



Boston University Arts & Sciences

725 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston MA
Permit No. 1839

beat the winter blahs

winterfest

january 27-28, 2012
bu.edu/winterfest

Boston University Alumni Association

Just add water.



The Class of 2011 made history this spring when **more than 2,400** of its members gave to the BU Class Gift Campaign, prompting Dean of Students Kenn Elmore to jump into the Charles River.

Follow their lead. Make your impact.
Give today at bu.edu/give (or 800-447-2849).

Boston University Annual Giving

MORE CLOAK, LESS DAGGER • CIA VET AND CAS PROF OPINES ON WHAT THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MIGHT BE OVERLOOKING. **p. 9**

BRAINY, BUT SO ARTIFICIAL CAN THERE BE ROBOTS THAT MAKE UP THEIR OWN "MINDS"? **p. 18**

TAKING A LISTEN WITH ERIC • CELEBRATING 30 YEARS WITH THE DEAN OF BOSTON JAZZ RADIO. **p. 24**

NOTHING WRONG WITH WOOLINESS • IRISH PLAYWRIGHT CAPTURES THE AUTHENTIC VOICES OF HIS NATIVE LAND. **p. 28**

arts&sciences

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences

FALL 2011

Hungry for love?

HOW FOOD AVAILABILITY IN THE RAIN FOREST
DRIVES FERTILITY IN ORANGUTANS

— Story, page 10 —

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

10



HORMONE HUNTER

For nearly 20 years, anthropologist Cheryl Knott has spent her summers in the rain forests of Borneo, studying the endangered orangutans living there and the impact that a fluctuating food supply has on their fertility.



18 BRAINY, BUT SO ARTIFICIAL

They will be able to learn and decide on their own and adapt to their environments. Modeled on the human brain, these “intelligent” uberrobots are in the works in BU’s Neuromorphics Lab, directed by neuroscientist Massimiliano “Max” Versace.

PHOTOS: COVER, ORANGUTAN, AND THIS PAGE, CHERYL KNOTT, BY TIM LAMAN; MASSIMILIANO VERSACE, BY CYDNEY SCOTT; FACING PAGE, INFRARED BAT, BY THOMAS KUNZ AND MARGRIT BETKE, NICOLE BHATIA, BY CYDNEY SCOTT; ERIC JACKSON, BY ©VGBH/ANTHONY TIEULI; JOSEPH WIPPL, BY VERNON DOUCETTE

arts&sciences HAS A FRESH NEW LOOK! LET US KNOW HOW YOU LIKE IT AT CASALUM@BU.EDU.

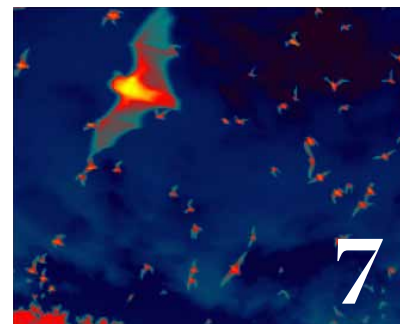
contents

► DEPARTMENTS

- 2 From the Dean**
Do the liberal arts really prepare students for jobs? Dean Virginia Sapiro examines the views of Bill Gates and the late Steve Jobs—and weighs in.

a&s insider

- 3 The Rest Is Poetry**
Language professors discover rare Spanish and Mandinka poetry manuscripts in unlikely places.
- 5 One-Way Tickets**
Professor Alicia Borinsky’s new book offers a glimpse into the struggles of Nabokov and other expatriate writers and artists.
- 5 How We Make Financial Decisions**
Overseer Kenneth Slater’s family has endowed a chair in behavioral economics, a hot research area.
- 6 Path Breakers** In biology, Greek, philosophy, and physics, four Arts & Sciences faculty members take high honors.
- 7 When Robots Fly**
Interdisciplinary research team models flying robots on birds, bats, and insects.



31



- 8 STUDENT PROFILE Voracious Scholar**
Nicole Bhatia (CAS'13) spent her summer immersed in editorial work at BU’s Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies.

- 9 Q&A More Cloak, Less Dagger**
CIA veteran Joseph Wippl suggests the nation’s spies need to take a longer-term view.

about alumni

- 24 ALUM PROFILE Taking a Listen with Eric**
Getting his start as a radio host in his student days at BU, Eric Jackson has brought his fans the sounds of jazz greats for 30 years.

- 26 Thank you, Donors!**

- 28 ALUM PROFILE Nothing Wrong with Wooliness**
Irish playwright Ronan Noone (GRS'01) speaks to his craft.

- 29 Class Notes**

- 33 THE LAST WORD A Light Mood**
The luminous “skylscapes” of Roy Perkinson (GRS'70) beckon.

WRITE TO US!

We welcome your letters, which will be edited for clarity and length for this publication. Letters will appear in full online on the Arts & Sciences website at bu.edu/cas/magazine. We also welcome your story ideas. Please email the Editor at jkeith@bu.edu or write to the Editor, *arts&sciences*, Boston University, 985 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 145, Boston, MA 02215. Please include your name, address, and BU school(s) and class year(s).

ONLINE

Visit our online magazine at bu.edu/cas/magazine/fall11 for photo galleries and additional content.

From the Dean

Virginia Sapiro, Dean of Arts & Sciences



Perhaps you saw the stories earlier this year of the somewhat manufactured dustup between Bill Gates and Steve Jobs (who passed away just recently). No, it wasn't about PC versus Mac, but about the value of a liberal arts degree.

Gates argued in a speech that state support of higher education should go to areas of study that "help fill jobs and drive that state economy in the future." His comments were widely understood as an attack on investing in the liberal arts.

In contrast, Steve Jobs said, "It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough—it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the result that makes our heart sing and nowhere is that more true than in these post-PC devices." Many parents worry aloud about whether a liberal arts education is as good a preparation for the future as study in a professional field. So is it Gates or Jobs?

The jobs future stands with Jobs. We now know something that no generation before us suspected: We cannot foresee exactly what the economic and social needs of society will be in twenty, forty, or more years or what the shape of our technology or atmospheric and earth systems will be. We therefore cannot predict exactly what our current or future students' lives will look like and what challenges and opportunities await them.

We do know, however, that our students will need to be more capable of learning and changing throughout their adult lives than any previous generation. No matter what their individual interests, they will need a broad and deep platform of knowledge as well as intellectual and social skills, not merely to adapt to the new worlds,

but to lead them. They will need to be capable of accessing, analyzing, interpreting, and using information of many sorts; to read well and critically; be proficient at computational and analytical tasks; and work with people from around the globe. They will need to go well beyond any specific fact or skill they learned in school.

This is exactly what an education in the liberal arts and sciences offers. What Bill Gates missed in his reflections is that if we are thinking long-term—and as a dean and a parent I certainly must—it is not studying the subject matter in a particular department or major that assures our students a bright future, but acquiring a liberal education, that, altogether, gives them this broad and deep platform from which to launch themselves and the critical skills that enable them to learn throughout their lives. It is no wonder that the majority of today's entrepreneurs had liberal arts and sciences undergraduate educations. Those who question the utility of this kind of education are shortsighted.

Offering a first-class liberal arts and sciences education requires far more resources than we can possibly garner in revenue from tuition, even at today's rates. Tuition does not cover nearly the cost of hiring and maintaining high-caliber faculty and support staff, such as advisors, librarians, and technology specialists; providing appropriate, up-to-date facilities; and enriching our students' experience at Boston University.

Tuition doesn't cover all that. Rather, we depend on the generosity of our alumni and other friends in their commitment to making a difference for this and future generations of BU students. Look through the list of alumni and other friends (p. 26) who have stepped forward already to invest in the future through BU. Please consider joining them and investing in the Boston University College of Arts & Sciences to help us create a great future for and through our students. You can make a difference.

Oh...and about that other question? Personally, I'm a PC.

POSTSCRIPT: Steve Jobs passed away on October 5. He is being heralded throughout the world for his vision and creativity in changing the way we interact with technology. Remarkably, Apple's cofounder was neither an engineer nor a trained programmer, but someone who embodied the value of a broad, eclectic understanding of the world.

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS AT ARTS & SCIENCES THAT HAVE US TALKING

The Rest Is Poetry

Two CAS professors' literary discoveries go beyond fine phrases.

► BY ANNIE LAURIE SÁNCHEZ

Few experiences induce gooseflesh like the unexpected discovery of an old manuscript, a physical connection with someone long gone. But such treasures often hold much more, as two College of Arts & Sciences professors recently found.

While researching his forthcoming book on Spanish poet Federico García Lorca's residence in New York City (1929–1930), Professor of Spanish Christopher Maurer came across a poem manuscript he'd never heard of among the Library of Congress's online listings. Its location in an archive donated by music collector Hans Moldenhauer added to its intrigue.

➡
CONTINUED
NEXT PAGE

► Federico García Lorca at Lake Eden, Vermont, during his 1929–1930 sojourn in the U.S. and Cuba. The poet's parents sent him to New York's Columbia University for the year to study English and recover from the devastating end of a love affair with sculptor Emilio Aladrén. Printed in *Federico García Lorca en Nueva York y La Habana: Cartas y recuerdos* by Christopher Maurer and Andrew A. Anderson (Galaxia Gutenberg, in press).

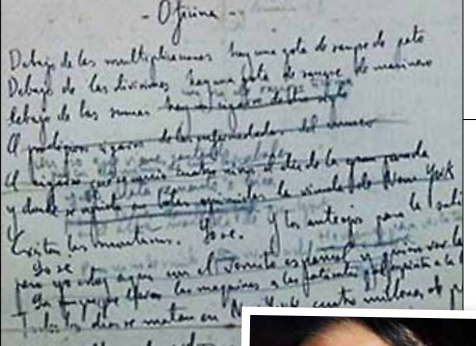
PHOTO COURTESY OF FUNDACIÓN FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA

It was the handwritten original, considered lost, for García Lorca's 1930 poem, "New York (Office and Denunciation)," from *Poet in New York*, first published in 1940, four years after García Lorca was assassinated at age 38 by Francisco Franco's soldiers. "Office and Denunciation" reflects García Lorca's aversion to New York's capitalist calculations and soul-sickness following the stock market crash. The manuscript includes nationalistic and messianic imagery omitted from the final version, such as the line, "I offer myself to be devoured by Spanish peasants," rewritten as, "I offer myself as food for the cows wrung dry..."

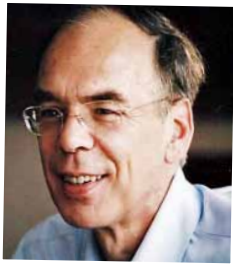
For Maurer, the manuscript's importance in illuminating the poet's process doesn't justify making it public domain. "How do you publish the unfinished works of a poet?" he muses. "Major, minor, it doesn't matter. It's like someone opening your desk drawer and saying, 'Hey, this is cool. Let's put it on the Web.'" Continued respect for an author's final decisions is crucial.

Maurer discovered that the manuscript had been a gift to poet José María Millares Sall, who, imprisoned by Franco and in financial need, sold it (through an American professor) at auction in New York, where Moldenhauer bought it. Millares Sall, who died in 2009, never spoke of it to anyone, even his family. They were shocked by the revelation. "Behind almost every manuscript," notes Maurer, "is a story of human drama." This fall, Maurer is giving a class focused on the treatment of manuscripts. "And how families keep their secrets," Maurer adds, "or share them."

Some families, indeed, are eager to dish. Not long ago, Associate Professor of Anthropology Fallou Ngom was in Senegal gathering documents in Ajami—the modified Arabic script that, since the tenth century, speakers of some twenty African



The discovery of the manuscript for "New York (Office and Denunciation)" (above) by Christopher Maurer (right) revealed some of García Lorca's telling revisions.



