



## Capital projects delayed, but hiring to continue



By PATRICK GALLAGHER  
Assoc. News Editor

When Boston College announced a \$1.6 billion, 10-year Strategic Plan in December 2007, no one was able to predict the market turmoil that would force administrators to re-evaluate aspects of the University's capital campaign so soon after its inception.

In what has been a balancing act of priorities over the past two years, the University is beginning to show signs of progress as it works toward the primary goal of the Strategic Plan, committing BC to becoming the leader in liberal arts education among American universities.

"The University made a very conscious effort in continuing its investment in people rather than its investment in bricks and mortar," said Cutberto Garza, provost and dean of faculties. "Both are terribly important, and I don't want to minimize the need for good physical facilities. But we made the very conscious decision that those opportunities were not as significant as those that we would lose if we didn't continue investing in people."

In the past year, BC saw a 20 percent increase in external research grant support, which is double the number that can be expected in a typical year, according to Garza. Administrators are forecasting similar gains this year. This tremendous increase, in addition to the Nanofabrication Clean Room on the Newton Campus, which Garza calls the most visible addition since the Strategic Plan was brought into effect, has helped to attract higher quality students and faculty to the University.

The University hired more faculty members - 49 - than had ever been hired in a single year in BC's history, Garza said. While he said he

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## Service for Haiti, MLK, continues despite blackout

By TANNER EDWARDS  
For The Heights

The power may have been out at St. Ignatius Church for most of Monday evening, but that hardly dimmed the spirits of hundreds of attendees at Boston College's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. & Haitian Earthquake Victims Memorial Gathering. A diverse congregation brought BC and the surrounding community together to honor the legacy of King in a candlelit service promoting unity, equality, and civil justice through sermon and artistry. In the wake of the devastation caused by this month's Haitian earthquake, the ecumenical gathering doubled as a memorial for the victims of the natural disaster and as a call to aid the people of Haiti in the spirit of King's doctrine.

Illuminated by candlelight for the majority of the service, a diverse cross-section of the BC community echoed some of King's words and themes through prayer, reading, and reflection. Roberson Pierre, A&S '13, of the Multi-Cultural Christian Fellowship, began the service with a reading from King's sermon "I've Been to the Mountaintop," followed by an opening prayer from Mako Nagasawa, Asian Christian Fellowship leader, that

appropriately called for "bringing light into a dark place" by "restoring peace, love, and justice to humanity." Rev. Anthony Penna, campus minister, offered an anecdote recalling the "powerful, challenging, and haunting voice" of King that "changed [him] in profound ways" as a 19 year-old while listening to a King speech in Boston. Sister Mary Sweeney, D.C., referenced King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" during her address to the congregation. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," she said. "We should long to help, heal, and do something."

The evening's program was highlighted by guest speaker Rev. Jeffrey Brown, pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Cambridge. As the co-founder of the Boston Ten Point Coalition, a faith-based group committed to reducing violence among high-risk inner city youth, Brown spoke on the ways King's mission of fostering social justice played a role in choosing his own life path. "You will come to a situation where there are dire needs," he said. "I encourage you to answer that calling." On the recent earthquake in Haiti and devastation that resulted,

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A blackout left St. Ignatius in the dark Tuesday night, with students praying by candlelight.

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## Economics department reacts to demand

By DANIEL MORRISON  
For The Heights

In response to a sharp increase in the enrollment of economic majors at Boston College over the past year, the economics department has initiated measures to improve undergraduate access to elective courses and accommodate future fluctuations in course enrollment.

Undergraduates' heightened interest in the economics major is viewed as a reflection of the economic downturn, said James Anderson, chair of the economics department. "The previous experience with a significant recession was in the early '80s, when we had an enrollment jump and then a tailing-off from it," Anderson said. "And that was typical of other economic departments in the country at that time."

While the current trend echoes an earlier pattern, there have been residual effects from the current enrollment spike in economics majors. "There has been an increasing trend in quantitative enrollments in math and science, so probably a part of this is going to stay with us," Anderson said.

Aside from gains in the math and science enrollments, the swelling enrollment has resulted in headaches for many undergraduates. Seniors often



ANNIE BUDNICK / HEIGHTS STAFF

The department has expanded class offerings to accommodate a rise in interest.

accelerate the filling of classes, creating limited access to electives. "Ever since I've been here, seniors over-shop and then drop classes they don't want," said Richard Tresch, a professor in the economics department. Tresch said he has seen instances where seniors signed up for all economics electives and then gradually dropped them toward the end of the registration period. He believes that such scenarios have created "gridlock," and have partly strained other students' efforts to add economics electives early in the registration period.

The limited access to economics electives is also a result of a University-wide shortage of available classroom space felt across all academic departments. Both Tresch and Anderson said that the temporary closing of Gasson Hall will squeeze on the department's ability to provide

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## Single-stream moves into residence halls

By JAMES GU  
Heights Editor

Starting this semester, the University will adopt a single-stream recycling program in residence halls and administrative buildings to relieve students of the need to separate their bottles and their paper products into separate recycling bins. This system, which will be carried out by Waste Management (WM), will work toward the goal of increasing recycling output at the University, Deirdre Manning, director of sustainability and energy management, said.

Manning said that in the old system, students sometimes would see a bin overflowing and not recycle, or happened to recycle the wrong products. The single-stream system will separate the materials into two fields - recyclables and non-recyclables. The program has been in place in all the residence halls since last fall, and has been recently implemented in Carney and Campion Halls, with Higgins Hall slated to be next. Manning said that most of the academic buildings will transition to single-stream by May and the law school will implement the system over the summer.

"When you recycle, it's typically dual stream," Manning said. "One is paper products, like phone books, which you can actually rip up, and the second, rigid plastic, glass, and metal containers." While the campus recycling bins still retain their traditional blue color for paper and brown color for bottles, both bins will now accept any recyclable ma-

terial. In classrooms with single-stream recycling, containers formerly used for trash have now been labeled for use for recycling with the expectation that more waste can be recycled.

While this program has been recently introduced to classroom and administrative buildings, the program has previously been used in various departments. One example is the athletics department, which has contracted Waste Management to recycle the materials at BC sporting events this year. Jay Tougas, account representative for WM, said that the relationship between BC and Waste Management is budding, but has the potential to grow larger. "We wanted to start small rather than have to backpedal," he said. The program also has an educational component. He noted the importance of the educational aspect to make the BC community more aware of the new program. After the success in the athletics program, BC contracted WM to conduct all the recycling on campus.

The process starts with Facilities Service workers bagging all the recyclables and loading the bags onto a truck, which brings the contents to a treatment center in Avon, Mass. The trash is spread on a conveyor belt where the trash is sorted. While the machinery is largely automatic, approximately 10 percent of the recycling is done by hand to remove the garbage.

Tougas said that since the single-stream recycling program has begun, BC's recycling rates have improved.

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