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Faust Praises BC Tradition

In Robsham speech, Harvard president extols benefits of education

BY ED HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust offered an expansive look at the role of scholarship and the American research university last week, when she delivered the inaugural lecture of the Boston College Sesquicentennial Speakers Series and received the first Sesquicentennial Medal.

The lecture, held in Robsham Theater, was the second of two events this month in the University's Sesquicentennial Celebration. The symposium "Education and Its Role in Democratic Societies" was held Oct. 5 in the Yawkey Athletics Center Murray Room [see story on page 6].

Faust, who was welcomed by President William P. Leahy,

Lee Pellegrini



Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust giving the inaugural lecture of the Boston College Sesquicentennial Speakers Series last week.

SJ, and Board of Trustees Chair Kathleen McGillicuddy, NC '71, offered a vivid portrait of the vital purpose and critical role of American research universities in a world rapidly changing as a result of globalization and technological advances.

The remarks by Faust, a renowned Civil War historian, fol-

lowed in a tradition born nearly 50 years ago, when then-Harvard President Nathan Pusey traveled the five miles from Harvard Square to Chestnut Hill to speak at Boston College's Centennial Anniversary.

Faust touched on Pusey's view that universities should not simply serve as a means to profes-

sional training, but "build value into our common life," she said, quoting her predecessor's remarks a half-century ago.

In times of economic uncertainty, Faust said, universities need to resist pressure to narrowly define the purpose of a college education largely as a route to financial success. "By focusing on education exclusively as an engine of material prosperity, we risk distorting and even undermining all a university should and must be. We cannot let our need to make a living overwhelm our aspiration to lead a life worth living."

At the core of the university is scholarship, Faust noted, which takes many forms and pathways, some planned and others unplanned.

"At their best, universities maintain a creative tension, tackling the purposeful and the apparently pointless with equal delight — from the eating habits of

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Photos by Lee Pellegrini

Economics Professors Tayfun Sönmez, left, and Utku Ünver

BC Economists' Work Cited by Nobel Committee

BY ED HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

Research by two Boston College economists who specialize in the field of "matching markets" figures prominently in the work that this year received the Nobel Prize for economics from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The work of Professors Tayfun Sönmez and Utku Ünver in the areas of school assignment and kidney donation is mentioned numerous times in the scientific background paper compiled by the prize committee of the Royal Swedish Academy, which awarded Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapley the Nobel Prize in

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Bates Is BC's Choice for Director of Athletics

BY JACK DUNN
DIRECTOR OF NEWS
& PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Boston College named Brad Bates, the director of athletics at Miami (Ohio) University, as its new director of athletics on Oct. 9. Bates, who is credited with bolstering Miami University's athletics program during his 10 years as AD, succeeds Gene DeFilippo, who retired on Sept. 30 after 15 years at BC.

As athletics director at Miami, Bates oversaw a program that featured the school's first back-to-back football bowl game appearances in nearly 30 years (2003-2004) and two Mid-American Conference (MAC) championships in 2003 and 2010. Under his direction, 14 of Miami's 18 teams won at least one conference championship, including football,

men's and women's basketball, baseball, soccer, cross-country and field hockey. The RedHawks men's ice hockey team won a Central Collegiate Hockey Association championship and appeared in two consecutive NCAA Frozen Fours, including the national championship game in 2009.

In addition, Bates implemented retention strategies to raise student-athlete graduation rates, achieving an overall Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 89 percent in 2011, while also raising private funds to upgrade Miami's athletics facilities — including a complete renovation of Yager Football Stadium — and a new ice hockey arena and softball field.

Prior to being named director of athletics at Miami, Bates served as senior associate AD at Vanderbilt University, where he

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QUOTE:

"The GOP path is unknown and scary; the Democratic path is known and scary. Fasten your seatbelts: It's going to be a bumpy ride."

—Assoc. Prof. Dennis Hale (Political Science), page 3

Panel Gives Assessment of Decision 2012

BY SEAN SMITH
CHRONICLE EDITOR

Four Boston College political scientists weighed in on the upcoming presidential election at a panel discussion last week, an event that offered historical perspective, statistical analysis, thoughtful speculation, the prediction for a finish similar to that of 2000 — and even a classic movie quote or two.

"Decision 2012," held in Stuart Hall on Newton Campus, featured Moakley Professor of Political Science Kay Schlozman, Professor Marc Landy, Associate Professor Dennis Hale and Assistant Professor David Hopkins, with WBZ-TV news co-anchor Paula Ebben '89 serving as moderator. The event was sponsored by the Alumni Association, Political Science Department and Political Science Alumni Network.

The four faculty members each gave a brief assessment of issues and trends related to the election: Schlozman discussed the evolution of presidential campaigns since 1960; Hopkins examined polling data on the election for the past few months; Hale provided an overview of the debate over national debt versus entitlements; and Landy presented a foreign policy take on the presidential race. A question-and-answer period with the audience followed.

The result was a chatty, brisk-moving evening in which the speakers sought to give their views in an informal, concise manner that appealed to political spectators from the most avid to the more casual.

Hale channeled movie star Bette Davis in summing up the difference of opinion on whether to maintain protection of government entitlements such as Social Security and Medicare — as Democrats propose — or to focus on reducing cuts to government programs, as recommended by Republicans.

"The GOP path is unknown and scary; the Democratic path is known and scary. Fasten your seatbelts: It's going to be a bumpy ride," he said, paraphrasing Davis' line from the movie "All About Eve."

