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Boston University Arts & Sciences

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SPRING 2010

INSIDE:

RED PLATE SPECIAL
Neuroscientists use visual aids to improve life for Alzheimer's patients

THE GALÁPAGOS
Journey with students to the islands where blue-footed boobies dance

BRUSH STROKES
Manhattan gallerist Warren Adelson cherishes America's paintings



OH, THE PLACES THEY GO!



Ghanaian villages, the French Alps, and Cape Cod's waters. See how 3 alums set an example around the globe.



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Boston University Annual Giving



features

6

WHERE THE BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES DANCE

Students in the Tropical Ecology Program discover the unique flora and fauna of the Galápagos —biology's most famous archipelago.

10

OUT THERE

Bringing donated bikes to communities across the globe, teaching the value of whales in New England's coastal waters, and showing Alpine skiers how to ski safely "off-piste," three adventurous alums model respect for the environment.

16

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Alice Cronin-Golomb and her research team develop visual aids that boost the quality of life for seniors with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.



profiles

18 AMERICAN PORTRAIT

Gallerist and art historian Warren Adelson (CAS'63, GRS'64) cherishes the art of America's painters and the stories behind their work.

20 JACKED TO THE FUTURE

First, he brought us *Guitar Hero*, and now interactive, second screen TV. Venture capitalist and software developer Bryan Biniak (CAS'90) meshes enterprise with entertainment.



"If all the whales were gone, it's fair to say that . . . the entire ecosystem would be impacted."

Joanne Jarzowski (CAS'96)

a&s insider

- 2 International Scope—
The Center for Remote Sensing, in Haiti and Beyond
- 4 A People's Professor—Remembering Howard Zinn
- 5 Sizing Up Carbon Emissions—
Measuring BU's (and Boston's) Footprint

Web Extra:

Read about the new BU African Studies Center Director Tim Longman and his plans to expand the center's offerings for students and alumni. Click onto www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Longman.

about alumni

- 22 Dancing Triangles, Zooming Sierpinski!
Professor Robert Devaney is named first Feld Family Professor
- 22 Book It—New Books by Alums
- 23 Class Notes

Web Extra:

Gaining Currency—Students learn to be writers first in the Arts & Sciences Writing Program. Read about it and see samples of their work at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10.

the last word

- 25 It's Not Easy Being Green—and Gothic

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SPRING 2010 | NUMBER 23

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from the dean



Oh, the places they go!

As I travel around the country meeting CAS alumni, I am often struck by what fascinating and diverse paths they take. So often when I ask them how they journeyed from their undergraduate days to their current lives in their astounding range of different careers and situations, they smile and say,

"Well, that's an interesting story." And it usually is interesting because as liberal arts and sciences alumni, they had a college experience that didn't point them narrowly to one particular job or career. It was designed to be a platform from which they could launch their lives and careers in almost any direction.

In this issue we share some of those interesting stories. You will meet the co-creator of MassSail, an educational program that promotes awareness and stewardship of our coastal waters; an avalanche expert who founded a safety program in Europe on how to ski safely "off-piste" (off-trail); and the international programs director for the nonprofit Bikes Not Bombs, which distributes thousands of bicycles to low-income people around the world as a means of empowerment and environmental stewardship. You will meet a successful entrepreneur who has specialized in fascinating and influential technology projects, and learn about the owner of a leading New York art gallery.

