



## **Mentor Bios**

### **Kelli Armstrong, Vice President, Planning & Assessment**

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I grew up in Duxbury on the south shore of MA, and I returned to my home town to live (which would have surprised my younger self!) My husband and I chose the town for the school system and the coast, and it was a bonus to have my parents close by. He also was a prosecutor in Plymouth County at the time and we needed to live in the county of his court district.

*What path brought you to BC?*

I was employed at 7 different institutions prior to BC, and have been at BC by far the longest (11 years). I was a doctoral student in the Lynch School 20 years ago, and was familiar with BC through my time as a student. When I returned to work here, I was offered the opportunity to create a new department and I also loved the strong sense of community at BC.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

One of the areas I am most passionate about is college access. A college degree can change a life for so many people, particularly first generation students. I am particularly interested in the experience of students from high financial need backgrounds and reducing their barriers to the same educational experience as other students.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I love reading and watching films. I can lose myself in a book for hours, and read every night before I go to sleep to relax and create space at the end of the day. My family and I watch a lot of films together but I have 2 boys and it's difficult to find films that we all would enjoy!

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

My mother volunteers at a homeless shelter every week and I'll join her when I can. I also spend time supporting my son's school through fundraising and faculty appreciation events. My husband and I spend a lot of time by a baseball field watching our son and organizing activities around his team.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

Eleanor Roosevelt. I loved learning about her strong vision and passion for the poor and the voiceless. She was the force behind some of our most important social support systems, and a beacon of hope during a difficult time.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

My mentor is Pat Keating, our former EVP. He was my boss and the person who most tirelessly supported me over the last 10 years, giving me new challenges but always the resources I needed to be successful.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

El Salvador, as part of a recent immersion trip. It completely opened my eyes on so many fronts, and reminded me of how most of the world lives.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

On a big level, my family. They are my source of strength and anchor me. On a small level, cookies!

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

I would like to start a non-profit to help low income students get to college, or be part of an effort that supports this mission.



**Kathleen Bailey, Associate Professor of the Practice; Associate Director, Islamic Civilization & Societies Program**

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I was born and raised in Woodstock, New York. Although my extended family still lives there, I left to attend Boston College as an undergraduate. I visit often, but Boston is now my home.

*What path brought you to BC?*

I applied to BC despite opposition from my high school guidance teacher. I was thrilled when I got in, and never looked back. Although I got my Masters at Tufts, I quickly returned to BC for my doctorate, and then accepted a teaching position in the Political Science department. I met my husband at BC, raised my 3 sons at BC, and have enjoyed every second of it. I can't imagine my life without the BC community.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

Teaching. There is satisfaction in research and writing, committee responsibilities, attending conferences, and so on, but teaching tops everything. This is where we have the most impact. I love to challenge students, push them to go further, and sit back to watch the results. I love it when I hear from former students who have gained perspective on their educational experience, and see it as transformational, life changing and enhancing. I love all the different personalities that I come across; each one is precious and unique. Teaching and mentoring are not difficult things to do, and yet they have the biggest, most positive impact on real people and real lives.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I enjoy working out at the gym, taking aerobics classes or riding my bike, hiking, sailing in summer. Anything outdoors. I enjoy going out with friends, most of whom I went to school with so we know one another very well. I like to cook for my sons, who usually invite their friends to eat at our house. I like when my house is overflowing with people.

