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Boston University
Tuning Out the News
Are Young People Turning Off the News Media — Or Vice Versa?

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From the Vice President for University Development and Alumni Relations

It is exciting to inform you that the BUA — Boston University's alumni association — is changing. A new structure has been carefully arrived at after wide consultation within the University and a study of "best practices" at other large universities. The changes were presented to the Boston University Board of Trustees at its spring meeting by the chair of the ad hoc committee studying alumni associations, Trustee Suzanne Cutler (SMG'61), who is executive vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Other members of the committee were: Trustee Christopher Barreca (DGE'70, LAW'73), Ellen Flannery (LAW'78), Zachary Kano (SDM'90), John Lawlor (CAS'86, GRS'85, '70), William Nystrom (CAS'88), Arthur Pearlman (SMG'67), and Trustee Sharon Ryan (SAR'79). Members interviewed the deans and development and alumni relations staff members of all BU's schools and colleges and met in Boston on a number of occasions.

The committee's recommendations were unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees at that meeting. Here is the restructured volunteer alumni organization:

- A Boston University Alumni Council (BUAC) of at least forty alumni will be selected, to include one or more members from each school and college. This council will meet on campus at least once a year.
- The BUAC will elect a board of nine alumni, with policy-making responsibility for the alumni association. For the founding board, members of the former executive committee have nominated three of their number to join the six others. This board will meet three times a year on campus.
- Terms for council and board members will be staggered to assure continuity of leadership.
- The additional board members and the council members will be selected from nominations made by each of the deans.
- Other members may be recruited by Meg Umias, executive director of alumni relations, under my guidance. A full report on this recruitment process will be provided at the Trustees' December meeting.

Our thanks to all members of the former executive committee, and particularly its president, Judie Friedberg-Chessin (SED'89), as well as to Suzanne Cutler and the members of her committee for their hard work. We are very excited about the transition of the BUA and I look forward to telling you more as it develops. Our goal is to engage a greater number of alumni in the important activities and events here on campus, throughout the country, and abroad.

Cordially,

Christopher R. Reaske
LETTERS

Medical Pioneers Recalled
The article about Barry Zuckerman (“Much More Than Medicine,” Summer 2004) and his social activities reminds me of some physicians in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. These courageous pioneers saw that they could heal people in the hospital, only for the patients to become sick again at home — due to mold or cramped and dirty living conditions. Preventive medicine may have become lost in the late twentieth century, with the advances in medical science. It is good to read that some physicians have refound the roots of their profession.

KYRILL MAKOSKI (LAW'03)
Duisburg, Germany

Nostalgia on Comm Ave
I did a double take when I saw the photo of the bridge over the River Charles in the spring issue (“The BU Bridge(s)”), and had a great time playing “test your memory” with my sister, Yole, via cross-country phone. That picture and the comments in your “Letters” section in the summer issue have prompted this letter.

My sister, Yole J. Campagna Ames (CAS '52), and I (CAS'52, LAW'53) grew up at 193 Bay State Road (1933-1953 for me; 1933-1963 for her), and the picture brought back memories.

The area along Comm Ave starting with the line of billboards in the lower right of the picture and moving left later become the Stone Science Building, the College of Business Administration, the College of Liberal Arts, Marsh Chapel, and the School of Theology. Before CBA was built, the area was a convenient place to ice skate in the winter — once the always-present puddles of standing water froze. The backs of the billboards were great for honing climbing skills, and a place to hide while sneaking a smoke.

Zoning regulations required the commercial buildings on the south side of Comm Ave to be set back from the street; most occupants had their vacant areas grassed in, naturally resulting in the local kids calling them the “green rollers.” Once the ground froze, one of the companies flooded its area, which made a huge skating rink for us.

It was a time when there was no stigma to living with one’s parents beyond the age of eighteen. We walked to class at CLA and brought friends home for lunch or dinner.

President and Mrs. Marsh and their daughter, Nancy (CFA'59), later Hartman, moved into the Ames House (now the Castle) in 1918, and because Nancy and Yole were the only two little girls on the block and went to the McKinley School on nearby St. Mary’s Street, they were introduced to each other by Alice Kelly, who taught fifth grade. The introduction began a friendship that has lasted sixty-five years.

I have to add a note about the hapless Braves. Even when they had a higher standing in their league than the Sox, they never could draw the crowds, so they resorted to a fireworks display at the end of every home game. As soon as a game ended, the kid sister and I hustled up to the roof of our house to watch the show. There Yole, not yet allowed to smoke because she was considered too young, enjoyed an illicit cigarette.

CARL M. CAMPAGNA (CAS'52, LAW'53)
Roseville, California

Parting Praise
Forgive me for finding even the slightest bit wrong with Bostonia, but I think the departure of Michael Shavelson deserves more than a brief factual mention (“Letters,” Summer 2004). I hold no degrees from Boston University, but I have become a loyal reader of Bostonia because, quite simply, under Mr. Shavelson’s watch it has become an outstanding journal. Little wonder Columbia University would steal him away from us. Michael made all of us who wrote for him, and read him, better. What more can any of us ask of our teachers!

THOMAS J. COTTLE
Professor of Education,
School of Education
Boston University

Trinity’s 125th
Your story about Trinity Church (“Essays and Reviews,” Summer 2004) shows a deep knowledge of Boston, but I was surprised the author didn’t report anything about Trinity’s 125th anniversary and even more important, the major renovations now underway. I suggest Bostonia readers visit trinityboston.org for an idea of the amazing work now going on at Boston’s greatest building.

DAVID HOBBS
Via e-mail

Note to Readers
Bostonia welcomes readers’ reactions and encourages expressions of opinion, pro and con. Letters should be brief and may be edited for purposes of space and clarity. Correspondence should include the writer’s full name and address. Write to Bostonia, 10 Lenox St., Brookline, MA 02445, fax 617-353-6488, or e-mail to bostonia@bu.edu.

FALL 2004  BOSTONIA
Vox Pops
A Career in Song, Part II

The prize: singing in front of half a million people on the Esplanade, backed by the Boston Pops, on the Fourth of July. Hundreds entered this summer's POPSearch amateur talent contest, knowing only one would win that slot at the Hatch Shell.

And only one would come in second. The considerable consolation prize: a gig with the Pops at Symphony Hall. Would the contestant beating out all but one of the others really be a banker from Vermont?

Yes, but in fact it was not so surprising. Wayne Hobbs (CFA'80) has been singing seriously since childhood, and one summer during high school he enrolled in BU's Tanglewood Institute, where gifted teenage musicians study with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and College of Fine Arts faculty.

"I was set to go to school for pre-med," Hobbs says, but Tanglewood "changed my whole outlook." Instead, he earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from CFA. "I studied with Mary Davenport, an amazing teacher," he says. "The foundation she gave me is the reason why I sing the way I do today."

Hobbs later moved to Italy, studied under Carlo Bergonzi, one of the world's leading Verdi tenors, and performed in Germany and Austria. But his music career never jelled, and he came home in 1999. He found work in his hometown of Vergennes, Vermont, at the Chittenden Bank, where he is now assistant vice president for marketing. He continued to sing, picking up freelance gigs with orchestras — including concerts on Vermont and Canadian television and radio — and performing with, and directing, community choral and theater groups.

In May, four days before the audition, a friend told him about POPSearch.

On June 3 a line formed outside the BSO offices. Waiting behind police barricades on the sidewalk along more than a block of Huntington Avenue were lawyers, waitresses, school principals, computer techs, cops, and college students, warming up with scales and practicing their songs.

Hobbs arrived shortly after six that morning and was 30th in line of the 730 who auditioned that day and the next. After a few hours, he got his shot, singing "Dein Ist Mein Ganzes Herz" from the Franz Lehár operetta Das Land des Lächelns.

Pops conductor Keith Lockhart (HON'04) selected Hobbs and fourteen
others to advance to the next round, a public concert on Copley Square Plaza, where Hobbs sang “La Donna e Mobile” from Verdi’s Rigoletto.

Judges deliberated for about fifteen minutes. Then, to a drumroll, Lockhart announced the nine who would move on. Hobbs was among them.

The semifinalists sang at three Pops concerts at Symphony Hall. Hobbs’s turn fell on “Dance Night at the Pops,” with a space cleared on the floor for brave concertgoers to swing and sweat to oldies from the forties through the sixties. The tenor from Vermont didn’t sweat much from his perch on the stage of the stately hall, where he sang with piano accompaniment. “I thought, you know? I belong here!” he says with a laugh. “It just felt so right.”

His upbeat, familiar Verdi aria went over well; halfway through, Hobbs hit a high note that sparked an outburst of cheers. The night was his.

Making it to the final round, a concert at Symphony Hall on June 29, were two other finalists: Tracy Silva, a school van driver and gospel choir singer, and Kathy Porter, a marketing manager who began singing in middle age at weddings and parties. All three, said the Boston Globe’s Richard Dyer, “have the stuff to make professional careers in music.” Hobbs evinced “the voice and soul of a tenor,” giving “a suavely phrased performance... with swagger and flourish.” But in the end it was Silva who won it all with her passionate delivery of “Fools Fall in Love” from Smokey Joe’s Cafe.

“It was a great night,” Hobbs says. Second place meant a spot on July 2’s Pops bill at Symphony Hall, backed by the full Boston Pops Orchestra. By then, his third time at the hall, “I knew the space and I knew the mechanics,” he says. “But to get to stand there and actually sing with the Boston Pops, America’s Orchestra? That’s an amazing thing.” When he finished “La Donna,” he received a standing ovation. “It was really quite a magical evening.”

It won’t end there. Hobbs’s goal is again to make singing a career. “It’s what I’ve always wanted to do and what I feel like I should be doing,” he says. “The Pops and I have already discussed my return, probably next season.” And he’s made industry contacts, including one with Lorin Maazel of the New York Philharmonic. Maazel has written a new opera, and Hobbs will record the first act for the promotional and demo CD. “All of a sudden,” he says, “little things seem to be falling into place.” — Patrick Kennedy

Movers and Movees
The Fall Ritual

SUVs, minivans, and station wagons are double-parked in a long line on Buswell Street, hazards flashing. They cue up nose-to-tail like dozens of beasts of burden, each brimming with suitcases and boxes full of clothes and computers and dormitory accoutrements. A compact car struggles under a queen-sized mattress. A father in a colossal pickup truck jockeys for position outside his daughter’s dorm, her possessions bulging under a blue tarpaulin in the back. Hopping from the cab, he unlashes the tarp and extracts a dresser. It’s close to ninety degrees, and he’s already sweating through his T-shirt, which proclaims: “Old Guys Rule.”

But during move-in week in late August, as the campus swells with 11,000 undergraduates over six days, it seems the younger generation is in charge.

The transformation of the Charles River Campus is both invigorating and overwhelming. It starts gradually on Monday and Tuesday, when about 450 freshmen volunteers arrive early for First-Year Student Outreach Projects. Then the tempo picks up as students flock to their assigned rooms from Wednesday through Friday. It’s a marvel of choreography, carefully scheduled and orchestrated by the Office of Housing and the BU Police Department. Hundreds of rolling blue bins appear at strategic points to facilitate loading and unloading, and some 300 fall welcome ambassadors, upperclassmen who meet and greet families at more than 150 dormitory sites, work to streamline the car-to-room transfer.

Hurdles occasionally arise. Move-in has scarcely begun on Monday afternoon when a Warren Towers mailroom employee discovers a suspicious ticking package. About fifty freshmen and their parents are evacuated to the COM lawn, while a bomb squad tries to contact the package’s sender. When that fails, a water pellet is fired at the corner of the box, tearing the cardboard open. Out plops a metronome.

The same afternoon, a would-be bank robber enters a copy shop a few doors down and hands the clerk a note demanding cash. He apparently thinks he is in a Fleet bank, confused by an adjacent wall of ATMs. The clerk gestures vaguely to a Fleet down the street, and calls the police as soon as the thief leaves. The crook is apprehended later that day, drenched in red dye hidden in a bundle of cash stolen from a Citizens Bank.

Few students are aware of the incidents. It’s a good thing, because moving in is one of the more emotionally
and physically demanding jobs of the semester. One challenge is transporting heavy goods in an urban setting. Not all students have the benefit of a family SUV. A young man and his friend struggle to unload a desktop computer from a train at the BU Central stop. Then the sharp-eyed friend spies an abandoned shopping cart and hauls it back to the T-stop. Relieved, the two roll over the St. Mary's Street bridge toward South Campus.

Multitasking is key. A Bay State Road student exemplifies efficiency, unloading a microfridge, desktop computer, and mattress while also entertaining his little brother and keeping an eye on the family dog. Patience is also helpful, particularly while navigating the crowds of parents and students in Barnes & Noble. Joyful reunions are juxtaposed with solemn good-byes. A young ROTC cadet stands on the steps of Pershing House on Bay State Road. His father shakes his hand firmly, as though he were being deployed, and tells his son he's proud of him.

By Sunday afternoon, the tempo on Bay State Road has slowed to a leisurely crawl. Family members linger on the sidewalk, speaking English, French, Russian, and Hindi. There are good-bye hugs. The air is warm and still, with a faint drone of insects. Now and then a faint roar wafts over from Fenway Park — the Red Sox are up.

On the sidewalk in front of Shelton Hall, a father stands apart from his family, documenting the departure with a video camera. His daughter's belongings are safely stowed. She hugs her mother and little sister and then turns to kiss her boyfriend goodbye. The sister and mother avert their eyes and step a few paces away to give them a semblance of privacy. Dad keeps filming. The boyfriend pulls away and joins the family at the car. The young woman shuffles back into Shelton, her face streaky and washed out. The Fenway crowd roars. — Tim Stoddard

**Talk About Debuts**

In 1962, food in America mostly came out of a can. Fancy restaurants in Boston grudgingly served roast mutton slathered in heavy gravy with a side of gray vegetables. There were no omelet pans, no garlic presses, and fresh vegetables hadn't been invented yet. Enter Julia Child.

She had just written *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* when WGBH producer Russ Morash answered the phone at a small television studio the station rented from BU near Granby Street. 'GBH produced a show there called *I've Been Reading*, and host Albert Duhamel had booked Child to chat about her book. "I didn't produce the show, but a friend of mine did, and the phone rang," says Morash (CEA'77). "This woman, who sounded like she'd just finished a carton of cigarettes and filtered it through some tonsils right out of central casting of a bad operetta, said to me, 'I will require an omelet pan for the book review program.'"

Morash let her know this was, to say the least, an unusual request, but passed on the message.

A few days later, Julia Child made her television debut. "A hot plate was arranged, she brought her own omelet pan, and she made an omelet as part of the show. Julia was marvelously entertaining — she was very humorous, but underlying all of this was an amazing ability to communicate and teach, and everybody loved her," Morash says.

He quickly got the nod to produce and direct three pilot episodes of a cooking show. It was an instant hit. Thus was born in early 1963 *The French Chef* series, and Julia Child became, well, Julia Child.
When it is cold and gray and thick o’ fog,
Think back to that July spring tide
When the incoming ripples waved
And the laughing gull cried,
Weeping in circles over the now
new-flooded bay —
Because they’d stopped serving at the
Herring Cove Café.

Yet only six hours earlier the shore birds,
Skirting the waders, had been cross-
Hatching the lone and level flats —
Their automats, straining at gnats
Till the impatient tide
Rushed the gleaners aside.

Look back in wonder and recall
That chill October morn
When the sun spotted diamonds
Sparkling in the whitecaps, and
How you, lone dawn entrant,
Felt underfoot those tidied up
Corrugated sand ridges and you knew
From the bottom of your sole
The sea change — another ism — bapt —
As the cold breakers smote you hip and thigh.

The first line leads to the heaven-sent
Highest granite slab — our Pilgrim Monument.

— Jerrold Hickey

Morash, who went on to produce some 150 episodes of The French Chef, remembers those early days fondly. They filmed at the demonstration kitchen at the Cambridge Gas & Electric Company, normally reserved for training “those fierce women in white dresses and white shoes to become home economics specialists,” he says. “The rest of the room was a very big warehouse room with a freight elevator, which had a bell signaling it was coming up. Every once in a while it would go off, and Julia had these lines she would throw at us — because we were live on tape — ‘Oh, that must be the plumber; he’s late today.’”

Maybe because she was remembering that her first television experience was on the BU campus back in 1962 — or more likely because she was open to any new idea — when Rebecca Alssid cold-called some twenty years later and invited Julia to offer cooking classes at BU, she immediately agreed. That led to a twenty-plus-year association with the University, starting with cooking classes for the public at the demonstration kitchen at 808 Comm Ave, later a School of Hospitality Administration classroom.

Soon Julia urged BU to do more. She, chef Jacques Pépin, and Alssid, now director of lifelong learning at the Division of Extended Education, put together a four-month certificate program in the culinary arts to train people in French techniques. “We opened it up to only twelve people a semester, and it has been running since 1980, twice a year,” Alssid says. “Then she expressed her desire to have a program in food studies, or gastronomy. That started in 1991, a full-fledged master’s program.” Over the years, Julia taught for it, too.

They became fast friends. “I remember the first time I invited her to my home for a dinner party,” Alssid says. “Something was wrong with my roast, and I said, ‘Julia, this doesn’t taste right.’ And she said” — Alssid pauses here, and just like everyone else who quotes Julia, starts imitating her imperiously quavery voice — “Don’t worry, dear.” She walked into the kitchen, opened my refrigerator, and out came carrots and onions — and she fixed it up for me.”

“Everybody cooked at Julia’s home. She would give you tasks — to make the salad, wash the duck, or turn over the lamb chop. She always let people help her. She made it very comfortable,” Alssid says. Just before Julia moved to California in 2001, “we had several BU events at her house,” she adds. “She was very involved with the University. She really felt that BU was the place to foster the educational experience in the culinary arts, and was extremely supportive.”

“The last meal I had with her was in May, at her apartment in Santa Barbara,” Alssid says. “She was in a wheelchair then, and I took her to the Santa Barbara farmers market, which she went to every Saturday.” Julia suggested having the white asparagus and artichokes they bought at the market with a hollandaise sauce. “I said, ‘Julia, I’ve never made a hollandaise sauce!’ So I grabbed a cookbook and made the hollandaise sauce. She was sitting on her bed at the time, and I said it was finished. She told me to bring her a spoon, she wanted to taste it. She said, ‘It needs some salt and lemon,’ and I fixed it up. At dinner we had it, and she adored it, dipping the white asparagus and artichokes.”

Julia Child (Hon. ’76) died on August 13, two days short of her ninety-second birthday. A large tribute was planned for mid-October at the George Sherman Union, featuring area chefs she had supported — and many of whom lecture at BU, in large part because of her connection with the University. “Everybody loved her,” Alssid says. “When you said Julia, everybody smiled. They still do.”

“She was a tomorrow person, not a yesterday person,” Morash says. “If you died, you were gone. You’d lived a good life and were out the other side. Now let’s think about what’s happening tomorrow.” — Taylor McNeil •
When Bob Zelnick was growing up in New York City in the 1940s and 1950s, news was an integral part of everyday life. "I can remember as a ten-year-old or an eleven-year-old debating the fate of the Rosenbergs with friends whose parents were in a left-wing teachers' union," says Zelnick, a College of Communication professor and journalism department chairman and a former world-traveling correspondent for ABC News. "From the earliest days of my consciousness I can remember my parents and others talking about the progress of the war, the progress of the Roosevelt administration. There was a consciousness of public policy and its direct relevance to the lives of people. There was never any question about whether these things affected me."

Times change. When Zelnick began teaching at Boston University in 1998, he gave his students weekly current-events quizzes, based on what was in the Boston Globe and the New York Times — and was astounded at how little his students knew. "It wasn't until the end of the semester, when I said their grades were really going to be affected by this, that they started to read the newspapers," he says. And these were journalism students.

How does Zelnick account for the gap between the intense interest in news of his own childhood and what he sees in young people today? "I think it's a product of affluence," he replies, ticking off such factors as more distractions, a culture suffused with entertainment, a post-Cold War easing of fears about nuclear annihilation, and a concomitant belief that government — the principal subject of journalism — is not particularly relevant to their lives.

This disconnect between young people and the news is the subject of a new book by David T. Z. Mindich, a former CNN assignment editor who now chairs the journalism and mass communication department at Saint Michael's College in Vermont. Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News documents the decline in news consciousness among young people. A few telling facts that Mindich dug up: between 1972 and 2002, the proportion of those between eighteen and twenty-two who said they read a newspaper every day fell from 46 percent to about 21 percent. Among those thirty-three to thirty-seven, daily readership dropped during that same period from more than 74 percent to about 35 percent.

Nor, he argues, are young people today getting much in the way of news from other media. The audiences of network newscasts, cable news channels, and National Public Radio are primarily middle-aged and older. And although young people spend mind-boggling amounts

"Young people have different attitudes about what they expect from the media. They want to get access to what they want when they want it, at their convenience... They're not going to sit for thirty minutes and watch Walter Cronkite or his successors tell them the news."

— Tom Rosenstiel
Mindich paints a bleak picture. Even some of the more politically engaged young people he interviews are amazingly ill-informed. They justify their ignorance by saying that they can’t trust the corporate media, even as they hold weekly parties to watch Survivor — owned by the megacorporation Viacom — because, as one woman puts it, the show “is real, without filters.” Such attitudes lead Mindich to wonder how self-government can prosper if a large percentage of citizens have little idea of what’s going on in the world, the country, or even their community.

**IT’S A START**

Deirdre Fulton (COM’04) is something of a news junkie. She reads the Boston Globe, the New York Times, The New Yorker, and Entertainment Weekly, and checks in on Web sites and blogs such as AndrewSullivan.com and Wonkette.com. She doesn’t like television news, although sometimes she’ll watch Hannity & Colmes, on the Fox News Channel, “just to watch them yell.” But rather than drawing her closer to her peers, Fulton finds that her news habit sets her apart.

“It definitely shocks me when people my age don’t know what’s going on,” says Fulton, who is assistant to the editor of the Boston Phoenix. “I enjoy talking about politics, so when people don’t know who I’m talking about or what I’m talking about, it can be difficult. It’s not like I claim to know even half what lots of other people know, but I know where to look to find things that interest me.”

But Fulton doesn’t see the problem as unsolvable. Rather, she thinks the key to engaging young people in what we traditionally regard as hard news — that is, politics, government, economics, foreign affairs, and the like — is to hook them via the entertainment media they are already addicted to, and then show them why it’s important, why they need to know more. “Everybody was talking about Fahrenheit 9/11 when it came out,” she says. “It was really accessible. You sit there for two hours and you come away with a better understanding of a really complex issue.” Of course, Fahrenheit 9/11 is more a political statement by director and star Michael Moore than an even-handed assessment of the war in Iraq. Nevertheless, Fulton says, it’s a start: “The hope would be that it would interest somebody to the degree that they would check it out more.”

She makes a similar case for Comedy Central’s The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. “It’s funny and it’s sarcastic, and it doesn’t take itself too seriously,” she says. “It just puts the news in a light that is obviously not the real

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Dan Kennedy (MET’84), senior writer and media critic for the Boston Phoenix, earned a master of liberal arts degree in American history from Boston University.
story, but that people can understand.” And she has an intriguing suggestion for Comedy Central to help young people bridge the gap between satire and reality: put on its Web site links to the most important news stories that The Daily Show mentions.

It is perhaps significant that a young journalist such as Fulton would cite Fahrenheit 9/11 and The Daily Show. To be sure, neither is an example of so-called objective journalism. But it’s also important to recognize that neither Michael Moore nor Jon Stewart panders or talks down to his predominantly young audiences. Such intelligent but nontraditional approaches to the news may well ultimately prove more effective than the experiments that the mainstream media have tried. Many daily newspapers, for instance, are attempting to stem declining circulation by offering shorter, softer stories, more color, and coverage of such not-particularly-vital areas as celebrity sightings and personal health.

ROOM TEMPERATURE IQS

The nadir of this trend is the giveaway — a free daily tabloid, generally handed out to subway riders, chokefull of disjointed stories, sometimes no longer than one or two brief paragraphs. Boston has such a paper — the Metro, part of an international chain. But in some other cities, the traditional daily newspapers themselves have launched dumbed-down tabs. In Chicago, not only do the Tribune and the Sun-Times compete, but so do their room-temperature-IQ progeny, the RedEye and the Red Streak, respectively. The Washington Post, one of the country’s finest newspapers, puts out a free daily tab called the Express that’s light on news, heavy on entertainment. Thomas Edsall (CAS’66), a Post staff reporter, says he’s “ambivalent about the Express. In many ways, it does seem to pander to a lightweight reader. If, however, it leads to nonreaders becoming readers, then it is achieving a positive gain, both for the paper and for society at large.”

Mark Jurkowitz (COM’75), who covers the media for the Boston Globe, calls such papers “the CliffsNotes version of the news.” He believes that young people haven’t developed the news habit to the same degree as earlier generations largely because of technological change: it used to be that you had to page through a newspaper, or sit through a newscast, to find out what you wanted to know, thus being exposed to a wide variety of stories — as well as to the notion of paying attention for a while. Today, he observes, you can catch brief snippets of dozens of stories by spending just a few minutes watching the crawl on CNN, or glancing at a news Web site.

Still, Jurkowitz doesn’t believe that surrendering to shorter attention spans is the long-term solution. Rather, he thinks that if the news media are serious about attracting and keeping a younger audience, they need to draw youth into their coverage more comprehensively. “There really has to be some thorough thinking about how their world can be reflected,” he says. “That’s a very difficult thing to do. You have to integrate it into your coverage — not in a tokenistic way, but in a real and effective way. Then you might have a shot.”

NOSTALGIAAIN’T WHAT ITUSED TO BE

Of course, it’s always possible that things are not as bad as they seem — and also that things weren’t all that great back in what today we think of as the golden age of news. Mindich himself concedes in Tuned Out, “In the 1950s and 1960s, at the height of the Cold War, a poll revealed that only 55 percent of Americans knew that East Germany was a communist country.” Conversely, young people today may be tapping into the news in greater numbers, and with greater intensity, than the statistics cited by Mindich would suggest.

For instance, The State of the News Media 2004, a report by the Washington-based Project for Excellence in Journalism, shows that between 80 million and 105 million Americans get at least some news from the Internet. Even more encouraging, in 2002, the latest year
for which data are available, well over half of Internet users between the ages of eighteen and forty-four visited news sites during a typical week — spending between 120 and 140 minutes weekly reading news online.

Tom Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, says the Internet is just one of three types of news outlets — the others are ethnic media and alternative weekly newspapers — that are not only growing, but also attracting substantial numbers of young people. "The notion that somehow you have this mass of people who are GameBoy-playing, Napster-downloading narcissists is just an oversimplification," Rosenstiel says. "But they have different attitudes about what they expect from the media. They want to get access to what they want when they want it, at their convenience. They're very pro-active. They're not going to sit for thirty minutes and watch Walter Cronkite or his successors tell them the news and at the end of that newscast tell them, 'That's the way it is.'"

There is some evidence, too, that the September 11 terrorist attacks, and especially youthful opposition to the subsequent war in Iraq, have contributed to what Zelnick calls "a modest but perceptible increase" in news interest. Kevin Merida (COM '79) is an associate editor at the Washington Post. "I don't think the kids do not care about the war in Iraq," he says. "I do not agree with that at all. I know a lot of kids who are outraged at the Abu Ghraib prison scandal. I think they plug in to big news events — I really do. I just think the traditional ways of reaching them may not be effective. The Washington Post and the New York Times may not be the place for them to get that information."

COM Associate Dean Tobe Berkowitz knows plenty of students who do follow the news — and he sees it as part of his job to prod those who don't. More than anything, Berkowitz laments the dumbing-down of the news, believing newspapers and other media will have more success attracting and keeping customers if they give people what they need, and not just what they think they want. "I think you have to offer them hard news and stick with it during those years in the desert when your circulation and ratings are low. And hope that quality will win out," he says. "Does anybody have the guts and the dollars to hang tough for a long time? I believe that in the long run, you have to put your faith in the American people."

Linda Killian (COM '80, CAS '80), director of the Boston University Washington Journalism Center, agrees with Berkowitz — and worries that the trend toward corporate media consolidation makes it increasingly difficult for the news media to offer depth rather than focus exclusively on the bottom line. "I don't know what the American people want, and maybe quality isn't it," Killian says. "But I would argue that the media should give people quality and substantive reporting, and not fluff. And I would argue that a big pressure on journalism has been the media acquisitions and the mergers of so many media outlets over the past decade."

We should understand, by certain key measures, that young people are disengaged from the news as never before — but that the success of phenomena as disparate as Fahrenheit 911, The Daily Show, and the Internet is evidence that critical as the situation may be, it is not hopeless.

"I think that kids care about the world around them. I just don't think that they're traditional news consumers... Our world is evolving, so we have to figure out how to change. The traditional news disseminators have to figure out how to change. That's our responsibility."

Kevin Merida
The People's Harbor

Metropolitan College's Bruce Berman Charts the Boston Harbor Cleanup

BY BRIAN FITZGERALD

BRUCE BERMAN, aboard a ferry from Boston's Long Wharf to Georges Island, poses an important question to his students: "How clean is clean enough?"

He's talking about the water below.

It's a brilliant July day, with the smell of salt spray in the air. The sky is clear, and so is the ocean. But there was a time when Boston Harbor wasn't so clean, when the stench of sewage assaulted the nostrils of anyone who went near it.

Berman is communications director for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, a public-interest environmental advocacy organization pledged to help restore and protect the harbor and Massachusetts Bay. He also teaches a Metropolitan College summer course called Politics, Public Relations, and Public Policy: The Boston Harbor Cleanup.

"The Boston Harbor Cleanup is an amazing success story, and I just love to share it with students," says Berman, noting that the harbor's "bad old days" weren't that long ago. In 1988, Vice President George Bush, during a campaign stop boat tour in Boston, branded it the "harbor of shame," seeking to embarrass Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, his opponent in the presidential race, on his environmental record.

Those were the days when untreated human waste, syringes, condoms, and tampon applicators routinely washed ashore. The antiquated sewage treatment plants on Deer Island and Nut Island were so poorly designed and maintained that they flooded during even mild rainstorms, sending millions of gallons of untreated waste directly into the harbor.

Since then, bacteria counts in the water have decreased by more than two-thirds. Now the harbor teems with plants and animals. Seals can be seen there, as well as porpoises. To the right, a cormorant, a member of the pelican family, dives for fish. Humpback whales are sighted from time to time. And people can legally dig for clams on Carson Beach in South Boston, which was unheard of in the 1980s.