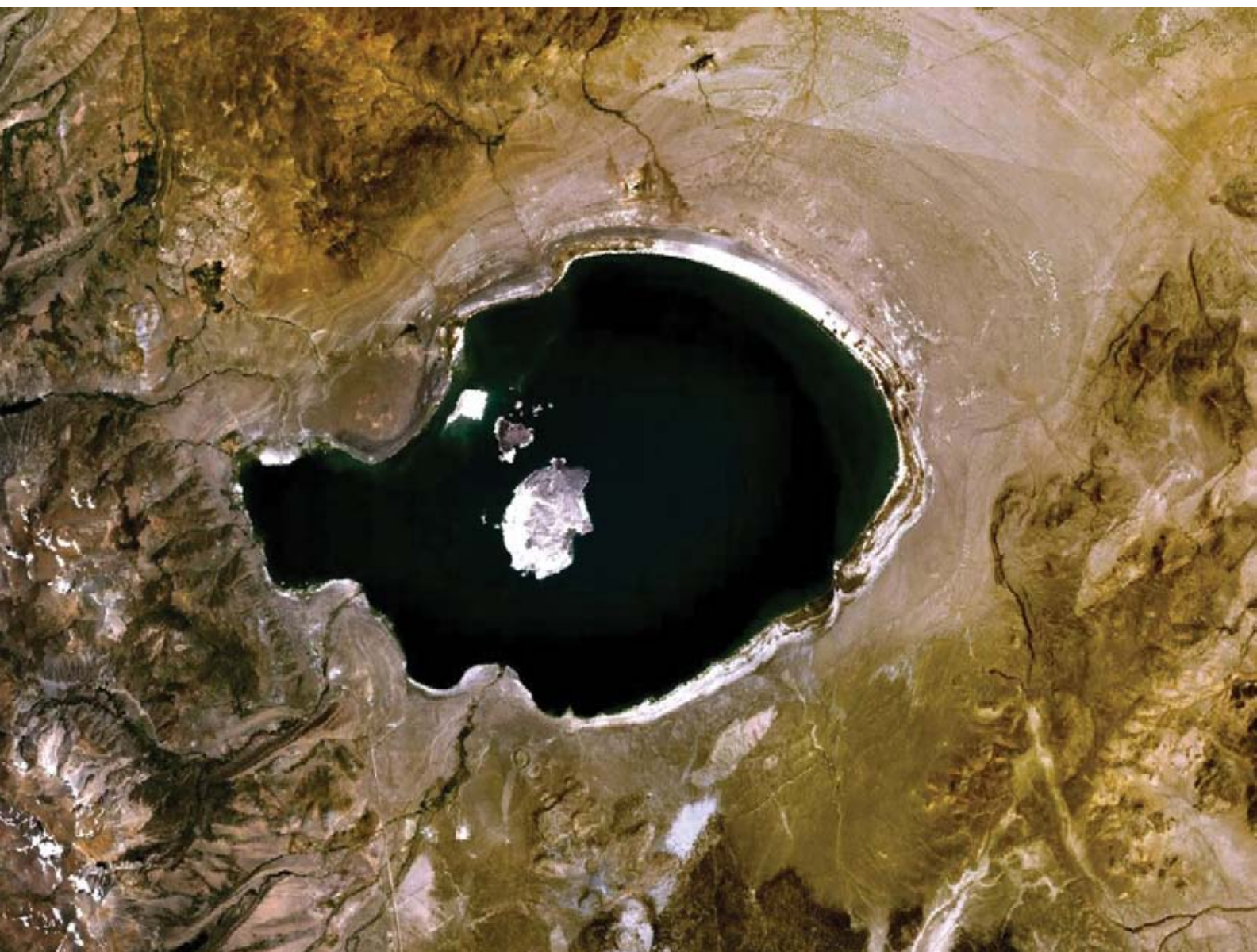
Parents of prospective students sometimes ask whether a liberal arts and sciences education is the best path for their child. My answer is easy. Today more than ever, employers are looking for applicants with a broad base of knowledge and superior critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills, as well as a depth of understanding in a particular field. We also can't know exactly what world our entering Class of 2014 will encounter ten, twenty, or thirty years after graduation. What will the economy look like? What jobs will be the most interesting, what will be the new opportunities, what situations will they face? The liberal arts and sciences degree provides the foundation for continued learning and development that enables our graduates to find success in those unknown tomorrows.

Our students go to amazing places even while still in school, and they move quickly when they know they can make a difference. See the stories of Jeff Stein (CAS'11), who traveled to Haiti to do disaster relief work, at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Haiti, and of the graduate students in Geography & Environment who quickly assembled much-needed maps of the Haitian disaster, on page 2. I recommend the new International Programs website (www.bu.edu/abroad/), where you can see videos of our students in BU study abroad locations all over the world.

continued on page 5



VISIT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES WEBSITE AT www.bu.edu/cas.



