Liane Young
Mapping Moral Reasoning

Who’s Your Beacon?
BC friends and mentors who help light our way

Field House of Dreams
Donors help launch a state-of-the-art athletics facility

3 Questions
Donovan Dean Stanton Wortham on the future of education
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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THIS PAGE: Co-chair of the Pops on the Heights Executive Committee, Dave O’Connor, alongside his wife, Maureen, pays tribute to the efforts made by his fellow committee members, also on stage, and Pops on the Heights donors, at this year’s record-breaking 25th anniversary gala event.

LEFT TO RIGHT
Dave O’Connor
Maureen O’Connor
Kristin Cleary Welo
John Fish
Cyndy Fish
Chuck Clough
Gloria Clough
Sue Shea
In moral philosophy, competing theories often seem equally compelling,” says Boston College Associate Professor Liane Young. “How can we feel so confident in our own moral judgments when faced with the opposing moral judgments of others? And how do we explain the gap between our firm moral convictions and lapses in our moral behavior?”

Using cutting-edge brain stimulation and imaging tools on the frontiers of neuroscience, Young and her colleagues on the Morality Lab team are discovering revolutionary answers to these questions. “We’ve pinpointed key regions of the brain that influence our beliefs and behaviors,” explains Young. “If we can understand how the mechanisms in these regions work, we may ultimately be able to improve moral function.”

Liane Young’s research has been generously funded by the John Templeton Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Dana Farber Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. Thanks to gifts like these, promising researchers like Young can discover innovations within their chosen fields as well as collaborate in the interdisciplinary world of integrated sciences, and in doing so further the mission of Boston College.
WHO’S YOUR BEACON?

BC FRIENDS AND MENTORS WHO HELP LIGHT OUR WAY

Editor’s note: None of the interviewees could name just one person for this article. So we helped and chose one from their many stories.

BENJAMIN POSORSKE ’20
Cave Creek, Ariz.

“My Molecules and Cells biology professor, Tom Chiles, really helped me assimilate to the demands of college curricula and showed me how to deconstruct difficult concepts into more manageable ideas. He also embodies the BC way—teaching and giving back to others while continuing his own personal growth and learning.”

MAXWELL ANDREW ’18
Ellicott City, Md.

“When I researched artificial intelligence (AI) safety and machine learning, Assistant Professor Cherie McGill was always quick to send me articles about AI breakthroughs and point out relevant papers. She even recommended a local performance of Marjorie Prime, a play that deals with important issues in AI.”

SUSAN CHOY ’11
Malden, Mass.

“Associate Professor Michael Malec exemplifies servant leadership and showcases how to be men and women for and with others. I connected with him during his sociology service and immersion trip to Nicaragua, and I have witnessed his enduring mentorship to other students and community members.”

NADIA ABUELEZAM
Assistant Professor, Connell School of Nursing

“Most of my BC mentors know who they are. One person I look up to who may not know it is Associate Professor Régine Jean-Charles. Her grace and sense of purpose as a tenured female faculty member of color with a beautiful family and strong faith motivate me.”

My sister Reagan ’21, a BC tennis player, is another great mentor of mine. She strives to make herself a better person every day, which inspires me to do the same. And she’s always there for me.

BENJAMIN POSORSKE ’20
With this gift, I’m preserving a legacy for my family—25 of whom went to BC—as well as the University.

ROBERT MURRAY ’62

THE LONG VIEW

ROBERT J. MURRAY ENDOWS A SCHOLARSHIP FUND WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

Former chairman and CEO of New England Business Service Robert Murray ’62 describes himself as a poor Irish kid who had the great fortune to attend Boston College. “BC not only gave me the chance to pursue a substantial business career, it gave me vision,” says Murray. “I ran two companies and served on the board of nine more guided by the values I learned at Boston College.”