"It was one of the filthiest harbors in America, and now it's one of the cleanest," says Berman. "It's fair to say that the cleanup is the most dramatic success in environmental history in terms of water quality. What I'm trying to impress upon students is how this incred-
Several of the Boston Harbor islands, with Georges Island in the center foreground. Photograph courtesy of MWRA

Berman points to the left as the boat cruises by the cleanup’s centerpiece: the gargantuan white egglike tanks of the Deer Island waste treatment plant, which in 1995 replaced the antiquated facility. The plant treats an average of 350 million gallons of sewage a day.

“And what comes out of the Deer Island treatment plant?” he asks. Berman, his booming baritone competing with the roar of planes taking off from Logan Airport, puts students on the spot to see if they’ve been paying attention — to make sure that the lectures and readings are truly sinking in.

“The outfall pipe,” say several of them simultaneously. “Treated water,” chime in a few more.

“That’s right,” he says with a smile. “The plant separates the solid and liquid waste, and pumps the treated water through the 9.5-mile outfall pipe, which empties into Massachusetts Bay. The resulting sludge is converted to high-grade fertilizer.”

But now Berman returns to his original question: “How clean is clean enough?” There’s no quick and clear answer to this one. “At the end of the day the federal courts have to decide. How clean should Boston Harbor be, and when? And who should pay for it?”

The $4.5 billion Boston Harbor Cleanup was spurred by a lawsuit filed by Quincy City Solicitor Bill Golden in 1982 after he jogged through grease and sewage debris that had washed up onto Wollaston Beach. It was the first of several lawsuits aimed at forcing the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), which ran the region’s sewer system before the Metropolitan Water Resource Authority (MWRA) was created, to stop dumping raw sewage into the harbor.
The litigation was effective: a 1983 landmark federal court case required that the harbor’s beaches be made swimable and fishable by 2000. In 1986, Golden, along with the late State Superior Court Judge Paul Garrity (the “Sludge Judge”), newspaper reporter Ian Menzies, and Beth Nicholson, a young mother from Brookline, Massachusetts, founded Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, dedicated to advancing the harbor cleanup and raising public awareness of the project.

The cleanup was a massive undertaking that naysayers, much like the skeptics of Boston’s Big Dig highway project, said couldn’t be done because of its hefty price tag. Sewer ratepayers in the forty-three MWRA cities and towns financing the project cried foul over the prospect of astronomically rising bills.

However, thanks to the determination of environmental advocacy groups such as Berman’s organization and judges such as Garrity and David Mazzone, senior judge of the U.S. District Court in Boston, the cleanup was largely completed on schedule. On September 6, 2000, with hundreds of politicians, special guests, and Boston Harbor cleanup workers looking on, several gates were opened and wastewater first flowed through the new subterranean outfall pipe at Deer Island.

“In 1986, when Judge Mazzone ordered the construction of the new primary and secondary wastewater treatment plants, established a timetable for the cleanup, and gave an indication of where it would be by 2000, I knew it was going to be a reality,” says Berman. “I was absolutely confident he would get this done.”

Nonetheless, the project faced stormy seas. In the early 1990s, several sewer ratepayer revolts — including a “tea party” demonstration, with sewer bills tossed into Boston Harbor — threatened to derail the cleanup, or at least downsize it. Berman praises Mazzone for sticking with the project and its schedule, and the state helped defray rising bills by giving financial support to low-income ratepayers.

NOT A RACE FOR THE SHORT-WINEDED

BERMAN, a Springfield, Massachusetts, native, was a political consultant and contributing editor to the Phoenix newspaper before coming to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay nearly ten years ago. He has remained undaunted in his quest for a clean harbor, even when it seemed at times that the MWRA was backing down on its commitment. “Judge Mazzone once said that the Harbor Cleanup ‘is not a race for the short-winded,’” he says, “and he was right. You have to keep fighting.”

Berman points out that the cleanup isn’t finished yet. There are still frequent beach closures when the counts of Enterococcus bacteria in swimming areas exceed the federal and state standard for swimming. “Carson Beach has been closed on average one out of every five days since 2000 during the summer season,” he says. Indeed, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s annual Grand Circle Swim for Boston Harbor had to be canceled last year, as it had been in 2001. The culprit: filthy stormwater and sewage, much of it from leaky pipes and illegal hookups emptying into storm sewers and then into the harbor.

This problem brings the class, once again, back to Berman’s original question. How clean is clean enough? It’s the most fundamental aspect of every debate about pollution. “The federal and state Departments of Health say that if Enterococcus counts exceed 104 per 100 milliliters, the beaches should be closed,” Berman tells his students. “So is the harbor clean enough when you can’t swim in it one out of five days in the summer?”

The solution, he says, finally came in July, after “tireless negotiation and consensus-building, processes that are at the core of environmental advocacy.” After four years of deliberations, the state approved one of the last parts of the cleanup. To treat stormwater and sewage that has historically flowed onto beaches when it rains, the MWRA had originally proposed an enormous pumping station on the South Boston shoreline. Residents said it would be “unsightly.” After much discussion, the agency agreed to a $285 million project creating a 2.1-mile tunnel near the Dorchester and South Boston shorelines to hold the sewage water until after a storm ends. It will then be pumped to Deer Island for treatment. The tunnel, which will be seventeen feet in diameter, is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Berman is obviously ecstatic over this development. “After 2011, we’re looking at beach closings once every five years, when there is a major storm, instead of once every five days,” he says.

But he is not about to let his guard down. To say that he is a man obsessed with the harbor cleanup — and reconnecting Boston citizens to their waterfront — would be an understatement. Along with his communications director title, Berman is also Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s “harbor monitor,” and “Baywatcher,” often trolling around in The Shamrock, his twenty-four-foot green powerboat. Indeed, his home is literally on the harbor: he lives on his forty-foot trawler Verandah. So he is not only the organization’s mouthpiece, but also its eyes and ears. Polluters beware: if you’re discharging oil or sewage into Boston Harbor, the Baywatcher just
might be watching. As for the unknown culprits who have shot several harbor seals in the past year, if Berman catches you in the act, God help you.

He is quick to point out that his zeal is not just on behalf of the harbor’s flora and fauna. “The harbor is for everyone,” he says. “It’s the people’s harbor. We want to make it possible for people of every income to enjoy it. If you’re from a working class or poor family in Boston, and you can’t afford a Cape Cod getaway in the summer, a clean harbor is important. The same is true if you’re a tourist vacationing in Boston or you live in a pricey waterfront condo.”

Accordingly, Berman also teaches his students about the harbor’s role in the city’s economy. Earlier this summer, he split the class into teams to visit waterfront attractions, including the frigate U.S.S. Constitution in Charlestown, the New England Aquarium, and the Boston Children’s Museum. Their mission: to gather information. “How many people visit these sites in the course of a year?” he asked them. “I want you to find out and report back to me in two hours.”

**ISLAND PARADISE**

Right now, however, the ferry is docking at another destination frequented by tourists as well as Boston residents: Georges Island, which serves as the central point of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area. The thirty-four harbor islands were once a recreational mecca, but over the years, as the water around them became more and more polluted, they were basically abandoned. Now the islands, like the harbor, are making a comeback. Wooded trails lead to scenic vistas, beaches, picnic sites, and centuries-old foundations and forts.

“I’ve lived in Boston for seven years, but I had never been to the waterfront until this class,” says Trevor Komsolsick (MET’05). “I’ve also wanted to go camping in the area, but I never knew that you could camp on a few of the islands. Bruce Berman is not only a great professor, but the ultimate tour guide.”

He is also the consummate ambassador for recreation on Boston Harbor. An incurable chatterbox when it comes to the cleanup, he backs up his words with actions. Sometimes he takes off his shirt and dives in the water from The Shamrock to demonstrate to passing boaters that it’s safe to swim. To show people on ferries that fishing is safe, he’s been known to grab one of the bluefish he’s caught and plant a sloppy wet kiss on it.

“What I want everyone — and especially my students — to understand is that investment in the environment really does pay off,” Berman says. “There have been unexpected economic benefits in a cleaner Boston Harbor.” He notes that a study released in July by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay found that during the 1990s, the population of the waterfront areas grew at four times the rate of the entire city, the value of real estate there skyrocketed, and employment was up 29 percent in nearby neighborhoods.

“I think clean air and clean water are core family values in Massachusetts,” he says. “We’re willing to pay for a clean Boston Harbor, so we should enjoy it.”
INTO THE LIGHT

Raised on Shostakovich, Joan Wasser Is Making Good in Rock and Roll

BY TRICIA BRICK

Along Mass Ave the Cambridge night is hazy and loud, clumps of rowdy kids in worn jeans smoking outside the Middle East nightclub, drivers playing the Hub lullaby on their car horns. But around the corner at TT the Bear's Place, the crowd has just fallen quiet. In the spotlight, guitar in hand, Joan Wasser stands in a vintage red dress with a keyhole neckline and uneven hem, plays the first few notes of her set, and — with a rock star's cojones and a knowing grin — clears her throat and spits on the stage.

It's another night in the clubs for Wasser (CFA'97), doing what she loves most: performing, backed by a small band, as Joan As Police Woman. Symphony Hall it ain't, though Wasser has played that venue too. During the first few years that she was touring the world as a member of the art-rock darlings the Dambuilders, Wasser also played in the BU Symphony Orchestra with her school of music classmates. She's a classically trained violinist who chose BU, in part, to work with Yuri Mazurkevich, who himself had studied under Russian violin virtuoso David Oistrakh.

For Joan As Police Woman, Wasser writes the music and lyrics, sings, and plays guitar, violin, and Wurlitzer. Gutsy, jaggedly luscious torch songs like "Stagger into the Light" and "How Come You're So Solid Gold?" are laced with a harmonic complexity that reveals her classical training. "I think Mahler's so rock and roll — that's my problem!" she says, laughing.

From the time she joined her first band — as a violinist — in her freshman year at BU, Wasser has brought to rock and roll her classical understanding of the science of music. "Joan makes music that's not entirely accessible, in a world where people are less and less open to things that are difficult to listen to or are complex or nuanced," says Dave Derby, her former Dambuilders bandmate. "She'll do things in her music that are mind-boggling and amazing but also melodic and beautiful. I'm waiting for her to write the one song that makes the dumb-
asses in suits say, ‘I’m going to spend a lot of money on this person.’"

The critics, at least, have taken notice. Print reviews have called Wasser “one of the indie world’s most dynamic and generous musicians” and her music “too beautiful to go unappreciated.” She may not be a big star in the conventional sense, but the list of people Wasser has played with and who respect her music is a who’s who of independent rock — among them Laurie Anderson, Lou Barlow, Nick Cave, Lou Reed, Jill Sobule, and Nathan Larson. She’s played Lollapalooza, the Montreal Jazz Fest, and Late Night with Conan O’Brien.

Still, she doesn’t expect her eponymous new LP to go platinum, and she doesn’t expect to sell out the FleetCenter anytime soon. Although she cares most about her solo project, she performs as Joan As Police Woman only about once a month, mainly at small hipster clubs and bars in Boston and New York City. She pays the bills by playing, singing, and arranging music for other people — among her recent gigs, New York cabaret act Antony and the Johnsons and Hal Wilner’s tribute to Neil Young.

Wasser is part of a generation of musicians who’ve dedicated their lives to making music on their own terms — and for whom success isn’t defined by gold records won or arenas filled. At a time when the music that’s heard by most Americans is determined by Clear Channel and its 1,200 stations, independent musicians have to be creative, not only in their songwriting but in how they make a living.

“I always find Joan inspiring because music is the most important thing for her, and I feel the same way,” says rock singer Mary Timony (CAS’92), who has played with Wasser since their freshman year at BU. “We both made sacrifices in life for it. When you choose to be a musician, to really do it, you sacrifice. You have to deal with being poor.”

**HOW COME YOU’RE SO SOLID GOLD?**

**THE NAME** Joan As Police Woman reflects Wasser’s onstage love of dressing up, taking on new identities, messing with stereotypes. “I love playing roles,” she says. “That’s the whole basis of the name of the band: one day one of my friends said, ‘You’re channeling Angie Dickinson from Police Woman today’,” referring to the seventies television show. Since her Dambuilders days, reviewers have noted her charismatic stage presence — and her wild dreadlocks and space-age vinyl dresses. She likes tweaking expectations offstage, too. “One day she’ll be dripping in gold chains around her neck, and the next she could be in a sexy sixties garden frock and heels,” says musician Kendall Jane Meade (MET’94). “But she’s always Joan. She’s totally unique.”

Offstage Wasser is gregarious and funny, generous with her time and attention. She’ll sit across from you at the Middle East restaurant, tank top held together with safety pins, eyeliner smeared from the long trafficky drive up from NYC, and tell wild stories about performing in Dresden shortly after the Berlin Wall fell, for a crowd who “all looked like they were in the band the Scorpions, with mustaches and mullets.” She loves people of every shape, color, and kind, so that her punk-rock candor is cut by a gentle openness to anyone she meets. “I can completely blame my parents for that,” she says, “and I’ll thank them till the day I die.”

Wasser and her brother are adopted, and their parents raised their mixed-race family in Norwalk, Connecticut, “around a vast array of races, religions, monetary having and having-not,” she says. And when she talks about “loving diversity in general,” she's never far from the subject of music. “Sometimes I do feel that I write classical pieces as rock songs, because I don’t feel like I have boundaries," she says. “I wasn’t reared learning Bob Dylan songs that have three or four chords; I grew up loving Shostakovich. So sometimes I find some of the most complicated harmonies to be the most beautiful.”

Wasser was raised playing the violin, but as a teenager she sold Jolt Cola at the Anthrax, a local punk club, where she cut her teeth on bands such as Black Flag, Bad Brains, Sonic Youth, and The Fall. In the boys’ club of the punk scene, she was influenced early by
women musicians like Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon and The Fall's Brix. "I remember just being like, 'Oh my god, they are all-powerful goddesses,'" she says.

Although she loved music of every kind, her own playing was focused on the classical. For college, she sought a liberal arts school with a distinguished music program — and in a city big enough to feed her craving for rock and roll. She applied for early admission to BU and didn't consider another school.

At CFA's freshman music orientation, guitarist and violist Mary Timony caught Wasser's eye right away. "I remember Mary had blue cowboy boots on and a black scarf draped over her head," Wasser says fondly. "I was like, 'My lady!'" Timony too had been influenced early on by the punk scene, and the two young classical musicians quickly bonded in their passion for rock music.

"I thought I was going to do classical music," Wasser says. "I loved, I loved, I loved listening to rock, but it didn't make sense in terms of playing the violin. Mary was definitely a major force in my life. She was making these songs, and I'd play with her. We even played shows together as a duet, doing instrumental guitar-violin stuff."

George Howard (CAS'92) was an English major who played guitar for the alt-country group the Lotus Eaters. The band was coming together, but Howard felt their 

At first, late-eighties BU bands like the Lotus Eaters played small shows at the George Sherman Union and other campus spaces. But over time, as students moved into their own apartments, a kind of homegrown music scene emerged.

"I don't know how it happened in that huge school, but somehow all the rock musicians found each other," Mary Timony remembers. "Joan and I lived in a house on Islington Street in Allston, and we would have these 'coffeehouses.' Everyone we knew played guitar and wrote music, so everyone would bring their guitars, and we would just play songs for each other."

"It was like a life-or-death thing, certainly for me at least," says the Lotus Eaters' George Howard. "This was as important as playing at the Garden or something, and a lot of work went into making these performances. I started recording people on my little four-track. Then the next logical step was, let's take this to clubs."

"It was people trying out songs, playing songs — but it was also other women playing music," says Kendall Jane Meade. "Where I came from, you rarely saw a girl with a guitar singing her songs. And here, you'd see Mary Timony, Joan Wasser, and Paula Kelley performing, and it was totally inspiring. It made me feel that I could do it, too."

That informal music scene was a breeding ground for future independent rock stars, including Timony, who has embarked on a solo career after several years with Helium, an art-pop sensation of the 1990s; Howard, who in 1993 started his own label, Slow River Records, and then was president of the influential independent label Rykodisc until 2002; Keith Grady (CAS'94), known today as the producer and DJ Fancy; indie-pop songstress Paula Kelley (CAS'91, CAS'96); Betsey Gallagher (CFA'94), aka Murray Hill, a New York performance artist; and Meade, who has made a name as Mascott after playing with her band Juicy and touring with Helium, Sparklehorse, and the Spinanes.

In the mid-1990s, bands like Wasser's Dambuilders and Timony's Helium were picked up by major labels, and Howard sold Slow River Records to Rykodisc. But many of the musicians continued to stay in touch, and as they've begun branching out on solo projects, many still play on one another's records and tours.

They share not only the experience of making music together, but the challenges of continuing to work as independent musicians. "It takes a lot of dedication and a lot of time," Meade says. "Maybe that's why I'm still communicating with the people I knew in Boston, that community, today. We still support each other; we still root for each other." — TB
sound wouldn’t quite be complete without a fiddler. He was walking through Kenmore Square one day when he spotted the scarlet-haired Wasser riding her bike down Comm Ave with a violin case strapped to her back. He remembers hollering something like, “Hey, you play violin?” — then he asked her to join his band. And the Lotus Laters got a new sound.

“Joan’s a star,” Howard says. “She’s a ball of fire. I’ve worked with other classically trained musicians, and there’s always a moment when you say, ‘Just play whatever you want.’ Classically trained musicians don’t do that; they don’t improvise. But Joan took to it like a duck to water.”

The Dambuilders’ Derby first spotted Wasser onstage during a Lotus Laters show at TT’s. He and guitarist Eric Masunaga had recently moved to town from Hawaii and were already getting some attention in Boston and elsewhere. Wasser’s rock-star stage presence convinced him she’d be a stellar replacement for the violanist who’d recently quit the band.

Wasser played her glitter-covered five-string violin like a second lead guitar, and her passion for punk rock helped give the Dambuilders the hard-edged sound that became their signature. She recorded her first album with the band in 1991, the year Nirvana’s *Nevermind* detonated alternative rock into America’s consciousness. Desperate to sign the next indie rock superstar, the major labels scrambled to find another alt-crossover band.

In 1996 Wasser moved to Brooklyn, where she continued to expand the circle of musicians who’d call on her for studio or touring work. When the Dambuilders dissolved the next year, she decided to devote herself fully to making it on her own. For years she had wanted to sing and write her own songs, but playing in other people’s bands had never really given her the opportunity. And although as a kid she’d sung and tap-danced on community stages and had never lost her love of performing, in the self-conscious mire of adolescence she had quit singing. Her violin became her voice.

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The Dambuilders made three albums with Warner/Elektra/Atlantic’s LastWest label and toured with Top 40 groups like Better Than Ezra and Third Eye Blind. “We really capitalized on that ‘irrational exuberance,’ the music industry just throwing money at bands,” Derby says.

Even as the Dambuilders were recording for EastWest and touring internationally, Wasser was working her way through school as a cocktail waitress at Lansdowne Street clubs like Bill’s Bar and Venus de Milo. She also worked as a bike messenger, as a salesgirl at the vintage clothing shop the Garment District in Kendall Square, and as an art installer and bookstore clerk at the Institute for Contemporary Art. After graduating, she played in a number of bands, from indie rock projects like Mind Science of the Mind to the jazz group Sex Mob, and contributed violin to other people’s records and tours.

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“We’d always made a little bit of money,” she says. “I knew I was going to make my living doing this, I was going to figure out a way to make it happen.”

But the music industry was changing. The major labels’ indie-rock boom of the early nineties proved ephemeral, and musicians who weren’t interested in making radio-friendly commercial music soon found themselves expendable.

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And although as a kid she’d sung and tap-danced on community stages and had never lost her love of performing, in the self-conscious mire of adolescence she had quit singing. Her violin became her voice.

“The voice as an instrument, as your own instrument, is so exciting and so terrifying,” she says. “When you’re playing an instrument, the music is not coming out of your physical body. With singing, you got what you got. It’s like facing all your fears.”

**STAGGER INTO THE LIGHT**

In 1997 her boyfriend, singer Jeff Buckley, drowned in Memphis. It was a turning point. She joined with Buckley’s band to play for his memorial service. “We started playing together and also grieving together,” she says. They continued to perform together as Black Beetle.

Black Beetle never put out an album. But as Wasser began writing her own songs and performing them — singing them — onstage, she realized that she wanted to take her music in a new direction. “Through that project,” she says, “I learned that I was interested in owning something 100 percent. At a certain point you stand up and say, no, that was compromising. And I will be the compromiser in a lot of parts of my life, but this isn’t one of them.”

She played her first solo show in 1999, while she was still part of Black Beetle, and over time her solo work became her central focus.

She describes her music for Joan As Police Woman as “American soul music,” encompassing country, R&B, and soul, punk rock and classical, the whole spectrum of songs that have shaped her life. Mahler and Marley, Nina Simone and Dmitry Shostakovich — to Wasser, it’s all just music, the woolly and wondrous sounds of everyday life, and she’s willing to follow wherever it takes her.
Teaching Today—Part Passion, Part Selling

A First-Year Teacher Contends with Apathy, Attitude, and Adolescence . . . Often Successfully

BY CYNTHIA K. BUCCINI

IT’S SIXTH PERIOD at Elk Grove High School, one o’clock in the afternoon, and first-year English teacher Ryan Asmussen is exploring the finer points of *Henry IV, Part One*, with his senior Shakespeare class. It’s the only time of day Asmussen sheds his black suit jacket fighting for honor and country and God?

“No,” the student says, “they’re fighting for themselves.” The discussion is much like the give-and-take of a college seminar, and Asmussen, who’s passionate about great literature, is in his element.

He works harder to draw out his senior Advanced Placement English students. Standing before a horse-

and sits at a metal desk among the students.

“The Percys are aggrieved over the fact that they helped Henry IV become king of England. They’re not getting anything in return; promises are not being kept,” says Asmussen (MET’02, SED’03). “What are those promises?”

Before he finishes the question, a student answers, “Money and land.”

“Money and land,” Asmussen repeats. “So that begs the question: is this about Henry not being the rightful heir to the throne, as they say it is, and the divine right of kings, or is it more about — what?”

“Greed,” another student quickly says.

“Greed, you got it,” Asmussen continues without pause. “It’s a power grab, a land grab. Is Hotspur really shoe configuration of desks, his back to the chalkboard, Asmussen tries to engage them in a discussion of Vladimir Nabokov’s short story “Signs and Symbols.”

“How does the elderly couple feel in their American world?” he asks. Seven long seconds pass. Asmussen waits. “Do they seem very sophisticated — there’s a leading question — intelligent, on the go, and with it?” There are a few tentative responses. “No,” he says. “They’re simple people, and they’re somewhat adrift in this new America, right?”

Afterwards, he’s dispirited. The day before, he’d chided the same students for their reticence. “I wasn’t harsh, but I said, ‘What’s going on, guys? We need to be making connections and thinking here,’ he recalls, rapidly snapping his fingers.
It's a typical week for Asmussen, one of a legion of public school teachers who started their careers in the fall of 2003. (There were 349,466 new public school teachers in the 1999–2000 school year, according to the latest figures from the U.S. Department of Education.) Occasionally, he feels as though he's connected with his students, that some point has sunk in, but often he struggles to hold their attention. "The simple truth of the matter is that this a demanding job, because we're trying to get students hooked on concepts and on ideas that they are not particularly interested in," he says. "And how much do you blame yourself? Could I have made the lesson more interesting? Could I have planned it more convincingly? You can really toss and turn about this stuff, especially if you're a first-year teacher."

Other novice teachers likely lose sleep over the same questions. If the statistics hold true, nearly a third of them will quit after three years and almost half will leave the field after five, according to Richard Ingersoll, an associate professor of education and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania and author of the 2003 study "Is there Really a Teacher Shortage?" Nearly half of those who left teaching cited job dissatisfaction or the desire to pursue a better job or another career, according to the study. Those who were dissatisfied pointed to low salaries, lack of support from the school administration, student discipline problems, little influence over decision-making, and poor student motivation.

Asmussen is happy to be teaching at Elk Grove, a school of just under 2,000 students in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. In 1996, it was named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education, and each year nearly 80 percent of the senior class goes on to college. But Asmussen does share one frustration with the teachers in Ingersoll's study: poor student motivation. He becomes discouraged when students prefer to let their minds wander rather than grasp the ideas of Descartes or appreciate the art of Michelangelo. "There have been times when they've left the classroom," Asmussen says, "and I've literally slumped in my seat. I've felt . . ." he ends the sentence with a gentle stabbing motion to his heart.

**AFTER THE STARTING GUN**

*For much of his life, the thirty-four-year-old Asmussen wanted a career writing fiction and poetry. He left Emerson College in Boston before finishing and held a variety of jobs, including bookstore clerk, country club janitor, and hotel night auditor. He played in a band, filled boxes with his poems and short stories, and accumulated rejection slips from literary magazines. In the 1990s, he began working at BU, mostly in administrative positions, while completing his bachelor's degree in English at Metropolitan College.*

Asmussen had been a guest lecturer at his old high school and at BU's College of Communication and felt comfortable in front of a class. So he enrolled in the School of Education's yearlong master of arts in teaching program, designed for liberal arts graduates who want to teach in middle school or high school. From the moment he began student teaching at Boston Latin School, he knew he'd made the right decision. "Every time I teach a class, I hear a little click in the universe," he said at the time. "I feel like if I am meant to do something, it's teach." He believed that being a good teacher meant being himself—honest, firm, direct, articulate, and sensitive: "If they know you're serious and they know you're cool and they know you care, most students will respond. I have faith that if I play the flute, they will dance."
Asmussen began testing this theory on August 26, 2003, his first day at Elk Grove. The day didn’t start as smoothly as he’d planned. He slept through his alarm and had to scramble to make it to school by 7:45 a.m. “I wanted to wake up, have a leisurely cup of tea, look out the window, reflect,” he says. “But no, it was like The Three Stooges.”

For Asmussen, who often compares teaching to being on stage, the day was a blur. He taught five classes — four sections of Humanities and one of Advanced Placement English — with about 120 students. “I was nervous for the first five or ten minutes, but then I felt more of an adrenaline rush,” he says. “It’s like the bell rings and you come out with the curtain.”

After introducing himself, he told his students what he expected from them, throwing in a Buddhist principle. “It’s a cyclical process: I give to you and you give back, with input, responses, and criticism about the class,” he remembers telling them. “And that extends to life, too: the more you give, the more positive you are, the more you’re going to get back. There’s a karmic cause and effect at work here.”

When he was a high school student in Newburyport, Massachusetts, Asmussen and his fellow AP classmates loved literature and threw themselves into the assigned texts. He anticipated a similar lively bunch at Elk Grove. They would read The Metamorphosis, Hamlet, Pride and Prejudice, Waiting for Godot, King Lear, Catch-22, Slaughterhouse-Five, A Passage to India, Mrs. Dalloway, and The Scrivener. “You guys are my rock,” he told them that first day. “I know these texts inside and out, and I know you guys are sharp, so I’m going to be looking forward to this class every single day.” By three p.m., Asmussen was tired and a little hoarse, but happy.

It wasn’t long before he concluded that teaching was the hardest job he’d ever had. He’d been working twelve- to fifteen-hour days, staying after school to help the drama department stage three plays, an extracurricular activity he particularly enjoyed. But by January, he was feeling more than physical fatigue. Asmussen was coming to grips with the fact that no matter how good the show, some students can’t wait for the curtain to fall. “It’s hard to make a dent, to teach someone something and have it stick,” he says. “It’s hard to deal with adolescents, who are entirely unsure of who they are, and to keep your energy level up.” The idealism of his student-teaching days hasn’t left him, he says, “it’s just sharing time with a more sobering realism.”

**A DAY IN THE LIFE**

On a sunny day in April, Asmussen arrives at Elk Grove at 7:45 a.m. and heads for his classroom. Behind his desk, colorful prints — Picasso, Miró, Mondrian, Cézanne — crowd the wall. Taped to cabinet doors on the opposite side of the room is a Vanity Fair magazine spread featuring legendary British actors like John Gielgud and Alec Guinness and playwrights such as Tom Stoppard and Harold Pinter. Three-foot-tall posters of Bob Dylan, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane — musicians Asmussen admires — are propped against the wall below the blackboard. The artwork and photos are meant to inspire both teacher and students.

Asmussen leaves his briefcase under his desk and makes his way through the noisy halls to a soda machine on the opposite side of the room is a Vanity Fair magazine spread featuring legendary British actors like John Gielgud and Alec Guinness and playwrights such as Tom Stoppard and Harold Pinter. Three-foot-tall posters of Bob Dylan, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane — musicians Asmussen admires are propped against the wall below the blackboard. The artwork and photos are meant to inspire both teacher and students.

Asmussen leaves his briefcase under his desk and makes his way through the noisy halls to a soda machine to buy two bottles of water. He spies one of his Humanities students and calls out, “Are you still talking to me after yesterday’s test?” He laughs when she answers with a smile, “I’m thinking about it.”

Asmussen is the kind of teacher students like. He’s bright, articulate, and good-natured. He plays the drums, which ratchets up his cool factor, has a quick wit, and
can be a bit of a ham. At his students' request, he once read Hamlet's soliloquy in a thick Boston accent:

"Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune..."

"They think it's funny," he says.

Elk Grove Principal Frank De Rosa says Asmussen has a "with-it-ness" as well as a maturity, an intelligence, and a curiosity that appeal to colleagues and students alike. "He brings a vibrance to our school," he says. "I've seen him work with kids, and he is so available to them. He's very approachable."

On this spring day, however, more than a few seniors are peeved about the Humanities exam: it was too long; there were too many dates to remember. Asmussen ignores the remark. "You're going to be taking exams like this next year," he says. "We spent more than three weeks on the material," he adds later. "What you needed to do was take really good notes and listen in class."

The day goes by quickly; the first Humanities class is followed by a prep period, then AP English. After lunch there are two more Humanities sections, Shakespeare, and a stint in the reading resource room.

After the building empties, Asmussen reflects on how the year is progressing. He says he simply wasn't prepared for how few students take an interest in the classroom, not just at Elk Grove, but at the schools where he was a guest lecturer and a student teacher. Most days he keeps the heavy green curtains closed, hoping to keep students focused on the subject matter. "They want to think about their boyfriend, or what's outside the window, or how they're going to do on the test in the next class, or Britney Spears, or whatever," he says. "Very rarely do you look out and see someone really listening to what you're trying to tell them. And that's a real challenge, not only in terms of psychologically preparing yourself for that sort of failure to come, but mustering the energy to overcome it."