Fallou Ngom (left) hopes Ajami manuscripts (below) may help redefine literacy in many African countries.



EXCERPT

From "New York (Office and Denunciation)" by Federico García Lorca, translated by Greg Simon and Steven F. White, in *García Lorca's Poet in New York*.

.... This is not hell, but the street.
Not death, but the fruit stand.
There is a world of tamed rivers and distances just beyond our grasp
in the cat's paw smashed by a car,
and I hear the earthworm's song
in the hearts of many girls.
Rust, fermentation, earth tremor.
You yourself are the earth as you drift in office numbers.
What shall I do now? Set the landscapes in order?
Order the loves that soon become photographs,
that soon become pieces of wood and mouthfuls of blood?
No, no: I denounce it all...

languages, including Mandinka, have used to read and write—when he met a Mandinka man who shared manuscripts by his late father, Imam Kéba Dabo Cissé, a Qur'anic teacher.

Among these, Ngom found an unusual poem written during World War II—a curse calling for Hitler's demise, wishing that "he be betrayed by his own physician" and that his planes be destroyed, among other calamities. Ngom, who directs BU's African Language Program, explains that in Africanized Islam, long-standing local traditions have fused with Islam, and an imam may issue curses like any local elder.

From Senegambia to the Horn of Africa, millions use Ajami for everything from transactions to genealogies, prayers, and poetry. But when literacy rates are tallied, Ajami users are often discounted, in part because the script is not standardized, but also because of a persisting colonial stance that use of Latin script defines literacy. Cissé's is one of many documents attesting to the rich variety of cultural production in Ajami.

With a Guggenheim grant awarded in April, Ngom hopes to bring more Ajami scholars to Boston University. He and his students think different approaches, like using Ajami to educate rural villagers about such diseases as malaria, will make policy makers and scholars take notice. Ngom says he aims to publish a collection of original Ajami manuscripts like Cissé's to help ensure "that when we write about African history, cultures, and societies, we also incorporate these voices." [a&s](#)

ONLINE Listen to Fallou Ngom read from Kéba Dabo Cissé's poem on PRI's *The World: theworld.org/2010/09/africa-ajami-writing*.

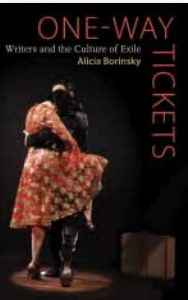
Read more about Fallou Ngom and Ajami in *Bostonia*: bu.edu/bostonia/summer09/ajami.

Listen to Christopher Maurer discuss Federico García Lorca in New York and read from selected works in the New York Botanical Garden's Spanish Paradise audio tour: nybg.org/visit/audio_tours.php.

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE, GARCÍA LORCA MANUSCRIPT, COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HANS MOLDENHAUER ARCHIVE; CHRISTOPHER MAURER, BY LUIS FERNÁNDEZ-CIENFUES; FALLOU NGOM AND AJAMI MANUSCRIPT, BY VERNON DOUCETTE; FACING PAGE, KENNETH SLATER, BY KALMAN ZABARSKY

ONE-WAY TICKETS

The novels of Vladimir Nabokov, a Russian writing in English in the United States, convey the embarrassment of foreigners struggling to adjust to a new culture. The poems of Alejandra Pizarnik, an Argentinian born to Jewish immigrant parents, express the loneliness of the outsider.



Professor of Latin American & Comparative Literature Alicia Borinsky meditates on the experiences of these writers and of other expatriate artists in her most recent

book, *One-Way Tickets: Writers and the Culture of Exile* (Trinity University Press, 2011). The wide-ranging book draws examples from literature and popular culture to explore issues of language, identity, and belonging.

Borinsky begins with her personal story of displacement: The granddaughter of Russian and Polish immigrants, she grew up in Buenos Aires, and then became a refugee herself, fleeing to the United States in the late 1960s following a military takeover in Argentina.

In her final chapter, "We Are Everywhere," Borinsky notes the increased blurring of national and ethnic lines in the modern world—the proliferation of Spanish-speaking children in U.S. schools and of Muslim headscarves on European streets. This mixing of cultures, she argues, means that all of us—even those who've never left home—have experienced feelings of foreignness and so can relate to the stories of writers in exile.

—CORINNE STEINBRENNER

How We Make Financial Decisions • The Slater family endows a chair to explore the psychology of financial decision making ► BY LESLIE FRIDAY

Behavioral economics explores the psychology behind decisions that consumers, borrowers, and investors make, as well as the effect those decisions—often based on gut instinct—have on the financial market.

To advance knowledge in this relatively new field, Boston University Overseer Kenneth Slater and his family have endowed a chair at the College of Arts & Sciences, the first endowed chair in the Department of Economics' history. The Slater Family Professorship in Behavioral Economics is created by a \$2.5 million endowment made possible by combining funding from the Slater family (nearly \$1.7 million) with a matching grant through the Leventhal Challenge (\$800,000), established by University Trustee Alan Leventhal (Hon.'09) and his wife, Sherry Leventhal.

"As important as knowledge about a particular area is, what's more important is what you do with that information," says Slater, a principal in Tremont Partners LLC, a financial advisory firm in Palm Beach, Florida. "It's worth learning more about the decision-making process."

Says Dean of Arts & Sciences Virginia Sapiro, "This professorship in behavioral economics is a real game-changer because it builds on strengths we already have in the Department of Economics, one of our leading departments, and enables us to attract another first-rate professor to our ranks. Without endowed professorships like this one, we have little hope of competing with the other top-ranked universities to attract and keep the best faculty and students."

Adds Chair of Economics Robert Margo, "Behavioral economics is one of the hottest areas of research in economics. By giving us the resources to make a high-profile appointment, Ken Slater's extraordinary gift will help move the department to the next level."

As a professional investor, Slater has a personal interest in this branch of economics. His role became crucial during the recent financial crisis, when few people fully understood what was happening on Wall Street.

"Things were pretty stressful," he says. "I was trying to understand everything, and I realized I couldn't. I had to make decisions based on limited information."

Slater came to realize that answers to his questions were not to be found in the financial information at hand: what he really needed to understand was investors' decision-making process, and his gift will further that understanding.

While investing in "bricks and mortar" is important, Slater says, his family sees a different kind of value in endowing an academic chair. "We particularly like the idea of something that lasts, that's perpetual, that changes over time, and is refreshed or replenished with new intellectual leadership," he says. "It has an indefinite, unchanging life." [a&s](#)

A version of this article first appeared in BU Today.



Kenneth Slater says that investing in "bricks and mortar" is important, but his family sees a different kind of value in endowing an academic chair.

AND THE
HONORS
WENT TO...

With a strong tradition of fostering innovative research and scholarship, the College of Arts & Sciences annually singles out a few faculty members for exceptional achievement. In the spring, three professors earned College or University honors at the highest levels for dedication and contributions to their fields, and a fourth won election to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. These researchers and scholars have offered new perspectives on our world, from examining the organic life in the air around us, the laws that underlie the stock market's fluctuations, and the mysteries of ancient Greek drama, to upholding the value of philosophy in a sometimes disjointed contemporary culture.

Thomas Kunz
Professor of Biology;
Director, Center
for Ecology &
Conservation Biology



William
Fairfield Warren
Distinguished
Professorship

H. Eugene Stanley
Professor of Physics;
Director, Center for
Polymer Studies



William
Fairfield Warren
Distinguished
Professorship

Jeffrey Henderson
William Goodwin
Aurelio Professor of
Greek Language &
Literature; Director
of Graduate Studies;
General Editor, Loeb
Classical Library



Elected to
the American
Academy of Arts
& Sciences

Daniel Dahlstrom
Professor
of Philosophy



John R. Silber
Professorship

PATH BREAKERS

"I proposed the concept of **aeroecology**, which is a discipline for studying airborne organisms, in an attempt to draw together colleagues with a wide range of expertise—from meteorologists to biologists—and understand more about the air space. I'm confident that we can make more progress with cross-disciplinary work instead of staying in our own silos. We need to reach out and learn from each other."

bu.edu/cas/magazine/fall11/kunz



SEE STORY,
NEXT PAGE

"One of the most exciting, very recent breakthroughs was to discover **a law that quantifies switching points in the stock market**, when the market changes from going up to down—and vice versa. The new law describes exactly how this will happen."

bu.edu/today/node/12559



"I'm involved in translation, both modernizing outdated texts and translating others that have never been available in English before, and also fragments of otherwise lost texts. **Amazingly, the fragments of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides have only recently been translated.** In all this, digital publication opens many possibilities for material unlikely to be published otherwise."

bu.edu/today/node/12797



"One of the most imposing challenges for philosophy is the rapid expansion of scientific knowledge and information as well as growing intellectual exchanges between traditions and cultures globally. Not unrelated to this challenge is another, arguably greater one—that of **maintaining and conveying the wonder and soul of philosophy** in a world that seems increasingly prone to confuse itself with some engineered or marketed picture of a world."

bu.edu/today/node/12820



—JESSICA OWEN

When Robots Fly • Researchers study how bats and other flying creatures navigate, as a model for a new kind of robot. ► BY JEREMY SCHWAB

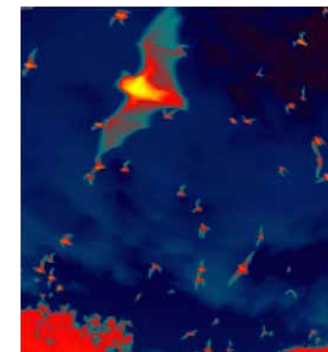
Pouring from the mouth of Frio Cave in southwest Texas, thousands of Brazilian free-tailed bats move in what appears to be a chaotic mass. On closer inspection, however—and with the aid of thermal imaging cameras placed strategically nearby—BU researchers can see that the bats' movements are far from random. Performing a series of tight, twisting maneuvers and split-second adjustments, the aerial acrobats manage to avoid colliding with each other and the surrounding vegetation.

The question the research team wants to answer is: How do they do it?

A five-year commitment and \$7.5 million in United States Navy funding are riding on finding the answer. The goal of the multi-institutional grant project, which began in summer 2010, is to design small robots that fly more like bats, birds, or insects than like planes. Professor of Biology Thomas Kunz and Associate Chair of Computer Science Margrit Betke, along with College of Engineering faculty members John Baillieul, Ioannis Paschalidis, and Calin Belta and several graduate and undergraduate research assistants, are part of a national team working on the grant (the BU portion is \$3.1 million). The team also includes researchers from the Universities of North Carolina, Maryland, and Washington. Though not part of the grant team, CAS Professor Alan Strahler and Research Professor Crystal Schaaf, both of the Department of Geography & Environment, provide mapping and imaging assistance using ground-based LIDAR (Light Imaging Detection and Ranging).

Dubbed AIRFOILS (for Animal-Inspired Flight with Outer and Inner Loop Strategies), the project's aim is to create autonomous robots inspired by the movements of bats, birds, and insects. The BU team members are studying bats, while their colleagues at the other institutions study birds and insects. The robots will employ the strategies used by their living counterparts to avoid objects in their path and navigate toward their destination.

The robots would not be drones, flown remotely by human operators; rather, they would be self-guiding vehicles tasked with maneuvering toward pre-set destinations and then gathering intelligence via tiny video cameras and microphones. They could be used for a range of defense and non-defense purposes, from searching for enemy combatants to tracking deforestation.



False-color thermal infrared images: above, the flight trajectory and wing-beat pattern of a big brown bat along the edge of a forest in central Massachusetts; at left, flying Brazilian free-tailed bats in Texas: yellow indicates the warmest temperature and blue the coolest. Note that the body is warmer than the wings, the clouds and clear sky are cooler than the bat, and the clouds are warmer than the clear sky.

