

Kenneth Elmore (SED'87), BU dean of students, jumps into the Charles River in honor of the Class of 2011. Watch a video of Elmore taking the plunge at bu.edu/bostonia.

His work in complexity science has spurred new devices to treat stroke-induced brain failure, enhanced doctors' understanding of how human posture is warped by aging and Parkinson's disease, and helped invent synthetic gene networks, whose many uses include fighting bacterial infections.

Winner in 2000 of the University's highest teaching honor, the Metcalf Cup and Prize, he is famous among engineering students for his ability to make extremely complex concepts understandable, and often funny.

New York City last March with other finalists for the awards announcements. "I learned when my name was called," she says. "It's a tremendous honor and an august moment."

The award is another national honor for the former *New York Times* reporter, who won the Pulitzer Prize for feature reporting in 1994, the first time a black journalist received an individual reporting award.

The 37-year-old National Book Critics Circle, made up of more than 600 book reviewers, calls *The Warmth of Other Suns* "a magisterial work." Wilkerson's book made the *New York Times* best-seller list, with *Times* reviewer Janet Maslin referring to it as a "landmark" work.

The book also won an Outstanding Literary Work award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

MED PROF TO LEAD JOURNAL

HOWARD BAUCHNER TO EDIT AMA'S INFLUENTIAL PUBLICATION

HOWARD BAUCHNER, a 25-year veteran of the School of Medicine, has been named the new editor in chief of the 128-year-old *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

Bauchner (MED'79) succeeds friend and fellow pediatrician Catherine DeAngelis, the journal's first woman editor. *JAMA* is based in Chicago, so Bauchner is taking a leave of absence, retaining

his title as a MED professor of pediatrics.

"It's truly an honor and a privilege to direct *JAMA*,"

Bauchner says. From the Gilded Age to the Internet Age, *JAMA* has been the scholarly flagship of one of the most influential professional groups in the country.

Published continuously since 1883, the magazine bills itself as "the most widely circulated medical journal in the world."

In selecting Bauchner as editor, *JAMA* has chosen a physician whose résumé

brims with editorial experience. He is currently the first U.S.-based editor in chief of the *British Archives of Disease in Childhood*, published by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. He is a member of the editorial boards of several publications, and author of more than 125 papers.

Bauchner plans "intelligent innovation" at *JAMA*, he says, by updating its website and print presentations and bringing in new columnists to provide "provocative content."

RICH BARLOW



Executive VP Joseph Mercurio Leaves University

AFTER 38 YEARS, MASTER OF MAJOR EXPANSION MOVES ON

It all started with tuition remission. In August 1973, Joseph Mercurio was a determined undergraduate business student at Suffolk University, struggling to come up with the next semester's tuition.

"Someone told me if I could get a job at BU, I could get free tuition," he recalls. "So I did. I took the job to get tuition remission to get my degree and get out into the commercial world."

Now, almost 38 years later, the man who planned and directed the largest expansion of the Boston University campus is still eager to get out into the commercial



world. Only this time, he's done it.

Joseph P. Mercurio, executive vice president of the University for the past 16 years, left his post on July 1 to launch what he calls his "third chapter" and "form a new business enterprise."

In a letter sent to University leadership, President Robert A. Brown described Mercurio (MET'81) as "an icon for the effective management of Boston University" and urged the BU community to thank him for "his incredible role" and wish him well.

"Joe is legendary for

his ability to grasp the complexity of Boston University and guide effective decisions in so many facets of what we do," Brown wrote. "No individual has played a larger role in creating a collegial environment for all of us who have the privilege of working at BU."

In the years since his first job as an associate budget director allowed him to take classes at no cost, Mercurio has seen the annual budget at BU grow from \$89 million to \$2 billion, and he has directed over nine million square feet of development, valued at more than \$2 billion.

After serving for four years as an associate budget director, Mercurio was assistant vice president and comptroller, vice president for business af-

fairs, senior vice president, and since 1995, executive vice president. In that role, he has led the University's senior management team and directed all nonacademic programs and service and support activities, as well as business functions and commercial activities.

He has overseen the expansion of the Charles River Campus and the Medical Campus and has guided efforts that pushed BU's endowment above \$1 billion for the first time.

He leaves behind a reputation as an extraordinarily fair-minded and supportive leader in the BU community and as someone whose sense of purpose united the business and educational missions of the University.

ART JAHNKE ■