Thousands Return to Campus for Alumni Weekend

Events honor BU's black community

BY ART JAHNKE

GLENN STAUB CAME to see Travis Roy. A professional fitness trainer in Tarrytown, N.Y., Staub (SMG’87) is a longtime admirer of Roy’s personal strength. Roy was a freshman hockey player in 1995 when he crashed into the boards 11 seconds into his first college game, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. Roy (COM’00), who now runs a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with spinal cord injuries, was one of four alumni honored in October at Alumni Weekend’s 65th Annual Alumni Awards.

“I really just wanted to see him,” said Staub. “He’s incredible.” Staub, who has been to several alumni events, even brought two of his clients, “huge hockey fans,” he said, who were eager to see that weekend’s men’s hockey contest against UMass.

Staub was one of roughly 5,000 alumni who came back to the Charles River and Medical Campuses for Alumni Weekend, October 28–30. Steven Hall, vice president for alumni relations, said the turnout was several times larger than similar events a few years ago.

“There really is a palpable energy among the BU alumni population, and it was on full display,” said Hall. “There was something for everyone, but the highlight of the weekend was BU’s first Celebration of Black Alumni, with special events focused on the amazing

The Celebration of Black Alumni included speakers, an African cooking demonstration, and lots of opportunities to mingle with former classmates.


The men’s Terrier hockey team nipped UMass 5-4.

Alexis Redman (SMG’14), treasurer of UMOJA, with Duane Jackson (MET’76) at the jazz brunch.

At the Golden Terrier luncheon (from left), Estelle Levy (PAL’51), Irene Hershman (PAL’51), Marilyn Papazian (PAL’56), Marlene MacLeod (SED’61,’69), and Donald MacLeod (CAS’58, SED’65)
The celebration began with a talk by Walter Fluker (GRS’88), the Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Ethical Leadership at the School of Theology, about the role of King (GRS’55, Hon.’59) in the civil rights movement. Fluker spoke at the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, where the University’s extensive King collection was on display. The theme, which recognized BU’s more than century-long education of African American leaders, carried through several events, including an African cooking demonstration; a class featuring Dan Charnas (CAS’89), author of *The Big Payback: The History of the Business of Hip-Hop*; a jazz brunch; and a barbecue dinner on Saturday, at which Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson, a College of Communication professor of journalism, talked about her award-winning book *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration*. The book details the migration of African Americans from the South to the rest of the country from 1915 to 1970.

Former *New York Times* op-ed writer Bob Herbert delivered the third annual Howard Zinn Memorial Lecture. Speaking before a crowd of several hundred alumni, students, and faculty, Herbert, who is African American, described Zinn as a personal hero and praised him for “a mind that sliced right through the most contentious issues.”

“Things have to change in this society,” Herbert warned. “My message tonight is that conditions do not have to be this way. We have the power to change. But that will require a real lift.”

Herbert urged the audience to take a cue from Occupy Wall Street and other protest movements. He said the mainstream press must listen more carefully to progressive voices, and he decried what he says is a nation in which the top one percent controls the majority of the nation’s wealth. In one of the evening’s most electrifying moments, Herbert told the audience: “Read my lips. Redistribute the wealth.”

The audience broke into loud applause.

Perhaps the most authentically African of African American–themed events was a talk about African cooking by James McCann and PhD candidate Natalie Mettler (GRS’13). McCann, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of history and director ad interim of the Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, is the author of *Stirring the Pot: A History of African Cuisine*. He told the audience that making food was like making jazz: “You begin with an idea; then you improvise.” McCann and Mettler, who is studying the foods of West Africa, also served an authentic African meal, with cassava, plantains, and lamb served with mafe, a ground peanut sauce.

At the same time that McCann’s exotic foods were enjoyed in the test kitchen at 808 Comm Ave, a grander lunch was being served in the George Sherman Union’s Metcalf Hall, where several hundred alumni gathered for the 65th Annual Alumni Awards and Luncheon. Looking out at the crowd, President Robert A. Brown said the impressive attendance was evidence of “an increased sense of energy and pride” that he felt at all alumni events.

“Every time you come back to this campus you see something new,” he said. This time, for example, it was the six-story Center for Student Services rising on East Campus. “We just topped off that building yesterday,” said Brown. “The important thing about that building is that it shows our dedication to the success of our students.”