Top: Mono Lake in the eastern Sierras. Landsat photo image courtesy of the Center for Remote Sensing. Left: A group of Arts & Sciences graduate students, researchers, and professors spent a weekend at BU's Center for Remote Sensing last January producing maps for the Haiti relief effort. Center: Map of Port-au-Prince shows earthquake damage, based on data culled by students and faculty from various sources. Photo courtesy of the Department of Geography & Environment. Right: Satellite image of dunes in the Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali) of the Arabian Peninsula, courtesy of Farouk El-Baz. Opposite page: Satellite image indicating massive earthquake destruction in Port-au-Prince. Map created by Jared Newell (GRS'10).

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International Scope

The Center for Remote Sensing Studies the Planet and Changes the World.

It took under a minute for a 7.0 earthquake to devastate Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince, wiping out hundreds of thousands of lives, destroying countless homes and roads and leaving millions homeless—under a minute to alter the landscape forever. Rebuilding the country will take years, and BU's Center for Remote Sensing has stepped in to help, not with doctors or supplies, but with maps.

Center professors and graduate students had worked on a sustainable redevelopment plan for the island nation for much of 2009. During that year, the interdisciplinary team collected reams of data on Haitian topography and established ties with local officials. When disaster struck on January 12 and older maps of Haiti were rendered useless, the team spent three days nonstop amassing geographic data of the altered terrain and creating maps from that information to then send to Haiti. The maps, critical to damage-appraisal efforts in Port-au-Prince, also continue to play a role in rebuilding efforts.

The center has investigated and refined remote sensing techniques for more than 20 years, making it the perfect place to go for compiling data to aid Haiti. Creating maps is just one aspect of what remote sensing can do. At a fundamental level, remote sensing is a method of information collection by means of devices that are not in contact with the object being studied. BU's center uses satellite images combined with aerial and ground-level sensors to accrue data that they can then utilize in many different ways, from

counting the number of people at President Barak Obama's inauguration to studying the effects of climate change over time.

Professor of Geography & Environment Curtis Woodcock, who helped establish the center at the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in 1985, says the wider world



is more aware of remote sensing now than it was 25 years ago. "Google Earth sort of overnight transformed peoples' understanding of what you can see and do and use from space, in terms of studying the Earth," he says. "At the University, we have a wider variety of courses that use remote sensing now, and our students come out much better trained in remote sensing than they did back in the early days of the center." He sees the center as a place to engage in both pure scientific research and also where students can investigate solutions to looming problems.

Currently, one of the center's main initiatives, says Director of the Center Farouk

El-Baz, is using satellite images of traditionally arid areas to locate groundwater, which he and his research team have done in Egypt and other countries. A former NASA scientist, El-Baz has teamed up with the United Nations in the "1,001 Wells for Darfur" initiative to search for groundwater in the war-ravaged area of Sudan. He says that water shortage will be the major crisis of the 21st century and water itself will be a "precious commodity" because more countries are becoming economically well-developed—as standards of living increase, so too does water consumption. The center's investigations will be crucial to finding more water and solving this worldwide problem.

El-Baz sees the center's research as something to be shared with the world—with countries like Haiti—and asserts that scientific knowledge should be used to break cultural

barriers. For his commitment to international cooperation in science and technology, among other contributions, he was recently honored with an appointment to the Board of Directors of the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation, a nonprofit that sponsors global scientific collaboration. He says, "There is no question that the language of science is international and the benefit from scientific knowledge is international. Scientific research can help in international understanding." By working with and helping other countries like Haiti, the center is one piece of a worldwide educational community.—Rachel Johnson



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CENTER FOR REMOTE SENSING'S WORK FOR HAITI, GO TO www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Haiti. TO VISIT THE CENTER'S WEBSITE, GO TO www.bu.edu/remotesensing.

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A People's Professor

Howard Zinn, 87, College of Arts & Sciences Professor Emeritus of Political Science, author, historian, and political activist, died on January 27, 2010.



Photo by Frank Curran

With Howard Zinn you didn't just learn about history, you lived it. Even his last class at Arts & Sciences in 1988 wound up early so he

could join a picket line.

"Howard Zinn's teaching style was a dynamic one: That students should *learn* history in the classroom, but also *make* history in the public square," remembers one of his former students, Alex MacDonald (CAS'72). MacDonald and his wife, Maureen Strafford (MED'76), initiated the Howard Zinn Lecture Series in 2006.

That attitude won the author, activist, and professor the admiration—and ire, to be sure—of many.

