THE LONG VIEW

A $25 million promise from Pat and Aja Stokes will bring more undergraduates to the Heights

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early March seems like a lifetime ago, especially when we consider the magnitude and pace of change our society has faced over the past three months. It has been a time when we have all had to adapt to shifting circumstances while helping our families, our communities, and our institutions adapt as well. This moment is also a reminder that each of us, in our own way, is a beacon, doing our part to signal the presence of solid ground when waters are choppy and conditions are challenging.

As Boston College adjusted to the “new normal” of physical distancing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Beacon adapted as well. Most notably, we have moved beyond the confines of our traditional print format to bring to the Boston College community six Beacon Leadership Conversations, a new webinar series that covered topics ranging from supporting our students through this challenging time to hearing firsthand from nursing alumni on the frontlines of COVID-19 care. Our final conversation of the spring focused on the recently announced Boston College Forum on Racial Justice in America, which will provide a meeting place for listening, dialogue, and greater understanding about race and racism in our country; and serve as a catalyst for bridging differences, promoting reconciliation, and encouraging fresh perspectives. The Forum, which will be led by Vincent Rougeau, dean of the Boston College Law School, is in part a response to the value the University and so many of our institutions have espoused: Black Lives Matter. But it is also more than that. In our Beacon Leadership Conversation, Dean Rougeau observed that Boston College is uniquely well positioned to undertake this forum because:

“We have a mission and a tradition, that is at the founding of this institution, that thinks in very interesting and complex ways about the nature of justice. It does not think of justice in purely individual terms, it thinks of it in collective terms as well. So we have a whole language around social justice that will be very, very useful right now in terms of thinking about these kinds of problems.”

If you missed any of our Beacon Leadership Conversations, you will find them all archived in video and audio-only formats at www.bc.edu/blc.

At Boston College, we are able to lead important change and work towards a better future because of our dedicated and generous community of alumni, parents, and friends. In addition to being extraordinary philanthropists, our leaders provide us their unique perspectives and expertise, playing a critical role in strengthening the University for future generations. As you will see in the stories throughout this issue of Beacon, their passions touch all corners of our campus, helping to transform lives through financial aid; support a competitive athletics program; and contribute to the academic, social, and spiritual formation of our Eagles.

To preserve access to a BC education, especially during these turbulent economic times, scholarship assistance will be a crucial priority in the coming year. Boston College remains one of only 20 private universities in the country that meet the full demonstrated need of accepted applicants, drawing in students from underserved and underrepresented communities. We are deeply grateful to our champions of financial aid and to all of our leaders for their thoughtful support and investment in these worthy causes. I hope that their stories are as inspiring to you as they have been to me—and that they may remind us of what can be achieved when we come together to better the lives of our students, our communities, and our world.

I recently found myself revisiting my March 12th letter to alumni and parents informing everyone that we were canceling our spring events, which closed with this sentiment:

There are times when circumstances that are beyond our control remind us just how much we rely on institutions like Boston College that are pillars of excellence in our society and that play an important role in improving the human condition.

Thank you for keeping Boston College strong so that it can continue to serve society as a pillar of excellence.

Thank you for being a Beacon.

With appreciation,

Jim Husson
A $25 million promise from Pat and Aja Stokes will bring more undergraduates to the Heights.

When Patrick Stokes ’64 first stepped onto the Boston College campus as an undergraduate student in 1961, there were only a handful of residence halls on campus. McElroy Commons was the newest building. Carney Hall didn’t exist. Neither did Higgins Hall, nor Robsham Theater Arts Center, nor the Brighton campus. But by 1964, when he graduated, Pat had begun to see rapid change on the horizon with the opening of three residence halls—Roncalli, Williams, and Walsh—to accommodate the growing number of students who needed to live at the Heights.

“Boston College was considered a commuter school back then,” says Pat. “And now students come from across the country and all over the world,” he continues. “We have some of the top programs, and we are recognized throughout the United States.”

Pat has been an integral part of the University’s transformation since those early days. And now, Pat and his wife, Anna-Kristina “Aja” Stokes, P’91, ’94, ’97, are giving $25 million to Boston College to support undergraduates who want nothing more than to study at the University. Named the Stokes Family Endowed Scholarship, the fund will provide life-changing aid to a select group of freshmen and sophomores who will be known as “Stokes Scholars” until their graduation from BC.

Pat, a former president and CEO of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., has served on BC’s Board of Trustees for decades, both as chairman and as a member of numerous Board committees. He has led the Heights through significant cultural change, presidential transitions, and physical development. In fact, it was during Pat’s tenure as chairman of the Board that Boston College acquired the Brighton campus. “The ability to buy nearly 70 acres of land adjacent to the campus that was already straining under the burden of construction was just phenomenal,” he says. “We knew we had to acquire this land because it really was the future for the University. It was the 100-year view of what BC could become and what capability it had to grow into,” Pat continues. “And now we are realizing how good a decision it was, with the playing fields and the McMullen Museum on the Brighton campus—and room to expand and renovate on the main campus.”