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

I used to volunteer at my sons' schools, but now that the last one has graduated from high school, I've turned my efforts to the Brain Science Foundation, which raises money for primary brain tumors in children. We run awareness days at hospitals, golf tournaments, information days, and so on.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

Right now my hero is my son Stephen, who passed away at age 24 on July 3. He was the most personable, caring human being I've ever met. He was friends with everyone, and made them all feel as though they were the most important person in his life. He had a direct, positive impact on everyone he

met, making them all feel better about themselves after a conversation with him. He was fun-loving, and embraced life with a passion I have never seen in anyone else. He was entirely selfless.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

My mentor was my husband. I met him at BC—he was a professor in the same department that hired me. He was a true intellectual and scholar. We worked very closely together, publishing articles and books, exchanging ideas about teaching. We traveled to the countries we studied, which was always a crazy adventure. He was brilliant, the most engaging speaker I've ever met. I have tried to model my courses and teaching style after him.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

Uzbekistan. I did my field research there for 10 months and lived in the ancient city of Samarkand. The historical sites are amazing, but it was the culture and hospitality that was most remarkable.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

My other two sons. Having lost one, I couldn't bear to go through that experience again. You really never realize how precious your children are, and how much you take it for granted that nothing could ever happen to them.

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

Professionally, I would like to make the Islamic Studies program at BC one of the strongest in the world in terms of human and financial resources.



**Helen Ha, Assistant Director for Undergraduate Programs, Center for Student Formation**

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I grew up in Los Angeles, California. I here 7 years ago to take a job at BC and now Boston is home!

*What path brought you to BC?*

I was job searching after grad school and came to BC for my interview. There was something about BC that really drew me in – it just felt right. At the time, everything in my life was pointing to staying in California, but I followed my gut, made the cross-country move, and have been at BC ever since.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

Whether it's through structured programs, mentoring initiatives, or informal conversations, I really enjoy helping students begin to explore and discover who they are.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

If I'm not having dinner with friends or watching an alarming amount of TV, you will most likely find me reading on the couch in my pajamas.

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

The permanent roommate (aka husband) and I are pretty involved in our local church.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

My dad. He is the reason I am who I am today.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

I met one of my mentors in college. She was my boss my sophomore year and is now a good friend. I had some tough seasons in college and she was the only one brave enough to ask how I was really doing and helped me realize that sometimes, it's okay to not be okay.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

I visited a small farming town where I lived for the first 4 years of my life in South Korea. It was unusual only because I have absolutely no memories of my life there except through old pictures my parents brought with them when they moved to the US. Being there felt both foreign and strangely familiar.

*What would be impossible for you to give up? Coffee.*

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

I want to write a fiction novel!



**Régine Michelle Jean-Charles, Associate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and African and African Diaspora Studies Core Faculty**

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

Wellesley MA, because of the lack of class and racial diversity in Wellesley I did not want to raise my children there.

*What path brought you to BC?*

I was hired in 2008 as part of a search for core faculty in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program. This is actually my first job! Prior to BC I did my PhD at Harvard and then a post-doc at UVA.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

I am passionate about literature and the ability of stories to help us better understand and engage the world. Whether I am writing about these works in an article or exposing students to them through my teaching it is this belief that literature has a role to play in the real world that excites me.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

On the weekends I spend a lot of time with family—biological and otherwise. Lunch, brunch or coffee with my closest friends is an inevitable part of my week. On Sundays we go to church as a family (me, my husband and 3 children) then usually have lunch with someone from church at a restaurant in Boston or at our home in Milton. We are “people people” and love to host gatherings at home large or small. Also, I take my self-care very seriously whether it is going to the gym, a Soul Cycle class, or getting a mani/pedi I always try to do something for me a couple of times throughout the week.

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

For over a decade I have been a board member, performer and lecturer for A Long Walk Home a nonprofit organization that uses art to educate, inspire, and empower young people to end violence against girls and women. This work takes up much of my time and is a cause I am passionate about.

I am very active in my church where my husband and I co-lead the marriage ministry.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

This one is difficult for me. I feel that I have many people I admire (Ella Baker for activism, Gloria Steinem for feminism, Carole Boyce Davies for her academic career, Edwidge Danticat for her writing and activism related to Haiti) but no hero per se...So I will go with the first thing that came to mind which is Jesus Christ because his life exemplified sacrificial love of others.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

I don't have one, but several...My pastor Valerie Copeland who I met at church. My undergraduate mentor was my college professor Farah Jasmine Griffin who I met freshman year and named my daughter after, my graduate school professor Alice Jardine, another Haitian professor I met through a professional association Claudine Michel. My BC mentors Kevin Newmark and Cynthia Young...