A hero to the left, Zinn taught at BU for 24 years, combining radical lectures with era-defining protests: "Howard will be hard to replace as a political figure, a sterling individual, and as a person of vision," says Professor Emeritus of History Joseph Boskin. "Also, as a person of guts."

Zinn came to BU at a turbulent time. The anti-Vietnam War movement was beginning to find its voice in 1964 and Zinn soon added his to the tumult, joining rallies and railing against the ROTC. Later, in a 1970s speech at Johns Hopkins University—recounted in his 1993 *Failure to Quit: Reflections of an Optimistic Historian*—Zinn



"The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."

—Howard Zinn, *The Optimism of Uncertainty*

said that society's problem was not civil disobedience, "Our problem is civil *obedience*." It was not an empty comment. To give the lecture, Zinn had ignored a court date at which he was to appeal a conviction for protesting at an army base: "To skip the debate in order to dutifully obey the court order seemed absurd to me in the light of my argument for civil disobedience," he wrote.

While such tales made Zinn a focal figure at BU, it was the multimillion-selling *A People's History of the United States* (1980) that propelled him onto the international stage. The controversial book turned the American story upside down, defying generations of historical thought by shifting attention from hallowed names to common folk.

David Mayers, professor of political science, says Zinn's life echoed that com-

mitment to the people: "What impressed me about Howard was his warmth and his genuine interest in people, and there was something rather infectious about this."

To the end, Zinn continued to inspire a new generation of progressive thinkers—showcasing his take on history in the star-studded 2009 documentary, *The People Speak*, and admonishing the Obama administration for its foreign policy.

"It's astounding for a man of his time and the length of his days to still be doing [elsewhere] what he was doing at BU so many years ago," remarked *Boston Globe* columnist and former University Chaplain James Carroll, "offering young people a vision, a way to see the world."—*Andrew Thurston*

BU Today staff contributed reporting to this article.

THE ENERGY TO ACT

In recognition of Howard Zinn's continuing influence on scholars at BU and beyond, CAS has established the Howard Zinn Graduate Fund for Studies of Democracy.

You can donate to the fund, which will support political science doctoral candidates studying democracy, democratic politics, democratization, or threats to democracy, at www.bu.edu/cas/alumni/giving/zinn.



Watch Howard Zinn's last public appearance at BU at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Zinn.

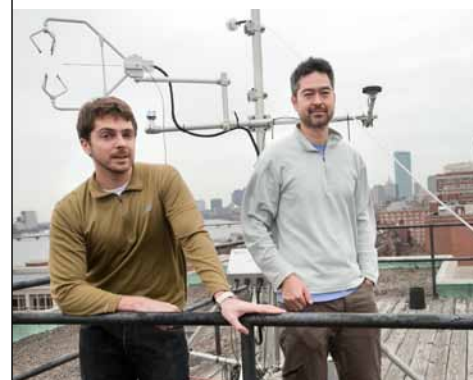
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Sizing Up Carbon Emissions

BU Researchers Get Grant to Study Area's Footprint

Calculating your carbon footprint online involves nothing more than a couple of mouse clicks. Measuring the carbon footprint of a city? That takes more detective work.

Boston University researchers are on the case. Nathan Phillips, an associate professor of geography and environment and director of the Center for Energy & Environmental Studies, and his colleagues



On the rooftop, Associate Professor Nathan Phillips (right) and graduate student Jared Newell (GRS'10) use an antenna-like gadget that measures wind direction, temperature, humidity, light, and carbon levels. Webcams at Marsh Plaza also give glimpses of traffic flow.

received a \$300,000 grant in September from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service to study the flow of carbon in and out of Boston. Beyond learning how to quantify and predict carbon levels, they want to inform policy decisions on carbon emissions and urban sustainability.

Taking baby steps first, with a focus on measuring carbon activity above Commonwealth Avenue, Phillips and his team must prove over the next two years that their "urban metabolism" project has legs.

"I liken it to time trials for the Olympics," Phillips says. Should his team make the cut, the center could receive money to expand research from its BU hub to all of Boston.