There is a point in your life when you realize that helping others is a responsibility—when you realize that the resources you have can be put to a better use. Boston College has helped both of us understand that contributing to education—through financial aid—is one of the best ways to reduce inequality and enable deserving young people to fulfill their potential.”

Pat Stokes ’64

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blues on Mondays and Fridays. Getting to and from school every day added to the adventure. “We were subway commandos,” says Pat. “Traveling on a New York City subway in uniform for four years is a formative experience.”

Along with academics and hard work, Xavier also taught him the importance of giving back to the community in a variety of ways. For example, every year, Xavier students marched in New York City’s St. Patrick’s Day and Columbus Day parades.

In the late 1950s, many Americans were caught up in the excitement of the “Space Race”—including Pat, who was a senior at Xavier. He had a plan. “We were strongly encouraged to attend a Jesuit college or university for further education,” he says. “At that time, everybody wanted to be an engineer because President Kennedy said we needed to put a man on the moon. Engineering, mathematics, and the sciences were the way to do it.” Pat was accepted to the engineering program at the University of Detroit (now named University of Detroit Mercy).

But once enrolled, he quickly realized that he didn’t want to be an engineer. “I liked the quantitative side of my course of study, but not the engineering side,” Pat remembers. Without waiting any time, he transferred to Boston College at the end of his freshman year. He knew a few friends from high school were there, and he was excited to study the humanities.

When Pat arrived on upper campus, he lived with a roommate in one of eight rooms in St. Joseph’s Hall. The now-demolished former mansion included a few unusual features. “It had leather-covered walls that were painted green,” Pat recalls. “The whole house was in a bit of disrepair. I remember how cold the house was in winter.” He reflects. “Each room had built-in dressers. One morning I opened my drawers—and there was snow in the back of it!”

Pat graduated from the Heights with a double major in English and mathematics.

INVESTING IN FUTURE MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS

When Aja and Pat committed to building Stokes Hall about a century ago, they ensured it would be a building devoted to the humanities, a crucial element of the liberal arts—and a Jesuit education. Opened in 2013, Stokes Hall is a foundation of campus life. The former Stimson Estate is now the social heart of the St. Joseph’s Hall where Pat Stokes lived as a student. The building was chosen in the 1960s and rebuilt into Roncalli Hall as a result of Aja and Pat’s 60-year history with BC has provided for the academic mission of Boston College,” says Pat. “It allowed the university to unite several different things that were going on in different places on the campus at the same time and bring them under one roof.”

What most impresses Pat and Aja are the students who call BC home. “I always say, if I were to apply to Boston College now, I wouldn’t be able to get in,” Pat confides, with a laugh.

Last fall, the couple met on campus with a number of students, all of whom expressed just how critical their financial packages were in their decision to come to Boston College. “BC students are very motivated as well as very interesting,” says Aja. “They all know what they want to do and where they want to go in the future. They feel the responsibility to make something out of the opportunity that has been given to them to study at BC. That makes us feel that scholarships are a worthwhile thing to support.”

Pat and Aja hope their gift can help young people from all backgrounds access the distinctive BC experience, particularly those from their communities. To that end, their scholarship will focus on students from Boys Hope Girls Hope, a youth organization the Stokeses have supported for many years; St. Louis University High School; and Pat’s alma mater, Xavier High School in New York City.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The couple’s base is in St. Louis, Missouri, where Pat’s career began just a handful of years after he graduated from BC. Now both retired, Pat and Aja spend winters along the picturesque shoreline of Southern California, where they enjoy the natural beauty of the area and live as true philanthropists. Aja devotes time to several nonprofit organizations in the St. Louis area, including hospice care and Duolingo—whicht trains and connects dogs to people with physical, emotional, and social needs.

Every Saturday, when he’s in California, Pat hikes the hills just east of Laguna Beach. Looking out at the ocean, he can see surfers waiting for the perfect crest along the seemingly endless tide. He watches the swells that look like nothing until they reach the coastline—when the mesmerizing ripples become waves that build, curl, and break.

Observation, careful thought, and doing for others. It’s how Pat and Aja have lived their lives and supported Boston College over the years. “One of the first significant gifts we gave to BC was probably two campaigns ago, and we have seen our investments used effectively,” says Pat.

“There is a point in your life when you realize that helping others is a responsibility—when you realize the resources you have can be put to a better use,” he says. “Boston College has helped both of us understand that contributing to education—through financial aid—is one of the best ways to reduce inequality and enable deserving young people to fulfill their potential.”

Pat’s 60-year history with BC has provided him with the long view on the University’s future. Together with Aja, he will continue to make his mark on the Heights.
You came to BC as a financial aid student working in the Admission Office. Why the Heights?