The researchers stress that they are not trying to re-create animals in robot form, a process called bio-mimicry. "Bats evolved at least fifty million years ago, and have continued to evolve," says Kunz, who is one of the world's foremost experts on bats. "We're never going to be able to mimic those sensory systems and movements in the way that evolution has provided for bats."

The team's more realistic goal is to learn something from the flight paths of bats and the ways they respond to objects and forces in their environment, such as trees and wind. That is where Betke comes in. It is her task to compile and make sense of the massive amount of data collected by the researchers' advanced thermal cameras. She develops computer algorithms that describe the bats' trajectories and movement strategies. The engineers on the team will then use these models to create successive robot prototypes.

It takes all night to download the data from the 70-pound computers that the team lugs across the hot, dusty Texas terrain to connect to their thermal cameras. "We are pushing our abilities to handle dense data sets," says Betke. "We are exploring how far we can push it and how many bats we can track at the same time." a&s

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE, FACULTY AWARDEES, BY BU PHOTOGRAPHY; FACING PAGE, INFRARED BAT, BY THOMAS KUNZ AND MARGRIT BETKE; BAT FLIGHT TRAJECTORY, BY NATHAN FULLER AND ZHENG WU



VORACIOUS SCHOLAR

Not every undergraduate can spend the summer assisting a renowned Judaic scholar on a book that will help redefine the Holocaust's place in history, but Nicole Bhatia (CAS'13) knows how to make her own opportunities. She spent her summer at the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies helping Professor Steven Katz, the Alvin J. and Shirley Slater Professor in Jewish and Holocaust Studies and the center's director, on the next volume of his seminal work, *The Holocaust in Historical Context: The Holocaust and Mass Deaths before the Modern Age*. From typing up Katz's manuscript to cataloging the 9,000-plus books in his office library, Bhatia is as deeply immersed in scholarship as she can be, and that's the way she likes it. "I just want to know everything about everything," she says.

The Maryland native doesn't attend school; she consumes it. She's the student who sits front-row center, peppering professors with questions, making them work. She's the student the great professors remember. In one anthropology class, not satisfied with a massive reading workload, Bhatia would have lengthy discussions with Professor Jenny White, over email and after class, about policy and conflict in the Middle East. Fascinated by politics at home and abroad, she reads everything she can get her hands on; her learning doesn't stop at the classroom door.

She credits this all-encompassing quest for knowledge to her grandfather, whom she grew up watching read the newspaper in six different languages. (In addition to English, Bhatia

herself speaks Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu—she's catching up.) "He would watch the news all day, and it used to annoy me when I was a kid," she says with a laugh. "But now I do it too. And I call him and we discuss it."

Bhatia doesn't see herself leaving academia anytime soon. After graduation, she plans to continue studying political science and sees in Katz's work a model for her future. "I want to make a substantial contribution to my field, something that's going to mold ideas, to help generations to come. When you're passionate about a subject, the ultimate thing you can do is contribute something completely new, completely original, that's going to further the dialogue. That's definitely what I want to do."

—RACHEL JOHNSON

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE, NICOLE BHATIA, BY CYDNEY SCOTT; FACING PAGE, JOSEPH WIPPL, BY VERNON DOUCETTE

MORE CLOAK, LESS DAGGER

A decade of chasing terrorists may have distracted the intelligence community from the bigger picture. CIA veteran Joseph Wippl suggests the nation's spies need to take a longer-term view.

BY ANDREW THURSTON

Are you surprised by President Obama's increased use of covert lethal force, such as the CIA drone strikes in Yemen?

Not at all. The president is obviously a big proponent of this type of covert action. In the future, it—or the type of covert action that we saw in the assassination of Osama bin Laden—is increasingly going to take place in lieu of having 100,000 American troops running around Afghanistan or somewhere in the Middle East. The other thing that's really interesting is that the role of the Central Intelligence Agency has become more and more covert action and less and less espionage.

Will that be damaging in the long run?

I'm fond of saying, "If we wanted to know about Iraq, we should've started 30 years ago, not when it became a problem," but I think in the American mentality, we like the idea of friends and enemies. Do you collect intelligence because someone is your enemy or because someone is important? My view is, you collect intelligence because someone or something is important, not necessarily because they're hostile.

What's the CIA missing by concentrating on terrorism?

It's missing whole areas of the world that are going to be important in the future. We're very concerned about terrorism, but not enough about developments in a country's politics, society, and so on. As an example, I'm not sure that we know a whole lot, or have known a whole lot, about the opposition elements in Egypt: Do we know a lot about the Muslim Brotherhood? Do we know a lot about the opposition in Jordan? I have a feeling that these are areas that are being neglected because you have to have a really long-term view; you have to have knowledge for knowledge's sake, so that it'll come in very handy when you do need it.



But many candidates for elected office in the U.S. are taking a more insular view of the world.

It's ironic, I think, in a more globalized world that we, as a country, are becoming more isolated. If you ask me why that is the case, I'm not exactly sure. Is it because we are so enveloped in our own issues that we really don't have much of an interest or feel for what's going on in the rest of the world? You are certainly getting a lot of representatives who have not had any experience overseas. When I was in Berlin [during a CIA overseas assignment], the ambassador was Senator Dan Coats and he remarked that it'd be a good idea if every representative started out by spending a couple of years in a U.S. embassy somewhere. It is a real problem.

Do the death of bin Laden and the troop drawdown in Afghanistan make the CIA a target for budget cuts? Many have argued that post-Cold War cuts prevented the agency from effectively tracking the rise of Islamic terrorist groups.

The budget has probably been doubled—if not more—in the last ten years. It was a mistake to cut the intelligence budgets pretty drastically after the Cold War during the Clinton administration. As you're cutting military budgets, the one thing you don't want to cut is your intelligence budget because that is your focus for the future. Intelligence is there to give an understanding of the world to the policy maker. [a&s](#)

Joseph Wippl is the director of graduate studies for BU's Department of International Relations. He formerly served as the CIA's chief of Europe Division and director of Congressional Affairs.



Associate Professor Cheryl Knott collects orangutan urine samples, which she'll later test for signs of fertility and weight loss.

Hormone Hunter

ANTHROPOLOGIST CHERYL KNOTT INVESTIGATES THE LINKS BETWEEN NUTRITION AND REPRODUCTION IN ORANGUTANS—AND IN THEIR HUMAN COUSINS

By Corinne Steinbrenner | Photographs by Tim Laman



Researchers are working to understand why some mature male orangutans develop large cheek flanges (as at left) while others do not. Cheryl Knott's studies have already revealed how inconsistent food resources are responsible for the long intervals between births of baby orangutans.

Crashing through undergrowth, splashing through creeks, Cheryl Knott races to keep up with the 100-pound ape adroitly clambering through the lush canopy overhead. She's following the wild orangutan, whom she calls Beth, through the Indonesian rain forest, documenting the female's daily search for fruit to feed herself and the newborn infant who clings to her reddish fur.

The scene typifies Knott's many research expeditions to Gunung Palung National Park in an Indonesian province on the island of Borneo, where the associate professor of anthropology has been studying orangutans since 1992. In addition to observing and documenting the endangered species' behavior, Knott and her field team of Western and Indonesian researchers gather samples of the orangutans' food, which she'll later analyze for calorie and nutrient content, and of their urine, which she'll test to measure the animals' hormone levels. Her not-so-glamorous role as an "orangutan pee collector" earned Knott a place in *Popular Science's* 2005 list of the worst jobs in science. "Have I been pissed on? Yes," she told the magazine.



Cheryl Knott's research camp lies within Gunung Palung National Park (marked by the 'x' on the map), in the Indonesian portion of the island of Borneo (in yellow). Wild orangutans are found only on Borneo and the neighboring island of Sumatra.

Knott began studying orangutans as a graduate student at Harvard in the early 1990s. "I was interested in a general sense in reproduction because evolution operates through reproductive success," she says. While her initial interest was in human reproduction, she explains, "I started to realize that we actually knew a lot more about humans than we did about our closest relatives, the great apes." With plenty of other primatologists focused on chimpanzees and gorillas, humans' nearest cousins, Knott found a niche studying our next closest kin, orangutans.

The long-limbed, big-bellied apes proved to be the ideal research subjects, as their reproductive behavior is unique in many ways. Female orangutans, for example, give birth only once every six to nine years, the longest birth interval of any mammal. In addition, there appear to be two different types of adult male orangutans—one type with large bodies and wide cheek flanges, and another type that, while also sexually mature, remains smaller and without the impressive flanges. The existence of two male morphologies is fairly common in insects and fish, but it's practically unheard of in mammals.

After nearly two decades of tracking elusive orangutans through the forest, and positioning plastic sheets below their nightly nesting spots to catch falling urine, Knott is well on her way to solving both of these puzzles. In each case, the answers lie in the availability of food in the forest habitat to which orangutans have adapted.

"We tend to think of the rain forest as this cornucopia of food and fruit all the time," says Knott, "but actually—even though the temperature doesn't change like it does in the temperate zones—there are big fluctuations in fruit. And these Southeast Asian rain forests fluctuate much more than those in Africa or South America." Every few years, the Bornean rain forest bursts

[continued on page 16]



TOP LEFT: High above the forest floor, one-year-old Betki grasps the hand of her mother, Beth. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Cheryl Knott leads her daughter, Jessica, and son, Russell, through the rain forest. The children often accompany her to Borneo. "It's a kids' paradise," she says. **THIS PAGE:** Knott occasionally climbs up for an orangutan's-eye view of the forest. The world's largest arboreal animals, orangutans live almost entirely in the canopy.



into a “mast fruiting”—up to 80 percent of its trees produce fruit simultaneously—that provides a feast of exotic rain-forest fruits. The masts are followed by years of low fruit production, leaving orangutans with little else to eat than leaves and bark. As an adaptation to this boom-and-bust cycle, orangutans are very good at storing fat, which they live on during lean times. Knott’s analysis of orangutan hormones shows their unique reproductive characteristics also reflect the unstable food environment.

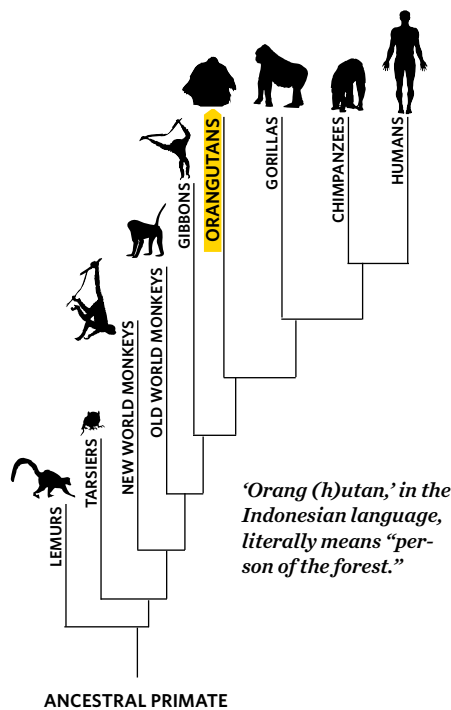
Her research has revealed a direct link, for example, between orangutans’ long birth intervals and the spotty availability of their food. Her lab analyses show female orangutans’ reproductive hormones increase when their nutritional status improves, so they’re most likely to become pregnant during a mast fruiting or other fruit peak. The females—single mothers who get no help from their mates in providing nutrition for their babies—then carry and nurse their young for about six years, using up vast amounts of energy, resulting in suppressed hormone levels. Once a juvenile orangutan is weaned, the mother may need to wait for the next mast fruiting, which could be two or three years away, to reach hormone levels at which she could become pregnant again.

“So the pattern of the forest affects their hormone levels and whether they can get pregnant,” says Knott. “I think that makes a lot of sense, but we weren’t really aware of it before I began my research.”