The researchers want to explore all aspects of carbon exchange, from measuring breath and photosynthesis to measuring emissions and energy consumption. Doing so requires gadgets. On the fourth floor of 675 Commonwealth Avenue, the whirring sound of a pump fills the room. A clear tube snakes from one end, out a window, and up to the roof. Another tube leads to something called a Picarro analyzer, which looks like a cable box on steroids. A graph on a nearby computer screen displays a wave of scribbles.

The Picarro measures carbon dioxide; its signature suggests where it could be coming from—car exhaust, for example, or simply human breath. The \$60,000 machine, on loan from the U.S. Forest Service, takes readings every seven seconds and plots them on a graph. One weekday midmorning, it read at 404 parts per million, slightly above the global average of 385 parts per million, Phillips says.

Another Picarro, also a Forest Service loan, is located at Harvard Forest, in Petersham, Massachusetts, to see how carbon dioxide levels vary from urban to rural areas.

Phillips is finding that carbon dioxide levels are higher during weekdays and peak around high commuting hours. Not surprisingly, readings at Harvard Forest are consistently lower than those at BU.

"It's like a home energy audit, but we're doing it on a much larger scale," Phillips says.

One goal is to create a high-resolution map of Boston. Red spots would indicate carbon emission zones, Phillips explains, and green spots would reveal carbon uptake zones. Color intensity might show ongoing carbon hot spots. The graphic could predict how human activity or policy changes affect carbon concentrations.

Boston officials have pledged to reduce carbon emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 and to increase tree canopy cover from 29 percent to 35 percent by 2030; trees reduce carbon and add oxygen.

from the dean continued

No matter how far you, our alumni, travel from campus, however, we want to stay in touch and continue to add value to your lives. For those of you in the Boston area, consider attending our Discoveries Lecture Series (see page 22 and www.bu.edu/cas/alumni/discoveries) or the Arts, Culture & Ideas lunchtime series (www.bu.edu/cas/alumni/news/Arts). If you live further away, view the Discoveries lectures online or visit our alumni website at www.bu.edu/alumni for information about alumni events in your area, University news, and opportunities to support BU.

Meanwhile, enjoy your summer!

Virginia Sapiro
Dean of Arts & Sciences

WEARING HER OTHER HAT

Visit with Dean Sapiro and her husband, Director of Graduate Studies and Professor of Political Science Graham Wilson, for a day at their farm in New Hampshire. See the video at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Sapiro.



BU-led research could define where best to focus to achieve those goals and could measure the success of this ambitious urban project.—*Leslie Friday*

Reprinted with permission from BU Today

WHERE THE BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES DANCE



ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES,
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR KELLY SWING, THE ON-SITE
DIRECTOR FOR THE TROPICAL ECOLOGY PROGRAM,
OFFERS A GUIDED TOUR OF THE GALÁPAGOS AND
A SMALL TASTE OF THE ECOLOGICAL INSIGHTS HE
SHARES WITH STUDENTS WHO VENTURE THERE.



Students in the Tropical Ecology Program discover the unique flora and fauna of the Galápagos—biology's most famous archipelago.

Though smaller than the state of Nevada, Ecuador is among the most ecologically diverse countries in the world. Within its borders lie portions of untouched Amazonian rainforest, snow-capped peaks and lush valleys of the Andes, coastal swamps, white sand beaches—and the Galápagos Islands, the world's most famous nature reserve.

"From an ecological point of view, Ecuador is an extraordinary place," says Professor Thomas Kunz, director of the Arts & Sciences Center for Ecology & Conservation Biology, who chose the country for the semester-long study abroad program he began developing in the early 1990s. Launched in 1996, the BU Tropical Ecology Program (TEP) has since become extremely popular—many biology students say that the highly competitive program strongly influenced their decision to attend BU.



BY CORINNE STEINBRENNER

Twice a year, TEP gives approximately 15 high-achieving students an opportunity to perfect their Spanish and explore the biodiversity of Ecuador while earning 18 credits through Boston University and its partner institution, the Universidad San Francisco de Quito. The highlights of each semester are a visit to the Tiputini Biodiversity Station—with its canopy tower providing 360-degree views of acres of pristine Amazonian rainforest—and a weeklong expedition to the Galápagos, the islands made famous by Charles Darwin and still prized for their extraordinary number of endemic species that exist nowhere else in the world.