Grant Gosselin: Because I was raised Catholic. BC just resonated with me in a way the other schools didn’t. When my father was laid off and unemployed for most of my junior and senior year of high school, we didn’t change our plans—I was still going to college—but the cost and what it would mean for our options was always hanging over our head. I remember I walked across the stage at high school graduation thinking I was going to another university. It was even in the graduation program that I was headed off somewhere else. It wasn’t until June and when the financial aid office came back with a new offer that [attending BC] became possible.

What changed?

GG: The Casey family scholarship is really what made it possible.

Is that why you do what you do?

GG: As I think about my journey, I know there are so many other students—thousands of students—I’ve worked with over the years—for whom money was the only obstacle to getting where they wanted to be. So, it’s really gratifying to work at BC. We’re one of just 20 private universities in the country that are able to meet full demonstrated need for every student and be need-blind in the [application] process.

You’ve still got time—

That’s right, ha!

But then I transferred into the School of Management during the end of my freshman year, thinking that the best way for me to move forward in my career was to make a lot of money. We didn’t have a lot growing up, so that was my vision of success.

What popped the balloon?

I had an internship at General Electric, and it really was the dream internship. But when I was offered a full-time job, I took a step back and thought about whether that was going to bring me personal satisfaction. It just didn’t feel like that’s what I needed to do for my career.

So what did?

I spent some time talking with some of my mentors—some of them here in the admission office—and I really felt like education might be the right path for me to combine my interest in helping students make sense of the college process with some of my business skills, in terms of modeling a class, marketing to reach students, helping them get a sense of the mission of the institution, and seeing how it might resonate with them.

What challenges accompany that work of reaching students and communicating the BC experience and ethos?

This year is fraught with its own set of challenges, especially the COVID-19 virus. Colleges and universities, including BC, are trying to understand how that will impact students’ and families’ decisions about enrollment.

One of our challenges in reaching families, particularly low-income families, is helping them understand the cost of a Boston College education. While the initial price tag is high, the net cost is often significantly lower than that of a local or public school because private institutions like BC, through the generosity of our donors, often have resources to fund financial aid in ways other institutions simply can’t. We worry about losing families before they even apply, because the sticker price scares them away.

Financial aid is obviously a central element of your work. How has it changed during your 23 years in admissions?

Well, there have been a lot of cuts, locally and federally in terms of resources for higher education. Those have been passed on to the colleges and universities, which can only bear so much until that cost is transferred on to families. It’s also shifted in terms of how students think about applying to college. Before the market crash in 2008, students were still applying to six, seven, eight schools. Afterward, families had to start thinking about a different list of colleges—schools they were confident would offer the financial aid they needed. Nowadays, students are applying to eight to 12 colleges, which creates even more uncertainty as colleges have had to admit more students to fill their classes. And there is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic will complicate this further.

BC’s admission numbers haven’t really changed that much in that time, though.

No, we’ve been very fortunate to be a leading institution nationally, so the demand for a Boston College education remains extremely strong. BC received roughly 50,000 applications this year, though that volume would have been greater if we had adopted the application growth strategies some of our competitors have pursued. Too many colleges view their success by how many applicants they can attract. We don’t think that’s the right strategy for Boston College, or for students. We’re not looking to attract more students just to deny more students. We prefer quality over quantity. We really want the very best students in our pool.

With student debt ballooning, it must be a significant part of that dialogue with students and families. What does that back-and-forth look like?

We talk a lot about relative debt. The debt coming out of a private, nonprofit bachelor’s degree is about $53,000 a year on average in this country. At Boston College last year, that number was $16,000 on average. I talk about that statistic all the time with families. We’re doing our part—even as we can’t solve the bigger problem—we’re meeting your full need, we’re doing it in a need-blind way.

With students, we’ll ask if we can talk to their families about this investment they’re about to make. When they pull up their other offers and compare them, often they’ll say, “Well I think it’s cheaper there.” And we come in and say, “Let’s actually talk about it—this school actually isn’t adding in all of your costs around books and travel. We put that into our work transparently, and some institutions hide those expenses.” So, it oftentimes is trying to help them have an apples-to-apples comparison.

Is that a really satisfying conversation?

Oh, enormously. A lot of it involves helping families understand why BC is different, that we really are interested not just in developing the mind academically and the pre-professional path for students, but we also very much care about their own internal development—their spiritual, inner personal, and cultural growth.

Can you recall a specific example?

Last year I met with an admitted first-generation student and his mother in the admissions lobby at five o’clock on May 1 (the deposit deadline) for over an hour. The reason he wasn’t going to come to BC was because he didn’t know if BC would prepare him to get a good job. Now, unlike some other colleges, we don’t lead with career outcomes because it’s almost a given—97 percent of our students are employed within six months. We lead with mission. This is not just a means to an end. This is not about going to college to get a job. This is about going to college and life. And that’s kind of the secret sauce at BC.