He takes stock of his own performance as well. He thinks he mollified some of the students who were upset about the Humanities exam, but today he may have lectured too much, too quickly. "You've got to make it interesting for them," he says. "The question is, how far along this line do you go? Do you make it so interesting that you lose the central importance of the subject matter in an effort to be entertaining? Or do you pull back on that and give them more of what they really need in terms of content, and risk being not so popular?"

In the end, though, he has no idea how many students he's reached over the past eight months.

THE MACK DADDY OF ENGLISH

By year's end, Asmussen discovers he may be making more of a connection than he thought: the seniors' average score on the national AP English Literature test was 3.4, two-tenths of a point higher than that of last year's class. "I don't feel like I can take a lot of credit for that because it's up to them," he says. "But it's a significant increase, and that makes me really happy."

And although he doesn't place much stock in them, he's had some rave reviews on the Web site RateMyTeachers.com, where students can anonymously praise or criticize a teacher. "He's by far the best teacher I've ever had for English and in high school overall. You can never sleep during his lectures," says one. Another, "His passion for Humanities is amazing. He treats us as equals, and that is a great quality in a teacher." And arguably the highest praise: "Mr. Asmussen is the mack daddy of English." The harshest barb one student could muster was that Asmussen was "too sensitive."

Asmussen acknowledges that he's a popular teacher, "but at the same time, does that mean that I'm not as good a teacher as I could be because I'm not more demanding and strict? What I'm asking myself is, what does it mean to be a good teacher? And I haven't figured it out. I doubt that I'll figure it out after twenty years."

Nor has he decided whether he'll be at Elk Grove in five years, let alone twenty, but he says it's likely he'll still be teaching. In August, he was happily looking forward to the new academic year. "The bloom has not been entirely knocked off my rose," he says with a laugh.

But he'll be facing his "sobering realism" soon enough. "After first semester, a student said to me, 'I'm keeping my Humanities notebook forever. I've learned so much. It's like a book of wisdom,'" he recalls. "I think most teachers would tell you that it's those moments that make it all worthwhile. The reality of the situation is, that makes me very happy for about an hour. And then I want more. Not praise, but something. I always want more from the students. I think if the day comes when I stop wanting anything from them, that's the day I need to retire. So, I can be as tired, as frustrated, and basically as angry as I sometimes get, but I think that's okay, because hopefully that points to the passion I have for teaching. If I just don't care anymore, that's when I'm out of the game." ♦
BU Student Journalists Turn In Clutch Performances at the Democratic National Convention

BY BRIAN FITZGERALD

Screaming, Clapping, Fists pumping. Banners and flags waving. John Kerry had just delivered his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, and the delegates were going crazy. Standing amidst a blizzard of confetti and balloons on the floor of Boston’s FleetCenter, Chris Gaylord knew he would never forget the moment.

But with people to interview and a deadline to meet, the COM print journalism major had no time to fully savor the spectacle. As part of a program cosponsored by the College of Communication and BU Summer Term, Gaylord (COM’05) was one of sixty-seven students, sixteen of them from schools other than BU, covering the July 26-29 convention for courses in Political Reporting, Multimedia Publishing, News and Event Photography, and Photo Editing and Design.

Gaylord wasn’t writing a story just for his class or COM’s convention Web site. He was also reporting on the Colorado delegation for the Pueblo Chieftain through the Washington, D.C.-based States News Service (SNS) newswire. He had time only to interview five people, and he struggled to hear the hoarse delegates over the din of the crowd.

Overseeing the program was Robert Zelnick, COM journalism department chairman, who says that Boston’s first presidential convention provided the setting for

BU student Peter DiCampo (COM’05) jockeyed among frenzied delegates and fellow journalists to get this shot on the final night of the Democratic National Convention, as John Kerry accepts his party’s presidential nomination.
“the ultimate practicum in political reporting.” And the students, producing coverage for print, photo, and television clients around the nation, were able to build their portfolios with the help of “the classic blend of classroom instruction and field experience. The bonus was a huge dose of professional work on deadline, and the rare commodity of credentials to cover a national political convention.”

Electric was the word used by several students to describe the climate in the FleetCenter. “There was an odd mix of intensity and optimism in the crowd,” says Paul Imbesi (COM’05), who wrote stories for the Post-Tribune of northwestern Indiana. Lauren Meade (COM’05), covering the Ohio delegation for the Akron Beacon Journal, says that the atmosphere in the building was at times almost overwhelming. “Feeling the kind of energy exuded by 35,000 people all at once,” she says, “is like nothing I’ve ever experienced.”

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Mitchell Zuckoff and Dick Lehr, both visiting journalism professors and Boston Globe reporters, taught the Political Reporting course. Zuckoff says the students turned in clutch performances in a chaotic setting. “One of the most rewarding parts of this course was watching our students — every one of them, without exception — rise to the challenge,” he says. “They carried themselves as true professionals, hit their deadlines, and never flinched when dealing with the inevitable frustrations and foul-ups that come with covering a major event with 15,000 other journalists.”

Print journalism students’ stories ran the gamut from “a day in the life of a delegate” to covering delegations from a larger perspective, such as the important domestic issues in their states. Meade wrote about Ohio as a battleground state, as well as a feature on Sarah Bender, at seventeen the convention’s youngest delegate. She says that it was quite the effort to keep up with Bender, who was sought for a slew of media interviews, including talks with MSNBC, ABC, MTV, Fox TV, and Channel One News. Both Meade and Bender got less than five hours of sleep a night that week. “I never expected her to become such a starlet,” says Meade.

Photojournalism students worked alongside the national press corps, supplying pictures to SNS and to the New York–based Gamma Press photo agency as part of its convention coverage for clients worldwide.

“We used the three weeks prior to the convention to teach the students how to look for a story and how to bring back photos that would tell that story in a compelling way,” says Peter Southwick, a visiting associate professor of journalism. “We gave an intensive, condensed version of our advanced photojournalism courses, and the students responded very well. We pushed them hard, but their desire to learn brought them up to the task.”

For the Multimedia Publishing class, veteran television producers Susan Walker, an associate professor of journalism, and Bill Lord (COM’99), a journalism professor, propped twenty-two students with hands-on shooting, editing, and reporting tips and provided a crash course in the software necessary to launch their Web site. The broadcast students also videotaped stories and interviews for Hearst-Argyle television stations in California, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Arkansas. “The Hearst-Argyle TV partnership was like a final exam — no textbook study, no papers — just find the stories from the delegations and report back to stations which otherwise would not have local coverage,” says Walker. “It was an intense, 24/7 boot camp of political reporting.” Several news directors at the Hearst stations told Walker that these real-life job auditions would undoubtedly result in job offers to a number of the students once they graduate.

Valerie Conners (COM’05) covered the Texas delegation for the Amarillo Globe News. The COM and Summer Term program, she says, “was one of the most exciting and intense experiences I’ve ever had. I’m ecstatic that it turned out the way it did, and I hope to see all my classmates reunited at the next convention, in 2008.”
Partisan
He's a Blogger on a Mission

BY TRICIA BRICK

Markos Moulitsas Zuniga remembers little about his childhood. The memories come mostly as fragments of sound or images: mortar rounds splintering the quiet of night, a corpse lying bloody in his path.

Moulitsas (LAW'99) was barely four years old when his family moved from Chicago to El Salvador, where his mother had been born and raised. They lived in the capital of San Salvador until 1980, when civil war forced them to return to the United States.

Almost twenty-five years later, near the first anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq, Moulitsas sat down at his computer and began to type. “Unlike the vast majority of people in this country, I actually grew up in a war zone,” he wrote. “I witnessed communist guerrillas execute students accused of being government collaborators. I was eight years old, and I remember stepping over a dead body, warm blood flowing from a fresh wound. Dodging bullets while at market. I lived in the midst of hate the likes of which most of you will never understand — Clinton and Bush hatred is nothing compared to that generated when people kill each other for politics or race or nationality.”

Moulitsas posted these words on his Web site, Daily Kos, where for more than two years he has been building an online community that reads and discusses views about politics and policy. A self-described political junkie, Moulitsas has built a career using his tech savvy and his passion for politics to make the political process accessible to Americans outside the Washington establishment.

Daily Kos is a Web log, or blog — a kind of online journal collaboratively built by the hundreds of contributors who participate in discussions on the site (see illustration, opposite). In a heated election season, the politically liberal Daily Kos has become one of the most highly trafficked and linked-to blogs, with more than 200,000 site visits each day. Moulitsas asks readers to do more than chat about politics. By the end of August, he had raised $500,000 from readers for Democratic political candidates through fundraising on the site.

Less reportage than political analysis, Daily Kos is defiantly partisan. “I am an activist,” Moulitsas says. “I’m not a journalist.” He is opinionated and outspoken, unafraid of expressing his views even when they may be unorthodox or contentious. His life has taught him that the personal and the political are inseparable.

Moulitsas’s experiences in El Salvador got him interested early in political questions. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army to pay for college. He served in the artillery from 1989 to 1992 and narrowly missed being sent to the Middle East during the first Gulf War. “My unit didn’t deploy because the war ended so quickly,” Moulitsas says. “But there is a kind of introspection and self-examination that knowing that you’re about to head out to war forces on you. Our vehicles were in the Gulf; we were ready to go. That forms a basis of a lot of my antirwar views, the fact that I was in a position of potentially heading to war.”

Moulitsas majored in philosophy, political science, and journalism at Northern Illinois University, then...
Anatomy of a Blog

A Web log, or blog, is essentially a kind of online journal. Some of the 1.5 million blogs on the Web are purely autobiographical, like diaries typed for the online world to read; others are topical, focusing on subjects from politics to art to stamp collecting.

DailyKos.com is a left-leaning political blog. Any topic related to government and politics is fair game, from campaigns and fundraising to analysis of media coverage. DailyKos readers tend to be political junkies, by profession or avocation; contributors include political consultants, economists, historians, veterans, activists — along with high school students, stay-at-home moms, and grandparents.

DailyKos has become a full-time job for Moulitsas. Ads on the site cost up to $500 a week; advertisers range from Congressional candidates to Democratic dating services to the New Yorker.

DailyKos displays ten entries per page. On a typical day this summer, the home page featured photographs of Iraqi detainees who'd been beaten by prison guards, a fierce criticism of pro-war politicians who never served in the armed forces — and a proud-papa photo of Moulitsas's baby boy.

The comments area allows any interested reader to sign up to join in the discussion. In a medium without editors, Moulitsas says, the comments keep his blog honest: readers serve as fact-checkers and argue the minutiae of analyses made in the original posts. Few errors or imprecisions slip by unchallenged.

headed straight for law school at BU, where he started his first blog. The Hispanic/Latino News Service was a clearinghouse of media coverage of Latino issues. Every day, Moulitsas scanned some fifty newspapers, mostly online, selecting stories of greatest interest to his readers.

After law school, he moved to the San Francisco Bay area for a job in the tech industry. Working at a Web development company, he honed the Web design and marketing skills he would use to start Daily Kos in the summer of 2002. By the end of that first year, the site had attracted so much attention that he began receiving requests for online campaign-building help from political candidates. In January 2003 he joined fellow blogger Jerome Armstrong to create the consulting company Armstrong Zúñiga. They initially worked as Web consultants for Howard Dean's presidential campaign — where the two played a key role in the much-vaulted "Internet revolution" in American politics.

For their political and organizational clients, Moulitsas and Armstrong build Web sites, set up online communities, and consult about increasing traffic and revenue to those sites. Within eight months the consulting business was successful enough for Moulitsas to quit his day job; today Daily Kos alone brings in enough in advertising dollars to pay the bills. "This medium has an incredible meritocracy in a way I have never seen elsewhere," he says. "People are able to succeed on their own hard work and talent as opposed to who they know and how much money their family has."

But although Daily Kos has become a business, it is still driven by Moulitsas's idealism. "It's the whole notion of democratizing political campaigns and organizations," he says. "We're allowing people to have a direct role in the political process. And that's what really excites me."
The Puzzle in Nature's Patterns

Gene Stanley finds hidden patterns in human nature, plumbs the secrets of water, and searches for the beginnings of Alzheimer's disease — it's all physics to him. Photograph by Kalman Zabarsky
Gene Stanley doesn’t think that people are mindless automatons, driven to action by forces outside themselves, without a trace of free will — it’s just that the data seem to suggest it. So what’s a physicist doing wading in waters normally the domain of social psychologists and philosophers?

Over the years, Stanley — a College of Arts and Sciences professor of physics, director of the Center for Polymer Studies, and a University Professor — has looked for and found what he calls correlated randomness in a wide range of human systems, such as the movement of people into cities, the decisions to buy and sell stocks, and even networks of sexual relationships. “These diverse systems have something fundamental in common: they all exhibit predictable behavior,” Stanley says. “Thus, for example, three things that should be completely un-

predictable — the number of cities of a given size, the number of stock price changes of a given size, and the number of lifetime sexual partners — all are completely predictable in a statistical sense.”

In mathematics chance is called probability, Stanley notes. His specialty is statistical physics, which describes systems “for which you cannot say anything with certainty.” Take, for example, the air molecules in a room. They are so numerous that even the best scientific equipment cannot possibly measure the speed of every molecule, but using the techniques of statistical physics, it’s possible to know the probability that a molecule has a given speed.

“That a law can describe an inanimate molecule is not surprising. After all, Newton’s laws describe the motion of falling apples and satellites,” Stanley says. But consider the stock market, where people decide what to buy or sell. No one would question that free will is involved there. That said, a striking discovery made principally by two of Stanley’s graduate students, Vivienne Plerou (GRS’96) and Parameswaran Gopikrishnan (GRS’01), shows that “the distribution of stock price fluctuations is not unlike the distribution of speeds of air molecules,” says Stanley. “This has turned out to be very important, because it allows investors to estimate risk more accurately. If you know the exact chance that a stock price will change a given amount, then you can make allowances for this chance.”

Research with Plerou, Gopikrishnan, and MIT economist Xavier Gabaix that involved looking for hidden statistical patterns in the records of some 100 million stock market transactions is part of a new interdisciplinary field called econophysics, the application of statistical physics to the study of economics. The name was coined by Stanley, and he’s one of its founders and leading lights.

One wouldn’t think that stock prices, controlled as they are by people, would behave like inanimate matter, such as air molecules, but they do. Why that happens is complex — every explanation Stanley gives is necessarily complex, one idea turning out to be part of a larger one.

Let’s start with another example: magnets. Each atom in a magnet has a little spin, like a compass needle. When all the “compass needles” are oriented in roughly the same direction, they create a strong magnetic field. “An approximate way to understand it is that the economy is a system comprised of many, many individuals, like you and me, who might own stocks, and traders who might trade with somebody else. And all of these people are like those interacting compass needles,” he says. “Given a question, say, should we buy more Enron stock, more may say yes, buy it, than no, don’t buy any more. More importantly, if a majority of those with whom you interact say yes, buy Enron, then you are more likely to buy it, because you assume that even if the people are wrong, if they all buy Enron, then the price will go up. So you buy Enron, perhaps even without thinking too much.”

And that’s the rub: “We do things without thinking too much; our free will is in fact less free as it is influenced by our neighbors’ beliefs.” And, it’s safe to add, we don’t consciously understand how we are influenced by our neighbors. “That we can be so influenced by what others believe that we temporarily suspend our own independent judgment,” Stanley says, “has certainly had tragic consequences all through history, up to the present moment.”

Stanley and his students have found other examples of human actions that fit the patterns of inanimate objects. “If anything should have free will,” he says,
This image of the nanoscale structure of liquid water was produced by computer simulations carried out on a supercomputer by Francis W. Starr (GRS'99).

“...The red spheres represent oxygen and the white spheres hydrogen, while the tubes represent the bonds linking them together, on a structure that locally resembles a tetrahedron,” says Gene Stanley. “Analogous structures are also found for silica — common beach sand — and for amorphous silicon. The study is leading to a unifying understanding of a range of common substances.”

Image courtesy of Gene Stanley

“...the number of one’s sexual partnerships should.” But a discovery he made with former graduate student Luis Amaral (GRS’96) certainly contradicted this expectation. Stanley, Amaral, and their collaborators made a simple chart showing the number of lifetime sexual partners of a sample population in Sweden. They expected to find two peaks, one corresponding to a reasonably small number of partners, and one corresponding to a huge number — the Don Giovannis of this world with, let’s say, 1003 partners. Instead, “we discovered a distribution demonstrating that every number of partners was likely, with instead of two peaks, a uniform decrease from one to 1003,” Stanley says. “This discovery of a ‘sociological law’ describing intimate sexual behavior is not only of scientific and philosophical interest, but it is also helping public health officials develop more effective plans to combat the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.”

What explains the phenomenon? “I don’t know,” he says. “That’s one of the things that fascinates me, especially because there are so many examples where individuals seem to conform to a statistical law, in the same way that these inanimate spins conform to a statistical law. The only suggestion I have is that the law somehow emerges not from the decisions of people, but from the way in which they are connected, which has little to do with free will. It’s something I’m thinking a lot about.”

NO REST FOR THE PHYSICIST

Send Gene Stanley a question by e-mail, and the reply is as likely as not to come at some hour around midnight. When, you wonder, does the man sleep? Students and research associates drop by his cramped, overflowing office at any time. With sixteen doctoral students studying under him this academic year, he’s often in conference — advising, directing, prodding, encouraging. His group’s work in econophysics gets increasing media coverage, and he fields the press calls. Then there are the papers to write: by early September, Stanley had coauthored sixteen published papers this year alone, many with his graduate students. He has some of the most cited papers in the profession: 16 in more than 200 other research papers, an enviable record. He’s written or cowritten six books, his latest on econophysics now translated into four languages.

In July, Stanley was in Bangalore, India, at the conference of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, where he received the triennial Boltzmann Award, the highest prize in statistical physics. Earlier in the year, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, an elite group of some 2,000 scholars in the United States. It’s tempting, Stanley says, to start to rest on those laurels. “It’s a fact that most people who get a Nobel Prize never do anything comparable again,” he says. “So I’m a little worried that since the Boltzmann might be the highest award I’ll ever get, I’ll sort of relax now, and that’s not good to do.”

And Stanley also knows that’s not the way to make scientific progress. “You do that by wanting results so badly that you’re conscious of it day and night,” he says, “and think about it and do whatever you need to do to get it done.”

WATERWORKS

Slacking he’s not, though, especially in his quest to understand the nature of water. It’s a simple thing, water — a couple of hydrogen atoms linked with one of oxygen. But water’s behavior is very complicated, and until recently not well understood despite its importance to all life on earth.

The first breakthrough came in 1991 when Stanley’s student Peter Poole (GRS’90, ’93) was doing large-scale computer simulations of water. What Poole seemed to be seeing was the signature of a previously unknown phase transition, where two different forms of water can coexist. Stanley worked with Poole and postdoc Francesco Sciortino to understand this finding. “Of all the many things that I study, it’s perhaps the work I’m most curi-
ous about," Stanley says, "because the implications of understanding water's strange behavior are important for many fields of basic and applied science."

But let's back up and explain. "If I put an ice cube in water, it will float," Stanley says, "which is a little unusual, because usually when you cool things they shrink and when you heat things they expand. Obviously an ice cube is colder than water, so it should shrink and be more dense and go to the bottom, but it doesn't. And that's the puzzle — that's the tip of the iceberg, so to speak."

Now put this ice water in the freezer, and cool the water very close to zero degrees Celsius — say 0.001 Celsius. The structure of the water becomes closer to the structure of ice, the state it's going to change into next. That suggests that there might be two different structures in the liquid water — becoming indistinguishable from each other at what's called the critical point. Stanley and his graduate students and research associates later confirmed this hypothesis in computer simulations. "That discovery was published in Nature, and has been cited over 300 times," Stanley says. "The challenge now is to invent laboratory experiments that can prove this hypothesis is 100 percent true. A definitive experiment is always extremely difficult to do, and much effort worldwide is going into trying to design the right experiment."

That said, "In science, you never prove something correct completely, but you can prove something is wrong," he points out. "In the period since this hypothesis was made, there have been many, many attempts to disprove it — not because other scientists don't like me," he says with a chuckle, "but simply because this is how science works." Nothing thus far has disproved Stanley's hypothesis. "That's already one form of evidence that it's correct. In fact, in a really funny way," he says, "that's the main form of evidence for most science. If someone has an idea, and you can't disprove it, it's probably correct, particularly if it's an attractive idea and economical in the sense that a single idea explains a vast range of empirical data."

The work with water, if correct, ranks as "possibly the major discovery about water made in the twentieth century," Stanley says. "The trigger to this discovery," he adds proudly, "was made by a graduate student right here at BU," pointing to the lab across the hall from his office.

"The more time goes on, the more likely it's true. I think among water experts, ten to one would say it's more or less proved, and the other 10 percent would say you never know," he says. "And I fall in the second group. Why? Partly because if I say it's proved true, there's nothing more to do. I work hard at encouraging people to do these experiments and simulations. The more things that are done, the more plausible it becomes."

And Stanley is continuing the work. Along with researchers at Princeton, the University of Texas, and the University of Arizona, he was recently awarded a National Science Foundation five-year, $3 million grant to study phase transitions in water.

**Babylon in the Lab**

Stanley didn't set out to be a scientist growing up. While science came naturally to him, he would have happily been an archaeologist or a musician — he played the clarinet. But he was steered to a career where jobs would be easier to find, and studied physics at Wesleyan on a National Merit Scholarship. He spent a Fulbright year in Germany with Nobel Laureate Max Delbrück...
and got his Ph.D. at Harvard. Soon he was teaching at MIT, and in 1976 came to BU.

He was born in Oklahoma City, but he's not really from there. His family had moved seventeen times by the time he was in fifth grade — his father was an industrial chemist with DuPont — and some rootlessness still seems a part of him. If you were trying to place him by his accent, you might in fact guess he was from somewhere in eastern Europe: in his deeply resonant voice, he sometimes drops articles the way a native Russian speaker might, and his inflections and turns of phrase are anything but Oklahoman. Maybe so many of his students and colleagues are from abroad — Argentina, Russia, India, Greece, China, Portugal, almost anywhere but the United States. Stanley's Center for Polymer Studies in the Metcalf Science Building is a melting pot, with two common languages: accented English and physics. (Lest there be any doubt, the language of physics is as unique as any: they talk of the "fractal properties of the highly branched patterns formed in viscous fingering," "lattice spin models," and "Monte Carlo renormalization-group methods of percolation.")

That international side of physics has led Stanley down unexpected avenues in his career. Recently he received the American Physical Society's Nicholson Medal for Humanitarian Service, in part for aiding Russian refusniks in the seventies: a story in itself. Back in 1973, many Russian Jews were applying to leave the Soviet Union to immigrate to Israel. Their applications were refused, and most lost their jobs. That year, Stanley happened to be chairing the opening session of a scientific conference in Moscow, and learned the night before that several Russians refusniks had been barred from the conference. "This made me very unhappy, for purely ethical reasons, so that night I hatched a plan so those attending who wanted to hear the Russians' talk could go during the free time to their homes" for the presentations, he says.

He announced this "very deadpan" at the conference the next morning, "and the minute I said that, they stopped the translation, and men in trench coats, just like in the movies, took me off the podium into the elevator to the top of the building. It was lined with windows, and they gave me the impression that they were going to push me out. They didn't push me out, but it scared me — the worst scare of my life." In the end, he did lead a delegation to the refusniks' homes to hear their talks, and "it changed my life," he says. He became chairman of a new organization of U.S. scientists putting pressure on the Soviets to release refusniks, and was active in it for a number of years.

The Nicholson Medal also recognizes Stanley's work addressing the gender imbalance in physics. More than in any of the other sciences, women are underrepresented in physics, and Stanley has sought ways to correct that. He's had a higher percentage of female Ph.D. students than most physics professors in the United States, and in talks around the country he encourages others in the profession to focus on the issue.

Stanley is also active in the movement to improve science education. With grants from the National Science Foundation, he has teamed up with colleagues from the School of Education to create projects that seek to revamp the way science is taught in America.

**ALZHEIMER'S AT THE ONSET**

You'd think he had enough on his plate, but Stanley and his group are starting work on something else that you wouldn't normally associate with physicists: Alzheimer's disease. Employing some of the same statistical physics techniques used in studying econophysics, the group is now trying to uncover "the first three minutes of Alzheimer's," he says, using the term Steven Weinberg coined in his best-selling book describing the theory of the first minutes of the universe.

"The first three minutes is important, because if you know the sequence of events, you can intervene, by hook or by crook," Stanley says. "Many people believe that the beginning of Alzheimer's involves two polymers in the brain — two long molecules touching each other and sticking. If we can find out whether that's true, and if so, when and where they stick, then it's not the most difficult thing in the world to prevent that sticking, and we could have a way to prevent Alzheimer's disease by stopping it as it starts."

Stanley's group, with funding from the National Institutes of Health and an anonymous foundation, is using a supercomputer to imitate the exact motion of all the polymers to see precisely how these two polymers come together and where they stick. This is not a simple process, he notes. "It's like the first three minutes when a very timid boy meets a very timid girl on the junior high dance floor. That they meet at all is not that probable, and when they do meet, they don't always stick."

The work is in its initial stages, but Stanley is excited about it. He knows there is the potential for something significant here, and it seems to act as a spark for him. Regardless of the prizes and honors he's received, relaxing doesn't appear to be an option. "I will be solving science puzzles," he says, "until the day I die." •
CSI: Boston University
In DNA Forensics, ENG Prof Nabs the Guilty Twin

When Darrin Fernandez was charged this spring with raping a young woman in Dorchester in 2001, his lawyers argued that the DNA evidence linking him to the crime wasn’t as damning as it seemed: Darrin’s twin brother, Damien, could be the rapist, they said, because identical twins have the same genetic profile. “But that’s just not true,” says Cassandra Smith, a biomedical engineering professor at the College of Engineering. “It’s simply incorrect to say that you cannot distinguish identical twins at the DNA level. It’s a common misconception, and it needs to be corrected.”

Smith called the district attorney’s office in May and offered to help. Research techniques she’s developed at BU, she said, could identify the subtle genetic differences between identical twins that crime labs cannot. A week before the case went to trial, she testified before a judge that she could determine whether it was Darrin’s or Damien’s DNA that was recovered from the victim.

But because such tests could take between six months and two years to complete and cost up to $100,000, the judge decided to forgo them and proceed with the trial. When the jury was unable to reach a verdict, the judge ordered a retrial for later this year. Meanwhile, Smith, who is also deputy director of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and a professor at the School of Medicine, may soon be called in as an expert witness in a similar rape trial involving identical twins in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As the district attorneys there consider whether to use Smith’s DNA tests, she is trying to design a faster and cheaper method.

A Closer Look

While DNA fingerprinting is widely accepted in the judicial system, Smith says that the standard tests used by the FBI and the police are not detailed enough to distinguish between identical twins. In most crime labs, a technician extracts DNA from an evidentiary sample such as blood, semen, bone, or hair, and locates thirteen different markers, or stretches of DNA, that vary in length from person to person. Each marker in the sample is measured and compared with the complementary marker in a suspect’s DNA. The chances are extremely small that two people in a random population will match at all thirteen sites. But among first-degree relatives such as fathers and sons, the chances of a match are much higher, and according to Smith, identical twins will almost certainly match at all thirteen sites.

The only way to distinguish identical twins at the DNA level is to look elsewhere in the genome, a person’s entire genetic blueprint. Monozygotic (identical) twins are the product of one sperm fertilizing one egg, which then splits into two identical embryos with the same genome. But soon after the split, each twin begins accruing unique changes in his or her DNA. “As we live and breathe, we accumulate mutations,” says Smith. “The trick is finding them.”

Locating these mutations in the genome is daunting, because they could be within almost any of the 3.1 billion units in the genetic code. Smith and her colleagues have developed a two-step process to expedite the search. The first stage is mostly reconnaissance: a quick scan of both twins’ genome turns up hundreds of markers that may
EXPLORATIONS

be unique to each. Then they take a closer look at those areas using conventional DNA sequencing techniques.

Changes occur in many ways. Each time a cell divides, it makes a complete copy of its DNA, which is passed on to the daughter cell. But the template DNA is often incorrectly copied, and small errors occur. Chemicals in the environment and ultraviolet radiation can also cause DNA to mutate. Other processes can make changes in the DNA of certain cells. If one twin develops an infection, for example, his immune system will manufacture antibodies to neutralize the specific virus or bacterium. Antibodies are produced by a white blood cell, and to customize each antibody to its target, certain genes in these cells rearrange slightly, producing a signature DNA sequence.

In the coming months, Smith hopes to help solve the rape cases in Boston and in Grand Rapids. She would like to collaborate with researchers in Europe who may be able to help her develop faster and cheaper tests. She is confident that her technique, or one very similar to it, will soon improve DNA forensics.

"In my view, the testing will be done," she says. "The only question is when." — Tim Stoddard

Earthquakes in the Northeast?
CAS Professor Studies Region’s Tremors

"I feel the earth move under my feet," Carole King sang in 1971. Rachel Abercrombie felt that way on the morning of April 20, 2002, when her home in Belmont, Massachusetts, started shaking.

Actually, at 6:50 a.m., when the BU earthquake expert felt the fifteen-second-long tremor, her exact thought was: "Hmm. That lasted too long to be just a big truck going by. It must have been an earthquake."

Abercrombie, a College of Arts and Sciences associate professor of earth sciences, was right. Media reports began filtering in about an earthquake in upstate New York measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale, with the epicenter just west of Lake Champlain. The rumble, which damaged roads, a bridge, and water mains in New York’s Clinton County, was felt across New England and as far away as Baltimore and Toronto.

Little did Abercrombie know, however, that ripples from that earthquake in Au Sable Forks, New York, would have a seismic effect on her research.

Now she is conducting two federally funded studies on the 2002 quake. One, in conjunction with Columbia University, is comparing the source processes of the earthquake — along with other recorded earthquakes in the Northeast — to those of earthquakes of a similar magnitude in other tectonic settings, with the goal of determining whether or not they behave in the same way. The other project, in collaboration with Tufts University, is looking at the wave propagation, or ground motions, produced by the Au Sable Forks quake. Both studies will lead to a better understanding of the physics of earthquakes, as well as improved estimates of the seismic hazard in Boston and surrounding urban areas, she says.