Inconsistent food availability may also be the key to solving the mystery of dimorphism in male orangutans. While humans and other mammals develop from adolescents to adults within an expected time frame, male orangutans reach their fully developed adult stage—characterized by wide cheek flanges, large throat patches, and the production of long bellowing calls—at unpredictable times. Some develop these traits at age 10, others at 15 or 20, and some may never develop them at all, retaining an adolescent-like morphology throughout their lifetime. Scientists have long observed this phenomenon but have been at a loss to explain it.

Knott’s recent studies reveal that sustaining the prime state requires massive energy resources, so males don’t stay big and flanged for long. Jari Manis, a male in peak condition when Knott encountered him in 1997, was a shadow of his former self—shriv-eled cheeks, wasted muscles, sunken eyes—when she saw him again nine months later. Jari Manis means “ring finger,” and if she hadn’t spotted the damaged finger for which he was named, Knott says she may not have even recognized the once-magnificent male.

“In the zoo, where you don’t have problems with food, you can be a big male for 20 years or so,” she says. “In the wild, they only seem to be able to maintain that size for a fairly brief period.” Knott has shown that ovulating females prefer to mate



‘Orang (h)utan,’ in the Indonesian language, literally means “person of the forest.”

with prime males. Thus, because females are fertile so rarely, timing of the prime state is critical. “So it doesn’t make sense to have a fixed developmental period,” Knott says. “There’s no point in being a big male if you can’t use it to your advantage reproductively.”

Why some males never develop the prime morphology is an unanswered question, but Knott is finding clues in the hormone levels of male orangutans: Having high testosterone levels early in life appears to put males on a faster trajectory toward full prime development.

Fascinating as these findings are in their own right, orangutan behavior particularly interests Knott—who is not only a

biologist but a biological anthropologist—for what it explains about human behavior. As she teaches students in her Anthropology 335 course, “The Ape Within,” comparing human traits with those of other primates helps us identify characteristics that are unique to humans and understand how those traits evolved.

The reproductive cycles of most mammals, for example, are synchronized with the seasons, timing conception so that offspring will be weaned when food is most abundant. In humans, however, female fertility corresponds to current, not future, food availability: Women’s reproductive hormones rise when they gain weight and drop when they lose weight. “We thought maybe humans were unique in that,” says Knott, but her research shows that humans share this trait with other long-lived primates.

By contrast, watching Beth and other lone female orangutans raise their offspring one at a time underscores the uniqueness—and importance—of human cooperation. With multiple family members helping to feed their children, human females can have overlapping dependent offspring—a newborn, a two-year-old, and a five-year-old, for instance. “So we have short birth intervals, but we can still have a long period of development,” says Knott, “and how we do that is through a social structure that allows it.”

What else might orangutan behavior reveal about our own? Knott hopes the species will survive long enough for her and future researchers to find out. Wild orangutans currently live only in the forests of Borneo and nearby Sumatra, forests that are rapidly being destroyed by illegal logging. Like most of today’s primatologists, Knott devotes considerable time to conservation projects aimed at saving the forests in which she conducts her orangutan fieldwork because—as her own research has proved—the lives of these animals are inextricably linked to the rhythms of their fragile forest home. If the trees are lost, so are the orangutans and the lessons they have yet to teach us. **a&s**

ONLINE

Watch video footage of Borneo’s wild orangutans and hear Cheryl Knott discuss her research and conservation efforts at bu.edu/cas/magazine/fall11.

Cheryl Knott and her husband, biologist and wildlife photographer Tim Laman, included this photo of a prime male orangutan in their 2009 children’s book, *Face to Face with Orangutans*. Knott, Laman, and their two children also appear as characters in the 2007 children’s book, *Adventures of Riley: Operation Orangutan*.



FERTILE AT FORTY

While Cheryl Knott and her field team study orangutans in the wild, doctoral student Lara Durgavich is busy in the BU Biological Anthropology Laboratory, using urine samples from captive female orangutans to study lifelong changes in their hormone cycles.

One branch of Durgavich’s research focuses on female orangutans’ late-life hormone levels in an attempt to determine if they experience something akin to human menopause. Scientists have long assumed that menopause is a uniquely human phenomenon (no other animals seem to live long past their fertile prime) and, therefore, that it’s a relatively recent evolutionary development—but there’s not much conclusive research on our ape relatives to prove it.

“What I’m seeing so far in the preliminary data suggests that, at least in orangutans, you don’t see the kind of hormonal decline that you would see in a menopausal or perimenopausal human female,” says Durgavich.

She’s studying samples from orangutans that are around 40 years old, “which is pretty old for an orangutan,” she says, “so you would think that if they are going to have signs of reproductive decline, it would start happening by that point.”

Other branches of Durgavich’s research seek to determine the age at which female orangutans become reproductively mature and whether the sexual behavior of mature orangutans changes in correspondence with their monthly hormone cycles. Captive orangutans provide the best subjects for this type of research, she says. “It’s not hard to train the animals to pee in a

cup, so if it becomes part of their routine, you can get samples from the same individual at the same time every day, which is practically impossible to do in the wild.”



Doctoral student Lara Durgavich tests samples of orangutan urine provided by Seattle’s Woodland Park Zoo.

PHOTO BY KALMAN ZABARSKY



Neuromorphics Lab researchers surround their prize robot (an iRobot Create® model), with a robotic arm that can be controlled by an EEG (electroencephalogram) cap: from left, lab director Max Versace and PhD students Ben Chandler, a lab intellectual lead and project grant writer; Byron Galbraith, a robot developer; and Sean Lorenz, a developer who works on interfacing the robot with an EEG cap.

IN BU'S NEUROMORPHICS LAB, AN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM OF NEUROSCIENTISTS, BIOLOGISTS, ENGINEERS, COMPUTER SCIENTISTS, AND MATHEMATICIANS ARE DEVELOPING ROBOTS MODELED ON THE HUMAN BRAIN THAT CAN LEARN ON THEIR OWN, MAKE DECISIONS, AND ADAPT TO THEIR ENVIRONMENTS.

BRAINY, BUT *SO* ARTIFICIAL

By Courtney Humphries • Photographs by Cydney Scott

M

assimiliano “Max” Versace sits in a conference room at Boston University’s Neuromorphics Lab headquarters. He holds one of the lab’s frequent visitors—his infant son, who is looking intently at his father. Versace, who is a senior research scientist and the lab’s director, says of his baby, “This

is a great example of a general-purpose learning machine,” and he is only half joking.

We’ve just been discussing the lab’s primary goal: to build an artificial intelligence that is smarter than any robot yet created. As every proud parent knows, babies have astonishing brains; they take in a wealth of information from the senses and, over time, learn how to move around, communicate, and begin to make independent

decisions. Compared to a baby—or even the simplest animal—computers are sorely lacking in learning ability. Even sophisticated robots and software programs can only accomplish tasks that they’re specifically programmed to do, and their ability to learn is limited by their programming. Your Roomba® may manage to clean your house with random movements, but it doesn’t learn which rooms collect the most dirt or the least distracting time of day to clean.

Versace (GRS’07) calls this limited capability “special-purpose intelligence,” and his group is aiming for something much more sophisticated. The Neuromorphics Lab, launched in the summer of 2010 as part of the National Science Foundation-funded Center of Excellence for Learning in Education, Science & Technology (CELEST), is pushing the boundaries of artificial intelligence by creating a new kind of computer that can sense, learn, and adapt—all the behaviors that come naturally to a living brain.

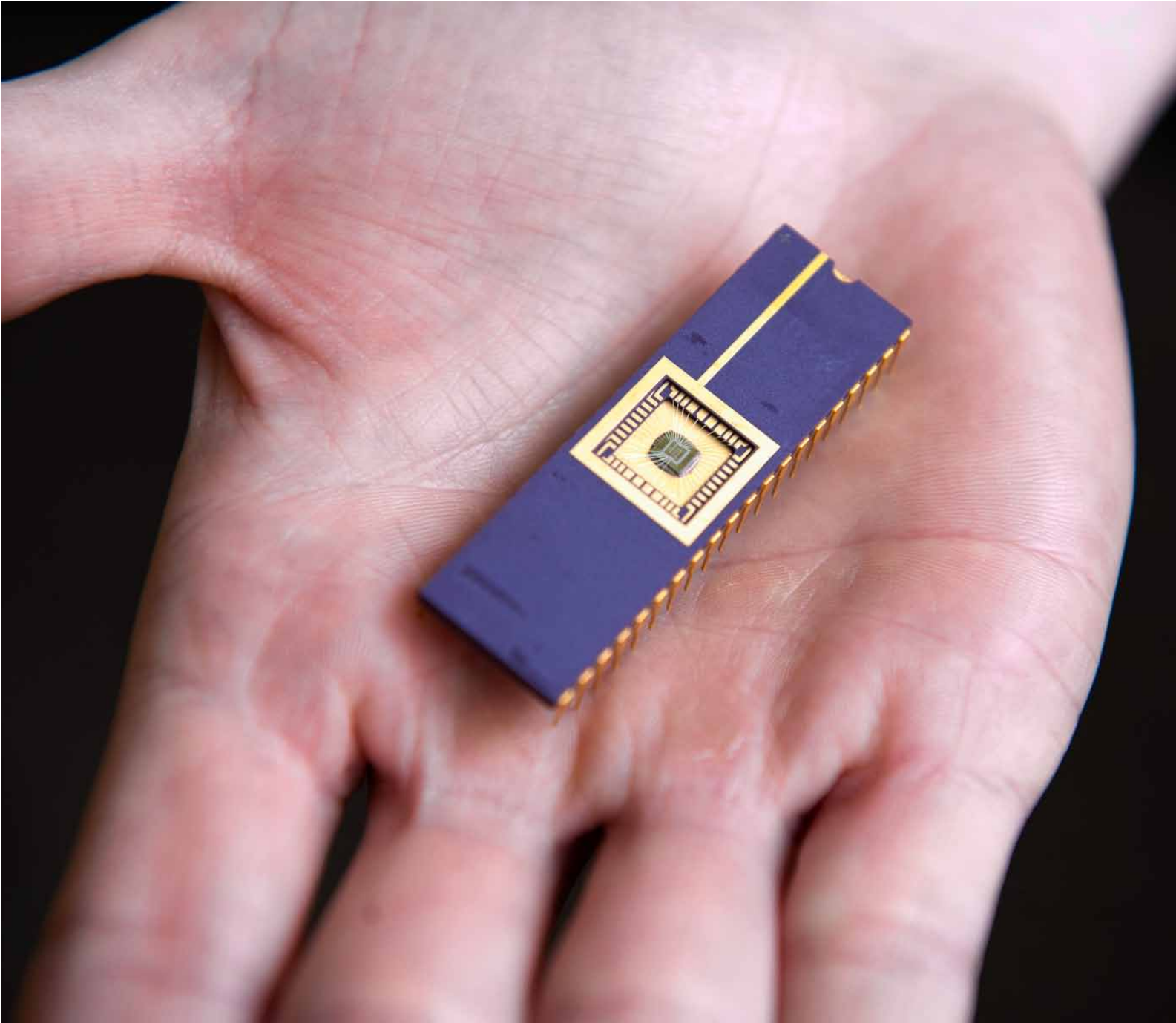
YOUR ROOMBA® MAY MANAGE TO CLEAN YOUR HOUSE WITH RANDOM MOVEMENTS, BUT IT DOESN’T LEARN WHICH ROOMS COLLECT THE MOST DIRT, OR THE LEAST DISTRACTING TIME OF DAY TO CLEAN.