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Unusual only because it is not a common tourist destination.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

Working full time

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

To work firsthand with women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence in a different country

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I grew up in the Flanders area of Belgium. I got my PhD at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium where I also taught from 1990 till 2000. My husband is American and we had to juggle two academic careers and I gave up my position in Leuven to come to Massachusetts.

*What path brought you to BC?*

My husband was teaching at the College of the Holy Cross and I taught part-time at BC. A friend and colleague in Comparative Theology had asked me to take over some of his classes and I fell in love with BC.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

I love every aspect of my job, interacting with the students, doing research and writing, thinking about how to improve the department and the university. Of all this, I am most passionate about teaching. That is where I can truly lose myself in the moment.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I like exercising outside. I enjoy biking and playing tennis and skiing. I also love knitting.

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

I wish I had time for volunteer activities. I always wanted to try out prison ministry. Maybe now that I have stepped down as department chair, I will have more time.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

I don't have any single hero. I am in awe of the many unnamed religious sisters who dedicate their life to the poor and the refugees and whose faces beam with joy. It is their completely selfless humility and service that I find heroic.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

My mentor was my PhD promotor who encouraged me and believed in me when I did not believe in myself. He has long passed away, but I believe he guides me from beyond.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

I lived in New Zealand as a child, but the most unusual place I visited was a small town in South India where I witnessed a form of self-mutilating faith healing.



*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

Reading

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

I want to visit Africa, and I want to finish writing another two or three books.



**Kerry Cronin, Associate Director, Lonergan Institute; Adjunct Instructor, Philosophy Department (Perspectives Program)**

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I grew up in Hartford, CT. It's a great small city, but it's SMALL. I came to BC as an undergraduate and though I've left to do a few things in other cities, I wanted to come back to Boston and so I have lived here for the past 25 years.

*What path brought you to BC?*

I came to BC as an undergraduate and found a second home. My uncle was a great Jesuit who gave his life to this university. He passed away a few years ago, but I feel his presence and encouragement all the time.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

I LOVE teaching in the Perspectives program! I adore teaching first year students and love talking about the intersection of philosophy, culture and faith. I'm fairly obnoxious about it, actually. My friends always know what books I'm teaching because I bring it up at parties.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I love the Cape so I'm there visiting with family a lot. But I also am a big fan of staying home. If it's the early part of the day, I'm sleeping in or reading. If it's late, I'm out to a movie or watching "The Walking Dead."

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

I tend to give any free time I have to the church. The church needs good people who are hard-working and normal. I like to think I'm both, for the most part.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

I have to think about this one. I think lots of people are heroes to me. Mostly people who work hard and are humble enough to know they don't have all the answers are quite heroic to me.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

My uncle, Joseph Flanagan, SJ, was and still is my greatest mentor, even though he's passed away. I knew him so well that his memory and spirit still give me great guidance.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

I spent three weeks in Vietnam 15 years ago when my college roommate was adopting a baby by herself. I went along to help her out and had a trip of a lifetime. Traveling in the developing world taught me a tremendous amount.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

My faith would be impossible for me to give up. I'm Christian and Catholic through and through. Not in an unquestioning way, but in a committed way. After that, sleep. I have to really love someone to miss sleep for them!

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

I would like to become a more trustworthy and reliable person. I think I need to keep working at those qualities.

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I grew up in Huntington and Morgantown, West Virginia and Bloomington, Indiana. My father was a university administrator so we grew up in college towns. Since I graduated from high school in Bloomington, I consider that my hometown. My career has taken me to even more college towns and ultimately to BC.