But New England doesn’t have seri-
ous earthquakes, does it? "Not compared to California," says Abercrombie. "The rock here is much more stable." While California earthquakes occur along major faults, those in New England do not. New England is near the center of the North American tectonic plate, and earthquakes here are "internal plate quakes" produced by stress that builds up under the continent, rather than near a major boundary separating two of Earth's tectonic plates, as is the case in California.

Nonetheless, the region has had its share of temblors, and still does, with about forty micro-earthquakes (less than 3.0 on the Richter scale) annually. Is New England due for a strong (intensity 6.0 to 6.9) or moderate (5.0 to 5.9) earthquake? Abercrombie says no and yes, respectively: seismologists have determined that earthquakes with a magnitude of six or greater occur in New England on average once every 450 years. Since the last one was in 1755, we may not have another for several centuries. But a magnitude five quake hits the region every fifty or sixty years, and there was such a temblor in 1940 near Ossipee, New Hampshire. So there is a 19 to 28 percent likelihood of a quake in the five range in New England by 2013, and a 41 to 56 percent likelihood by 2043.

Still, it's impossible to predict the time and location of earthquakes, in New England or anywhere. "What we are trying to do is better understand the physics of an earthquake's rupture process," says Abercrombie, "and what damage one might do if it hit near Boston." — Brian Fitzgerald

In Flowers, BU Botanists See Global Warming

The burst of spring in the Arnold Arboretum, with its hundreds of species of flowering trees and shrubs, has been a Boston attraction for more than 100 years. To Richard Primack it tells a subtle story about global warming.

Primack, a College of Arts and Sciences professor of biology, and graduate student Abraham Miller-Rushing (GRS '08) have found that the arboretum's flowering denizens are blooming more than a week earlier on average than a century ago. The advancing bloom times correspond to Boston's rising annual temperatures, which since 1885 have increased by nearly three degrees Fahrenheit. Half that warming has been because of global climate change, and half from urbanization: roads and buildings tend to radiate heat, creating an urban heat island.

This is important scientifically, Primack says, because it offers a preview of what we can expect to see in rural areas of the United States. "The warming that we've experienced in Boston over the past 100 years is the same level of warming that rural areas of the United States are expected to experience in the coming decades due to global warming," he says. "This is going to have enormous implications for agriculture, horticulture, and also for the spread of disease."

If the average temperature rises by one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), Primack says, some crops will no longer grow in regions where they currently thrive. The impact could be even greater on fragile ecosystems. "Certain rare plant species that are just surviving now will be eliminated by the warming conditions," he says. "It's quite likely that invasive species, which tend to be more flexible in their physiology, will become more common. Around Boston, hotter, drier summers may eliminate many species that are sensitive to this, and areas that are presently wetlands may dry out entirely."

While scientists have seen similar trends worldwide in the past twenty years, this is the first study in North America to draw extensively upon historical data reaching back to the late nineteenth century. Primack found the data in the arboretum's herbarium, and focused on 229 plants, all still alive and blooming in the arboretum. The oldest specimen was cut from a flowering lilac in 1885.

Two CAS undergraduates strolled the arboretum grounds every week during the spring and summer of 2003, keeping careful records of the flowering times of the 229 plants. Together with Miller-Rushing, they analyzed the data and found a distinct trend: with every one degree Celsius increase in Boston's average temperature, the plants flowered 3.9 days earlier.

Primack hopes these findings will encourage other scientists to locate historical data to measure regional effects of climate change. "This technique opens the door to a whole new way of studying climate change," he says. "All over the world, there have been tens of millions of herbarium specimens collected." — TS
Custodian of the Past and Nurturer of the Present

Bonnie Costello Is the 2005 University Scholar/Teacher of the Year

Bonnie Costello after she received the University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award in September. Photograph by Fred Sway

Bonnie Costello's BU literature courses consistently attract an unlikely mix of students, who come to her class with a wide range of experiences and expectations. "It's challenging," she says, "because you have many different needs represented in the classroom. You've got your English majors, you've got students who are just curious about literature or who are fulfilling a requirement, and then you've got graduate students who are approaching the material from a more professional angle. Addressing all these audiences at once is difficult."

It's also stimulating, the College of Arts and Sciences English professor says, as soon as a heterogeneous group is united in a common cause. To help her students find that dynamic, Costello echoes a phrase her colleague Robert Pinsky, former U.S. poet laureate and also a CAS professor of English, often tells his students: "You're not the most important person in the classroom." The point, she says, is that "the writer is the most important person, and that his or her text is something that we are all paying homage to, that we are perpetuating through our discussion. If we keep our mind on that, then we all have a collective enterprise."

For her literary shepherding in the classroom as well as for her research in modern poetry, Costello received the annual University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award in September. The award, which is sponsored by the United Methodist Church, recognizes faculty for their dedication and contributions to the learning arts and to their institution and is conferred at colleges and universities historically affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

Costello is probably best known in academia for her scholarship on Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop. Many of her colleagues around the country use Costello's books, such as Marianne Moore: Imaginary Possessions and Elizabeth Bishop: Questions of Mastery, to teach their own poetry courses. "That's very gratifying," she says, "because I don't want to write simply for a narrow, arcane audience."

She has explored visual elements in her scholarship as well. Her 2003 book Shifting Ground: Reinventing Landscape in Modern American Poetry addresses the perennial subject of landscape in American poetry. She is working on a book exploring how writers and poets between 1930 and 1950 turned away from modernism to produce works that are the literary equivalent of still-life paintings.

For the past two years, Costello has directed the CAS Honors Program. Every spring, the top 10 percent of students admitted to CAS are invited into the program, which is designed to give them an enriched curriculum during their first two years of study. Through its extracurricular offerings, the program also helps to build a sense of community among high-achieving BU students.

For Costello, directing the Honors Program is one part of a larger effort to nurture the scholarship and literature emerging today and in the future. In addition to her teaching and mentoring at BU, she continues to review contemporary poetry for a number of journals. "I think it's important not only to be a custodian of the literature of the past," she says, "but to be someone who helps to advance and discriminate among the works of the present."

— Tim Stoddard
History as Renewal

"Many contemporary historians believe that history is just what happened in the past. I feel that history has a grander purpose, and that is teaching what I would call informed patriotism," says Peter Gibbon, a School of Education senior research fellow. The problem, as he sees it, is the prevalence of revisionist historians and texts such as *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn, a CAS professor emeritus. "I believe the history of oppression has replaced the history of freedom as the way many kids are taught at the college level," he says, "and that now has seeped down to the high school level." He feels that this approach to history has dispirited students and taught them that history offers only a "harsh, unforgiving, and, I believe, ultimately distorted view of America's past."

A new grant from the Peter and Lynde Bradley Foundation will fund work Gibbon hopes will "energize teachers, inspire students, and enlighten citizens." His project will include interviewing prominent historians about approaches to their discipline, working with civic and history-related organizations to promote education in history and character development, and researching past historians' and biographers' approaches to the discipline.

The grant will help Gibbon publicize his findings by, for example, speaking to high school students, particularly those referred to as "gifted and talented," and their teachers. Despite state guidelines and standards for history education, he says, many young people are unfamiliar with basic historical concepts and information. Part of the reason for this is the lack of any clear rationale for learning history. "Kids don't really know why they study history or know what history is," says Gibbon, "so in a way my project is an exercise in definition and meaning."

Acknowledging that there are many goals for teaching history, including promoting critical inquiry, he believes teachers should also foster a more optimistic and appreciative view of the past. "I don't think it has to be obvious, direct, or frontal," he says, "but I think there should be a subtle message to kids that America is an exceptional nation that has a glorious future, and I would call that an informed patriotism."

It was a 2003 debate with Zinn at the University of Pennsylvania that led to his current work. At the time, Gibbon was speaking about his book, *A Call to Heroism: Renewing America's Vision of Greatness*, which seeks to redefine and revitalize the concept of heroism. He wants his new work to help history provide young people with more meaningful heroes than are found in pop culture. "I would hope that young people can find in the past models that will sustain them," he says.

— Nathaniel Beyer

Presidential Search Committee Started

The Board of Trustees recently appointed eight of its members to a fifteen-person search committee that will recommend candidates for the University presidency. The trustees soon will choose seven additional committee members from among BU's deans, faculty, and alumni.

The search committee will be chaired by David D'Alessandro, chairman and CEO of John Hancock Financial Services. Vice chairman will be Robert Knox (CAS'74, GSM'75), senior managing director of Cornerstone Equity Investors, LLC. D'Alessandro and Knox are co-vice chairmen of the full board. The committee will also include trustees Suzanne Cutler (SMG'61), David Myers, Sharon Ryan (SAR'70), Richard Shipley (SMG'68, GSM'72), and Marshall Sloane (SMG'49). Trustee Chairman Alan Leventhal will serve on the committee ex officio.

During the fall, D'Alessandro and other search committee members will be on campus regularly to gather opinions about the presidential search from the BU community.

More than 29,000 students descended on the campus before classes started on September 6, including Joe Caggiano (SMG'07) and Kaitlin Ambrogio (COM'06), here rolling down Bay State Road. Photograph by Vernon Doucette
$5 Million Innovative Gift for Presidential Fund

**Board of Trustees** Chairman Alan Leventhal and his wife, Sherry Leventhal, recently donated $5 million to the University, which will serve as the seed money for a $15 million fund to be spent at the discretion of BU's next president. The Leventhals intend their $5 million gift to be matched by an additional $10 million in gifts, which will be raised by members of the Board of Trustees and other friends of the University.

The resulting $15 million Fund for Leadership and Innovation will be available for allocation to any BU school, college, program, or center — whether to support faculty hires or for scholarships, research, or capital expenditures such as building construction and renovation.

"As chairman of the board, I feel a strong responsibility to make a significant contribution to the University, one that will allow BU to take advantage of as-yet-unidentified future opportunities," says Leventhal, a real estate developer and chairman and CEO of Beacon Capital Partners, which he founded in 1998. "We have made great progress, and in order for that to continue, we need to provide the next president with the resources to fund his or her vision for a world-class university."

Leventhal and his wife say they explored many options for showing their commitment to BU, including funding a group of professorships across several schools in order to attract new talent, or creating a scholarship fund for undergraduate students or a fund for graduate fellows. But eventually they decided to provide a large, unrestricted gift for a set of University-wide presidential initiatives.

"In my many years in academia, I am unaware of a new president being provided with such an innovative funding opportunity," says Aram Chobanian, president ad interim.

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**Eye of the Beholder**

**Flipping through** a box of photographs in a New Hampshire antique shop twenty years ago, Rodger Kingston found a composite of what appeared at first glance to be thirty-five rather ordinary grammar school portraits. Examining the images closely, however, he saw candid expressions and gestures not typical of commercial portraiture: a boy with a devilish grin has to be the class clown, the prettiest girl sits up straight with palpable self-assuredness, and a smirking thick-necked boy reveals himself as a bully.

Kingston, a photography collector who lives in the Boston area, bought the piece for a buck. He has no idea who took the photos; handwriting on the back indicates they were shot in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1921. "They speak to me," he says. "Every image is interesting and shows a real kid, nothing phony. The photographer did what every photographer hopes to do: let you draw connections, find meanings."

Did the photographer consider himself or herself an artist? And should that influence our response to the work? Those types of questions will likely confront viewers at the exhibition *In the Vernacular: Everyday Photographs from the Rodger Kingston Collection*, at the BU Art Gallery from November 5 to January 23. The 150 works by mostly anonymous photographers include

*First Grade, Bruce School, West Lynn, Massachusetts, November 1921, anonymous. Gelatin silver print. Photographs courtesy of the Rodger Kingston Collection*
Slam Dunk

Expect the BU women’s basketball team to take a lot of shots this season. While new coach Kelly Greenberg’s philosophy isn’t exactly “bombs away,” she says you’ll rarely see the shot clock run out on the Terriers.

Indeed, her teams at the University of Pennsylvania, where she coached for five years, were never guilty of a shot-clock violation.

“Basketball can be a fun game if all five players on the team love to score,” says Greenberg. “As much as you talk about the importance of defense, you have to put points on the board. And you can’t put points on the board if you don’t put the ball up there.”

Her up-tempo strategy has worked wonders in the past. Greenberg, who succeeds Margaret McKeon at BU, launched a complete turnaround of the women’s basketball program at Penn over the past five years. In the 1999-2000 season, her first as head coach, the Quakers posted their first winning record in eight years. And only a year later, the team went a perfect 14-0 in Ivy League play, won a school-record twenty-two games, captured the league title, and earned the program’s first-ever NCAA tournament bid. Last year, with seventeen victories, she brought the team back to the Big Dance.

Greenberg won’t have the monumental rebuilding task here that she faced at Penn. The Terriers, who are returning with nine letter-winners, posted a 19-11 record (12-6 in America East) last year, advancing to their second straight America East title game.

She sees Maine, the team that eliminated the Terriers in the conference tournament last March, as the team to beat.

Greenberg isn’t making any predictions or any big changes — yet. “We’re just getting to know each other,” she says. “When we start practicing on a regular basis, that’s when we’ll be able to see where we are as a group — to determine what we can do well, and what we need to work on.”

— Brian Fitzgerald

Pinup with Airplane, c. 1920, anonymous. Gelatin silver print mounted on cardboard.

Kingston will lecture about his collection at 5 p.m. on Friday, November 5, at the College of General Studies Jacob Sleeper Auditorium; the exhibition’s opening reception will follow at the BU Art Gallery at 6 p.m. The gallery will host an interdisciplinary conference about vernacular photography on November 5 and 6. For more information, call 617-353-3329, or visit www.bu.edu/art.
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News Side
Linda Vester Hosts the News — Live

BY JEAN HENNELLY KEITH

On a recent broadcast, Linda Vester and her live onstage audience examined the address to Congress by Iraq's interim prime minister, two U.S. representatives' differing takes on the state of affairs in Iraq, terrorist manipulation of the Web to incite global fear, mud-slinging television presidential campaign ads, the voting rights of citizens with dementia, the impact of bloggers on the upcoming presidential election, the memo scandal regarding the president's military service documents, and on the lighter side, an encounter between Elton John and reporters at a Taiwan airport — all in sixty minutes, including commercials. That's just business as usual for the host of Fox News Channel's new interactive news show DaySide with Linda Vester. For a rapid-fire hour each weekday, Vester (COM'87) tackles a provocative agenda, interviewing guests, usually with opposing views, while relevant footage from hot spots around the world runs on split screens. Deftly juggling interviews and audience questions, encouraging viewer feedback, and sprinkling humor throughout, she takes her role as both news journalist and entertainer seriously.

Describing herself as "as wonk, a nerd, and a news junkie," Vester reads constantly. "There's really nothing exciting or juicy on my nightstand," she admits. "You're likely to find a foreign affairs journal." Vester is married and the mother of a one-and-a-half-year-old. "When I'm not on air or changing a diaper," she says, "I'm reading. My BlackBerry is attached to my hand, and I'm constantly checking the Internet for news."

Her voracious interest in international affairs began during her undergraduate years studying with Hermann Eilts, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt and now a University Professors Program professor emeritus. As her faculty advisor, he encouraged her to apply for a Fulbright scholarship, and winning it enabled her to pursue Middle East studies and learn Arabic in Egypt from 1988 to 1989. "I had no idea how relevant it would be," she says.

Attracted to broadcast journalism early on, Vester began her career as a jack-of-all-trades at a news station in Kearney, Nebraska. In 1990 she moved to NBC in New York as a researcher and producer, advancing through a variety of posts around the country. When the Gulf War broke out, Vester, then a reporter for NBC affiliate WFLA-TV in Tampa, Florida, was sent to the Persian Gulf — chosen especially for her background in Middle East affairs. At twenty-four one of the youngest news correspondents covering Operation Desert Storm, she saw death and destruction up close. "I was too young and naïve to be scared," she says. "In retrospect, I shudder." Seeing the corpses of torture victims at a morgue in Kuwait City was a life-changing experience, she says. During the Rwandan genocide, she was among the first television reporters to arrive in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, where victims pleadingly grasped her ankles as they died in the streets. Despite putting in hard time in hard places, Vester says that the risk for foreign correspondents these days is much greater than it was for her. "Between then and now, there's been a huge explosion of Islamic extremism," she says. "Our generation is going to have to face that and defeat it."

She became anchor of MSNBC's Today in America and from 1996 to 1998 of NBC's News at Sunrise. In 1999 she joined Fox as host of Fox News Live, interviewing the famous and infamous, including a rare talk with O. J. Simpson. Now as host of DaySide's live audience newscast, she relishes the intellectual challenge of absorbing, digesting, and articulating information for her audiences. "My brain is getting a constant workout," she says. "I love the interaction with my viewers, who are from all walks of life. I feed off their energy. I get a better sense of how Americans think in other parts of the country, and I'm grateful."
Because our space is limited, class notes are edited to include as many as possible. Notes should be sent to Class Notes, Boston University, One Sherborn Street, Boston, MA 02215, or submitted on the Web at www.bu.edu/alumni/classnotes. We can also forward letters; send them, along with identifying information on the alum, to Alumni Records at the address above.

1941
James G. McDonald (SMG'41) of Oxnard, Calif., writes that he is "chugging along with 90 years of energy," and still playing tennis and golf. He was class president, football captain, and the 1941 Man of the Year when he attended BU.

1943
Bernard Hillila (CAS'43) of Valparaiso, Ind., and his wife, Esther, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June.

1945
Frances B. Cuddeback (SMG'45) of Wicksburg, Ariz., writes that she is happily retired. During her career as a journalist, she worked with the Associated Press, the Vermont Journal, and New York's Lake George Guide. "One of my fondest memories," Frances writes, "is winning an island in the Caribbean, thanks to my background and training at BU!" She would love to hear from her friends and classmates.

1949
Edward J. Bander (CAS'49, LAW'51) of Concord, Mass., writes, "I didn't see anything for the years 1949 or 1951 in the spring 2004 issue, so I thought I'd send a couple of items about myself." His book Bardell v. Pickwick: The Most Famous Trial in the English Language was published this year by Transnational Publishers. In January he performed in The Test, a play he wrote with his daughter, in a festival of one-act plays at the Maynard Acme Theater. Edward is librarian emeritus of Suffolk University Law School. E-mail him at bander5812@aol.com.

1952
Alan Shawn Feinstein (COM'52, DGE'50) of Cranston, R.I., raised $250 million for nonprofit agencies fighting hunger. The International Famine Center at Tufts University and the Center for a Hunger Free America at the University of Rhode Island are named in his honor.

1954
George Lingenfelter (COM'54, DGE'52) of South Yarmouth, Mass., was elected president of the BU Alumni Club of Cape Cod in June. There are over 5,000 alumni on Cape Cod. The club, with about 250 members, is in the process of starting a Young Alumni Club of Cape Cod. E-mail George at llingen@aol.com for information about club activities.

1955
Richard Endres (GRS'55) of San Francisco, Calif., enjoys traveling in Europe since his retirement as a training specialist. He also sings in a church choir and tutors second graders in reading at a public school. Richard is proud to report that his son and daughter are Ph.D. candidates — one in communications and one in biophysics. E-mail Richard at jendres@bicyahoo.net.

1957
Maida Sperling (CAS'57) of Great Neck, N.Y., displayed her photography in an exhibition entitled Steps Along the Road at the Greenwich Village Center of the Children's Aid Society in New York.

1959
Marvin Hurwitz (CAS'59) of Baltimore, Md., was a delegate from Maryland's Third Congressional District to the Democratic National Convention, which was held this year in Boston.

Daniel H. Lawlor (SMG'59) of Chelsea, Mass., received a certificate of appreciation in May for his valuable contributions to the Chelsea Police Department.
Lee Page Kreinheder (SAR'28, SED'40), a member of the last Sargent class before the school became part of BU, came by bus from Utica, N.Y., to Reunion 2004, accompanied by her nephew Howard Garniss (CFA'52). The oldest Sargent reunioner this year, Lee taught physical education and still runs a croquet tournament at her home. Photograph by Patrice Flesch

1960

Elizabeth DaCosta Ahern (CAS'60) of Waltham, Mass., presented her work in an exhibition entitled Distillations at the John Raimondi Gallery in Charlestown, Mass., this summer. Thomas O'Connell (SED'60, GRS'61) for magazine's 25th anniversary Cape Cod Life Cape Cod's top 100 most influential people Dennisport, Mass., was selected as one of this summer.

1963

Neil Mahoney (SED'63, DGE'68) of Lake Monticello, Va., is cofounder and director of the Blue Ridge Institute for Possible Futures and principal of Golden Gate Consulting Services, and teaches a course in imagery at the Jefferson Institute of the University of Virginia. He is retired as chairman of the faculty of Landmark Education, a leader in the field of training and development, and is a past national director of Youth at Risk.Neil is completing his second doctorate, in psychology, and is certified in hypnotherapy, as well as imaging and healing. He lives with his wife, Louise, a family practice physician, and has 4 sons and 10 grandchildren.

1967

Daniel Short (SMG'67) is the new dean of the M. J. Neely School of Business at Texas Christian University. He formerly was the dean and a professor of accounting at the Richard T. Farmer School of Business Administration at Miami University in Ohio. Richard Siegel (COM'67, CGS'65) of Brier Wash., is the performance and outreach coordinator for finance of the city of Bellevue Wash. He received a $40,000 grant for the city from the National Center for Civic Innovation in New York City. E-mail him at rsiegel@isomedia.com.

1969

Mike Carey (COM'69) of Framingham, Mass., is the author of the best-selling sports book High Above Courtrside: The Lost Memoirs of Johnny Most. Carol Gigliotti Leary (CAS'69) of Longmeadow, Mass., was appointed to the board of MassMutual Financial Group. She is the president of Bay Path College and chair of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. Naomi Hayes Rosenberg (CAS'69, DGE'67) of Wellesley Hills, Mass., was named dean of

All those letters, all those schools

Here’s a handy list of schools and colleges, with most earlier names indented.

CAS — College of Arts and Sciences
CLA — College of Liberal Arts
CFA — College of Fine Arts
SFA — School for the Arts
SFAA — School of Fine and Applied Arts
CGS — College of General Studies
CBS — College of Basic Studies
COM — College of Communication
SPC — School of Public Communication
SPRC — School of Public Relations and Communications
DGE — General Education (now closed)
CGE — College of General Education
GC — General College
ENG — College of Engineering
CIT — College of Industrial Technology
GRS — Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
GSM — Graduate School of Management
LAW — School of Law
MED — School of Medicine
MET — Metropolitan College
PAL — College of Practical Arts and Letters (now closed)
SAR — Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
SDM — School of Dental Medicine
SGD — School of Graduate Dentistry
SED — School of Education
SHA — School of Hospitality Administration
SMG — School of Management
CBA — College of Business Administration
SON — School of Nursing (now closed)
SPH — School of Public Health
SRE — School for Religious Education (now closed)
SSW — School of Social Work
STH — School of Theology
UNI — University Professors Program
Tufts University's Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences. She will continue her research in the department of pathology and the program in genetics. Naomi's husband, Mort Rosenberg (CAS'70), holds appointments at the Tufts Schools of Dental Medicine and of Medicine. They have a daughter attending Trinity College, and a son who entered Tufts this fall.

I971

Barbara Veneri (COM'71) of Fairhaven, Mass., is entering her third year in the master's in professional writing program at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and is teaching business communications there. This summer she directed the youth sailing program at the Edgewood Sailing School in Providence, R.I. E-mail Barbara at bveneri@umassd.edu.

1972
Michael Franco (COM'72) was named vice chancellor for development and public relations at the North Carolina School of the Arts on June 7. He was previously the vice president of college advancement at St. John's College in Santa Fe.

1973
Craig Lucas (CFA'73) of Putnam Valley, N.Y., premiered his show The Singing Forest at Seattle's Intiman Theater in July.

Ivan Schwartz (CFA'73) of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Studio EIS, his three-dimensional design and sculpture studio, created a life-sized bronze sculpture honoring Bob Newhart. Newhart was at the July 27 ceremony unveiling the sculpture, which was commissioned by the cable channel TV Land and the city of Chicago. It will temporarily be on the sidewalk in front of the building at 430 North Michigan Avenue seen in the opening credits of the classic series The Bob Newhart Show. In November it will be moved to Navy Pier. Studio EIS also created The Andy Griffith Show statue, unveiled in Raleigh, N.C., in October 2003.

Intrepid As She Goes

Decker Swann (CAS'57), née L. Decker Schwanecke, recalls an admonition from the pre—Title IX fifties: girls might “lose their femininity” by playing vigorous sports. When she arrived at Boston University in 1953, female athletes playing organized sports on campus were relatively few, and female sailors virtually nonexistent. But having grown up sailing in Essex, Connecticut, a yachting center on Long Island Sound, Swann was ready to compete for a college team.

At Community Boating, Inc., on the Charles River, where the BU sailing team practiced, she initially encountered only three other like-minded BU freshmen — all men. As the only girl in the advanced math and physics courses at her high school, she “had operated in a male world for a long time,” she says. So, undaunted either by gender gap or small numbers, she and her fellow sailors determined to race. At five feet, two inches, she was treated as just one of the guys — “I didn't ask for help,” she says — and became captain and later commodore, or chief officer. Asked how men and women compare as sailors, she answers, “It was thought that women had a better touch on the tiller.”

In 1953, the fifteen-year-old sailing club was the only coed intercollegiate activity on campus. Swann’s group made it a more extensive program, offering classes in recreational sailing and racing to all students. Having limited financial support, the club borrowed boats from MIT for racing and purchased four used wooden dinghies for practice. The once—proud twenty-year-old vessels leaked badly, and

At the June 1957 National Championships in Annapolis, members of the BU sailing team and their coach and faculty advisor Ed Bryant (COM'50, '51, SED'53): (from left) Wally Everest (ENG'59), Hatch Brown (SMG'59), Joe Gordon (SMG'59, LAW'62, '69), Decker Swann (CAS'57), and Bryant. Photograph courtesy of Decker Swann.
Swann "bikes out" over the Charles in one of the new fiberglass boats purchased for the BU sailing team in 1957. Photograph by BU Photo Services

despite daily prepractice bailings, sank several times a week. But the small BU club competed successfully against better supported varsity teams with impressive fleets; it won, for example, the "little Beanpot" against Boston College in 1954, and broke an eleven-year MIT-Harvard monopoly in 1956 by taking the Oberg Trophy.

A good organizer, Swann promoted the sailing club through the student newspaper, the Boston University News. She also took advantage of weekly student teas hosted by President Harold Case to make known the club's successes despite its poor equipment. In 1957, the University purchased a fleet of eight new Tech fiberglass dinghies. By the time Swann graduated, sailing had grown to 100 members — including more women — and achieved the best season in its history, beating the likes of MIT, Tufts, Boston College, and Brown. Upsetting defending champion Navy in a stunning victory, BU won the War Memorial Regatta at Annapolis in 1956, called "the most difficult feat" by the Boston Globe.

The crowning competition of Swann's years with the sailing team was BU's debut at the National Championships in Annapolis in June 1957. The Terriers took third place, just two points behind MIT. "This girl has probably been the greatest factor in the University's rise in the sailing world and the growth of the sailing club at the University," according to a BU News article. And the Globe wrote, "Speaking of Decker Schwannecke — there's no B.U. undergraduate who has fought and worked

[harder] to build up the sport ... she has seen the Terriers come from a low ebb to very close to the top of New England ISA ranks." After she graduated, the club became a varsity sport, and Swann was given a letter "ex post facto."

"Thank God for Title IX," says Swann. "I wish I'd had it then." Athletic scholarships were not available to BU women in those days, but she had a full academic scholarship and lived at the Harriet Richards House, a co-op where women defray costs by cooking and otherwise managing the residence.

With a BU degree, Swann became a social worker at Boston's then-new Columbia Point housing project, working with gangs. "It was only knives and pot then, no guns or crack," she says half-jokingly. She earned an M.B.A. from Baruch College in 1977 and made a career change to management consulting for the New York State Division of Employment Service.

Today, she is an advocate for women's rights, most notably as president of the Abigail Adams/Aurora NOW chapter in Denver, where she lives. Although she no longer sails, she does ski, an interest she shared with her late husband, and she drives a 1938 BMW on tours for Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing, Ltd. She drives the annual 1,000-mile route in four days, steady as she goes. — Jean Henneky Keith

At the National Championships in 1957: Swann helped BU win a berth in the national meet for the first time by crewing to a second-place win in the New England championships, held a month earlier. Photograph courtesy of Decker Swann
1974

David Garrison (CFA’74) of New York, N.Y., starred in the season finale of the 92nd Street Y’s Lyrics and Lyricists series, The Wit and Wisdom of Ira Gershwin, in June. He also performed in a 10-minute musical by his friend Norman Weiss at the Samuel French Film Festival. In July, he starred in the world premiere of The Singing Forest by Craig Lucas (CFA’73) at Seattle’s Intiman Theater.

1975

F. Walt Bistline (LAW’75) of Houston, Tex., displayed his photographs of South Padre Island’s Laguna Madre at Michaeline’s Upstairs Gallery in Alabama. Walt also participated in the University of Houston’s 2004 master of fine arts thesis exhibition, held at the Blaffer Gallery in March and April. Write to him at whistline@houston.rr.com.

1976

Paul Backalenick (SED’76) of New York, N.Y., founded Nexxite, a Web site design company, when he left Wall Street following 9/11. His new business is growing steadily and serves consulting firms, artists, and fashion companies. Write to Paul at pbback@nexxite.com.

Beth Levin (CFA’76) of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a professional pianist. She performed in the Balkans and in New York over the last

Common Bonds

Whether eaten in New Zealand or New York, birthday cake tastes yummy and sometimes results in a big mess. A first-ever visit to a doctor will cause goose bumps no matter what color your skin is. And when it’s a pet of your own, a calf in Peru can be just as cuddly as a kitten in Canada.

That’s the idea behind The Milestones Project, a book put together by Richard Steckel (SED’75) and his wife, Michele, and recently published by Tricycle Press. In seventeen countries, on every continent, the couple took snapshots of the scenes that mark children’s lives the world over. There are milestones, like celebrating a birthday, getting a first haircut, and losing a first tooth, and universal themes, such as pets, play, and school. In 125 photos, children of all races are playing with stuffed animals and soccer balls, hugging younger siblings, squirming in dentists’ chairs, even vacuuming. The photos illustrate our common humanity, Steckel says. Showing what people share across every culture, the book is a “tool to help parents raise a child free of prejudice, of stereotyping others, of hatred and intolerance.”

