

## Reaccreditation on Tap for BU

Commission to make site visit in spring 2009

Boston University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit from March 29 to April 1, 2009, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) is one of eight accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation, which is voluntary, is undertaken every ten years and applies to the institution as a whole.

In preparation for the site visit this spring, Boston University has been engaged in a process of self-study based on the CIHE's Standards for Accreditation and culminating in a 100-page self-study report. The evaluation team assembled by CIHE will visit the BU campus to speak with faculty, students, staff, and other constituencies, and to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will then recommend a continuing status for the institution and, following a review process, the commission will determine the final action.

During this reaccreditation process, the public is invited to submit comments regarding Boston University to:

Public Comment on Boston University  
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education  
New England Association of Schools and Colleges  
209 Burlington Road  
Bedford, MA 01730-1433  
E-mail: [cihe@neasc.org](mailto:cihe@neasc.org)

Comments, which will not be treated as confidential, must address substantive matters related to the quality of Boston University. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the individual submitting them.

The deadline for submitting comments is April 1, 2009. The CIHE cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.



VIDEO IMAGES BY ALAN WONG

BU's young Quidditch team played valiantly but came up short. They'll be back, they vow.

## Stranger Than Fiction

BU Quidditch team faces toughest opponent — gravity

KATIE STACK HAS been enchanted with Harry Potter and his magical escapades since the fourth grade. She's in college now, but Stack (CAS'11) continues to live out her childhood fantasies by playing Quidditch, the international sport of the wizarding world.

In the fictional version of the game, created by J. K. Rowling along with the rest of Harry Potter's universe, players zoom through the air on broomsticks, using balls to score points and knock one another off course. The real-world variation, called Muggle Quidditch (after Rowling's word for nonmagical people) is bound by the laws of gravity, and so is slightly more prosaic. Players run (on the ground)



**WEB EXTRA**  
Quidditch gets the Hollywood treatment — again — in *Bostonia's* video of the Intercollegiate Quidditch World Cup, shot on location at Middlebury College. Listen as members of BU's team talk about how this fictional game is getting more real all the time. See it at [www.bu.edu/bostonia](http://www.bu.edu/bostonia).

holding a broom between their legs. It's a lot harder than it looks, and just as awkward, says Stack.

The sport originated in 2005, when a student at Middlebury College adapted it for play.

Its popularity quickly spread, and today more than 150 colleges throughout the United States have Quidditch teams. Twelve of them met in October to compete in the second annual Intercollegiate Quidditch World Cup, held on Middlebury's campus in Vermont.

Although BU's young team, playing in its first major games, lost both rounds of the tournament, valiant play — and the spectacle of it all — left everyone in high spirits. "It was so much fun — we were tackling everyone!" says Abdullah Al-Mutairi (SAR'11), breathlessly. "We were fierce!"

"We'll come back stronger than ever," says Raven Villegas (CAS'12). "Just give us another year."

VICKY WALTZ