

BC Retirees/25-Year Employees

University Librarian Is Set to Check Out

BY SEAN SMITH
 CHRONICLE EDITOR

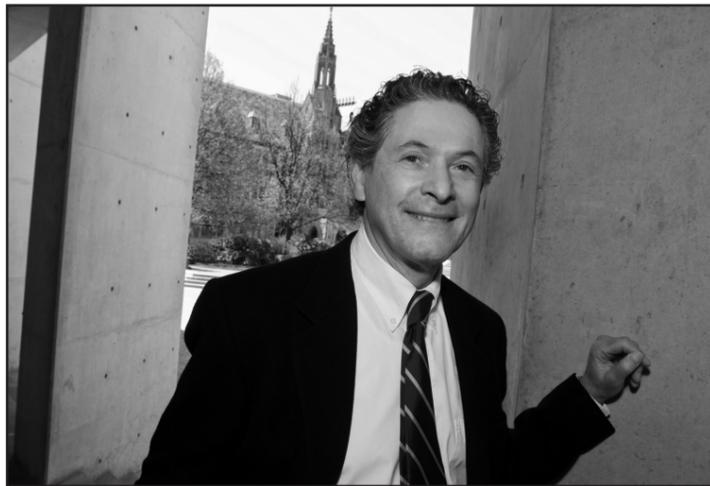
Jerome Yavarkovsky remembers the positive impression Boston College made on him when he visited 13 years ago as a candidate for head of University Libraries. Much to his delight, that first inkling proved to be a harbinger of his BC experience.

“When I first came, I heard people at BC say the right things: attention to social justice, care of the individual, education for others,” he says. “Once I took the job, it didn’t take long to discover that those values are taken very seriously here. One thing that characterizes BC is the application of the rhetoric of caring into actual practice.”

That aspect of BC is one of many Yavarkovsky says he will miss when he steps down as University Librarian on June 30. “I’ve been immensely impressed with BC’s support and recognition of the library and its contribution to research and teaching,” he says. “It’s been a critical factor in what we’ve been able to achieve over the last decade or so.”

Yavarkovsky, along with other retiring or 25-year administrators, faculty and staff – and 2008 Community Service Award winner Maureen Eldredge [see page 3] — will be honored by University President William P. Leahy, SJ, at a special recognition dinner May 29.

Also among this year’s retir-



University Librarian Jerome Yavarkovsky: “I’ve been immensely impressed with BC’s support and recognition of the library and its contribution to research and teaching. It’s been a critical factor in what we’ve been able to achieve over the last decade or so.” (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)

ees are Institute for Scientific Research Co-director Brian Sullivan, ’63, MA ’65, who has worked at the University for more than 40 years, and former Vice President for Student Affairs Kevin Duffy, now a professor in the Lynch School of Education.

Provost and Dean of Faculties Cutberto Garza praised Yavarkovsky for playing “an important role in Boston College’s impressive ascendance.

“Under his tenure, the University has had ‘watershed’ moments, such as the acceptance of BC as a member of the Association of Research Libraries in 2000,” Garza said, “and with his leadership the library staff has garnered praise consistently from all corners for the professionalism, dedication, creativity, and craft they bring to

their work.

“Current faculty and students, alumni, and retired faculty have much to be grateful for because of his contributions to the university’s intellectual and academic life.”

Yavarkovsky said he was gratified at the growth of “leadership, initiative and decision-making at all levels” he has witnessed in the University Libraries. He also expressed satisfaction at the Libraries’ wholehearted embrace of emerging technology, expanding its capabilities and outreach to beyond the immediate BC community.

“When I first arrived, perhaps 1 to 2 percent of our acquisitions budget went to digital resources; now it’s 40 percent,” he noted. “We’ve become a library system

Administrators, faculty and staff retiring this year:

Joseph P. Andrews; Robert Bruns; Alexandra Connors; Maureen Deeley; Dolores Finklea; Maria Flores; Edward J. Hanrahan, SJ; Paulo Jacome; Margaret A. Lee; Pasquale Marano; Stephen McGrath; Liya Moshinsky; Claudette Picklesimer; Brian F. Sullivan; Judith L. Sweeney; Jerome Yavarkovsky; David A. Belsley; Mary E. Duffy; Kevin P. Duffy; Joellen W. Hawkins; Gerald Pine; William R. Torbert; Robbie W. Tourse; Nancy W. Veeder.

Administrators, faculty and staff marking 25 years at BC:

Dan Bunch; Terrance E. Granahan; T. Scott Kinder; Mary T. Poillucci; William A. Toof; Cheryl A. Wright; Kevin R. Croke; Ian Hobson; Lula Albert; Paul La Vecchia; Kevin L. Larner; Michele H. Latimer; Cyrilla Mooradian; Karen Potterton; Jane Ashley; Matilda T. Bruckner; Walter M. Haney; Alan L. Kafka; Thomas C. Kohler; Rena Lamparska; Larry H. Ludlow.

based on network distribution of research and learning resources, which enables us to play a major role in BC’s e-teaching program.

“So you can now accomplish you can by coming to the library. That has been our goal, and it’s to the credit of our administration and staff we’ve been able to accomplish it.”

Sullivan has been affiliated with the Institute for Scientific Research (ISR) since it was known as the Space Data Analysis Laboratory – its previous incarnation, the Ionospheric Research Laboratory, was the first recipient of government sponsored research funding at BC. ISR’s work includes developing mathematical formulae used in analyzing the ionosphere,

taking infrared readings of stars and measuring atmospheric emissions involved in global warming.

Sullivan’s BC connections are familial and personal as well: All four of his children graduated from BC and he is a long-time football and basketball season ticket-holder.

“When I started working here, we were in a wooden shack [at the site of what is now McGuinn Hall], and BC felt lucky just to have enough applicants to fill the freshman class,” quipped Sullivan, reflecting on the current era’s steady rise in applications, with more than 30,000 received this year alone.

“It’s amazing to see how the school has grown so much.”