Milestones also features childhood recollections by a score of children’s authors, including J. K. Rowling, Eric Carle, and Sandra Boynton, as well as an introduction with comments by Walter Cronkite and others. Rowling, for example, writes about her first pair of glasses. As an eight-year-old, the future author of the Harry Potter books felt the spectacles would “add interest and distinction” to a round face. She felt very sophisticated until a boy at school called her “four-eyes.”

Steckel, former executive director of the Denver Children’s Museum, and his wife, parents of three and grandparents of seven, are on a mission. They have taken about 23,000 pictures, largely while traveling for Steckel’s speaking engagements as a consultant on social enterprise. (He helps devise strategies for nonprofits to stay in business, and for corporations to be socially responsible — ideas summed up by the title of one of his books, Making Money While Making a Difference.) The photos appear in exhibitions at airports and museums, at the United Nations, and on the Steckels’ Web site, milestonesproject.com.

The roots of Steckel’s work go back to his doctoral studies: his dissertation was on social justice. “When I was at BU, I studied the writing and educational philosophy of the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire,” he says. “What he taught was how to present strong social themes using visual materials.” That belief in the power of images led to the Steckels’ worldwide photographic project.

It’s been a lot of work, but Steckel says that in the face of hate and war, “we can’t be bystanders. This is one way to use our lives as instruments for positive social change.” — Patrick Kennedy
year, including two recitals at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. E-mail her at beth.levin@worldnet.att.net.

**1977**

**LINDA AMOS** *(SED'77, SQA'79)* of Salt Lake City, Utah, was honored in May by Consociates, an auxiliary of the Salt Lake City Assistance League, for her work with the community. Linda currently is associate vice president for health sciences and a professor of nursing at the University of Utah. She has devoted more than 35 years to nursing education and was previously dean of the University of Utah's College of Nursing.

**BRUCE HERMAN** *(CFA'78, '79)* of Gloucester, Mass., received a $150,000 grant from two foundations for his project *A Broken Beauty*, a touring exhibition of 14 artists from the United States and Canada debuting in Orvieto, Italy, at the Palazzo dei Sette in May and June 2005. A hardbound coffee-table art book of the same title will be published in May 2005. For more information, visit www.abrokenbeauty.com and www.brucethermanonline.com.

**SALLY RAE ROGERS** *(CAS'77)* of Sharon, Mass., writes and performs original stories and songs for both children and adults. She has a master's in counseling psychology from Cambridge College. In addition to writing all her own material, Sally Rae works individually with both children and adults doing what she calls story creation therapy for self-development or fun. Write to her at songinside@earthlink.net.

**DEBORAH POPKIN SCHUSTER** *(COM'77)* of Agoura Hills, Calif., was elected first chairperson of the Accessible Media Industry Coalition executive committee. The coalition is a recently formed association of captioning companies throughout the United States. Deborah is the executive vice president and general manager of Closed Captioning Services. She lives with her husband, Robert, and their two children, Kaitlin and Cole.

**1978**

**ANDREW RADER** *(SMG'78)* of Randolph, N.J., has been elected president of the Union County Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) for a one-year term that began June 1. Andrew, a partner at Summit CPA Group, joined the NJSCPA in 1983.

**GEORGE SCONTAS** *(COM'78, CGS'76)*

Elizabeth DaCosta Ahern (CAS'60), Verde, acrylic on canvas, 44” x 43”. Elizabeth’s exhibition Distillations was at the John Raimondi Gallery in Charlestown, Mass., this summer.

Nashua, N.H., is a producer and director with the video production company Jupiter Productions. Jupiter recently received eight industry awards for creative excellence, including four Telly Awards and four Communicator Awards for videos produced for Hewlett-Packard, BAE Systems, and MatrixOne.

**RYFF WOLF** *(CFA'78)* of Thousand Oaks, Calif., received a master of arts in management from the University of Redlands on May 29.

**1979**

**SCOTT BIRON** *(SED'79)* of Norfolk, Mass., was named Grassroots Champion of the Year by the U.S. Tennis Association. He is a full-time physical education instructor in the Acton, Mass., public schools and assists the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education lobby Congress to make after-school physical activity a priority.

**KATHLEEN DRISCOLL** *(CFA'79)* of Medford, Mass., participated in the Forest Hills Educational Trust’s summer exhibition ReVisited, at historic Forest Hills Cemetery in Jamaica Plain. She discussed her work, *Blue River Rock 2*, during an artists’ talk on July 18. She has created previous site-specific installations and sculptures for the location. More information about her work can be found at www.foresthillstrust.org. E-mail Kathleen at kdriscoll@mountida.edu.

**DONNA HOGAN-KELLEY** *(SAR'79)* of Omaha, Neb., published an article, “The Use of the Robnett Home Safety Assessment in Acute Care,” in the March 8 issue of *OT Practice*. Contact her at donnahkelley@att.net.

**ANDREA TAYLOR** *(COM'79)* of Newton, Mass., left her position as president of the Benton Foundation in January to join the Education Development Center, where she is vice president and director of the new center for media and community. Andrea had been president of the Benton Foundation since October 2001 and is the founding partner of Davis Creek Capital, a private equity fund. She is a former journalist with the *Boston Globe* and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

**1980**

**MARY SIMPSON CREEL** *(SAR'80)* of Birmingham, Ala., was named editor of *Cooking Light* special editions at Oxmoor House, a division of Southern Progress Corporation. She over-
sees all Cooking Light special editions and works to create and develop a variety of titles for Oxmoor House books.

John Gryka (COM’80) of Riverside, Calif., was named managing editor of the Press-Enterprise in Riverside. He has been with the paper since 1977 and has been deputy managing editor for the past three years. He is now in charge of the day-to-day operation of the newsroom.

1981

Scott Dixon (MET’81) of Alpharetta, Ga., was promoted to president of the real estate division at Network Communications, the world’s leading publisher of real estate advertising. He previously was the senior vice president.

Theo Gluck (CAS’81, COM’84) of Studio City, Calif., still works with Disney, and recently moved over to Worldwide Technical Services, where he is the director of technology for mastering and library restoration. “Right now we’re restoring Bambi,” he writes, “and I just got back from the Library of Congress Film Vaults packing up the original materials for Cinderella.” E-mail Theo at theogluck@earthlink.net.

Laura Savage Murphy (COM’81) of Park City, Utah, recently joined Westminster College in Salt Lake City as the executive director of communications. She lives with her husband, and their two daughters. E-mail her at lmurphy@westminstercollege.edu.

Linda Popky (COM’81, GSM’86) of Woodside, Calif., is president and chief executive officer of L2M Associates, a strategic marketing firm. Linda writes that she has returned to her musical roots, studying classical piano and performing regularly with a group of amateur adult pianists. She lives with her husband and 12-year-old daughter and a small pack of Siberian huskies. E-mail her at Linda@popky.com.

1982

Madeline Di Nonno (CAS’82) of Los Angeles, Calif., recently joined Nielsen Entertainment as executive vice president of client services and product development. She focuses on the development and management of client relations and product solutions with theatrical distribution and exhibition clients. E-mail her at m dinnonno@earthlink.net.

Wynn Harmon (GFA’82) of New York, N.Y., formerly Thomas Edwin Harmon, recently created the role of Antoine de Saint Exupéry in John Orlock’s new play Some Things That Can Go Wrong at 35,000 Feet. He spent the summer playing Jacques in an acclaimed production of As You Like It at the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, then was in Cyrano de Bergerac with the Barrington Stage Company in Sheffield, Mass. E-mail him at wynn600@earthlink.net.

Julie McElwaine Leader (SON’82) of Hockessin, Del., proudly announces the graduation of her twin daughters. Laurie McElwaine graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in May, and Haley McElwaine graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in December. Julie is a naturopath and has a Web site at www.healthyhorizons.biz.

1983

Roman Alis (CFA’83) of Williamsburg, Va., portrayed Werner Heisenberg in Copenhagen this spring and played Jamie in A Long Day’s Journey into Night with the Virginia Shakespeare Festival during the summer. You can reach him by e-mail at roman.alis.1983@alum.bu.edu.

Steve Bauer (LAW’83) of Cambridge, Mass., recently helped open the Boston office of the law firm Proskauer Rose at International Place. Steve is the office head and one of the national partners responsible for the firm’s patent litigation practice. E-mail him at shauer@proskauer.com.

Matthew Mirow (CAS’83) of Miami, Fla., announces the publication of his book Latin American Law: A History of Private Law and Institutions in Spanish America by the University of Texas Press. E-mail Matthew at mirowm@fiu.edu.

Brad Seitz (CGS’83) of Portland, Maine, is president of Topaz International, the leading provider of airfare analysis and assessment for corporations worldwide. E-mail him at Bradley.seitz@topaz.com.
1985

Linda Correia (CAS’86) of Washington, D.C., was named president of the Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association for the 2004-2005 term. Linda is a partner in the firm Webster, Fredrickson, and Brackshaw.

Walter King (CFA’88) of Columbus, Ohio, published Internal Scenarios: A Painterly and Poetic Collaboration with poet Edward Lense. After seven years as chair of illustration at Columbus College of Art, Walter stepped down from his administrative role to return to teaching full-time. In July he had a solo show at Artempresa Gallery in Cordoba, Argentina, and in November, his drawing The World Complete will be published in American Illustrators 23. Check out Walter’s work at www.absolutearts.com/walterking or e-mail him at wking@ccad.edu.

Deborah Mazur Trevino (COM’88) of Seattle, Wash., is senior vice president of communications at Getty Images in Seattle. She lives with her husband, Joe, and their 7-year-old daughter, Emma. Write to Deborah at deb@trevinolink.com.

1986

Mark H. Dold (CFA’86) of Brooklyn, N.Y., spent the winter doing A Midsummer Night’s Dream at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. This spring he was at Triad Stage in North Carolina playing Eilert Lovborg in Hedda Gabler, and he appeared as Count de Gauve in Cyrano this summer in the Berkshires. E-mail Mark at mhdold@verizon.net.

1987

Dean G. Bostock (LAW’87) of North Andover, Mass., is a partner at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo. He practices in the intellectual property section of the firm’s Boston office.

Denise Allen Johnson (CAS’87) of Meadville, Pa., is currently the president of the medical staff at Meadville Medical Center and has a private practice in obstetrics and gynecology with three partners. Denise joined the faculty at Meadville after attending medical school at the Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and completing her residency at the Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Karen Baitch Rosenberg (COM’87) of Reisterstown, Md., recently took a position in product development with Milner-Fenwick, a media production company specializing in patient education. She writes that she worked for the company during a summer break while at BU, so “my work has come full circle — it’s nice to work for them again.” Karen has two daughters, ages 10 and 6. E-mail her at KBRosenberg@aol.com.

Pat Washburn (COM’87) of Wells, Maine, joined Boston.com in April as a news producer. She commutes from Wells, where she lives with her husband, William Bradford. E-mail her at pwashburn@boston.com.

1988

Kurt Kauper (CFA’88) of Brooklyn, N.Y., has his work featured in Monument to Nova, an exhibition of global trends in contemporary art. The show is part of Athens 2004 Culture, the official cultural program of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Laura Propp Postell (SAR’88) of Roswell, Ga., and her husband, Michael Postell, announce the birth of their twins, Benjamin Michael and Samantha Lindsey, on March 4. Laura and Michael celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary in April. Laura also marked her years at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottsdale Rite, and is back to working full-time as a level-three pediatric physical therapist. Michael is still working as a professional film editor. Laura would love to hear from Mark Birchem (SMG’89), Dave Klopovitz, Pat Tarnowski (SAR’88), Catherine Rowan, Liz Winfield (CAS’90), Jennifer Knisely Belsky, and other Sargent classmates. E-mail her at laura.propp@choa.org.

Michelle Rosencran Suskauer (COM’88) of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and her husband, Scott, are partners in the Suskauer Law Firm in West Palm Beach. Michelle specializes in criminal trial law. She and Scott have two daughters, Talia and Rebecca. Michelle has been serving as the legal analyst for NBC affiliate WPTV in West Palm Beach and has

This Call’s for You!

Samantha Abrams, a junior in the School of Management, has been working at BU’s Telefund since last fall. “I have enjoyed my experience there,” she says. “The alumni love reminiscing about their college years at BU, so when we call, they enjoy asking us about our own experiences. They are always friendly and a joy to speak with.”

She was born in New Jersey, but Samantha’s parents are from Guyana in South America. Her father is an airline pilot, and she has lived with her family in Belgium, Malaysia, and Florida. Samantha is pursuing a business degree with a concentration in entrepreneurship. “It’s a dream of mine to work for the Discovery Channel,” she says. “I like the integrity of the company and the educational resources they offer, and I love traveling.” Photograph by Vernois Dusecette.
A Talent for Persuasion

During his days scouting film locations in the 1980s, Michael Williams became adept at persuading people to do something they wouldn't normally: turn over their homes or offices for days or weeks at a time so that crews could shoot scenes for movies like Mermaids, Little Man Tate, and Hoffa, and television shows like Spenser: For Hire. The skill came in handy years later, when as producer of the 1999 documentary Mr. Death, he got the okay for director Errol Morris to film inside the gates of Auschwitz — the first time a film company had gotten permission to do so. “They didn’t allow Steven Spielberg in for Schindler’s List,” says Williams (COM’79).

But Williams, cofounder of Scout Productions of Boston, New York, and Los Angeles, met his match as producer of Morris’s television series First Person for Bravo and the Independent Film Channel. Morris wanted to profile Robert McNamara, the controversial secretary of defense in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations — and a reluctant subject. “He had never heard of Errol, so I couldn’t sell him on Errol’s best-known documentaries,” Williams says, referring to such films as The Thin Blue Line and Fast, Cheap & Out of Control. “I sent him tapes; he never watched them.”

Finally, after months of telephone conversations, Williams tried a different tack, appealing to McNamara’s sense of nostalgia. “I said, ‘We film in Cambridge. You were at Harvard. Wouldn’t you like to come back here?’” McNamara relented, eventually giving Morris nineteen hours of interviews, which Williams attributes to the director’s engaging style and exhaustive research. “Errol really lets his subjects speak as long as they want,” he says, “and McNamara certainly had a lot to say.” When Morris began editing the footage, he realized he had the makings of a feature film.

The result, The Fog of War, was a critically acclaimed documentary that won Morris and Williams numerous honors, and ultimately, last February, an Academy Award. For Williams, the Oscar ceremony was the high point of an already successful stretch. He is executive producer of the Bravo television show Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, which became a cultural phenomenon shortly after it began airing in 2003.

Williams had hoped all along that The Fog of War would get an Academy nod. “Errol had never been nominated, despite his brilliant work,” he says. And the film is provocative, he continues: “It spawns debate, especially with what’s going on in the world today — without actually referencing current events and Iraq.”

Williams remembers being nervous on the way to the Academy Awards ceremony, but not actually hearing the words “And the Oscar goes to . . .” He says that when Alec Baldwin and Naomi Watts came out and started reading the nominations, “I looked down at my lap, and that’s when I go blank. I remember going onto the stage and Errol being so excited and flailing his arms. I was proud to be a part of the producing team.”

For Williams, life has changed. “The world is open to us,” he recently told the Boston Globe Magazine. “It’s great to have people from various networks take your call and agree to hear a pitch.” Meanwhile, Queer Eye, which launched a book and a CD, airs in more than 100 countries; 19 countries are planning their own versions. Williams also is executive producer of the reality show Knock First on ABC Family, and Scout’s latest show, Ding Dong Feng Shui, is in preproduction.

“Life is different,” he says. “We’re everywhere, and it’s all happening at the same time.” — Cynthia K. Bucini
appeared on The Today Show, NBC Nightly News, and The Abrams Report. E-mail her at suskauerlaw@aol.com.

1989
DANIEL S. BLECK (LAW'89) of Belmont, Mass., has become a partner at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo. He practices in the bankruptcy, restructuring, and commercial law section of the firm’s Boston office.

JANICE HAMBY (GSM’82, 84) of Arlington, Va., was appointed the executive director of the Second Chance Humane Society, which provides rescue and placement for homeless dogs. She is semiretired and recently moved to the mountains of Colorado. E-mail Sandy at navymom@netscape.net.

SANDY FARNsworth MICHAUD (MET’86) of Ridgway, Colo., recently became vice president of the Second Chance Humane Society, which provides rescue and placement for homeless dogs. She is semi-retired and recently moved to the mountains of Colorado. E-mail Sandy at sjmichaude@msn.com.

MURRA PLATT (GSM’84) of Sudbury, Mass., is a business and personal coach and communications consultant with a private practice, AchieveCoach. For the past five years she has worked with executives, managers, entrepreneurs, and salespeople, dealing with issues concerning job satisfaction, personal productivity, stress, and time management. E-mail her at marla@achievecoach.com.

1990
MAURA KEHOE COYNE (CAS’90, CGS’88) of Woodbridge, Conn., and her husband, Gregory, announce the birth of their first child, Michael Joseph, on October 26, 2003. Maura is an assistant state’s attorney in New Haven. E-mail her at mauroacoyneesq@yahoo.com.

JORDAN KERR (ENG’90) of Chicago, Ill., is the lead application architect for the sales force automation system at Abbott Laboratories in Chicago. E-mail him at jordankerr@bigfoot.com.

ROBERT “TOD” MINOTTI (CAS’90) and JENNIFER MINOTTI (COM’94) of Woodstock, Vt., welcomed their son, Alonzo, on April 23. Tod and Jennifer own the Winslow House Bed & Breakfast in Woodstock. Contact them at www.thewinslowhousevt.com or jminotti@edc.org.

DOMINIC PULLO (CAS’90, GRS’93) of Kalamazoo, Mich., has lots of changes to report. He and his wife, Susan, recently had a daughter, Hailey Rose. Their 3-year-old son, Anthony, is doing very well as a big brother, Dominic writes. The family previously lived in Watertown, Mass., and recently relocated to Kalamazoo, where Dominic is a scientist with Pfizer. “It’s a fun time for us,” he writes, “and we’d love to hear from you.” E-mail them at dominic@kgoodkldz.com.

KATHLEEN REST (UNI’90) of Brighton, Mass., was appointed the executive director of the Union of Concerned Scientists. She provides management for daily affairs, supervising all program departments to achieve UCS’s goals on issues ranging from climate change to global security. She had previously been deputy director for programs at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

TRACEY RASEY SCOTT (SED’90) of Chesapeake, Va., received her master’s in education from Regent University in Virginia Beach in May 2003. After teaching early childhood special education for 12 years, she currently teaches a regional program for children with autism. She lives with her husband, Mike, and two daughters, Megan, 8, and Mary Kate, 5. Tracey sends greetings to long-lost friends and classmates and would love to hear from old friends from ENG, SED, and Army ROTC. E-mail her at 4scott@cox.net.

Cynthia Maurice (CFA’63, ’65), Pond with Swimmer, oil on linen, 20" x 26". Cynthia’s paintings were recently on exhibit at the Freedman Gallery at Albright College in Reading, Pa.

1991
DIRK BAKER (COM’91, SED’92, ’98, CGS’89) of Worcester, Mass., recently won his 200th game as head coach of Worcester State College’s baseball team. In 2004 the Lancers won more than 20 games for the seventh straight season. Dirk’s second book, Teaching Hitting, was published by McFarland & Co. in the summer. E-mail him at dbaker@worcester.edu.

BRADLEY GELB (SMG’91, CGS’89) and NORA TAY GELB (CAS’91) of Pittsford, N.Y., are proud to announce the birth of their fourth child, Sara Louise, on March 30. They would like to hear from old friends at bgelb@jrgelb.com.

ALAN LOHOF (CAS’91) of Billings, Mont., and his wife, Jennifer, write with news of the birth of their son, Trevor Jack, on July 3. Trevor joins his 2-year-old sister, Kelsey. Alan continues to work as a firefighter and paramedic with the Billings Fire Department. E-mail him at alohof@bresnan.net.

MARC-ANTHONY SIGNORINO (COM’91) of Washington, D.C., was recently promoted to director and counsel of technology policy at the American Electronics Association, the country’s largest high-tech trade association. He lobbies Congress and the White House.
In Bed with the Truth

“In Bed with the Truth”

Dean Staley in a Blackhawk helicopter above Mosul, in northern Iraq, in early May 2003.

“WE WERE THE ENEMY sleeping in their tent,” says television journalist Dean Staley, recalling how U.S. soldiers initially viewed him and his cameraman, Joe Caffrey, when they were embedded with the Army’s 101st Airborne Division in Iraq last year. “We’d get comments like, ‘You’re going to call us baby killers, right?’

Instead, in daily news segments produced for Minneapolis television station KSTP, Staley (COM’88, CAS’88) and Caffrey documented the war’s human cost to both American soldiers and Iraqis with sensitivity. Their reports from the Persian Gulf between March and May 2003 won three local Emmy Awards, as well as the respect of the 101st soldiers, several of whom Staley now considers close friends.

“When the troops’ family members started seeing our broadcasts on TV and on the Internet,” he says, “suddenly we were heroes.”

Staley, who earned degrees in broadcast journalism and in political science, and was an anchor at KSTP from 2000 until last April, hardly felt heroic during the first hours of the war, when SCUD missiles were fired at the 101st’s Kuwaiti desert camp. He had never before covered an armed conflict. “Everybody was jumping in trenches, and it was terrifying,” says the thirty-eight-year-old native of New Mexico.

Combat was also a new experience for most of the soldiers, and “an amazing bonding experience,” Staley found. “A lot of barriers broke down when the troops saw Joe and me wrestling with our gas masks and chemical suits. They gathered around us to help, and from that point on, there was a strong sense that we were all in this thing together.”

For the next ten weeks, Staley and Caffrey accompanied the 101st Division’s Fifth Battalion, a 300-soldier unit that operates Blackhawk helicopters, as it rushed north into Iraq, by way of the embattled city of Karbala, and eventually helped seize Baghdad. Many of their dispatches profiled individual soldiers, such as an officer, responding to a poem by his daughter, who struggled to justify his military service. Other pieces focused on daily military life: the anxiety and boredom of waiting to fight and the struggle to tolerate the suffocating heat and dust, and one another, in cramped tents.

Staley, now the main anchor for Northwest Cable News, a twenty-four-hour news station based in Seattle, says he and Caffrey generally were given “terrific access” by Army brass, and occasionally were permitted to break off on their own. After one such excursion, they profiled a Baghdad family whose home was destroyed by American bombs. It featured an interview with an Iraqi teenager, who poignantly articulated his feelings of bewilderment and injustice.

“The only criticism I have of the embedding process is that when you approach civilians accompanied by a bunch of troops, they’re likely to say what they think you want to hear,” says Staley. “When we spoke to people alone, I think we got closer to the truth.”

Back in the States, Staley was one of the first to learn that U.S. Army Captain Ben Smith had been killed when his Blackhawk was shot down last November. “Ben was among a handful of soldiers Joe and I became extremely close to, and someone I expected to be lifelong friends with,” says Staley. “I’d sent him a letter shortly before he died. Every time we saw news of a chopper going down over there, we felt like we’d cheated death if it turned out to not be one of ours. It certainly gave me a sense of sympathy for military families, who must dread every phone call. I’d never felt that kind of helplessness before.” — David J. Craig

on issues important to the information technology industry. Marc came to AEA by way of eBay, where he helped open its Washington, D.C., government affairs office while getting his J.D. at Georgetown University Law Center. He also started a new organization, D.C. Young Lobbyists, for government affairs professionals in the area. He would love to hear from COM graduates.

E-mail him at MarcAnthony7@earthlink.net.

Melissa Wood (CAS’92) of Denver, Colo., is director of strategic marketing for Xcel Energy, an electricity and natural gas energy company. She lives with her husband, Les, and son, Evan. E-mail Melissa at Melissa_k_wood@yahoo.com.

1992

Alfonso P. Baigorri (CAS’92) of Miami, Fla., recently joined the law firm Katz, Baron, Squitero and Faust as a senior associate after 10 years with Banco de Santander. Last May he obtained an L.L.M. in estate planning from the University of Miami. His practice is focused on trust and estate planning, U.S. and international tax planning, and family business succession. E-mail him at apb@katzbarro.com.

Daniel Dupont (CAS’92) and Mary Davis Dupont (SMG’92) of Arlington, Va., celebrated the birth of their third son, Leo, in April. E-mail Dan at dgdupont@aol.com.

Kara O’Hearn Granger (SED’92) of Millbrook, N.Y., married Kevin Granger on April 18. Martha Hayes Crannell (SED’92) was one of Kara’s bridesmaids. Kevin is an assistant chief at a volunteer fire department, and Kara is vice president of a neighboring fire department. Write to her at Cherstr49@aol.com.

Cheryl Fearn Hill (MAR’92) of Orlando, Fla., and her husband, Rick, had their first child, Canyon, on December 25. Cheryl works at Florida Hospital. E-mail her at rmeedicpt@cflrr.com.

Penelope Jewkes (COM’92) of Los Angeles, Calif., was appointed director of the Disney Channel’s program-planning team. She is responsible for the programming strategies related to its preschool block, Playhouse Disney. E-mail her at penney@popstar.com.

Matthew Kelley (CAS’92) of Osaka, Japan, writes that he has been in Osaka for the past 12 years, and lives with his wife of five years, Harumi, and their two children, Liam Ryo (“BU class of 2021”) and Jasmine Maya (“BU class of 2023”). Matthew has started an ESL school and homestay program with his wife, providing English conversation classes for all ages, and homestay opportunities in Perth, Australia. They are looking to expand into Sydney and the Boston area. He is looking forward to hearing from old friends and people interested in providing homestays and opportunities to study, work, or participate in volunteer projects around the globe. E-mail Matthew at es@osaka.email.net.JP.

Jane K. O’Brien (SAR’92) of Incline Village, Nev., is pleased to announce the purchase of the North Tahoe Physical Therapy Clinic and the Performance Enhancement Center, both in Lake Tahoe. Jane has been an instructor of myofascial release and has practiced physical therapy for the past 12 years, specializing in manual therapy, women’s issues, pain, and orthopedics.

Christie Taylor (UNF’92) of Houston, Tex., was awarded a New York Times/National Endowment for the Arts fellowship to the American Dance Festival’s Institute of Dance Criticism for the summer. Formerly the dance critic for the Boston Herald, Christie is now based in Houston, where she writes about dance for national publications. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the Dallas Morning News, and Dance Magazine. E-mail her at annataylor@msn.com.

1993

Edward A. Abbott III (CAS’93, CGS’94) of Crofton, Md., his wife, Kristen, and their son, Kevin, welcomed the newest member of their family, Kiley Ann, on March 21.

Michael Bishop (SMG’93) of Cheshire, Conn., has recently been promoted to corporate controller of FuelCell Energy, located in Danbury. Mike lives with his wife, Jackie, and their 2½-year-old son, Sean. E-mail Mike at bishopms@alum.bu.edu.

Meredith Daniels (COM’93) of Floral Park, N.Y., married William Nicholas Chango, Jr., on June 12, 2004. “We had a small but fun wedding on Long Island’s North Fork,” she writes. Meredith currently works as a radio announcer and producer for Newsday and occasionally writes articles for its daily newspaper. E-mail her at Meredith.daniels@newsday.com.

Adrienne Klein (CAS’93) of New York, N.Y., is happy to announce her marriage to Alessandro Ratto. They were married in Ravello, Italy, on June 18, surrounded by friends and family. They both live and work in New York City.

Amanda LaForge (CAS’93) of Chevy Chase, Md., and her husband, Mark Denbo, announce the arrival of their second son, Harrison, on February 29. He joins big brother Luke, 3. Amanda writes, “We are doing well here — just a bit tired.” E-mail her at amandalafarge@comcast.net.

Frances Nobsisch (STH’93’94) of Quincy, Ill., has accepted a position as assistant professor of theology at Quincy University. E-mail her at fnobsisch@juno.com.

1994

Denise Ackery-Koford (SMG’94) of East Meadow, N.Y., married Christopher Koford on September 6, 2003. Attendees included Joyce Bowles Randazzo (SMG’94) and Wendy Blume (COM’94). Denise is pursuing her master’s degree as a physician’s assistant at Seton Hall University. E-mail her at bosdaby@yahoo.com.

Heather Berge-Patel (CAS’95) of Minneapolis, Minn., attended medical school in Wisconsin after BU, and married her college sweetheart, Drew Patel (CAS’95), in 1997. They live in the Twin Cities with their daughter, Amara Guadalupe, who was born on November 17, 2003. Heather is a psychiatrist and Drew owns a chiropractic clinic. She writes that they would both love to hear from BU friends, especially those from Warren Towers 12A freshman year. E-mail her at drhej a@aol.com.

Jonathan Fox (COM’94) and Julie Bach (SED’94) of Plymouth, Mass., were married on Cape Cod in October 2001. They are the proud parents of Aaron, 2, and Madeline, 5 months. Aaron is already a regular at BU hockey games and can sing the first three lines of the fight song. Jonathan is working for Macy’s as the regional staffing and scheduling coordinator. Julie is the newly appointed chairperson of the social studies department at Norwell High School. They would love to catch up with COM, SED, or BU Band friends. E-mail them at jstufox@adelphia.net or jannfox@adelphia.net.

Loretta Chilcoat Jergensen (COM’94) of Baltimore, Md., and her husband, Brad, announce the birth of their first daughter, Emily, on March 10. Loretta is a writer/editor for the Maryland Office of Tourism, as well as a freelance travel writer, and writes for the Lonely Planet guidebook series. She would love to hear from “fellow COMers, Sigma Kappa sisters, and alumni in the Baltimore
Award-Winning Alumni

ARTHUR C. ANTON (SMG'50) of Boston, Mass., was honored on May 15 with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, given by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations for "helping make America a better place for all of us," at a ceremony held on Ellis Island.

MARY CAPRIOLO BRADLEY (CAS'66) of Sudbury, Mass., received the President's Award from N.B. Taylor Realtors as the number one agent for 2003, with the highest sales volume. Mary has been a resident of Sudbury for 29 years, and a realtor in the area for 25 years.

