



VERNON DOUCETTE



Measuring Calories on the iPhone

Trying to lose weight? There's an app for that

DIETS TEND TO begin when you recognize the harm of that late-night frosted doughnut routine. But it's hard to remember what you had for breakfast, never mind dinner two nights ago.

Enter PhotoCalorie, a free iPhone app codeveloped by Larry Istrail (SAR'09,'10), a grad student studying anatomy and physiology. PhotoCalorie offers a good estimate of a food's nutritional information, which is then stored in the user's food journal, providing proof of what's really gone down.

"People have told me that PhotoCalorie makes them more aware of what they're eating," Istrail says.

To start, users snap photos of the food. Then they type in each item, separated by commas, using size descriptions for things like side dishes. The app then supplies calories, carbohydrates, protein, and fat. Next time at the table, users can click on the "My Food" tab to select items they have already entered.

There are other iPhone diet apps available, but PhotoCalorie's advantage, Istrail says, is its simplicity. Other apps need as many as twenty-eight steps, he says, to enter the information. It will stay free for now because it becomes more accurate as more people use it, he says.

AMY LASKOWSKI ■

admitted that before the session the prospect of playing with Pinsky made them nervous; they didn't want to overshadow the charismatic, high-profile poet and author of a widely lauded translation of Dante's *Inferno*. Joined by trumpeter Andrew Goodrich, a College of Fine Arts assistant professor of music, the ensemble included James Tobin (CAS'10), on bass, Ryan Hershkowitz (CAS'11), on drums, Paul Lepro (CAS'11), on piano, and Dan Mainardi (CAS'13), on guitar.

As it happened, Pinsky's verse and the musicians' playful exchanges eased almost instantly into a mellow conversation. "If I read with three other musicians, we're a quartet; with four other musicians, we're a quintet," he says. The magic of these collaborations, he feels, comes largely from the equal creative status of everyone involved.

In the last few months Pinsky has performed with jazz musicians on the stages of New York's Jazz Standard and the Regattabar in Cambridge, where pianist and bandleader Stanley Sagov played with him. Pinsky wants to dispel any stereotypical images of beatniks growling contrived verse to the riffing of an upright bass. "We hope the evening will not be about goatees and berets," he told the *New York Times* before a performance, "but about art." SUSAN SELIGSON

WEB EXTRA
Watch a video about the iPhone calorie-counting app at bu.edu/bostonia.

the University provost, which is, without a doubt, our most demanding academic leadership position."

Brown said the University will hire an experienced search consultant and will work collaboratively to solicit input and advice and to review candidates.

"It is my goal to find a distinguished scholar and researcher with extensive senior leadership experience," he said, "so that we will have a seamless transition and continue to move the University forward."

The provost is Boston University's chief academic officer, responsible for guiding the educational and budget policies for all of the Charles River Campus schools and colleges, comprising more than 27,000 students and nearly 2,300 faculty. AJ

← University Provost David Campbell says the past five years have been fast-paced and exhilarating, with many significant accomplishments. He will continue as provost while BU conducts an international search for his successor.

Speaking Jazz

Poetry gets physical as Pinsky jams with musicians

POETRY ON the page, says Robert Pinsky, is like a musical score: it's meant to be heard. And so the College of Arts & Sciences professor of English, former three-time U.S. poet laureate, and author of several acclaimed books of poetry, prose, and translation is bringing his verse to life in a series of soulful readings to musical accompaniment. In these spirited performances Pinsky, whose first ambition was to be a jazz saxophonist, combines his passion for jazz and his conviction that poetry is "very physical." The result — call it jazz rap — is a merging of music and poetry into "a single manifestation of art," he says.

The BU Jazz Combo recently performed with Pinsky at a fundraising event in New York. The awed students

WEB EXTRA Watch Robert Pinsky recite his poem "Antique," accompanied by the BU Jazz Combo, at bu.edu/bostonia.