The first to be honored was Young Alumni Award winner Travis Roy (COM’00), who was given a standing ovation even before he reached the stage. Roy, a motivational speaker and activist, said the greatest moment of his BU experience came when his hockey jersey was hung above the ice. “To see it hanging there, I feel like it was all of us who put it there,” he said. “The students, the hockey team, it was everyone who made BU the kind of place where I could find myself.”

Alumni Awards were presented to Elizabeth Cohen (SPH’92), senior medical correspondent at CNN; Gerard Cohen (LAW’62), founder and owner of Western Carriers; and humanitarian and philanthropist Meera Gandhi (GSM’89).

Elizabeth Cohen, who covers breaking medical news and consumer health issues for CNN and cnn.com, developed the cnn.com column “Empowered Patient” and in 2010 published the book *The Empowered Patient: How to Get the Right Diagnosis, Buy the*...
Awards
Schools and colleges honor outstanding alums during Alumni Weekend 2011

Cheapest Drugs, Beat Your Insurance Company, and Get the Best Medical Care Every Time.

Gerard Cohen has been active in the BU Alumni Council and the School of Law Alumni Association’s executive committee. In 1994, he and his family established the Gerard H. Cohen Award, given to a member of the LAW administrative staff who has shown unselfish and distinguished service to the school.

Meera Gandhi created the Giving Back Foundation, aimed at alleviating poverty, illness, and suffering and at helping to educate women and children. Gandhi’s documentary film Giving Back was screened after the awards ceremony.

BU’s individual schools and colleges also presented alumni awards throughout the weekend. (See sidebar.)

Later Saturday, Staub and his hockey fan guests got the excitement they came for. Coming back from a 3-0 deficit at the end of the first period, the Terriers took the contest with UMass into overtime, where they clinched a 5-4 victory.

The final event of the weekend, a jazz brunch in Metcalf Hall, attracted a full house. Desiree James-Barber (CAS’81), a PhD candidate in urban systems at Rutgers University, said this was the first time she had returned to BU for Alumni Weekend, and she made the trip because the event was a Celebration of Black Alumni.

“It was fantastic,” she said. “It was amazing—the best part was meeting the students.” James-Barber said she particularly enjoyed the talk and book signing by Joseph Cronin, author of Reforming Boston Schools, 1930 to the Present: Overcoming Corruption and Racial Segregation. “The whole weekend was a great opportunity to meet other black alums,” she said. “I was able to find out about networks they started that I can link up with again.”

Recipients of 2011 Alumni Awards were (from top) Gerard Cohen (LAW’62), Meera Gandhi (GSM’89), and Elizabeth Cohen (SPH’92).

Young Alumni Award winner Travis Roy (COM’00) with men’s hockey head coach Jack Parker (SMG’68, Hon.’97) (right) and Shadi Daher (SDM’90,’94), president of the BU Alumni Association.
of clinical business development, Center for Interventional Vascular Therapy; chief medical officer, Columbia Affiliate Physicians. Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to the Profession.

College of General Studies

DAVID BUTTOLPH (’77, CAS’79), managing director, Brookside Mezzanine Partners. Distinguished Alumni Award.

College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College

BENJAMIN BARBON (’01,’03), regional clinical director, Mountain Center Physical Therapy. Professional Achievement Award.

ANDREA CAPACHETTI (’77, CGS’75), humanitarian aid consultant and university lecturer on refugee resettlement issues focusing on women’s rights and child protection. Special Recognition Award.

LORRAINE “LORRI” COPPOLA (’61) (posthumously), retired middle school physical education teacher, San Rafael, Calif. Twiness Award.

JO-ANN HARPER FINN (’71), former director of student affairs, California State University Long Beach. Black and Gold Award.

FIDELITO GABRIEL (’01, SOM’05), dentist and first vice president of Fidelito Gabriel DMD, doing business as Forest Hills Dental. Emerging Leader Award.

NINA L. GŁUCHOWSKI (’06, MED’10), pediatrics resident, Massachusetts General Hospital. Emerging Leader Award.

ELEANOR L. LEMAIRE (’51), former chair of physical education, Arnold College, University of Bridgeport; retired senior associate director of athletics, University of Rhode Island. Special Recognition Award.

MICHAEL MULRENA (’93,’94), founder and chief executive officer, ProEx Physical Therapy. Professional Achievement Award.

MICHAEL SEVERO (’98), chief operating officer, ProEx Physical Therapy; acting clinical manager, Physical Therapy Center, Boston University’s Ryan Center for Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation. Professional Achievement Award.