EDWARD W. BROOKE (LAW'48, '50, HON.'68) of Warrenton, Va., a former U.S. senator from Massachusetts and former attorney general of Warrenton, Va., a former U.S. senator from Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture. He was the recipient of the 2004 Elliot L. Whitaker Traveling Fellowship and will go to Switzerland this summer to investigate the work of Swiss modernist architect Peter Zumthor. "Architecture school has been an incredibly challenging experience," writes Dan, "but I am happy to say that the learning experiences I had in the Core Curriculum and the general benefits of a liberal arts education have provided a strong foundation for my work as an architecture student." E-mail him at dcarney6@yahoo.com.

LINDSAY L. CRUDELE (COM'94) of Cranston, R.I., received the James Beard Award 2004 in the category Radio Food Short Form, awarded by the James Beard Foundation, which celebrates the country's culinary artists, providing scholarships and educational opportunities. Lindsay is a producer for the NPR show Here and Now at WBUR.

IVAN CURY (CFA'60) of Encino, Calif., was given the California State University Rosebud Award at the CSU Summer Arts 15th Annual Media Arts Festival. The award recognizes outstanding media production faculty. Ivan is a professor of television production at the university's Los Angeles branch. His new book, TV Commercials: How To Make Them, was published by Focal Press in October.

FRANCES MICKNA FINTA (CAS'49) of Arlington, Va., had a gift made in her name by the Arlington branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to the AAUW Educational Foundation.

MARTIN CORNELIUS FRITH (ENG'04) was a recipient of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's 2004 Harold M. Weintrub Graduate Student Award. He is currently working as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute for Molecular Biophysics in Brisbane, Australia, and the RIKEN Yokohama Institute in Japan.

WARREN GRILL (ENG'89) of Chapel Hill, N.C., a professor of biomedical engineering at Duke University, where he leads a research program in neural engineering, was named the 2003 Neurotechnology Researcher of the Year by Neurotech Business Report. He lives with his wife, Julie, and two children. E-mail him at warren.grill@duke.edu.

ALAN S. GURMAN (CAS'67) of Madison, Wis., was the 2004 recipient of the award for excellence in internship training from the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers, the organization that sets national standards for professional training in clinical psychology. Alan is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison.

JOSEPH H. HAGAN (SED'60, HON.'93) of Compton, R.I., was given an honorary doctor of humane letters degree and delivered the commencement address at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy, on May 14. He has been chairman of the university's board of trustees for the past decade and is president emeritus of Assumption College. E-mail him at jhagan67@cox.net.

WAYNE KESSLER (SSW'86) of Westwood, Mass., received the National Association of Social Workers Beverly Ross Fliegel Award for Social Policy and Change in March.

DAWN NOLAN LOMBARDI (CFA'94) of Higganum, Conn., was presented the Distinguished Advocate of the Arts Award by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, Culture, and Tourism. She did the 350th anniversary painting for the city of Northampton and auctioned it off for charity. E-mail her at tonydawn@aol.com.

JERRILYN MARSTON (GRS'74) of Marberth, Pa., won the University of Pennsylvania's 2003-2004 Whitney Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Affiliated Faculty for the third time in four years. She is a lecturer in the legal studies department at the university's Wharton School, and is a shareholder with Bazelon Less & Feldman.

KYLE MEENAN (COM'88) of Jacksonville, Fla., received an Edward R. Murrow Award for Spot News from the Radio and Television News Directors Association. He is a reporter for First Coast News, WTLV/WJXX, in Jacksonville. E-mail Kyle at writekyle@belshell.net.

BEN MEVORACH (COM'82) of New York, N.Y., received a 2004 national Edward R.
Wesley T. Mott (CAS’68, GRS’69, ’75) of Oak Bluffs, Mass., has received the Thoreau Society’s Walter Harding Distinguished Service Award. An English professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, he has been on the society’s board of directors for 14 years, the last 6 as vice president of publications. He continues to serve on the advisory boards of the Thoreau Society Bulletin and the annual journal The Concord Saunterer and is series editor of the society’s Spirit of Thoreau books, published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Slater Newman (GRS’48) of Raleigh, N.C., received the Frank Porter Graham Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina. Slater was one of the founding members of the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, now the ACLU of N.C., and has been a psychology professor at North Carolina State University since 1957.

Roger V. Ohanesian (CAS’66) of Laguna Beach, Calif., was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor on May 15. The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations gives the award for “helping make America a better place for all of us.” Roger is an ophthalmologist and the founder of Harvard Eye Associates and the Armenian Eye Care Project.

Sarah Paynick (CFA’03, ’04) of Brookline, Mass., placed first in the 24th annual James Pappoutsakis Flute Competition. She performed in the Greater Boston Flute Recital in March. Dawn Weithee (CFA’05, ’04) won second place in the competition.

Scott Perkins (CFA’02) of Rochester, N.Y., won a BMI Student Composer Award for his composition A Ward Out of the Sea (A Child’s Reminiscence) for mixed voices, unaccompanied, with solo tenor. The piece was one of 8 selected from 600 entries from the western hemisphere. Scott is working on a master’s in theory pedagogy at the University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Music and plans to enter the Ph.D. theory program. Write to him at jpo08@mail.rochester.edu.

R. Norman Peters (LAW’65) of Paxton, Mass., was given an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester at its commencement ceremony on June 6.

Sylvia Pressler (CAS’59) of Englewood, N.J., received the New Jersey State Bar Foundation’s Medal of Honor for her contributions to improving the justice system. The award was presented in June at the foundation’s annual dinner. Sylvia is a presiding New Jersey Superior Court judge.

Donna Rossetti-Bailey (CFA’94) of Marshfield, Mass., took an honorable mention for her pastel painting View from Pazzolina at the Cape Cod Art Association artist members exhibition this spring. Donna donated several original pastels this year to fundraisers, including Will’s Island View to the North River Arts Society and Vermont Sunset to the South Shore Charter School. She was one of six artists invited to participate in the creation of a mirror and frame for the Reflections silent auction benefiting Victory Programs, which supports people in recovery from addictions, held in May at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

Daniel Steininger (LAW’72) of Milwaukee, Wis., president and CEO of Catholic Knights, and chairman of the Catholic Fund, was selected to receive the Paragon Communicator of the Year Award. He also recently received a National All-University Alumni Merit Award for Professional Achievement from Marquette, his undergraduate alma mater.

Robert Stuart (CFA’77) of Rockbridge Baths, Va., received an Academy Award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York City on May 19. “To my delight,” he writes, “I also got to meet CFA professor and wonderful painter John Walker, who was one of the five recipients of an Academy Award in Art this year.”

Mary Lou Sudders (CAS’76, SSW’78) of Cambridge, Mass., was given the National Association of Social Workers Foundation Knee-Wittman Outstanding Achievement Award, in recognition of significant contributions in the fields of health and mental health. Mary Lou was the Massachusetts commissioner of mental health and is now the president and CEO of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Dorothy Rona Sullivan (CAS’59, SED’72) of Chatham, Mass., a member of the National Job Vacancy Survey Workgroup, was a recipient of the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary’s Exceptional Achievement Award, the first time the award has been given to anyone other than a Department of Labor employee.

Diane K. Smith Townsend (CAS’63, DGE’71) of Solomons, Md., was awarded the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive by President Bush on September 26, 2001. The award, the highest a career federal employee can receive, recognizes outstanding leaders who consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and commitment to public service. As NAYAIR counsel, Diane supervises a legal staff of more than 70 lawyers.

Rick Waitsman (LAW’76) of Atlanta, Ga., an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration, was recently honored by the Georgia Senate for his years of public service. This honor came after he was appointed assistant to the SSA regional chief administrative law judge for the eight southeastern states. Rick lives with his wife, Mindy, and daughters, Melissa and Sara.

John F. Zwetchkenbaum (MED’83) of Providence, R.I., was named a “Top Doc” by Rhode Island Monthly. The magazine polled 5,000 randomly selected registered nurses from across the state and asked them to select the best specialists in Rhode Island. John is a urologist at Miriam Hospital.
A Letter from the Outgoing President of the Boston University Alumni (BUA)

FOR THE PAST three years I have used this space to share thoughts, information, and a picture or two. Now my term as president is ending, and I must say good-bye. This is not easy, since I have loved doing it. It has been a really large part of my life, because it represents learning more and more about this great University, meeting and bonding with so many people throughout the country. Oh yes, and often listening to their complaints as well. I have worked with great people in the BU community, from our president to a new graduate just starting a first job. It has been a grand experience.

I have been blessed with absolutely the best Executive Board, alumni who have never let me down and have met all challenges and accomplished so much. We have created many programs for students, both social and career-related, such as Project 55, our mentoring program. We have included students on our Executive Board, and they report to us regularly about what they are doing. The Parents Program is in full swing again and working well. We’ve embarked on a number of large fundraising projects, like the Marsh Plaza project and the Student Village.

Through the Development and Alumni Relations Office, alumni events have expanded all over the country and abroad. Alumni Weekend now includes a great Street Fair and other activities both fun and educational. None of this would have been possible without my wonderful board and the great friends I have grown to love. Thank you all.

In the next year you will begin to see the BUA re-create itself in a different format, but it will still be an organization for Boston University alumni. Keep supporting us.

Good-bye to all of you. Stay in touch with Boston University, and if you happen to see me along the way, stop and say hello. BU will always be an important piece of my life.

Sincerely,

Judie Friedberg-Chessin (right) with (from left) Jenny Williams (CAS'07), Nikki Lazarus (SMG'07), and Jessica McClintock (DGE'50) at a summer send-off for incoming freshmen hosted by McClintock in San Francisco.
includes two other CFA alums, Karen Muenzinger (CFA’93), on trumpet, and Peter Charig (CFA’99), on trombone. Michael is a member of the Portland Brass, the Cantabrigia Brass, and the Atlantic Chamber Orchestra, and is the tuba and euphonium instructor at Tufts University, the University of Southern Maine School of Music, Anna Maria College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the Lexington Public Schools. In November 2002 he married collaborative pianist-composer-arranger Sanak Kanda (CFA’93, ’02). Most recently, Michael was appointed to the faculty of Salem State College and has opened an online store for tuba players at TubaStudio.com. E-mail him at mike@tubastudio.com.

Ian C. Pilarczyk (LAW’95) of Cambridge, Mass., was given the E. P. Taylor Award for outstanding voluntary service to the McGill Alma Mater Fund by McGill University in March. He is the New England representative to the McGill alumni association board of directors, cochair of the annual volunteer phonathon, and president of the McGill Young Alumni of Boston. In June 2003 he received a doctor of civil law degree, made the dean’s honor list, and was awarded the Osgoode Society Legal History Prize. Ian is currently a self-employed trader of securities and performs pro bono immigration law services. He writes that he is pleased to be back in Boston after eight years in Montreal. E-mail him at rabiljus@hotmail.com.

Karen Wilson Roman (CAS’95, COM’96) of Washington, D.C., is the new vice president of consulting for Virginia-based Federal Sources, Inc., the nation’s preeminent supplier of government information technology market intelligence. Prior to joining FSI, Karen spent eight years with Arthur Andersen and two with Unisys as a solutions director. E-mail her at Karen@edgarroman.com.

Shahram Siddiqui (CAS’95) of Gaithersburg, Md., was elected to membership in the law firm Cozner O’Connor. He works in the firm’s Philadelphia office, concentrating in corporate law matters.

Larisa Myles Spellman (COM’95) of Chicago, Ill., began corporate and commercial voiceover work last year while continuing in her public relations position in Chicago. “Any old COM friends who could use my voice, let me know!” she writes. E-mail her at larisa.spellman@edelman.com.

Allison Walker (SED’95) of St. Louis, Mo., writes that “for the past four years I have been in St. Louis, but after the 100-degree temperatures this week, I think it’s time to move back to an ocean!” She teaches seventh grade language arts at the same middle school rap superstar Nelly attended. Her students are exciting, challenging, and entertaining, but she misses Boston “like I’d miss an arm.” E-mail her at calicoon@yahoo.com.

1996

Kyla Neely Arnold (UNI’96) of New York, N.Y., married Christopher Arnold in a Greenwich Village flower shop. Martin Moakler (CAS’96) and Deana Morenoff (COM’96) were among the guests. Kyra has taught fourth grade in a Brooklyn public school for the past three years and earned a master’s in elementary education from Brooklyn College last year. Contact her at justkyra@yahoo.com. Carrie Atwood (CAS’96) of Seattle, Wash., is a senior analyst at Classmates.com. She and her husband, Eric, welcomed their first child, a girl, on February 5. E-mail Carrie at Carrie_atwood@yahoo.com.

Chris Cooper (COM’96) and Ruth-Ann Johnston Cooper (COM’97) of Sandown, N.H., had twin daughters, Eva and Madeline, on March 8. They joined big sister Abigail in a busy household. Chris recently was named director of strategic accounts at Watson Communication Group, a full-service marketing communications firm in Portsmouth. E-mail him at ccooper@watsoncg.com.

Jill Klobuchar Keller (CAS’96) of Madison, Wis., received a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine on May 14.

Tony Tian-Ren Lin (CAS’96) of Charlottesville, Va., is pursuing a doctoral degree in sociology at the University of Virginia after four years as associate pastor of a Presbyterian church in New Jersey. He would love to hear from old friends at ptomyr@yahoo.com.

Tony Martino (COM’96, CGS’94) of New York, N.Y., is a freelance television writer, currently working at VH1 in New York. He would like to say hello to friends Denis Palumbo (COM’95, CGS’95), Jackie Striano (SED’96, CGS’94), Pamela Bender (COM’95, CGS’95), Pilar Flynn (COM’97), and Doris Konig (COM’96). Tony can be reached at tonymartino@earthlink.net.

David Pai (CAS’96) of San Francisco, Calif., writes, “It took nearly a year, but I have finally transformed myself from an overpaid, dry, and meaningless corporate law husk into an underpaid, vibrant, and committed civil rights lawyer.” He hopes his next metamor-

Meg Brown Payson (CFA’77), Untitled 8.03, acrylic on paper 3.75" x 4.25", 2003. Meg is an associate professor at the Maine College of Art.
His Business Is Politics

Milind Deora intended to join the business run by his industrialist father when he returned to India after graduating, and he did. Now, five years later, he's switched careers — but is still in the family business. In May of this year, he was sworn in as a member of Parliament, holding the seat for Mumbai (formerly Bombay) that his father had filled for some twenty years.

Deora (SMG’99) hadn’t meant to go into politics, but after only a couple of years back home, he tiptoed into the public arena by starting and running a nonprofit, Sparsh, in Mumbai, providing free computer education to “certain really underprivileged schools,” he says. The lessons in basic office software often resulted in the doubling of income for students when they started working, “empowering them for jobs and for the future,” he says.

Earlier this year, when general elections were called, Deora decided to take the plunge into public life, and won the Congress Party nomination for the Mumbai seat then held by a Bharatiya Janata Party rival. Unlike the grueling yearlong campaigns in the United States, in India the general election campaign lasts one month. “It was very intense,” Deora says. “I got to learn a lot about myself, my physical and emotional capabilities, about people, and about the issues.” With the Congress Party staging a surprising national comeback, Deora won and became, at twenty-seven, the second-youngest member of Parliament.

Now he’s in New Delhi five months of the year, learning the ropes with help from his father, who serves in the upper house of Parliament. Youth doesn’t make him any less effective a politician, Deora says. “Once you’re in Parliament, irrespective of how old you are, you’re a member of Parliament. Whether it’s a senior cabinet minister, the prime minister, or the speaker of Parliament,” he says, “people do take you seriously. I can ask a question of a minister just like any other MP can.”

As in the United States, young people are often cynical or indifferent about politics, Deora says — and in India, 60 percent of the electorate is under thirty-five. “I think the youth need to get more active and be less apathetic,” he says. “I think the apathy can often be an excuse for ignorance, and I think that’s wrong. People need to make informed decisions; they need to be more aware. I’m trying to encourage that, and a lot of younger MPs have been elected to this Parliament. That on its own will make a difference in opening youths to politics.”

His term lasts five years — assuming the coalition government doesn’t falter and have to call new elections sooner — and Deora seems comfortable with the political life. “It’s been in my blood,” he says. “I was inching toward it, and then it just happened.” — Taylor McNeil
Web development, computer services, network engineering, and graphic design. Contact John at johnshin@alum.bu.edu and visit www.sellsophrosyne.com.

Micheal Wood (COM’96) of Los Angeles, Calif., optioned his feature-length script *Silent Scream* in June to Redbone Films. He is currently teaching classes in film, television, and screenwriting at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, Calif. E-mail him at mikewoodla@aol.com.

1997

Jenna Glatzer (COM’97) of New York, N.Y., writes that it has been a busy year. She has published 9 books, with a 10th and 11th close behind. Her most recent include *Make a Real Living as a Freelance Writer*, published by Nomad Press, and *Outwitting Writer’s Block and Other Problems of the Pen*, published by Lyons Press. *Fear Is No Longer My Reality*, written with Jamie Blyth of *The Bachelor*, will be out in February from McGraw-Hill. Jenna’s writers’ newsletter, at www.write.com, now has 75 subscribers, and she has been doing book signings and workshops. She was chosen as the chair of the 2004 I Love To Write Day. Jenna was married on June 12, and alumni Dan Furst (COM’98), Brandon Petty (CAS’98), Christopher Holton-Jablonski (CAS’99), and Craig Thompson (COM’98) attended. “The remaining Starmites were sorely missed,” Jenna writes. Contact her through her Web site at www.jennaglatzer.com.

Ali D. Marcus (SPH’97) of Brighton, Mass., was promoted to senior biostatistician at Averion, a contract research organization in Framingham. He assesses noninvasive imaging techniques for detecting heart disease and develops new medications for sepsis and dental surgery healing. E-mail him at amarcus@alumni.brandeis.edu.

Shin Yu Pai (CAS’97) of Watertown, Mass., formerly Doris Pai, was awarded a Peter Taylor Fellowship for the Kenyon Review Writers’ Workshop in Gambier, Ohio. She has completed a fellowship/residency at the MacDowell Colony of Peterborough, N.H. E-mail her at shin@shin.com.

Alexander Poulos (COM’97) of Watertown, Mass., cofounded LaunchPad Media, a video and multimedia firm that works with corporate, medical, and educational clients. LaunchPad was recently awarded Telly Awards for work for clients Abbott Labs and Boston Medical Center; it also created projects for Alkermes Inc., Harvard University, and the Harlem Boys’ Choir. E-mail Alexander at alex@launchpad.tv.

Allison Jill Speigel (COM’97, CGS’95) of New York, N.Y., married David Harstone in June at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. Shelly Meizlik (COM’97, CGS’95) was the maid of honor and James Casey (COM’97, CGS’95) was the best man. Also in attendance were Priya Akhoury (CAS’99), Ava Borbely (SMG’99), David Jones (COM’97), Shaun Keough (COM’99), Michael Mager (SMG’99), Allen Pinerio (COM’97), Jason Ross (COM’99, CGS’97), and Theodore Vergakis (COM’99, CGS’97).

Michael Waldron (COM’97) of Washington, D.C., married Laura Coughlan on June 26. Laura is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Georgetown University. Earlier this year, Michael accepted an appointment in the Bush administration as deputy director of public affairs after serving as communications director for U.S. Senator George Allen (R-Va.). E-mail Michael at mikewaldron22@yahoo.com.

1998

Patrick DeFreitas (COM’98) of Tigard, Ore., graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business with an M.B.A. and a certificate in management technology. He is working for Intel in Portland and Santa Clara, focusing in technical marketing. E-mail Patrick at pqdl@hotmail.com.

Diego Gigliani (SMG’98) of Madrid, Spain, writes that on July 9 Maria Trujillo-Ried (SMG’98) married Juan Antonio Roche in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Diego flew in for the wedding, as did Harris Markyannis (SMG’98, CGS’96), Shadi Askari (SMG’98), Katherine Suarez (SMG’98), Summer Nasief (SMG’98, CGS’96), and Nick McCabe (SMG’98, CGS’96). They reminisced about SM-323, Starbucks, Newbury Street, and M-80 throughout the weekend. E-mail Diego at dgi@uol.com.

Meg Gomes (SSW’98) of Cranston, R.I., is the new school program manager at Valley Community School in Pawtucket, an alternative junior-senior high school for behavior disordered and/ or emotionally disordered youth. Marjorie Zeoli Music (COM’98) of Dulles, Va., recently was named executive director for the Washington Technical Professional Forum in Potomac Falls. Previously Marjorie served as the association’s manager of membership and communications. You can e-mail her at marjorie@wtp.org.

Alumni Events Calendar

To learn more about these or other alumni events in your area, please check out our online events calendar at www.bu.edu/alumni/events.

2004-2005 Kick-off Reception, Nov. 17. Alumni Club of Southwest Florida cocktail and hors d’oeuvre reception hosted by the Franken Group. Information: Gina A. DeSalvo at 800-800-3466 or alclub@bu.edu.

Day at the Museum, Nov. 20. Alumni Club of Sarasota’s day at the John and Mable Ringling Museum Complex for alumni and friends, starting with breakfast at the Banyan Café and a docent-led tour of Ca d’Zan, John and Mable Ringling’s Venetian Gothic mansion on Sarasota Bay, followed by the rest of the day at the Museum of Art and the Circus Museum. Information: Gina A. DeSalvo at 800-800-3466 or alclub@bu.edu.

Terrier Hockey at Colorado College, Nov. 27. Pregame reception, 5 p.m.; game, 7 p.m. World Arena, 3185 Venetucci Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colo. $25. Information: Amy Clifford at 617-358-3398 or amycliff@bu.edu.

Basketball Night in Miami, Nov. 28. Dinner at American Airlines Arena, followed by Miami Heat vs. Boston Celtics. Information: Gina A. DeSalvo at 800-800-3466 or alclub@bu.edu.

Morning in Naples with SMG Dean Lataif, Jan. 8. Alumni Club of Southwest Florida hosts a light breakfast and lecture on the current state of the economy by Louis Lataif (SMG’61, Hon.’90). Information: Gina A. DeSalvo at 800-800-3466 or alclub@bu.edu.
1999

Amanda Moore Burke (CAS'99) of Newark, Del., married Edward Thomas-Burke on September 23, 2003. E-mail Amanda at princessbride@comcast.net.

Grant Joung (CAS'99) and Savina Lau (CGS'98) of Boston, Mass., became engaged on June 19. They have been together since June 22, 1997, and have lived in California for the past four years. E-mail Grant at gioung@yahoo.com.

Sabrina Motta (SAR'99) of Bronx, N.Y., and Marco Gallotta were married on July 1 in Pound Ridge, N.Y. The bridal party included Ann Marie Latella (SAR'99, '01) and Lindsay Cuomo (SAR'99). Sabrina met Marco when she was studying abroad in Italy while attending BU.

Christine Weide Parmenter (CAS'99) of Oakland, N.J., was married to Ralph Parmenter, Jr., on June 26. Caroline Dacwag (CAS'00, GRS'00) and Gina Barbuto (CAS'02) were bridesmaids. Also in attendance were Reynaldo Sequeira (CAS'99), Jose M. Cacicedo (CAS'00, GRS'00), Virindar Kaushik (CAS'97, MED'99), and Jennifer Peterson (CAS'02). Christine works for Regeneration Pharmaceuticals as a research assistant. She would love to hear from friends at cawparmenter@alum.bu.edu.

Karen S. Rohan (GSM'99) of Ware, Mass., was named president of CIGNA Dental, one of the nation's largest dental-care benefits providers. She joined CIGNA in 1991, and has held numerous financial leadership positions, most recently as vice president, underwriting, for CIGNA HealthCare.

Grant Silver (CAS'99, CGS'97) and Lisa Moses (COM'99) of New York, N.Y., were married on January 3 in Westwoodings, Trinidad. In attendance were David Hadeed (SMG'99), Katherine Hadeed El-Daher (CAS'99, GRS'99), Christianne Hadeed (CAS'02, CGS'00), and Rose-Marie Hadeed (COM'04). Grant is marketing manager for The Golfer magazine, and Lisa works in the Tribeca Film Festival's event management group. Write to Grant and Lisa at grant_silver@lycos.com.

Vanessa Renee Wanderlingh (COM'99, CGS'97) of New York, N.Y., graduated from the New York City Police Academy on July 7 and begins her career as a police officer at the 25th Precinct, located in Spanish Harlem. E-mail her at vanessa1202@aol.com.

2000

Kimberly Acar (SMG'00) of Old Bridge, N.J., and Peter Hynes (CAS'01) of Worcester, Mass., are engaged and plan to marry in April 2005. Kimberly is an analyst at Goldman, Sachs & Co., and Peter is a student at UMass Medical School. E-mail them at kimberlyacar@hotmail.com or phynes@hotmai.com.

Meredithe Gayle Bobroff (CAS'00, COM'00) of Philadelphia, Pa., married Edward Joseph Murphy in March in a Las Vegas ceremony officiated by "Elvis Presley." E-mail them at bobroffmg@hotmail.com.

Stacy M. Page (SH'01) of Manchester, Conn., is a reporter for the New Britain Herald, of New Britain, Conn. She was engaged to her partner, Jimenez. They met through the BU Washington, D.C., internship program in the fall of 1999 and plan to wed next fall. Jennifer is a financial analyst for Burger King Corporation in Miami and is working on a master's in accounting. Antonio is an alum of the University of Miami and George Washington University Law School. Jennifer would love to hear from friends at jenniferfaria@hotmail.com.

Justin Harm (COM'00) and Heather Chaumont (SH'02) of Bricktown, N.J., welcomed their second child, Liam Patrick, on June 2. He weighed 6 lbs., 12.8 oz., and just fascinates his big brother, Ethan David. E-mail them at jharm78@yahoo.com or heathh12@yahoo.com.

Brad Martin (GSM'00) of Smithfield, R.I., had his book The Theater Is in the Streets: Politics and Performance in 1960s America published by the University of Massachusetts Press in August.

Francisco Navarro (CAS'00, CGS'97) of New York, N.Y., is a lawyer at Simpson, Thacher, and Bartlett in New York City. He writes that he hopes everyone is well. E-mail him at fnavarro@hotmail.com.

Adam Wittenberg (COM'00) of Hartford, Conn., is a reporter for the New Britain Herald, of New Britain, Conn. He is interested in joining the NMDP, and writes, "It feels good to finally put that degree to use after almost four years," he writes, "and to see that skills I learned at BU are relevant today." E-mail him at adamw77@comcast.net.

2001

Jessica Skorebuck Albernaz (ENG'01) of Manchester, Conn., is happy to announce that she was legally married to her partner,
Tracy Albemaz, on May 23, in Somerset, Mass. The couple met while Jessica was attending BU. Jessica is currently working for Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford as a design engineer for the F109 engine and would love to get in touch with classmates. E-mail her at jdalbemaz@hotmail.com.

Cara Beals (CFA00) of Cary, N.C., joined the creative department of the advertising agency Jennings as a production artist. Previously she worked as a graphic designer with Krause/LeFevre Studios in Rochester, N.Y.

Ginnifer Goodwin (CFA00) of New York, N.Y., costars in Walk the Line, a Johnny Cash docudrama for Fox Studios, alongside Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon. Ginnifer also recently completed the HBO dramatic pilot Big Love, with Bill Paxton, Jeanne Tripplehorn, and Chloe Sevigny, for Tom Hank's Playtone.

Gil Perel (CFA07) of Waldorf, Md., was appointed to the contrabassoon/third bassoon position of the Nashville Symphony, where he has been since 2007. Gil has performed with such orchestras as the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, the New World Symphony, and the Czech Radio Philharmonic.

Allyson McArthur Ramsey (CAS02) of Chapel Hill, N.C., wed Matthew Ramsey on May 22 in Shrub Oak, N.Y. Jessica "Mimi" Boer (CAS02, GRS03) was a bridesmaid and Eleanor Yellen Brown (SED97), Erin Schweers (CAS02), Melissa Marantz (CAS00), David Nealy (SMG01), and Shana Lyons (SHA99) attended. Allyson is currently working at Duke University's financial services division and Matthew is pursuing a Ph.D. in genetics and molecular biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. E-mail Allyson at allymcarthur@hotmail.com.

Roger Wong (SHA01) of Boston, Mass., recently completed his first year as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow at Social Capital. He will be serving his second year with Boston Cares, following his summer stint as a counselor for the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Maine. E-mail Roger at roger.wong2001@alum.bu.edu.

Gabrielle Bloch (COM02) of Scarsdale, N.Y., and Sarah Harvey (COM02) of Ocean Springs, Miss., collaborated to complete their first comedy feature—On the outskirts of Detour, shot and edited on location in Moscow.

Michaela "Kayla" Mohammadi (CFA02) of Brooklyn, Mass., exhibited her paintings at the Sacramento Street Gallery in Cambridge, Mass., in April and May. E-mail her at kaylamo@hotmail.com.

2003

Alicia Brandisi (COM03) was accepted in April into the executive training program at Ruder Finn, New York City's largest public relations agency.

Heather Elizabeth M. Le Clair (LAW03) of Cincinnati, Ohio, accepted a position with Ernst and Young, Cincinnati. She is working in the financial services industry group as a tax consultant. E-mail her at heather.leclair@ey.com.

Tanya Steinberg (CFA03) of Midland, Mich., displayed 14 paintings in the exhibition Stations of the Cross at Boston's Nielson Gallery last spring. The show also featured a selection from her Lamentation series.

Venetia Maria Stellion (CFA03) and Arturo Chacon-Cruz (CFA03) of Houston, Tex., were married on August 22, 2003, in Montreal at St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Arturo, a tenor, has a job with the Houston Grand Opera.

In Memoriam

Robert A. Graham (SAR07), Portland, Ore.
Harry L. London (SMG25), Arcata, Calif.
Frank W. Mahon (LAW23, 26), North Dartmouth, Mass.
Constance M. Ryan Barous (SAR06), Seabrook, N.H.
Dorothy Kelley Powers (SAR26), Millersville, N.Y.
Lena McCooi McWhirter (SED98, SSH07), Carmichael, Calif.
Mary E. Fisher Adams (CAS09), Mattapoisett, Mass.
Evelyn Robinson Atwood (CAS29), Bingham, Maine
Helena A. Janson Kraus (SED29, GRS25), North Branford, Conn.
David Laven (SMG29, LAW29), Boston, Mass.
Barbara Walker Tibbets (CAS39), Palm Desert, Calif.
Joseph Coleman Richards (SRE30, STH31), Washington, D.C.