Blue-footed boobies engage in elaborate courtship displays that result in seasonal pair bonding. The male begins his display by, of course, flaunting his brilliant blue feet. Although the sexes are quite similar looking among all booby species, certain details can be used to distinguish them. For example, males are smaller than females and have more yellow in their irises.

Due to a diet that consists entirely of seaweed, **marine iguanas** ingest large amounts of salt and are presented with special challenges for osmoregulation—controlling levels of water and mineral salts in the body. A gland connected to the iguanas' nostrils allows them to "sneeze" out extra salt. Most marine iguanas are rather plain and dark in coloration, but the ones on the island of Española are truly exceptional.

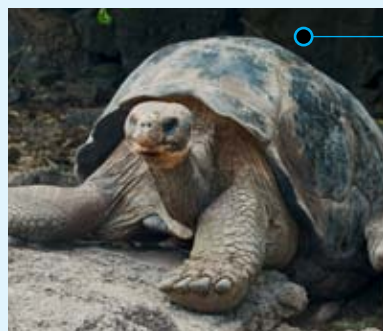


Among the waves, the **marine iguanas** of the Galápagos—the only seagoing lizards in the world—show off their great swimming skills, but on land they are so inactive that visitors may have to make special efforts to avoid stepping on them.

While **sea lion** mothers go to sea to feed, their pups are left on beaches in a crèche—a sea lion day care of sorts, where adults care for the young communally—and the pups have lots of chances to play in the sand.



The Charles Darwin Research Station works closely with the Galápagos National Park Service to protect the islands and their wildlife. One of the most important roles of the Darwin Station is the conservation of **giant tortoises** through management in the wild, combined with an extensive captive breeding program.



Everyone who visits the "Encantadas"—enchanted isles—has to take home memories of the colorful and abundant **sally lightfoot crabs**.



The **swallow-tailed gull** is the only fully nocturnal gull in the world and one of the most beautiful of all the seabirds.



Galápagos

Next Stop Tanzania

Four years ago, Jaclyn Aliperti (CAS'10) chose Boston University because it offered her a chance to get off Long Island and out of New York. She had no idea how far out she'd eventually go.

The biology major spent a semester in Ecuador last year with BU's Tropical Ecology Program, and during spring semester—her final semester before graduation—she's been learning wildlife management in Kenya and Tanzania. "I love Boston University so much that it feels weird for me to say that I'm spending a quarter of my time away from campus," Aliperti says. "But, obviously, I think it's worth taking advantage of these amazing experiences BU has to offer me."



During her semester in Ecuador, Aliperti combined lectures at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, near the country's capital, with expeditions to the Pacific coast, the Galápagos Islands, and the Amazon rainforest.

Visiting the Galápagos, she says, was a magical experience. "The Galápagos is like a Mecca for biology students. To see a blue-footed booby lift up his blue foot and start a mating dance—it sounds corny, but it's a dream come true."

The Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon offered its own brand of magic. "In the Galápagos, you can be standing right in front of the animals, and they'll just go about their business. They don't seem to mind that you're right there," she says. "But the rainforest is an adventure. You walk the trails, and you never know what you're going to see. I spent a lot of time by myself in the rainforest because it's the perfect place to take walks by yourself and explore and come back dirty."

The rainforest is also where Aliperti began a love affair with bats. Throughout her time there, she assisted an Ecuadorian bat specialist with his research—netting, processing, and releasing the bats he was studying.

"When I left Ecuador, I was crying in the

cab," she says. "I had so many emotions mixed together. I was excited to go home, I was so sad to leave, and I was also really sad because I didn't know when I was going to work with bats again."

This spring, Aliperti temporarily traded Amazonian bats for African baboons. Thanks to a program offered by The School for Field Studies—an environmental education institute founded by BU Trustee Emerita Terry Andreas (COM'64) and accredited through BU—she's been in southern Africa taking lessons in Swahili and studying the wildlife management methods used in Kenya and neighboring Tanzania. She's also conducting field research that may benefit wildlife managers in the region. "This land is a natural migratory path for a lot of wild animals—elephants and giraffes and so forth—but at the same time, the locals want to use the land for tourism and agriculture," she says. "They're trying to find a proper balance, and I'm really looking forward to helping them."