Thanks so much.
Joy Moore was one of the original mentors for BC’s “Rise” program, which matches small groups of junior and senior class women with female faculty and staff members. In this photo from 2016, she is meeting with students after delivering a talk on “Courage to Make Difficult Decisions.”

ON SELF-CARE...
“I’m a firm believer in having a good foundation around your health and doing things that uplift you, and I try to encourage that in our students. Whatever it is that nourishes them, whether reciting lines at Robsham Theater, going on retreats, or exercising—it is all a part of keeping a healthy balance. For myself, I do Bikram yoga three or four times a week. I’m a practicing vegan so that keeps me focused on making healthy choices in my diet. And I enjoy some good old quiet time. In fact, I went on a silent retreat with a small group of colleagues from other Jesuit colleges a few years ago. It was a genuinely moving experience, one I hope to repeat often.”

To learn more about Joy Moore and the Division of Student Affairs, visit bc.edu/studentaffairs.
LIKE MOST BOSTON COLLEGE FACULTY, ISABEL LANE prepares diligently for each class—reviewing notes, designing projects, strategizing how best to lead her students through a complex topic. But for Lane and a small cohort of BC faculty, class prep also requires passing through metal detectors and being escorted through security checkpoints.

Lane is director of BC’s Prison Education Program (BCPEP), part of an ambitious partnership between BC, the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI), and MCI-Shirley, a medium-security state prison located 40 miles northwest of the BC campus. After earning a PhD in Russian literature from Yale, Lane did not expect to find her calling in a prison classroom, but from her first BPI class—on Soviet literature and ecology—she was hooked.

“It was just the most exciting teaching experience I’ve ever had, and it had a lot to do with the quality and intensity of students’ questions,” she says. “One thing I love about teaching in a correctional facility is that the students aren’t afraid to ask you really difficult questions.”

Those questions range from the expected—“what’s modernism?” and “who’s Stalin?”—to more contemplative inquiries about society, justice, and the students’ place in the world. Describing their environment as almost a form of sensory deprivation, Lane says the students are hungry to make connections between the curriculum and their own experiences in and out of prison.

BRINGING BC TO PRISON

BCPEP launched in summer 2019 thanks to an anonymous gift from a couple with longstanding ties to the University. They had been involved in some of BC’s other prison outreach efforts, including pastoral visits and an educational initiative at MCI-Norfolk men’s prison.

They heard about BPI through their daughter’s high school English teacher, who was involved in prison education. A recognized leader in prison education programs, BPI operates out of six New York State prisons and collaborates with schools and universities across the country to offer similar college-in-prison programs. Moved by what they learned, they felt BPI’s model would fit perfectly within BC’s Jesuit approach to liberal arts education.

CONTINUED
“What struck us about the Bard program is that it has always been focused on providing the same education to the inmates that a typical BC undergraduate would receive,” they said. “It is intentionally and specifically a liberal arts curriculum, which is central to BC’s understanding of its own educational mission.”

Sororadishly, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections had expressed interest in starting a BPI program at MCI-Shirley and had suggested BC as a local partner. The couple eagerly made the introductions, helped establish the initial strategy, and generously provided seed funding to get it started.

They found an eager partner in Provost and Dean of Faculties David Quigley, who took the initiative under his wing and helped tackle the many practical aspects of collaborating with the Department of Corrections, sorting out how faculty could participate, and working with BPI.

“There were obviously a number of issues that needed to get ironed out,” recalled the donors. “But from the beginning there was a real enthusiasm from the administration to do this because they saw it as part and parcel of the University’s educational mission as a Jesuit, Catholic university.”

For Quigley, introducing a formal prison education program seemed like a natural extension of BC’s Jesuit, Catholic tradition. “If you study the history of the Jesuits, there’s so much evidence of remarkable work being done in prison settings,” he said. “Some of the most inspiring Jesuits I’ve met around the world and on the BC campus are men who are living out their vocation working with the incarcerated.”

BC’S OTHER CAMPUS

True to BC’s commitment to academic excellence, BCPEP sets the bar high for students and aims to provide an educational experience that is on par with that at the Heights. The only formal requirement for admission is a high school diploma or its equivalent, but Lane and others on the admission committee study each application, essay, and interview to select students with the most potential to benefit from BC’s rigorous liberal arts education.

The program currently offers three courses in spring and fall, with one planned summer course. Each course is small, discussion-based, and writing-intensive, and, just like their counterparts at the Heights, faculty emphasize critical thinking and active student participation.

Courses are taught by a mix of current faculty, visiting professors, and doctoral students who welcome the chance to teach students who otherwise might not have access to an elite liberal arts education.

“Education has the power to reshape a life, and with that potential for our graduates to contribute great value to their communities,” said Cherie McGill, assistant professor of the practice, who taught Intro to Philosophy last fall. Other courses at

“The response from MCI-Shirley prisoners was enthusiastic, with nearly 100 applicants for the first cohort of 16 students. BC hopes to expand the program, admitting a second cohort, offering additional courses, and eventually offering inmates a path to a fully-accredited Boston College degree. For now, all credits are fully transferable and can be applied to bachelor’s degrees at schools across the country.”