Ewing L. Lightfoot (SMG31, GSR41), La Habra Heights, Calif.
Edward R. Masters (SMG31), Marietta, Ga.
Mira Preston Kinsman (CAS32), Billerica, Mass.
Laverne B. Thomasson (SRE12, STH34), Brookline, Mass.
Ellen J. Day (SED31, 37), Hingham, Mass.
Ira Carbone DeVico (PAL34), Oak Park, Ill.
M. Francis Hayes (SED34, 35), Bristol, Conn.
Josephine R. Higgins (SED34), Shrewsbury, Mass.
Edgar W. James (SMG34), Seekonk, Mass.
Richard H. Mugridge (SRE34), Saratoga, Fla.
Reginald M. Coles (SMG35, SED37), Oceanside, Calif.
Violet S. Edison (PAL35), Bozrah, Conn.
Elizabeth B. MacKinnon (SED35), West Newton, Mass.
Joseph M. Kurth (LAW35), Connellsville, Pa.
Marjorie Pickard (GRS36), North Grafton, Mass.

Ruth Burgeson Ouellette (PAL37), Bridgewater, Mass.
Norman Boris (SMG39), Medfield, Mass.
Harold F. Chase (MED38), Keene, N.H.
Betty Eames Hatfield (CAS38), Grafton, Tex.
Geraldine E. Muller Koenig (SAR38), Saratoga, Calif.
Leonard Newman (SMG38), Framingham, Mass.
Harold B. Soloveitzik (LAW38), Westerly, R.I.
Aaron S. Bell (SMG39), Newton Highlands, Mass.
Anne H. Browon (CAS39, GRS40), Bridgewater, N.J.
Jeanette S. Brown (SAR39), Paris, Maine.
John A. Huffman (STH39), Carol Stream, Ill.
Joan H. Bowser Paine (SMG39), Brewster, Mass.
Edward J. Ruane (SMG39), Lexington, Mass.
June E. Stumbles (SAR39), Grass Valley, Calif.
Spirit Ascendant

BY NATALIE JACOBSON McCracken

Three days before he died, on June 12, ninety-seven-year-old School of Theology Dean Emeritus Walter Muelder reminded a gathering of retired Methodist ministers of their continuing obligations. It was their duty, he said, to keep telling clergy and laity that on matters now threatening church unity, specifically homosexuality, decisions must be based on scripture in its historical context, and also on evolving tradition, scientific reasoning, and experience. That was the lesson he taught as dean from 1945 to 1972, classroom teacher until 1993, and thereafter: the necessary link between spirituality and reason, the importance of continually evaluating judgments, and the obligation to service.

Muelder (STH’39, GRS’38, Hon. ’77), son of Epke Muelder (STH’09, GRS’17) and Minnie Muelder, grew up in a parsonage where profound piety and social commitment were coherent imperatives. By high school he was meeting those responsibilities as a socialist and activist. He graduated from Knox College, earned his STH degree, was ordained in the Methodist Church, then added a BU Ph.D. in Philosophy to help him reconcile his Christianity with Marxism. (In 1972, an outspoken socialist for half a century, he would write, “I often have a mild mystical experience in the midst of corporate worship.”) He spent a year on a two-church circuit in Wisconsin, six at Berea College in Appalachia, and seven at the University of Southern California, then returned to STH as dean.

When he arrived, the faculty was essentially Methodist; ten of the eleven regular members held BU divinity degrees and doctorates. When he retired, twenty-two of the forty-one faculty members had earned their highest degree elsewhere. Sixteen represented non–Methodist Protestant denominations, the Greek Orthodox Church, Hinduism, and Islam; the campus rabbit taught part-time. STH remained (and remains) a Methodist seminary, while providing a broadly ecumenical education well before that became the fashion.

Between 1933 and 1968, nearly half the U.S. degrees in theology received by blacks were earned at STH, partly because the dean practiced affirmative action before the term existed, sometimes recommending admission despite the absence of customary credentials. “But he didn’t tolerate anything but academic excellence from anybody, black or white,” says Leonard Haynes, Jr. (STH’48, history) of the dean. Paul Deats (STH’54, GRS’58), who is now Walter Muelder Professor in Christian Social Ethics Emeritus, recalls painful moments in Dean Muelder’s study: “I would stammer, ‘I know it, but I can’t say it,’ and he would respond sternly each time, ‘If you can’t say it, you don’t know it.’”

Meanwhile, Muelder’s personal study extended into economics, political science, anthropology, and other social sciences; students were expected to broaden their education according to their own needs. At his inauguration as president of the University of Charleston, Edwin H. Welch (STH’58, GRS’74) recalled his Muelder-inspired study of labor unions, the ARAMCO oil company in the Middle East, medical experimentation, racial justice, law, administration, international economic development, nuclear proliferation, Marx, and Max Weber, along with visits to Haymarket for Saturday morning shopping, the Gardner Museum, and the Brattle Book Store.

Equally important was instruction in moral and civic responsibility. Last year pastor Paul Gongloff (STH’33) described a Sunday before classes began when he was among entering students invited to the dean’s home for dinner, preceded by a game of ring toss in which the dean kept score, and cheated. At their first class, Muelder expressed his disappointment in their behavior that day, allowed them to squirm, confused, and then smiled slightly. “I was greatly disappointed because...I cheated you blind at that game we played, and you didn’t speak the truth or hold me accountable. Now, let’s see what we can learn together about social ethics and the ways of God’s justice.”

“He pointed us to the basic spiritual dimensions of any social behavior,” says Evans Crawford (STH’46, GRS’57), dean of the Howard University chapel for thirty-five years. “The dean did more for the civil rights movement than anyone knows,” says Douglas Moore...
attributing his business success as well as his community service to Muelder's influence. "His students have been leaders in colleges and churches all over the South."

Among them, Martin Luther King, Jr. also cited Muelder in his intellectual and philosophical development and called Personalism his "basic philosophical position."

Personalism, the philosophy that teaches that the person is the fundamental principle explaining all reality, including the existence of a supreme person, was part of Muelder's upbringing: his father had studied with its founder, BU Professor Borden Parker Bowne. Having studied with Bowne's student Edgar Brightman (STH'40, GRS'42), who further developed Personalism, Muelder extended its communitarian aspects: the individual's social role.

Visiting professorships, seven books, and several hundred articles built his reputation as socialist and leader. In a 1950 Reader's Digest article, "Methodism's Pink Fringe," Stanley High (STH'37) accused STH and its dean of moving the church toward Communism. Muelder sent a closely reasoned, coolly angry response rejected by Reader's Digest and published in Zion's Herald ("Years of experience have taught [High] how to cut skillful figures of insinuation and distortion of truth on the ice of misrepresentation"). He attended the STH Valentine Ball that year in a suit trimmed in pink fringe.

He advanced ecumenism in the Methodist Church, the Boston Theological Institute, and the World Council of Churches (where, he said, he was also "gadfly to get the woman question on all . . . agendas. The more recent feminism movement is not always aware of its predecessors.").

Ecumenism also characterized his personal beliefs, as did the continuing religious inquiry he urged to the retired Methodist ministers on June 9. In an interview recorded for the STH archives eight days before, he recalled having conducted services for a Hindu leader who was spending six weeks in India. "I had no trouble doing that," Muelder said. In 1993, he had told the entering STH class, "I belong to Jesus." Now eleven years later, he quoted that and added, "You have to belong somewhere."

Contributions in Mueller's memory may be sent to the Theology Foundation, Boston University School of Theology, Room 108, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

**Walter Muelder in 1997. Photograph by Vernon Doucette**
The Quintessential Professor

Murray Yaeger, a professor emeritus of communication, died June 13. He was seventy-five. His more than thirty years of teaching at the College of Communication mirrored the rise of the television industry, beginning with his dissertation on Edward R. Murrow's See It Now, which he researched by observing Murrow's story conferences and editing sessions. It's estimated that he taught thousands of COM students over the years. His former student Jay Roewe (COM'79), now senior vice president of production for HBO Films, knew him well.

BY JAY ROEWE

The last time I spoke to Murray Yaeger was on a Tuesday, June 8 of this year, five days before he died. Cancer had spread throughout his body, but he was intent on explaining what a wonderful weekend he'd had with some BU friends and a streetful of neighbors at his home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Then, ever blunt, Murray told me that the doctor had assured him he wouldn't die in pain. I didn't know what to say. If one person had served as a springboard for thousands into the business of art, communications, and entertainment — myself included — it was Murray Yaeger.

“Murray,” I said, “if it weren't for you, I wouldn't be here.” Here, for me, is HBO. I thoroughly enjoy my job and have a wonderful wife and two great sons. I was trying to tell him that I realized many of my most important life decisions were due to the indelible imprint he had made on my life.

He deflected the compliment, a custom of Murray's. Despite his strong ego and strong opinions, when you complimented him, he'd blush from embarrassment, almost like a little boy. But I told him anyway, and he heard me.

I first sensed he was last, when, after reluctantly turned down seats for the premiere screening of HBO's miniseries Angels in America, a favorite play of his and a current project of mine.

Denise Graveline (COM'76), Mark Feffer (COM'82), Adam Mosston (COM'82), and I had a strong connection with Murray, having been his students and his production assistants in the late seventies and early eighties. For us, he became teacher, boss, mentor, and one of the most influential people in our lives. And so we conspired to get one more visit in.

That June weekend culminated in a lobster feast at the home of neighbor Lora McGrath. Despite obvious pain, he stayed for a long time, animated and full of life. The stories and his students were what energized him, his "best medicine," the neighbors said.

Growing up, I had an image of what a great university professor would be like: scholarly, worldly, intelligent, witty, energetic, dramatic, loved and often feared at the same time. Murray was that quintessential professor. And whether you knew him up close and personal or from a distance, he made a lasting impression and a major impact on the estimated 10,000 BU students he taught between 1956 and 1988.

In 1979, Boston University honored him with a Metcalf Award, the first given to a professor at the School of Public Communication. At the College of Communication's fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1997, Murray Yaeger was honored as the most influential professor in the history of the school.

His memorial service a few weeks after his death was a much smaller event. Once more, we gathered at Lora's home, this time invited to share our memories with his friends and neighbors. His oil paintings — many of which had graced his annual Christmas cards — hung on every wall, filling the house with his glorious spirit.

I'm convinced that spirit lives on in the heartbeats of former students throughout the communications industry, from small public relations, advertising, and production companies to television networks, film studios, and publishing companies. Whether they experienced him in his famous BF 101 freshman class or were lucky enough to take his other classes, I know his students will not forget him.

Some evidence of that lasting legacy is at www.bu.edu/alumni/yaeger, a special Web site we've created with Dean John Schulz, Professor Bill Lord, Stephanie Toddello, and Robyn Neeley to let students and colleagues share their memories in an evolving tribute. It's an emotional site: someone recalls kindness to his parents at graduation, another credits him with preventing a freshman from dropping out, still others are proud that he tuned in to their shows, or saw their films, or just cheered them on. It's an amazing compilation of one man's accomplishments, written in the voices and the lives and the work of the people he loved best.

We've also started a Murray Yaeger scholarship to allow all of his former students to support future students the same way Murray helped us — with inspiration and confidence. I can't think of a better tribute, or a finer person to honor.
JUNE SPAULDING (CSS'72), Rumney, N.H.

JOSEPH F. GRAMOLINI (CSS'60), New York, N.Y.

JAMES W. GILLAN (CSS'79), West yacht, N.Y.

RAYMOND H. THOMAS (CSS'79), Louisville, Ky.

RAYMOND BELL (CSS'79), Charlotte, Vt.

JAMES W. GILLAN (CSS'79), Enfield, Conn.

JOSEPH F. GRAMOLINI (CSS'79), New York, N.Y.

JOHN F. HOAR (CSS'79), Punta Gorda, Fla.

A. ROGER THIBAudeau (CSS'79), Seattle, Wash.

PAUL R. CALLAHAN (CSS'79), Skaneateles, N.Y.

HAROLD J. CHEYNE, JR. (CSS'70), Fayetteville, Ariz.

STEPHEN E. CHILDS (CSS'70), Meredith, N.H.

CHESTER H. RANDALL (CSS'70), El Cajon, Calif.

MARY A. RAINVILLE (CSS'70), Bradford, Mass.

JUNE SPAULDING (CSS'70), Rumney, N.H.

PAULA AVRATIN (CSS'70), Sharon, Mass.

FREDERICK E. BAMPORD (CSS'70), Cambridge, Mass.

ZDENEK FRANTISEK BEDNAR (CSS'70), West Springfield, N.H.

NANCY Y. BILLINGS (CSS'70), Tewksbury, Mass.

MILTON L. CRAMER (CSS'70), Torrington, Conn.

JOSEPH A. DASHA (CSS'70), Needham, Mass.

DAVID C. FAGIN (CSS'70), Chestnut Hill, Mass.

WILLIAM S. ROGERS (CSS'70), Glastonbury, Conn.

WILLIAM B. SKELTON (CSS'70), Auburn, Maine

EDWIN J. WRIGHT (CSS'70), Wilmington, Mass.

ANTHONY C. ASSAD (CSS'70), Worcester, Mass.

HAROLD A. BAER (CSS'70), Chilmark, Mass.

CLARENCE L. BREWER (CSS'70), Medway, Mass.

TIMOTHY F. CLIFFORD (CSS'70), Salem, Mass.

MARTHA E. CUMMINGS (CSS'70), Bellevue, Neb.

JOHN R. HEALY (CSS'70), Rye, N.H.

ROBERT A. MARSHELLO (CSS'70), Wakefield, R.I.

FLORA S. ROSENFIELD (CSS'70), Stillwater, Pa.

MARGARET R. SHUTE TOURIGNANT (SON'60), Center Harbor, N.H.

WILLIAM E. WARD (COM'70, CGS'70), Montpelier, Vt.

JACK BARSUM (COM'70, Worcestershire, Mass.

GEORGE H. GUNDRE (COM'70, DGE'70), Prescott, Ariz.

RALPH P. PALLIN (COM'70, Pineville, N.C.

LEE MOULTON (SON'70, COM'70, Willow-on-Hudson, N.Y.

LEONARD E. SAISON (MED'70, Newton, Mass.

CHARLES J. BURNS (MED'70), Marietta, Ga.

JOHN N. CLARE (ENG'70), Atlanta, Ga.

JACQUELINE M. LAVIN (SAR'70), Brewster, Mass.

DONALD R. WOODWORTH (SAR'70), Pacifica, Calif.

CHRISTOS J. BENTAS (SAR'70, CWG'70, Northfield, Mass.

CHARLES D. KEYES (MED'70), East Greenwich, R.I.

JEAN MASKWA MCCARTHY (SAR'70), Hamilton, N.H.

CHARLES L. MYERS (STH'70), Bloomington, Ind.

DAVID J. POWELL (STH'70), Lindale, Tex.

ARTHUR STAVISKY (STH'70, DGE'70), Great Barrington, Mass.

ANTONIO G. ARMATA (STH'70), Watertown, Conn.

MARTHA E. CUMMINGS (CSS'70), Skaneateles, N.Y.

MIKE THAYER (CSS'70), Westmore, N.Y.

VIRGINIA M. BOWMAN (CSS'70), Newton, Mass.

RICHARD W. CASSIDY (CSS'70), Loganport, Ind.

DANIEL F. MCPHERSON (CSS'70), Peterborough, N.H.

ROBERT SALVATORe DiJULIO (CSS'70), Madison, N.H.

JOSEPH W. DYER (CSS'70), Providence, R.I.

FREDERICK B. HUBNER (CSS'70), Leominster, Mass.

MILTON L. CRAMER (CSS'70), Needham Heights, Mass.

DORIS A. CLARK (CSS'70, Bedford, Mass.

ELLEN L. CULL (CSS'70), Lowell, Mass.

LEROY DOWSKY (CSS'70), Colonial, N.Y.

MYRON D. GOLDSMITH (CSS'70), Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

TOMAS H. HAWKIDGE (CSS'70), Wakefield, R.I.

JOHN R. HEALY (CSS'70), Newton, Mass.

MARY L. LANDSMAN (CSS'70), Springfield, Mass.

MARGARET A. BANKS (SON'67), Talladega, Ala.

GARY J. CRABTREE (CSS'67), Center Harbor, N.H.

EDWIN L. HURST (CSS'67), Providence, R.I.

FREDERICK B. HUBNER (CSS'67), Leominster, Mass.

GARRETT B. MURPHY (CSS'67), MANY, Mass.

MATILDA S. MIES (CSS'67), Penney Farms, Fla.

RICHARD W. CASSIDY (CSS'67), Logansport, Ind.

DANIEL F. MCPHERSON (CSS'67), Peterborough, N.H.

DANIEL EDWARD FISCHER (CSS'67), Virginia Beach, Va.

ROBERT SALVATORe DeJULIO (CSS'70), Madison, N.H.

Lester G. OReilly (CSS'70), Springfield, Va.

CATHERINE WINSHIP (CSS'70), Belfast, Maine

DAVID C. O'BRIEN (CSS'70), Sturbridge, Mass.

Dennis J. SEDGELEY (CSS'70), Seattle, Wash.

BARRY S. SIGAL (CSS'70), Bloomfield, Conn.

ALPHONZO A. SUTHERLAND (CSS'71), Hampton, Va.

JUDITH L. LOMBARDO (CSS'72), Newport, R.I.

RICHARD B. MAIDMAN (CSS'72, CGS'72), Pittsburgh, Pa.

WILLIAM H. MEYERHOE (CSS'73), Chardon, Ohio
Master Teacher — Recollected in Respect

CAS Professor Emeritus Edward Wagenknecht taught English at Boston University from 1947 to 1968, and was a prolific author. Wes Mott (CAS’68, GRS’69, ’75), a professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, studied with him, and remembers him fondly.

by Wes Mott

Edward Wagenknecht, who died on May 24 in St. Albans, Vermont, at the age of 84, was the most intimidating professor I had at BU, but few others taught me as much about the arts of writing and of teaching.

He was already nearing the end of his long teaching career at BU in the spring of 1966, when I took EN281, the one-semester survey of American literature from the colonial period through the nineteenth century. (We students felt rather imposed upon — other professors required the compact one-volume Norton American Tradition in Literature for this course, but we had to buy the full-blown two-volume version designed for the two-semester survey.) Although short, he was an imposing presence. He walked briskly into class at ten a.m. sharp each day. Wearing alternately a navy-blue and a brown suit with a starched white shirt, close-cropped hair parted in the middle, and rimless glasses pinched over chiseled features, he seemed a figure from an earlier era. In other classes, professors editorialized on the widening war in Vietnam to make their subjects “relevant,” and experimented with multimedia techniques and a folksy style to please their students. In Professor Wagenknecht’s class, the routine never varied.

On the first day we received a mimeographed list of daily topics for the whole semester — a short paper was required for each meeting. Each day, for the first ten minutes, he would read two or three of our papers at random and anonymously occasionally commenting briefly. Most days, for the rest of the period he would read a chapter from a book he had written on the author of the day! We knew about his prodigious scholarship — many of us had used his monumental Caravade of the English Novel and Caravade of the American Novel for high school research projects — but we were hardly prepared for a professor who seemingly had written a book on each author in the course.)

One day early in the term, one of my more glib essays emerged from the pile. The professor read it with grave deliberation, paused just a moment, and said, “Now isn’t that silly?” Never again did I regard a nightly assignment as routine.

The midterm was a Byzantine, brain-numbing mix of twenty-five titles to which we were to supply author names and then match, with twenty-five scrambled descriptions, and fifty dense sentences, some of which harbored errors (identifiable from readings or lectures), which we were to indicate. An exam not designed to indulge students for whom studying literature meant merely self-expression!

Nor did Professor Wagenknecht ever betray his own “feelings.” Except twice. In one class he announced his contempt for Arthur Miller, who, he declared, had “ruined” Marilyn Monroe. (It turned out he also had a scholarly — and passionate — interest in film, not yet a respectable academic field, and had published highly regarded books on movies from the silent era on.)

On April 8 he strode into class at ten sharp as usual. According to the syllabus, we were to finish Whittier that day before catching up with Holmes. Instead he opened a small book and said simply, “Today I

Janet Codor (CAS’74), San Francisco, Calif.
James C. Harford (COM’74),
San Antonio, Tex.
Donna Gallin King (CAS’74),
Bronxville, N.Y.
Sharon H. Ensminger Timm (GFA’74),
Concord, Mass.
Margaret O’Neil Aloisi (SON’75),
New Britain, Conn.
Ruth M. Batson (SED’76), Boston, Mass.
Charles Browning (SED’76),
Liverpool, N.Y.
Patricia M. McGovern (SED’76),
Clifton, Va.
Richard H. Munzing (LAW’76), Putney, Vt.
Stephen R. Richardson (GSM’76),
Tigard, Ore.
Elizabeth M. Kinnicutt (SON’77),
Lincolnville, Maine.
Jeffrey K. Sawers (SED’77), Concord, Calif.
Nancy J. Churchhill (SSW’79),
Concord, N.H.
Elaine A. Downs (SON’79),
New Bedford, Mass.

Michael H. Murray (SON’79), Ocala, Fla.
Mary S. Albers (GRS’80), Atlanta, Ga.
Bonnie Bauman (GSM’83),
Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Joan Newton Dixon (SSW’83),
Groveland, Mass.
Kenneth R. Melanson (SMG’83),
Jupiter, Fla.
Nicholas Wysolt (MET’83),
Naperville, Ill.
Vladimir A. Breslau (LAW’84),
Brookline, Mass.
Susan Ann Savini (CAS’84), Penfield, N.Y.
Paul S. Lazar (SMG’85, GSM’90),
Stanford, Conn.
Ellen S. Baylies (SON’86), Bridgeville, Pa.
Jennifer Alice Clark (CAS’86),
New York, N.Y.
Pamela Given Goodwin (SSW’86),
Rumford, R.I.
Merrill Beth Kraus (SED’81),
Crystal River, Fla.
Roger Genes Lerseth (GRS’01),
Oak Harbor, Wash.

Faculty Obituaries

Murray Bernstein, 80, professor and founding member of the Henry Goldman School of Dental Medicine department of orthodontics, on June 25. Bernstein was born in Brooklyn, New York, and spent his adolescence in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Portland, Maine. In 1945 he received his bachelor’s degree from Tufts University. He was awarded the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Key when he completed his studies at Tufts School of Dental Medicine. Bernstein met his wife, Shirley, while in college, and the two were married in 1948.

He completed postdoctoral studies in orthodontics in 1951 and became a clinical professor at Tufts. Henry Goldman asked him to start the orthodontic program at BU’s School of Graduate Dentistry, where he was director and a clinical professor of orthodontics for thirty years. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Dentists and a staff member of the dental department of Beth
shall read *The Terrible Meek*, by Charles Rann Kennedy. Neither title nor author meant anything to us, but he proceeded to read dramatically an oddly moving 1922 play about an execution. He assumed the voices of all the characters, including the soldier who carries out the order, the suffering mother of the condemned, and the captain in charge of the detail, who agonizes over a new sense of moral responsibility. At precisely 10:50 he said, "That concludes *The Terrible Meek,"* closed the book, and left the room as if it were any other day. Briefly stunned by this departure from routine, we stirred uneasily before scooping up our books. Few seemed to have remembered until the end that this was Good Friday. We had just been engaged not simply in a parable of the Crucifixion, but also in an allegory of pacifism. It was a more powerful performance than any anti-war harangue I heard over the next several years.

At the end of the last class, Professor Wagenknecht placed slips of paper on the radiator ledge by the window alphabetically with our cumulative grade for our nightly papers. I had been exposed as a callow fool by the sternest and most rigid of drillmasters, but still hoped that my subsequent diligence had earned me a respectable B-.

Gooseflesh crawled up my spine when I picked up my slip and read "A." I turned incredulously toward the professor, still at the desk, and could have sworn there was a twinkle in his eye.

About fifteen years ago I encountered Edward Wagenknecht in the stacks at Mugar Memorial Library, working on yet another book. We nodded cordially. He had scarcely changed — same neat suit and pressed shirt, trimmed hair, and rimless glasses. He continued to publish books until 1994, his works including general introductions to a widening range of authors, monographs still admired by specialists, coffee table books on favorite aspects of cinema, even novels. The sheer volume of his literary output is staggering. But what lingers in my memory most palpably — though I couldn’t summon the nerve to gush out my gratitude that day — are his impeccable integrity and the respect he showed his students by refusing to compromise his expectations of us.

Wagenknecht’s papers are at the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center. Donations may be sent for the purchase of significant books on American literature in his name to the Gotlieb Center, Boston University, 77 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

Israel Deaconess Medical Center for more than thirty years.

Bernstein lectured on orthodontics across the United States and overseas, and maintained practices in Brookline and Framingham until his retirement in 1990.

“He was deeply respected by his students and colleagues and had a major impact on the teaching and practice of orthodontics,” says Spencer D. Frankl, dean of the Goldman School of Dental Medicine.

**John Robert Nelson, 84, STH dean emeritus, on July 6. He was a Methodist theologian known for his role in the ecumenical movement and in bioethics and medical ethics as they relate to theology.**

Nelson was an outstanding student and athlete in the Evansville, Illinois, schools and at DePauw University, where he was a football All-American. He earned a master’s degree in theology from Yale, and he met his wife, Patricia Mercer, there. In 1943 he joined the Marines as a chaplain and served in the South Pacific and China.

He earned his doctorate at the University of Zurich in Switzerland in 1948, studying with the famed theologian Emil Brunner. In 1951 he published the *The Realm of Redemption*, a widely read book on Protestant doctrine.

He was dean of Vanderbilt University Divinity School from 1957 to 1960. In 1965 he joined the School of Theology faculty, where he was a professor of systematic theology until 1983; he served as dean from 1972 to 1974. Having arrived at STH at the height of the civil rights movement, he “encouraged faculty and students to actively participate in enacting social and political change,” says his son, Eric Nelson. “He challenged the faculty to recognize that theology schools constitute a nexus for universities, the church, and civic society.”

In 1968 Nelson taught at Rome’s Gregorian University, “the first Protestant theologian to teach at the Vatican in 400 years,” his son says, and in 1969, the family lived in Paris, where Nelson was a visiting minister at the American Church. He became involved in the new field of bioethics in the 1970s, relating theological understanding to the science of genetics and medical technology.

Nelson became director of the Institute of Religion at the Texas Medical Center in Houston in 1987, as well as an adjunct professor of medicine at Baylor University.

“Bob Nelson was a major presence on the world stage of the ecumenical movement,” said retired Tufts Professor Howard Hunter in the *Boston Globe*. “His contributions to the World Council of Churches were many and varied, both in his role as delegate and as officer, and as an influential advocate in speeches and writings and educational administration for many decades.”

STH Professor Emeritus Richard Nesmith, who succeeded Nelson as dean of STH, says, “Bob Nelson has made a rich and diverse contribution in the life of the church, both as an ecumenical leader and a teacher. We are indebted to him.”
A Prescription for Big Pharma

Marcia Angell (MED’67) is taking a stand against the drug industry, which she says deceives and exploits us.

by Tim Stoddard

There's a new threat to your health, and Marcia Angell says it isn't microbial: it's big pharma. The drug industry claiming to bring you better living through chemistry is in fact undermining American health care, she says, through shady business practices that corrupt research, bias physicians, and stymie innovation. From her perspective, drug makers are ripping off Americans by charging stratospheric prices for drugs that are rarely innovative.

Angell (MED’67) is an unlikely muckraker. Former editor-in-chief of the New England Journal of Medicine, one of the country’s most prestigious medical journals, she is now a senior lecturer at Harvard Medical School. Her new book, The Truth About the Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us and What To Do About It, is a searing indictment of the pharmaceutical industry as corrupt and corrupting. A physician trained in pathology, Angell has dissected big pharma from stem to stern, revealing the various roles it plays in our health-care system, what’s gone wrong with the system, and how we can fix it. “Despite all its excesses,” she writes, “this is an important industry that should be saved — mainly from itself.”

During her two decades at the Journal, Angell saw firsthand the meteoric rise of big pharma and the spreading influence of drug companies on American medicine. “I was dismayed at the extent to which the medical profession was abdicating its responsibility to educate medical students and physicians about prescription drugs,” she says, “and instead allowing the drug companies to do that.” When she joined the Journal in 1979, drug trials generally were conducted at academic medical centers, with pharmaceutical companies keeping a professional distance. But in recent years, she says, drug makers have been “exercising too much influence over the design and reporting of clinical research — that is, over the evaluation of their own products. I was seeing more and more obviously biased trials.” After she stepped down as editor-in-chief in 2000, Angell began to write a book about clinical trials. “But I soon found that all roads led to the pharmaceutical industry,” she says, “and last year I decided to just bite the bullet and write about big pharma.”

Risky Business

Drug companies say that they must charge high prices to cover their huge investments in research and development (R&D) and to ensure a steady stream of innovative medicines. Laurence Kotlikoff, a professor of economics at the College of Arts and Sciences and a
consultant to the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, supports high prices for prescription drugs for this reason. "The reality is that this is a highly risky business," he says, "and it's very expensive for drug companies to bring a product to market." In a recent Boston Globe op-ed piece, Kotlikoff argues that "to develop each of the high-priced drugs that we buy, the pharmaceutical companies pay, on average, almost $1 billion. Like it or not, the drug companies need to recoup these costs, and we need to let them. If we don't, we'll be doing a grave disservice to ourselves in limiting the prospects of new cures for painful and often life-threatening diseases."

A growing number of Americans are questioning that rationale, though, and Angell is leading the charge. Her book reveals that drug companies spend far less on R&D than they would have us believe. "Research and development is a relatively small part of the budgets of the big drug companies," she says. "They spend over twice as much on marketing and administration, and they actually make more in profits than they spend on R&D." In 2002 the top ten drug companies spent 14 percent of sales on R&D, but 31 percent on marketing and administration.

"You can't call an industry risky when it has consistently been the most profitable in the United States for over two decades," she says, noting that last year big pharma fell from first place to third. "As long as they have those immense profits left at the end of the year, they are doing better than fine."

The enormous profits drug companies make on blockbuster drugs are supposed to encourage innovation. But Angell says big pharma is hardly innovative. "The Food and Drug Administration classifies new drugs according to whether they are likely to offer anything better than drugs already on the market," she explains. "In the past six years, of the 487 drugs that entered the market, 379 — 78 percent — were considered no better than older drugs. And most of those were not even new compounds, just old ones in new combinations or formulations."