SMART AND SOPHISTICATED

BU is renowned for its work in computational neuroscience—creating computer algorithms that describe the complex behavior of brains. The Neuromorphics Lab draws on that tradition, but is focused on turning this fundamental knowledge into real-world applications. The primary project is an ambitious program to develop what Versace refers to as a “brain on a chip.” The project, dubbed MoNETA (short for Modular Neural Exploring Traveling Agent, and also the name for the Roman goddess of memory) would become the brain behind virtual and robotic agents that can learn on their own to interact with new environments, using the information they glean to make decisions and perform tasks.

“We want to eliminate, as much as possible, human intervention in deciding what the robot does,” Versace says. This is a tall

About to tear off one of the “ears” (a microphone) of a robot mounted on a netbook, seven-month-old Gabriel Versace hangs out at the Neuromorphics Lab with his father, Max, lab director.



Brain on a chip: capable of translating neural models in portable, low-power hardware, this chip was designed by Assistant Professor Ajay Joshi and PhD student Schuyler Eldridge, Neuromorphics Lab affiliates from the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department at the College of Engineering.

order, which is why the lab is breaking down aspects of behavior, tackling them one at a time.

To demonstrate this idea, Anatoli Gorchetchnikov (GRS’05), a research assistant professor who is leading the MoNETA project, points to a projected screen in the conference room that shows a classic psychological experiment called the Morris water maze. A cartoon depicts the position of a rat that is dropped in a round pool of water. Rats can swim but they don’t like to—the animal explores the pool until it finds a partially submerged platform that it can stand on. On subsequent trials, it remembers the location of the platform and finds it much more quickly.

In this case, however, there is no real rat: instead, it’s a computer program designed to mimic a rat’s behavior. But rather than being programmed with the explicit task of finding the platform, this program has a series of motivations: a lack of comfort when in water motivates it to find solid ground, for instance, while a “curiosity drive” compels it to search nearby places it hasn’t been before. The idea is to create algorithms that produce lifelike behavior without explicitly telling the program what to do.

Other lab members are addressing different aspects of brain function. Gennady Livitz (GRS’11), who recently earned his PhD in Cognitive & Neural Systems, is working with postdoc Jasmin Léveillé (GRS’10) on the visual systems of MoNETA—how it will interpret what it sees—and implementing those systems in simple robots. Others are working on how it will sense sounds in its environment, and how it will make decisions.

WIRED FOR BRAIN POWER

Modeling the complexities of the brain is only the first task. Versace and his colleagues believe that a lifelike artificial brain would require innovations in both the software and the hardware that houses it. While some lab members are creating computer models of the brain, the group is also working in partnership with Hewlett-Packard to develop the operating system for such a brain called Cog Ex Machina, or Cog. This software will run on an innovative type of electrical component just a few atoms wide, called a memristor, created by HP.

Ben Chandler, a PhD candidate in Cognitive & Neural Systems, explains that a new kind of hardware is necessary to overcome fundamental physical limits in what current computer chips can accomplish. A key difference between the way brains are wired and the way computers are wired is that computers store information in a separate place from where they process it: when

“WE WANT TO ELIMINATE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, HUMAN INTERVENTION IN DECIDING WHAT THE ROBOT DOES.” — MAX VERSACE



The robot (BELOW, LEFT), an iRobot Create® model similar to a Roomba® stripped of its vacuum-cleaning capabilities (near foreground), is used to perform spatial navigation tasks—pictured here “learning,” based on its experience, to navigate the red and green obstacles. Researchers, from left, are postdoc Florian Raudies, who works on neural models of vision, and Research Assistant Professor



they perform a calculation, they retrieve the necessary information from memory, perform the processing task, and then store the result in another location. Brain cells, however, manage to do all of this at the same time and location, making transfer of information from cell to cell much faster and more efficient.

Another key difference is power. For all its tremendous activity, the human brain runs on the equivalent of a 20-watt lightbulb. If the goal is to create a free-moving machine with an intelligence on par with even a small mammal, it can’t involve large, power-guzzling supercomputers. Such a machine must have a “brain” that is dense, compact, and requires little power. Memristors, Versace says, allow hardware designers to build chips with unprecedented density that operate at very low power.

NEW CONNECTIONS

Because the lab’s work requires applying a deep understanding of the brain to the practical problems of software development, and then integrating that software into computer chips and eventually robotic vehicles and devices, it is highly interdisciplinary. “We are a bridge between neuroscience and engineering,” Versace says. “We are fluent in both languages. We can talk neurotransmitters and molecules with biologists, and electronics and transistors with engineers.” Lab members come from a wide range of backgrounds,

Anatoli Gorchetchnikov, MoNETA project leader and a senior researcher in the Neuromorphics Lab. In the background are high school interns Samuel Kim (at left) and Vincent Kee. Postdoc Jasmin Léveillé (BELOW, RIGHT) designs the visual systems of virtual and robotic animats, or artificial animals, using a similar environment to that of video games to train artificial brains before deploying them in robots.



some bringing knowledge in neuroscience, psychology, and biology, and others in computer science, engineering, and math. To thrive here, however, they need to feel comfortable working at both ends of the bridge.

The laboratory’s staff composition signals a focus on the future: newer faculty members and graduate students spearhead projects, without the traditional hierarchies of an academic lab. “It’s a brand-new field and it’s wide open,” says Chandler. “For anyone who has the interest and the talent, there’s an opportunity to move in.” Chandler personifies this point; one of the lab’s cofounders, he has taken a leading role in the partnership between the lab and HP, while still managing to make progress on his graduate thesis.

Usually academic labs make theoretical advances and publish scientific papers, but transferring this work to the real world requires a different approach. Heather Ames (GRS’09), a postdoctoral fellow in Cognitive & Neural Systems and one of the Neuromorphics Lab’s founding members, is leading an outreach effort to engage industry in the lab’s work. She and her colleagues believe that such partnerships with industry are crucial to keep these ideas from languishing in a lab. Versace says that the ultimate goal is to “take neuroscience out of the lab” and turn theory into reality. **a&s**

PhD student Sean Lorenz (BELOW) works on interfacing the robot with an EEG cap. The target application will be medical, particularly for robot devices that will enable people with disabilities to interact with the world by means of noninvasive brain/machine interfaces.



“WE ARE A BRIDGE BETWEEN NEUROSCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. WE ARE FLUENT IN BOTH LANGUAGES. WE CAN TALK NEUROTRANSMITTERS AND MOLECULES WITH BIOLOGISTS, AND ELECTRONICS AND TRANSISTORS WITH ENGINEERS.” — MAX VERSACE

ONLINE Find out more about MoNETA research in the Neuromorphics Lab and see YouTube videos of “learning” robots in action at: <http://nl.bu.edu/research/projects/moneta>.

From his WGBH studio, Eric Jackson brings his listening fans the sounds and stories of jazz artists.

Taking a Listen with Eric • The “Dean of Boston Jazz Radio” celebrates 30 years as WGBH radio host. ► BY JEAN HENNELLY KEITH

The wavy, melodic strains of “Blue Monk” fill Eric Jackson’s studio while he talks with *arts&sciences*. It’s deftly performed by contemporary pianist Eric Reed, in tribute to jazz giant Thelonious Monk. Jackson follows this up with a CD of Monk’s band paying homage to another legendary composer and piano player, Duke Ellington. Speaking into his mic, Jackson gives listeners his signature greeting in a familiar mellow baritone: “My name is Eric. Let’s take a listen.”

For 30 years now, as host of *Jazz with Eric in the Evening* (recently renamed *Jazz on WGBH with Eric Jackson*), the “Dean of Boston Jazz Radio,” as Jackson is widely regarded, has presented listeners with a seamless mix of the well-established with the newest jazz talent. He has aired some 3,000 interviews with most of the biggest names in jazz, from Dizzy Gillespie to the Marsalis family.

He thinks ahead about only the first recording he’ll play on any given night, Jackson says. He then works with “the flow,” putting his show together as it’s happening “by sound.” He chooses a series of tunes based on “moods, feelings, colors, emotions, rhythms—more than style labels.” With the spontaneity of a jazz soloist, he improvises his set list. “I hope I’ve learned from the musicians I play; I hope there’s a flow to the sets and the whole program.”

Music permeates his life. When he’s not on the air eight to midnight, Monday through Thursday, he’s listening to music “pretty much all the time,” he acknowledges. “I’m always reading and learning something that turns me to the CD player. All day long, I listen to music; it’s a physical process—some people would go nuts! But it’s part of me—I grow with it.” A

teacher of “The African-American Experience Through Music” at Northeastern University and a frequent lecturer and author, he also has developed exhibits for the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City.

Raised in a music-loving family (his father, Samuel, was a “huge jazz fan” and became the first African American radio announcer in New England), Jackson

segued from the popular Motown music of his teens to the innovative jazz of “Miles” and “Trane” (Jackson calls Miles Davis and John Coltrane “the pillars of their time”) as a college student. In his freshman year at the College of Liberal Arts (as the College of Arts & Sciences was then called), he applied to the student radio station WTBU—“no experience necessary” the ad read—and got his start as an announcer in 1969. His first show was R&B, which he soon expanded to three shows, adding jazz and mixed music. When he asked his program director why he was on the air more than anyone else, Jackson found the reply significant: “Because when you’re on the radio, I get quality radio.”

Although Jackson came to BU planning to go to medical school to become a psychiatrist, he “fell more and more in love with the music and just decided to do something around the music.” During his next two years at the University, he took on more radio gigs, including a jazz program at WBUR. He left BU and worked at Harvard’s WHRB for the academic year 1971-1972, then ventured into commercial radio, hosting a Sunday afternoon jazz program at WILD, “sunup to sundown,” Jackson recalls. The next five years announcing at WBCN were key in exposing Jackson to a wide variety of music—“a ton of it,” he says.

Jackson joined WGBH in 1977 where, in addition to playing mixed music, he took over hosting a weekly chronology of African American musical history, *Essays in Black Music*. In 1981, when an evening shift announcer went on the road to play bass for a couple of weeks, Jackson filled in. When the host didn’t return, WGBH offered Jackson a spot and he began what has become the jazz radio program in Boston, for thirty years and counting.

Early last May, Boston’s jazz community, including BU alums impresario Fred Taylor (CAS’51) and radio personality Ron Della Chiesa (CGS’57, COM’59), along with musicians and many enthusiastic fans, gathered for “Eric in Two Evenings,” hosted by JazzBoston to honor their esteemed jazz dean, Eric Jackson. [a&s](#)

ONLINE Take a listen to some of Eric’s selections and interviews with jazz greats at: wgbh.org/programs/programdetail.cfm?programid=287.

“All day long, I listen to music; it’s a physical process—some people would go nuts! But it’s part of me—I grow with it.”

PHOTO BY ©WGBH/ANTHONY TIEULI

thank you, donors!

The College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences gratefully acknowledges the following donors who made a gift of \$1,000 or more to the College or Graduate School in Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011).

