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Bowdoin College

Campaign begins with \$147 million

College raises 59 percent of goal during 'silent phase' of capital campaign

Bowdoin's stars come out for campaign launch party at Kennedy Library

by Bobby Guerette
and Beth Kowitt
ORIENT STAFF

BOSTON—It was billed as the start of the capital campaign, but it turned out to be a grand celebration.

After all, there was much to celebrate—\$147 million—at the the unveiling of The Bowdoin Campaign at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum on Friday.

Campaign co-chairs Deborah Jensen Barker '80 and Robert White '77 announced to cheers that the College had already raised nearly 59 percent of its total goal during the campaign's "silent phase." The College hopes to raise the \$250 million by June 2009.

Approximately 550 people attended the launch, Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs Scott Hood said. Most attendees were alumni. Some students, faculty,

and parents were also invited to the Kennedy Library for the launch.

The College had transformed the library into a place filled with Bowdoin imagery for the night.

Magnified campus photographs, framed in illuminated boxes that would be too tall for a typical building, stood in the lobby. The gift shop disappeared, completely covered by murals that showed scenes of Bowdoin and advertised the campaign's slogans: "The Place That Makes Us" and "The Place We Make."

The evening's events began in the library's glass-enclosed, 115-foot-high pavilion overlooking Boston Harbor and the city's skyline. Attendees could choose from custom-made sushi, grilled salmon, and hand-carved beef—and select their drinks from among the pavilion's three open bars.

After the reception, attendees moved to the library's Smith Hall for the evening's main event, a theatrical presentation about Bowdoin and the campaign. The presentation included the announcement of the \$147 million figure. Senior Vice President for Planning and Administration and Chief Development Officer William Torrey said in an e-mail to the Orient

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Courtesy of Justin Knight Photography and the Office of Communications

Bowdoin donors, alumni, and students mingle at the capital campaign's dinner reception in the Kennedy Library's atrium in Boston on Friday.

Board creates Darfur policy

by Nat Herz
ORIENT STAFF

The Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to refrain from directly investing in companies with business dealings in Darfur, and to avoid indirect investment in such companies if possible.

Saturday's vote approved President Barry Mills's recommendations, issued September 20, on the College's response to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. Those recommendations followed a report by an advisory committee that he appointed in February to analyze the crisis and propose appropriate college action.

Bowdoin does not currently have any investments, direct or indirect, in Darfur, the College has stated.

"I'm very pleased that the trustees were willing to go along with the recommendation that I made," Mills said in a visit to Bowdoin Student Government (BSG) on Wednesday night. "This was not a slam-dunk...There was certainly general consensus, but people have different views."

In his recommendations, Mills agreed with the advisory committee that the College should not make direct divestments in companies with business dealings in Darfur.

Mills broke with the committee on whether to terminate fund managers that would not avoid investing in such companies, though he did recommend that any profits from such investments would be diverted to charity.

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Peers give top marks, question advising

Reaccreditation committee offers initial findings following survey visit

by Will Jacob
ORIENT STAFF

An eight-member reaccreditation committee from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has presented an initial summary of its findings to the College. In a preview of a report to be submitted to the NEASC, the team commended Bowdoin for its commitment to a liberal arts education and change since the last accreditation, but expressed concern about the College's planning for the future and focus on academic advising.

"The team clearly recognized the strength and vitality of this college community—the excellence of this faculty and commitment to teaching,

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Booze bust prompts concerns

by Steve Kolowich
ORIENT STAFF

Most Bowdoin students are accustomed to having Security check for violations of the College's alcohol policy. However, most of these checks are conducted on weekend nights at parties or large social gatherings where alcohol is being served.

One can imagine a Baxter House resident's surprise, then, when at 9:30 a.m. last Friday, he walked out of his bedroom and found officers

searching his private common room for alcohol.

"Having that be the first thing you see was like, 'Woah, I didn't expect that to happen,'" said the student, who asked that his name not be used.

According to Director of Safety and Security Randy Nichols, an officer was doing a "routine walk-through" of several student residences that morning. When he came to the student's room in Baxter, he found the door open and saw a 1.5-liter bottle of Kahlua

Mudslide Mix—a mixture containing 12.5 percent alcohol by volume—sitting on a table in the common room.

The officer, who was new to the job, then went downstairs and called for backup. When another, more experienced officer arrived, the two returned to the room and found that the bottle of Kahlua had been placed underneath the table.

The officers then entered the room and "announced their pres-

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FEATURE PROFILE: PART TWO

THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Dick Mersereau has tried to ask the right questions during his decades at the College.

BY JOSHUA MILLER
ORIENT STAFF

Decades ago, Richard A. Mersereau sat in a classroom, slightly incredulous, as Professor Daniel Levine began a survey course of American history by asking him, "What is history?"

"Can he really be asking that?" Mersereau thought to himself. "Everyone knows what history is."

Levine explained what he meant.

It is of vital importance, Levine lectured his class, that one asks the right

questions. Mersereau listened.

Before he was the secretary of Bowdoin College, before he was an assistant to the president, before he was the director of communications, before he was a husband and the father of two kids, before he was the director of summer programs, before he was the coach of the women's basketball team, before he was an assistant director of the admissions office, before he was at graduate school,

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VICTORY

FOOTBALL TAKES CBB; FIELD HOCKEY TO FINAL FOUR
WOMEN'S RUGBY HEADED TO APRIL CHAMPIONSHIP

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