*What path brought you to BC?*

BC is the sixth university and the sixth state in which I have worked since starting my professional career. BC approached me about the Vice President's position four years ago, and I was drawn to its unique Jesuit, Catholic mission and the opportunity to live in New England.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

Student engagement. I am excited about the variety of ways we can help students learn about themselves and find success through being involved inside and outside the classroom. In higher education we are so fortunate to interact with students as they explore who they are and who they want to be. We want to make sure students have the opportunities that help them to lead meaningful lives. I love connecting with former students!

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I love exploring New England. I have become a bit obsessed with family history and to my surprise much of that history takes place here in New England. Ancestry.com should come with a warning; "can become addictive." While I am not a great cook, I do enjoy taking cooking classes which often results in me buying cooking gadgets that I rarely use again...I used to own an 18 foot sailboat which was a great way to spend time in the summer. I learned to sail with a group called Womanship whose motto was, "nobody yells."

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

In the past I was involved in Habitat for Humanity and served on the board when I lived in Wisconsin. I also had the opportunity to help start an adaptive sailing program. As a 20-year member of Rotary International, I have been involved in all kinds of community projects.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

There are many people that I would consider heroes; the most significant to me was my grandfather. He was permanently disabled in a coal mining accident in his 30s and had only a 5<sup>th</sup> grade education. Yet he celebrated every day and had an amazing interest in every thing and every one.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

I have had a variety of mentors at different points in my professional life. One that has been with me since graduate school is Bob Shafer, former Dean of Students and professor at Indiana University. He celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last year and still takes the time to send personal notes of encouragement.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

The Keno Border Initiative sponsored by the Jesuits in Nogales, Mexico.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

My family and our mutual obsession with ice cream.

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

Find my family roots in Ireland.

 **Helen Ha, Assistant Director, Center for Student Formation**

**COMING SOON!**

*Where did you grow up?*

I grew up in Newton, Mass. Why aren't you there now? I'm here!

*What path brought you to BC?*

My interest in the field of education and the very generous financial aid package I received from BC.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

Taking ideas and turning them into realities.

*Where can we find you when you're not working?*

You can find me working out (usually at the Plex) or traveling to visit family and friends or home enjoying my surroundings.

*What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I usually enjoy some type of physical activity-biking or walking. I also enjoy cooking and reading.

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?* Generally, activities that involve being in the company of young women.

*Who is your hero?*

My mom. Why? For all of the sacrifices she made to ensure that I would have more opportunities than she was afforded. And, the pride with which she did what she had to do for her family.

*Who is your mentor?*

I don't have one mentor. I have found what's best for me is to surround myself by a few people who are younger than me, a few who are my age and a few who are older than me. All have wisdom to share from their different place along the age scale. How did you connect with him/her? I found them along my life journey and different encounters and opportunities I've had.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

The Townships of South Africa.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

My freedom.

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

Seeing more of the world and its many people.





Tracy L. Regan, Associate Professor of the Practice (Economics)

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I'm from Denver, CO but after spending 25 years in AZ and FL I decided it was time to return back to winters with snow! In all seriousness, though, I love the warm welcomes I've received from Bostonians and the BC community. This city has a tremendous amount of pride and is an exciting place to live.

*What path brought you to BC?*

I spent eight years as an Assistant Professor at the University of Miami and two years at the University of Arizona where I got my feet wet teaching large lectures. I chose to join BC as my position here allows me to focus on teaching, while also allowing me to do my research at a more reasonable pace. BC offered me the opportunity to continue teaching large lectures but also to offer electives in my areas of interest—namely, health economics, industrial organization, and labor economics. BC is the ideal mix for me—it's an outstanding research institution but maintains the focus of a liberal arts institution with a wonderful student body and an impressive faculty and administration.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

A lot of my passions are reflected in my research and teaching. I am especially interested in minority groups—e.g., women, Hispanics, and Blacks—with respect to schooling, the labor market, and the family. Matters of language fascinate me too. My other interests are in the health care arena; the pharmaceutical industry intrigues me, as does our evolving health insurance market. In recent years I've grown especially curious about the informal economy and entrepreneurship as well.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I love exploring New England—there is so much to see and everything is so close. Day trips are definitely a favorite weekend activity. I'm also a big fan of picnicking by the Charles River during the summer. I always try to exercise, get some work done, see friends, and take in some cultural events, as well as catch up on sleep. And occasionally, you'll find me on the couch all day binge watching something on HBO or Netflix!