GIFTS OF
\$1,000,000
OR MORE

Albert M. Ghassemian
Maria N. Stata, CAS'62

\$500,000—
\$999,999

Kenneth J., SMG'70, and Bonnie T.
Feld, CAS'73*

\$100,000—
\$499,999

Anonymous (1)
Ira Leon Rennert
Robert F. X. Sillerman

\$50,000—
\$99,999

Anonymous (1)
Warren J. Adelson, CAS'63, GRS'64
Frederick Harris Chicos
Stephen R. Karp, CAS'63*
Alan M., Hon.'09, and Sherry
Leventhal

\$25,000—
\$49,999

Anonymous (1)
Richard B., MET'71, '73, and Marcia H.
Carter DeWolfe
Crawford H. Greenewalt Jr.
Steven M. Karbank, CAS'79*
David Mundy, CAS'96*
Donna Jan Pridmore
Al Silverman, COM'49, Hon.'86
Alfred I. Tauber

\$10,000—
\$24,999

Helen Ziegler Benjamin, CAS'86*
Hwei Li Chang
Jeanne C. Curtis, CAS'87, LAW'91
James N. Gianopulos, CAS'73
Russell A. Gullotti, CAS'64
Hideo H. Itabashi, CAS'49, MED'54
Mr. and Mrs. Steve J. Janaszak*
Richard A. Laursen
Nancy Livingston, COM'69
Paul and Sandra Montrone
Luis O. Ruza, CAS'70
Mr. and Mrs. Alessandro Saracino-
Fendi*
Mrs. Wallace Sellers
H. Eugene Stanley
Paul P. Tanico*
Maria L. Vecchiotti*
David C. Weinstein, CAS'72
Eric Karl Wepsic

\$5,000—
\$9,999

Anonymous (3)*
Susan E. Balestrieri Beaudry
Meeta Bhargava*
Eunice A. Charles
Alice B. W. Godfrey, CAS'74*
Thomas A. Jarecki, CAS'88
Sunil Kanoria*
Marion R. Kramer, CAS'63
Elizabeth L. Leonard, SAR'69
David, SMG'80, and Cathi Ellen Luski,
CAS'80*
Michael B. Miller
Alicia C. Mullen, CAS'83*
Elton Price, GRS'61*
Matthew Barry Smith, CAS'70,
GSM'72*
Ray P. Thek, CAS'83
James H. Walsh III
Scott A. Webster, CAS'93*
Dingyi Wen, GRS'93

\$2,500—
\$4,999

Anonymous (3)*
Michael J. Agganis, SED'67
William Y. W. Au, CAS'51, MED'55*
Adele Ludin Boskey, GRS'71*
Suzanne Campagna, GRS'52
Mr. and Mrs. Francesco Colangelo*
LeiLanie Carta D'Agostino, CAS'64*
Ralph B. D'Agostino, CAS'62, GRS'64*
Jacqueline Dedell
Gejing Deng, GRS'97
Mr. and Mrs. Amedeo Gabrielli*
Ernest Geigis, CAS'55
Anne H. Germanacos
Deirdre M. Giblin, CAS'90*
Laurence T. Ginsberg, CAS'75*
Michael W., SMG'82, and Terri L.
Goldberg, CAS'85*
David E., ENG'69, '72; GSM'74, and
Kathleen A. Hollowell, GRS'71,
SED'77*
Judith S. Hurwitz, CAS'73, COM'75*
Paul Michael Kaplan, CAS'73*
Lynn B. Kargman, CAS'66*
David S. Katz, CAS'80, '80; LAW'85*
Margaret E. Nelson, CAS'75, LAW'83*
Kenneth Scott Norton, CAS'93*
Valerie P. Parsegian, CAS'67
Frank L. Politano, CAS'71*
Virginia Sapiro and Graham Wilson*
Wei-Chiang Shen, GRS'72
Marion Appel Simon, CAS'59*
Douglas Edward Stumberger, CAS'85

\$1,000—
\$2,499

Anonymous (1)
Cathy M. Abrams, CAS'80*
Joshua Benjamin Abramson, SMG'01
Joseph J. H. Ackerman, CAS'71*
Arlene J. Alpert, CAS'70
Gary J. Balady*
Manoj N. Balani, CAS'77*
Mary Ann Barbieri, CAS'64*
Victor Bean*
Robert M. Benson, COM'58, GRS'60*
Victor Lewis Berman, CAS'62,
GSM'66
Steven H. Biondolillo, CAS'77
Annemarie Bleiker, CAS'69
Richard G. Brennan, CAS'77*

Steven J. Bresky, CAS'77*
Mr. and Mrs. Nicolae Brova*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Brownson*
Kenneth L. Buch, CAS'74*
Cheryl Ann Buckingham, CAS'70
Richard T. Burke, CAS'56, GRS'57
M. Rebecca Carr, CAS'82*
Christopher E. Chalsen, CAS'79,
GRS'80*
Yulan Chen, GRS'95*
Barrett H. Childs, CAS'78*
George A. Clay, GRS'64, '68*
William M. Cloherty
Biagio A. Conte, CAS'52*
Geoffrey M. Cooper*
John F. Crowe, CAS'69*
Peter J. Cusato
Karen E. Daly, CAS'67, GRS'68,
MET'72*
Mark A. Degatano, CAS'80, GRS'81*
Manuel DePinho, CAS'59*
Francis X. DeRosa, CAS'77*
Catherine Merin Deugarte, CAS'98,
MED'98
Robert V. DiClemente, CAS'74*
Peter B. Doeringer
Richard H. Donnell, CAS'63*
Michael N. Dyonisius, CAS'12
Carole S. Evans, CAS'69*
Sam Faddoul*
Mark G. Filler, CAS'67*
Patricia M. Flynn, GRS'73, '80
Darcy J. Fuguet, CAS'62*
William H. D. Goddard, CAS'70*
Edward Gormbley, UNI'00
J. Duncan Gratton, CAS'80*
Peter H. Heerwagen, CAS'68*
Sidney Heimberg, CAS'40, LAW'42*
Dr. and Mrs. George F. Heinrich*
Nancy Nichols Hlavin, CAS'74,
GRS'77*
Arthur B. Hodess, CAS'70*
Andrea C. Hoffman, CAS'69
Marshall L. Horwitz
Mary Louise Persons Hoss,
GRS'92, '04
Paul James Husak, CAS'85*
Orton P. Jackson Jr., CAS'74*
William D. Jacobs, CAS'83*
Ravi R. Jhaveri, CAS'92*
Robin A. Jorgensen, GRS'87, SED'90
Shulamit Kahn
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Kaplan*

Irene Gesiak Kelley, CAS'54, GRS'55,
SED'92*
Thomas R. King, DGE'62, CAS'64*
Lowell V. Kingsley, CAS'40, SED'43*
Russell F. Krauss, CAS'84*
Reverend Alvin P. Lafon, CAS'51*
Benjamin F. Lambert, CAS'55
Peter D. Lamm, CAS'74*
Kevin Lang
Howard M. Lee, GRS'74, '76
Karen B. Leeds*
June K. Lewin, CFA'61
Zhijian Lu, GRS'91
William R. Lyman, CFA'71
Tosui Machida*
Mr. and Mrs. Akshay Madan*
Elijah Chandler Marentette, CAS'93,
GRS'93
Jonathan Mark*
Gladys F. Marple, CAS'41*
Cynthia Caldwell Martin, CAS'77*
W. Lincoln Materna, CAS'77*
John Procter Maynard, CAS'88*
Gerald E. Mayo, CAS'53*
Maureen Merrill, CAS'76*
Richard O. Michaud, GRS'69, '71*
E. O. Minasian
Andrew T. Moo, CAS'78*
James C. W. Moy*
Henry T. Murphy Jr., CAS'48*
Lauren G. Packard, CAS'72, MET'74*
William L. Pak, CAS'55
Deborah Saltonstall Pease
Kathryn M. Penney, CAS'73*
Gregory C. Persak, CAS'77, MED'81*
Kenneth G. Peters, CAS'71*
Astrid O. Peterson, CAS'74, MED'77*
Timothy Mark Pettit, CAS'03, GRS'03*
Kathryn A. Piffat, LAW'89; GRS'92, '01
Wayne J. Positan, CAS'70*
Richard M. Powers, CAS'74*
Marilyn M. Pratt, CAS'61*
Gary H. Rasmusson*
Lisa M. Rechler, CAS'89*
Andrew O. Rodman, CAS'79*
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher du P.
Roosevelt

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Rosenbaum*
Ruth W. Rosenthal
Philip G. Schmanska, CAS'56*
Robert C. Seid Jr., GRS'76
Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, CAS'60
Silvia Castro Shannon, GRS'88*
William Scott Smilow, CAS'86*
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Smith*
Rebecca Tseng Smith, CAS'80,
STH'82*
Janet R. Stradley
Douglas Edward Stumberger, CAS'85*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Szafranski
Mr. and Mrs. Lee D. Vincent
Jerry A. Viscione, GSM'67; GRS'69,
'73
Dr. and Mrs. John W. Vitale*
Joseph J. Wassell, CAS'70*
Richard P. Wenzelberger, CAS'66*
Virginia T. Wetherill, CAS'52*
Cathleen Ann Woods-King, CAS'86*
Jeffries Wyman, GRS'60*
Kathryn J. Zox, CAS'69, SED'72*

corporations, foundations,
& other organizations

Anonymous (1)
Addgene Inc.
Aetna Student Health
Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society
American Council of Learned Societies
American Heart Association
American Mathematical Society
American Philosophical Society
Amgen Inc.
ArtusLabs, Inc.
AstraZeneca R&D Boston
Bat Conservation International, Inc.
Battelle Memorial Institute
The Bernard Family Foundation
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Carol Walton Expeditions LLC
Cassidy & Associates
The Center for Cultural Judaism
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Clarks Companies N.A.
Conservation International
Cubist Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Earhart Foundation
Eisai Research Institute of Boston, Inc.
The Ellison Medical Foundation
Eppley Foundation for Research
The Estate of Ada Draper
The Estate of Chester Parasco
The Estate of Ernestine A. O'Connell
The Estate of John A. Gerda
The Estate of Lucille M. Hanna
The Estate of Robin W. White
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Flex Biomedical, Inc.
Google Inc.
The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc.
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Hurlbut Family Charitable Lead
Unitrust
Independent Development Council
Linde Family Foundation
Makoto Life Sciences Inc.
Mary M. B. Wakefield Charitable Trust
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Morris Animal Foundation
NARSAD
National Alliance for Autism Research
National Speleological Society
New England Biolabs, Inc.
Novartis Institutes for BioMed
Research, Inc.
Pfizer Inc.
Prometrika, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz
Foundation for The Arts Inc.
The Renco Group, Inc.
Research Corporation for Science
Advancement
Richard and Susan Smith Family
Foundation
Robert and Maurine Rothschild
Fund Inc.
RTN Federal Credit Union
Santander Holdings USA, Inc.
Schering-Plough Corporation
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
Schusterman Foundation
Sigma-Aldrich Company
Smith Richardson Foundation, Inc.
Stephen Bechtel Fund
Strem Chemicals, Inc.
Tides Foundation
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Watertown Savings Bank
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woodtiger Foundation

class notes

→ Whatever you've been up to, we'd like to hear about it. Send an email to casalum@bu.edu with your stories or photos, and we'll share them in class notes.

Nothing Wrong with Wooliness • Having found commercial success, a playwright returns to what he does best. ► BY PATRICK L. KENNEDY



In any career, there's a narrative trajectory," says Ronan Noone (GRS'01). The award-winning playwright made his name with works that explored conflict in his native Irish society, through characters that spoke with his native Irish volubility—"wooliness," he calls it. After more than a decade in his adopted USA, he began experimenting with American settings and characters. "At times," he fears, "my prose became leaden. Now," he says, "I've come through to the other end of the cycle."

Raised in rural Connemara, Noone attended University College, Galway, then worked for a month as a reporter at a weekly newspaper in Mayo, and later, in Prague, for two days.

Noone soon realized he was no journalist, but he enjoyed writing. "I started working in dialogue, and I found it came very naturally. I wrote anecdotes that were told to me by my grandfather, by various people in Ireland." He wrote as if taking dictation, "writing in their voice on paper."

Soon, he wrote a play. But with no connections in the theater, Noone boxed up the script with the rest of his belongings and came to America in the summer of '94. He settled on Martha's Vineyard and got a job as a host in a restaurant, he says, "still wearing my

brown cords, the hot clothes of Ireland, in the heat of Martha's Vineyard."

Becoming a U.S. citizen in 2000, Noone dusted off his play, *The Lepers of Baile Baiste*, and applied and was accepted to BU's Creative Writing Program.