HOPE ON THE HORIZON

The students come from a wide range of backgrounds—some have not been inside a classroom for decades, others have taken multiple college courses. The program does not take their crime, sentence, or disciplinary records into consideration—only their passion and their potential.

“We see education as an opportunity that should be open to everyone,” said Lane, who teaches one class a semester and who serves also as recruiter, registrar, advisor, tutor, and advocate. “It’s transformative—or else why would we do this?”

One of the best parts, she says, is watching the students begin to identify as Eagles, many fall BC sports, and they are hoping to paint the BC logo on the classroom walls. “The classroom becomes a refuge from the prison and a place where students develop a sense of Boston College identity and community.”

That mix of academic rigor and college camaraderie is key, said the program’s benefactors. In BPI’s New York programs and now at MCI-Shirley, they have seen how opportunities like this can have ripple effects throughout the prison—and society.

“These are incredibly motivated students who, in turn, help motivate other inmates and students. Even among those who don’t get in, the current students will help tutor and help prepare them for their next application,” the donors said. “The entire culture of the prison is changed; it becomes a more humane, healthier community instead of a collection of individuals who have no hope.”

“We are really proud of BC for stepping up and taking the lead on this in Massachusetts,” they continue. “It’s really impressive that it’s our institution that we all believe in and support that decided to take that giant step forward. We think it’s a real feather in BC’s cap.”

You can find Father Neenan’s full Dean’s List at bc.edu/neenanbooks
FOR OF THOSE TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS REQUIRED

FOR DECADES, RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITIES INVESTED IN THEIR FAMILY. NOW, THE MANCINIS HAVE ESTABLISHED A NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION TO THE OCEAN STATE’S STUDENTS IN NEED

“It’s an emotional thing when you meet these young people, so bright and promising, and they tell you that they don’t know how they would have been able to go to college if it hadn’t been for a scholarship from BC.... It makes you want to do all that you can.”

RAYMOND MANCINI SR.

“FOR OF THOSE TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS REQUIRED”

There are not enough scholarships for all the people who need them to afford college,” says Deborah “Deb” Mancini Morrocco ’81, P’10, ’14.

For more than three decades, the Mancini family has invested generously in financial aid at Boston College, supporting students with demonstrated need from 22 cities and towns in their native Rhode Island through more than 170 scholarships. Last year, the family expanded their commitment by creating the Mancini Family Rhode Island Scholars Program, funded through a collection of current-use and endowed gifts, all in support of financial aid—the first of its kind at BC—with preference for students hailing from the Ocean State. The family’s decision to create this scholarship program stems from their motivation to both reduce the financial burden of Rhode Islanders seeking higher education and to build a community for this group of BC scholars.

The Mancinis have cherished the opportunity to engage with students at events on campus, such as last fall’s BC vs. North Carolina State football game, the annual Scholarship Dinner, and the beloved Pops on the Heights: The Barbara and Jim Cleary Scholarship Gala, to which they are also generous benefactors. Deb’s father, Raymond Mancini Sr. ’60, MBA’11, P’81, ’83, ’84, says their experiences meeting the students they support was an important inspiration to further augment their philanthropy. “It’s an emotional thing when you meet these young people, so bright and promising, and they tell you that they don’t know how they would have been able to go to college if it hadn’t been for a scholarship from BC.” He reflects. “It makes you want to do all that you can.”

In her remarks to scholarship donors and recipients at the 2017 Scholarship Dinner, Deb shared one of her father’s favorite quotes and guiding principles: “For of those to whom much is given, much is required.” To the Mancini family, the truth of this philosophy is strikingly apparent and seemingly written into their family’s history. Deb’s grandfather Antonio Mancini came from humble beginnings. A first-generation immigrant, he had to give up his formal education in the eighth grade to find work to help support his family during the Great Depression. But he kept learning. Through remarkable grit and determination, Antonio paved the way to a better life. He began by apprenticing as an electrician, then bought and sold a chain of hardware stores, and finally bought a beer distribution company. Through Antonio’s perseverance, he was able to provide his son Ray the opportunity to pursue the education which he never had. In 1960, Ray became the first of many Mancini BC Eagles. He then grew his father’s company into Rhode Island Distributing Co., eventually diversifying into other businesses, including flooring and real estate. With an acute sense of his father’s sacrifices, Ray continued...
A DREAM OF CARING  
ZACHARY SZUMITA ‘21 IS AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS PREMEDICAL STUDIES. HE IS ALSO THE RECIPIENT OF THE MAYOR SALVATORE MANCINI SCHOLARSHIP, AND WITH IT HOPE TO FULFILL A DREAM BORN OUT OF A FAMILY TRAGEDY.