Aliperti hasn't yet decided what she'll do between her BU graduation and her eventual enrollment in graduate school. Fieldwork with Professor Thomas Kunz, CAS's resident bat expert? A job in a biodiversity station back in Ecuador? A stint as a national park ranger in the western United States? They're all appealing, and they're all strong possibilities. When she enrolled at BU, Aliperti thought she wanted to become a veterinarian, but her studies have broadened her interests beyond dogs and cats, she says. "I've figured out so much about myself—and half of that is just that I've realized I want to explore everything."



SEE MORE OF THE WILDLIFE OF THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS AND LISTEN AS JACLYN ALIPERTI DESCRIBES HER LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES THERE AT www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Galapagos. AND FOLLOW HER ON HER BLOG FROM KENYA AND TANZANIA AT www.bu.edu/today/safari.

OUT THERE

THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR WORK AND EXCITED BY POSSIBILITIES BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES. THEIR UNDERGRAD STUDIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY, MARINE BIOLOGY, AND FRENCH/ GEOLOGY LED THESE THREE ALUMS TO UNCONVENTIONAL CAREERS IN UNUSUAL PLACES. THEY BRING THEIR SPECIAL BRAND OF KNOWLEDGE TO THE WORLD, RESPECTIVELY, IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MARINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE WATERS OFF CAPE COD, AND AVALANCHE RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE THRILLING "OFF-PISTE" TERRAIN OF THE FRENCH ALPS.



David Branigan recycles bikes, rolling them out around the globe to power developing economies and empower local people to prosper.



In tall ships, whale watch boats, and children's classrooms, Joanne Jarzowski teaches us to care for Cape Cod's magnificent whales.



Avalanche expert Henry Schniewind shows off-trail adventurers in the Alps how to traverse the slopes without triggering trouble.



WATCH BU AND WORLD BICYCLE RELIEF TURN TWO WHEELS INTO A MIRACLE HEALTH SOLUTION AT www.bu.edu/ar/2009/11.



WE ALL COULD USE A LITTLE PEDAL POWER

DAVID BRANIGAN HOPES THE VERSATILE UTILITY OF TWO WHEELS CAN BRING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED



So much for the fancy job title. When I meet the International Programs Director for nonprofit Bikes Not Bombs (BNB), he's dismantling a greasy handlebar stem, his hands speckled with oil.

Before David Branigan (CAS'02) can send donated bikes to communities in Africa, Central America, and beyond, he first needs to help break them down for shipping. On this midwinter night, he's teaching volunteers at BNB's Boston headquarters how to pack used bicycles or strip them for parts. He'll then arrange for the bikes to go overseas in support of sustainable community development projects—some go to locally owned bike stores and youth training centers, others to orphaned children, and (with a little re-engineering) some will even find new life powering washing machines and corn grinders. In backing such projects, BNB hopes to reduce conflict by engaging people in their communities and improving standards of living.

(Continued on the next page.)

As Branigan tells me about his life and career, I start to work on a blue-and-white Pacific Rocket BMX that's tricked out for street stunts with steel axle pegs on each wheel. The pegs are the first to go—they jut out too much for shipping—before I lower the seat post, fold down the handlebars, and reverse the pedals so they face in rather than out. Within minutes, my office-fresh hands are caked in grease and oil. Branigan tells me the bike will likely find a new home in Ghana or Nevis, the charity's next shipping destinations, helping a child commute to school. Every year Bikes Not Bombs ships close to 5,000 used bicycles—which are brought in by individuals and organizations across eastern Massachusetts—and puts hundreds more to use in Boston-based youth programs.

"A bicycle helps more children go to school and be more productive in their studies and in the household," says Branigan of the potential overseas benefits of my newly packed BMX. "In many developing countries, children provide labor toward the family economy... this could include farming, weeding, processing or cooking food for sale, producing goods for sale from locally available materials, selling goods in small family stores or in the market—all helping the family generate more income."



Adults benefit from bike ownership, too. Branigan recently spent a year in Koforidua, Ghana, establishing a co-op cycle store, Ability Bikes, backed by Bikes Not Bombs. He says that workers in the West African country may see half their wages disappear in transportation costs when forced to commute by bus or car: "A bike makes such an impact on peoples' lives," he adds.

"A bicycle helps more children go to school and be more productive in their studies and in the household."