Hopkins reviewed the shifts in voter preferences for Obama and Romney since the party conventions and described how the Electoral College map was shaping up for the candidates. He said the race would likely turn on nine states and their combined 110 electoral votes, and that given the available polling data, Obama seemed to have an



WBZ-TV news co-anchor Paula Ebben '89 was the moderator for "Decision 2012," with BC political scientists (L-R) Kay Schlozman, David Hopkins, Dennis Hale and Marc Landy. (Photos by Frank Curran)

edge. But the tightness of the race, Hopkins said, could well mean a repeat of the 2000 presidential election: Romney, like Al Gore, might win the popular vote, but Obama — like Bush — would capture the presidency by taking the Electoral College.

"I'd keep an eye on Ohio, Wisconsin and Nevada," Hopkins said. "Obama is ahead in all of them at the moment, and they're his firewall. He wins those three, he wins the race."

To Landy, Obama and Romney represent "a clear-cut difference" in foreign policy approaches. Obama, he said, prefers "soft power" — distinguished by cooperative activities and leadership in "non-force activities" such as addressing poverty and climate change — while Romney's "hard power" philosophy is grounded in building military assets that are strategically and tactically superior "and being willing to use them."

Setting the current election year in historical context, Schlozman used the 1960 election as a point of reference, describing it as "our first modern campaign, the first TV election, with the first televised presidential debates." Since then, she said, the party coalitions have changed significantly — Democrats lost white Southerners and incorporated African American and Latino voters, for example, while Catholics became swing voters and less reliably Democratic.

These and other factors have contributed to an increased polarization of the two parties, Schlozman said. Where in the past, the economy was the major dividing line between Democrats and Republicans, she said, "these days they differ on just about every issue: social — such as gay rights and abortion — immigration, the environment and foreign policy."

Schlozman also touched on developments in campaign finance and changes in the media landscape since 1960, especially the proliferation of cable TV news — "The joke goes, 'If you're watching Fox,

you're conservative; if you're watching MSNBC, you're liberal,' she quipped, 'and if you're watching CNN, your plane's delayed'" — and growth of the Internet and social media.

"The environment has changed dramatically," she said.

The Q&A period included a discussion on the controversy over voter fraud: Schlozman said the most serious election fraud is committed by party organizers and elected officials, rather than voters; Landy said the low number of prosecutions for voter fraud is deceptive because such cases are typically difficult to pursue.

In response to a question about that night's vice presidential debate, Ebben talked about how perceptions of candidates' performances are shaped by party operatives and the media. Hale said the media's influence can be "dangerous" — he had waited a few days to watch the first Obama-Romney debate, and despite media coverage that proclaimed a crushing debate for the president, "When I actually watched it, I didn't think Obama did so bad."

Hopkins criticized what he said was the media's propensity to focus on candidates' styles, rather than substance. "It's disgraceful to turn a debate about policy into a theater critique."



Marc Landy makes a point during the panel discussion Q&A.

Conference Will Take Long View on Political Campaigns

A conference taking place at Boston College tomorrow and Saturday will demonstrate the role of serious, scholarly work in illuminating issues of public interest even during the most heated of political campaigns, according to organizers.

"The 2012 Election in Comparative and Historical Perspective," sponsored by the History Department, Carroll School of Management and the Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, will bring together scholars from a range of fields, including a number of Boston College faculty members. Participants will discuss the current state of politics in the United States, both in the context of this year's elections and beyond.

"Historical and comparative perspectives are essential to approach a political reality whose urgency is both irresistible and potentially distorting," said Clough Center Director and Associate Professor of Law Vlad Perju, who will lead the event with opening remarks. "They make it possible to talk about politics without the empty stereotypes of the all-too-prevalent and mindless spin room mentality."

Keynote addresses will be given by Yale Law School Professor Heather Gerken, who will speak on "Campaign Finance and Shadow Parties: The Future of American Politics," and Princeton University Professor

of American History Sean Wilentz, who will present "Still the 'Age of Reagan'?"

The sessions will be moderated by BC faculty members Associate Professor of History Mark Gelfand, Associate Professor of History Lynn Johnson, Professor of History Patrick Maney, Professor of Economics Susanto Basu and Political Science Assistant Professor David Hopkins.

Other BC faculty participants include Professor of History Heather Richardson, Moakley Professor of Political Science Kay Schlozman, Professor of History James O'Toole, Law School Dean Vincent Rougeau, Associate Professor of History Seth Jacobs and Professor of History James Cronin. Perju and Professor of History Kevin Kenny will introduce the keynote speakers.

Among other institutions, faculty from the University of Montreal, Colby College, Harvard, Duke and Boston universities will participate, in addition to Ruy Teixeira of the Center for American Progress, *The American Prospect* co-founder and co-editor Robert Kutner, and others.

Information about the conference, which takes place in the Fulton Hall Honors Library, is available at www.bc.edu/clough-conference (registration was completed Oct. 15).

—Rosanne Pellegriani

Nobel Committee Cites Work of Sönmez, Ünver

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economics.

"Using empirical, experimental and theoretical methods, Roth and his coauthors, including A. Abdulkadiroglu, P.A. Pathak, T. Sönmez and M.U. Ünver, have studied the institutions that improve market performance, thereby illuminating the need for stability and incentive compatibility. These contributions led directly to the successful redesign of a number of important real-world markets," the academy noted.

Sönmez and Ünver are economic theorists who apply their market and resource allocation theories to important problems in areas where the exchange of goods and services between parties are far more complex than conventional commercial transactions.

Their research has helped to create new models that improve the matching of students with public school assignments, multiple kidney transplant recipients with suitable donors, and tenants with housing units. Their work was instrumental in the creation in 2004 of the New England Program for Kidney Exchange.

One or both of the Economics faculty members are co-authors on 16 of the Roth papers cited by the Nobel organization. Ünver and Sönmez have published their work in such prestigious journals as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *American Economic Review* and the *Journal of Economic Theory*.

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