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Stoddard, Tim
Boston University

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Boston University
Murder by the Book
Mystery Writers Turn to a Life of Crime

Sports Psychology: More Than Mind Games
Counterweight: On the Front Lines Battling Youth Obesity
TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

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April 11–19, 2005

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September 18–26, 2005

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October 21–29, 2005

Sicily — Palermo
December 3–12, 2005

We welcome your inquiries about these itineraries and your suggestions for future destinations. Please contact Meg Goldberg Umlas by phone, 800-800-3466, or e-mail, alumtrav@bu.edu. Or write to: Meg Goldberg Umlas, Alumni Travel Program, Boston University, One Sherborn Street, Boston, MA 02215. You may visit www.bu.edu/alumni/travel.
Crime does pay ... at least for six alumni mystery writers, including Robert B. Parker (GRS'57, '71), author of the Spenser series. Their sleuths crack cases from the Hub to Tibet.

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Doctors are teaming up with other health professionals to put the brakes on the childhood obesity epidemic.

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Today's pressure on student-athletes makes sports psychologists like BU's Len Zaichkowsky a vital part of the team.

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Music grabbed hold of choral conductor Ann Howard Jones early on and never let go; now she inspires choristers and student conductors in the tradition of her mentor and colleague, Robert Shaw.

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In running the distance, track star Tori Botticelli (CAS'06) has encountered a few hurdles — physical, mental, and spiritual. They were all surmountable.

Chasing Pop's Ambulance
Ellen Cutler (GRS'83) traces her late grandfather's path as a volunteer ambulance driver in France during World War I.

Identity Crisis
Novelist Vyvyane Loh (CAS'89, MED'93) talks about identity, language, the malleability of history, and the responsibility of readers.

A Voice for the Children
A COM professor's documentary shows the devastating effects of AIDS on infected youth in Uganda.
From the Vice President for University Development and Alumni Relations

Christopher Reaske (center) with his wife, Mary K., and Joel Alpert, professor emeritus of pediatrics, health law, and sociomedical science and community medicine and chairman emeritus of the department of pediatrics, at a Palm Beach reception for President ad interim Aram Chobanian. Photograph by Harvey Bilt

Everyone knows that men’s neckties come in all colors and patterns and that they get wider and narrower as the folks on New York’s Seventh Avenue dictate. Many men, I suspect, even those without Scotch ancestry, do what I do: they put away ties that are out of fashion until they come back in again. Unless we are driven to wear the eight-inch-wide ties of circus clowns, whatever is “out” is apt one day to be back “in.” I had a good example of this recently, which made my time visiting alumni in Palm Beach even more interesting than usual!

About thirty years ago a friend gave me, essentially as a joke, a tie adorned with bright orange and yellow flowers, made by Lilly Pulitzer, whose clothing line was then all the rage. It’s a fairly skinny tie as ties go, but boy is it bright! It had been a long time in Boston, so I wore it to our various BU events in Palm Beach (see photo), and I cannot tell you how amazed the reaction was. Though alumni were interested in my updates about Boston University, many simply asked about the necktie. It turns out that Lilly Pulitzer, out for a long time, is now back in. I was advised to go on eBay and find out what my thirty-year-old tie was worth; I was invited to a party on the spur of the moment, the invitation making it clear that I was to come wearing that tie. It’s good to know that the gift has appreciated; I’ll have to start treating it with more respect.

You too can give a gift that appreciates over time. A gift made to the endowment now would not only generate income for the University in the current year, but would grow in value, continuing to support the University for many years to come.

We are anticipating an excellent fundraising year, with gifts running ahead of this time last year. I hope that when we get to the end of our fiscal year on June 30 we will have reached yet another all-time high. Unless this column stimulates you to send in your old neckties or scarves rather than money, we really have a good shot at it! Do continue to keep Boston University as a priority in your giving and know that your gifts are not only valued when they come in, but have long-range impact on the growth and progress of your University.

As I write here in early March, there is still ice on the Charles and a relentless amount of snow all around. When you receive this, I hope all of us here in Boston will have thawed out. And maybe I will have found other treasures among my old neckties in the attic.

All best wishes for a wonderful spring and summer.

Cordially,

Christopher R. Reaske
Pariente Rights and Wrongs
I find it difficult to believe that you would headline a person who was and is on the wrong side of two of the greatest issues of our time. Justice Pariente (“A Passion for Justice,” Winter 2004–2005) was proven wrong by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2000 election. And she has taken the opposite side on the Terri Schiavo case from Florida legislators. God bless her mentoring, but she has taken stands to write laws from the bench, not interpret the law, as her job prescribes.

Lawrence M. Sullivan (ENG’64)
Stuart, Florida

The cover story on Barbara Pariente was ill informed and politically biased. Sadly, I have come to expect this from the publications of elite institutions of higher learning in this country, I often see such ideas circulated in the publications of my current university, Harvard, and have become hardened enough to them in my years as a graduate student that it was not the qualities of shallow representation or political slant that saddened and sickened me. What I did find unusually deplorable, however, was your decision to run this article at the moment a scandalous and in many ways illegal verdict to slowly starve a fellow human being to death has been upheld. My opinion concerning this case has nothing to do with politics or religion; I am a firm advocate of the right to die, given the person in question has made that decision for herself. My opinion stems from the common decency that most people — including, I would imagine, Pariente (although I can’t be too sure) — would show an animal dying of malnourishment. Poorly done, Bostonia.

Melissa Pino (GRS’00)
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Seduced (or Not) by War
Andrew Bacevich seems to have gone off the deep end (“Seduced by War,” Winter 2004–2005). He charges the current (and recent) administrations with militarism — but his evidence nowhere fully supports this charge.

Bacevich says our “problem is not terrorism; ... it is the threat of radical Islam” — and he seems to be oblivious to the fact that radical Islam is expressing itself precisely as terrorism. He suggests that our decision to employ our military forces in the wake of 9/11 — to initiate “an open-ended global war,” in his words — was taken without forethought, as if there were “no plausible alternatives.” But what plausible alternatives does he himself advance? None.

He goes along with the interviewer’s suggestion that “radical Islam is a problem mostly because the countries with the oil reserves are Muslim.” It is interesting that Bacevich selectively fails to mention that the first place we employed our military in the wake of 9/11 was Afghanistan, which has no significant oil reserves.

Bacevich strikes me as wrong on nearly all counts. First, the Bush administration has not conducted the — necessarily — global war on terrorism “without constraints”; on the contrary, it has done so quite precisely, employing significant military force in certain places (Afghanistan, Iraq) and advisors in others (Philippines), maintaining appropriate force in place in certain threatening regions (North Korea), while seeking through diplomatic and other indirect means to deal with still other danger zones (Iran). The Bush administration’s approach has not been lacking in moderation; it certainly cannot be called “militaristic.”

John Strang (CAS’84)
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

By naming and examining the rise of militarism in American culture, Andrew Bacevich is bringing much-needed attention to what is probably the most urgent and consequential issue of our time. If we as a people fail to question the aggressive and violent expansion of the global empire our nation is fashioning, we may well sacrifice our democratic values at home even as we cause suffering and destruction across the planet.

Bacevich’s nonpartisan, realist assessment will probably command more serious attention than is ever given to more passionate critiques of militarism and war. Yet it is unfortunate that he finds it necessary to utterly dismiss pacifism by asserting “that’s not the world we live in.” My dissertation research at BU explored the idealism of activists in the 1960s, and I found that like the antiglobalization activists of our era, they challenged us to believe that another world is possible if we would deliberately choose values of compassion, cooperation, justice, and peace rather than domination, exploitation, and violence. The upsurge of militarism in recent years certainly has specific political causes, but these are supported by an underlying culture, a worldview, that accepts the pursuit of power, control, and wealth at all costs. Pacifism attempts to address the root causes, not only the politics, of violence and war.

I hope that Bacevich’s book will be widely read and will stimulate intense discussion at every level of society about the direction the builders of empire are taking this country.

Ron Miller (GRS’00)
Charlotte, Vermont

Andrew Bacevich seems to suggest that there is a distinction between radical Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism.
Kenmore Redux (Again!)

Having perused the winter issue letters (solely from nineties grads) regarding your article on Kenmore Square ("That Was Then, This Is Now," Fall 2004), I feel I must add recollections of "my" Kenmore Square from an earlier time.

The Kenmore Square I knew as the sixties gave way to the seventies was neither blighted nor ramshackle. It boasted the Kenmore Cinema, where students enjoyed the fantasies of *Fantasia* and *A Clockwork Orange* (among others) from their own states of altered reality. Of greater importance to me as a photography major were the inclusion of a decent camera store and the New England School of Photography, where I honed my studio photography skills with classes that SPC (now COM) didn't offer. Of course, the Deli Haus and Rathskeller were there to feed our bodies, but there was also a jewelry store where I window-shopped as I made countless dreamy-eyed round-trips between my dorm at 700 (now Warren Towers) and my sweetheart's (later my wife) residence at Charlesgate Hall. At that time, to me at least, Kenmore Square was alive, vibrant, magical, and full of promise for the future.

As I begin the ritual of campus touring this spring with my son, I'm almost ashamed to admit that the new, boutique Hotel Commonwealth would be an ideal "base of operations" for our visit to BU — a far cry from the old Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, from which I greeted BU in the fall of 1969. However, I must agree with my fellow letter writers that while Kenmore Square may now have good taste in abundance, it seems to have lost its original unique flavor. Alas, at least the Citgo sign survives as a timeless beacon.

Robert Rice (COM '73)
Houston, Texas

I could not resist writing to you concerning the letters from alumni who graduated in the nineties about how Kenmore Square and BU are not the Kenmore Square and the BU they knew at the time. Good grief!

I can remember when I was a student back in the mid-sixties and long for the times when things were truly different. They were turbulent times, but we got through them all with our hopes and passions. How would a student today or one from the nineties like to live at Charlesgate Hall, where the only place you could dry your hair was in the basement, using the AC/DC adaptor? Or how about curfews? Remember when no one of the opposite sex was allowed above the first floor of a dorm except on the twice-a-year "visiting Sundays," with the room doors open so the RA could see that nothing inappropriate was happening? I remember when women were allowed to wear jeans or slacks only when temperatures were below ten degrees (unless they were SMG students, because women in the workplace would never be able to wear slacks, thus they shouldn't be allowed to at school)? How about grabbing a sub (since Sunday dinners were not served in the dorms) at "Filthy's" (a little shop across from Myles Standish where you had to carefully walk down a flight of stairs to a genuine mom and pop shop)? Or how about Kenmore Club, which housed Lucifer's, where entertainers like the Righteous Brothers performed, and Sonny's, where Bobby Hebb sang? These are the things I think of when I become nostalgic reading my Bostonia.

We had it both ways. The rules and the regulations at the dorms were more than conservative by today's standards, but gave us groundwork to become more resilient, tolerant, and compassionate.

We were not attending school to obtain a big corporate paying job — we wanted to make a difference and we worked hard at it. I long for the "good old days" too, not only the way Kenmore Square really used to be (with all its faults and charm), but the way BU used to be as well.

Madeline S. Blake (SMG'66)
Seabrook, New Hampshire
Those who waxed nostalgic about Kenmore Square in your winter issue might be interested to know that Mr. Butch is alive and well. The former King of Kenmore Square moved to Allston after his kingdom was dismantled and now holds court on the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Harvard Avenue, outside Marty’s Liquors or McDonald’s. I’ve come to think of him as the Mayor of Allston Village.

Suzanne Thompson
Administrator, Math Department, College of Arts and Sciences

Doing Right by the Athletes

During the more than thirty-five years I have supported BU athletics with my time, money, and passion, I have been known to express my unhappiness when I felt it had not done right by its student-athletes or its fans.

It’s only fair, therefore, that I now praise BU for getting things absolutely right with the Agganis Arena (“News,” Winter 2004–2005). My jaw dropped when I entered the new facility, and I was only more impressed as I walked around and watched the Terrier men’s and women’s basketball teams play (and win) their inaugural games there.

State-of-the-art in every way, the house that Jack built is without a doubt one of the best venues of its type in the country. The sight lines, the scoreboards, the theater seating, the lounges, the amenities, the attention to detail, the attitude of the arena personnel are all first-class.

For the first time I feel BU has an athletic facility whose excellence matches that of the University as a whole. Not only should Agganis Arena provide a tremendous boost for the Terrier teams that compete there, it should be a springboard for the entire athletic program, a source of pride for the BU community, and a great resource for both the University and the city of Boston.

Herbert J. Korn (COM’61)
Lexington, Massachusetts

Books, Books, Books

Thank you for taking note of the greatest comeback in sports history by featuring Brian Fitzgerald’s report (“Alumni Books,” Winter 2004–2005) on his encounter with BU alum Stewart O’Nan, coauthor of the story of the 2004 World Champion Red Sox. I cut an afternoon class at the School of Journalism in October 1948 to watch the Sox lose to Cleveland in a sudden-death American League playoff game at Fenway Park.

But that was just the beginning of our agony. Now, with skill, humor, and insight, O’Nan and his partner, Stephen King, have chronicled our new season of ecstasy.

Don Knight (DGE’48, COM’50)
Kensington, Maryland

I was a lapsed reader of Bostonia until recently, but I’m so glad that I’ve rediscovered it. Every issue has been full of interesting and thought-provoking articles. I would especially like to thank you for the “Alumni Books” section. What a wonderful way to find out about new books on diverse subjects. My online bookstore shopping cart is now full of books by BU grads. Thank you for this feature, and for all your great work on Bostonia.

Katherine “Kay” Teel (CAS’89)
Palo Alto, California

The Wrong News

I thank Dan Kennedy for his interesting article (“Tuning Out the News,” Fall 2004) exploring whether youth are tuning out the news. He made some excellent points. However, I would like to add another reason that youth such as myself shun the news sources of our parents. I have regularly been a reader of such publications as Newsweek, Time, and US News & World Report. When I was in school we learned that a journalist must report the facts, not opinion. We did a whole unit on newspapers and were taught that editorials must be only on the editorial page. As I pay more attention to politics and current events, I can no longer stomach reading those magazines. They put so much opinion into every story that I feel like I’m being indoctrinated in their George W. Bush–Republican agenda. As a person in my mid-twenties, I would like to follow current events more closely through magazines or newspapers, but my negative response to the propaganda that is offered in those sources is so great, I have begun to distrust all news sources.

Katie Morzinski (CAS’01, SED’03)
Santa Cruz, California

Presidential Suggestion

When I noticed the item about a presidential search being initiated (“News,” Fall 2004), the first person I thought of for the position was Howard Zinn. He was more than the college professor who fascinated me during my college years, but became a lifelong teacher as I occasionally attended his lectures on the West Coast and continued to read everything he has published down through the years since I graduated. I realize that he is up in years and may not want the post, and that you probably prefer not to go through this process more than once in a couple of decades, but I still wanted to throw his hat into the ring simply because I believe him to be not only our most learned professor, but the bravest and the best teacher BU ever had.

Marcia Wolhandler (CGS’72, COM’74)
McKinleyville, California

Letters on the Web

Because of space limitations, we can print only a selection of Bostonia’s letters to the editor. To see more letters, please go to Bostonia on the Web at www.bu.edu/alumni/bostonia. We also have a letters submission form at www.bu.edu/bostonia/letters.
The Insubordinate Professor
Catching Up with Howard Zinn

Howard Zinn sits at a wooden table in a Cambridge coffee shop on a cold January morning, scanning the pages of his small black appointment book. The night before, he had spoken at the West Newton Cinema, which was showing the 2004 documentary Howard Zinn: You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train. Today he’s scheduled to speak at Harvard to about thirty trade union representatives from across the United States and Australia. Later, he’ll sit for interviews with several radio stations, which called in response to his January 22 Miami Herald op-ed piece advocating the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. In two days he’ll join Ralph Nader and singer Patti Smith at an antiwar rally in Cambridge.

“I suppose you could say it’s a typical week,” he says, giving the pages one last look.

The eighty-two-year-old author, political activist, playwright, and radical is arguably BU’s highest-profile professor emeritus. In an era when the Oval Office and the U.S. House and Senate are dominated by Republicans and talk on college campuses is of the job market rather than civil disobedience, Zinn may seem a throwback to the sixties. But lately he appears to be everywhere. In January alone, besides the speaking engagements, he was a guest on Comedy Central’s hip political satire program The Daily Show with Jon Stewart and was quoted in a Boston Globe article about a group of activists challenging last November’s presidential vote in Ohio and in a London Guardian profile on former student and Pulitzer Prize–winning author Alice Walker. He would have participated in the Jazz Funeral for Democracy/Wake for Peace in New Orleans, held on inauguration day, but his wife had the flu. “They gave me a report on it afterward, and it sounded terrific,” he says.

Indeed, there haven’t been many major political events during the last half-century in America that Zinn hasn’t observed, chronicled, or played some part in, and those experiences have shaped his teaching, his rhetoric, and his class-conscious and antiwar views.

Zinn grew up in a working-class family in New York City, and at eighteen landed a job as an apprentice shipfitter at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. At twenty-one, he enlisted in the Air
Force, trained as a bombardier, and flew combat missions in Europe during World War II. Following college and graduate school, he became chairman of the history and social sciences department at Spelman College in Atlanta, where he took part in the civil rights movement and encouraged his African-American students to fight racial segregation. Soon the students were challenging the restrictions they faced on campus, and the administration viewed Zinn as “an instigator rather than simply a supporter of the protests,” he writes in his 1994 autobiography. In 1963 he was fired for being insubordinate.

Zinn joined the political science department at BU in 1964, when the anti-Vietnam War movement was just getting started. He’d been opposed to war since hanging up his flight jacket. “It’s a very difficult conclusion to come to,” he says, “because it makes things complicated. War is not complicated. War is simple. It’s like a drug. It’s like crack. You get a high from victory in war. My conclusions about war led me to become an activist against the war in Vietnam and to write about the nature of war.”

As a result, his tenure at BU was marked not only by crowded lecture halls (full disclosure: I was one of his students in the 1980s) and legendary clashes with the administration, but also teach-ins, debates, and rallies (all told, he’s been arrested ten times). He testified for the defense at the 1973 Pentagon Papers trial of his friend Daniel Ellsberg.

Zinn retired from BU in 1988, a decision he doesn’t regret. “I loved teaching,” he says. “I thought I would miss . . . having an opportunity every semester to speak to 400 BU students, which is exciting. But now I speak to huge numbers of people all over the country, so as a result, I don’t miss my teaching the way I thought I would.”

PEACENIK WITH CREDENTIALS

OVER THE YEARS, Zinn has been called in the press a “peacenik with credentials,” “a people’s historian,” and a “real-life Atticus Finch.” At the coffee shop that January day, a young man spots Zinn as he waits at the counter. “Are you Howard Zinn? I’m a big fan,” says the man, who teaches history at Harvard and tells Zinn that he was the inspiration for that career choice.

But while some see him as an icon, others consider Zinn a revisionist historian and his famous 1980 A People’s History of the United States more ideology than history. They also question his patriotism. In 2001, Don Feder, then a conservative columnist for the Boston Herald, described Zinn as an “inveterate anti-American.” Zinn responds, “That’s only if you consider Bush is America, if you think the government is America. Then, if you criticize the government, you’re against America.” His take is different: his loyalty is not to the government, he says, but to the American people and those who have done “heroic things on behalf of justice and against wars.”

The author of more than a dozen books and two plays, Zinn is best known for A People’s History, which chronicles U.S. history from the perspective of Native Americans, African-Americans, women, workers, and immigrants, voices he says are missing from standard texts. It has sold more than a million copies and has been translated into a dozen or so languages. Sales of the book have increased every year since its first printing of 4,000, according to Hugh Van Dusen, an executive editor and vice president at HarperCollins. “I don’t know of any book in any subject from any publisher which has sold more copies each year than the year before,” he says. “And I have been in the business for forty-eight years.”

Zinn believes the book meets a need. “There is a hunger,” he says, “in a population surfeited with orthodox history, and which gets no perspective from the media, for history with a different point of view, one which represents the feelings of huge numbers of people in this country who are antipeace, antiwar, antiestablishment, antiwar, egalitarian.”

For Zinn, who’s resolved to write no more books, A People’s History fills a personal need as well. “I’ve beleaguered the world enough with all these big, fat books. It sounds a little arrogant, but you see, my People’s History is doing it for me. It’s almost like I feel I don’t have to do anything this year because another 150,000 people have read A People’s History. There’s nothing I could write that could reach 150,000. So, I’m content to write op-ed pieces, columns for The Progressive.”

He might seem to be preaching to the choir, but even in these Republican-dominated days, it is a big choir. Enter “Howard Zinn” in Google, and you get 37,000 links. Retired? Yes. Retiring? Not exactly.

Back in Cambridge, Zinn, dressed in jeans and a navy sweater over a blue work shirt, speaks without notes to the trade unionists, sounding now-familiar themes of social justice, class conflict, and war. “When you write a history from the point of view of presidents, you leave out the struggles of the citizens,” he says. “You create a passive citizenry. You make people think the only thing you can do is vote for mediocrity, and in between, there’s nothing you can do.”

His remarks, however, are always tempered by a sense of hope and a wry
humor. When one of the union representatives asks how he goes about influencing people of power, he answers, “My history of meeting with influential people is a short one. They don’t invite me to coffee.

“The only way I can influence people of power is by influencing people around me, which will create a movement that reaches people in power,” he continues. “It’s not a matter of persuasion. Their interests are different than ours. They’ll move only when they see millions in the streets.”

— Cynthia K. Bucchi

Cue Up the Laugh Track

“What if Jerry inherits an incontinent seeing-eye dog he can’t get rid of?”

“What if Elaine starts dating Kevin Bacon, and Jerry’s thrilled that he’s only one degree of separation from Kevin Bacon?”

“What if George were to grow a moustache?”

A group of writers for the sitcom Seinfeld batting around story ideas in the 1990s? No, this brainstorming session isn’t taking place in Hollywood during the show’s heyday, but in a COM classroom last February.

“Jerry throws away a sweater his mother gives him,” another student begins. “Then she’s coming to visit and says she can’t wait to see him in the new sweater. He doesn’t know what to do — then he sees a dog with fur that’s similar to the sweater. He shaves it and turns the fur into a sweater. When his mother visits, it starts shedding everywhere . . .”

“Well, save that for the next step!” Paul Schneider cuts in. Seated in a director’s chair, the COM associate professor, bespectacled and snappily dressed, actually looks a hit like Seinfeld producer and Curb Your Enthusiasm star Larry David, but with a friendlier vibe.

The course is Writing Situation Comedy, which Schneider has been teaching since 2002. “I’m trying to give them a sense of how to construct a half-hour show,” veteran television director Schneider says later. “It’s following the pattern that you find in the industry in Los Angeles. I’m trying to teach them how it’s actually done professionally.”

That means that over the course of the semester, each student writes an original episode of his or her favorite television comedy, first verbally pitching a storyline, followed by a written outline, then a treatment — a kind of scene-by-scene synopsis — and finally a script.

Using an episode of Everybody Loves Raymond they had watched the previous week, Schneider is discussing in class the different elements of comedy. “Comedy depends just as much on tension and conflict as drama does,” says Schneider, who has directed comedic plays as well as more than thirty made-for-television movies and episodes of Beverly Hills 90210, L.A. Law, and other series.

“Incongruity produces comedy,” he continues. “Something that doesn’t fit. Robert is a big lug-like guy, and when Ray asks how things are going at their parents’ house, he answers, ‘It’s a very delicate ecosystem over there.’”

“That line wouldn’t he funny out of the mouth of a biology professor,” he points out. The students, a mix of undergraduates and graduate students, film and television majors, men and women, listen intently as Schneider also hands out practical advice about today’s showbiz. “DVDs are a big business now,” he
Out of Mongolia

What do you do when you’re an aspiring filmmaker who wants to get noticed? If you’re Christopher McKee, you head to the Mongolian countryside, just this side of the back of beyond, and start shooting.

OK, maybe that’s not exactly the way it happened. Still, McKee (CAS’95, COM’95) is now shopping his first documentary — about the life of nomadic Mongolians — around to film festivals, has it out on DVD, and is waiting, if not for an Oscar, then at least for attention. As a self-described maker of “experimental, avant-garde, boundary-busting films,” he does not expect to be the next Steven Spielberg. But his film Mujaan shows that there’s life beyond Hollywood for film majors — in his case, way beyond.

After graduation McKee joined the Peace Corps, teaching at a film school for a year in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar, and later English in a small town. Back in the States, he took various temp jobs and taught screenwriting, but returned to Mongolia in the summer of 2003, Canon GL-1 digital camcorder in hand.

He hired a local craftsman to build a ger — that’s a yurt to you, the round semiportable home of nomadic Mongolians — using traditional methods, and started filming. “I also wanted to show some moments of life going on around the process, so you got a sense of how they lived and why they built a home like this,” McKee says. Indeed, in addition to the craftsman — that’s what mujaan means — cutting trees and building the yurt, we see felt-making, cooking, and games as they must have been played for centuries.

“Until recently there were still a lot of people living close to the land, in the traditional nomadic fashion. But that’s changing as Mongolia opens up to the rest of the world, and technology is coming in fast now,” McKee says. So what we see is more cinema verité than real life. The yurt builder “normally uses electric power tools to do the work, even though he’s out in the countryside. He just hooks up a generator. And he normally wears jeans and a T-shirt when he works.” But having learned the skill from his grandfather, he also knows how to build a ger the old-fashioned way.

The irony of a documentary about the life of a nomadic craftsman who actually uses power tools isn’t lost on experimental filmmaker McKee. His star “has a VCR and once a month or two people bring in some bootleg videocassettes that have been dubbed over in four languages. He is an avid film watcher — so he sort of understood what I was doing,” McKee says. “My Mongolian film assistant, who was one of my students at the film school five years earlier, joked that by the time we finished shooting, the guy who was building the ger would be a better filmmaker than the both of us.”

— Taylor McNeil

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After graduation McKee joined the Peace Corps, teaching at a film school for a year in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar, and later English in a small town. Back in the States, he took various temp jobs and taught screenwriting, but returned to Mongolia in the summer of 2003, Canon GL-1 digital camcorder in hand.

He hired a local craftsman to build a ger — that’s a yurt to you, the round semiportable home of nomadic Mongolians — using traditional methods, and started filming. “I also wanted to show some moments of life going on around the process, so you got a sense of how they lived and why they built a home like this,” McKee says. Indeed, in addition to the craftsman — that’s what mujaan means — cutting trees and building the yurt, we see felt-making, cooking, and games as they must have been played for centuries.

“Until recently there were still a lot of people living close to the land, in the traditional nomadic fashion. But that’s changing as Mongolia opens up to the rest of the world, and technology is coming in fast now,” McKee says. So what we see is more cinema verité than real life. The yurt builder “normally uses electric power tools to do the work, even though he’s out in the countryside. He just hooks up a generator. And he normally wears jeans and a T-shirt when he works.” But having learned the skill from his grandfather, he also knows how to build a ger the old-fashioned way.

The irony of a documentary about the life of a nomadic craftsman who actually uses power tools isn’t lost on experimental filmmaker McKee. His star “has a VCR and once a month or two people bring in some bootleg videocassettes that have been dubbed over in four languages. He is an avid film watcher — so he sort of understood what I was doing,” McKee says. “My Mongolian film assistant, who was one of my students at the film school five years earlier, joked that by the time we finished shooting, the guy who was building the ger would be a better filmmaker than the both of us.”

— Taylor McNeil
Crime does pay . . . at least for some mystery writers. Literary novelists may get the glory, as Ross Macdonald often complained, but mystery writers get bigger audiences. Among BU's alumni are established authors and rising stars, whose sleuths crack cases from the Hub to Tibet.
Robert B. Parker was done relaxing. It was a Monday morning in January, and so, like most every Monday morning, Parker (GRS'57, '71) sat down in his leather-lined study in Cambridge and typed ten pages of the latest adventure of his private detective, Spenser. The author of forty-nine books, including thirty-two Spenser mysteries, Parker was starting from scratch on the next book, which he was calling “Spenser 19” because it was the nineteenth volume on his current contract.

At seventy-one, Parker likes to give himself a break after he finishes a book. He had completed the first draft of his most recent one the previous Tuesday — and he never writes second drafts. So he took a grand vacation of five days before beginning anew.

By Wednesday he was on page eighteen. Interviews with Bostonia and other distractions had kept him from making his daily quota.

“All I know is the opening event, the premise,” he says of the new book. “Then, hopefully, chapter two will grow out of chapter one, and chapter three will grow out of chapter two, and eventually I’ll find out what’s going on.” He writes without notes, without outlines, without even a storyline in his head. “I didn’t know who did it in the last book until ten pages from the end,” he says.