“I decided to pursue the premedical track after a horrific car crash cost my four-year-old niece her ability to walk,” Szumita remembers soberly. “The doctors who cared for her and performed multiple operations on her spinal cord and legs were inspiring to watch and learn from. I knew then that I wanted to develop the skills and knowledge to help anyone in a situation similar to my niece’s.”

The son of a builder and a teacher from Johnston, Rhode Island, Szumita knew attending college and medical school would be a struggle. He had faith in his own abilities—“I’ve always been self-motivated”—but his family couldn’t begin to pay for expensive schooling. The Mayor Salvatore Mancini Scholarship opened the door.

“The Mancini scholarship not only helps lessen the financial burden of college, it has granted my family peace of mind. I am so grateful to the Mancini family, and it is their vote of confidence that has given me even more motivation to achieve my goal of being accepted to medical school,” he says.

and his wife, Ann, were determined to help students who otherwise might never have been able to access higher education. In 1986, the couple established the Antonio and Anthony R. Mancini Scholarship at BC Law School, honoring Ray’s father and his late brother, who graduated from BC Law in 1965. In subsequent years, the Mancinis established three additional endowed scholarships with preference for students from Rhode Island. Now Ray and Ann, along with their children, Deb, Kenneth “Ken” J. Mancini ’83, P’10, ’11, ’15, Raymond “Ray” T. Mancini Jr. ’84, P’99, and Ronald “Ron” Mancini, are expanding their family’s legacy of philanthropy at BC, with the goal of giving back to the people who supported their grandfather’s growing businesses and helped his family succeed. This investment in BC—the family’s largest philanthropic commitment to date, to any institution—ref- ects the Mancinis’ love for both Boston College and Rhode Island, recognizing the significant financial need of many students from their home state. The Mancinis’ Ocean State roots run deep, says Deb. “We grew up here, we live here, and our goal is to give back to the communities that have given us so much.”

As the Mancini family knows, one of the best ways to do so is to provide access to education. “My family believes that we effect change by planting a seed of education, sowing knowledge and empathy by growing with the communities we are a part of, and giving back to make the world a better place,” says Deb, who is also a member of BC’s Board of Regents. “I can’t help but imagine what my grand- father might have been able to accomplish had he been afforded an education like I had,” she contin- ues. “What he made, and the legacy he built—not just here at BC, but in my family—is nothing short of extraordinary. What might he have become if only he’d been given that opportunity?”

BC LEADERS GO BACK TO CLASS

AN INSIDE LOOK AT BC’S REMOTE LEARNING

EARLY A-DOZEN BC ALUMNI AND PARENTS EXPERIENCED A SPECIAL, FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE UNIVERSITY’S PIVOT TO ONLINE LEARNING THIS SPRING AS SPECIAL GUESTS FOR LEADERSHIP, A COURSE TAUGHT BY CARROLL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR JUDITH GORDON, CHAIR OF THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT

What they experienced was not only reassuring—confirming that both faculty and students had the situation well in hand—it was inspiring.

“As a former teacher and lifelong educator, I was impressed by the way Professor Gordon taught from afar, yet engaged every student,” said Sue Martinelli Shea ’76, co-chair of the University’s Board of Regents. “It was a joy to see how well the online course went and how engaged and enthusiastic the students were. It is a testament to the strength and resilience of the BC community.”

The invitation was extended to members of BC’s Board of Trustees Committee on University Advancement (TCUA) and the Board of Regents (BOR), both of which are essential thought partners for BC’s advancement and engagement efforts. Each volunteer read the assigned case study and came ready to participate, including in small “break-out” groups where they collaborated with the students on specific case study questions. “I actually learned a fair amount,” said BOR Co-Chair Marc Steindler ’78, P’14, a chief investment officer and portfolio manager for PIMCO. “I was so inspired by the class I called my daughter and told her she should make sure she takes it.”

When he learned Gordon had set up a second evening class for a student signing in from Australia, Steindler—who was born in Australia himself—said he was impressed by her commitment to providing a full, robust class experience for all her students, regardless of their time zones.

FINANCIAL AID

LUIS R. RIVERA

CLASS OF 2023

MANCINI FAMILY

POPS SCHOLAR

• Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences

• Major: Biology

• Special Program: Pre-Health Program

• La Salle Academy Providence, Rhode Island

I am part of the Multicultural Learning Experience and the Dominican Association. These groups have helped me learn many new things. I’ve met new people, learned new things, and am helping to plan events for the community. My intended major is biology, and I am currently on the pre-health track. My plan is to go to medical school. I am utilizing my first semester to find my passion. I am going on the Learning to Learn Dominican Republic Service and Immersion trip during spring break.

Early a-dozen BC alumni and parents experienced a special, first-hand look at the University’s pivot to online learning this spring as special guests for Leadership, a course taught by Carroll School of Management Professor Judith Gordon, chair of the Management and Organization Department.