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

I've been very involved with my sorority's alumnae chapters since graduation, serving in various executive roles. I also had the opportunity when I was back in Tucson to be an advisor to my college chapter at the University of Arizona. There I mentored women and served as a formal advisor to the CMO, philanthropy chair, and alumnae liaison.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

I don't have a hero per se, but instead a collection of people whom I respect and admire throughout history. These would include, but are not limited to: President Obama for his integrity, class, and respect for the office; Martin Luther King for his peaceful approach to civil rights; FDR for his public works projects; Teddy Roosevelt for his conservation legacy; Mother Teresa for her service to the poor and suffering; Malala for speaking out for the right to an education; Steve Jobs for his vision; and Walt Disney for his creativity.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

I don't have a formal mentor but I have a group of people who have advised and helped me at various points in my life. My undergraduate mentor, who was my professor when I was in college at the University of Arizona and oversaw the graduate students when we taught classes as Ph.D. students, was always candid, opinionated, and quite humorous in our conversations and has provided a tremendous amount of support and guidance for me as a professor. My graduate advisor, Ronald Oaxaca, has provided a great deal of encouragement and guidance and has become a dear friend and a wonderful sounding board when I'm faced with challenging professional situations. My parents are entirely selfless and endlessly patient and have given me advice for every imaginable thing in my personal and professional life. My siblings are my best friends and I often seek them out for their advice and opinions. I am incredibly lucky to have a family that really defines the notion of a family. And lastly, I'm fortunate to have a large network of friends that I've relied on throughout the years.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

Probably Turkey. Istanbul is at the literal and figurative center of so many things—geography, culture, and religion. It is the furthest east I have traveled and provided my first entry into Asia. I was fascinated by the women in various types of hijabs that walked next to men in nondescript clothing. It is truly where the west meets the east. The number of mosques dotting the countryside is amazing and the views from the Bosphorus are memorable. There is constant chaos and activity punctuated by the daily calls to prayer and endless array of amazing food, passionate people, and incredible sites.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

Summer vacation, my yoga mat, dental floss, my iPhone, and water.

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

I hope to see and experience as much of the world as possible. I also hope to have some positive impact through my teaching and interactions with people.



**Akua Sarr, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs**

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I grew up in New York City, in Washington Heights. I have not lived there for close to 30 years because I never moved back after going away to graduate school and starting a family and work outside of NYC.

*What path brought you to BC?*

I've been at BC for ten years – I started in the Arts & Sciences Dean's Office as an Associate Dean and then in August 2015, I started in my current role as Vice Provost. I came to BC from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I did my Ph.D. and worked in Student Academic Affairs.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

I am most passionate about working with students to help them to meet their personal and academic goals. Working with young people who are just discovering themselves intellectually and spiritually is the most rewarding part of my work.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

I love literature, theatre, the arts and food. Restaurants, museums, a good show and a great book are some of the ways that I like to spend my time.

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

I have not had a lot of time to volunteer but I've done a few afternoons at Cradles to Crayons and I've served food at a homeless shelter when my children were younger. I enjoyed the experiences and will have to carve out more time to volunteer when I can.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

Toni Morrison. I am in awe of the way in which she is able to use language in her writing. I wish I had that gift!

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

I've had a lot of mentors in my life – both personally and professionally. I think I learned the most professionally from the Assistant Dean that trained me as a graduate student at the UW-Madison – his name is Jack Cipperly. He really gave me great insight into student academic affairs. I've followed his path and have a career that I love. I owe much of my success to his guidance.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

I don't think it's unusual – but I love Senegal in West Africa. It has such a rich history and culture – it's just a beautiful country.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

Sugar. I have tried but I have a real sweet tooth.