Such narrative nonchalance may be rare among the clue-ploying architects of whodunits, but you’d never guess at Parker’s attitude from the best-seller lists. Since he published his first Spenser outing, The Godwulf Manuscript, in 1973, Parker has enjoyed a success that’s rare in the literary world. His books spawned the mid-1980s television show Spenser: For Hire, much of which was filmed on location in and around Boston, and Spenser and his Hub cronies from Parker’s two other series — lady detective Sunny Randall and troubled cop Jesse Stone — have been the protagonists of several television movies, the latest being February’s Stone Cold, starring Tom Selleck as Jesse Stone.

Parker’s Spenser is a private dick in the tradition of Philip Marlowe, another P.I. reputedly named for a literary fellow. Like many of his forebears in the genre, Spenser is a tough guy with a smart mouth and a heart of gold. But Parker is less than sentimental about his leading man. “He’s what I make,” Parker says with a shrug. “He is to me like a cupcake to a baker.”

After thirty-two years, Parker’s view of his chosen craft is anything but romantic. “Writing is simply writing,” he says. “What I’m writing doesn’t make too much difference. It’s all the same process.” Ask him what keeps him churning out all those books, two or three a year, and he’ll tell you: “I have an expensive family.”

“The plan is, starting in 2006, to publish a Spenser book, a Jesse Stone book, and a Sunny Randall book each year,” he says. “It takes me two to three months to write a book, so I’m out ahead now. This Spenser book I’m writing now — it’s lined up for 2007.”

Might as well be, since readers’ appetite for Spenser seems bottomless. “He’s heroic, and people like heroes,” Parker says by way of explaining Spenser’s apparently
endless popularity. "The books are linear — they start here and end there. They are not angst-ridden. And he doesn't always prevail, but he's never defeated. And people like that, I guess.... Plus, of course, there's my picture on the back of the book."

Others might argue that Spenser's success has to do with Parker's witty dialogue and sharp, irreverent eye for detail — his books are full of lines like, "The office of the university president looked like the front parlor of a successful Victorian whorehouse," the opening sentence of The Godwulf Manuscript.

He should know; he's done his time in the academy. A Boston-area native, Parker was for a time a professor at Northeastern after earning his doctorate at BU. He'd turned to academia after several years in the corporate world, which he despised. He had always wanted to write, but he and his wife, Joan, had two sons — and his family always comes first. "I don't know how I could have made sufficient money to feed my family, with very little work to do — long hours of time in which to do my own work — without getting my Ph.D.," he says. "I was not yearning to be a professor. I was yearning to be a writer. Professor was just a stop along the way." He cocks an eyebrow and adds, "It took me two solid weeks to write my doctoral dissertation at BU."

That dissertation, titled The Violent Hero, Wilderness Heritage, and Urban Reality: A Study of the Private Eye in the Novels of Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, and Ross Macdonald, reads like a character study for Spenser — who hadn't yet been invented. Parker argued that P.I.s like Marlowe and Spade follow in a tradition of American heroes reaching back to James Fenimore Cooper's Leatherstocking, and even today he'll stray from his Chandler schtick long enough to admit that Spenser is "an American hero in his evolution out of the frontier and then the Protestant ethic — and all of that stuff that I labored over so obsessively in my doctoral dissertation."

But the tough-guy Spenser belies Parker's curmudgeonly attitude toward the literary arts. Mixed in with Spenser's wise-guy banter are allusions, quotations, and bits of poetry, the stuff of such less-than-roughnecks as Shakespeare, Frost, Tennyson, and old Edmund Spenser himself. "I felt conspicuous in the bright moonlight," Spenser observes in 2003's Back Story, as he races up the stairs of Harvard Stadium, pursued by dangerous mystery men: "I thought of a line from Eliot... something about the nerve patterns displayed on the wall by a magic lantern."

Pretty poetic stuff for a potboiler, and surprising coming from the unsentimental Parker, until you hear him wax romantic about his family, Joan — "my wife of forty-eight years, who loves me madly" — and his sons, Daniel and David.

"I always wanted to write, but more than anything else I wanted to be Joan Hall's husband and David and Daniel Parker's father," he says, as Pearl the Wonder Dog, his auburn German shorthaired pointer, crosses over to her couch in his study. "When I had done that, I'd already done everything I really had to do, and the rest of it was what I wanted to do."

He eyes the dog thoughtfully. "She's the third Pearl. I miss them when they die, so I replace them with someone exactly like them and call them Pearl." Then the corner of his mouth rises in a smirk that would make Spenser proud. "Joan's afraid if she dies first, I'll find someone with green eyes and a good body and call her Joan," he says. "But I won't."
Death in the City

The Hub Is a Character in the Mysteries of Linda Barnes

BY KELLY CUNNINGHAM

LINDA BARNES sees Boston and Cambridge in much the same way as her six-foot-one recurring protagonist, private investigator Carlotta Carlyle — although the two usually react quite differently. While both women are energized by the area’s historic urban atmosphere, “Carlotta is confident and takes on challenges,” says Barnes (CFA’71). “Some of my scariest moments in the city have come when I’ve mistaken myself for her.” Thus possessed with the spirit of her ex-cop heroine at a Red Sox game last fall, Barnes turned to drunken Fenway rowdies with a stern glare and a few indelicate words. “They did shut up, but I was shaken by my own boldness,” she recalls.

Heart of the World, to be published next year by St. Martin’s, is Barnes’s fifteenth book and the eleventh in her critically acclaimed series of Carlyle mysteries — albeit the first set outside the Boston area. Previously penned cases feature boathouse stakeouts along the Charles River and the infiltration of a suspicious Big Dig construction company. This time around, readers will find city girl Carlotta navigating the jungles of Colombia in pursuit of a kidnapper. “She is absolutely out of her element,” says Barnes, “yet she prides herself on being able to make do with what’s there. She is, by God, not going to complain about a thing.”

Barnes is herself a city native, and her daily urban experiences inform her writing. “I grew up in Detroit, where human life was cheap,” she says. Coming of age when her hometown was known to some as Murder City, Barnes saw violence as an everyday part of life — as a child, she watched a neighbor cop shoot and kill a local teenager fleeing across Barnes’s front lawn — though she never quite got used to it. “I know that life is not a bowl of cherries,” she says. “And yet, if things get too awful, I will avert my eyes. For me, the most difficult thing about writing murder mysteries is finding that balance. There are those who say my work is too clean, and then there are those who won’t read me because I use bad language. What I’m trying to do is to reflect reality.”

Despite the chaos of Detroit, Barnes’s creativity flourished. “I acted in high school, was in every play,” she says. “It was the same high school Lily Tomlin went to, that Diana Ross and the Supremes went to. It was quite some place.” When the Detroit riots broke out in 1967, her parents decided they’d had enough of the city. “We left,” recounts Barnes, who was seventeen at the time, “and I was enrolled in the most boring suburban high school imaginable.” It was there that she received her first accolade for creative writing, the National Council of Teachers of English Writing Award.

She didn’t stay in the suburbs for long. Against her parents’ wishes, she took off for BU’s College of Fine Arts theater arts program, relieved to be back in citified environs and soon taking an apartment in Cambridge. “I was amazed at what I found,” she says. “The crazy drivers. The balkanized world of the neighborhoods — separate enclaves, sometimes united, sometimes divided.” After a stint as a Massachusetts high school drama teacher, which included writing an award-winning one-
act play, Barnes turned her attention full-time to mysteries. A self-proclaimed control freak and loner, she finds solace in the orderly world of crime novels and the solitude of writing.

Twenty years and a number of honors (including an Anthony Award and an American Mystery Award) since the publication of her first mystery story, “Lucky Penny,” Barnes writes at the Brookline, Massachusetts, home she shares with her husband and son. “If it weren’t for the school my kid goes to here,” she says, “I would still be in Central Square, which is a great place because it changes so much. It goes up, it goes down, it goes on — but it never quite gets gentrified, and that’s a good thing.” As for Carlotta, Barnes has two words to describe the gumshoe’s state of mind upon returning to Cambridge after her South American adventure: relieved and happy.

Of Monks and Mystery

Eliot Pattison Unearths the Secrets of Tibet

BY TAYLOR MCNEIL

Shan Tao Yun is no Sam Spade. When we first meet him in Eliot Pattison’s The Skull Mantra, he’s a prisoner in the dusty town of Lhadrung in eastern Tibet, languishing in a work camp. He had been a ranking investigator in Beijing, but just as he was closing in on a high-level political corruption case, he was sent behind bars in faraway Tibet. Beaten by guards, he finds solace in fellow inmates — Tibetan monks — who are imprisoned for practicing their religion. Soon he’s dragged by the local Chinese authorities into investigating a mysterious death, and when he solves the case is given a tentative freedom. He goes to live in the countryside with a handful of monks and finds himself embroiled in more deaths and more mysteries.

But Shan isn’t just solving murders — he’s learning about Tibet, and so are we. For Pattison (LAW’77), that’s part of the plan. “There are a lot of junk mysteries out there,” he says, “but the ones that are set apart are those that not only engage you, but also teach you and make you think at the same time.” It’s no surprise that his Shan mysteries — last year’s Beautiful Ghosts was the fourth in the series — are compared to other cross-cultural mysteries, like Tony Hillerman’s Navajo series or Martin Cruz Smith’s Gorky Park.

Writing mysteries about Tibet certainly wasn’t what Pattison had in mind when he graduated from law school. He became an international trade attorney, based in Washington, and was one of the first U.S. lawyers to have a China-oriented practice, helping American companies set up business ventures there. Over the years, he traveled through China many times. “I was intensely moved by what I had experienced in China and Tibet,” Pattison says, “and part of me was looking for a way to explain some of that, which the world has largely ignored.” He’d written a series of business books, but by the mid-nineties wanted to write a novel about Tibet. “And I
knew if I was going to write a novel, I'd write a mystery, because I like that genre.”

The manuscript of his first book wasn’t an easy sell. “I knew from experience,” he says, “that most of the editors — like a fair amount of readers — would pick up the book and say, ‘Tibet? Ugh.’” After accumulating rejection slips from publishers, he found an agent — and then an editor — who understood the book and took a chance on it. In a crowded field, it went on to win the 2000 Edgar Award for best first mystery.

Pattison says his books “are sort of thrillers, sort of intense spiritual novels. It’s interesting how readers react, too. Some want to talk about the spirituality and the Buddhist part of it, and some want to talk about the Western characters I use and how my books implicitly highlight the weaknesses in American culture. It’s sort of beauty in the eye of the beholder — and I’m glad to stimulate those different kinds of reactions.”

Although he’s traveled in Tibet, he spends many hours researching each book. “I’m very careful to be sure everything is accurate,” he says. “Each of my books has a different aspect of Tibetan culture. In Beautiful Ghosts, it’s Tibetan art, and in the prior book, Bone Mountain, it was Tibetan medicine. I knew a little bit about those subjects, but for the books I did a huge amount of research. So hopefully there’s some learning going on with the readers.”

In the end though, a mystery has to grab its audience, and Pattison knows that. “In my series especially, it’s a tricky thing in the first few pages to capture Shan as this Chinese-in-exile figure, but living in context of these outlawed Buddhists, with this overlay of very adverse Chinese persecution, without making it bloody or too overdramatic — it’s a delicate thing,” Pattison says.

And it works. As you read The Skull Mantra, for example, you gradually understand who Shan is — while you try to figure out who killed a Chinese prosecutor and left his decapitated body on a lonely mountainside. Shan brings more than detecting skills to the mysteries. His conversion to Tibetan Buddhism means that he sees the riddles as part of a larger web of circumstance, of the wheel of life. It’s such a sympathetic portrayal that readers ask Pattison if he’s a Tibetan Buddhist. “I’m not,” he says, adding with a laugh, “I’m obviously not Tibetan.” That said, one reaction he gets from readers is “the kind saying, ‘I am a Tibetan Buddhist, and your books are some of the best vehicles I’ve ever seen for explaining to other people what it means to be a Buddhist.’” Equally satisfying are reactions from readers around the world — the books have been translated into twenty languages — saying they didn’t “have a clue what was going on in Tibet before reading my books.”

Safely ensconced in his colonial-era house in rural Pennsylvania, Pattison is again slowly bringing the wilds of Tibet to life in the fifth Shan mystery, writing longhand at night after days practicing law. He doesn’t outline his books in advance, but trusts his knowledge of his characters to see him through. “I know more about Shan as a character than I put in my books — he’s that real to me,” Pattison says. And as each book comes out, he becomes ever more real for us, too.
Thrill Seeker
April Smith Gets Inside the FBI

BY CYNTHIA K. BUCCINI

IN THE OPENING PAGES of North of Montana, Ana Grey, an FBI agent with “a petite frame and an impatient attitude,” is about to nab a bank robber as he dashes to his getaway car. “Freeze — or I’ll blow your head off like a ripe watermelon,” she warns, leveling her .357 Magnum at the suspect. It’s purely Ana Grey: gutsy, unconventional, and a little reckless — she has yet to call for backup, an oversight that will bring her trouble with a sleazy supervisor later on.

When April Smith (CAS’71) began writing the thriller, her debut novel, she had another story in mind — the relationship between a Hispanic housekeeper and her employer’s wife, the maid’s discovery of the woman’s extramarital affair, and the wife’s retaliation. “But I needed a force to come through and figure it out and make it okay in the end,” Smith says. “And I knew that had to be law enforcement.”

When she worked it all out, the character of Ana Grey didn’t so much emerge as take over. An agent in the Los Angeles field office (the title refers to an upscale Santa Monica neighborhood), the tough-talking, ambitious Grey works 60 to 100 hours a week and has a “career timetable so tight you could plot it on graph paper.” She drives a 1970 Plymouth Barracuda convertible and lives her life “aggressively without God” in a furnished three-bedroom apartment. Of course, she’s disastrously unlucky in love.

“I think that fictional heroes and heroines have to be larger than life, especially in popular fiction,” Smith says. At the same time, Grey connects with readers because of her flaws. “She’s in conflict. She’s got to be. It’s internal conflict — there’s competition at work, guilt, her past.”

Smith faced her own internal conflict after earning a bachelor’s at the College of Arts and Sciences. She’d written for the BU News and freelanced for Rolling Stone, but she applied to the creative writing program at Stanford with the idea of teaching. All that changed when the Atlantic published Smith’s short story Sailing, part of her master’s thesis, and sent her a $500 check. “The letter changed my life, because it meant that I could continue to write for the rest of the summer,” she says.

But success didn’t immediately follow. Back East, the novel she was working on, set in Greenwich Village in the twenties, was rejected before she finished it. After a stint at a Boston ad firm, Smith returned to California, where she began a career as a producer of television dramas such as Cagney and Lacey and Chicago Hope and as a writer-producer of such made-for-TV movies as Ernie Kovacs: Between the Laughter and The Taking of Pelham One Two Three.

When the Writers Guild of America strike in 1988 temporarily sidelined her television career, she took up fiction writing again. She interviewed dozens of FBI agents while researching North of Montana, teasing out characteristics, steeping herself in the lingo of the bureau, and observing interactions among agents. “Little pieces assemble, like DNA,” she says. “Once you get the DNA of a character, you can replicate it.”

North of Montana, published by Knopf in 1994, was followed in 2000 by Be the One, a novel about the only female baseball scout in the major leagues. Smith brought
Ana Grey back in 2003 with the darker Good Morning, Killer, which has Grey, now a member of the FBI’s kidnap squad, on the trail of a sexual predator who has abducted a fifteen-year-old girl. She’s finally bought her own furniture, but her relationship with a Santa Monica police detective makes a shambles of her personal life.

Grey’s third adventure, in which she meets a new adversary and goes undercover in the Pacific Northwest, is due out in about a year. The books don’t get easier to write, says Smith, who continues to work in television. “I think the more experienced you are, the harder it is, because you see so many more possibilities. Your vocabulary in terms of, for example, police procedure, is huge. I feel like I’ve been in the bureau for ten years. I feel like I know what can happen, and I have more choices.”

One thing’s certain: Ana Grey will continue to be a force. “As long as I’m around, she’s around,” Smith says. “Ana changes the game, and that’s my kind of girl.”

The Night Job

Robert Greer Does Double Duty as Doctor and Writer

by Natalie Jacobson McCracken

“I’ve pretty much done what I wanted to do in my life,” says Robert Greer. A specialist in oral, head, and neck pathology, he’s a professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and director of the private Western States Regional and Maxillofacial Pathology Laboratory.

Then there’s his night job. Greer (SDM’74, GRS’89) is author of a collection of short stories and five crime novels that have hit some leading best-seller lists. Another novel is due out in October, and a seventh is under contract; there’s serious talk of movies.

He majored in both zoology and journalism at the University of Miami, in Ohio, although he wasn’t thinking about becoming a science journalist. “I was planning to do what I’m doing now,” he says — that is, parallel careers in science and writing. “But I had to wait to come back to the literary stuff because of course you can’t set up much of a medical career if you’re bouncing back and forth.” So he launched his career as pathologist and teacher, and fourteen years after earning a Doctor of Science and two advanced certificates at the Goldman School of Dental Medicine (he’d received a Doctor of Dental Surgery at Howard University in 1969), he spent a sabbatical year earning a master’s degree in BU’s Creative Writing Program. “Other schools I applied to said, ‘Come on, you’re a doctor; you can’t do this,’” he says. But Boston University accepted him. Program director “Leslie Epstein took someone who had, you might call it, raw talent, admitted me, and figured out how to make me a better writer.”

The year over, he returned to the University of Colorado and kept writing. First came short stories, and in 1996 The Devil’s Hatband, his first C. J. Floyd mystery. C. J. is a black bail bondsman and occasional bounty hunter, irascible, high-minded, and tough, with a touch of cowboy, his beloved mount being a 1957 Bel Air. “C. J.’s not me,” Greer says, although admitting to certain similarities: for opener, they both live in Denver, are knowl-
Robert Greer (SDM’74, GRS’89)

knowledgeable jazz enthusiasts, and collect license plates and Western memorabilia. Readers will note more basic similarities: C.J. is intelligent, perceptive, and witty, none of which he could be were his creator not the same. The Devil’s Hatband was followed by The Devil’s Red Nickel and then The Devil’s Backbone; they introduce a distinctive world of individuals and forces: the owners and denizens of a family-run Denver soul food restaurant, doo-wop and 1960s payola, overwrought environmentalists, and precious preservationists, along with the unscrupulous businessmen, inner city punks, and mobsters typical of mysteries.

“Then I needed a break,” Greer says. He turned to medical thrillers, which even his publisher’s releases sometimes describe as science fiction. “But they’re not,” he says. “In my lab, we’re looking at an enzyme’s role in causing cells to undergo the change associated with cancer. But it could play other roles as well.” Limited Time, published in 2000, is based on an enzyme’s real potential to boost athletic ability and even extend youth and life. Next came Isolation and Other Stories (their settings ranging as far from Denver as South Boston), followed by Heat Shock, another Colorado-based medical thriller, which begins with the effect of radiation on living creatures, in this case, fighting cocks. The result, he says, is not unlike what would happen in a nuclear attack; those who survive and their descendants would be protected from another attack.

How does Greer manage two simultaneous careers? “I’m disciplined. And I’m not interested in golf or movies or a lot of those other things.” Not that he thinks his choice is more worthy. “Society has made writing important,” he says. “Well, writing to me is no more important than your golf game or watching football. It’s just what I like doing.”

Still, behind his engaging characters and good yarns, there’s a message: “You can’t let medicine get out of control, but it’s more global than that. You can’t let environmentalism get out of control; you can’t let athletes get out of control. You have to moderate your enthusiasm before it takes you where you don’t want to go.”

His first five novels are being reissued as trade paperbacks, while he finishes the next, happy to be back writing a C.J. mystery. It’s harder work now; his wife died in 2002, “the first thing in my life I couldn’t control,” he says. But he guarantees Resurrecting Langston Blue will be completed in time for October publication “because the publisher says it has to be.” Another C.J. book is contracted, and more will follow. “It’s what I enjoy.”

And so do readers, who will welcome the return of C.J. mysteries. Although C.J. plays small roles in the two medical mysteries, Greer says, “some people were really upset when I wrote them instead of more C.J. books; I got nasty e-mails. He has a real fan base.”

C.J. fans can thank Leslie Epstein, who “took a chance on me,” as Greer says, and admitted him, an established oral pathologist with some undergraduate journalism experience, to the Creative Writing Program. And Epstein remembers why. “I sensed on first meeting Robert that he was an exceptional man. And there was something in even his early prose that made me think he was going to be an exceptional writer, too — something in the play of wit and sharp intelligence and feeling for character. I wasn’t wrong, was I?”
A Journalist Turns to Crime
Crime Reporting Leads to Fictional Pay Dirt for Jan Brogan

by Kelly Cunningham

For twenty years, Jan Brogan relished being a reporter, profiling con artists and covering corrupt credit unions. “I loved the energy of journalism,” she says, “the daily deadlines and the challenge of taking complex information and simplifying it.” Unaware of it at the time, she was also preparing for a second career — as a mystery writer.

Brogan (COM ’79) had known since childhood that she wanted to be a novelist. Her parents, however, convinced her that journalism would be a more practical writing career. But even as she made her way through journalism classes at the College of Communication and worked for small suburban dailies in the Boston area, the seeds of a novel were taking root. After covering several beats at the Providence Journal, and winning an award for distinguished financial writing, she decided it was time to give up full-time journalism and jump into fiction.

She didn’t plan to write newsroom mysteries. Brogan’s first novel — a romantic comedy, as she describes it — was never published. Then her writers’ group convinced her to write what she knew. Good advice, it turned out.

The resulting murder mystery, Final Copy, was published by Larcom Press to wide acclaim, including the Drood Review Editor’s Choice Award. In it a fallen Boston reporter, tortured by her brother’s death and her own addiction to prescription medication, has a chance to regain her footing. Despite her experience in journalism, don’t expect Brogan’s fiction to provide a precise reflection of news culture as she knows it. “The book features a lot of newsroom politics, which I exaggerate, particularly the competitiveness of reporters,” she says. “In general, I like newspaper people a lot.” But they don’t make good copy. “It’s much more interesting if people are underhanded.”

Making the transition from the practical, fact-based world of journalism to the isolated and often unreliable world of fiction writing was not easy. “In journalism,” says Brogan, “if you work hard and get everything right and do a good job, you will succeed. You can be a hard worker in fiction, write a good novel, and get nowhere. It’s like playing the lottery: when you get published, you get the opportunity to buy a lottery ticket, and your odds of making a million are about the same as in the lottery.”

A Confidential Source, out in April from Time Warner’s Mysterious Press, features another journalist seeking redemption, this time with the addiction gambling and the murder happening before her eyes. So why the penchant for disgraced newspaperwomen and their struggles to succeed? “You really find out who your characters are when you put them up against a lot of odds,” Brogan explains. “I’m not really interested in P.I. sleuths with brilliant skills. I’m much more interested in a very troubled person overcoming those troubles to do the right or wrong thing, depending on the story. I’m interested in the complexity a personal problem brings to the story.”

These days, Brogan is at work on a new novel, as well as doing freelance reporting. She sometimes misses the excitement of the newsroom, though writing fiction allows her a freedom and control that journalism did not. “To be a journalist,” she says, “you’re part of the everyday world. You’re part of how the world functions. Fiction is art, and I like to use it to take things to a new level of complexity. In my mysteries, I love exploring why people do what they do, and the wrong assumptions people might make in trying to figure out who’s at fault.”

Jan Brogan (COM ’79) Photograph by Lynne Wayne
Doctors are teaming up with other health professionals to put the brakes on the childhood obesity epidemic.

BY TIM STODDARD

DAVID GELLER hovers beside a bank of whirring treadmills, urging his three charges to keep up their brisk pace and crest an imaginary hill. The kids — two nine-year-old boys and an eight-year-old girl — are flushed and panting, but they smile now and then at their pediatrician's jokes. Dressed in a navy polo shirt and khakis, Geller blends in with the physical therapists, personal trainers, psychologists, and registered dieticians at Baystate Wellness Center in Woburn, Massachusetts, where he has launched the Early Start program to help overweight children and adolescents from Boston's suburbs eat well, adopt healthier lifestyles, and get fit. Early Start is unconventional: how many kids see their pediatrician twice a week in a well-appointed gym with one-on-one attention from trainers and nutritionists? But then again, until recently, how many pediatricians realized they were grappling with an obesity epidemic?

The kids step off the treadmills, gulp down water, and follow Jessica McManus, a personal trainer and exercise specialist, through a vigorous cross-training routine. One boy steps on and off a platform while the girl darts around an obstacle course of cones and the other boy leaps among plastic hoops in a variation on hopscotch. "I tell the kids from the outset that I don't care how they look or how large they are," Geller says, watching his patients work up a sweat. "I tell them, if we can change your eating and exercise habits, you'll become healthier inside, and consequently, you'll probably lose some weight. But that's not our goal, which is to have them enjoy this experience, make some changes in their behavior, and keep it going."

As America's childhood obesity epidemic grows, Geller's goals are taking on greater urgency. Overweight adolescents are more likely to develop asthma, type-2 diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea (disrupted breathing during sleep), and various orthopedic complications. They also endure the stigma of obesity, which can lead to depression, eating disorders, and other psychological problems. About 16 percent of American children are overweight, triple the number of twenty years ago, and overweight kids are about 80 percent more likely to become obese adults, at risk for heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension.

Geller describes the obesity problem as the most challenging issue in pediatrics today. During his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in the mid-1990s, he treated a growing number of overweight kids from inner-city Boston. "You'd see kids at MGH with all
kinds of health problems, many related to their weight," he says. "The senior physicians would say, 'If you go out and practice in Lexington or Bedford, you're not going to see these kinds of cases.' But you know what? You see obesity everywhere. It's more prevalent in poorer socioeconomic areas, but it's a growing problem in the suburbs, too."

Geller came up with the idea for the Early Start program several years ago, as the number of overweight children in his practice in suburban Bedford, Massachusetts, was increasing. He discussed it with Michael Mulrenan (SAR'93,'94), a physical therapist to whom he had referred patients with sports injuries. Mulrenan, who opened Baystate Wellness Center in 2001 to treat orthopedic injuries in children and adults, was amenable to extending the company's scope to include a weight-management program for children. They expanded the facility with an open workout area for the Early Start kids, a conference room for nutrition sessions, and a smaller exam room where Geller can meet with patients and their parents. "There's some privacy, but the kids get the sense that they're not isolated, that they're not here because they're overweight," Mulrenan says. "They're here because they want to become healthier."

Early Start has begun slowly, enrolling only about fifteen children since August 2004. But more pediatricians in Boston's suburbs are referring patients to the three-month program. Geller gives each new patient a psychological and medical exam and meets with the parents to gauge their commitment to changing their family's exercise and eating habits. McManus and Mulrenan assess the child's motor skills and tailor an appropriate workout. "The greatest challenge is keeping the kids interested in what they're doing," says McManus. "With an adult who has high cholesterol and diabetes, you can tell them to go do crunches on a ball, and they usually will because they know they need to. Children do not understand that, so to keep them engaged we need to make this entertaining for them."

They are also learning healthier eating. Early Start participants spend about forty-five minutes each week with Tanya Walshie Hillier (SAR'95), a pediatric dietician who gives individual counseling to families and also runs group exercises. This evening she's leading a game of Nutritional Jeopardy, with categories such as Bone Building, Body Building, and Five Food Group Fun. Hillier later cooks a pot of pasta in an adjacent demonstration kitchen and shows the children and their parents what a serving (a half cup) looks like on a plate. Nine-year-old Shannon "has picked up some food groups from Tanya," her mother says afterwards, noting her daughter's new interest in oranges. "And broccoli," Shannon adds cherubically. "Now can we go to McDonald's?"

Hillier responds to requests for fast food by encouraging moderation. "One of the things I try to emphasize is that we're not dieting, and that it's not bad to eat certain foods," she says. "These are kids, they're still growing, and we're surrounded by junk food."

THE FRONT LINES

LIKE OTHER URBAN hospitals, Boston Medical Center serves a low-income ethnic population with a higher rate of being overweight. So BMC, the teaching hospital of the School of Medicine, is also conducting an innovative campaign to help overweight children and teenagers shed pounds and develop healthier lifestyles. The Nutrition and Fitness for Life (NFL) program started in 2002 as a pilot clinic for seventeen overweight teens and now provides intensive medical, nutritional, behavioral, and phys-
ical activity counseling to 170 such young patients and their families through individual and group treatment programs. Demand for the program is high: between 400 and 500 patients are on a waiting list. NFL's staff of child psychologists, physicians, and registered dieticians support nutrition and fitness efforts at neighborhood health centers. The program recently got a major boost from the New Balance Foundation, which pledged $1 million over the next three years to help expand its clinical and outreach efforts at eight Boston health centers.