MARIANNE PATTISON TAYLOR (’51) (posthumously), international folk dance teacher, cofounder, Folk Arts Center of New England, Strathspay and Reel Society of New Hampshire. Black and Gold Award.

JAGDEEP TRIVEDI (’96), director of operations, Upham’s Elder Service Plan. Professional Achievement Award.

Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine

NEIL S. HORNUNG (’81), SDM assistant clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Service to the School Award.

JONATHAN LEVINE (’81), aesthetic dentist and founder, Jonathan B. Levine & Associates. Service to the School and Community Award.

MARK NEHRING (’81), acting chief dental officer, Health Resources and Services Administration. Service to the Community Award.

Metropolitan College

JOHN MAALOUF (’90, LAW’94), senior partner, Maalouf Ashford & Talbot. Service to Profession Distinguished Alumni Award.

JOSEPH MERCURIO (’81), retired BU executive vice president. Service to Alumni Mater Distinguished Alumni Award.

LISA PAEZOWSKY (’96), commissioner, Massachusetts Highway Department. Service to Community Distinguished Alumni Award.

School of Education

ROGER HARRIS (’74), superintendent, Boston Renaissance Charter Public School. Arthur H. Wilde Society Award.

CLIFFORD JANES (’84), former superintendent of schools, Washington, D.C., public school district; former superintendent of schools, Newark, N.J., public school district. Ida M. Johnston Award.

VINCENT MURRAY (’75), principal, Henry W. Grady High School, Atlanta, Ga. Arthur H. Wilde Society Award.

School of Law

MAURA J. KELLY, assistant dean, career development and public service, LAW. Gerard H. Cohen Award.

JENNIFER A. SERAFYN (’01), assistant U.S. attorney, district of Massachusetts. Young Lawyer’s Chair.

KENNETH W. SIMONS, the Honorable Frank R. Kenison Distinguished Scholar in Law, LAW. Silver Shingle Award for Service to the School.

STEPHEN D. TOM (’74), commander (major general), Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Silver Shingle Award for Service to the Community.

ALLAN VAN GESTEL (’61), mediator and arbitrator, Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc.; retired associate justice, Massachusetts Superior Court. Silver Shingle Award for Service to the Profession.

STEPHEN M. ZIDE (’86), managing director, Bain Capital, New York. Silver Shingle Award for Service to School.

School of Medicine

JEAN-FRANCOIS (IFF) GESCHWIND (’91), professor of radiology, surgery, and oncology and director, division of vascular and interventional radiology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; director of the Interventional Radiology Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital. Distinguished Alumni Award.

ROBERT A. WITZBURG (’77), professor of medicine, associate dean and director of admissions, MED; professor of health policy and management, Boston University School of Public Health. Distinguished Alumnus Award.

School of Public Health

AUGUST BURNS (’90), executive director, Grounds for Health. Distinguished Alumni Award.

ALEXANDER ORTEGA (’94), director, Temple University Institute for Survey Research; professor of public health and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Temple University. Distinguished Alumni Award.

JULIE PALMER (’85), professor of epidemiology, SPH; senior epidemiologist, Boston University Slone Epidemiology Center. Distinguished Alumni Award.

School of Social Work


MATTHEW BOONE (’00), assistant director of multidisciplinary teams and integration, Cornell University Counseling Center. Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Social Work.

YI CHIN CHEN (’03, CAS’01), director of life-long learning and economic development, Hyde Square Task Force. Hubie Jones Urban Service Award.

RUTH FREEDMAN, SSW associate dean for academic affairs. Outstanding Contributions to the School of Social Work.

School of Theology


JANET VARLOTT HORTON (’76), retired chaplain (colonel), U.S. Army; Christian Science Military Chaplain endorser, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Mass. Distinguished Alumni Award.

BARRY W. LYNN (’73), ordained minister, United Church of Christ; executive director, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Washington, D.C. Distinguished Alumni Award.

JEREMY SMITH (’06), ordained United Methodist clergyman, Oklahoma City, Okla.; author, www.hackingchristianity.net. Distinguished Young Alumnus Award.

J. PHILIP WOOGAMAN (’57, ORS’60), former senior minister, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C.; professor emeritus of Christian ethics, Wesley Theological Seminary. Distinguished Alumni Award.

Winter-Spring 2012 BOSTONIA 65
There are lots of letters in BU other than “B” and “U.” Below is a quick guide to the acronyms for all the schools and colleges. Older colleges/earlier names are in parentheses. Closed colleges shown in gray.