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What they experienced was not only reassuring—confirming that both faculty and students had the situation well in hand—it was inspiring.

“As a former teacher and lifelong educator, I was impressed by the way Professor Gordon taught from afar, yet engaged every student,” said Sue Martinelli Shea ’76, co-chair of the University’s Board of Regents. “It was a joy to see how well the online course went and how engaged and enthusiastic the students were. It is a testament to the strength and resilience of the BC community.”

The invitation was extended to members of BC’s Board of Trustees Committee on University Advancement (TCUA) and the Board of Regents (BOR), both of which are essential thought partners for BC’s advancement and engagement efforts. Each volunteer read the assigned case study and came ready to participate, including in small “break-out” groups where they collaborated with the students on specific case study questions.

“I actually learned a fair amount,” said BOR Co-Chair Marc Steindler ’78, P’14, a chief investment officer and portfolio manager for PIMCO. “I was so inspired by the class I called my daughter and told her she should make sure she takes it.”

When he learned Gordon had set up a second evening class for a student signing in from Australia, Steindler—who was born in Australia himself—said he was impressed by her commitment to providing a full, robust class experience for all her students, regardless of their time zones.
FOOTBALL’S LATEST DESIGN PLAY

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As the Hafley era kicks off, one thing is certain: top-tier facilities will have an immediate impact on his team both in performance and in providing potential recruits with a visual that demonstrates BC’s commitment to football excellence. Hafley told his players upon meeting them for the first time what kind of team he sees coming into view. “We’re going to be tough. We’re going to walk tough. We’re going to look tough...We’re going to play tough. That’s who we’re going to be.”

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WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL FIELD

TAKING IT TO THE HOUSE

New England winters are no longer a problem for the Eagles. Last fall, BC dedicated the William V. Campbell Field, a vast, state-of-the-art practice field for the team to hone their game—no matter the weather.

After serving as assistant football coach at BC for six years, Bill Campbell famously mentored Steve Jobs, Jeff Bezos, and many other of tech’s brightest creators and innovators. To call him a “business” coach fails to capture the real essence of his teaching philosophy, which focused on celebrating and uplifting all he worked with, enriching their lives both in and outside the office. He understood that spreading joy gets results.

Bill first put this theory into practice while coaching at BC, working together with athletic director William J. “Bill” Flynn, whom he credits as a major inspiration, to develop a winning culture on the football team. Tim Baenziger ’72, who roomed with one of Bill Campbell’s football recruits and is now CEO of the William V. Campbell Family Foundation, remembers the two men as charismatic leaders who shared a passionate and highly personal commitment to their athletes—concerned about their lives off the field as much as their accomplishments on it. “It was a privilege to know them both and see them work together,” recalls Baenziger. “They were both men whose expectations you wanted to live up to.”

Bill Campbell’s wife, Eileen Bocci Campbell, remembers him speaking fondly of his time at BC and highlights Bill Flynn’s lasting influence on his career. “Bill Flynn is who taught him about integrity,” she remarks, “they built a tremendous relationship.” To celebrate his time at BC, Bill committed $5 million to endow an athletic director’s position as the William V. Campbell Director of Athletics. And in 2016, a gift of $1 million to the Fish Field House gave BC football the William V. Campbell Field. The field is a suitably monumental space to celebrate Bill Campbell—a giant, both in Silicon Valley and at BC. It is a space that marks Bill’s passion for the game and his love of the Eagles.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

With remarkable insight and leadership, alum Mikey Hoag has dedicated herself to fighting Alzheimer’s. Now, she is harnessing those same skills to help the Eagles launch into a new era.

When Michaela “Mikey” Hoag ’86, P’14, sees a problem, she resolves to fix it. That is why in 2012, after losing her father to early-onset Alzheimer’s, Mikey founded Part the Cloud, a movement to support and fundraise cutting-edge research on the disease. In 2013, Mikey and her husband, Jay, saw another problem: BC football’s practice facilities lagged well behind those of its competitors. “There’s no way you’re ever going to be able to excite a football player to come to BC,” Mikey said. “We are so far behind the colleges that we are competing against, our hands are tied behind our backs.”

Inspired to act, Mikey and Jay decided to support the Eagles with a series of gifts totaling $4 million. In celebration of their generosity, last fall BC dedicated the Hoag Strength and Conditioning Center, a training facility adjacent to the William V. Campbell Field in the Fish Field House. The center’s cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art equipment give student-athletes the best possible resources to compete in the Atlantic Coast Conference and pursue dreams of playing on the professional level. “There’s no film crew over in the weight room or exercise facility,” said Mikey Hoag, speaking about the less glamorous aspect of putting in the necessary work. “But where games are won and lost is in practice. As we celebrate together, it’s worth noting our job isn’t done. BC has so much to offer its student-athletes, and we need to continue to support them so they can compete at the highest level.”