Like several other social initiatives that have germinated at the BMC pediatrics department, NFL has quickly grown from a concept into a model program for other health centers. As a pediatric dietician at BMC in the 1990s, Vivien Morris (SPH'99), now NFL administrative director, was alarmed by the growing number of patients who were either overweight or on the verge of becoming overweight. She was also seeing more kids recovering from orthopedic surgery to repair fractures and joint injuries caused by their weight. Increasingly concerned about the role of environment and government policy in encouraging youth obesity among low-income families, Morris focused on the problem while completing a master's degree at BU's School of Public Health in 1999. She also approached Barry Zuckerman, chief of pediatrics at BMC, about starting a pediatric weight-management clinic. While Zuckerman, the Joel and Barbara Alpert Professor of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine, started the pilot program with other physicians in 2000, Morris was tapped to direct the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's overweight prevention and control efforts. The experience gave her a broader perspective on the sprawling obesity problem outside of Boston. "In the inner city, leisure time may be short for parents and kids, and facilities for exercising and play are scarce," she says, "but in rural western Massachusetts, there's a similar problem; even though there's more open space, kids are not necessarily more active."

**THE ALMIGHTY FAT CELL**

Common sense treatments for obesity usually prescribe more exercise and lighter fare, based on the conventional wisdom that obesity is the result of a simple energy imbalance — too many calories in, too few calories out — and that an individual controls that balance. But according to some researchers, it's not necessarily that simple.

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**Pioneering Protégé**

Weaving through the crowded lobby of Boston Medical Center en route to his office in the pediatrics department, Rishi Shukla casts a weary glance at the Dunkin' Donuts kiosk. The normally ebullient Shukla (CAS'02) seems deflated by the shelves of sugary offerings. "This is what we're up against," he says. His spirits appear restored a few steps later when a passing group of first-year medical students compliment him on the lecture on childhood obesity he'd delivered a few days earlier.

As the clinical coordinator of BMC's Nutrition and Fitness for Life program, Shukla has been giving talks to medical students, physicians, and public health officials about the program that he helped found two years ago to curb the growing obesity epidemic in Boston.

Shukla runs NFL's day-to-day operations, scheduling patient visits, chasing insurers who won't pay for treatment, and scheduling meetings for the staff pediatricians, dieticians, and psychologists. The former high school football and tennis player could be mistaken for a personal trainer or a medical student or an entrepreneur, perhaps because he's all three at once. Spending even a little time with him feels like a workout: in addition to coordinating NFL, Shukla is applying to medical school, shepherding a nonprofit weight-management startup, and serving on advisory boards for the Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports and the Boston Public Health Commission's Fitness and Nutrition Coalition.

He helped launch the NFL program during his senior year, when he was completing a self-designed major in neuroscience. He volunteered in the pediatrics department sophomore and junior years as a counselor for the Boys Sports and Nutrition Program, which seeks to improve the physical activity, nutrition, and self-esteem of overweight children from inner-city communities. It's one of several efforts within BMC's Project Health, a program initiated by Barry Zuckerman, chief of pediatrics at BMC, to deal with health issues faced by low-income families and engage undergraduates in entrepreneurial service.

A Project Health administrator asked Shukla in September 2002 to help another Zuckerman initiative get off the ground. Zuckerman had started a weight-management pilot program in the pediatrics department with Caroline Apovian, an associate professor of medicine and director of BMC's Nutrition
"There's a lot of evidence that that's completely incorrect," says Barbara Corkey, a professor of medicine and biochemistry at the School of Medicine, "and no evidence that it is correct, except that everyone says it is. There have been studies showing that overeating does not cause obesity. It's not that there is no relationship between calories in and calories out, but body weight is not controlled by individuals through their manipulation of those factors. The control is through a complex systemic mechanism." Corkey says that the marvelously complex machinery that regulates weight defies an easy equation. "The information that we have right now is purely epidemiological: it shows relationships between, say, the rising density of fat and sugar in our food and this spreading obesity problem over the past twenty years. But the data can't prove that one caused the other. There's clearly a major environmental component, and the susceptibility to that may be genetic."

Corkey directs the School of Medicine's Obesity Research Center, which coordinates collaborative basic and clinical research in body fat regulation and its metabolic consequences. She and other center investigators are working to better understand obesity at the cellular level, and in particular, the surprisingly active lives of fat cells. Until recently, researchers considered fat cells, or adipocytes, to be simple blobs for storing energy. But now they realize fat cells are dynamic and complex and that fat affects a wide range of bodily functions, from blood clotting to reproduction. "Adipocytes have gone from being thought of as repositories of fat with no other function to being little endocrine organs that secrete over a 100 things, and we know the function of only a few," Corkey says. "How those secretions are controlled is important for all other tissues in the body."

She wants to know, among other things, how a fat cell controls its size. How can fat cells in your legs remain small, she wonders, while fat cells in your stomach grow large? The answer appears to be in the chemical signals that adipocytes receive as they're growing, a process called adipogenesis, which occurs throughout life. Everybody, she explains, has pre-adipocytes, smaller, undeveloped versions of fat cells that are waiting for chemical signals to cue their growth. Corkey and her collaborators are trying to understand the chemical cross talk among fat cells, which seems to affect where adipocytes grow, how large they become, and the signals they send to the brain.

and Weight Management Center, and he needed an ambitious protégé to transform it into a full-fledged specialty clinic.

Rishi Shukla (CAS'02): "We have all these federal agencies saying that obesity is a major health hazard... yet insurers don't reimburse weight-management programs." Photograph by Kalman Zabarsky

Shukla began volunteering one day a week, laying the administrative groundwork for the NFL program. His part-time gig soon became all-consuming: he would often remain at BMC until two or three in the morning on school nights, managing patient appointments, setting up conferences for the physicians, and sorting out reimbursement issues in the wilderness of managed care. "I began to see what a tangled mess it really was," he says. "We have all these federal agencies saying that obesity is a major health hazard — it's the number-two cause of preventable death in the country — yet insurers don't reimburse weight-management programs."

Shukla has pressed on. "Part of what I'm doing now," he says, "is working with insurers to figure out how to make it appealing for them to support our program." He reminds private companies and state and federal health-care programs of the imminent, and hugely expensive, chronic health problems such as diabetes and heart disease that await overweight young adults. "I think," he says, "we have the potential to do something extraordinarily meaningful early on in a preventive sense." — TS
Fat is especially in command at certain critical times in life, when people pack on a lot of it. "During the growth spurt in adolescence and during pregnancy there's a growth spurt in fat cells, and then it stops," Corkey says. "Even if we don't find out why adipogenesis goes out of whack in today's children compared to earlier generations, perhaps we can find out what the critical age is and just treat children in that window." While she praises efforts to promote activity and healthy eating, she notes that there is no scientific evidence that programs such as Early Start work. "I hope they do work," she says, "but creating a control group for an experiment to test them is not trivial: how do you take an overweight child whose life is in danger and not treat him or her? Even if the treatment isn't proven, you do it. That's why we don't know the truth. But you can't blame physicians for using the best information they have."

When it comes to weight management, Geller notes, measuring success is more difficult in children than adults. "Is success a child who's lost weight, is it a kid who's kept his weight steady, or is it a kid who's now interested in nutrition and exercise when he wasn't before?" One of Geller's patients had gained twenty-eight pounds in the year before joining Early Start, but put on no additional weight during the program and actually lost ten pounds in the two subsequent months. "Sometimes these kids just need a good backseat driver," he says, "and that's what we were for him. The results were amazing."

**LET'S GET MOVING**

**Adults who hate** exercising often trace their aversion to bad experiences in gym class. Eileen Sullivan is well aware of the lasting negative impact of bad gym teachers, and she's training a new generation of classroom teachers and physical educators at BU's School of Education to go forth and inspire kids to become more physically active. Sullivan, a clinical assistant professor in the department of human movement, health education, and coaching, developed a course sixteen years ago called Movement Education, now required of all SED elementary education students. "We need great teachers in the gymnasium," she says, "but we also need advocates for physical education outside the gym. We need classroom teachers, parents, and after-school program leaders to all get involved."

The 125 aspiring teachers in Sullivan's course learn about the principles of fitness through games and developmentally appropriate activities. In particular, Sullivan emphasizes the need for positive, cooperative play. "In younger elementary grades, we need to be focusing on games where everybody's winning, nobody's ever tagged out, and no one is standing still. They learn about cooperative versus competitive play."

The students apply the theory in the gymnasium through BU's thirty-year-old Tuesday-Thursday Program, which provides physical education classes to Boston public school children in the Case Gymnasium. In the nine-week program every fall and spring, Sullivan's students design and implement lessons for the kids, whose schools don't have budgets for physical education classes. "Ideally, I would have daily PE in schools," Sullivan says, "with everybody moving and everybody having fun as they move, from kindergarten to high school." It's her vision for developing "happy, healthy, moving adults."

**PRESCRIPTION FOR CHANGE**

Luring kids away from the television and computer and encouraging physical activity should help prevent or reverse obesity, but there's still the looming problem of poor nutrition. For many in America, it stems in part from bad eating habits born of busy lives. At four p.m. on any given day about 60 percent of Americans don't have a clue what they're having for dinner, say Janice Newell Bissex (SAR'84) and Liz Weiss (SAR'85), both registered dieticians. The temptation for working par-
ents is to opt for an easy dinner option: pizza, macaroni and cheese, frozen fish sticks, chicken nuggets, or fast food. Bissex and Weiss decided to take a stab at fixing the problem, and wrote The Moms’ Guide to Meal Makeovers, which provides tips and realistic advice to help parents and kids eat healthier at home. Culinary perfection isn’t the goal. Instead, they say, parents should start small, adding, for instance, one extra serving of fruit each day to a child’s diet. Bissex admits that her family follows a 90/10 rule. “I believe in moderation,” she says. “I feel that if you can get your family to eat well 90 percent of the time, then you really don’t have to worry that much about the occasional treat. It’s OK to have a soda, but we don’t do that on a weekly basis. It’s when kids are drinking soda and eating French fries and chips every day that we get into trouble.”

That’s all well and good, but how do you convince a finicky five-year-old to eat more fruits and veggies? “You have to present them in a way that’s appealing,” Bissex says. “Parents sometimes complain about their kids refusing to eat steamed broccoli. Well, you know what? I’m not sure I would be enticed to plain old steamed broccoli, either. But if you lightly steam it and then sauté it in some olive oil and garlic and sprinkle some kosher salt over the top, now it tastes pretty darn good. I like it and my kids like it. That’s what it’s all about: how to make it easy, and simple things you can weave into your everyday eating.”

In the neighborhoods near Boston Medical Center, however, it’s a question of parents’ struggling to find and afford the healthy foods recommended by doctors and nutritionists. When Morris suggests that families buy more fruits and vegetables, they often tell her that fresh foods are just too expensive. “And they’re right,” she says. “It’s cheaper to buy ramen noodles.”

Morris has found that it’s virtually impossible for poorer Boston households to purchase the kinds of healthy foods recommended by dieticians and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). She recently had high school students survey corner stores and supermarkets in Dorchester, Mattapan, and the South End to estimate the cost of feeding a family of four according to the USDA’s Food Basket Diet, which she considers barely adequate. They also estimated the cost of what she calls a healthier diet, which includes more whole grains, fresh produce, fish, and poultry. In particular, Morris wanted to know what low-income families could afford with food stamps. “In most cases families could barely meet what’s viewed as a minimum diet,” she says. “In almost no case in any of these communities could they purchase a healthier diet with food stamps. That’s assuming that an eligible family gets a maximum allotment of food stamps, and almost no family in Massachusetts gets that.”

One of Morris’s long-term goals is to work with lawyers at BMC’s Family Advocacy Program to modify the Massachusetts food stamp program. NFL is also training physicians to better manage childhood obesity. Carine Lenders, an associate professor of medicine and medical director of NFL, is developing continuing medical education courses to help doctors and nurse practitioners assess, treat, and educate overweight children, make appropriate referrals, and recognize the range of health problems that can arise when overweight teens become obese adults.

Another long-term goal is to improve reimbursement for clinical weight-management programs. Rishi Shukla, NFL’s clinical coordinator, is pressing private insurers and state and federal agencies to pay for more of the clinical and community services provided by NFL and similar programs. He’s making progress, and he’s not alone. “A few years ago, if I saw a kid in the office for being overweight, insurance wouldn’t cover it,” says Geller. “But now they will, and they’ll cover more of the nutritional sessions at Early Start.” He’s cajoled some insurance companies to pay for Early Start’s medical exams and group nutrition sessions, but there is currently no coverage for exercise classes unless they are medically indicated — being overweight does not qualify as a medical condition. Nevertheless, Geller is optimistic that the Early Start model can work outside of Boston’s wealthier suburbs. “Insurance companies can and will do more,” he says. “What we’re doing right now is cutting-edge, but it can be replicated.”
Master of the Mind Games

Today’s relentless pressure on student-athletes makes sports psychologists like BU’s Len Zaichkowsky a vital part of the team.

BY BRIAN FITZGERALD

SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST Leonard Zaichkowsky once joked to a faculty member that the BU hockey team had two head coaches. “Jack Parker may be the head coach, but I’m the head coach,” he said, pointing to his own noggin.

Sports psychology is usually associated with professional athletes, who commonly seek the advice of such gurus. Mental demons also stalk college athletes, and more and more schools are using sports psychologists to improve their players’ performance and help with their emotional health.

Zaichkowsky, a professor of counseling psychology in the School of Education and the School of Medicine, has worked with both amateurs and pros, including the Boston Celtics and the NHL’s Calgary Flames. Most professional teams have such experts on call, if not on staff. Although college coaches may be taking the mental makeup of their athletes more seriously these days, Zaichkowsky’s discipline is still widely misunderstood.

“It’s not about playing mind games with athletes. A counseling session isn’t like the scene from the movie Caddyshack when Zen ace golfer Ty Webb tells Danny Noonan to “he the ball” when teeing off — while blindfolded, of course.”

“There’s no hocus-pocus involved,” Zaichkowsky says. “We use scientifically validated procedures in interventions to help athletes.” And there’s much more to sports psychology than helping slumping players get back into the zone. At BU he handles issues ranging from stress and time management to more serious challenges, such as depression, anxiety, and eating disorders, for both men’s and women’s teams.

One of the first sports psychologists affiliated with a college hockey team, Zaichkowsky says that student-athletes are especially vulnerable to stress because they have to balance not only academics and their social lives, but also a demanding training regimen during a long season that involves extensive travel. Hockey players, for example, play thirty-five games, not including playoffs, in a season beginning in October and extending into April. Parker (SMG’68, Hon.’97) has said that the season is “way too long” and the players “never get a chance to be regular students.”

Zaichkowsky says the pressures on student-athletes, especially on those who have already been drafted by professional teams, is enormous. “Take, for example, a highly recruited freshman athlete whose goal is to impress the coach and become a first-stringer,” he says. “For the first time in his life he’s playing against athletes of
we've got to make the intervention quickly, because the—again. The coach complains that he's not the same confidence in him, but he gives the athlete another shot, playing a backup role, but he is now and he is despondent like he's never been pushed before. He's not used to comparable ability, and academically he's being pushed.

A coach's gut reaction might be to think, "Why can't he just suck it up?" But remember, the kid is only eighteen, and his identity is so immersed in his sport that his life is spiraling downward. "His academics start to suffer," says Zaichkowsky. "He's failing. The coach loses confidence in him, but he gives the athlete another shot, and he blows it again. He's back on the bench. The coaches know that the talent is there, but now there is no way to stop the bleeding. That's where we come in. He needs to talk to someone besides the coach—a neutral party. The coaches are kind of buried in the x's and o's and don't really have time to handle these issues. And we've got to make the intervention quickly, because the semester is only fourteen weeks long."

Now suppose the player rebounds from this problem and then gets injured. "This is the first time in his life he's had to deal with significant injury," says Zaichkowsky. "It takes him all summer to get better, but he's lost a lot of physical conditioning, along with his confidence—again. The coach complains that he's not the same person he recruited two years ago. So we get him to commit to a training program and back to where he was when he lost his confidence."

To illustrate, Zaichkowsky, who has written seven books and presented more than 200 papers on sports psychology, walks over to a blackboard in an SED conference room, picks up a piece of chalk, and writes the word performance—forming what turns out to be the top of a word triangle. He draws an arrow pointing down to thoughts, then another arrow to the right, where he writes feelings, and then a third arrow, pointing back up to performance. "All three affect one another," he says, putting the chalk back in the tray. Wearing a tie and blazer, Zaichkowsky looks professorial, but today he's donned a short-sleeved sports shirt and beige khakis and looks like a cross between a teacher and a coach. And in a way, that's exactly what he is.

**AN EMERGING DISCIPLINE**

In the 1970s and 1980s professional teams paid increasing attention to sports psychology. Owners had started spending millions of dollars on athletes' contracts, and it was a better investment to bring in a mind mechanic for a problem player than to simply cut him loose. Then colleges got into the act. "Universities also invest a lot of money in their athletes, and it's incumbent upon them to provide the services to keep the students here instead of giving up on them," Zaichkowsky says. "It's not just because of what students can do on the field. They're here to learn life skills. It's nice to win a championship along the road, but a college's job is to develop good citizens, and sports psychologists can facilitate that."

Zaichkowsky played several sports growing up in Woking, a small town in western Canada, but needless to say, in the Great White North hockey was king. "I still play in an old-timer hockey league," he says, emphasizing his "R" like a true Canadian. He originally intended to be a teacher-coach; his bachelor's degree from the University of Alberta is in physical education. In fact, for two years after his graduation in 1966 he coached an under-eighteen youth team, and two of his players, Brian Ogilvie and Bryon Baltimore, went on to play in the NHL. In 1970 he received a master's degree in education from the University of Oklahoma, where he sat in on football coach Chuck Fairbanks's practices, observing how the athletes related to one another and to their coaches. It wasn't long before he knew that his calling was sports psychology. Three years later he earned a Ph.D. in the emerging discipline from the University of Toledo.

In 1975, two years after he came to BU, he met Rick Pitino, then the Terrier basketball coach. The two reconnected in 1997, when Pitino took over as coach of the
Boston Celtics and asked him to test potential recruits, “primarily for their mental toughness.” He also worked with Pitino’s successor, Jim O’Brien. At the professional level, Zaichkowsky finds athletes incredibly motivated to achieve. “They are dogged individuals — very persistent,” he says. The same he found true with Pitino and O’Brien.

At BU Zaichkowsky helps athletes in all men’s and women’s sports attain the winning edge. But he is probably best-known for his efforts with the men’s hockey team. He has dealt with myriad challenges with the hockey Terriers since 1985, from helping players cope with their slow start in 1990 — after being ranked number one in the country prior to the season — to more serious situations, such as devastating injuries. In the summer of 1994, All-American goaltender J. P. McKersie (SMG’96) was bicycling home when he was hit by a car and suffered severe head injuries. Surgeons didn’t think he would last the night, and he was in a coma for six days. Zaichkowsky and fellow sports psychologist Cynthia Adams (SSW’89, SED’92) worked with McKersie to help him get his confidence back, and he not only returned to classes three months later, but also was back on the ice for a handful of games the following season. “The coaching staff was incredibly supportive,” Zaichkowsky says. “We encouraged him to make a full comeback, and he made an incredible comeback. He even tried a pro career.” He’s now a coach at the Puckmasters hockey training school in Norwood, Massachusetts.

And then there was Travis Roy (COM’91). In 1995, eleven seconds into his first BU hockey game, he prepared to check a North Dakota player, deflected awkwardly off the defenseman, and went headfirst into the boards. He was paralyzed from the neck down. Roy has since regained some movement in his right arm and is now a motivational speaker. He continues to inspire the Terriers, and he dropped the ceremonial first puck at Agganis Arena’s inaugural game this year.

But back in the fall of 1995, the team was in full-blown crisis mode. Roy’s teammates were devastated. Parker was also having a difficult time coping with the tragedy, and when he asked Zaichkowsky before a team meeting, “What do I say?” Zaichkowsky replied, “Jack, you’re a reactor. Just react. There’s no script for something like this, but you’ll know what to say.” He told Parker to speak from his heart, and that’s exactly what he did. Parker talked to the team for half an hour about the fragility of life and was “brilliant,” says Zaichkowsky, who attended the meeting. Then he addressed the team, explaining the three stages they were likely to experience: anger, depression, and acceptance. He told them that to get beyond the tragedy and to the acceptance stage as soon as possible, they needed not to be afraid to talk about what had happened — and that they must also come to grips with their fears about playing in the wake of Roy’s injury.

“If you look at the literature on trauma in sports and how to deal with it, one of the first things you notice is that so little is written about the subject,” says Zaichkowsky. Eager to advance sports psychology, he says that one of his goals “is to prepare some case examples for the next generation of young people going into sports psychology, because this area is largely unexplored.”

GRAPPLING WITH THE SLUMP
Zaichkowsky’s services run the gamut. “Sometimes it’s as simple as teaching a person how to relax,” he says. “If a basketball player is throwing up bricks, often it’s because he’s tense and his muscles tighten up. No one has ever taught him how to relax, so I have him do breathing exercises.” Sometimes he simply asks an athlete what he’s thinking. “Invariably, they’re going to be almost all negative thoughts: ‘I can’t do this. I’m not as good as I thought I was. I suck!’ It’s a negative spiral, and we’ve got to turn it around,” he says. “The first step is to get him to think positive thoughts.”
Players who have been Zaichked into the right state of mind include basketball players Rachael Vanderwal (SED'06) and Adrienne Norris (CAS'09). Vanderwal remembers being mildly shocked last season when she was named team captain as a sophomore — a lot of responsibility for an underclassman to handle. "He told me, 'The coach thinks of you as a leader, so you should have confidence in yourself, because the coach has confidence in you,'" she says. "He worked with the whole team last year, both individually and as a group. He asked about our problems on and off the court and gave us a lot of good advice."

Norris says Zaichkowsky helped with team dynamics at midseason last year shortly after the Terriers lost three of five contests to America East teams. "We were struggling with our game," she says. "We weren't playing well with each other. He had a unique perspective. It was almost like having another coach. But you could tell him things you couldn't discuss with a coach. It was like having a confidant. He got us through a tough spot."

The Terriers rattled off seven straight conference victories, ultimately winning twelve of fifteen before losing to Maine in the America East championship.

Zaichkowsky typically helps BU hockey players with pregame preparation, discussing past lapses and helping them incorporate what they've learned into their attack. This year he met with a few players and assistant coaches several days before the Beanpot championship game against Northeastern and talked to them on game day, trying to get them pumped up, but not jacked enough to have the puck jump off their stick when they got a pass. They played uptight, Parker says, but loosened up in overtime and won, 3-2.

Indeed, athletic performance at times defies all logic. Think of a major league catcher with a rifle of an arm, who guns base stealers down at second base with ease, but has problems throwing the ball back to the pitcher accurately. Former Red Sox pitcher Matt Young couldn't throw to first base consistently. Neither could Yankees second baseman Chuck Knobloch. "Those are interesting cases — classic phobias," Zaichkowsky says. He advised the Texas Rangers last season about a player with a similar problem. "Baseball people tell you there is no cure," he says. "I think they're wrong. A well-trained behavior therapist can help those players."

Fortunately, he says, most of the student-athlete cases he sees "are ordinary adjustment problems — the kind most of us experienced when we went to college. Sports psychologists are there to help athletes cope. It's a strength-and-conditioning coach's job to get a player prepared physically, and it's our job to get them tougher mentally."
As a musician and teacher, CFA conductor Ann Howard Jones inspires student singers and conductors.

By Jean Hennelly Keith

Shortly before a concert dress rehearsal in February, Ann Howard Jones is onstage surveying the scene. Climbing onto risers for the Chamber Chorus, she calculates the ideal spacing for the forty singers. She spies one of her conducting students and steps down for a quick word. The accompanist tries out one of the two grand pianos with a late-seventies Barry Manilow hit; laughing, Jones sings, "Her name was Lola," in a lilting mezzo-soprano. Then she eyes the Steinway and has it moved two feet closer so the pianist can see better. As students filter in, she asks someone to find a more presentable conducting platform than the scuffed-up one in front of the piano. She mingles with the students, joking and charting easily, but alert to what needs attention.

Shortly before two p.m., Jones rallies the stragglers on stage at the College of Fine Arts Concert Hall and reviews the protocol for performance night: "Put on your sophisticated, experienced faces," she advises half-kidding, and proceeds to warm up the center stage so the pianist can hear better. As students set up, Jones calls on someone to find a more presentable conducting platform than the scuffed-up one in front of the piano. She mingles with the students, joking and charting easily, but alert to what needs attention.
singers. She directs them to sing in unison — sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses — then row by row and rows facing rows, as she observes and listens. At the music stand she raises her baton, and the sopranos begin. Peering intently through her glasses, Jones sways and nods and tosses her head with the music, expressing its power or gentleness with her whole body. Holding the baton lightly, she mouths the lyrics, smiling encouragement often. From time to time she stops the singers, asking for more “en” on a syllable or for more contrast between forte and piano. She reminds them of the meaning of a passage in the German text of Schumann’s Spanisches Liederspiel.

As the young program yields new doctors of music, a number are finding early career success. “Ann has completely put this school on the map as a program of choice for graduate choral conducting,” says Phyllis Hoffman (CFA’61, ’67), an associate professor of music.

During the summer Jones prepares the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI) chorus, high school students from around the world, for institute concerts as well as for non-BUTI collaborative concerts with such celebrated conductors as Robert Spano, Seiji Ozawa, John Williams, and Craig Smith. “Ann has great style and versatility,” says Patty Brown, associate director of the Tanglewood Music Center. “She knows how to tap into something in singers — she finds it within them.” About a third of the BUTI students eventually ma-

emphasizing the “romantic and desperately hopeful” message: “This is the one I stay awake thinking about at night.” They laugh, then sing the phrase a half-dozen times. She has them make notations on their scores as they polish the piece. Later she says, “Really nice A majors, sopranos, really,” and to the whole chorus, “Go ahead and enjoy it.”

As a professor of music and director of choral activities at the school of music, Jones conducts Boston University’s Symphonic Chorus and Chamber Chorus and administers and teaches in the graduate programs in choral conducting. Under her direction, the school’s choral program has expanded from a symphonic chorus, which she created in 1993 when she joined the faculty, to a full graduate choral conducting program, with the inclusion of the Doctor of Musical Arts several years ago. The program is thriving, drawing applicants from some of the best undergraduate music schools worldwide.

triculate at CFA. “They love and adore her,” says Hoffman, who is BUTI’s director.

Jones’s reputation extends far beyond Commonwealth Avenue and the Berkshires. A protégé of the late Robert Shaw, widely considered to be America’s greatest choral conductor, she is in demand internationally as a guest conductor for such prestigious choruses as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and as a guest lecturer and lecturer in residence on choral conducting and rehearsal technique and on choral and vocal pedagogy.

Locally, Jones and her counterpart across the Charles, Harvard’s director of choral activities Jameson Marvin, have created an informal exchange encouraging talented Harvard students to study in BU’s choral conducting program while assisting with the choruses at Harvard. “We see eye to eye on just about everything,” says Marvin. “We both try to adhere to the highest musical standards, but above all, we are interested in teaching our students.”
Jones conducted the BU Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Chorus in a 2004 performance of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* for the American Choral Directors Association that he rates “the finest collegian performance I’ve ever seen.” The *Boston Globe*’s Richard Dyer called the same program, performed in 2003 at Symphony Hall, “soul-stirring,” noting that Jones “had trained her chorus superbly” and conducted with “color and emotion.”

Equally gifted and passionate as a musician and a teacher, Jones believes in “positive enhancement.” Caring about the details of the music, she also has the leadership ability necessary to conduct. She says that early on universal praise from both faculty and students makes it clear why Jones won a Boston University Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003.

She says she is “not a person who thinks about the whole and hopes the parts will fall into place. I take the music apart, hoping to make more precise the rhythm, pitch, and dynamics, and all the things that make it sound like a performance was carefully tended.” She prepares scores by sitting at the piano, playing each line, and “listening, listening, listening” in an analysis that is “very personal and revealing.”

Jones enjoys working with “people wanting to get she “had the capacity to tell other people what to do and somehow they didn’t tell me to jump in the lake; they were willing to let me try.”