"I was overwhelmed by the resources that Boston University had at hand," Noone says. With mentors such as Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, Noone workshopped *Lepers* through professional productions at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

Though set in rural Ireland and written years earlier, "*Lepers* dealt with church abuse just as the [abuse

scandal] was breaking in Boston and becoming the worldwide disaster for the Catholic Church," says Noone. The play garnered the 2001 Michael Kanin National Student Playwriting Award and a performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. It tied with his follow-up, *The Blowin of Baile Gall*, to win the Independent Reviewers of New England Award for Best New Play.

Noone was thrilled by the accolades, but he grew anxious to succeed commercially as he began raising two daughters. "Overthinking" the market and the American idiom, Noone says, he feels he "lost some of the spontaneity" of his earlier work.

Not that his career has suffered. His prairie-set plays, for example *The Atheist*, starring Campbell Scott, were rather well received. And Noone has picked up some television work, adapting the true stories of Mafiosos-turned-informers for the small screen.

Nevertheless, he has decided to re-embrace his natural lyricism and to focus on the theme of immigration that he knows well. That decision has "reignited my passion for the subject and that wooly playwrighting that I used to do," Noone says, and he has begun work on an epic story that will address "both the Irishness of my birthplace and the Americanness of my home."

Another way Noone has returned to his roots: Becoming an adjunct assistant professor of creative writing at CAS. "To be invited to actually teach in the same classrooms where you learned," he says, "I don't know if there's a much better honor than that." **a&s**

Ronan Noone relaxes with a pint at The Snug, an Irish pub in Hingham, Massachusetts.

Bonnie Marshall (CAS'62) of Meredith, N.H., published a new book, *Far North Tales: Stories from the Peoples of the Arctic Circle*. It is the fourth book she has written in the World Folklore Series published by Libraries Unlimited.

Beatrice Green (CAS'63, GRS'64) is a new graduate student in theology at Marquette University and is writing a book on Christians on trial in Caesar's court.

Ronald Wells (CAS'63; GRS'64, '67) just published his fifteenth book, *Hope and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland: The Role of Faith-Based Organisations*. It is available on Amazon.com.

Karl Dennis Chambers (GRS'69) of Newburyport, Mass., has recently published two books, both with Greenwood Publishers—*Toyota (Corporations That Changed the World)* and *The Entrepreneur's Guide to Writing Business Plans and Proposals*.

Szifra Birke (CAS'72) released the documentary film *Browsing Through Birke's*, a poignant yet hilarious film about her parents who survived the Holocaust, their perseverance, and their success in the quirky landmark clothing store they ran for 50 years in Lowell, Mass. For more information, visit www.BrowsingThroughBirkes.com.

Ellen LaFleche (CAS'75) of Northampton, Mass., recently won the Philbrick Poetry Chapbook award for her manuscript, *Workers' Rite*. The manuscript will soon be published, and a second book of poems, *Ovarian*, is also forthcoming. Email Ellen at ellenlafleche@gmail.com.

Arthur Lazarus (CAS'75) of Chadds Ford, Pa., the senior neuroscience research physician at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals in Wilmington, Del., was appointed to the Board of Directors of the American College of Physician Executives for a three-year term. He also won an honorable mention in the 2011 Medical Economics Doctors' Writing Contest. Lazarus can be reached at artlazarus@comcast.net.

Melody T. McCloud (CAS'77, MED'81) recently published a new book, *Living Well... Despite Catchin' Hell: The Black Woman's Guide to Health, Sex and Happiness*. She is an Atlanta-based obstetrician-gynecologist, media consultant, and national speaker. Her book can be found on Amazon.com. (see p. 30)

Jan Moidel Schwartz (CAS'77), now the director of development at the MetroWest Jewish Day School in Framingham, Mass., has a newfound respect for what it takes to run a school. As a fundraiser, being in the world of your constituency makes the mission that much more real and dynamic. She would love to hear from classmates at janschwartz@comcast.net.

Pamela (Terr) Starobin (CAS'77) of Bronxville, N.Y., designed and created the SittingTaller handbag. It is an adult booster seat in a bicast leather handbag that allows petite women to sit taller. To learn more, visit www.sittingtaller.com or email Pamela at pamelastarobin@hotmail.com.

David Buttolph (CGS'77, CAS'79) of New Canaan, Conn., is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the investment management firm he founded, Brookside Mezzanine Partners. The firm, headquartered in Greenwich, Conn., recently opened

a second office in Boston, Mass. Both his daughters attend Boston University. David can be reached at dbuttolph@brookside-grp.com.

David Hosmer (CAS'80) of Andover, Mass., earned the Certified Professional in Learning and Performance credential from the American Society for Training and Development Certification Institute. David is the former senior director of learning and organizational effectiveness at Charles River Laboratories. He can be reached at davidj4@verizon.net.

Noreen Grice (CAS'85) of New Britain, Conn., is the author of a sixth book, *Everyone's Universe: A Guide to Accessible Astronomy Places*. Published in June 2011, *Everyone's Universe* is two books in one. The first half of the book is an educator's guide to making the night sky accessible to people with disabilities through mobile, nonvisual, nonauditory, and nonverbal

communication means. The second half is a friendly state-by-state guide to already-accessible astronomy destinations, such as observatories and planetariums. For more information, visit www.youcandoastronomy.com.

Bruce Ostrow (CAS'85) of Grand Haven, Mich., is an associate professor of biology at Grand Valley State University. He teaches introductory biology, genetics, cell and molecular biology, and embryology, and researches animal developmental biology. He recently won GVSU's annual Pew Teaching Excellence Award. He lives near Lake Michigan with his wife, Georgette, and two teenage children, Quin and Ozette.

Philip Chang (CAS'88) of Boulder, Colo., graduated with a PhD in music therapy from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in May 2011. He has taught music theory at the University of Colorado at Boulder since 2006.

1955/1956

▼ Ernest and Diana Geigis celebrating her 75th birthday on Marginal Way, Ogunquit, Maine, in 2009. Photos courtesy of their daughter, Deborah Geigis Berry



CONGRATULATIONS! • Ernest Geigis (CAS'55) and Diana (Santoro) Geigis (CAS'56) celebrated 55 years of marriage on June 5, 2011. Both originally from Boston and graduates of the Latin high schools, they met as students at the College of Liberal Arts (now the College of Arts & Sciences), married at Marsh Chapel, and raised their two daughters, Deborah and Priscilla. Now retired and living in Falmouth on Cape Cod, Ernest served as a minister for nearly four decades, including at the Congregational Church in Stoughton, Massachusetts, and Diana taught first grade for over twenty years. They have maintained a close relationship with their alma mater through the BU Alumni Association group on Cape Cod and as members of the Claflin Society.

Nicholas Lopane (CAS'89) is currently serving as a circuit court judge in the Juvenile Delinquency Division of the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County, Fla. He was appointed to the circuit court bench after serving as general magistrate since 1999. His honors include the 2003 Heart Award for Outstanding Public Official and 2004 Summit Award for Excellence from the Dependency Court Improvement Summit. Judge Lopane received a Juris Doctor from Florida State University College of Law.

Alexandra Lei Chan (CAS'93) and Jack Harvey Katz of Pound Ridge and Westhampton Beach, N.Y., were married on Saturday evening, December 18, 2010. The couple honeymooned in Mexico for two weeks. You can reach her at chanal@optonline.net.

Christina McEvoy-Derrico (CAS'93) of Mamaroneck, N.Y., was elected Village Justice for the Village of Mamaroneck, N.Y., in November 2010. She will maintain the part-time position while running her law practice, Law Offices of Christie L. McEvoy-Derrico, P.C. She can be reached at cderrico@soundshorelaw.com.

Debra Weissman (CAS'93, COM'93) of Seattle, Wash., is currently vice president, product management for Yahoo!, working on Yahoo!'s new Livestand project (www.livestand.com). She is married with three children, and commutes between the Bay Area and Seattle. She can be reached at debweiss@gmail.com.

Daniel Welty (CAS'93, SED'94) of Westborough, Mass., is a physics teacher and field hockey coach at Algonquin Regional High School in Northboro, Mass. In his fourth year as varsity coach, he led the field hockey team to its first Central Mass. Division 1 Championship in Algonquin's 51-year history. The Tomahawks went on to win their state semifinal game and play their first Mass. Division 1 State Final, where they finished as runner-up.

Daniel Sax (CAS'94) of Warsaw, Poland, and his wife, Beata, welcomed their first child, Zoe, on March 8, 2010.

Kirsi Stjerna (GRS'95) has published two books: *Women and the Reformation* and *No Greater Jewel: Thinking about Baptism with Luther*. She was also promoted to full professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa.

Richard Haglund (CAS'96) recently became director of charter schools for the Tennessee Department of Education. Richard spent the last seven years working as legal counsel to the Tennessee State Board of Education.

Lisa Hayes (CAS'96) has joined the American Constitution Society as director of development and senior counsel. Learn more at www.acslaw.org. She can be reached at lhayes@acslaw.org.

Hoi Lee (CAS'96) of Wynnewood, Pa., and his wife, Manivanh Keobounnam, welcomed their first child, Kiran Lee, on February 20, 2010. Hoi is a partner in a physicians' group, Main Line Emergency Medicine Associates, based at Bryn Mawr Hospital, outside of Philadelphia. The couple would love to hear from old classmates; email hlee96@yahoo.com.

Audrey Lucero (CAS'96, COM'96) recently received her PhD in language, literacy, and culture from the University of Washington. This fall, she begins an assistant professorship in language and literacy at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Debra Ochoa (CAS'96) of San Antonio, Tex., married Mark Tittel on September 25, 2010, in San Antonio, Tex. The couple had an intimate ceremony of close friends and family at the chapel of Trinity University in San Antonio where Debra teaches Spanish literature and culture. To celebrate their cultures, the couple's friends gave readings in Polish, German, and Spanish. The couple honeymooned in Basque Country. Debra can be reached at debra.ochoa@trinity.edu.

Sarah (Miller) Beebe (CAS'97, UNI'00) of Herndon, Va., used her degree in international relations as a stepping-stone to an incredible career as an analyst, instructor, and policy maker. She is putting that experience to good use in a new book, *Cases in Intelligence Analysis: Structured Analytic Techniques in Action*, aimed at helping students and practitioners of intelligence, foreign policy, law enforcement, homeland security, and military decision-making hone their analytic skills. She can be reached at sbeebe@ascendantanalytics.com.

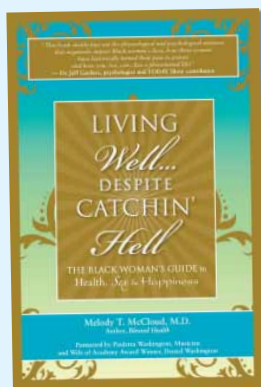
Shin Yu (Doris) Pai (CAS'97) won first place in the 2011 Ekphrastic Poetry Contest sponsored by the Arkansas Arts Center for her poem "animal animalis."

1977



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELODY MCLOUD

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS, DESPITE THE "HELL"
Obstetrician-gynecologist Melody McCloud's latest book, *Living Well . . . Despite Catchin' Hell: The Black Woman's Guide to Health, Sex and Happiness* (New



Life Publishing, 2010) opens with an enthusiastic foreword by Pauletta Washington, wife of actor Denzel Washington. Hostile song lyrics, disparaging media images, and other psychosocial stressors lead to the release of stress hormones in black women, writes McCloud (CAS'77, MED'81), contributing to high rates of diabetes, hypertension, and other killer

diseases. Her book offers comprehensive and down-to-earth advice to help black women overcome barriers to achieve both physical health and inner peace. —CORINNE STEINBRENNER

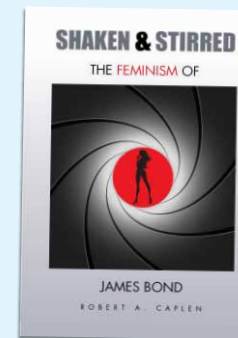
2001

SHAKEN & STIRRED: THE FEMINISM OF JAMES BOND

She's a cultural icon, the bearer of some almost unprintable names, and the subject of a new study on the history of feminism.