Always generous toward his alma mater, Murray recently took action to extend the impact of his giving in a very personal way. His new endowed scholarship fund will serve numerous undergraduates who remind him of himself. “I want the bright, ambitious inner-city Boston kids from underrepresented minorities to have the same shot at success that I had,” Murray explains. “That’s the BC legacy I want to create.”
FIELD HOUSE
OF DREAMS

DONOR SUPPORT OF THE NEW LEADING-EDGE TRAINING CENTER ENABLES BC TO DELIVER ON A SINGULAR METRIC—DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE STUDENT-ATHLETE

ABOVE: Athletics Director Martin Jarmond toasts the field house donors at the event in September 2017.
On a rainy mid-September day, 75 donors arrived on campus to help launch the future of the Boston College athletics program. Against a backdrop of ongoing construction for the new 115,000-square-foot athletics field house, University President William P. Leahy, S.J.; William V. Campbell Director of Athletics Martin Jarmond; Chair of the Board of Trustees Peter Markell ’77; football Head Coach Steve Addazio; and team co-captain Charlie Callinan ’17 offered thanks to the donors who brought about this game-changing initiative.

Field house donors viewed the property of 87,000 square feet of playing surface for football, soccer, lacrosse, and other sports including a 65-foot-high ceiling—perfect, for example, when kicking field goals on special teams; a 120-yard turf field; and 9,000 square feet of strength and conditioning space. Mark Holland ’71, a former BC lacrosse player and donor to the field house project, understands how success is tied to investment. “As an alumnus of Boston College, I know that the University aspires to excellence in everything it does. In order to achieve this goal, investments must be made in outstanding faculty, coaching, and facilities. With respect to athletics, if BC is to compete at the highest intercollegiate level, then first-class facilities, including a new athletics field house, are essential. As a member of the prestigious Atlantic Coast Conference, Boston College was one of only two universities that did not have an indoor field house to support its athletics teams. Happily, now it does.” When it opens this summer, the facility will accommodate over 10 varsity teams and more than 270 student-athletes.

As Jarmond noted in his remarks, “The training facility will be a game changer for our athletics program. Just as the neuroscience student needs the right equipment to achieve breakthroughs, our student-athletes need a top-notch environment to meet their personal and competitive goals. Thanks to the vision of Father Leahy, the Board of Trustees, and our generous donors, the athletics field house will deliver on our mission to develop the whole student.”
3 QUESTIONS

LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION DONOVAN DEAN STANTON WORTHAM—TEACHER, SCHOLAR, AND DOCUMENTARY FILM PRODUCER—TALKS ABOUT BC’S ROLE IN DEFINING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

What do you see as your first big challenge? At BC, we’re trying to create something unusual for an elite research university. We want to retain our strong sense of community and shared mission while becoming even more innovative, entrepreneurial, and competitive with our peers.

What is the educational philosophy of the school? We are leaders in both the theory and practice of how humans flourish when we educate holistically. Our approach demonstrates how the education of whole human beings can lead individuals to purposeful lives and help disrupt systemic inequalities. Initiatives such as City Connects and programs at the Roche Center for Catholic Education are great examples of how that can be done.

What can you do at the Lynch School that you couldn’t do anywhere else? In the U.S. and beyond, we’ve become narrowly focused on content standards. At BC, we also explore other dimensions of what makes a person human—social, intellectual, spiritual—and embrace the challenge of educating the whole person.

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIPS

OF LIKE MINDS

WHEN FATHER GREGORY KALSCHEUR BECAME THE NEW DEAN OF THE MORRISSEY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, HE HAD NO IDEA HE’D SHARE A VISION WITH TWO ANGEL INVESTORS

CRAIG W. AND SANDRA L. ASHMORE, P’17, ’20
BC Monan Circle Donors and William B. Neenan, S.J., Society Members

When it comes to leaders, sometimes it takes one—or in this case, two—to know one. That’s why The Ashmore Family Endowed Fund for Faculty Support and The Ashmore Family Endowed Faculty Fellows Fund came into being. Gifts of Craig W. and Sandra L. Ashmore, P’17, ’20, the funds capitalize on the Ashmores’ ability to recognize a transformational academic leader when they see one—a catalyst like Gregory Kalscheur, S.J., the dean of the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences.

“As Sandy and I got to know Father Gregory Kalscheur,” says Craig Ashmore, “we recognized that he possesses a rare skill set—he’s both a visionary and an implementer.” What the Ashmores see in Father Kalscheur is an educator who understands the right next steps for a liberal arts institution with a mission to serve the greater good of society.