“She treats everyone with such dignity and respect,” says Barbara Wild, a former high school music teacher pursuing a graduate degree in choral conducting, “unlike a lot of people out there who berate their choristers.” Senior George Case IV always knew that he wanted to be a choral conductor. He was a BUTI student from Atlanta, and influenced by Jones, decided on CFA. “She's always nurtured that in me,” he says. “She spends time outside the classroom going over scores with me.” Hoffman describes Jones’s teaching style as “tough love.” Jones holds her students, who range in age and experience from high schoolers to midcareer musicians, to exacting standards, “knowing,” Hoffman says, “that they're going to feel much better about themselves having achieved the highest levels they're able to.” Such uni-

**SERENDIPITY**

Music comes to Jones naturally. Among the Iowa native’s many musical relatives were her mother, a singer, her grandmother, a church organist, and an aunt who could “play anything by ear on the piano.” She says that music “grabbed ahold of me young and never let go. One doesn’t really choose music as a career — one is chosen by it.” Drawn by music’s beauty and complexity like a “moth to a flame,” she revels in the opportunity it offers “to sink into it at so many levels,” she says. “You get closer, and closer, and closer, and closer, and there’s always the danger that you’re going to get consumed, but somehow you keep striving and keep reaching for
that ineluctable thing — music is like that flame: living, effervescent. It can warm; it can destroy.”

She views her musical journey as a series of fortunate coincidences. While earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in voice and a doctorate in choral conducting at the University of Iowa, she met a Brazilian woman who was looking for help developing a choral program back home, and applied for a Fulbright to travel to Brazil. “It sort of fell into my lap,” she says. Her first job there was preparing a large choral performance with orchestra of Mahler’s Second Symphony. She was flabbergasted that none of the 600 singers who showed up for rehearsal brought music — it seems no one could read it. She still marvels at the fine performance she elicited from the enthusiastic community chorus.

But it was a chance encounter in the early eighties that changed Jones’s life. After teaching at the University of Iowa and other colleges, she had a part-time position at the University of Georgia. Robert Shaw was then director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and he and Jones met when he visited the university to work with ensembles she had helped prepare. An enthusiastic singer who found choral singing “a great way to keep in touch with the person on the other side of the music stand,” she auditioned for the Atlanta Symphony and was invited not only to sing with the chorus, but also to assist with conducting. As assistant conductor of choruses from 1984 to 1998 — even when traveling and teaching elsewhere — Jones had increasing responsibility, particularly as Shaw’s health began to fail. Along with several colleagues, she conceived and established BU voice students, faculty members, non-BU vocalists — sit five rows deep in a double-choir formation curved around the stage, leaving barely enough room on the stage for the piano and the conductor’s platform. Jones is perched on a high stool overseeing all her musicians. After stretching exercises and vocal warm-ups that emphasize intonation, they begin the “Ave Maria.” “If you stop just a nickel’s worth short,” she cautions, “it’s unacceptable.” She instructs them to “count sing,” citing Shaw’s admonition that “every iteration of a number is an opportunity to improve pitch.” She leads them through a passage several times, assuring them that “this is the hardest piece on the program.” They get the glorious sound of “Stabat Mater” right where she wants it. “A fantastic attack,” she says, “a fabulous decrescendo!”
Running for Renewal

This track star runs distance, but discovered a few hurdles — physical, mental, and spiritual. They were not, however, insurmountable.

BY JESSICA ULLIAN

Tori Botticelli clearly has a gift. An ordinary college runner would not do what she has done — swim in high school, spend two years on the crew team, and finally settle on track and cross-country midway through junior year. Without a gift, a runner would not go on to post solid times in her first semester or struggle with anemia and injuries and rebound to win the America East cross-country title in the fall, less than a year after she began competing.

The question is, where did it come from?

Head Coach Bruce Lehane, who has led the cross-country team for twenty-three years, has a few theories. He talks about efficient running patterns, high oxygen uptake, stamina, and cardiovascular fitness. "It's set by genetics," he says. "She's just a high-caliber athlete."

Botticelli (CAS'06) has another idea, less technical but more complicated. Her path to running has been filled with extreme highs and lows, pain and sadness coupled with joy and victory, and in her mind there’s really only one reason for any of it: God.

She is not the type of Christian athlete who crosses herself at the starting blocks and points to the sky at the finish line. She simply believes God will prepare her for what she is meant to do, and therefore she enjoys what she is doing now. When she hears Lehane and others say she could someday be among the top runners in the country, she thinks it sounds fun. "Maybe I could, and that would be cool," Botticelli says. "But then again, that might not be what's in the cards for me."

"I use my running to praise God, because He's the one that gave me the ability, and He's the one who healed me," she explains. "I do it to honor Him."

AN AMAZING RUNNER

The link between her running and her religion is clear: Botticelli joined the team because she attended church with Julia Nazzer (SAR'04), one of Lehane's top distance runners. When they met at the start of her sophomore year, Botticelli was running as part of her crew training and would occasionally accompany Nazzer on her non-training runs. Initially, she says, she struggled to keep up. But after a while, both noticed they were working as equals. By the time Botticelli quit the crew team in 2003 because it took up too much of her time, Nazzer was encouraging her to go out for track.

"She was an amazing runner," Nazzer says. "She just had so much natural ability, and she worked really hard."

In the beginning of 2004, Nazzer told Lehane about her workout partner. At first, he says, "I didn't want her on the team," thinking that even if she could keep up with the other runners, she was three semesters away from graduation. Then Nazzer told him that on their training runs, she often had to tell Botticelli to ease up.

"If Julia's saying to somebody, 'You need to slow down,' I said, 'Well, let's take a look at her,'" he says. After putting Botticelli through a workout, he decided he did want her on the team, after all. "This is a high-quality distance runner," he thought, "who's never run."

In Botticelli's first meet she placed fourth in the 3,000 meters with a time of 10:24 — good enough to win most high school state meets, Lehane says, and comparable to what the Terriers would look for in a track recruit. The next month she placed third in the 3,000, and then fifth in the 5,000 meters at the America East Championships.

For a person who went "in the deep end, right from the get-go," Botticelli handled the pressure well, her coach says. She had the physical strength and stamina distance running requires, but she also had the mental toughness all track athletes need. Running is about doing something very unpleasant for a very long time, Lehane says, and knowing you will force yourself to repeat the experience again and again until the day you decide not to run any more. "Very well-adjusted people tend to not want to do this," he says.

But Botticelli seemed up for the challenges. "She improved so quickly," Nazzer says. "As soon as she joined the team, every week she was getting better and running faster."
After a solid showing throughout the indoor season, however, Botticelli’s results declined. Her time for the 5,000 meters, usually in the high seventeens, increased to well over eighteen minutes. She started feeling “totally out of it” in practice, she says. Finally, at a meet at the University of Connecticut in April, Botticelli finished the 800 meters in last place — “a distance person’s worst nightmare,” she says — and hurt so badly she couldn’t even sit down. She was diagnosed with iron deficiency and sat out four of the season’s five remaining meets.

Working at what she estimates was 90 percent of her normal ability, she ran the 10,000 meters at the America East Championships in May and placed fourth. But later that month, the rigors of training finally got to her. Most runners, Lehane says, have several years of experience before they begin collegiate competition; their bodies adapt to the punishing regimen. Botticelli’s hadn’t reached that point, and she wasn’t experienced enough to know she should sometimes hold back in practice. She learned when a broken hip flexor benched her for the rest of the outdoor season and most of the summer as well.

Once again, coach and athlete have different theories about why this happened — although in this case, their ideas overlap slightly. Lehane says the inexperienced Botticelli didn’t understand the difference between training and competing. She approached every practice run with the goal of beating her teammates and tried to impress her coach at every training session.

“That isn’t the purpose of the workout,” Lehane says. “But an inexperienced runner doesn’t necessarily know that.”

Botticelli says her quick success skewed her perspective and made her pretentious, focused on beating everyone, determined to win all the time. When the inevitable fall arrived in the form of an injury, she says, “I knew it was coming. I thought, ‘God’s gonna take your gift away, and you’re gonna be so sorry.’”

A RECONNECTION WITH FAITH

The idea that God would intervene and reprimand Botticelli for her bad attitude makes sense only if you believe, as she does, that her tumultuous relationship with Him helped her discover her talent in the first place. She had come to college as a semiserious swimmer and a devout Christian, planning to remain both at BU. But her plans, like those of many other freshmen, went awry. Swimming gave way to crew when her roommate joined the team, and church on Sunday mornings gave way to sleeping late as her social life expanded.

“I was like, ‘I don’t want constraints,’” she says, “and I did everything that typical freshmen do.”

Her freshman friendships went sour, however, and when she returned home to Garden Grove, California, for the summer she was miserable. She had no friends left at BU and no church to turn to for support. A worried high school friend invited her to a summer training camp run by a youth ministry that links the sports and Christian communities. Botticelli decided it might be a way for her to reestablish a connection with her faith.

The weeklong camp in the summer of 2002 was exactly what Botticelli wanted. Everyone there, she says, was just like her — struggling to find time for sports, academics, church, and a social life. They played sports, studied the Bible, and talked about how their faith could help them resist the pressures of drugs, alcohol, and partying. Finally, during a thirty-two-hour tournament held during the last days of camp, Botticelli decided it was time to bring her faith back into her life. The last event was a one-mile run, half downhill, half uphill. On the way down, she started praying, telling God about everything she thought she had done wrong. On the way up, she asked for forgiveness.

“I finished and I got to the top,” she says, “and I just knew that everything was all right. And that was kind of when I changed.”
Botticelli returned to campus that fall looking for a new direction, a new church, and some new friends. And she met Nazzer, a Sargent College junior and future Academic All-American. The steeplechase runner from New Zealand was a member of the Cambridge Vineyard Church and was starting a Christian fellowship for athletes at the University. The fellowship led to their workouts, the workouts led to the track team, and the track team led to Lehane’s conclusion that one day Botticelli could be a national champion.

RACING — BUT NOT RACING

If the broken hip flexor was the result of excessive pride, the recovery was a lesson in humility. Botticelli spent the summer in Boston, working out on an elliptical trainer because the injury had made her “the gimp of all gimps,” unable even to jog down a hallway or run for the T. In August, she started training again, but decided to enjoy the experience, to focus on running, not winning. She got her doctor’s permission to run with the cross-country team in the fall. “He said, ‘You can race,’” she says, “but you can’t race.”

Last September, racing but not racing in the first meet of her first season as a cross-country runner, she placed first in the 5,000 and was named America East Performer of the Week. In October, she came in tenth at the New England Championships, which the Terriers won. At the end of the month, she won the America East Championship with a time of 17:22.50 — the sixth-fastest time in the history of the women’s race.

The win was a breakthrough, says Lehane. It helped Botticelli feel she really belonged on the team. And it showed the coach what kind of raw talent he was dealing with.

“I could easily see her, years from now, being a long-distance runner and being one of the best in America,” says Lehane, who has coached several of the best U.S. female distance runners. “She’s doing this off of nothing, and that just isn’t done in our sport. At age twenty-five, she could be in the top ten in the country.”

WHY WASTE A GIFT?

The one thing Botticelli has lacked at BU is time — a deficiency that has been only heightened by her absence from competition this year. At the start of the indoor track season in the late fall, Lehane and Botticelli set a goal of qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Then, joking around during winter break, one of Botticelli’s friends jumped up on her back, reinjuring her hip and putting her back on the elliptical trainer for most of the season. By the end of February, she was running again, but not in competition — Lehane put her through a workout to test her strength and thought she looked lopsided.

Based on her performance last year, however, Lehane asked her to remain for a fifth year, with a full athletic scholarship. She will complete her English major next semester, possibly take some advertising or public relations courses to round out the year, and have one more chance at cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track.

As a coach, Lehane says, “you just wish you’d had her earlier.”

Botticelli wants to qualify for the nationals and run the 3,000 meters in under 9:30. After that, she will see what opportunities emerge. Does she want to run professionally, become an elite amateur? If that is God’s plan. If not, there’s something else waiting for her.

“I go out to do it because it’s fun, because I enjoy it,” she says. “It’s a gift. And I feel like, why waste a gift?”
Kathryn Bard had been shoveling sand for scarcely an hour on a hillside overlooking the Red Sea when a fist-sized hole appeared in front of her. Reaching in, she carefully uncovered the entrance to a man-made cave where Egyptian seafarers had stored a ship some 3,500 years ago. “Things like that don’t happen very often in archaeology,” she says.

Bard, an associate professor of archaeology in the College of Arts and Sciences, made the discovery on December 25, 2004, at Wadi Gawasis, a parched bluff on Egypt’s eastern shore. Inside a second, larger cave nearby she found two well-preserved cedar planks that were the steering oars on a seventy-foot ship that may have been part of Queen Hatshepsut’s famous fifteenth-century B.C. naval expedition to Punt, a trade destination somewhere in the southern Red Sea region. Bard and her team also found an assortment of nautical items, among them limestone anchors, ropes, a wooden bowl, and a mesh bag. They are the first pieces ever recovered from Egyptian seagoing vessels, and along with hieroglyphic inscriptions found near the caves, they promise to shed light on an elaborate network of ancient Red Sea trade. “It was the best Christmas ever,” Bard says.

Led by Bard and Italian archaeologist Rodolfo Fattovich, the team also discovered several stelae (pronounced steely), limestone slabs about the size of small modern tombstones, installed in niches outside one of the caves. Most were blank, but one, face down in the sand, had the cartouche of King Amenemhat III, who ruled about 1800 B.C., and a text recounting two expeditions led by government officials to Punt and Bia-Punt, whose location is uncertain. “That this stela has been preserved with very little damage for that long is really unusual,” says Bard, who has worked in Egypt since 1976. “And the preservation of organic material in the caves is truly remarkable.”

Bard’s colleagues share her enthusiasm. “I think it is a very exciting discovery,” says John Baines, an Egyptologist on the faculty of oriental studies at Oxford University. “People have tended to assume that the Egyptians didn’t do a tremendous amount of long-distance travel because very few remains of these sites have been found.” Thanks to texts discovered over a century ago, researchers have known that Egyptians mounted naval expeditions to Punt as far back as the Old Kingdom (2686–2125 B.C.). In Punt they acquired gold, ebony, elephant ivory, leopard skins, and exotic animals such as baboons that were kept as pets, along with the frankincense necessary for religious and funerary rituals.

Bard’s discovery is shedding light on other aspects of the Red Sea trade. “It was not known until we found this stela that King Amenemhat III had sent any expeditions to Punt,” she says. “That makes this an important historical text.”

While Bard is thrilled by the recent cave discoveries, she notes that other secrets of Wadi Gawasis remain. “I’m sure there’s at least one other cave we haven’t excavated yet,” she says. “There may be many more. And we’ve only just cleared out the entrance to the larger cave, and it’s enormous. We have years more of work to do there.”

Bard’s team excavates for only about six weeks in the winter between semesters because of the summer’s extreme heat and humidity. When she returns next December, she will be joined by a researcher who will use ground-penetrating radar to determine if there are more caves and estimate how far back the known caves extend. An engineer will help reinforce the partially collapsed ceilings in some of the caves.

“It was the find of a lifetime,” Bard says, “and there’s much more to discover there.” — Tim Stoddard
NASA scientists and engineers know that spacecraft traveling to the moon will need to be outfitted with special protection against charged particles that routinely traverse the cosmos. But they don’t know how much protection will be necessary for these robotic and manned missions, which will last longer than previous moon trips, exposing astronauts and their high-tech equipment to more of the powerful particles.

Harlan Spence, a College of Arts and Sciences astronomy professor, was chosen by NASA recently to help solve that problem. An instrument he has proposed developing will be among the key data-gathering tools aboard NASA’s robotic Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter craft, which is scheduled to orbit the moon on a one-year exploratory mission beginning in 2008. Spence (CAS’85) expects to receive about $9.5 million for the project.

“The objective is to determine the effects on humans of long-term exposure to charged particles — mainly protons and electrons — using a material that replicates human tissue, as well as the effects on electronic and computer equipment,” says Spence, an expert on space weather and technologies that measure high-energy charged particles in space. “For decades, we’ve had a pretty good idea what types of protection are needed for short visits to the moon, but we’ll be studying what’s needed to essentially live there.”

Spence’s project, called the Cosmic Ray Telescope for the Effects of Radiation (CRaTER), will measure the effects on human tissue and electronic equipment of charged particles called galactic cosmic rays, which often originate in supernovas and race through deep space more or less constantly, and the similar but more intense solar cosmic rays, which are caused by storms on the sun. A series of solar events in late 2003 sent billions of tons of charged gas hurtling through our solar system at speeds of up to five million miles per hour, disrupting satellites and ripping apart a sizable portion of the Mars atmosphere. Astronauts aboard the International Space Station at the time could have been injured by radiation had they not taken cover in a special shelter. Spence says that much more must be learned about the effects of charged particles before stations that are safe for the moon can be designed.

“The effects of charged particles are much more severe on the moon than in the upper regions of Earth’s atmosphere, where the Space Shuttle often operates, for example,” Spence says. “That’s because a planet’s strong magnetic field deflects most charged particles before they reach the planet’s atmosphere, while particles that do get through are absorbed by the atmosphere. The moon has neither a magnetic field nor an atmosphere.”

The scientific technology at the heart of CRaTER is a novel particle sensor system. The device will employ a stack of detectors housed in a structure of aluminum and special material known as “tissue-equivalent plastic” that was designed for biomedical research and will help characterize the biological effects of radiation in deep space.

Spence’s research team includes Larry Kepko, a senior research associate at the BU Center for Space Physics, as well as scientists at the California-based research group the Aerospace Corporation, MIT’s Center for Space Research, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the Air Force Research Laboratory, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Space Environment Center.

— David J. Craig

Photograph by Vernon Doucette
"How are astronomical distances determined?"
— Leslie Wadsworth (CAS’70)

"This is an excellent question, and in fact, a key question in astronomy, both historically and today," says Elizabeth Blanton, a College of Arts and Sciences assistant professor of astronomy.

The methods used for determining distances depend on how far away an object is. For nearby stars, those that are within about 500 light years of Earth, "a direct measurement of distance called a parallax can be used," Blanton says.

Parallax refers to viewing an object in space from two widely separated points, and measuring the difference. "This is a geometric measurement where the position of a nearby star is measured relative to faint distant background stars," she says. "The position of the star is measured again later in the Earth's orbit around the sun. Because of the new position of the Earth, the nearby star will appear to have shifted slightly relative to the background stars. Straightforward geometry is then used to get the distance to the star."

For objects that are farther away, both inside and outside our galaxy, a measurement called a standard candle can be used. A standard candle is a class of astronomical object, such as the Type Ia supernova, whose intrinsic brightness is known. "These exploding stars are thought to always emit approximately the same amount of light," Blanton says.

"We know that the light from an object diminishes as the square of its distance from us," she explains, "so if we measure the observed brightness and know the intrinsic brightness, we can then measure the distance."

For distant galaxies, the most common method is what's called the spectroscopic measurement of redshift. "We have known since astronomer Edwin Hubble's discovery in the 1920s that the universe is expanding, with farther-away galaxies receding more quickly," says Blanton. "This expansion can be measured using the spectrum of light from a galaxy. The spectrum is redshifted, meaning it is shifted to longer, redder wavelengths the farther away the galaxy is. Hubble found that there is a relationship between the rate at which a galaxy is receding away from us, as measured from its redshift, and the distance the galaxy is from us. Using this relationship, we can determine distance given the redshift."

Astronomical measurements, Blanton says, are not only important in determining distance; they have also opened the door to new discoveries. "In fact, the recent discovery that the universe is dominated by an unknown form of energy called 'dark energy' was dependent on distance measurements," she says. "The distances to supernovae, using the standard candle method, in faraway galaxies were found to be farther than expected based on the galaxies' redshifts. This means that not only is the universe expanding, but it is accelerating, propelled by some unknown force — the 'dark energy.'"

Do you have a question for "Ask the Professor"? E-mail bostonia@bu.edu or write Bostonia, 10 Lenox Street, Brookline, MA 02446.
Cancer Expert Appointed Medical Campus Provost and School of Medicine Dean

Karen Antman, a prominent oncologist who is recognized internationally as an expert on breast cancer and other malignancies, has been named provost of the Medical Campus and dean of the School of Medicine. She will assume the positions on May 1.

"Dr. Antman is an outstanding choice for these two posts," says President ad interim Aram Chobanian, who held both jobs before stepping up to lead the University in November 2003. "She is a proven administrator and educator, she is an excellent clinician and clinical scientist, and she is an established leader on health policy issues."

As provost, Antman will be responsible for the overall operation of the Medical Campus in Boston's South End, which includes the School of Medicine, the Goldman School of Dental Medicine, and the School of Public Health. In addition, she will oversee the University's role in Boston Medical Center. Currently, MED Professor Thomas Moore serves as acting provost of the Medical Campus and MED Professor John McCahan as acting dean of MED.

Antman has been deputy director for translational and clinical sciences at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health for the past year. Translational research generally refers to early clinical trials of new drugs and treatments. Previously she spent more than ten years on the faculty of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she was Wu Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology and director of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center.

Best known among oncologists for developing a standard treatment regimen for sarcomas of the bone and soft tissue, as well as her groundbreaking research on blood growth factors, Antman also is outspoken on public health policy issues. She has written extensively about impediments that exist to conducting clinical research on cancer, and she has testified before Congress on the need for federal research dollars to support cancer research.

— David J. Craig

Former Botswana Leader Is New Balfour African President-in-Residence

A key steward of Botswana's transformation from one of the world's most desperately poor nations into a modern egalitarian state with a per capita income of $8,800, Sir Ketumile Masire is BU's new Balfour African President-in-Residence through November. Masire, who led the southern African country from 1980 to 1998, will tell faculty researchers, policy makers, and students about his experiences solidifying Botswana's sovereignty, helping create its open, multiparty government, and guiding its dramatic socioeconomic development.

"Sir Ketumile Masire is the personification of good governance," says Rev. Charles Stith, former U.S. ambassador to Tanzania and director of BU's African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC), which coordinates the residency program. "Because of his exemplary record as president and his experience in regional conflict resolution, Masire is one of the most respected leaders on the continent of Africa."

During his BU residency, Masire will also participate in roundtable discussions with several other former African heads of state in Johannesburg, South Africa, and at BU in April. Talks will focus on encouraging foreign investment in Africa.

The Balfour African President-in-Residence Program was created in 2002 by APARC to promote intercontinental dialogue and to demonstrate to current African leaders the contributions they can make as statesmen after leaving office peacefully. Previous African Presidents-in-Residence have been Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Ruth Sando Perry of Liberia, and Karl Auguste Offman of Mauritius. The program is funded by a grant from the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation. — DJC

Karen Antman

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"Sir Ketumile Masire is the personification of good governance," says Rev. Charles Stith, former U.S. ambassador to Tanzania and director of BU's African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC), which coordinates the residency program. "Because of his exemplary record as president and his experience in regional conflict resolution, Masire is one of the most respected leaders on the continent of Africa."

During his BU residency, Masire will also participate in roundtable discussions with several other former African heads of state in Johannesburg, South Africa, and at BU in April. Talks will focus on encouraging foreign investment in Africa.

The Balfour African President-in-Residence Program was created in 2002 by APARC to promote intercontinental dialogue and to demonstrate to current African leaders the contributions they can make as statesmen after leaving office peacefully. Previous African Presidents-in-Residence have been Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Ruth Sando Perry of Liberia, and Karl Auguste Offman of Mauritius. The program is funded by a grant from the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation. — DJC
ON THE ROAD WITH ARAM CHOBANIAN

PRESIDENT AD INTERIM Aram Chobanian was welcomed with record turnouts at recent alumni receptions and dinners in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Portland, Oregon, in January, and Palm Beach, Naples, and Key Biscayne in February.

Los Angeles: (from left) Jasmine Chobanian, President ad interim Aram Chobanian, former trustee Jean Firstenberg (COM’58), and Linda Yellin (CAS’62) and University trustee Robert E. Yellin (CAS’61), who hosted the dinner.

Naples: (from left) David Kinsley (SMG’50), Peg Kinsley, Virginia Bailey (SAR’53), and Hil Bailey.

Key Biscayne: (from left) Alexander Naar (SMG’02), Joshua Sigmon (CAS’03), and Victor Canavati (CAS’03).

Palm Beach: Aram Chobanian (center) with Michael Agganis (SED’67) and Helen Ratner (MED’47).
Rosanna Warren Elected to American Academy of Arts and Letters

Rosanna Warren, a poet, critic, editor, translator, and teacher, has been elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Membership in the honorary academy is among the highest recognitions of artistic merit in the United States and is limited to 250 individuals, with new members elected only as vacancies occur. Warren, a professor of English and modern foreign languages at the College of Arts and Sciences, a professor in the University Professors Program, and the Emma Ann MacLachlan Metcalf Professor of the Humanities, will be inducted in New York City in May.

Entering the academy with Warren this year are architects Maya Lin and James Stewart Polshek, landscape architect Laurie Olin, artists Kiki Smith and Cindy Sherman, playwright Tony Kushner, and composer T. J. Anderson. The academy’s secretary, Robert Pinsky, a CAS English professor and former U.S. poet laureate, will induct the new members.

“I am humbled and moved to have been invited to join the master writers and makers who are — and have been in the past — members of the academy,” says Warren, who has taught at BU since 1982. She adds that the academy, since its founding at the turn of the twentieth century, has been instrumental in guiding the development of the nation’s distinct literary and artistic cultures. “We are still a young country,” she says. “Our arts are still exploratory. I see us as engaged in an essentially communal work, though the forms that our work takes are solitary.”

Warren, the author of four poetry collections, is known for her dense verse, rich imagery, and often intensely personal subject matter. She is working on a new book of poems titled Vacant Lots, a literary biography of French poet Max Jacob, and a book of essays.

Warren last year won one of the University’s Metcalf Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

The American Academy of Arts and Letters maintains a museum and library in New York City, organizes exhibitions of art, manuscripts, books, and scores, as well as readings and performances, and has an honorary membership of seventy-five foreign artists to strengthen cultural ties with other countries. — DJC
Like Father, Like Daughter
Father-Daughter Team Brings Brazil’s Feminist Movement to BU

Jeffrey Rubin and Emma Sokoloff-Rubin plan to create a high school curriculum based on their research about the Brazilian feminist movement. Photograph by Kalman Zabarsky

In 2001, Jeffrey W. Rubin, an associate professor of history in the College of Arts and Sciences, took his family to Porto Alegre, Brazil, where he studied social movements and the emergence of Brazilian democracy — a project for which he had won a Fulbright Fellowship and a MacArthur Foundation Research and Writing Grant.

Three years later, Rubin returned to Brazil to continue his research with an unlikely colleague: his fifteen-year-old daughter, Emma Sokoloff-Rubin. The two are profiling five women they view as crucial members of the growing Movement of Rural Women Workers. Using the lessons they learned about feminism, Brazilian culture, social movements, and each other, they are creating a high-school curriculum about how rural women fight for their basic rights in another part of the world.

“We have a lot to learn from people in Brazil who come up with new solutions, who are not tied to old orthodoxies,” says Rubin, a research associate at the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs. “These are places where very exciting democratic experiments are going on.”

When the Rubin family first returned to the United States after their year in Brazil, Sokoloff-Rubin published a story in a youth magazine about her experience, pointing out that many Brazilian feminists find it easier to fight the government for maternity leave than to get their husbands to do the dishes. It was an observation, Rubin realized, that “was really central to what was going on” — and it highlighted the difference between their research styles. While Rubin was more analytical, his daughter was more observant, noting things ranging from the decorations in people’s homes to the seating arrangements at dinner parties. Both realized they had discovered a potentially exciting project. Rubin found that working with his daughter made his subjects view him differently, and as a family, they were granted access to people’s family lives that might not have been offered to a pair of academics on a research trip.

Last summer, when the two went back to Brazil — this time to Ibiraiaras, a small southern town — they began chronicling the lives of five women involved in different ways in the women’s movement. One, named Gessi, had gone from protesting in the streets to running the local health department. Vera was the first woman president of the farmers’ union. Loiva was president of the women’s organization, Elenice taught sociology at a university, and Rosani worked for both the farmers’ union and the health department.

In the course of their research, Rubin and his daughter spent time in the women’s homes, met their families, and attended some of their meetings and workshops with them. The differences between life in Ibiraiaras and life in the United States are readily apparent, they say — for many women, being able to leave the house without obtaining permission was a major victory. But at the same time, there are surprising similarities. The activist women felt conflicted about their choices. Some wondered whether they would gain more by demonstrating in the streets or by working within the system to effect change. Others had more domestic concerns — whether they could be good mothers as well as good feminists, for instance. “Here were people,” Rubin says, “grappling with issues that seem remarkably current in the United States.”

