



THE BOWDOIN ORIENT

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
The Oldest Continuously Published College Weekly in the U.S.

September 16, 2005
Volume CXXXV, Number 2

1st CLASS
U.S. MAIL
Postage PAID
Bowdoin College

Courses venture to the web

Blackboard takes off with little opposition from students, professors

by Miranda Yaver
ORIENT STAFF

For those at Bowdoin who are less technologically savvy than they would like to admit or who just want easier access to course material, Bowdoin is aiming to make life simpler through its recent utilization of the web site Blackboard (<http://blackboard.bowdoin.edu>).

Though widely used on other campuses, Blackboard made its debut at Bowdoin last spring in a pilot program during which 24 courses used the site as a resource for class material.

With Blackboard, professors may post syllabi, articles, course announcements, and links to related web sites. Blackboard also allows for online discussion of the course

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Kick-starting the new year



Drew Fulton, The Bowdoin Orient

Andrew Russo '06 drives towards the goal in Wednesday's match against Rhode Island College. The Polar Bears triumphed 5-2.

Tuition and fees increase to \$41,660

by Anne Riley
ORIENT STAFF

The cost of a Bowdoin education has once again reached an all-time high, with the 2005-2006 comprehensive fee surpassing the \$40,000 mark for the first time. Total tuition and fees now amount to \$41,660, marking a 4.99 percent increase over the course of one year.

"Forty-thousand dollars is seen as a benchmark," said Director of Student Aid Stephen Joyce. "I think there will become a point where cost is a major factor, but I don't know if \$40,000 is that point."

Students are reacting in different ways to the tuition increase.

"I am glad I am graduating before I can run myself any further into debt with college loans," senior Kevin Larivee said.

Aaron McCullough '07 disagrees. "I guess I can sort of understand it, when you consider how many services the college offers—everything from the dining services to the counseling services," McCullough said.

"I guess the question is whether or not we need everything that's

being offered. The answer is probably not. The funny thing is, once you have these services, you don't want to see them go, even if they are realistically more than we need," he said.

Although tuition and fees have been increasing steadily year after year, the escalating price of a college education has members of the Bowdoin staff anxious about future enrollment.

"Our big challenge is to make sure people don't just look at the fees and shy away," Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Richard Steele said. "There shouldn't be a problem, as long as we get the word out about our financial aid program. Our financial aid program compares extremely well with other institutions."

Presently, 42 percent of the student body receives financial aid from the College, with an average award last year of approximately \$28,000. The money for financial aid does not come from tuition payments, but rather, from

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BSG enters semester with high aspirations

Mckesson and executive team prepare for elections, plan improvements

by Anne Riley
ORIENT STAFF

Executive members of the Bowdoin Student Government (BSG) are kick-starting their year by implementing a four-tier plan to improve student life and renewing their pledge for enhanced communication between officers and the student body.

Despite a clause in BSG's constitution that mandates the student government hold a meeting at least every two weeks, BSG's first public meeting is not set until September 27, at which point all newly elected officers will convene for the first time.

"Every year, this time is so undefined," President DeRay Mckesson '07 said. "Right now, we don't have a student government, so this [clause] doesn't apply yet."

Until the official assembly transpires, executive members of BSG, popularly elected last May, will

meet in private to formalize goals for the semester and address issues that require immediate response. For example, the group organized last Wednesday's silent reflection in the chapel and has started to make arrangements for a late-night pancake breakfast at Super Snack to raise awareness and funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The executive members of BSG are striving to save significant decisions for later this month, when all 28 members of the student government will be present.

"We're working, being mindful that the whole body isn't there," Mckesson said. "We've been hesitant to allocate money."

Vice President of Facilities Will Donahoe '08 finds this temporary stage of governing frustrating.

"We don't have the full government in yet and it's really difficult to get anything done in a conclusive sense," he said.

Last Saturday, BSG officers held a working retreat on campus, during which they developed a mission

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Textbook annex ponders future



Contributed by Alex Krippner

Despite student complaints of rising costs, the textbook annex will remain a campus institution, according to Director of Dining and Bookstore Services Mary Kennedy.

When renovations of Moore Hall, the current home of the textbook annex, begin next year, a new location will need to be found for the annex. According to Kennedy, Coles Tower may have vacant space, since its layout already includes a large student storage area that could be used for shelving textbooks.

Re-installing the annex in Moore after renovations is probably not an option, so the annex's move will most likely be a permanent change.

Despite its move, staff of the textbook annex believe that the annex will continue to be the primary source students use for purchasing textbooks.

Trying to find books elsewhere can be very complicated and frustrating for students, Kennedy said. The textbook annex also offers books and compilations of articles for specific classes that would be difficult or impossible to find

from other sources, she said.

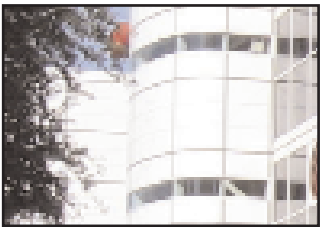
Rising textbook prices at Bowdoin and at colleges and universities across the nation are a concern for many students. According to a report by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), "Textbook prices have risen at twice

the rate of annual inflation over the last two decades."

These rising prices may be explained in part by new technology. It is now common practice that CDs and DVDs are packaged with the text-

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INSIDE



Exclusive

A past Orient editor reports on Katrina from a Houston convention center.

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Erik Tillotson approaches students

by Evan Kohn
ORIENT STAFF

Erik Tillotson, a man arrested numerous times in Brunswick, has approached students at their off-campus residences on the west side of Maine Street, Assistant Director of Security Mike Brown said early this morning.

Brown said the Brunswick Police

Department issued a new trespass warning to Tillotson. In November 2004, Tillotson was banned from setting foot on college property. The new warning also bans him from the off-campus residences in question.

According to police, Tillotson is no longer on probation and thus is no longer required to inform the police of his whereabouts. Tillotson has been

under previous investigation for "terrorizing," and was reported last November to have had fliers advertising free foot massages for women.

Tillotson is described as a six foot, four inches tall Caucasian male. He is 200 pounds, with blue eyes and short, light brown, wavy hair.

—Bobby Guerette and Josh Miller contributed to this report.