As a former sports marketing executive, Mikey’s strategy for maximizing her impact on Boston College is nothing short of genius. “Football is the highest-visibility sport, so it’s the best platform to use to elevate the entire BC community. When Boston College beats Notre Dame, that positively exposes BC in a market that it could never buy into. When we beat Notre Dame, the number of applications definitely goes up the following year,” says Mikey. Add to that, “Collegiate sports have a major community-building aspect to them. They’re integral to the experience. Culturally, experientially, and financially, BC benefits from having the best sports teams possible.”

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Boston College, our Eagles, and our athletics programs aim higher, train harder, and compete with greater determination every day.

To help lead this charge, BC recently named Jeff Hafley as the Gregory P. Barber ’69 and Family Head Coach of the Boston College football program. A standout defensive backs coach, Coach Hafley spent seven seasons coaching collegiate football before moving to the NFL, where he spent seven seasons with the San Francisco 49ers and other teams. In his only season with Ohio State, he helped lead a defense that went from 72nd in 2018 to first nationally in yards per play. In addition, Coach Hafley has established himself as one of the best recruiters in the nation by 247Sports for the Class of 2023.

As the Hafley era kicks off, one thing is certain: top-tier facilities will have an immediate impact on his team both in performance and in providing potential recruits with a visual that demonstrates BC’s commitment to football excellence. Hafley told his players upon meeting them for the first time what kind of team he sees coming into view. “We’re going to be tough. We’re going to walk tough. We’re going to look tough. That’s who we’re going to be.”

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MIKEY HOAG ’86, P’14
A Dedication to Healing
Passion and purpose realized

At age six, Loic Assobmo, together with his family, left his home in Cameroon and settled in Brockton, Massachusetts, so his mother could get treatment for a serious illness. Loic immersed himself in the medical community at a young age and grew inspired to work in health care so he could help people like his mother. When he was accepted to BC, he knew he was on a path to making a difference.

In 2017, Loic earned his master’s degree in nursing and philosophy. Following his passion to help those less fortunate in his home country, he developed a smartphone app that provides information about life-threatening diseases in Africa. He also launched Global Enterprise for Medical Advancement, an NGO dedicated to bringing awareness and solutions to African health-care issues. The NGO reached one million learners.

Leadership and Confidence
Strengthening the self to lift up others

For Hak Kim, achieving his dream of becoming a high school science teacher also meant overcoming his fears. Because Hak grew up in South Korea, English is his second language, he wasn’t sure how well he could lead a classroom in the U.S. But Hak soon found that his time at BC, and his experience working as a resident assistant in a freshman dormitory for three years, had given him the confidence, leadership skills, and passion for helping others that he needed to succeed. A Double Eagle with an undergraduate degree in biochemistry and a master’s degree in education focused on curriculum and instruction and chemistry, Hak chose to begin his teaching career in the science department at Cristo Rey Boston High School. Thanks to Cristo Rey’s dedication to helping young women and men with limited economic resources, along with its core values of dignity, perseverance, growth, and generosity, Hak has fit right in. He is actively building the relationships he so values and impacting the lives of these college-bound students by encouraging them to become responsible and compassionate lifelong learners.

No Dream Is Too Big
Caring for generations to come

As a proud aunt, Anxhela Mile feels a personal responsibility to create a sustainable future for the next generation. During her time at BC, Anxhela was a major leader in environmental advocacy on campus. She created the Environmental Caucus, a representative body encompassing all environmental student organizations at BC. Since her graduation from the Heights, Anxhela has been exceptionally busy preparing to pursue her passion. She completed studies at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, graduating with specialty certificates in environmental and international law, and earning an LLM in global environmental law. She went on to serve in four intern roles, including as a judicial intern for the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, and as a legal intern at the United Nations, working on legal matters and environmental issues at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. After serving as a law clerk for the Department of Justice, Environmental Enforcement Section, in Washington, D.C., Anxhela joined her law school alma mater as a legal coordinator at the Global Center for Environmental Law.

EAGLES FOR OTHERS:
FORMER SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT JOURNEYS

Dedicated to helping others, three past recipients of donor scholarship support have converted that generosity into action, choosing to teach, heal, and protect their fellow human beings through their career paths. All three graduates of the past decade, Hak Kim ’14, MEd’15; Loic Assobmo ’15, MS’17; and Anxhela Mile ’17 prove that a BC education provides much more than just a diploma.

Loic with his parents in Cameroon.

HAK KIM ’14, MEd’15

SCHOLARSHIP: 2010–2014
Harry and Marie Muller Scholarship
Generously established in 2007 by Bernadette M. Broccolo, Esq., ’77 and Timothy E. Broccolo ’77

ANXHELA MILE ’17

SCHOLARSHIP: 2013–2017
Esposito Family Pops Scholarship
Generously established by Wendy W. Esposito ’87 and Michael P. Esposito III, ’P18

HAK with Muller Scholarship benefactor Bernadette Muller Broccolo, Esq ’77.