Their collaboration will continue through editing and translating the twenty-four hours of video footage they brought back from Ibiraiaras. In their high-school curriculum, they plan to combine Brazil’s recent history with the women’s personal stories, hoping that students will be engaged by the people involved in the politics. They have already tested their work at BU in Rubin’s Social Movements in Twentieth Century Latin America and Modern Latin America classes and hope to present a short course at Sokoloff-Rubin’s school, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts in Hadley, Massachusetts, this spring or fall.

— Jessica Ullian
Terriers Nab Beanpot (Again!)

The Terriers celebrate their 3-2 overtime victory over Northeastern in the Beanpot championship game at the FleetCenter on February 14. The win marks BU’s twenty-sixth Beanpot in fifty-three years. Holding the trophy is captain Brian McConnell (MET’05), who scored one of the game’s goals. No. 19 Chris Bourque (CAS’08), son of former Boston Bruins star Ray Bourque, scored the winning shot and was named MVP of the tournament. Terrier head coach Jack Parker (SMG’68, HON’97) received an honor himself a few weeks later. On March 3, President ad interim Aram Chobanian announced that the ice hockey rink at the new Agganis Arena will be named after Parker. Chobanian said that Parker had transformed BU hockey into “an exciting, successful, and nationally recognized program. The naming of the rink after Coach Parker is Boston University’s way of recognizing the contributions of one of America’s college coaching legends.” Photograph by Vernon Doucette

BU Alumni Awards Call for Nominations

The Alumni Awards are the most prestigious of all awards conferred by the Boston University Alumni. Since 1946, they have been presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves by bringing credit to their communities, their professions, and the University. More than 300 alumni have been recognized for notable achievements in invention, research, the arts, community leadership, and national and international affairs.

Our alumni have always played a critical role in the nomination process by identifying fellow alumni who have made outstanding personal or professional accomplishments. Please consider nominating a classmate, a peer, or yourself.

Nomination forms and additional information are available online at www.bu.edu/alumni/awards or by calling the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-800-3466. The nomination deadline is June 1, 2005.

Gala Will Mark Agganis Foundation Anniversary

The Agganis Foundation, which honors legendary BU athlete Harry Agganis (SED’54), will celebrate its golden anniversary with a gala event June 2. The evening will include a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, dinner, entertainment, and a look back at Agganis’s life. Funds raised will benefit the scholarship endowment, ensuring the continued support of the academic and athletic endeavors of student-athletes.

Over its fifty years, the foundation has awarded $1,004,025 in scholarships to 731 female and male student-athletes. The event will take place in the Agganis Arena.

To purchase a sponsorship or tickets to the fiftieth anniversary celebration, please contact Carol McKean Events at 781-925-3459 or Carolevents@msn.com.
Class Notes

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, Seventh Floor, 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.

Michael David (CFA’80), Blue China Cabinet, oil on canvas, 36" x 36", 2004. Michael’s Works from Provincetown exhibition was at the Pepper Gallery in Boston last October and November. He is a professor and chair of the fine arts department at the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University. Photograph by Joel W. Benjamin.

1954
Celine Vaernwyck Schoen (COM’54) of Hobart, N.J., and her husband, Frederick Schoen, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 3. They attended Celine’s 50th reunion last May, only the second time she had been back to campus since her graduation. She writes that she was impressed with the University and remembers the valuable experience she had here in the 1950s.

1955
Frank A. Halse, Jr. (CAS’55, STH’58), of Brandon, Fla., was a campus minister at the Wesley Foundation in Potsdam, N.Y., and a Methodist chaplain at Syracuse University. He was shocked, he writes, when he was named in Who’s Who in America. E-mail Frank at whimsey@combase.com.

1956
Morton Aronson (CAS’56, LAW’59) of Atlanta, Ga., has been honored with a Franchise Law Student Award Fund in his name at Emory Law School in Atlanta. The award recognizes student achievements and dedication to the legal profession. Morton, who has taught franchise law at Emory for the past 10 years, previously worked as counsel for the franchise group of Kilpatrick Stockton and for the Holiday Inn hotel chain.

1958
Carolyn Stone Koonce (SMG’58) of Centerville, Mass., owns B and B Inn by the Sea and B and B Tennis by the Sea on Cape Cod. She is a professionally trained tennis teacher. “So glad I majored in business at BU,” she writes. “Wonderful training in so many aspects of business. My college sweetheart was Bob Hallquist (SMG’57). We married in 1958 and had three children. He passed away suddenly in 1962, at 26. While a student, he assisted Lloyd Pederson in the IBM department doing final grades on computer in the first days. We both loved BU!” E-mail Carolyn at innbythesea@pocketmail.com.

1960
Joseph H. Hagan (SED’60, HON.’83) of Little Compton, R.I., was elected town moderator. He also was elected to Boston University’s Board of Overseers and the American Association of the Order of Malta’s Board of Councilors.

1962
Martin Lobel (CAS’62, LAW’65) of Washington, D.C., was recently named one of the best lawyers in Washington by Washingtonian magazine. E-mail Martin at Lobel@LNLLaw.com.

1966
William Avery (COM’66) of New York, N.Y., is the host and producer of Books on the Air on Manhattan’s Channel 34 on Fridays at seven p.m. He started the William Avery Literary Agency, which is accepting manuscripts of novels, collections of short stories, and biographies.

Richard Hughes (STH’66, GRS’70) of Williamsport, Pa., has written his seventh book, Lament, Death, and Destiny, a comprehensive theology of lament inspired by his experiences during the civil rights movement.

Sharon Abramoff Shipley (CAS’66), of Seattle, Wash., has written a new play, StarCrossed, a comedy about the events that led to the feud between the Montagues and Capulets. The play premiered in February at the Players’ Ring in Portsmouth, N.H., and
1967

Carol Pries Moog (CAS'65) of Bala Cynwyd, Pa., is a psychologist in private practice. She also consults on advertising and marketing content and design and plays harmonica in her own band. Carol invites fellow classmates and the BU community to visit her Web site, www.carolmoog.com.

Alan T. Norton (STH'67) of Clinton, Conn., has been with Goshen Congregational Church in Lebanon since 1999. He completed 30 years of preaching on June 27, 2004, and Goshen celebrated its 275th anniversary on November 14. Alan and his wife, Eleanor, celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary on November 20.

1968

Charles G. Douglas III (LAW'68) of Concord, N.H., was appointed by Governor Craig Benson to chair the Judicial Retirement Plan Board of Trustees. The board began in January 2005 administering a new $43 million judicial pension plan. Charles is a former Superior Court and Supreme Court judge.

Cynthia M. Jones (CAS'68) of Portsmouth, Va., is a professor of ocean, earth, and atmospheric sciences at Old Dominion University. Last November she was named Virginia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). A Fulbright scholar, Cynthia is the director of the Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology and recently received a Virginia Sea Grant to work on a project about fish habitat and population.

Gerald P. Koocher (CAS'68) of Chestnut Hill, Mass., was elected American Psychological Association president for 2006. Gerald is a professor and dean of the School for Health Studies at Simmons College in Boston and a lecturer in psychology at Harvard Medical School and Boston College.

1969

Elizabeth England (CAS'69) of San Francisco, Calif., a member of the law firm Carroll, Burdick & McDonough, has been appointed to the executive committee of the state bar association litigation section. She served as vice chair and advisor to the real property law section from 1999 to 2001. A real estate litigator, she received a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law in 1978.

1970

Ronald Desrosiers (CAS'70) of Hudson, Mass., a professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at Harvard Medical School, has received the Distinguished Research Career Award for 2005 from the American Society of Microbiology for his work in molecular biology and the pathogenesis of retroviruses.

Carolyn Rosen berg Evans (CFD'70), of Natick, Mass., will have a solo show of paintings at the Chase Gallery in Boston from June 1 to 25. Carolyn's paintings will also be featured as a part of the women's show at the Munson Gallery in Chatham, Mass., this summer. Visit her Web site at www.evansartstudio.com.

Gale O'Toole (SED'70) of Dedham, Mass., retired last year after 28 years as a high school guidance counselor and has started her own private college counseling business. "I am loving the stimulation and challenges of my new endeavor," she writes.

1971

Joshua Wynne (CAS'71, MED'71) of Grand Forks, N.D., was recently named executive associate dean at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He also became associate dean for academic affairs and a professor of internal medicine at the school. Joshua and his wife, Susan Forkas, maintain homes in Grand Forks and Fargo. They have medical practices at MeritCare in Fargo. Their children, Andras and Eszter Forkas, are studying law at the University of Michigan.

1972

Glenn Biegon (CFP'72, '74, '76) of Salt Lake City, Utah, had two papers in Leonardo, the quarterly journal for the arts and technology (Vol. 38, Nos. 2 and 3). "Steroscopic Synergy" describes and illustrates Glenn's invention of a new stereoscopic painting medium called "twinelief" sculpture. "Caution — Objects Are Closer Than They Appear" probes the geometry of "perspectively inverted" pictorial space in 2-D and 3-D pictures. Contact him at glennbiegon@hotmail.com.

Paul Cary Goldberg (CAS'72) of Rockport,
Mass., is exhibiting his Night Watch series at the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester, Mass., March 1 through June 30. His photographs are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Mass., the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Boston Public Library. E-mail Paul at pcginc.javanet@rcn.com.

Paul Kearney (SED'72) of Lady Lake, Fla., is retired after 34 years as a Massachusetts public school administrator. "The year-round pressures of golf, cycling, gourmet dining, and entertaining are never-ending," he writes, "and retirement is well worth the wait." Paul was the president of the Glenbrook Club of the Villages of Lady Lake and a 2004 gold medalist in the Florida Senior Games. E-mail him at pbkbak@aol.com.

Kenneth I. Reich (SED'70, '78) of Cambridge, Mass., is cofounder and president of the Psychoanalytic Couple and Family Institute of New England, which is developing a new outreach program to provide pro bono services to the families of Reserve and National Guard soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The organization was named a "health care organization hero" in the September 17 Boston Business Journal. Visit the institute's Web site at www.pcfine.org.

George Schweitzer (COM'72) of Larchmont, N.Y., has been named president of the newly formed CBS Marketing Group, which oversees marketing of various entities, including CBS, UPN, King World, Paramount Television, Infinity Broadcasting, and Viacom Outdoor. George had been executive vice president of marketing and communications at CBS for 10 years.

Brain Power

Gliding through the Mediterranean Sea in 1968 as a member of the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarine service, Michael Apuzzo wasn't thinking just about deck watch or missile drills. As he observed the three-dimensional capabilities of the craft's navigational system, he began to visualize a similar approach for navigating the brain to examine and excise tumors, an approach that could replace the current methods of injecting imaging fluid or air directly into the brain, then capturing somewhat blurry images. After his tour of duty, Apuzzo (MED'65), who had already begun a residency in neurosurgery at Yale, began work on a device that would allow surgeons to create complex brain images to aid in surgery. Called image-directed stereotaxis, or stereotaxy, this subspecialty, pioneered by Apuzzo, has since become integral to today's minimally invasive neurosurgery.

Plumbing intracranial depths wasn't always Apuzzo's passion. As a freshman at Yale, he had his heart set on architecture. During a serendipitous work-study assignment at Yale's medical library, however, the brain won his heart for good. Instead of cataloguing, he often pored over the library's neurosurgery volumes. "The books were so fascinating," he recalls.

The rest is neurosurgical history. Apuzzo graduated from Yale in 1961 with majors in zoology and psychology, then went on to BU's School of Medicine. After general surgery training in Canada, Apuzzo returned to Yale for his residency, which was interrupted when he needed to fulfill his Vietnam-era military obligation. When his time in the Navy was up, he came back to Yale to finish his residency and served for a short time on the faculty. Then in 1973 he was off to the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, where...
Association of Women Artists, Inc., the oldest fine arts organization supporting women artists in the United States. She has also juried as a signature member of the Pastel Society of Cape Cod. In addition, several of her works have been accepted into national exhibitions, including the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club 188th annual exhibition and the Renaissance in Pastel 2004 exhibition.

**1976**

**Thadious M. Davis** (GRS'76) of Philadelphia, Pa., received honorable mention in judging for the Modern Language Association of America’s William Sanders Scarborough Prize for outstanding scholarly study of Black American literature or culture. Thadious is the Geraldine R. Segal Professor in American Social Thought and a professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and has written Nella Larsen, Novelist of the Harlem Renaissance, and Faulkner's "Negro": Art and the Southern Context.

**1977**

**Gary J. Fay** (SED'77) of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., accepted a new position as sourcing leader with General Electric Corporate Aviation in Newburgh, N.Y. “Still close enough to get to the Terrier hockey games!” he writes. E-mail Gary at bujuckster@aol.com.

**Daniel M. Stolz** (CAS'77) of Warren, N.J., is in the 2005-2006 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Published in book form and on the Web, Best Lawyers is a peer-review survey in which 16,000 leading attorneys throughout the country vote on the legal abilities of other lawyers in their specialties. Daniel is a partner at Wasserman, Jurista & Stolz in Millburn, N.J., a law firm that specializes in corporate reorganization and Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases.

**1978**

**Johnson "Tunde" Akingbade** (ENG'78) of Houston, Tex., recently returned to the United States after 20 years in Africa. Johnson looks forward to renewing contact with friends, especially Zanga, Kizito, Karoli, Harold, Maria Burzunski, and Mutaha. E-mail him at eximdepot@sbcglobal.net.

**Jody Davis** (COM'78) of Elmira, N.Y., news director at the ABC affiliate WENY-TV has added the duties of six p.m. anchor to his repertoire. He encourages COM students to contact him for internships, and he writes that he still loves hearing from old BU pals.

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He began his work in stereotaxy. As Apuzzo developed instruments for creating complete maps of patients' brains, the science of locating brain tumors became more exact. Working in the still-young field of stereotactic radiosurgery — a procedure that allowed the surgeon to use a single high dose of radiation to treat the tumors instead of wielding a scalpel — Apuzzo began collaborating with colleagues on both coasts. “We worked up all the hardware and then the software to be able to treat people's brains with radiation without operating on them,” he explains. “This was really the way bloodless surgery within the brain came about. We thought, why should we even have to operate conventionally? Why should we have to cut the patient's head at all?” Their work led to a computerized system for planning and executing noninvasive brain surgery that dramatically reduced the pain and complications associated with traditional surgery.

Apuzzo's recognition for his contributions has been legion — he's received appointments, awards, and other honors from around the world. In 1998, the Karolinska Institute, which awards the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, presented him with the Olivecrona Medal, considered one of the highest honors in his field. For his contributions to treating brain cancer and congenital and functional brain disorders, he received in 2003 the Gagna A. and Charles Van Heck Prize, awarded every three years to the individual in all of medicine who has done the most to treat a previously untreatable disorder.

Now the Edwin M. Todd/Trent H. Wells, Jr., Professor of Neurological Surgery, Radiation Oncology, Biology, and Physics at Keck, as well as the editor of Neurosurgery, the field's leading journal, Apuzzo cites interactions with his students and the knowledge that he's saving lives as other vital rewards. Another perk, however, gets him perhaps a touch more excited: his post as the chief neurosurgical consultant for the New York Giants and USC Trojans football teams. He performs immediate neurological exams on players who take potentially damaging hits and examines protective equipment to ensure that it's up to snuff. When play goes smoothly, he watches the game, reveling in the excitement of the stadium. "I've done it now for twenty-seven years," he says, "and I still get a thrill coming down the tunnel or being in the locker room or with the team."

Despite his accomplishments, Apuzzo never gets used to being called a pioneer. "It's the most elevating thing," he says. "But please understand. I was a very late bloomer, and I was very much an average student who was always struggling to excel and had a will to excel but not always the goods to do it. My driving force is that I just enjoy what I'm doing so much. I'm enjoying the football, I'm enjoying the journal, and I'm enjoying all these new scientific developments that are happening." — Kelly Cunningham
How do you create a win-win situation for you and Boston University?

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Kevin Drumm (SED'78, '80) of Sheridan, Wyo., was named president of Sheridan College in August. He had been vice president for enrollment, students, and public affairs at Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield, Wyo., for six years. Kevin earned an associate's degree from Berkshire Community College in 1976, bachelor's and master's degrees from BU, and a doctorate in organizational studies and higher education from New York University in 1994.

Rhea Treggbov (GRS'78) of Vancouver, Canada, is an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia and teaches creative writing. Her sixth collection of poetry, (alive): Poems New and Selected, was published in September. E-mail her at rhea_treggbov@wier.ca.

1979
William Herman (MED'79) of Ann Arbor, Mich., studies diabetes in Arab immigrants in Dearborn, Mich., which has the highest Arab population of any city outside the Middle East. William is a professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Caryl Jacobs Kuchman (SMG'79) of Columbia, S.C., was recently promoted to director of human resource operations for SCANA Corp., an electric and gas utility and the only Fortune 500 company headquartered in South Carolina. E-mail her at ckuchman@scana.com.

1980
Robert Hennemuth (LAW'80) of West Palm Beach, Fla., published a novel, The Big Kids (Lumina Press), in November. Set at Cornell University in the 1970s, the book explores the transition from adolescence to adulthood. “Maybe, just maybe, there is a way to hold on to the rapture of youth,” Robert writes.

Stephen Shepard (COM'80) of Brooklyn, N.Y., and his wife, Lisa, announce the birth of their first child, daughter Stella Pearl Shepard, on May 19, 2004. In 1998, after more than 18 years in the television business, Stephen became manager of information technology for the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade in Manhattan. E-mail Steve at sshepard@vastindustries.com.

1981
Brian K. Fern (SMG'81) of Livingston, N.J., is chief financial officer of Palisade Capital Management in Fort Lee, N.J., an investment advising and financial services firm. Brian and his wife, Laurie Terry Fern (CAS'81), have three children, Adam, Samantha, and Melinda. E-mail him at bfern@palcap.com.

Mary Beth Pratt Gustafsson (CAS'81) of Staten Island, N.Y., was named senior vice president and general counsel at American Standard, a maker of bath, kitchen, and vehicle-control systems. Mary Beth began her career at Hughes Hubbard and Reed, a corporate law practice. The New York native now leads a global team of 29 corporate counsels for the $8.6 billion manufacturer.

Susan P. Joyce (GSM'81) of Northborough, Mass., is president of Netability, a Web site and development training program. She writes that her company's employment portal, JobHunt.org, has won recognition in Forbes magazine’s “Best of the Web” and PC Magazine's “Best of the Internet.” E-mail Susan at sjoyce@netability.com.

1982
David Lawton (GFS'82) of New York, N.Y., sings background vocals on a newly released CD anthology of the late eighties and early nineties New York underground band Leisure Class. Fellow background vocalists include Paul Romero (GFS'82) and Melissa Schaffer (GFS'81). Copies can be ordered at www.geocities.com/leisureclassband/.

Don Richeson (COM'82) of Madison, Va., was recently named editor of the Madison County Eagle, a weekly newspaper serving Madison County. E-mail him at dricheson@hotmail.com.

This Call's for You!

Billy Lewis has been working at BU's Telefund since last fall. "It's a friendly atmosphere," he says. "I like that I don't have to pressure people to give money — they're willing to give it!"

A sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences, Billy majors in archaeology and religion. "I might learn to do biblical archaeology — finding evidence of something valid in the Bible, or just working on sites in Mesopotamia," he says. He's learning Arabic, and he may travel to Syria for a dig this summer with a BU archaeology professor and a group of classmates. "I'm interested in all the different kinds of religions," he adds. "The philosophy of religion, the hows and whys."

The Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, native certainly keeps busy. In addition to Telefund, he works a second job at the George Sherman Union, plays racquetball, and takes kung fu and tango lessons through BU's Department of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. Photograph by Vernon Doucette
1983

Steven P. Rosenthal (LAW’83) of Marblehead, Mass., has been named a co-managing member of the firm Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. He had been managing director responsible for finance, operations, and lateral recruiting in the firm’s business and finance section.

1984

Michael Cannon (CAS’84) of Walnut Creek, Calif., creator of the BuyerCentric Sales Messaging System, a methodology for increasing business-to-business sales, has been selected by Mission Publishing of Palo Alto, Calif., as one of the world’s greatest business mentors. Michael is founder and CEO of the Silver Bullet Group, a business consulting group.

Jonathan L. Kotlier (LAW’84) of Belmont, Mass., joined the law firm Nutter McClennen and Fish in its government enforcement defense practice. He spent 12 years in the U.S. Attorney’s office in Boston as an assistant U.S. attorney and chief of the economic crimes unit for the district of Massachusetts.

Steve Locke (SMG’84) of Boston, Mass., exhibited work at the Mazmanian Gallery at Framingham State College in January and February. His paintings and drawings explore themes of maleness, whiteness, homosexuality, desire, and hidden relationships between men. E-mail Steve at stevelocke@mac.com.

Karen Wilson (SJD’84, CGS’82) of Fort Montgomery, N.Y., was appointed vice president of consulting for FSI, a supplier of government Internet technology market intelligence. She had previously worked at Unisys Global Public Sector Consulting, where she was director of financial and cost management solution offerings.

A Letter from the Chairman of the Boston University Alumni Council

It’s time to transform our alumni association into a more powerful network with even more impact.

Imagine the possibilities. We have 250,000 alumni across the globe, representing a virtual who’s who in business, government, the arts, community organizations, and more. Among our alumni and faculty are Nobel laureates, MacArthur fellows, prize-winning authors, and other notable scholars. Of course, the legacy of our most famous and respected alumnus, Martin Luther King, Jr. (GRS’55, Hon. ’59), reminds all of us that BU graduates can and have changed the world.

This year, the University officially launched an Alumni Council to set a more ambitious direction and mobilize graduates to take a more active part in the alumni association and with BU. We want to increase our volunteer ranks by introducing new opportunities for involvement — from clubs and classes to special interest groups and special events. We will build on the strong foundation set by the BU Alumni Board and the fine leadership of Judie Friedberg-Chessin (SED’59).

I am proud to serve as the chairman of this new Alumni Council. I plan to work quickly to fill our council with members who represent each of the seventeen BU schools and colleges.

If you wish to learn more about this council or other alumni volunteer opportunities, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Meg Goldberg Umlas, executive director of alumni relations, at mgoldber@bu.edu or 800-800-3466.

When I’m not talking up BU or rooting for the Terriers, I serve as the president of Motorola, Inc.’s mobile devices business. So I know firsthand the importance of communications and networks to connecting individuals throughout the world. Consider joining your fellow alums at one of these upcoming events.

• April 10, New York — Family Day at the Circus
• May 5, London — Cocktail reception with CAS Professor Christopher Ricks and Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Christopher Reaske
• May 20-22, Boston — Reunion 2005, celebrating all classes that end in 0 and 5; plus regional events around the world

You can find details on these activities and more at www.bu.edu/alumni.

I look forward to meeting many more of you, wherever your Boston University experience has taken you in the world.

Sincerely,

Ron Garriques (ENG’86)
1985

ELISSA ALTMAN (CAS’85, CGS’85) of Newtown, Conn., has a new cookbook, Big Food, being published this spring by Rodale. Elissa is a nationally syndicated food writer and a regular food and culture columnist for Northeast magazine and the Hartford Courant. She lives in Newtown with her partner, Susan Turner, a Random House book designer.

LINDA MCKENNA GULYN (CEA’85) of Arlington, Va., is an associate professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. She and her husband, Peter, have two sets of twin boys, ages two and four. Linda would love to hear from former CFA classmates at linda.gulyn@marymount.edu.

JOYCE Y. QUINIDIPAN (COM’85) of San Francisco, Calif., is a partner at Cambria Consulting, a Boston-based consulting firm specializing in human resources and organizational development. She heads Cambria’s operations and interactive solutions business group in San Francisco.

DIANE RUBIN (LAW’85) of Lexington, Mass., was elected to partnership at the law firm Holland & Knight, along with 24 other attorneys. Diane, who was previously senior counsel, is a member of the litigation section and practices in the areas of construction and real estate.

1986


KATHERINE ANN KAPLAN (SON’86) of Pittsburgh, Pa., recently received her post-baccalaureate certificate in paralegal studies from the Duquesne University Paralegal Institute in Pittsburgh. She will work as a nurse paralegal and eventually specialize as a legal nurse consultant. Katherine also plans to earn a master’s degree in forensic nursing. E-mail her at hanaraseli8@msn.com.

1987

MARGARET A. DAILY (LAW’87) of River Forest, Ill., joined Navigant Consulting, a litigation and investigations practice, last May as a director in the Chicago office.

1988

ANGELA R. E. ARABIA-MEYER (COM’88) of Hewitt, N.J., received a Juris Doctor and a certificate in conflict management from Rutgers Law School, Newark, last May. Angela is a law clerk for Judge Edward V. Gannon of the Superior Court Criminal Division in Passaic County. She was one of the first two women in New Jersey to participate in a shared clerkship, which, she writes, allows her to spend more time with her four children, Corinna, Elena, Dakota, and Edison.

BRUCE FINE (SMG’88) of Valley Village, Calif., guest-starred as Detective Perry on an episode of the CBS sitcom The King of Queens in December. He also headlined at the Improv.
at Harrah's in Las Vegas in December. Michael Gallagher (ENG'88) of Sacramento, Calif., received an M.D. from the University of California at Davis School of Medicine. He is completing an M.B.A. from the Graduate School of Medicine at UC Davis. He writes, “Go Aggies, Go Terriers!” E-mail Michael at mpg@alum.bu.edu.

Jody Ericson Santos (CAS’88) of Dorchester, Mass., is a producer-director for the PBS documentary series The Visionaries. Her work has taken her from Nepal and Ghana to Bolivia and Russia, where she reports on issues such as the trafficking in women and nuclear contamination. Most recently, she wrote and coproduced a documentary on breast cancer that aired on the Discovery Channel. She also teaches filmmaking to graduate students at Suffolk University in Boston. Jody’s husband, David Santos, is a partner in an advertising agency in downtown Boston. Former classmates can e-mail her at jodysantos@hotmail.com.

1989

Meryl Eisenkraft Post (SMG’89) of Brookline, Mass., and her husband, Jeffrey Post, welcomed their first child, Riley Alexander Post, on October 2. Meryl has worked at Harvard University as a financial analyst in the university information systems department for the past four years. Contact her at merylclise@rc.com.

Sheri Torgrimson (CFA’89) of Lublin, Poland, writes, “I am back in Poland and would love to hear from any alums from Poland (po polsku!) or any alums working in Poland. Maybe we can start the BU Polish Alumni?” E-mail Sheri at sherit@wp.pl.

1990

Gina Fiandaca (GSM’90) of Boston, Mass., received a 2004 Shattuck Public Service Award from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, given to city employees committed to public service. She has an M.B.A. with a concentration in public management.

Rustom Ghvara (MET’90) of Las Vegas, Nev., and his wife, Mehernaaz, announce the birth of their daughter, Diana, on September 26, 2004. E-mail Rustom at rghvara@yahoo.com.

He Sets the Scene

Wynn Thomas went looking for Madison Square Garden last year and found it — in Toronto. A film production designer, he needed an arena to stage boxing scenes for the new film Cinderella Man, a dramatization of the career of boxer Jim Bradock and his spectacular 1935 upset fight with heavyweight champ Max Baer. New York’s Madison Square Garden, ironically, wouldn’t do. Renovations over the years had changed its appearance too much from those early days. So Thomas (CFA’75) scouted locations in Philadelphia, New York City, and Montreal before deciding on Toronto’s Maple Leaf Garden, which was built in 1929.

It is just one aspect of a job that entails creating new worlds for each film — and Thomas has designed many, starting in the 1980s. He’s worked with some of the top names in the movie industry — Ron Howard, for instance, who directed Cinderella Man, also enlisted Thomas to design the 2001 Academy Award–winning drama A Beautiful Mind.

Millions of viewers have seen Thomas’s vibrant sets, from the glowing blue, smoky scenes of Mo’ Better Blues and the red heat-wave highs of Do the Right Thing to the shiny-bright retro look of Mars Attacks. To develop the whole look and feel of a film is no simple task. As head of the art department, a film production designer works closely with the director to define the look of the picture, finds all the locations, designs all the sets, and coordinates all the visual aspects.

Thomas starts by doing a lot of research. “I spend time looking at photographs,” he explains. “In the case of Cinderella Man, that meant Depression-era photos, many pictures of New York City. The beginning part is just to let myself live amongst all the visual images — hopefully all the material I have absorbed will become part of my design process. So very often a typical day for me will consist of scouting locations in the morning, then coming back in the afternoon and designing sets by sketching, drafting, and building models.”