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Decade” issue. Kecia and her husband, Kevin, have two sons, Kendall and Kyle. Learn more at www.gksweetfoods.com, or email gandksweetfoods@yahoo.com.

SUSAN SKIER SAWYER (SON’86) of Natick, Mass., published a textbook, Pediatric Physical Examination & Health Assessment (Jones & Bartlett, 2011). Susan is a pediatric nurse and an associate professor at Regis College.

PAMELA MICHELE SUGG (SSW’86) of Cranford, Conn., is president-elect of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT), and sex therapy advisor to the Alexander Foundation for Women’s Health. She and her husband, Robert Wierzel, created the Bill T. Jones Scholarship for People of Color at AASECT. Robert is a lighting designer who was nominated for a Tony Award for his lighting of the musical FELA! Pamela writes that their 20-year-old twins make them proud parents and hopeful for the future. Email her at smugglesw@gmail.com.

1987

INGRID CAPOZZOLI FLINN (CFA’87) of New York, N.Y., writes that her work was included in the group exhibitions Shequality at the s.h.e. gallery in Boonton, N.J., and Small Works Invitational at the Painting Center in New York City. Ingrid can be reached at icapf@rcn.com or icapf@aol.com.

RAY SHOWS (CFA’87) of St. Paul, Minn., who cofounded the Artaria String Quartet with Nancy Oliveros at BU, writes that the group is celebrating its 25th anniversary. “Since moving to St. Paul in 2001,” Ray writes, “we have created the Artaria Chamber Music School, Stringwood Summer Chamber Music, and the St. Paul String Quartet Competition.” Find out more at the website www.artariaquartet.com.

STEVE WIGGINS (STH’87) of Somerville, N.J., is the religion editor at the publishing company Routledge in its New York City office.

1988

WILLIAM COOKE (CAS’88) of Madison, Wis., recently wrote the poem “Boston University” for one of his BU teachers, Guido Sandri, a retired College of Engineering adjunct professor of mechanical engineering. The poem is on William’s website, www.arunasplace.com/galactic.

ILENE FISCHER (COM’88) of Arlington, Mass., writes that her play, Girl Hopping, debuted in October at the OBERON in Cambridge, Mass. “It’s an original comedy about six West Hollywood lesbians whose lives collide in an earthquake of meddling, one-night stands, obsession, potato chips, and folk music. Since graduating from COM, I have had a madcap freelance career in television and comedy. This play symbolizes the culmination of the last 15 years.” Check out the website: http://cassarstrstreet.com.

ANN-MARIE (COOMBS) MESSBAUER (CAS’88) of Springfield, Mass., sings in the traditional folk duo Three of Cups with Deborah Clear, coordinator of undergraduate programs in the Academic Services Center at BU’s Sargent College. “We formed our group back in 1987 in Professor Emeritus Anthony Barrand’s course Folk Song as Social History,” she writes. “This year marks our 25th anniversary.” The duo will release a recording and perform a concert at the BU College of Fine Arts on March 25, 2012. Learn more at www.threeofcupsmusic.com, or email Ann-Marie at massness@juno.com.

RICHARD RUTH (CAS’88) of Annapolis, Md., published his first book, In Buddha’s Company: Thai Soldiers in the Vietnam War (University of Hawai’i Press, 2010). A work of cultural history, the book examines the experiences of the Thai volunteer soldiers who fought as allies of the United States in South Vietnam. Richard teaches Southeast Asian history at the United States Naval Academy. Email him at ruth@usna.edu.

LAWRENCE TENA (ENG’88) of New York, N.Y., is a board-certified radiation oncologist. He recently opened two state-of-the-art radiation oncology centers in Manhattan. Email him at ltena@eastside-oncology.com.

Shelly H. Carolan (CAS’89) of New Hope, Pa., was promoted to chief marketing officer at NMS Labs, a professional forensic and clinical laboratory services provider in Willow Grove, Pa.

MARTYN GREEN (SDM’89) of Redlands, Calif., is an associate professor of periodontics at the Loma Linda School of Dentistry. He recently retired from his private practice in Beverly Hills.

LAURA ROFFER (COM’89) of North Andover, Mass., is an account supervisor at Cole Creative, a Boston creative services agency and marketing strategy consultant. Previously, Laura was a vice president and project manager at Citizens Bank.

1990

REBECCA BATES (ENG’90, ’96) of Arlington, Va., was awarded an AAAS Science & Tech-