The vast majority of new drugs entering the market are so-called me-tos, minor variations of blockbuster drugs. When one company discovers a breakthrough drug, Angell says, its competitors jockey to cash in on the lucrative market with their own me-too versions. The upshot is whole families of me-too drugs, such as the six different cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins and the five different selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors that are variations of Prozac. Pfizer's Lipitor, the fourth statin on the market, is now the top-selling dmg in the world, but Angell points out that there's little scientific evidence that it is any better than the other me-tos at comparable doses.

While drug companies churn out me-tos, she argues, the truly innovative research is carried out at universities and small biotech companies, which are supported in large part by the federally funded National Institutes of Health (NIH). At least one-third of big pharma's new drugs are now licensed from outside sources, she says, and many of the most important breakthrough drugs have been developed in this way. Taxol, the best-selling cancer drug in history, is a case in point. The brand name for paclitaxel, Taxol was first derived from the Pacific yew tree in the 1960s, and the National Cancer Institute, a branch of the NIH, spent nearly thirty years and $83 million laying the groundwork of basic research on the compound. Then in 1991, Bristol-Myers Squibb licensed the drug from the NIH. The company did none of the basic research on Taxol, but projects the image of having developed a life-saving drug.
If taxpayers fund most of the innovative research, Angell questions why consumers have to pay the drug companies excessive prices for the final product. “The much-repeated assertion that it costs on average $802 million to bring a new drug to market is wildly off the mark,” she says. “I would have no objection if drug companies admitted that they depend on publicly funded university and government labs for the earlier stages of research, but they don’t. By implying that they are the source of the basic research, as well as the later development phase of R&D, they can get away with charging exorbitant prices.”

Rx FOR BIG PHARMA
From Angell’s perspective, the prognosis for big pharma isn’t good. She sees a staggering giant that continues to make outrageous profits, but is desperately in need of intervention. Americans are fed up with exorbitant prices for prescription drugs, she says, and there is growing political pressure to legalize the importation of cheaper drugs from Canada (see sidebar). Many top-selling drugs are scheduled to go off patent in the next few years, and she says there are very few new drugs in the pipeline ready to take the place of the profitable but aging blockbusters.

Angell suggests several reforms that would steer big pharma back to its original purpose of making new, better, and affordable prescription drugs. Most important, she says, is to change the FDA’s standards of review so that new drugs have to be compared with similar older drugs. “If FDA approval were at least partially contingent on how a new drug compares with an older one for the
same condition," she says, "it would cut down on the number of me-too drugs, since very few would prove to be better at comparable doses. By default, then, the drug companies would have to turn their attention to what they claim they are doing — finding innovative drugs.

Cutting back on the number of me-toos entering the market would also drastically reduce big pharma's immense marketing costs. "Truly innovative drugs don't require much marketing," she says, "but me-too drugs do. It takes relentless flogging to persuade doctors and patients to choose one drug over a very similar one, especially since there is usually very little scientific basis on which to make the choice. I estimate that marketing adds about 25 percent to the prices of drugs, so that would be an enormous saving."

Bolstering the FDA's authority alone won't save big pharma from itself. Angell proposes several other measures, such as creating an Institute for Prescription Drug Trials within the National Institutes of Health to prevent drug companies from slanting the research in favor of their products. She also wants to get big pharma out of medical education and prevent drug companies from plying doctors and medical students with samples, free meals, and junkets to tropical resorts.

**IT'S NOT SO SIMPLE**

Not everyone agrees with Angell's arguments. Iain Cockburn, a professor of economics and finance at the School of Management, has studied pharmaceutical R&D investment for the past fifteen years, and he says that her assessment of big pharma is off the mark. While Angell says big pharma can't call itself a risky industry when it's the most profitable, "for economists," Cockburn says, "that argument doesn't stand scrutiny." Her analysis, he says, looks only at successful drug companies that turn out blockbusters and ignores companies that have fallen by the wayside. And he points to the "dry holes," the many projects in which drug companies have invested millions without turning out a blockbuster. "Just looking at what was spent solely on a successful drug ignores that problem," he says. "If you've got this gusher of an oil rig, and it only cost you $100,000 to drill the hole, it's no good saying that the cost of drilling for oil is only $100,000. Not true."

Cockburn also takes issue with Angell's portrayal of me-too drugs. "In all the years I've spent studying this industry and talking to executives in R&D," he says, "never do they say the easy money is in me-toos. The money comes from blockbusters — the first in class, the first ace-inhibitor, the first drug for erectile dysfunction. The trouble, he adds, is that those don't come by very often, and when new opportunities do open up, companies rush for a piece of the market. "What you find," Cockburn says, "is that there will be some breakthrough in basic science, the industry jumps on it, and all the firms go to work trying to come up with a useable drug. The ones who get there first get the blockbuster. And everybody else, who's finishing second, third, fourth, fifth in this race? What are they going to do? Just drop the whole project having spent all that money? No, they might as well go the last step and bring it to market." He acknowledges that there might be some parasitic companies tweaking existing drugs into me-toos, "but I think they're few and far between."

Cockburn notes that the number of new drugs has indeed been dwindling in recent years. But he doesn't attribute the decline to lack of innovation or to money wasted on me-toos. While spending on R&D has steadily increased, he says, there have been no new broad-spectrum antibiotics marketed in almost forty years, and many forms of cancer and such chronic diseases as diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and schizophrenia still lack effective medications. "These are scientifically very hard problems to solve," he says. "A lot of the low-hanging fruit has already been picked, in terms of the easiest, most straightforward biomedical problems to solve. So now more and more money has got to be spent to try to solve the harder and harder problems."

Marcia Angell doesn't buy that. Whether the scientific problems are harder now than they were twenty years ago, she says, is merely speculation: "I imagine that scientists have always thought that the hard problems were the ones they hadn't yet solved." Even if recent breakthrough drugs amount to low-hanging fruit, at issue is who found the fruit, not just who picked it. "Most of big pharma's R&D dollars go into clinical trials," she says, "which come at the very end of the research and development process. They depend on others for the early stages. Independent analyses show that only about 15 percent of the research papers that lead to new drugs come from the companies that market the drugs. So there's no evidence that big pharma is putting much effort into discovering important drugs, although they're certainly putting a lot of effort into acquiring them from others. Still, the industry insists on being rewarded as though it were the source of innovation."
Not All Nurture, Not All Nature — So What's the Difference?

by Natalie Jacobson McCracken

In 1996, College of Communication Professor Caryl Rivers and Rosalind Barnett, a senior scientist at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, published She Works/He Works, a cheerful look at how well mothers, fathers, and children were adapting to the nation's new lifestyle. But popular books since then declare that men and women are essentially different. Eight years of research and rethinking later, Rivers and Barnett have published Same Difference: How Gender Myths Are Hurting Our Relationships, Our Children, and Our Jobs (Basic Books). Based on their analysis of 1,500 studies, it declares that although there are, after all, basic differences between the sexes, the variation within each sex is much greater.

Bostonia: Why is it that the studies we hear about are almost entirely those that emphasize inherent differences between men and women?

Caryl Rivers: The media love this kind of bad news. Recently we've had cover stories saying that women are going home, women are miserable at work. None of that is true when you look at the real statistics. But the media find it's sexy to say that men and women are different. There certainly are differences. But all the research shows that women and men are far more alike than they are different, and that as men's and women's roles become the same, as men get more involved in caring for kids and women get more involved in the workplace, gender differences tend to shrink. So you're seeing now that female cops act a lot like male cops and female judges act a lot like male judges.

What's going to happen next?

I worry that in the Third World things seem to be sliding backwards. But in the developed world I think that since women are now filling more than 50 percent of college classroom seats, we're going to see more women in the workplace and more collaborative couples, with both men and women working and taking care of children. It just makes sense in this time of economic uncertainty, and also when it pretty much takes two incomes to have a middle-class lifestyle.

But the pattern is not changing as quickly as it seemed to a decade ago. Do people want to believe there are hard-wired differences between men and women?

I think they do. If you start talking about complexity and saying that every individual is affected by a lot more than gender — it's your social class, your religion, your age, all these things affect your behavior — that's very complicated. Where it's easy to think, oh, girls do this and boys do that. But if people have common sense, if they look at their own kids or their own families, they realize that many people don't fit these stereotypes. The idea, for instance, that all men are inarticulate and can't understand their feelings — well, certainly there are men like that, probably lots of them. But there are also a lot of men who are enormously articulate and can deal very well with the emotional side of life.

What's the bottom line?

What we're trying to say in our book is that it's not all nurture, but it's not all nature: it's a combination of the two. So the idea that everybody says, oh, it's all in your genes and you're hard-wired is not right. But those who say that you're just a complete blank slate are also not right.
ALUMNI BOOKS

Josh Aiello
(COM’97). 60 People To Avoid at the Water Cooler. Broadway Books. The Micromanager, the Condescending IT Guy, the Gossip, the Dinosaur — you’ve seen them before, perhaps one of them in your bathroom mirror.

Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.
(CAS’73). Dictionary of Toys and Games in American Popular Culture. Haworth Reference Press. Did you know that Barbie and Ken were named after their creators’ children, and that a short-lived Ken of the early nineties had an earring and bleached hair? These notes on toys from the obscure Abalone to the perennial Yo-Yo will intrigue the nostalgic, that significant subset, collectors, and general browsers: how about the Dr. Laura Game, for adults, in which the goal is to give not your best advice, but that most like Dr. Laura’s?

Anne Alison Barnet
(CAS’67). Robert Barnet and Boston Musical Theater. Northeastern University Press. In the late nineteenth century Boston’s First Corps of Cadets decided to raise funds for an armory. Young Brahmins, they had access to the city’s theaters and potential audiences of all the right people. Many were Harvard men with experience in Hasty Pudding productions. Let’s put on a show, they cried, and hired Robert Barnet, a high school dropout with experience in amateur theatricals, to manage what became vastly popular annual productions: lighthearted extravaganzas characterized by belabored jokes and puns, slight plots, large-cast musical numbers, and “very gentlemanly ladies,” as an early reviewer put it, young men tightly laced into corsets and padded in all the right places to fill out tights and brief ballet dresses or sumptuous low-cut ballgowns. Barnet, variously playwright, librettist, actor, costume designer, stage manager, director, and mentor, went on to some Broadway and national fame, as here chronicled by his great-granddaughter. But few hits equaled his Cadet shows — for example L’igga, in which Barnet played Isabella, “a very ‘larky’ queen,” according to one critic, in scenes like this:

Queen: Well, Ferdinand, intoxicated again!
Ferdinand: So I am.
Queen: Disgraceful! What sort of a conscience have you?
Ferdinand: Just as good as new.
   I haven’t used it much.

— Natalie Jacobson McCracken

Linda Bloom
(CAS’69) and Charlie Bloom (SSW’73). 101 Things I Wish I Knew When I Got Married: Simple Lessons to Make Love Last. New World Library. With fifty-five combined years’ experience as relationship counselors and sixty-two (that’s thirty-one each) as a married couple, the Blooms offer advice that might be summarized by number 90 (“Constructive criticism generally isn’t”) and number 97 (“Just keep talkin’”).

Ron Cherney
(ENG’68) and Michael Arkush. My Greatest Shot. HarperCollins. An interesting approach to golf — let the best players in the world tell the story of what they consider their greatest shot. The authors provide a short background on the likes of Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Se Ri Pak, and Jack Nicklaus, as well as interview excerpts and relevant quotes. — Nathaniel Beyer

Bernard Corbett
(CAS’83) and Paul Simpson. The Only Game That Matters. Crown Publishers. For Edward M. Kennedy (Harvard, 1956) and George E. Pataki (Yale, 1967), who wrote the forewords, and generations of their fellow alumni, no subtitle is necessary: it’s obviously the Harvard-Yale football game, when nostalgia takes the field along with athletes who don’t attract all that much interest for the rest of the season.

Stephen Davis
(CAS’70). Jim Morrison: Life, Death, Legend. Gotham Books. Jim Morrison, legendary leader of The Doors, died at twenty-eight in 1971, a tortured soul with a following that continues today. Davis delves into his past, and it’s what you’d expect: sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll — plus some plain, old-fashioned dysfunction. Still, it’s gripping reading for fans of the era, as familiar names and places cascade along.

Paul L. Ephross
(SSW’75) and Geoffrey L. Greif, eds. Group Work with Populations at Risk.
Images in Blue

At the 1963 Newport Folk Festival, Dick Waterman first heard and met Mississippi John Hurt — "an extremely lovely man, who treated everyone with such compassion and cooperation as well as medical skills in a guide to the contemporary issue of taking responsibility for health care for yourself and your family: providing medical histories, asking vital questions, understanding medications — and simply "getting your doctor to listen."

Folsom's latest traces L.A. police detective John Barron's entanglement with a psychotic yet purposeful killer, moving seamlessly through European aristocracy to the highest levels of Russian society while remaining a taut, hard-boiled thriller. Folsom is at his best in the book's first third, when he takes the reader into the minds of both a serial killer and the detective stalking him. The shift of point-of-view works, in part because the reader, like the detective, can see the killer's intelligence and meticulousness, but can't divine his ultimate purpose. At times, one is almost compelled to root for him, at least until his truly psychotic side begins careers he helped establish or restore, shows he promoted, and friendships he made. The images are intimate and without artifice, the stories colorful and compelling. With a foreword by Govinda Gallery director Chris Murray, who first noticed Waterman's photos in a little framing shop in Oxford and encouraged him to publish them, a preface by Grammy-winning rhythm and blues artist Bonnie Raitt, whom Waterman managed for more than fifteen years, and an introduction by Elvis biographer Peter Guralnick (CAS'67, CRS'68), Between Midnight and Day documents blues pioneers and their successors. The photos, many previously unpublished, were taken mainly at small venues in Boston and Cambridge, notably Club 47, and at Newport Folk Festivals, which were founded by Waterman's friend, impresario George Wein (CAS'50).

The early acoustic giants, as Waterman calls them, lead the way with a 1964 photo of Hurt at Boston's Café Yana, a small folk club near Fenway Park. Next are photos of Son House, the legendary slide steel guitar player whom Waterman and two sidekicks rediscovered in Rochester, New York, in 1964, more than twenty years after
to emerge. Of course, that’s part of the fun — the reader gets the vicarious thrill of being along for a ride with a psycho. — NB

**Anthony Grant**

**Elaine Greenstein**
(CEA’81). *One Little Lamb* and *One Little Seed*. Viking. These two small picture books for youngsters up to kindergarten age tell the story of the circle of life in simple and delightful ways. The wool from the lamb is made into yarn, which is made into mittens worn by a girl visiting the lamb; the seed is planted, nourished by sun and rain, and sprouts a flower with more seeds for planting. Greenstein’s mono-

B.B. King at the 1968 Newport Folk Festival.

he had retreated from the music scene. Waterman helped House revive his career and also represented Hurt, Skip James, and Fred McDowell, as well as a number of the next generation of plugged-in performers, including Chicago players Buddy Guy and Junior Wells. Waterman also promoted concerts for such rock and pop artists as Bruce Springsteen, James Taylor, and Cat Stevens.

When Waterman formed Avalon, blues musicians, most of them older black men with families, “had been victimized by the inhumane hiring practices of many clubs,” he recalls. “I decided I was gonna put a stop to this.” He advocated for the artists by booking them at higher pay, supplying clubs with publicity photographs and press releases, and making sure the performers’ itineraries were honored. In return for his fair play, he requested “absolute loyalty” from the musicians, he says, including their agreement to refuse direct bookings. “Dick was able to collectively bargain to insure each artist got to play the best gigs and be paid what they deserved,” says Raitt in her preface. “He steadfastly guarded every aspect of his artists’ professional life.” In 2000 Waterman was inducted to the Blues Hall of Fame, the only nonmusician or non-record company executive ever so honored. His surprise presenter was Raitt, who flew in, between gigs, for the occasion.

— Jean Hennelly Keith

To see more Dick Waterman photos, go to www.dickwaterman.com.
prints overpainted with gouache are never static; they convey the continuous movement of life, and invite repeated readings. — Taylor McNeil

**Gary Grossman**

(MET’75). *Executive Actions*. iBooks. Tracing a phone number was easy until the digital age. “Looks like you dialed a phone run by the mob, the military, or the government — ours or someone else’s,” a frustrated New York City detective is told by his frustrated Internet hacker. No force can go unsuspected in this political thriller, and no collaboration is unlikely. Grossman begins by establishing a cast both classic (the charismatic young congressman plagued by personal tragedy, the working-class-type who saves a future president’s life and becomes his close if subservient friend and undercover employee, and so on) and distinctive enough to be distinguishable and interesting through more than 500 pages of intrigue, fast cuts, and mounting complexity. Not even a presidential election is final in this post 9/11 world and the only good guys may be the Secret Service agent and the young lawyer who meet, and in no particular order, become secret colleagues and a couple. — NJM

**James R. Hipkins**

(STH’54). *To Borneo and Back: An Encounter with Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. iUniverse. Part travel log, part memoir, and part spiritual meditation, this is an account of how an engagement with the words and ideas of Bonhoeffer led the author to go to a place where he had to begin each day by checking his shoes for scorpions.

**Helen Husher**

(CAS’80, GRS’82). *A View from Vermont*. Globe Pequot. Beyond the portraits of the inevitable mud season and the idiosyncrasies of its residents, Husher’s essays paint an insider’s picture of Vermont, past and present, the fanciful, historical, and mundane, revealing a state that is as much a mishmash as the mud itself. Towns come and go, yet the region remains steeped in iconoclastic tradition. Whimsical monuments to dead pets seem, at first, prime examples of misplaced sentiment or arts and crafts run amok, but become poignant reminders of the commonplace losses that mark our lives. — NB

**Joelle K. Jay**

(SED’95). *Quality Teaching: Reflection as the Heart of Practice*. Scarecrow Press. How teachers can stop, think, and evaluate their own work despite having too much to do, too little time, and too many conflicting pressures.

**Ha Jin**

(GRS’94). *War Trash*. Pantheon Books. “But do not take this to be ‘our story,’” writes the narrator in concluding Ha Jin’s fourth novel. “In the depths of my being I have never been one of them. I have just written what I experienced.”

A Chinese university student in 1949, Yuan accepts with equanimity the Communist takeover, his indoctrination, including some lessons in personal guilt, and induction in the People’s Liberation Army. Soon he is a “volunteer” fighting the Korean War and in a few weeks an American POW.

The book is fiction, Ha Jin says in a brief afterward, but “most of the events and details . . . are factual,” and he includes his twenty-three-book bibliography.

This is a double story — an accurate account of the emotional, brutal, and politically charged life in the prison camps, and a novel about Yuan’s disassociation from it all. As an intellectual — a college graduate among illiterates — he is suspect, not admitted to the Communist Party although used because he speaks some English (he’s been reading the Bible, strictly, he tells us, to learn the language). He is first proud of his commendations for service to the party and in awe of its leaders, then cynical. UN rules allow released anti-Communist prisoners to go to Taiwan, but he chooses Communism and China, where his aged mother and fiancée are. His mother dies before he can return and his fiancée spurns him as “a disgraced captive,” but although returning party members are punished for having surrendered, Yuan gains a pleasant job, a wife, children, grandchildren, and as we’ve known since the first pages of the book, a serene old age. — NJM

**Daniel Kimmel**

(LAW’80). *The Fourth Network: How Fox Broke the Rules and Reinvented Television*. Ivan R. Dee. Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at the network that launched Johnny Depp, Homer Simpson, and 100 reality television stars? Starting with the fledgling days of the mid-eighties and the Joan Rivers debacle (remember her late night show?), up through the blockbuster success of *The X-Files* and Fox’s outmaneuvering CBS for NFL broad-
casts, and into the twenty-first century, Kimmel traces the clash of titanic egos and the multimillion-dollar deals that built the network. — NB

Moshe Kranc  
(MET’00). The Hasidic Masters’ Guide to Management. Devora. In the tradition of the Jewish movement Hasidism and its teachers, Kranc begins each of his lessons on the practicalities and ethics of management by telling a story, characteristically emphasizing common sense and gentle humor over erudition.

Leigh Leshner  

Judith A. Levin  
(LAW’88), Cindy Caplan Weiser  

John McCarty  

D. W. Griffith’s 1912 two-reeler The Musketeers of Pig Alley is apparently the earliest American gangster film of any importance to survive. It includes one of the genre’s fixture characters: the violence-prone punk, the smart-aleck type James Cagney would play in the talkies of the 1930s. It also boasted a hallmark of crime films, then and to come: authentic locations — real city streets and saloons.

An inspirational autobiography by a reformed small-time gang leader was deemed perfect for the new mass medium. Filmed in 1915 as Regeneration, its story line of a young gangster “saved from the ashes by the love and support of a good woman” was the basis, says McCarty, of every rags-to-riches, boy-to-man, redeemed or destroyed gangster movie since, from Public Enemy (1931) to Gangs of New York (2002).

McCarty continually brings us back to the present. “You think slow, Nick — you move fast, but think slow” is a line from John Garfield’s final film, He Ran All the Way (1951), and one that could serve as an epitaph for all manner of screen guys in the mold of the Bogart gangster right up through Tom Hanks’s Prohibition hitman on the run from his employers (and from himself) in Road to Perdition (2002).”

— Steve Dykes

Helen Osborne  
(SED’78). Health Literacy from A to Z: Practical Ways to Communicate Your Health Message. Jones and Bartlett Publishers. This guide is for doctors, nurses, teachers, and others in the health professions.

Eliot Pattison  
(LAW’77). Beautiful Ghosts. St. Martin’s. The novel opens in modern Tibet with “a wrenching sound that ... could have no explanation in the physical world” and then an ancient religious ceremony both joyful and brave: Buddhist observances even in these remote mountains risk the cruel ire of Chinese soldiers. The scene is set. In this fourth thriller of a continuing series, the complex confluence of unsolved crimes and criminals present and past takes former Chinese inspector Shan to Beijing and Seattle and to his own former life. But the heart of the story remains the unworldly, devout Tibetan Buddhists with whom he has been hiding, and the threat of the government to their lives and to the mystifying heritage they struggle to preserve. Amidst pools of blood, smashed religious figures, and a desecrated monastery, one small scene is quietly chilling: a young girl, sent by her parents to be raised by these Buddhists, reacts to the intimidating horror by humming to herself “The East Is Red,” a Chinese Communist anthem used to indoctrinate children. Shan cannot defeat the real villains: ideological intolerance and soulless globalization. — NJM

Patricia Jobe Pierce  
(CFA’65) and Marco Apollo. Art Collecting and Investing: The Inner Workings and the Underbelly of the Art World. Pierce Galleries. For beginning (or twice-burned) art buyers, particularly those planning advantageous sale or...
The Pen Is Mightier Than the Pen

Richard Marinick looks down from the roof deck of his condo in South Boston at the streets where he once ran wild with a neighborhood crime gang. Then he looks back — at his youth. "I was a bad guy," he says. "But I wasn't evil."

Back then, Marinick (MET '92, '95) didn’t reflect on life much, and he was bad enough to get himself in a lot of trouble. Despite a stint as a Massachusetts state trooper, he developed "expensive tastes" (especially cocaine), and he needed money. So he and his cronies eventually graduated to "the big time," as he puts it — holding up banks and armored cars. In 1986, after a second armored car robbery, police chased him for fifteen miles and finally brought his crime spree to a halt.

Sentenced at age thirty-five to eighteen-to-twenty years in state prison, he had plenty of time to reflect on what he wanted to do with his life after he got out. He decided to get an education, and started taking courses at the Massachusetts Correctional Institute—Norfolk through BU’s Prison Education Program. Years of psychological counseling along with Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings helped him beat his addictions. And while earning a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in liberal arts behind bars from Metropolitan College, he learned how to write fiction.

Crime doesn’t pay, but writing about it sometimes does — if you’re good. Marinick will soon find out. Boyos, about the South Boston underworld, was recently published by Justin, Charles & Company. Like Marinick, "Wacko" Curran, the protagonist in Boyos, runs with Southie gangs, then gets his own crew together and starts planning bigger scores. Ultimately, he is forced to consider his options: stay in the mobster life, or get out before he is killed or convicted. The book is already getting favorable reviews: Publishers Weekly calls it "a visceral, accomplished debut."

It made sense for him to tell the story of a band of violent South Boston gangsters. Ernest Hemingway once said, "Write about what you know." At first Marinick resisted this traditional advice. "I was reluctant to write about crime, about South Boston street stuff," he says. "I wanted to distance myself from it. I was worried that I might be drawn back into that world. But my writing professors encouraged me to write about it."

Marinick’s classes in prison were calm islands of learning in a turbulent sea of short tempers. "In an environment where there is hatred all the time, the classroom was the only place where you could be yourself for an hour or two," he says. "There were racial tensions in prison. Everybody was cliqued up. But in class you could put aside your differences and have an intelligent argument with a professor or a
house, the lynchpin and occasional deus ex machina of the novel. Called back to London from Massachusetts by Princess Caroline of Brandenburg-Ansbach, Waterhouse arrives in England as the future of the crown is up for grabs. Political intrigue rules, as the Whigs battle the Tories and Jacobites.

And that just scratches the surface of *The System of the World*, filled as it is with cameo appearances by historical figures from Christopher Wren to Peter the Great, social commentary on the lives of the rich and poor in London, the origins of computing, the role of finance in the economy, memorable scalawags (most notably Jack Shaftoe, King of the Vagabonds and foil of Newton), infernal devices (as the first time bombs were called), the beginnings of an antislavery movement in England — well, you get the idea.

Stephenson once told an interviewer that he’s not a member of the cult of brevity. No kidding. *The System of the World* weighs in at 892 pages, on top of the 1,760 pages of the previous two volumes of the Baroque Cycle, *Quicksilver* and *The Confusion*, both *New York Times* best sellers. Happily, this can be read as a stand-alone book — Stephenson fills in latecomers on the action. The trouble is, by the end of this volume, you’ll want go back and start at the beginning of the series. — *TM*

**Elizabeth Terp**  
(SON’57). *Forget That Diet and Eat What You Need*. Trafford. This isn’t about science, says Terp, a nurse who consulted fourteen translations of the 2,500-year-old *Tao Te Ching* to write this slim guide to designing the diet suited to yourself at this moment in this place.

**Edward D. Webster**  
(CAS’69). *A Year of Sundays: Taking the Plunge (and Our Cat) to Explore Europe*. VanderWyk & Burnham. It’s been twenty-seven years since their last trip to Europe: the Websters are older in spirit as in body, she is now blind, and they couldn’t possibly leave their sixteen-year-old cat behind. This travelogue is thoughtful, sometimes humorous, and on balance, cheering.

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*Richard Marinick in South Boston. Photograph by Kalman Zabarsky*

When he got out of prison at age forty-six, he wanted to write a South Boston version of Martin Scorsese’s gang movie *Mean Streets*. He got a job as a tunnel worker on the Big Dig, and worked on *Boys* whenever he could — at lunch, inside leaky storage sheds. “On the job site, I’d unzip my raincoat, pull out my manuscript, and start writing, and I wrote every day after work,” he says. “Then I rewrote it in longhand five or six times. I was afraid of computers, but I learned how to use one, and rewrote it again.”

He showed the manuscript to Kate Mattes, owner of Kate’s Mystery Books in Cambridge, who sent it to Justin, Charles publisher Stephen Hull (CGS’78, COM’80). “I was skeptical,” says Hull. “We get a number of queries and writing samples from people who are incarcerated, and I’ve never seen anything from that quarter that would be a good fit for us. But *Boys* turned out to be terrific. Richard captures the street dialect and idioms in a way that’s extremely rare.”

*Boys* has been optioned for a Hollywood film, and Hull has an option on Marinick’s second novel, in progress, a private eye mystery. Is he ever worried that the lure of a juicy heist might pull him back into a life of crime?

“I’ve been out of that life long enough,” he says. “I’ve let so many people down before, I just couldn’t do it again. I couldn’t disappoint all my professors. They went out of their way to help guys like me, who were considered the scum of the earth by people who said, ‘Lock ’em up and throw away the key.’ That chapter of my life is closed.”

And a new chapter, as a writer, has opened. — *Brian Fitzgerald*
Early in the twentieth century, well-heeled travelers had their pick of deluxe accommodations around Kenmore Square; the Somerset, the Sheraton, the Myles Standish, and the Kenmore were among the area's stately hotels. But by the sixties and seventies, most of the hotels were gone (the Sheraton, which later became the Shetton, and the Myles Standish are now BU dorms), and the real estate wasn't exactly choice. Kenmore Square had begun a slow decline, although the students who flocked to the seedy bars and greasy spoons at the time would have disputed that assessment. The south side of Commonwealth Avenue, for example, was home to the punk-rock bar the Rathskeller, better known as the Rat. Musical groups like the Cars, the Screaming Blue Messiahs, and the Dead Kennedys played the Rat's basement room. Deli Haus was open until three a.m. and served Guinness floats—a pint of Guinness with a scoop of ice cream. There were pizza shops, a karate school, an International House of Pancakes, and of all things, a discount sock and T-shirt store.

Now Kenmore Square is returning to its more genteel roots. One of BU's priorities for more than two decades has been to transform the campus's eastern gateway, and the opening in 1983 of the Boston University Bookstore, now Barnes & Noble at Boston University, was a major step in that revitalization.

The latest improvement is the upscale Hotel Commonwealth, which opened in May 2003 (BU is a partner). The hotel is well appointed—the lobby is outfitted with dark wood furnishings; rooms feature Italian linens and marble bathrooms—but it's hardly a throwback. The 150 rooms offer high-speed Internet access and dual-line wireless phones, digital cable, and CD/DVD players. The first and second floors house retail shops, including independently owned boutiques. One shop sells handmade jewelry, another vintage and rare books.

Those long-ago well-heeled travelers would likely feel at home in the transformed Kenmore Square. Denizens of the Rat, on the other hand—they must be pulling out their Mohawks.
To commemorate their fiftieth reunion, the School of Management Class of 1954 created a special fund, made up in large part of estate gifts, to support the work done by SMG professors and students. The result is the Class of ’54 Conference Room in the Executive Leadership Center, on the fourth floor of the School of Management. The rest of the fund will support SMG scholarships. “Boston University is important to me and helped shape the person I have become,” says James Alexiou (SMG’54, GRS’62). “I support the University in as many ways as I can. I can’t understand people who don’t want to give back.”


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