

There was ample cause for celebration as the festive event reached a new milestone: a remarkable \$14.5 million raised to benefit student scholarships. In its history, Pops on the Heights donors have supported more than 3,500 BC scholarships. These generous benefactors join the thousands of alumni, parents, and friends who have carried BC's Be a Beacon campaign for financial aid past the \$185 million mark on the way to its goal of \$200 million.

During the show, Pops 2021 co-chairs Patti and Jonathan Kraft, P'24, cheered the sell-out crowd of benefactors, alumni, friends, students, and their family members for their historic support. "We are so fortunate to have your enthusiasm for a timeless event that has done so much good over the years," said Jonathan Kraft.

Pops on the Heights anchored a jubilant Family Weekend at BC, which drew more than 12,000 parents and family members to campus to spend time with their students and reconnect with the University. The record-setting momentum of Friday night carried into a picture-perfect fall football Saturday capped by a thrilling overtime win for the undefeated Eagles over Missouri.

"We like to think of our generous supporters as beacons who light a path for deserving students to come to Boston College," said Jim Husson, senior vice president for university advancement. "This weekend, they propelled BC to not just one but two great victories!"

“
We are so fortunate to
have your enthusiasm
for a timeless event
that has done so much
good over the years.”

POPS 2021 CO-CHAIR
JONATHAN KRAFT TO THE AUDIENCE



View a full recap and video featuring student soloist Grace Collins '22 at bc.edu/pops.



one last thing...

Over a classic New England October weekend, thousands of Boston College alumni old and new descended on the Heights for a pair of festive celebrations. **Class of 2020 Commencement Weekend** welcomed 1,600-plus Eagles for a proper graduation ceremony after theirs was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joining them on campus were alumni representing classes ranging from 1955 through 2006, who gathered for a special **fall Reunion**. Eagles of all ages enjoyed a host of events, including class parties, tailgates, and an ACC football matchup with nationally ranked NC State in Alumni Stadium. ■





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