Once approved by the director, his drawings go to assistant art directors, who make a series of construction drawings for the carpenters. Then Thomas works with painters to choose the colors for the film. For Cinderella Man, “we had to re-create what is essentially Eighth Avenue — the exterior of Madison Square Garden,” he says. “I used the exterior of an old Toronto department store and added a huge marquee and several different shops — tobacco shops and shoe shops to the left and right of the arena. It was an art construction challenge to add this old 1925 marquee to the exterior of the building, as well as doing the storefronts. Part of the challenge with any period film is to come back in and restore the city to the way it used to look, in this case, the 1930s.”
Joseph Canavan (GSM'91) of South Boston, Mass., received a 2004 Shattuck Public Service Award from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, given to city employees committed to public service. He has an M.B.A. with a concentration in public management.

Danielle M. DiPietro (CAS'91, SED'92) of Paoli, Pa., now lives at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. She works on database systems in the construction department for Raytheon Polar Services and the U.S. Antarctic Program, which supports scientists conducting research in Antarctica. “This is what I wanted, the feeling of being removed from everywhere on the planet at a remote station,” she writes. “It blows my mind that I am here and I am doing this!” E-mail her at danid7@yaho0.com.

Sylvia Medina Klein (CAS'92, CGS'92) of Miami, Fla., completed a doctorate in child and youth studies with a concentration in exceptional student education (ESE) at Nova Southeastern University. She is on the ESE faculty in the new bachelor’s program at Miami Dade College. She would love to hear from old friends at dandsklein@aol.com.

Brooke Stanford (CFA'91) and Shana Schoepke (CFA'92) of Brooklyn, N.Y., welcomed their son, Cameron Stanford, on July 9. Friends can e-mail them at brookegaff@mindspring.com.

Catherine Kehoe (CFA'92) of Roslindale, Mass., recently exhibited her paintings at the University Art Galleries at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Rose Perlman Medina (MET'92) of Seattle, Wash., and her brother Cully are the founders of Degreedate.com, LLC, a new online dating company specifically designed for educated singles. They are offering 50 percent off any membership subscription to BU alumni and current students, and invite you to visit www.degreedate.com. E-mail Rose at admin@degreedate.com.

Christoph Moerman (SHA'92, GSM'92) of West Chester, Ohio, was promoted to director of Procter & Gamble global client service at BASES (Booz Allen Sales Estimating System), part of VNU Advisory Services, a global information and media company. He lives with his wife, Anastasia Damianidou.

Thomas has done a number of movies with Spike Lee, starting with Lee’s first film, She’s Gotta Have It, in 1986 and including 1992’s Malcolm X. He works with Harold Ramis regularly and has made several movies with Robert De Niro’s company, Tribeca Films. But it’s a career he hadn’t planned on. “I started out as a theater designer,” he says. “I went seeking work in the movie business because there was a lull in my theater career, and I wasn’t getting the kind of effective earning jobs I wanted. I decided that I was really tired of being poor and maybe if I did a movie every now and then I could have some money in my savings. It was considered sacrilegious to work in the movie business, but once I got my first job, the interesting thing was that the floodgates opened and I got swept along. I still love the theater and am quite passionate about it, but certainly the movie business has provided me with many wonderful opportunities.”

Thomas says he feels fortunate to have worked twice with Ron Howard, whom he describes as “one of the real, true gentlemen in a business that’s not filled with too many gentlemen. He really tries to surround himself with people who are like-minded, who are similar in their passions for the work, and who want to have a lot of fun while working on the film. An atmosphere develops on the set where everyone is allowed and encouraged to express their opinions. The great thing that occurs is a wonderful relationship, a rapport. And you begin to form what I call a film family in this industry. Going to work each day is a real blast.”

Howard and his producers insist on meeting every person working on the film, unusual in the industry, according to Thomas. “They want to meet every carpenter, every painter, every set dresser, and everybody in the accounting department,” he says, “so there is a great sense that everyone is connected, and every job is vital to making the movie a success. That’s a wonderful spirit to have on a film. It doesn’t happen very often, so it’s a great place to work.” — Steve Dykes
Bryn Haase Reina (SAR'92) and Tony Reina (ENG'92) of Sigonella, Sicily, announce the birth of their son, Zachary August Reina, on October 14, 2004. Bryn, a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, is the staff psychiatrist at Naval Hospital Sigonella. Tony was previously on the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently both an associate professor at the University of Maryland extension campus on base and “Mr. Mom.” E-mail Bryn at reina_ga@hotmail.com.

Robin Honig Willems (COM'92) of Hoboken, N.J., married Jeff Willems on August 8, 2004. Robin works at TV Guide in New York, where she is an online columnist and the company’s research chief. Jeff is an audio restoration engineer at Vidipix in New York. E-mail Robin at rchonig@yahoo.com.

1993

Ted Butler (COM’93) of North Brunswick, N.J., and his wife, Lisa, had their first children, twins Fionán Edward (Finn) and Ava Mary, on November 23, 2004. Ted works in New York as an associate producer-writer for the TV show Cheap Seats on ESPN Classic. He is also writing and producing a comedy pilot. He would love to hear from old friends from COM and “anyone who is able to further my career.” E-mail Ted at edbutler27@earthlink.net.

Mary Charbonneau (CAS'93) of Palm Bay, Fla., and James Oelschlager welcomed their son, Willem James, on December 29, 2004. Mary has taken a break from her private practice as a clinical psychologist to be home full-time with their son. E-mail her at psylady@rock.com.

Barbara Schack Flumen (CFA'93) of West Orange, N.J., and her husband, Brian Flumen, had their first child, daughter Eila Joy, on July 23, 2004. Barbara and Brian celebrated their 2002 wedding with Michael Levine Kushnir (CAS'94), Christina...
Ruggieri (COM’93), Karen Kunkel (COM’93), Anat Meshehul Stollman (CAS’93), Kenny Sadinoff (CAS’94), Mark Fishkin (CAS’94), and Warren Shein (CAS’93). Barbara would love to hear from her old friends and classmates, especially Michele Hahn Hackshall (COM’93) and Heidi Shore (CAS’93, COM’99), at ahatchi@rochester.rr.com.

Amy Hatch (COM’93) of Rochester, N.Y., and her husband, Channing Paluck, had their first child, Emmeline Hatch Paluck, on December 15, 2004. Amy’s father died unexpectedly on August 26, so Emmeline’s arrival was a much-anticipated and joyful event. Amy would love to hear from old friends and classmates, especially Michele Hahn Hackshall (COM’93) and Heidi Shore (CAS’93, COM’99), at ahatchi@rochester.rr.com.

Stacey Pinsky Kitay (GSM’93) and Joel Kitay (CAS’94, COM’94) of Pikesville, Md., announce the birth of their first child, Isabelle Peri, on June 26. Friends can contact the new parents at joelkitay@comcast.net.

Michelle Mancino Marsh (CAS’93) of Guttenburg, N.J., is a partner in the New York law firm Kenyon & Kenyon, specializing in intellectual property law.

Linda Pankowski (CAS’93, SAR’99) of Southington, Conn., passed the Hand Therapy Certification Examination administered on November 6, 2004, and is now a certified hand therapist.

Eileen Seman (CAS’93) of Brookline, Mass., is engaged to John Donaruma of Sandwich, Mass. They will be married on Cape Cod in October. Eileen recently completed her second marathon, the Dublin (Ireland) Marathon, to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. E-mail her at eseman@alum.bu.edu.

Suzanne Staszak-Silva (CAS’93) and Fabrício Silva (SAR’93) of Scotch Plains, N.J., announce the arrival of their first daughter, Mireille Gabriel Silva, on November 8, 2004. E-mail them at suzanness@verizon.net.

Andrew Thorson (LAW’93) of Seattle, Wash., returned to the United States after five years of practicing law in Tokyo. He is a partner in Dorsey & Whitney’s Seattle offices and his practice focuses on U.S.-Asian relations. Andrew writes that he enjoys life on rural Bainbridge Island. E-mail him at thorson@duroseey.com.

1994

David Alger (ENG’94) of Phoenix, Ariz., recently returned from a nine-month deployment to Kuwait with his Navy Reserve unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the deployment, he was promoted to lieutenant commander. Contact David at bu_friends@algerfamily.us.

Lynn Wolfgang Catalano (CAS’94) of Lewiston, N.Y., is in her fifth year as executive director of Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and Health Center. Lynn was honored for her "professional success and community involvement" at Business First newspaper’s 13th annual Forty Under 40 luncheon.

Ivelisse Estrada (COM’94) of Boston, Mass., recently became a writer and editor for a number of publications at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. Ivelisse also serves on Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino’s inaugural Young Bostonian Advisory Council, which acts as a liaison between the city of Boston and its nearly 200,000 residents between the ages of 20 and 34. She looks forward to working with the mayor, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and her fellow young Bostonians. E-mail Ivelisse at estrada@radcliffe.edu.

Elizabeth Harding (SED’94) of Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., and her husband, Brian Weinstein, had a daughter. Ella. Elizabeth writes that big brother Max is excited. She would love to hear from old friends at lizharding@aol.com.

Jennifer Falcone Kelly (CAS’94) of Milton, Mass., and her husband, Tyler, announce the birth of their daughter, Grace. E-mail Jennifer at jenfalcone@yahoo.com.

Sharon Lai (SMG’94) of Oslo, Norway has relocated from Singapore with her husband and three children. She writes that it had been a great six years in Singapore and that she would love to hear from old friends at sharon.lai.kavlie@gmail.com.

Gregory J. McGurrin (ENG’94, GSM’01) of Marlborough, Mass., and his wife, Jill Greene, had their first child, Jonathan Michael McGurrin. Greg works as a project manager at Teradyne, Inc., in Boston. Jill is pursuing a doctorate in education at Boston University. Greg would like to hear from old friends at greg mcgurrin@hotmail.com.

Natapanu Nopakun (GRS’94) of Washington, D.C., has served as first secretary responsible for political affairs for the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington since 2002. Before that he was at the Foreign Ministry’s EU desk and assistant to the secretary of foreign affairs. In July 2004, he accompanied the Thai ambassador when he met with BU President ad interim Aram Chobanian to discuss potential cooperation between BU and Thai government agencies in legal training. He will be posted in Washington with his wife, Nitima, until December 2005, when he will return to Bangkok and continue working.
The Science of Good Reporting

In a given week, CNN medical correspondent Elizabeth Cohen (SPH‘92) might cover the medical uses of marijuana, the proposed testosterone patch for women, or the increased rate of heart attacks during the winter. Over the years, she’s crisscrossed the country to report on a meningitis outbreak in Ohio, conjoined twins in California, stem cell research, the first implantable artificial heart, the first cloned monkey. Her documentaries have explored obesity and America’s obsession with looking younger.

No matter the subject, Cohen says, the stories are always fascinating. And some, like her documentary Fountain of Youth, are particularly personal. In the hour-long piece, Cohen interviews men and women who use Botox, undergo plastic surgery, or maintain a strict diet and exercise regimen in order to appear younger. But she felt strongly about also including people who live happy, healthy lives without the help of such products and procedures.

Her producer found just the pair to profile: a 101-year-old woman and her 94-year-old niece, both participants in the New England Centenarian Study at Boston University School of Medicine. The older woman happened to be Cohen’s great-great-aunt and the niece her grandmother. “One of the things my grandmother talked about,” says Cohen, “was how she is proud of the lines on her face, and even if Botox had been available when she was younger, she wouldn’t have used it.” The wrinkles, her grandmother says in the segment, “show I have lived.”

The documentary, which also featured the oldest practicing lawyer in Massachusetts, Reuben Landau (LAW’26), premiered in November 2003. (See page 53.) “It felt good,” Cohen says, “to be able to counteract some of those messages that people get — that you have to change yourself, you have to look younger, you have to look better, your nose has to be better — and to be able to show people aging naturally and doing really well: someone who is still practicing law at the age of 100 and my grandmother, who’s still a leader of the family, still driving her car now at the age of 95. I really felt as though that had an impact.”

In all her stories, Cohen says, her priority is to get the facts right and put the issues into context in a way that commands the attention of her audience. But it’s the people that viewers remember, and Cohen tries to humanize every story. “One of my favorite stories was talking to two women who had conceived children through in vitro fertilization and had leftover embryos in freezers,” she says. “One mother wanted to donate them to be used to develop stem cells, and the other felt very strongly that she did not want them used for stem cells. She was seeking families to adopt the embryos to implant in another woman’s uterus. So it was really fascinating to see two different women who had made very different choices under a similar set of circumstances.”

Stem cell research is a challenging subject because of its scientific complexities and the ethical and political debate it engenders. For Cohen, there’s only one way to navigate the thicket of issues. “I always go back to the science,” she says. “You can debate whether we should do stem cell research, but if audience members don’t know what stem cells are and where they come from and how you make them, then they really can’t understand the debate.” — Cynthia K. Buccini
at the Thai Foreign Ministry. He would like to hear from alumni interested in Thailand. E-mail him at natapanunt@thaicmbdc.org or natapanunt@nfa.go.th.

Cynthia Ramnarack (COM'94) of Grosse Ile, Mich., and her husband, Sid, welcomed their first child, Mira Ann, on July 4, 2004. Cynthia received first-place honors in feature writing in the 2003 Michigan Associated Press Editorial Association Newswriting, Newsphoto, and Graphics Contest. The award was given for her work on the four-part serial narrative “Choosing to Live,” about a young woman whose four limbs were amputated after a bout with meningitis.

Matthew Sessions (CAS'94, CGS'92) of Mill Valley, Calif., has joined Sunset magazine as an advertising sales representative. He and his wife have a second child, Alexander, in 2004. E-mail Matthew at thesessions@earthlink.net.

Beth Sherman (COM'94) of West Hollywood, Calif., is a staff writer for The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. She has earned Emmy nominations for her work as a writer on both The Rosie O'Donnell Show and The Late Show with David Letterman. Beth is also a stand-up comic who performs at clubs and colleges across the country. Check out her Web site at www.bethsherman.com.

Karen Dean (COM'97) of Hitchin, U.K., and her husband, Paul, announce the arrival of their son, Alexander, on November 23, 2004. Karen is on maternity leave from the communications office at Cambridge University. E-mail her at kdean2002@hotmail.com.

Andrew Oh (CAS'97, COM'00) of Seoul, Korea, was recognized as the International Marketer of the Year at the fifth annual Marketing Agencies Association’s Worldwide Globes Awards, for his work at LG Electronics. Andrew, the first Asian to receive the award, was cited for building “a new and powerful global marketing platform for LG.”

Alex Poulos (COM'97) of Watertown, Mass., was named one of the top 30 producers of 2004 by AV Video MultiMedia Producer magazine for his work as lead producer and cofounder of LaunchPad Media, a video production company.

Melissa Zimmer (SMG'97) of New York, N.Y., was promoted to vice president at Goldman Sachs & Co. She would like to say hi to all her friends and would love to hear from them at meliss2@yahoo.com.

I finally feel like I’ve succeeded. Opening my own business has been so fulfilling, even on frustrating days.” E-mail Amy at fraudvixen@yahoo.com.

Conor Carlin (CAS'98) and Sandra Brackney (CAS'88) of Los Angeles, Calif., were married on February 5, 2005. They met 10 years ago at summer orientation before their freshman year at BU. Their reception was held in the State Room in Boston, which is now the Boston University Club.

Renee Hathaway Chen (SMG'98) and Alton Chen (CAS'96) of Framingham, Mass., announce the birth of their son, Aidan Bryce, on April 14, 2004. Renee is a Web manager for State Street Research in Boston, and Alton is a finance manager for the Stride Rite Corporation in Lexington. Renee writes that she loves being a mom and plans to spend 2005 with her son while freelancing as a Web site designer. E-mail them at altonrenee@ren.com.

James A. Martin (ENG'98) of Van Nuys, Calif., received an honorable mention in the 17th annual Billboard World Songwriting Contest’s rock/alternative category for his new song, “Neverland.” The song, from the second record (Masterpieces of Make-Believe), by his group HermaphroditE, placed among the top 1,500 entries.

Chanda Mofu (SED'98, CGS'96) of Baumholder, Germany, an Army rifle company commander, recently returned from 15 months of combat operations in Iraq. He and his wife, Laura, are expecting their second child in June. “I am understanding what it is to

Barbara File (GRS'70, '82), Windows, luminaig print, 16" x 24”. Barbara’s photographs are on display through May as part of the group exhibition Illuminations at the Yawkey Center for Outpatient Care at Massachusetts General Hospital, 55 Fruit Street, Boston. For hours, call 617-726-6259.
true lead America's finest men," he writes. "It's nice to be back in Europe and spending time with my family." Chanda would love to catch up with old friends from the "good old days in Allston, and I hope all is well with good friends from BU lacrosse, Delta Tau Delta fraternity, the BU Greek system, and all my other friends." E-mail him at chanda.moe@yahoo.com.

Obie S. Sims (SMG '98) and Zenda Thomas (COM '99) of Los Angeles, Calif., were wed on August 14, 2004. The bridal party included Ronald Mincy (ENG '98), Dale Burnett (MET '99), Yulric Abercrombie (SMG '97), Jasmin Thomas (SAR '01), Priya Akhouri (CAS '99), and Kanneesha Miller (SAR '98). Attending were Ava Borbely (SMG '99), Oliver Austria (SMG '00, CGS '97), Muhittin Chanmugham (SMG '99), Margaret Hutchings (COM '99, CGS '97), Tyreek Moore (MET '99), Michelle Moore (CAS '97), Olatunde Kamson (SMG '99, CGS '98), Roland Guevara (CGS '97), Isava White (CAS '00), Damian Mahaffey (CAS '98), William Thomas (SAR '97, SED '04), Irving Roman (ENG '95, '98), Arelic Roman (SAR '02), Sonal Mehta (CAS '02, GRS '02), and Melanie Robinson (COM '97). E-mail Obie and Zenda at yummy@obiescookies.com.

1999

Elizabeth English (CAS '99) of Beaufort, N.C., is a 2005 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow in Washington, D.C. She will work in NOAA's Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries as its international affairs coordination fellow. Elizabeth is a candidate in a joint public policy-environmental management master's degree program at Duke University's Nicholas School of Environment and Earth Sciences and the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy.

Mike Giardi (COM '99) of Mills, Mass., has been appointed weekend anchor of Sports LateNight and anchor for weekend sportcasts at New England Cable News (NECN). He will also report for the NECN sports department three days a week. Previously he was the Saturday anchor of Sports LateNight. Mike, who earned a master's degree in journalism from BU, joined NECN in 2000 as a sports reporter.

Gunnar Gluck (CAS '99, CGS '97) of Woburn, Mass., is president and founder of Carisma Advertising Agency. E-mail him at gng@onebox.com.

Julie Hamilton Grant (CAS '99) of Marlborough, Mass., married Garrick Grant on October 3, 2004. Gavin Grant (CAS '01) was a best man and Marcy Gilbert (COM '00) was a bridesmaid. Also in attendance were Suzanne Nasanofsky Broug (CAS '99), Francesca Simon (CAS '99), Scott Farrar (CAS '99), Christi Showman (SAR '99), and Shervi Sopot (CF '00). Julie is working on a master's degree in interior design at the Boston Architectural Center. E-mail her at julieham76@hotmail.com.

Julie Honeghan (CF '99) of Bethlehem, Pa., gave birth to Henry Jude Honeghan on October 28, 2004. Henry weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Contact Julie at rheneghan@rcn.com.

Jaime Pucci Hrubala (SMG '99) of Beverly, Mass., married Bernard Hrubala on August 28, 2004, in the "quaint countryside" of Woodstock, Conn. Alumni in attendance included maid of honor Staci Currier (SED '99), bridesmaid Meghan McGuire (COM '00), reader Louise Boullane (SMG '99), and Stephanie Ancillai (COM '99). Jaime and Bernard work in advertising at Arnold Worldwide in Boston. Jaime is an account manager and Bernard is a layout artist. E-mail Jaime at jphrubala@yahoo.com.

Johann also studied electrical theory and operating principles of alternating and direct current generators and control devices.

Andrew Kolidas (CAS '99) of Wellesley, Mass., cofounded Mindfire Interactive, an interactive marketing agency, with Drew Sharma (CAS '00). Mindfire specializes in Internet marketing, Web development, and creative services. E-mail Andrew at andrew@mindfire.com.

Chris Lentz (CAS '99) of Lansdale, Pa., married Tricia Winward on November 8, 2003. They had their first child, Sophie Carmella, on December 18, 2004. Chris is working for the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J., and can be reached at chrislentz.comcast.net.

Michael Lissack (COM '99) recently moved from Boston to Miami to become the Miami Heat's assistant director of sports media relations. E-mail Michael at mrlissack@yahoo.com.

Nili Schiffman (CAS '99) of New York, N.Y., is a museum educator for internship programs at the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, has been accepted to the Muehlstein Institute for Jewish Professional Leadership. Nili has been with the museum since June 2001 and will maintain her position while participating in the fellowship, which began in January. In addition to classes, Muehlstein fellows participate in a mentoring program, a roundtable discussion with key leaders in Jewish communal service, and an overseas seminar.
2000

BRYAN CAMPBELL (CAS'00) of Nashville, Tenn., moved from Middlebury, Vt. He works at the Peabody Library at Vanderbilt University. E-mail him at bryancampbell@vanderbilt.edu.

EVAN DUNKIN (CAS'00) of West Lebanon, N.H., was recently selected as the Rolf C. Syvertsen Fellow for the 2004-2005 academic year at Dartmouth Medical School. The award recognizes leadership qualities and potential to go beyond a physician's traditional roles. Evan will graduate from Dartmouth Medical School this spring with an outstanding academic medical record. He is one of several students selected to Alpha Omega Alpha, a medical honor society. He plans a residency in internal medicine.

DANIELLE WOLF FRAENZA (CAS'00) of Cranston, R.I., and her husband, Mark, welcomed their first child, Maya Rose Fraenza, on October 29. Danielle is an actuarial assistant at AIPSO, a nonprofit management organization and service provider for various insurance industry groups. E-mail her at danielle.fraenza@cox.net.

JESSICA HENDRICKSON (CAS'00) of Brooklyn, N.Y., and DANIEL KEOGH (ENG'01) of Worcester, Mass., recently became engaged and are planning a September 2005 wedding in New York City. Jessica is a graduate student at Baruch College in New York City, and Daniel is a product engineer in Boston. “We hope everyone is doing well,” they write. E-mail them at jessicah29@aol.com or dkeogh@delys.com.


JULIE SIM (SMG'00) and ERIC COLA (SMG'99) of Stratford, Conn., were married in 2002 and had their first child, Isabelle Rose, on August 19, 2004. E-mail them at julie.sim@towerspercin.com.

ROMAN P. VITKOVSKY (MET'00) of Stafford, Va., a Marine Corps captain, received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal while assigned to Marine Corps Recruiting Command in Quantico, Va. Roman served as an information technology officer and as aide-de-camp for the commanding general from June 2001 to September 2004.

DIANA RODRIGUEZ WALLACH (COM'00) of Philadelphia, Pa., married Jordan Wallach on October 16, 2004, in Philadelphia. MARGUERITE SOLIS SHEEHAN (COM'98, SAR'98), SHERI TENN (SAR'98, 00), and LIZ MORAN (COM'00) were in the wedding party. Also attending were RIC OCHMAN (SMG'00) and several graduates of BU’s spring 1999 study abroad program in Madrid, Spain, including Ryan Basen, Jacki Baskin, and Silvana Valencia. Diana is the communications associate for the Philadelphia Education Fund, a nonprofit organization working to improve the quality of public education. E-mail her at deerdoo66@lycos.com.

2001


JENNIFER COSENTINO MURHEAD (COM'01) and CHRISTIAN MURHEAD (CAS'00) of Los Angeles, Calif., were married on June 19, 2004, in Bolton, Mass. KELLY ADAMS (CAS'01) was a bridesmaid and MATTHEW TOOMEY (COM'00), MICHAEL D'GIACOMO (SMG'03), ROBERT MARSH (SMG'01), and KURT HOFFMAN (SMG'02) were groomsmen. Also attending were LAUREN SHOAHM (COM'01), DANIELLE GOLAND (COM'01), RACHEL BAROLSKY (CAS'02), MARA LEVIVN (COM'01), and YANI WOODS (COM'01). Jennifer works at Paramount Network Television, and Christian is the manager of corporate communications at the William Morris Agency. E-mail them at jmurhead@hotmail.com.

JENNIFER YOUNG ZUVERINK (COM'01) of Watsonville, Calif., married Dave Zuverink on August 1, 2001, in Santa Cruz, Calif. Jennifer is an independent graphic designer specializing in greeting cards and invitations. Dave works as a user research specialist at Adobe Software. E-mail Jennifer at jyoung_design@yahoo.com.

2002

JONATHAN AYER (CAS'02) and ANDRIA FERRARI (COM'02) of Hyannis, Mass., were married on July 31, 2004, in Cherry Hill, N.J. BU alumni in the wedding party were KELLY MURPHY (COM'01), JACKIE SUNDERLAND (COM'02), KIRSTEN BREEZE (SED'02), PAUL HANLON (COM'01), and MIKE SACHS (ENG'02). E-mail Jonathan at jayers@hotmail.com.

FRANK FURNARI (CAS'02) of Dorchester, Mass., was accepted to the part-time M.B.A. program at Boston University’s Graduate School of Management and began studies last September. Frank continues to work for BU at the Medical Campus Office of Information Technology.

HOLLY J. MOIR HALINIEWSKI (MET'02) of Rockville, Md., married Darren Haliniewski on July 4, 2003. Holly is the public relations director at the Rockville Arts Place community arts center. She writes, “I would love to hear from fellow arts administration classmates.” E-mail her at moirhol@yahoo.com.

LARA SIGEL (SMG'02) of Boston, Mass., joined the Arthritis Foundation Massachusetts Chapter as director of special events, coordi-
nating its marathon training program. Previously she was a marketing manager for the Executive Women’s Golf Association. E-mail her at lara.siegel.2002@alum.bu.edu.

2003

David J. Catterall (CAS’03) of Mattituck, N.Y., a Navy ensign, recently completed the basic surface warfare officers course at the Surface Warfare Officers School Command in Newport, R.I. David’s training prepared him for service as a shipboard officer.

Julio Cotto (CAS’03) of Austin, Tex., and Mayra Cortez (CAS’03) of El Paso, Tex., have been engaged since February 14, 2004. They will marry in El Paso on April 9, 2004. Teresa Baca (CAS’03) and Eunice Torres (SMG’03) will be bridesmaids. E-mail Julio at julio.cotto.2002@alum.bu.edu and Mayra at mayracortez@yahoo.com.

Ginger Lazarus (GRS’03) of Arlington, Mass., is the author most recently of Matter Familias, which was performed at the BU Boston Playwrights’ Theatre in December. Ginger’s other plays include Nonprofit, Lemonade, Arrhythmia, Shooting Spokes, and MOCKBA: A Play About Moscow, for which she received the 1999 John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Award from the New England Theatre Conference. Ginger is a member of the Dramatisists Guild.

EARL VALENCIA (ENG’03) of Ithaca, N.Y., is pursuing graduate studies in systems engineering, an interest sparked by his work with Raytheon in Bedford, Mass. He was awarded the Boehringer scholarship for best incoming systems engineering student at Cornell University and was offered a teaching fellow position there. He encourages former classmates and professors to e-mail him at esv6@cornell.edu.

2004

Joseph Romero (MET’04) of Pomona, Calif., is the captain of the Pomona Police Department and a member of the first graduating class in MET’s master’s in criminal justice program. Joseph received a Meritorious Service medal from the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association in November in San Antonio, Tex. E-mail him at joe.romero@ci.pomona.ca.us.

In Memoriam

Joseph W. Mechaber (SMG’24), Fairport, N.Y.
Lester O. Gatchell (SMG’26, GSM’28), Newton, Mass.
Reubin M. Winokur (CAS’29, LAW’32), Plymouth, Mass.
Ralph S. Hastings (SMG’30), Hancock, N.H.
Louise Killory Connell (PAL’31), Cambridge, Mass.
Edith Johnson Choate (CAS’32, GRS’33), Swampscott, Mass.
John A. Howard (SED’33), Gilford, N.H.
Eleanor Smith Johnston (CAS’33), Marblehead, Mass.
HeLEN M. Kane (PAL’33), San Mateo, Calif.
Marie Walsh O’ Mara (PAL’33), Wilton Manors, Fla.
Esther Bunk Rigel (SED’33, ‘34), Scottsdale, Ariz.
Jerome A. L’Heureux (MED’34), Meriden, Conn.
Natalie Strauss Isaacs (SED’35), Rye, N.Y.
Raymond E. Nelson (SED’35), Framingham, Mass.
Bertram L. Cowan (SMG’36), Milton, Mass.
Miriam Elizabeth Bentley Radford (PAL’36), Welches, Ore.
William F. Crosskey (MED’37), Peabody, Mass.
Eliza Bates Crossley (CAS’37), Kennebunk, Maine
Margaret Ansip Doucet (CAS’38, SED’53), Topsham, Maine
Stanwood W. Johnson (SMG’38), Carlsbad, Calif.