With *Shaken & Stirred*, author Robert A. Caplen (CAS'01, GRS'01) chronicles the cinematic Bond Girl, from 1962's "Honey Ryder" to 1979's "Holly Goodhead," against the backdrop of feminism's second wave.

Caplen argues that the first Bond movies stuck with an archetype—an Amazonian accessory for the male lead—that stood in contrast to the women's liberation movement. It wasn't until the 1970s, says Caplen, that the Bond Girl began, belatedly, to catch up with society, taking on more substance and independence. Albeit, movie fans might note, with a big proviso: scientist, astronaut, and CIA agent make an impressive combo, but being named "Goodhead" is something of an albatross. —ANDREW THURSTON

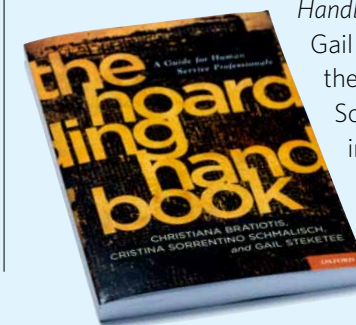


2009

THE HOARDING HANDBOOK: A GUIDE FOR HUMAN SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Excessive, safety-threatening accumulation of clutter—old newspapers, pizza boxes, bicycle parts, broken chairs, even rabbits—has been more widely recognized recently as a social problem. But until now, there has been no comprehensive reference guide to assist housing officials, first responders, animal control officers, primary care providers, and elder protective service workers. Based on her dissertation research, Christiana Bratiotis (GRS'09), a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Social Work, has coauthored the

Handbook with SSW Dean Gail Steketee and psychotherapist Cristina Sorrentino Schmalisch. The book includes case studies, decision trees, and other resources for professionals.



Rebecca Rung (CAS'97, MED'02) and her husband, Doug, recently welcomed their daughter, Elyse. The couple also has a two-year-old son, Tyler. The family lives in Concord, N.C. Rebecca is a full-time physician and faculty member for Cabarrus Family Medicine (and Residency). She can be reached at rebecca_rung@yahoo.com.

Laurel (Mayer) Homer (CAS'98) of Norwell, Mass., published her first novel, *Pushover*. Visit www.laurelmayer.com or email Laurel at laurel@laurelmayer.com.

Christina (Chang) Liew (CAS'98; COM'98, '03) of Singapore was selected as chair of the 2011 UN Women Singapore fifth annual fashion fund-raiser, to be held in December 2011. Funds raised will go toward scholarships for at-risk young women in domestic violence shelters or to mentoring programs. She can be reached at Christina.Liew@unifem.org.sg.

Julie Ott (CAS'98) of Center Moriches, N.Y., announces the birth of her daughter, Skylar Grace, born October 31, 2010. Email Julie at jao2481@hotmail.com.

Alan Colosi (CAS'00) of Boston, Mass., has published his first novel, *KKXG: King Kong vs. Gigantosaurus: The Adventures of Yuriko Kumage During the Greatest War on Earth*, after traveling to Japan 80 times. The book is available for sale on Amazon.com. In addition, he just finished a second nonfiction book about digital copyright law. Email him at shado3@verizon.net.

Beth (Kelly) Freidinger (CAS'00) and **Frank Freidinger (CAS'00)** of Freehold, N.J., welcomed their first child, Connor James, on January 14, 2010. Email them at freidingers@gmail.com.

Robert Simon (CAS'00) published a new book of poetry, *The Traveler el viajero/ o Viajante*, with Cyberwit, out of Allahabad, India. He can be reached at rsimon5@kennesaw.edu.

Andrew Walker (CAS'00, GRS'00) was recently promoted to Regional Habitat Manager at the Stony Brook office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Andrew's responsibilities include the preservation and protection of tidal freshwater wetlands on Long Island. He can be reached at armorine10@yahoo.com.

Aimee (Olsen) Kindorf (CAS'01, SPH'06) of East Boston, Mass., and her husband, Brian, welcomed twin daughters, Cailyn Alice and Annika Catherine, on September 5, 2010. Aimee currently works at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center as the finance director for geriatric programs.

Email her at aimee.kindorf@gmail.com.

Christine (Knoblauch) Hall (CAS'03) of Glendale, Calif., married Christopher Hall on September 25, 2010, at Marsh Chapel. **Stephanie Koutrakos (COM'03)** was maid of honor. Christine is a research associate at City of Hope and Chris is a field producer for E! Entertainment. Friends can contact Christine at christineannehall@gmail.com.

Franceska O'Reilly (CAS'04) of Wakefield, Mass., opened her law firm, The Law Office of Franceska J. O'Reilly, in Wakefield, Mass. Her firm focuses on elder law, family law, business litigation, and real estate. Email her at franceskaoreilly@gmail.com.

Jeanette Sayers (CAS'04, GRS'08) of Stoneham, Mass., married Jonathon Towles on April 30, 2011. **Dawn Quinlan (COM'03, GSM'10)**, **Lisa Travers (CGS'02)**, and

Christopher Sayers (CGS'99, CAS'06) were in the wedding party. Also in attendance was **Miranda Bureau (CAS'03)**. Jeanette can be reached at jeanettesayers@yahoo.com.

Elif S. Armbruster (GRS'05) of Arlington, Mass., has just published a new book on the private writing lives of four American realist authors. The book, *Domestic Biographies: Stowe, Howells, James, and Wharton at Home (Studies on Themes and Motifs in Literature, vol. 105)*, explores the overlap between the authors' real lives and their literary realism. The book is available on Amazon.com, as well as other venues. Elif received her PhD in American studies in 2005 and joined the full-time faculty of Suffolk University's English Department in 2006, where she is currently assistant professor of English. For more information on her book or to contact the author, please email earmbruster@suffolk.edu.

Abby Collier (GRS'05) was recently promoted to assistant editor in acquisitions at the University of Chicago Press, where she has worked on high-profile science and science studies books since 2008. Abby will acquire books independently and define the future of the press's books program in geography and non-reference cartography.

Kimberly (Stone) Goodwin (CAS'05, GRS'10) married Jeffrey Goodwin on September 25, 2010, at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass. The wedding party included **Natasha Steinberg (CAS'05, GRS'05)** and **Christopher Beck (LAW'07)**. **Shawn Lynch (COM'04)**, **Marc Yoshida (CAS'05)**, and **Erin Hatch (GRS'09)** were also in attendance. Kim is currently an associate behavioral consultant with Applied Behavioral Associates, LLC, and Jeff is a lawyer with Aframe & Barnhill, P.A. The couple went to the Canary Islands for

their honeymoon, and they plan to buy a home soon in the MetroWest area.

Courtney McClellan (CAS'05) and **Pascal Ferzli (MED'05)** were engaged in October 2010. They met through mutual friends at BU, and their first date was to Pascal's medical school dance in February 2005. They are planning a summer 2012 wedding.

Jennifer Uhrhane (GRS'06) of Jamaica Plain, Mass., organized a photography exhibit as a guest curator at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Mass. It ran January 29 to April 24, 2011. Information about the exhibit can be found at www.decordova.org.

Mark Estano (CAS'07) graduated with honors from Quincy College with an Associate of Science in Nursing. He plans to seek employment as a registered nurse in an acute care hospital in the Boston area.

Liliya Robbins (CAS'09) of Framingham, Mass., welcomed Leo Michael Robbins on February 17, 2011.

Jesica (Morgan) Sack (CAS'09) married **Andrew Sack (ENG'09)** in Philadelphia, Pa. on May 21, 2011. **Tim Sack (ENG'09)**, **Lauren Tuthill (ENG'09)**, **Abby Cohn (SED'09)**, and **Jessica Boote (CAS'10)** were in the wedding. **Kelsey Derricks (ENG'09)**, **Phil Rodriguez (ENG'09)**, **Andrew Rothman (CAS'09)**, and **Zack Mardoc (ENG'09)** attended. The couple currently lives in Newport, R.I.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROY PERKINSON

A LIGHT MOOD

The luminous "skylscapes" of Roy Perkinson

BY JEAN HENNELLY KEITH



Layers of plum, coral, and dusky blues capture twilight settling over downtown rooftops. Tangerine streaks spread upward into a sweep of ultramarine, vividly heralding daybreak along a lonely stretch of highway. Big moody skies fill Roy Perkinson's city scenes and expansive vistas—what his wife calls his "skylscapes."

Growing up in a tiny town on the edge of Texas hill country, Perkinson (GRS'70) says he has a dual affinity for "uninhabited open spaces" as well as urban settings. Rendered variously in oil, pastel, and watercolor, his images, from the craggy coastline of Maine's Monhegan Island to the broad wheat fields of Charente, France, all share a quiet solitude that invite the viewer to contemplate.

Perkinson's paintings appear infused with light—washed iridescently over Tuscan foothills or concentrated in a bright flash of reflected neon outside his studio building. "A sense of light, and I don't mean just illumination, is really important," he says. "I've come to realize over the years that it's almost Zen. For me the key is the

opposition of cool and warm colors... that can bring a scene to life and give it that ineffable sense of light."

The son of an artist father—"the smell of oil paint was a regular feature in our house," he says—Perkinson has drawn and painted throughout his life. With an education in physics from MIT and a life-changing hiatus at art school in Texas, he earned a master's degree in art history from BU, where, Perkinson says, Professor Samuel Edgerton "fired me up." In 1967, while still in grad school, Perkinson began working as an apprentice in the paper conservation laboratory at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, where he eventually spent most

of his career, becoming director of the lab and restoration program. The artist/physicist/art historian says he daily "reached into that bag" of knowledge of aesthetics, pigment stability, and historic context to select appropriate treatments for damaged artwork. After 36 years at the MFA, he retired in 2006 but remains closely connected to the museum: his work is part of its collection and he occasionally narrates for its exhibitions.

Perkinson now paints at the Fountain Street Studios, an artist community in Framingham, Massachusetts, where he delights in having "just one job." He says, "What I've longed for, and now have, is the opportunity to truly see the benefits of full-time engagement with the materials. I think about it even when I'm not here: wrestling with problems, looking for solutions, trying to work out ideas and designs. There's so much to do."

Above, Dusk, in Duxbury, oil on canvas, 2010. This painting is a revision of the original, shown at right in the background with artist Roy Perkinson. He changed the sky to reveal the graduated color that he first witnessed in the semidarkness.



ONLINE See Roy Perkinson's portfolio, including his newest works, and show information at www.perkinsonpaintings.com.

A great education is a gift.
Pass it on.



Help give tomorrow's students what BU gave you.

By including BU in your long-term philanthropic plans, you can help students achieve an outstanding education.

There are a number of ways you can do this. You can make a provision for BU in your will or make a gift that pays you income for life. Your gift can be directed to help students, faculty, or the program of your choice, and provide a charitable tax deduction for your estate.

Take a minute now to help ensure BU's future and create your own legacy. To learn more, visit www.bu.edu/opg or email us at opg@bu.edu. You can also call Planned Giving at 800-645-2347.

I just...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> went back to school | <input type="checkbox"/> had a baby |
| <input type="checkbox"/> found my calling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> published a book |
| <input type="checkbox"/> saw the world | <input type="checkbox"/> started my first job |
| <input type="checkbox"/> got married | <input type="checkbox"/> finished my last job |

Whatever you've been up to, we'd like to hear about it. Send us an email with your stories or photos, and we'll share them in class notes.

casalum@bu.edu