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

I'd like to own a home in Dakar, Senegal. It would be nice to spend winters in Dakar and summers on Martha's Vineyard – reading all of the novels that I can.

*Where did you grow up? Why aren't you there now?*

I grew up in Falmouth, Mass (Cape Cod) on my parents' small resort of a campground and cottages. When I graduated from college, I made the decision to pursue higher education administration. The options on Cape Cod are limited with only one community college; thus, I made the decision to explore different parts of the nation while growing as a professional.

*What path brought you to BC?*

I'm one of eleven children. My dad was the first in his family to go to college (he grew up in Dorchester and attended Boston Latin School) and my mother did not go to college, which was not unusual for her generation. Their greatest priority was that all of their children graduate from college. So, there was never a question about "if" I was going to college; rather, the question was "where". My dad and an older sister, Maryanne, are both BC grads and so I took a hard look at the University. I loved what I saw and applied under a binding Early Decision program. I completely enjoyed my BC undergraduate experience. I had a Work-Study job in admission and then volunteered as a student tour guide and interviewer. Those experiences prompted me to consider admission as a profession. I graduated in 1982 and went to Colorado State University for graduate school. When I earned a Master of Education in 1984, I began my career in admission. After 16 years in admission (RIT, NYU, Barnard College of Columbia University, Northfield Mount Hermon School, Smith College, and Roger Williams University School of Law), I served as a vice president for enrollment management at Saint Anselm College and the University of Richmond (14 years). I was then approached about a newly created Vice Provost for Enrollment Management position at Boston College. Since it is my alma mater and a wonderful university, I decided to explore the opportunity. Ultimately, I was offered the position and decided to return to the Heights in July 2015.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

Ensuring that qualified students are able to attend college regardless of their family's socio-economic status.

*Where can we find you when you're not working? What's your favorite way to spend a weekend or Sunday afternoon?*

Usually with friends or family. And sometimes, I love to just laze around the house since my weeks are so busy. I also exercise with a personal trainer three days a week.

*Any volunteer activities you're crazy about?*

Not at the moment.

*Who is your hero? Why?*

My mother. She's had eleven children – and has lost two of them (one at the age of four and one just over a year ago). She had a loving partnership with my dad for just shy of 65 years (he passed away at the end of January). Mom is a visionary – she was the force behind the decision to buy the family business in 1961 and was a feminist long before the word was used. She is strong in her faith, supportive of her family, not afraid to face hard times. She's an amazing business woman – entrepreneurial. She'll turn 89 at the end of June and is still moving furniture, coming up with creative ideas, and interested in all of our activities as well as those of our families and friends. She's amazing.

*Who is your mentor? How did you connect with him/her?*

I've had a few mentors over my career and I count myself blessed to be able to say that. Ann Wright is one of the strongest mentors I have had. She was the Dean of Enrollment Management at Smith College and hired me to be Smith's Director of Admission. She eventually left Smith to work at Rice and then the College Board; however, we have remained in touch and I consider her a valued mentor, colleague, and sounding board. Her professional advice is excellent.

*What's the most unusual place you've visited?*

After working at RIT for 2 ½ years, I left to work for the Semester at Sea program where for one semester I served as a Resident Director, ran the student union on the ship, and circumnavigated the globe. It changed my life. There were a lot of "unusual places" on that trip. This was 1987 and I visited Peking (yes, before renamed Beijing), Leningrad (yes, the Soviet Union was still in existence), Egypt, etc.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

My family (mom, siblings, their children). They are my highest priority.

*What's one thing you want to accomplish before you die?*

This is the hardest question. I'd like to continue to travel quite a bit and I've got a few places on the list – African Safari, Vietnam, New Zealand, Scotland – that's just a few. I'd also like to spend a month on a small island in Galway Bay. Inis Meain is the island where both my maternal grandparents were born. The population is about 160 people and it is a place where traditional Irish culture is intact.