Craig Ashmore’s career as an executive and corporate dealmaker at Emerson Electric and Platinum Equity has taught him the wisdom of developing great leaders by giving them as much latitude as possible to realize their visions. “Father Kalscheur is driving change in BC’s arts and sciences curriculum, and we are delighted to support the interdisciplinary programming and holistic, integrative mindset he’s implementing.”
Father Kalscheur is driving change in BC’s arts and sciences curriculum, and we are delighted to support the interdisciplinary programming and holistic, integrative mindset he’s implementing.

CRAIG ASHMORE
THE GERARD AND JANE GAUGHAN ENDOwed FUND FOR EXHIBITIONS AT
THE McMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART HAS HELPED COVER THE LENGTH AND
BREADTH OF EXPRESSION IN THE VISUAL ARTS. THE GAUGHANS’ THREE
ALL-TIME FAVORITE McMULLEN EXHIBITIONS ARE EQUALLY AS VARIED
Dr. Jane Gaughan sadly passed away in December 2017.

The long-lost painting The Taking of Christ restored by and first exhibited at BC plus
other baroque masterpieces.

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Reclaiming a Lost Generation: German Self-Portraits from the Feldberg Collection
(October 6 – December 8, 2002) Rare and revealing self-portraits of Berlin artists
persecuted by the Nazis.

—

John La Farge and the Recovery of the Sacred (September 1 – December 13, 2015)
Paintings, stained glass, and works on paper by one of America’s most complex
and innovative artists.

The McMullen consistently
presents important work
illuminated by fresh scholarship
and context—beautiful artifacts
with deep significance. Our
endowment helps ensure that the
McMullen remains a place
where you can drop in and see
beautiful, meaningful, purposeful
art for years to come.

DR. GERARD L. GAUGHAN ’67 AND
DR. JANE MURPHY GAUGHAN, MED ’73

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio
(1571–1610), The Taking of Christ, 1602
Oil on canvas, 53 × 67 in., Society of Jesus,
on loan to the National Gallery of Ireland

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio
Self-Portrait, n.d.
Gouache on cardboard, 25.5 × 19 in.,
Feldberg Collection, Berlinische Galerie

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio
(1571–1610), The Taking of Christ, 1602
Oil on canvas, 53 × 67 in., Society of Jesus,
on loan to the National Gallery of Ireland

John La Farge (1835–1910), Water Lilies in a
White Bowl, with Red Table-Cover, 1859
Oil on board, 9.5 × 12.5 in., Private Collection

John La Farge (1835–1910), Water Lilies in a
White Bowl, with Red Table-Cover, 1859
Oil on board, 9.5 × 12.5 in., Private Collection

THE BIG THREE

Saints and Sinners: Caravaggio and the Baroque Image (February 1 – May 24, 1999)
The long-lost painting The Taking of Christ restored by and first exhibited at BC plus
other baroque masterpieces.

Reclaiming a Lost Generation: German Self-Portraits from the Feldberg Collection
(October 6 – December 8, 2002) Rare and revealing self-portraits of Berlin artists
persecuted by the Nazis.

John La Farge and the Recovery of the Sacred (September 1 – December 13, 2015)
Paintings, stained glass, and works on paper by one of America’s most complex
and innovative artists.
The scholarship funds raised through Pops on the Heights over the last quarter century are extraordinary. So is the man who launched it—James F. Cleary ’50, H’93. Cleary, who had a distinguished career as a chief executive in corporate finance, is widely acclaimed as the father of modern fundraising at Boston College and the creator of Pops on the Heights. “It’s hard to imagine now, but there was a time when Pops on the Heights was just a gleam in our father’s eye,” says Cleary’s eldest daughter, Kara ’84, MA ’91. “He came to BC on the GI bill, and he never forgot how his impossible dream of attending Boston College was made possible by that funding. One of the enduring passions of his life was to make that same dream possible for others.” The idea came to Cleary during his daily morning walk along the Charles River Esplanade with Kara. “We were in sight of the Hatch Shell when it struck him,” she says. “Boston Pops at Boston College was the perfect vehicle for rallying the BC community to fund scholarships. I also remember how thrilled we were in our second year when we passed the $1 million mark. It’s almost inconceivable that we raised more than $14.5 million in 2017. And the joy we all feel in coming together for this cause is greater than ever.”