Vincent F. Johnson (CAS’38), Naples, Fla.
Thomass Leke (STH’39), Crawfordsville, Ind.
Norman Goldsmith (SMG’39), Framingham, Mass.
Nicholas D. Harris (CAS’39, GRS’56), Norwich, N.Y.
Isabel Barker Hervely (SRE’39), Brighton, Colo.
Martha Louise Fergus son Ford (GRS’40), Biglerville, Pa.
Charlotte Dodge Gifford (SED’40), Terre Haute, Ind.
Gertrude August Goldman (SMG’40), Miami, Fla.
Lucille D. Sheppard (SED’40), Winchester, Mass.
Agnes Walkama Hotter (PAL’41), Nehalem, Ore.
Theodore R. Laputka (SMG’41), Conyngham, Pa.
John H. Lavelly (LAW’41, GRS’59), Walpole, Mass.
T. Casey Moher (LAW’41), Durham, N.H.
Barbara Place Doane (CFR’42), Sudbury, Mass.
Carole Virginia Farr (SED’42), Belmont, Mass.
Haskell A. Kaitz (SMG’43), Wellesley Hills, Mass.
John W. Averyell (SMG’44), Abington, Mass.
Priscilla Legg Farris (PAL’44, ‘46), Sterling, Mass.
Donald W. Stiff (MED’45), Bellingham, Wash.
Douglas F. MacDonald (SED’46, ‘57), Halifax, Mass.

Ruth Sullivan Miett (SED’46), Bradford, Mass.
Mortimer M. Pinansky (LAW’46), Oldsmar, Fla.
Charles Clark, Jr. (SMG’47), North Chatham, Mass.
Eunice Himeon Croft (SON’47), North Providence, R.I.
Warren R. Davidson (SMG’47), Peabody, Mass.
Lewis I. Maddocks (GRS’48), Martinsburg, Md.
Ruth F. Richards (GRS’48), South Pasadena, Calif.
Stanley M. Smith (STH’48), Los Angeles, Calif.
Charles K. Dorion (CAS’49), Lawrence, Mass.
Edward Kaplan (SON’49), Newton, Mass.
Robert J. Owens (LAW’49), Palm City, Fla.
John K. Sanford (CAS’49), Springfield, Pa.
Raymond James Thomson (SMG’49, GSM’50), Baxter, Tenn.
Edward R. O’Connor (SED’50), Wheelwright, Mass.
Carlos M. Samour (GRS’50), Bedford, Mass.
Henry R. Gilbert, Jr. (CAS’50, GSM’65), Ben Wheeler, Tex.
Lawrence Halzel (SED’51, ’59), Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Harold S. Kostenbauder (SMG’51), Asheville, N.C.
Harriet M. Phillips (SED’51), Monterey, Mass.
John A. Notte (LAW’62), Greenville, R.I.
Theodore A. Stamas (MED’62), Accord, Mass.
Stephanie Wallach Roberts (CAS’62), Sugar Land, Tex.
Leroy W. Bonger (SED’69), Denver, Colo.
Raymond A. Igou, Jr. (MED’69), Revere, Mass.
Richard T. Nunan (SED’69), Mount Dora, Fla.
Loren C. Dunn (COM’66), Salt Lake City, Utah
Willie A. Hills (ENG’66), Kittitas Point, Maine
Dorothy Lee Moulton (COM’66), Godden, N.Y.
Lynn E. Egy (ENG’67), Ledyard, Conn.
Allan Shale Barnett (CAS’67), Peabody, Mass.
Richard A. Bentley (CGS’68), Salem, N.H.
Elizabeth Lewis Foster (SON’68, 78), Sult Lake City, Utah
Delphine J. Fredlund (SON’69), Anoka, Minn.
Carolyn Rubin Musicant (SSW’68), Concord, Mass.
Howland D. Stanfield (SMG’68), Norfolk, Mass.
Robert J. Tarantino (CAS’68, DGE’68), Fort Myers, Fla.
Sheldon Shapiro (CAS’69), Baldwinville, Mass.
Jeffrey Sherman Harris (SMG’70), Jacksonville, Fla.
Jonathan M. Scharfer (CFA’70), Greenwich, Conn.
Thelma K. Richter (SON’71), Norwood, Mass.
Carol A. Bedard (SED’73), Christiansted, Virgin Islands
Margaret E. Plotka-Levine (SED’74), Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Frederick D. Tyson (CFA’74), New Haven, Conn.
George J. Doucette (MET’75), Salem, N.H.
Elizabeth Kelly Ertz (LAW’75), Bangor, Maine
Wallace E. Barr (MET’76), Houston, Tex.
Anthony P. Martino (MET’76), West Roxbury, Mass.
Philip J. Ricco (CAS’76), Caliifon, N.J.
Robert H. Downey, Jr. (SED’77, 81), Braintree, Mass.
Lance B. Lanier (MET’78), Orange Park, Fla.
Joaquin P. De M.E. Menezes (GRS’78), Somerville, Mass.

Theodore W. Hibson (GSM’86), Shrewsbury, Mass.
Donna F. Warren (GRS’86, MED’86), Vinita, Okla.
Betty Burkhardt Mathieu (SPH’85), Glenville, Pa.
Eugene Joseph Sweeney (SPH’83), Nashua, N.H.
Gene Callahan Miller (SED’84), Yorktown, Va.
Susan M. Whitney (CFA’84), Scituate, Mass.
Laura Carolyn Gelenian (MET’87, ’99), Belmont, Mass.
Jeffrey Scot Schechner (CAS’87), Guilford, Conn.
Gerald Whitney Best (MET’88), Contoocook, N.H.
Anne E. Carey (LAW’92), Los Angeles, Calif.
Mark Grippi (GRS’93, MED’98), La Habra, Calif.
Lisa Maisels (SSW’96, SPH’00), Cambridge, Mass.
Karen H. Tirino (GSM’90), Roswell, Ga.
Christopher H. Conkadi (GSM’04), Stonington, Conn.
Emil Lin (ENG’04), Hampden, Maine

Faculty Obituaries


He taught a wide range of courses, from basic calculus, probability, and statistics to graduate ring theory and algebra. He had a passion for teaching, says his wife, Shirley Blackett, a former mathematics professor at Northeastern. Both were active in the Northeast Section of the Mathematics Association of America, which focuses on teaching. His research was primarily in the esoteric mathematical area of near rings.

His younger colleague Dennis Berkey says he was “a Mr. Chips, always available and always helpful to students and young faculty. When Kathy and I arrived at BU in 1974 we met people immediately at their backyard barbecue for the department. Those were the days of the faculty wives association and potlucks,” Berkey, who was BU provost when he left last year to become president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, adds, “They would come to things
together, he in a bow tie that matched her dress — she made them both."

Blackett was also a consultant to the Weapons System Evaluation Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses between 1956 and 1967. In 1966, he consulted for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

**David Brudnoy**, 64, COM professor of mass communication, on December 9, after a fifteen-month battle with cancer. On December 8 Brudnoy, one of Boston's most recognized radio talk show hosts for the past two decades, told his radio listeners that he was ready to die. His farewell didn't surprise his friends, including Tobe Berkowitz, a COM associate professor and associate dean. "David's listeners, his colleagues, and his students were all his family," Berkowitz says. "He was a wonderful and caring person."

Brudnoy's top-rated nightly seven p.m. radio show on WBZ-AM was on the air for eighteen years, touching on topics from politics to the arts. Educated at Yale and Harvard, he also had a master's degree and a doctorate in history from Brandeis.

COM Dean John Schultz says that Brudnoy was "a brilliant and inspiring teacher for students at the College of Communication, a friend, a mentor, and a man of such incredible dedication that even on his deathbed he was concerned that his students got the grades they had earned and would not miss a single class. We have witnessed the passing of a media institution."

Berkowitz, who appeared on Brudnoy's show several times to discuss politics and the media, says Brudnoy was a gentleman, even when he disagreed with his guests. "It was never a yell-fest on his show," he says. "No one ever screamed or interrupted. It was civilized talk radio, and that is, unfortunately, an oxymoron in this day and age."

Brudnoy left his personal papers to the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at BU. —*Brian Fitzgerald*

**Arno H. A. Heyn**, 86, CAS professor emeritus of chemistry, on December 5. He was a specialist in analytical chemistry and environmental chemistry.

Heyn was born in Breslau, Germany, to an American father and a German mother. After high school he moved to Detroit. He earned a B.S. *degree in chemistry in 1944* and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry in 1944, both from the University of Michigan.

He joined the BU faculty as an instructor in 1947. He especially loved working with students in the laboratory. "He was completely at home and confident in a chemistry laboratory filled with expensive equipment, concentrated chemicals, and nervous freshmen," remembers Marco Kaltoven (ENG81), a former student and now president of Boston Chemical Data Corporation. "Arno Heyn managed to reproduce some of his confidence and love of the laboratory in his students."

"He prided himself on the time he spent with the students in the quantitative analysis and instrumental analysis laboratories, answering their questions and showing them the proper use of the pipette, burette, and rubber policeman," recalls Morton Hoffman, Heyn's colleague of twenty-five years. "He relished the quest for the perfect measurement while knowing full well the limits to precision. Precision of speech, writing, and attitude characterized Arno's professional and personal life."

With his wife of sixty-two years, Helen (Pielemeier), an Ann Arbor native and fellow UM alum, Heyn traveled internationally. They had lived in the same house in Newton, Massachusetts, since 1947 and raised their three children there.

Heyn became professor emeritus in 1984, and taught for another two years. He then converted a hobby into a professional pursuit and became a locksmith. He had long been active with the American Chemistry Society and from 1985 to 2003 was editor of *Nucleus*, the official publication of the society's Northeastern Section.

"Arno Heyn's encouragement and example allowed me to leave Boston University with more than mere skills," says Kaltoven. "What I got was a personal welcome into a lifetime as a professional scientist."

**Behrooz Koleini**, MED associate professor of ophthalmology, on October 28, following a brief battle with cancer.

Koleini was born in 1954 in Iran. He graduated first in his class at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences in 1979. His training in ophthalmology was interrupted by conscription into the Iranian army, where he was a military surgeon on the front line in the Iran-Iraq war.

In 1992, he immigrated to the United States. Following an internship at Presbyterian Medical Center of the University of Pennsylvania, he completed his residency at BU Medical Center in 1995 and a fellowship in corneal surgery in 1996. While a fellow, his skill as a surgeon and his talent for teaching led to his appointment as director of the Ophthalmology Surgical Training Lab, a position he maintained until his death.

In 1997, Koleini joined the staff of the Boston Veterans' Administration Medical Center and the faculty of MED as an assistant professor. His administrative ability was quickly noticed, and he was appointed acting chief and then chief of ophthalmology. His proudest professional accomplishment was the wide recognition of his role as the primary surgical instructor for ophthalmology residents. He received the residents' annual teaching award more often than any other faculty member. Beginning in June 2005, the award will be named the Behrooz Koleini Teaching Award.

Besides surgical skills, he stressed compassion for patients and dedication to patient care. He was well known for being an attending physician who would come with a resident to the ER at night to see a patient rather than advise the resident on the phone. His dedication to resident training was exemplified by his attendance at all resident training conferences.

To his MED colleagues, he was a pillar of reliability, able to offer assistance in any patient care situation. He was unfailingly polite, and no level of stress could disturb his calm demeanor. — Edward B. Feinberg, chair, MED department of ophthalmology

**Ishwer Ojha**, 76, University Professors Program and CAS political science and international relations professor emeritus, on September 16. A specialist in the politics and international relations of East Asia and the Pacific Rim, Ojha's expertise included international political economy, political risk assessment, and comparative technology development policies.

He received a B.A. with honors in 1951 and an M.A. in 1953 from the University of Luck-

In Memoriam
now, India. In 1963 he earned an M.A. and an M.A.L.D. and in 1966 a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He joined BU's political science department in 1965 and was chairman from 1969 to 1977. He was also an associate at the Center for Asian Development Studies, the Asian Management Center, and the Center for International Relations. In 1972 he became also a UNI professor. He retired in 1983.

UNI was founded in 1971 so that professors with broadly interdisciplinary expertise could work together and with students whose interests spanned school and departmental boundaries, but in 1981, when Ojha was named director of UNI academic programs, undergraduates were taking traditional CAS courses for their first two years. "He developed UNI's core freshman-sophomore program from scratch with courses of his own devising," says Susan Tomassetti, now UNI assistant director of administration. "Ojha — everybody called him Ojha — wasn't the UNI director, but he was able to mobilize the faculty and get the program developed, launched, and publicized. By the end of the sophomore year students had been introduced to the natural and social sciences and literary criticism. He really formulated the raison d'etre of the program."

Early in 1972, before President Nixon's visit to China, Ojha was one of the eleven-person U.S. Committee for a New China Policy, which visited the P.R.C. at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs and met with Premier Chou En-lai. He was a consultant to Saudi Arabia and to U.S. and European companies on political and cultural factors in industrial development in the P.R.C., the U.S.S.R., Cuba, Vietnam, and elsewhere, and designed the prototype for a knowledge-based expert system using artificial intelligence to determine political risk in international project development.

"It was my privilege to be at ten years' worth of lunches at the old Kangaroo restaurant on Commonwealth Avenue, where Ojha chain-smoked, ate only grilled cheese sandwiches (the Professor's Plate), and drank too much tea with three large teaspoons of sugar. It was an irreparable gift listening to stories of his early life in British colonial India, of the postindependence struggle," says Tony Barrand, a UNI and CAS anthropology professor, who counts himself among "those who loved him."

"He appeared very gruff and grumpy, but he wasn't really," recalls Tomassetti, who worked with him in the political science department and then at UNI. "He had very high expectations for everybody, including himself; being a Brahman he had that inculcated in him and expected the world to rise to his level. He was a tough teacher, a tough boss, a tough human being. Knowing and experiencing him was a privilege. He taught me how to think."

C. Allyn Russell (GRS '59), 84, CAS professor emeritus of religion, on January 25. Russell came to BU with an A.B. from Houghton College, a B.D. and Th.M. from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and an M.A. from the University of Buffalo, along with several years as a Baptist minister. He earned his Ph.D. in church history and joined BU's young religion department; his first office was a chair in its seminar room. He retired twenty-eight years later, one of the University's most popular professors.

His classes, primarily in the history and varieties of American religion, were always freshly and fastidiously prepared, says his one-time chairman, Religion Professor Alan Olson, who recalls his stack of note cards and polished presentations. "He was an orator and a great storyteller," Olson says. That care, even with courses he had been teaching for decades, demonstrated a respect for his students reflecting his rapport with the American Personalist tradition, a philosophy founded and largely developed at BU that was based on the importance of the individual. He was "a highly demanding educator," says former student Scott Weighart (CAS '85, GSM '88), who first elected a Russell course to fulfill a distribution requirement and "thought that learning about religious cults might be kind of cool and relatively painless." But he found assignments, often individualized so that each student was responsible for teaching one topic, were rigorous and "exams required extraordinarily thorough knowledge of the material and ability to make sound analytical sense of the subject matter." Weighart, now cooperative education faculty coordinator at Northeastern, "emerged with a lifelong interest in the subject matter and a keen appreciation of what it really meant to learn... and to teach." Russell was a devoted advisor as well as teacher, says Olson, with "a gift of making individuals feel good about themselves." Says Weighart, "He was simply the best professor I had as an undergraduate.

An innate Personalist in scholarship as well, by the late sixties Russell was focusing on American fundamentalism, particularly in the 1920s, through biography. His 1976 Voices of American Fundamentalism: Seven Biographical

C. Allyn Russell

Studies and many articles were widely praised for meticulous research and dispassionate, enjoyable presentation.

He respected his biographical subjects without idealizing them. "Who would have thought... there would have been such a resurgence of this theological tendency and attitude in American culture?" he mused in 1987. "The fundamentalists have made my research more meaningful, although I would gladly sacrifice my research on fundamentalism for a resurgence of some other theological tendency, such as Protestant liberalism or a wholesome evangelicalism." Ever the optimist, he added, "Hope springs eternal."

Russell and his wife, Betty, frequently entertained students as well as faculty and staff colleagues at their Concord, Massachusetts, home, which offered glimpses of some of his other interests: he collected Lincoln memorabilia and stamps and made finely finished reproductions of Early American furniture. He played tennis at least weekly and never missed opening day at Fenway Park.

For the Russells, who had no children, BU was family. They were faculty associates at a residence hall for twenty years, dining there weekly. After his retirement, they continued to come often to alumni events and lectures and kept in touch with students, including the many international students for whom they had been the host family. An inveterate public speaker, Russell replaced classroom lectures with an increase in supply preaching and talks at historical societies and similar forums; in 1991 he gave more than forty speeches.

He had quoted Austin Dobson: "Time goes; you say; Ah no. Alas, time stays, we go." After years of Alzheimer's, Betty died in 2001, and Parkinson's increasingly limited Russell's life. He died at a long-term care facility in Concord.

His generous bequest to BU will establish the C. Allyn Russell and Elizabeth V. Russell Professorship in Religion. Donations may be made to Boston University, c/o Peter Gordy, Stewardship Office, One Sherborn Street, Boston, MA 02115.

— Natalie Jacobson McCracken

SPRING 2005 BOSTONIA 65
Chasing Pop’s Ambulance

BY ELLEN B. CUTLER

IT WAS A GRAY, liquid morning at Squam Lake in New Hampshire in August 1995, silent except for the gentle wash of water against the shore and the occasional putt-putt of a fisherman’s boat as it trolled past Hubbell’s Reef.

I walked from our camp to my grandfather’s cottage, Off Limits, where I had seen a box of old letters and miscellaneous items that someone found when sorting through his things. They were lying on the pine table in the porch.

Jerome Preston (Hon. ’73), my grandfather — we called him Pop — was a Francophile of epic proportions. He inherited his love of French culture and language, and most of all, the French people, from his grandmother and passed it on to many of his descendants, including me.

From March 1917 to April 1919 he was an ambulance driver in the fledgling American Ambulance Field Service during World War I, serving first as a volunteer and later under the aegis of the American Expeditionary Force. By the time he returned to his family’s home in Lexington, Massachusetts, he had a deep understanding of honor, loyalty, and duty to what he might have called the cause of humanity. A fisherman and amateur watercolorist, he became an astute businessman and after he retired was greatly involved with the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals, later the Boston University Medical Center. He also was the benefactor of uncounted smaller causes and individuals. He died in early August 1995 at the age of ninety-six.

I wish I had known him better. I wish that I had known some of the things I know now, imagined the kinds of questions that might have led me to a deeper understanding of him, his life, and his personal history, which continues to shape my family to this day.

Over the course of the year or so that followed, I transcribed the letters I found. Fascinated by this boy who bore a resemblance to my grandfather but who also seemed so different, I looked through his papers, which he had

Ellen B. Cutler (GRS ’85) is an adjunct professor of art history at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and a freelance writer.
left to BU’s Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, reading the diaries in which he had noted great and small experiences.

I bought highly detailed IGN *série verte* maps of the Reims-Verdun region and found on them most of the places he described. The tiny villages and obscure roads that crisscrossed the slick green paper became more familiar than my own neighborhood. Then on March 12, 2002, I flew to Paris with a friend to chase Pop’s ambulance.

**World War I** had been grinding on for almost three years when Pop left college in early 1917, the middle of his sophomore year, to volunteer for the American Ambulance Field Service. He was barely eighteen, and the United States was still officially neutral. His work as an *ambulancier* and the Croix de Guerre he received for heroism are part of family lore.

March 5, 1917: ... Headquarters is an old-fashioned house built on an incline, so you have to go down 2 stories to get to the living quarters, yet the latter open right on the gardens, which slope down to the Seine opposite the Eiffel Tower. Our beds are placed in a large dormitory, bare and terribly cold.

**An ungainly** 1930s-era apartment block has replaced that eighteenth-century mansion at 21 rue Raynouard; high-rises have sprouted in the gardens by the Seine. A plaque by the entrance names the battlefields where 2,437 American volunteers “served under the French flag,” and adds, “Their ambulances carried more than 400,000 wounded soldiers to safety and 137 gave their lives so that France might live.”

**Pop’s unit, S.S.U.** (*Section Sanitaire États-Unis*) 15, left Paris and drove via Montmirail, Châlons, and Vitry-le-François to Bar-le-Duc, then north on the Voie Sacrée to the outskirts of Verdun. As we drove, I wondered whether the flat farmlands that rolled by the windows of our blue Peugeot had also been the view from the ambulance he had named “Kentucky,” in honor of its donor.

The *ambulanciers* made their first home in the village of Dombasle just west of the Meuse. Pop and three others shared an “old farmhouse, partially demolished by shells.” A few nights each week were spent at one or other of the *postes de secours*. The *postes* were aid stations at Montzéville, Esnes, and Avocourt, from which the wounded were evacuated to various hospitals.

April 17, 1917: I am writing this in a little abri [dugout] located about a mile back of the front line trenches. It is snowing outside, which is peculiar to say the least, and the dirty, sticky, yellow, thick, heavy, messy, horrible, useless, rotten mud is everywhere. If you tried to walk around outside here, you would sink in to your neck. ... The road is terrible and my car lurched and rolled like a drunken man coming up. ...

There is a fire burning inside and it is really very comfortable. There are several French soldiers to talk to, so I am not lonely.

We live in a half-ruined farmhouse that has several different buildings connected with it. ... All the rest of the building except the one room I live in has been shot away on the back, which is facing the Germans. It was all done two years ago.

We wash in a trough a little way up the road, and believe me the water is cold. ...

Don’t forget to write me. Au revoir, as they say here.

**In the center** of Dombasle, on the Montzéville road, there are a pair of hewn-stone troughs, lichen-encrusted and partly filled with green-scummed water. I stopped to take pictures and a couple of residents stared at me curiously from their homes on the other side of the street. I introduced myself, and explained that my grandfather had been un *ambulancier ici à Dombasle en 1917, dans la première guerre mondiale*.

How old, I asked them, are these troughs? Oh, they shrugged, *très anciens*, very old, they have always been
Jerome Preston (fourth from left) receiving a Croix de Guerre in April 1918. “Pop’s award reads (my translation), ‘Always volunteering for the most difficult evacuations, he offered on March 12 to evacuate alone the officers and cannoneers of a battery overcome by the effects of toxic gas, this via a violently bombarded road.’”

there. I thanked them and waved good-bye. They waved back and smiled.

The drivers were billeted for about a month on the second floor of the Château de Gouvernement in Wassy, owned by the DuPotet family. Pop became fast friends with ten-year-old Bernard DuPotet. When I was eighteen years old, I visited Bernard and his family in Paris.

From inquiries made months earlier to the Wassy Chamber of Commerce, I had discovered that Bernard’s daughters Marie-Christine and Anne-Marie still own the château. A flurry of emails to Louis Commergnat, Marie-Christine’s husband, had resulted in plans for a reunion. I hardly believed that I would be sleeping where Pop had slept some eighty-five years earlier.

Within a few minutes of our arrival, Marie-Christine, Annie, and I were kneeling on the floor of the salon, poring over Pop’s old driving maps and my photocopies of his letters and diary.

It was raining steadily the next morning as we headed out for a tour of the town. We stopped for a while at the reservoir to admire the swans and mourn the scores of trees lost in the terrible winter storms of 2000. We visited the medieval church encrusted with scaffolding, the town hall, and the site of the carnage that marked the beginning of the Wars of Religion in 1562.

June 29, 1917: Wassy is a quaint, beautiful little city. . . . Its streets are wide and shady like a New England village outside the small business area which is a tangled maze of clean, cobble-stoned streets. The church is 12th Century, they say, and there is a historic spot pointed out as the beginning of the St. Bartholomew massacres. . . . Just outside the town a fairly large reservoir has been formed. . . . By damming the Blaise. . . . It is a beautiful little pond with clear, clean water and if it weren’t for the rows of regular, evenly-spaced poplars that stand out all over the landscape, I could easily imagine I was at the lake [Squam Lake]. In fact it is so much like it that at times it makes me terribly homesick. . . .

I could almost hear the voices and laughter of the ambulanciers sharing the warren of small rooms on the upper floors, the bonjours and merci. Madames as the young men came in and out, and I could imagine the admiration of the little boy Bernard for those glamorous American strangers. By the fire in the salon, under the
rain-dripping trees in the garden, everywhere we went, I could feel Pop and Bernard congratulating themselves on this friendship they had made a part of our lives.

Prosys is a crossroads in the gently undulating flatness of Champagne. Once there had been a poste de secour here.

Six or seven kilometers to the southeast is the slightly larger village of Bacomes; about halfway there we stopped so I could take a picture.

November 4, 1917: Went on duty at Prosys... After supper I got a hurry call to Petite Haie. As I came up out of the abri I could not see a thing; it was only after minutes that I could distinguish the faint outlines of the trees. It took me some time to find my car, stumbling over the toy railroad tracks and sloughing through the mud. It seemed impossible to go without lights... There were two [wounded soldiers], both suffering from... leg fracture. Trying to stay on the road I missed the sharp turn outside Prosys and took the Bacomes road. The rest of the ride was a nightmare. ... [the] cries of the poor fellows in back, both fully conscious and aware... I asked the doctor if the extra 15 minutes would have made any difference. He assured me, no. Both men died at one o'clock.

After I had booked our room at the Hotel le Renard in Châlons, I realized that Pop mentions eating here in his letters and diary. There are reproductions of vintage postcards posted in the lobby. The town center, while damaged by shellfire, is easily recognizable as the square outside the door.


December 24, 1917: I noticed a body lying on a stretcher with a blanket over its face and the legs torn to pieces. He lay there — while the sun shone and tomorrow is Christmas! ... We had a Christmas eve party with a tree and presents. Lt. Fabre said our true celebration would be in our hearts; that tonight we would think of our parents as they were thinking of us; that tonight we would pray.

I looked at the picture of my son I keep in my wallet. It's his high school graduation picture, taken just after his eighteenth birthday. At the time of this trip he was twenty years old.

As the war entered its final phase, Pop's entries became terser. The front, which had scarcely moved more than a few kilometers in that sector for the best part of four years, began to wriggle and thrash like an embattled snake.

November 8, 1918: Everything is so unsettled in our life now-a-days... We've moved bag and baggage on an average of every few days during the past month and a half, besides doing our regular work... For us it means lots of night driving, for the most part in the rain, and long weary evacuations of sometimes fifty miles... Bad as all this is, it is magnified ten times for the infantryman... All this peace talk is very bad for the morale. No one wants to be killed by one of the last shells fired... .

Neither the letters nor the diary describe the announcement of the armistice and the experience of the cease-fire.

We had only three weeks in France.

There are so many places we did not go. We did not follow Pop to London, Nice, or Monaco, or to St. Malo, where in the days following the armistice he had fallen in love with an Anglo-Polish girl named Zosia. Nor did we pursue him to Belgium and Germany, where his unit was sent in the months between the end of the war and his demobilization in March 1919.

But I will go back and look for him there.
Identity Crisis

VYVYANE LOH (CAS'89, MED'93) grew up in Singapore; her first novel, 2004's Breaking the Tongue, is set there during World War II. Claude Lin has been raised to avidly ape the colonial English in all things and to despise his own heritage; he has not been allowed to learn Chinese. Now so tortured and mutilated by the invading Japanese that he has lost a coherent sense of his identity, whatever that might be, he can narrate events he has not known, his accounts sometimes accurate, sometimes colored by his upbringing. The fragmented scenes and their apparently random order convey Singapore's culturally fragmented society and its disintegration as the city falls to the Japanese. Breaking the Tongue was reissued this spring in paperback. Loh is practicing medicine part-time and writing her second novel.

Did planning for the book start with the characters or the history? I started with various ideas in mind, not just the ones specifically about history, but also about the structure of the book and how history and a book are assembled, how events can be manipulated.

How much historical research did you have to do? Essentially I did a lot of reading and rereading of two books by historian Peter Elphick, Odd Man Out: The Story of a Singapore Traitor [written with Michael Smith] and Singapore, the Pregnable Fortress. And I had a book primarily of photographs of Singapore during the war and the Japanese occupation. I spent a lot of time just looking at them and imagining myself in that time and place. It also gave me a lot of ideas of what Singapore looked like then, the clothes people were wearing, what the transportation system was like, things like that.

