Accomplished Alums in New BUAA Podcast
Interview series focuses on how successful careers unfold

The Boston University Alumni Association launched its first podcast series, Proud to BU, on November 8, 2018. Host Jeff Murphy (Questrom'06), associate director of alumni career resources for Alumni Relations, interviews accomplished alums, including actor Russell Hornsby (CFA'95), who appears in the critically acclaimed 2018 film The Hate U Give; Cat Berman (COM'97), CEO and cofounder of CNote; Fred Santarita (MET'93) of Upwork; Egyptian astronaut Nanda Badi (COM'94) of EgyptAir; and Andrea Brankin (COM'93) of Singapore, Singapore, received the Inspiring Individual Award from HCSCA Community Services, an organization supported by the Singapore government that helps children and adults who have faced abuse, neglect, drug abuse, displacement, and incarceration. She has been a volunteer at HCSCA’s Dayspring Residential Treatment Centre for abused teen girls since 2012. She teaches writing and life skills, and coaches rugby. Andrea received the award on the grounds of the Istana, the Singapore presidential palace, in October 2018. In September, she traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam, to teach conceptual writing to rescued human trafficking victims through the organization Writing Through. Andrea is a regular blogger for The Finder Singapore magazine and website, and a business consultant for Berrymhurst Consulting.

Mimi Eckert (SPH'93) of Griffin, Ga., has been working for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases since 2000. During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014–2016, she was deployed twice to assist in the response. “I first deployed in December 2014 at the height of the outbreak to work on infection prevention and control in Guinea, where I had the opportunity to train healthcare workers on methods to protect themselves from becoming infected,” she writes. “In 2016 I deployed a second time to Sierra Leone where I served as the deputy team lead for an Ebola vaccine trial that was sponsored by the CDC.”

Brian McLaughlin (MET’93) of UPland, Calif., has been a member of the Producers Guild of America (PGA) since 2011, sponsored by the director, producer, and actor Roger Corm. Brian is a mentor in the Guild’s Power of Diversity Master Workshop, as well as a member of the education and diversity committees. He has produced four feature films and has seven in development, two of which he plans to shoot in 2019. The PGA’s official magazine, Produced By, recently wrote about Brian and his support of military veterans in the entertainment industry. He often teams with Veterans in Media & Entertainment, of which he is also a member. Brian served 20 years in the Army and Army Reserve. Read the story at www.producersguild.org/page/octnovmag18, and contact Brian at mclafl91@gmail.com.

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Deanne Mazzochi (CAS’94) of Elmhurst, Ill., is the new state representative for the 47th district for the Illinois General Assembly. She was unopposed in the March 2018 primary and won the House seat in the November 2018 general election. She can be reached through her Springfield or local district office: www.ilga.gov/house.

Dan Mcgillivray (Questrom’94) of Waltham, Mass., was appointed vice president of sales of Integrated Computer Solutions, which creates sophisticated embedded and touch-enabled devices.

Amy Prener-Corral (COM’94) of Van Nuys, Calif., was named senior vice president, national publicity, for Allied Integrated Marketing’s Los Angeles office. Amy manages publicity efforts for the agency’s film, television, streaming, and brand clients, and oversees Allied’s national publicity teams in Los Angeles and New York.

Stephanie Rowe (Law’94) of Natick, Mass., won a 2018 Romance Writers of America RITA Award for Best Paranormal Romance for her book, Hunt the Darkness (SBD Press, 2017). The RITA, one of the highest awards of distinction in the romance publishing industry, recognizes excellence in published romance novels and novellas.