Did your reading tell you much about the social history, the ethnic and class distinctions? That wasn't specifically mentioned, but I grew up in Singapore with a lot of those issues, and I think they're still big issues there today.

And how much did you think about exposition to inform American readers about both the events and the social setting? I don't like dumbing down just so the reader will get it; I think that's very presumptuous of the writer. There's...
nothing wrong with having the reader work a little, maybe look something up. The whole point of reading is that it enlarges your world.

One cultural thing readers have brought up is Claude's sexlessness. They've wanted something to happen between him and Ling-li. But I felt strongly that he was true to his time and place and culture. And then last year there was an article in the New York Times about how often people in various countries had sex and Singapore came in second to last. So I felt vindicated.

*With our emphasis on diversity, maintaining individual cultures and languages, it's very striking to an American reader that as a part of educating Claude to move up socially and professionally, his father forbids him to learn Chinese. Is that something else that's still true in Singapore?*

To an extent. In school, children are required to study a second language, and generally if you're Chinese it will be Mandarin. We spoke mostly English at home and I certainly had a hard time with Chinese; it would always drag my grades down. Some of my friends resented having to learn Chinese because they saw it as a backward language and English as the language of the future, especially in science and technology, which Singapore reveres. When I finally came here I realized what a privilege learning Chinese had been. To my surprise, a lot of Chinese were struggling as adults, desperate to learn it.

Was language as part of self-identity something you wanted your readers to think about?

I just wanted them to start thinking about identity, who they are and how much identity is shaped by language. I also wanted them to think about history and that it's malleable, constructed of narratives that can be warped and manipulated. I wanted the text itself to allow them to work their way into those questions, so I kept changing the order of the scenes. And I'm very interested in gaps, places where I break off and there's white space; those are the places the reader has to fill in or the story cannot continue. A book is not complete without the reader.

*Is the rise of book groups encouraging readers to take that active part?*

I like going to book groups, to be involved with readers at that level, and I've noticed that in book groups a lot of people plunge into discussion of a specific character or a specific voice. That's to be expected since American novels tend to be plot- or character-driven; it's hard to find an American novel of ideas. Maybe that's because this is such an individualistic country. Also, people seem suspicious of ideas and of intellectualism. When I came here one thing that fascinated me talking to college students is that the popular people, the celebrities, are the athletes and the beautiful people; if you are too intelligent or studious, that is actually a negative.

*Does that reflect a difference in cultures and education systems?*

Based on what I experienced, in Asia there is a certain need to conform and also a need for excellence according to a model. I think that's good to a point; you have to have the basics. I think American education stresses play before students have a full grasp of the fundamentals.

*Are your American readers looking past the characters and plot to see structure and ideas the way you hoped?*

Yes. After I do a reading or talk, people ask about the structure, and that tells me I made them stop and think. Many people have come up to me and said, "I had to work really hard to read your book." And I tell them, "Great, I had to work really hard to write it."
A Voice for the Children

COM Professor's Documentary Shows the Effects of AIDS on Infected Youth in Uganda

Prossy (left) and Kizza are two of the children featured in the film. Photographs courtesy of Sam Kauffmann

BY JESSICA ULLIAN

Six-year-old Kizza's arms and legs are covered with itchy sores, and he scratches constantly while answering questions for the camera. He doesn't go to school, he says, because he is often sick. His guardians call him names. He contracted HIV from his mother at birth, but was told just last year that he had the disease — known locally as "Slim."

"What would you want the world to know about Slim?" an off-camera voice asks.

"That it hurts," he says quietly.

Kizza is one of seven Ugandan children interviewed in Living with Slim: Kids Talk About HIV/AIDS, a short documentary film by Sam Kauffmann, a College of Communication associate professor. More than 84,000 Ugandan children are estimated to have HIV or AIDS, according to UNICEF. But Kauffmann knew that to fully explain the problem to an American audience, it was better to tell the stories of just a few.

Living with Slim, which won a special commendation from the Boston Society of Film Critics in December, is the product of a Fulbright Lecture and Research Award that sent Kauffmann — whose film topics have ranged from fatherhood to forced busing in Boston — to Uganda to teach. He arrived in the country in December 2003, three months before beginning his classes at Makerere University in Kampala, so he could make a film. Knowing of the effect AIDS has had on Ugandan society, he says, "it seemed important to do something about that, the greatest scourge."

The concept is simple, borrowed from one of Kauffmann's earlier films: each child interviewed answers the same questions about his or her health, family, friendships, and hopes. Working with doctors and AIDS counselors at the government-run Mulago Hospital, Kauffmann initially interviewed about thirty children, all of whom had contracted HIV at birth. The seven depicted in the film were chosen because they represented a wide range of society and told some of the more compelling stories.

Stella, thirteen, says her friends and family won't play with her because they are afraid of catching the disease. Dianah, fourteen, says her brothers often don't leave any food for her when they eat. John, thirteen, cries as he explains that people tell him his mother is to blame for his illness, that she did something bad.

Twelve-year-old Eva has not told anyone she is HIV-positive because she has seen how badly others with AIDS are treated. "I know if I tell anyone, they're going to hate me. They will think I'm immoral," she says in the film. "I have to lie to everyone, and I hate lying. It's against my religion, and it's against me."

Kauffmann filmed each child separately, then went to their homes to get footage of their daily routines. "It's a very simple film," he says. "They're talking to you. There's no narrator, no one getting in the way of you listening to the children. That's where its power comes from."

After the first screening in Uganda, the Ugandan Ministry of Health purchased 400 copies to show at prenatal clinics around the country to help convince pregnant women testing positive for HIV to take a drug that reduces the chance of mother-to-child transmission.

The process was exciting for the children, who all participated eagerly. Their futures are uncertain, Kauffmann says, and while all of them know what they want to be when they grow up — a doctor, a lawyer, and a tailor are among their choices — not all of them will grow up. At least one, Dianah, has died.

"I think some of them really felt it was their legacy," Kauffmann says of Living with Slim, "a chance for them to extend their life forever."
Alumni Books

Santo J. Aurelio
(SED'89). How To Say It and Write It Correctly NOW. Synergy Books. An expanded second edition, this work covers a wide range: roots of English words, troublesome grammar constructions, punctuation, abbreviations, homonyms and pseudohomonyms (126 pages worth!), medical terms, major art movements, and more, all spelled out clearly and concisely.

Wendy Brandmark
(DGE '68, CAS '70). The Angry Gods. Dewi Lewis. Sonia, a schoolteacher and unmarried at thirty, is being pushed by her family to marry some — any — nice Jewish boy and not, certainly, her older black lover. In alternate chapters set seventeen years later, her teenage daughter, suffering adolescent alienation from her family, discovers something about her mother's secret past and more about love, romantic and familial.

Thomas G. Boss
(CFA'74). Bound To Be the Best: The Club Bindery. Thomas G. Boss Fine Books. Book collector Boss has assembled a beautiful, oversize volume of the work of the turn-of-the-previous-century Club Bindery, one of the first American binderies to do European-quality craftwork, and its various earlier and later incarnations. Published to commemorate a 2004 exhibition of the bindery's work at the Grolier Club, Boss's collection is complete with gorgeous color plates of the book covers, short descriptions of materials used, and other print information.

— Nathaniel Beyer

Richard Cohen

Lisa Pearson Dos Santos
(CAS'89). Grandpa's Bridge: About a Boy, His Grandpa, and the Building of a Bridge. Mango Tree Press. A young boy transported back to 1954 discovers the marvels of engineering and the sheer endurance required to build the Mighty Mac across the Straits of Mackinac in northern Michigan.

Christopher Dickey
(COM'74). The Sleeper. Simon & Schuster. Sometime in the near future, the U.S. political party structure has changed, the world at home and abroad is more dangerous than ever, Gulf War III seems inevitable, and a Second Constitutional Congress, called to restore stability and security, instead precipitates greater crises. Cullen's A Walk in Ancient Rome appears in April.

John T. Cullen
(MET'80). The Generals of October. books/Simon & Schuster. Sometime in the near future, the U.S. political party structure has changed, the world at home and abroad is more dangerous than ever, Gulf War III seems inevitable, and a Second Constitutional Congress, called to restore stability and security, instead precipitates greater crises. Cullen's A Walk in Ancient Rome appears in April.

— Steve Dykes

Cheryl Machat Dorskind
(SMG'77). The Art of Photographing Children. Amphoto Books. The subtitle of this well-illustrated book says it all: "Techniques for Making Better Color, Black and White, Handcolored, and Digital Pictures." Dorskind, who also wrote The Art of Handpainting Photographs, gives practical tips ranging from camera technology and lighting to posing children and organizing a shoot. As one coworker said, "Why didn't somebody give this book to me when my kids were young?" — TM

Susan Gburczyk Effgen
(SAR'71), ed. Meeting the Physical Therapy Needs of Children. F. A. Davis. An entry-level textbook based on the shift of pediatric services from specialized settings to local schools and health-care agencies, the increasing role of research, and the emphasis on the body rather than its disease.

Ellen Sarasohn Glazer
(SSW'74) and Evelina Weidman Sterling. Having Your Baby Through Egg
Donation. Perspectives Press. Not long ago, the authors note, it was inconceivable that eggs could be transferred from one woman to another—but now it’s relatively common. They walk readers through the process, step by step.

Charlotte Gordon (GRS’91, UNI’91). Mistress Bradstreet: The Untold Life of America’s First Poet. Little, Brown. For most of us, Anne Bradstreet is familiar as a name that came very early in our high school American literature class, and perhaps also familiar for the reason she was there: her book of poetry was the first published by an American. To flesh out what is known of her daily life and thoughts, Gordon has examined the lives of women in Puritan families in England and in what they literally saw as New England, a utopia where they could rescue Christianity from Rome’s taint on the Anglican Church. With scholarly precision, Gordon sets off from known facts in Bradstreet’s life: “Anne must have thought,” she’ll say; “Anne probably,” “It is likely that...” Mistress Bradstreet is, thereby, biography; political, religious, and intellectual history; and a moving account of thousands of lives forever untold. A well-brought-up Puritan, Anne believed at eight that her lengthy illness was God’s instructional punishment for impure thoughts, which she struggled to recognize and repent. She grew up knowing her place was in the background, bearing and raising children and keeping the household, responsibilities more rigorous and dangerous when the family moved to the New England frontier (she and her husband...)

Sean Naylor (COM’88, GRS’90) Tells the True Story of Operation Anaconda

Sean Naylor had been in Afghanistan for more than a month, covering the war as a reporter for the independent Army Times, when in late February 2002 he was pulled aside by military personnel and told to be ready for a high-altitude cold weather mission and to pack light. “They basically just tapped us on the shoulder a few days later and told us to get out to the airfield. We had no idea where we were going,” says Naylor (COM’88, GRS’90). “We weren’t even allowed to take our laptops or satellite phones.”

They flew to Bagram, north of Kabul, where planning was reaching the final stages for Operation Anaconda, the largest battle to date of the Afghan war. Intelligence sources had suggested that there was a contingent of al-Qaeda forces in the mountainous Shahikot Valley near the Pakistan border, and a mixed group of military forces was hastily thrown together to force a battle. The result wasn’t what the U.S. planners expected: the enemy forces were far more numerous—and better prepared and armed—than anticipated. What was going to be a simple operation turned into a chaotic battle saved not by high-tech gizmos but “by a handful of warriors on the ground,” as Naylor says, “who managed to scale frozen ridgelines and somehow emerge unseen in the heart of an enemy stronghold” to knock out their forward defenses.

Naylor saw immediately that the battle would make a good book and set about researching it. “I was eager to write about a combat action,” he says. “I didn’t want to write a book about a war—I wanted to write about something smaller, so you could really get into the weeds and draw out more of the human characters.” And he’s done just that with the recently published Not a Good Day to Die (Berkley...
ALUMNI BOOKS

Richard A. Hughes
(STH ’66, GRS’70). Lament, Death, and Destiny. Peter Lang. Considering the role of lament in contemporary Christian theology, Hughes defines it as a protest to God about unearned suffering. In the Hebrew Bible, lament incorporates a plea for deliverance in accordance with the terms of the Covenant of Exodus, in which God promised care in exchange for praise and worship. Jesus responded to laments of the afflicted with miracles. Although the gospels of Mark and Matthew include Jesus’ own lament, Luke viewed the crucifixion as just, the fulfillment of divine plan, and Christianity moved from lament to patient, obedient suffering. Hughes concludes that lament remains important: an active, honest relationship with God and necessary to individuals dealing with suffering and death. — NJM

David R. Jackson
(MED’58). The Synthetic Race. Publish America. Jackson, who writes as Jack Randall, learned biochemistry and more at MED from Professor Isaac Asimov. This first of a projected trilogy, The Synthetic Race is about researchers who travel through space to Earth in their quest to develop a synthetic brain.

Jeffrey Johnson

Sean Naylor in Afghanistan in 2002. Photograph by Warren Zinn/U.S. Army

Caliber), a meticulously reported book on Operation Anaconda that will make some high-ranking officers distinctly uncomfortable — and many soldiers proud of their comrades. Having been at the scene of the battle, Naylor describes the “friction of combat” in all its terrifying detail and highlights the bad decisions and poor planning that got seven U.S. soldiers killed atop one enemy-held peak, Takur Ghar.

His initial reporting caused the U.S. Special Operations Command to launch an internal investigation into the release of classified documents — an attempt to “send a message to others tempted to break ranks and tell the truth,” Naylor writes — but he got the story anyway. Along with the battle scenes are those detailing the internal political skirmishes as the operation is planned and as compromises are made to keep the many egos — personal and institutional — assuaged.

Naylor, who grew up in England and Ireland, has been interested in military affairs since his days at COM as an international Trustee Scholar. “I really wanted to focus on military and national security issues because I felt that’s really the cutting edge of history,” he says. “There’s nothing more dramatic than human beings organizing to kill other human beings.”

What’s next? Another book, Naylor says. He’s just waiting for another good idea to come along, “for the call or e-mail that says, ‘You thought that was a great story — you should see what we did.’” — Taylor McNeil
Let Angels Prostrate Fall

I think of you, Aunt Etta, dying at ninety-eight in the same room you've slept in for a decade,

so small and still
the nurse holds her breath
as she leans to listen for yours.

The preacher says you'll turn
From this worldly silence into
an eternal one — his God

reaching down
and trading life for death
as if he'd merely changed the sheets.

Instead, I hear
the great commotion of your soul
rising, the men's choir

at the Methodist Church
in Lancaster, South Carolina, off-key
but strong tonight:

the tenors wild, careening to a fever
pitch, the basses booming loud
and full, and all of them turning

toward the piano bench where you sat
for fifty years, my maiden aunt.
They'll sing you home, Miss Etta,
all heaven clapping.

— Lee Robinson (CAS'70)
from Hearsay, Fordham University Press, 2004

Sue Miller
(GRS'80). Lost in the Forest. Alfred A. Knopf. Looking back, Mark couldn't recall exactly how he had told Eva about his recent affair, but he did remember the serene marital closeness of the moment just before, their deepening love, and "the excitement — excitement, that's what he'd felt! — of beginning a new adventure." They'd been married several years by then and we've known her for only forty-one pages, but it's clear to us that it would not be in her to remain married to him, to calmly love the sinner, as he had expected. The self-involved need for confession and absolution, a recurring theme in Miller's novels, is explored here, along with the varieties of married love, changing family relationships over time, and the nature of individual happiness and its less-demanding counterpart, contentment.

None of that would be interesting were it not for the domestic drama and its cast, drawn with nuanced depth (and unburdened by elaborate, traumatic psychological histories — Miller is too good a novelist for that): the toddler and the teenagers; Mark, Eva, and her second husband, whose sudden death initiates the action; and Eva's closest friend, Gracie, and her husband, Duncan, a Richard III figure, disturbing and seductive, whose physical deformity, perhaps only partially revealed, reflects and somehow mitigates the state of his secret soul. Eva owns a bookstore, Mark manages small vineyards, Duncan handcrafts furniture to order, and in this civilized northern California world, Eva and Mark stay good friends and not just for the children's sake. Only Duncan's odd, extended affair with a young teenager is uncivilized, and although she suffers from it, she also gains. — NJM

William F. Moore
(STH '61) and Jane Ann Moore (GRS '61, '66), eds. His Brother's Blood: Speeches and Writings, 1838-64, by Owen Lovejoy. University of Illinois Press. When Elijah Lovejoy was murdered in 1837 by a mob angered by the abolitionist stance of the religious newspaper he edited, his brother Owen pledged his support to the cause of antislavery. A Congregational minister in Princeton, Illinois, for the first seventeen years of his political career, he was elected to the Illinois legislature in 1854; two years later he and Abraham Lincoln were speakers at the nominating convention that helped launch the Republican Party. When he died, in 1864, Lincoln wrote of their ten-year political association, "It would scarcely wrong any other to say, he was my most generous friend." This chronological collection of speeches, writings, and other public statements reflects Lovejoy's practical mixture of religion and politics to advance the antislavery movement in Illinois along with his personal ambitions. — NJM

Kevin D. Murphy
influences on late nineteenth-century architecture and interior design, particularly in public buildings and summer homes.

**Eugenie Seiffer Olson** (CFA’01). *The Pajama Game*. Avon Trade. Her job in a mall lingerie shop gives our heroine plenty of fodder for humor, a break from junior high school teaching, and of course, romance. But this is chic lit with a message — about an often overlooked, potentially devastating disease.

**Stewart O’Nan** (ENG’87). *The Good Wife*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Patty is pregnant when her

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**The Joy of Syntax**

**Carl Phillips** (GRS’92). *Coin of the Realm*. Graywolf Press. In “Passing,” a bracingly irreverent poem from his first collection, Phillips picks a bone with the Famous Black Poet:

The Famous Black Poet is speaking of the dark river in the mind that runs thick with the heroes of color, Jackie R., Bessie, Billie, Mr. Paige, anyone who knew how to sing or when to run.

The Famous Black Poet seems to be a composite, but he’s clearly at least one part Langston Hughes (whose signature poem is “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”). Phillips is letting it be known that Hughes’s themes of empowerment and self-celebration felt, to at least one young biracial poet, like fetters:

and I want to tell the poet that the blues is not my name, that Alabama is something I cannot use in my business.

The Famous Black Poet, Phillips concludes, was “saying nothing I want to understand.”

It must have been cathartic to write. And Phillips has made good on his declaration of independence, producing poems that owe more to George Herbert and John Donne than to the African-American literary tradition, and never again, in six subsequent books, using the word Alabama.

Yet it’s clear from *Coin of the Realm*, his lucid, learned first collection of essays, that there is nothing Phillips doesn’t want to understand. “If we are genuine readers and writers,” he argues, “we should see squarely the impossibility of reading everything there is to read — and yet, impossibly, we should want to try.” Phillips seems to be making good on this declaration, too. Along with thoughtful appreciations of Herbert, T. S. Eliot, George Oppen, and Sylvia Plath, the book includes close readings of such Famous Black Poets as Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Hayden, Countee Cullen, Amiri Baraka, Yusef Komunyakaa, and yes, Langston Hughes, whom Phillips champions as a chronicler not of racial experience alone, but of “the shared, human condition of longing.”

Phillips, a 2004 National Book Award finalist for *The Rest of Love*, prizes precision and respects the second-thought, and his careful, liberally qualified prose can at times resemble his syntactically complex poetry. He uses the em-dash — the long piece of punctuation on either side of these words — more than almost any other writer, and its appeal to him is obvious: it’s a way of linking two thoughts while keeping them at arm’s length. Yet Phillips has such keen and original ideas, and such strong convictions, that his sentences never seem to lose their declarative momentum.

And his deliberativeness doesn’t prevent him from being memorably pithy. Of Plath’s later poems, he writes, “this isn’t relaxation [of formal control] so much as it is the confidence of a writer for whom formal issues have at last become reflex.” Of the way race and sexual orientation figure in poetry: “it’s possible for one thing to be both crucial and incidental.” And of his own style: “For me, syntax has great possibilities for the erotic — there’s so much stall-and-deliver, release-and-restraint. . . . To care about syntax — to believe in its infinite possibilities, rather than just accepting the few to which everyone easily agrees — is akin to distinguishing between sex and good sex. Surely that’s a distinction worth making.” — *Eric McHenry*
husband, Tommy, is arrested for murder; they've already named the baby Casey. Tommy's partner in the housebreaking that led to the unplanned death turns state's evidence and Tommy, innocent of the murder, is convicted. That betrayal and the unfeeling amorality of the law don't matter, except in how they affect Patty; this is the story of a good wife. Over the drawn-out legal proceedings and Tommy's decades in jail she somehow supports herself and their son, and maintains some semblance of family — fighting to create a bond between father and son; carefully fixing her makeup at the end of the long trips to prison visits to look glamorous for Tommy; always worrying about him, loving him, wanting him when just holding his hand can depend on a guard's mood.

This is no sentimental melodrama, and Patty is no Victorian angel. She enjoys and feels guilty about a brief crush, is sometimes cross when Tommy forgets a small detail of her life, and although she kids him lovingly each time smiles, “It already has,” referring to the mile-long graveyard that was Hermit Street before the blitz.

Since the entire drama centers on London's Black Saturday, the start of World War II's worst blitz attack, the two cities are necessarily juxtaposed, as are the dramatis personae, whose voices from the Sugar Mile make up the major part of the poem, interspersed throughout with comments and asides from the U.S. pub's assorted barflies and the bartender, Raul, all of whom are on a stage, so to speak. And among the many fleeting voices of the departed echoing from the ruins of Sugar Mile is that of the central character, Joe Stone, scribbling his poetry and stitching commentary passim.

The ensuing, and confusing, cacophony is as if Edwin Arlington Robinson's dramatic monologues from Maine's fabled fictional Tilbury Town were set in the bizarre bar of William Saroyan's The Time of Your Life.

Glyn Maxwell burst on the London literary scene with a blitz of his own. He received a B.A. from Worcester College, Oxford, with First Class Honors in English and won a scholarship to BU's Creative Writing Program, where he studied poetry and theater under Derek Walcott in the late eighties. His first books of poetry received more than enthusiastic acclaim — it was nearer acclamation. There were the inevitable and valid comparisons to Auden, Larkin, and Frost, but many critics heard a fresh voice — and even the invention of a style.

His current list of publications (not including anthologies) total some eight books of poetry, a novel, and two opera libretti. Prizes, awards, and nominations have come like the rat-a-tat of a fast-moving stick on a picket fence.

He currently holds adjunct professor positions at Columbia, Princeton, and New York's New School.

Today Maxwell has paid his IOUs of influence — his style is defrosted, he has departed the Forest of Auden and bade au revoir to the gloom of Larkin. Pioneers in poetry are difficult to decode, and their work is often infuriatingly abstruse. But as has been said of true poetry, "The ascent is steep but the view is sublime."

— Jerrold Hickey
he suggests she divorce him and move on— who would buy him cigarettes?— she secretly, fleetingly, agrees.

The villain is heartlessness, of the legal system, of time and nature. The dramatic action is Patty’s battle against tedium and loneliness, Tommy’s and her own, with the weapons of ordinary life— familiar old jokes, no-bake cheesecake, snapshots, and bedtime stories—as holidays and Super Bowls tick by. Casey moves through the stages and small crises of growing up, and she and Tommy grow older. Told from Patty’s point of view, the voice is working-class lyricism and the theme is hopeful: the human spirit, and love, endure. — NJM

Daniel Paisner (COM’84). Mourning Wood. Volt Press. An unlikely juxtaposition of characters has been a source of literature since Oedipus, and Paisner plumbs these waters again for humor and poignancy. Terrance Wood, a screen star on the way out, figuratively, decides to stage his death on a Maine highway. Enter Axel Pimletz, the Don Knotts of small-town newspaper reporters (and that’s saying something). Through Wood’s fake death, Pimletz gets his big break, and a comedy of errors ensues. — NB

Michael P. Quinlin (COM’92), ed. Classic Irish Stories: Timeless Tales from Ireland and Other Green Shores. Lyons Press. Quinlin has assembled a wide-ranging collection of short stories, by Irish authors both well-known and obscure, among them William Butler Yeats, Chicago satirist Finley Peter Dunne, Dracula author Bram Stoker, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (born in Scotland to Irish Catholic parents). Stories take place in Ireland, Australia, America, even Africa. They are comical, rebellious, tender, spooky, and tragic. Many are from the last two centuries; some are ancient folk tales translated from Gaelic. — Patrick Kennedy

Frederick V. Romano (CAS’86). The Boxing Filmography: American Features, 1920-2003. McFarland & Co., Inc. Romano gives readers an essay on every major boxing film of the past eighty years. Each piece traces the development of the film and gives a sense of how it fits into the American cinematic culture of the era. Whatever one may think of boxing as a sport, Romano’s book makes a strong case for its being particularly cinematic— its violent spectacle and rogues gallery of characters (think Don King or the old, mean George Foreman) make boxing, perhaps, the ultimate film sport. — NB

Carolyn Brown Senier (CFA’73). The Mattawa Song Cycle. Haley’s. Liturgical music and songs by Senier, who began writing music and lyrics while still a nun. One long and many short admiring and affectionate biographical profiles and lots of charming snapshots introduce her work. The Mattawa Song Cycle is also on a CD by the Lake Mattawa Singers and Chamber Orchestra.

Michelle Terrell (GRS’00). The Jewish Community of Early Colonial Nevis: A Historical Archaeological Study. University Press of Florida. Until the 1960s there was scant information and just a little more myth about the Jews who lived on the Caribbean island of Nevis, apparently for about 100 years beginning in the second half of the seventeenth century. Terrell’s account combines the vicissitudes of her research and what she learned about the Sephardic community.

IN SHORT


Miriam Rosalyn Diamond (SAR’81) and Donna M. Qualters. Chalk Talk: E-advice from Jonas Chalk. New Forums Press. Specific advice— on, for example, grading, office hours, and disruptive students— for college teachers.


On the Case

Not many people these days would recognize the name Nick Carter, certainly not like they would Sherlock Holmes or Sam Spade. But for many decades he was one of the most popular fictional characters in America, selling millions of copies of dime novels following his first appearance in “The Old Detective’s Pupil; or, The Mysterious Crime of Madison Square,” in the New York Weekly in 1886. He was a radio star from 1955 to 1955, but then quickly slid into obscurity. In his heyday, teams of writers cranked out stories of the tough and resourceful detective, who often assumed ingenious disguises to catch the crooks. In the case at hand, dancer Eugenia La Verde has been found dead in her room, “and the murderer had not left a single clew, however slight, by which he could be traced.” Carter is called in by the police, who are fresh out of leads.

The Nick Carter Detective Library was first published in 1891, but this copy is apparently a Dime Novel Club reprint from the early 1940s — facsimiles of the old favorites sold for $1 then instead of the original 5¢. That this and other Dime Novel Club reprints are in the Mystery Writers of America collection at BU’s Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center is telling. Carter and his fellow detectives are the lineal ancestors of today’s mystery protagonists — and the MWA pays them appropriate homage. The center, at Mugar Memorial Library, also houses the papers of more than 200 twentieth-century mystery and suspense writers, including Evan Hunter, who writes as Ed McBain, Ngaio Marsh, Sue Grafton, Donald Westlake, and Leslie Charteris, author of The Saint series.

As all good fictional detectives do, Carter solves his case — a long, tangled tale. The bottom line: it was a snake who done it. Nick plugs it with his “trusty revolver” in the end, and the bad guys die or are hauled off to jail. Time for a new case. — Taylor McNeil

From the Mystery Writers of America collection at the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center.
Photograph by Vernon Doucette
REFLECTIONS ON A LEGACY

Alvin Slater (CAS’40) and his wife, Shirley, at their home in Boston.

IT HAS BEEN more than sixty years since I attended Boston University. One impression, which is still fresh in my mind after all these years, is how inspiring and able my professors were. In particular, Professor Charles Huse sparked my interest in the fields of economics and finance. In the years since graduating I have become a lawyer, an entrepreneur, and a real estate developer, and I hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. My experiences have taught me many important lessons about life. Personal integrity is the most important trait one can cultivate, and I look for this in all my personal and business dealings.

My wife, Shirley, and I are funding a professorship at the College of Arts and Sciences. The chair is to be known as the Alvin and Shirley Slater Professorship in Jewish Holocaust Studies. The gift will allow for the further study of the Shoah so that this fact will not become a mere footnote to the history of the twentieth century.

— ALVIN SLATER (CAS’40)

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