Setting up Ability Bikes, which is now owned and operated by local Ghanaians with physical disabilities, brought the disparate strands of Branigan's life together. Bikes have been a big part of his world since childhood: He worked as a mechanic in a cycle store from the age of 13 and his father was a prominent advocate for bike lanes in his home city of Philadelphia. But it was as an anthropology major at CAS that Branigan had his eyes opened to the "realities of Africa" and to his own potential to effect change: "I really began to see that, wow, what I say and think and do makes a difference in this world."



Photos at Ability Bikes in Ghana, by David Branigan.

That's why the work in Koforidua was a breakthrough for him: "This is something I had wanted and worked for and cared about," says Branigan, who'd first gone to Ghana with the Peace Corps after graduating from BU. "It makes my blood run, my heart pump... When I'm doing this work, I know I'm living, I know I'm doing my best for this world."

Now armed with his impressive job title, he gets to combine the oily, greasy, on-the-ground labor with higher-level policy and project work. Branigan has been back to Ghana to check on progress at Ability Bikes and soon will be heading to Uganda to support a "local health center with bikes for community health workers." He's also planning trips to Tanzania, Guatemala, and Mexico to support ongoing projects.

"My impact now is tremendous," he says. "I'm able to apply my experience in the field to... setting the goals and objectives of the international programs of Bikes Not Bombs."

"My method of development work is always about empowerment and leadership development of local groups. If the people who are benefiting from a project are the ones who have the power to maintain it, then their investment in the project is significant."

But tonight is all about the raw materials. The bikes piled deep against the back wall are ready to be broken down for their new life overseas—those hands will have to stay grease-spattered for a few more hours.

—Andrew Thurston



THE ATLANTIC AND HER WHALES' TALES

JOANNE JARZOBSKI EXPLORES THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF WHALES AND THEIR VITAL ROLE IN THE ECOSYSTEM



From her former position as marine education director at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies (PCCS), in Provincetown, Massachusetts, to her current marine education work with the Cape Cod Montessori School and aboard various whale watching boats, Joanne Jarzobski (CAS'96) has made a career of teaching people to appreciate whales.

Above: A humpback whale feeding in the waters of Stellwagen Bank at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay. Photo by Garyfallia Pagonis. Below: Marine educator Joanne Jarzobski. Photo by Julie Kondor. Bottom: A humpback whale dives near the Spirit of Massachusetts. Photo by Beth Swineford.



"I've seen people cry with joy upon seeing a whale for the first time," says Jarzobski. "And sometimes even the hundredth time. They are magnificent animals and a bit mysterious."

Cetaceans are unique among marine life in that they are mammals, like us. They have lungs and must surface regularly in order to breathe. Members of the largest species—blue whales, which can grow up to 100 feet long and weigh 150 tons—are bigger than the biggest dinosaur that ever walked the Earth. The oldest whales in the ocean—scientists now believe some bowheads live for more than two centuries—are likely older than 36 of our 50 United States. The most musical whale—the humpback—sings complex, often hour-long rhythmic songs containing an amount of information equivalent to that in Homer's *Odyssey*. And the loudest of the leviathans—finbacks—can communicate with one another across distances of thousands of miles.

Moreover, "For everything we know about whales, there are 100 things we don't," Jarzobski says. "That's exciting!"

She grew up landlocked in the Midwest. A visit to relatives on Cape Cod sparked a passion in her for the Atlantic and its animals. "My dad took me on a whale watch and I just got hooked," Jarzobski recalls. "I was *fascinated*."

At the College of Arts & Sciences, Jarzobski majored in biology with a specialization in marine science. "Through BU,

"If all the whales were gone, it's fair to say that a chain reaction would occur and the entire ecosystem would be impacted."

I got exposed to a little bit of everything," she says. "I spent a year down in Woods Hole at the Marine Biological Laboratory with BUMP [Boston University Marine Program], so I got to study everything from deep sea fish to chemosensory biology to marine biology and whales."

From 1997 to 2008, Jarzobski worked for the PCCS, and as its director of marine

education, she co-founded and ran MassSail, a series of experiential education programs aboard the *Spirit*, a 19th-century-style schooner. Under Jarzobski's direction, high school and college students learned how to navigate celestially, tie knots, and sing sea shanties, and also how to observe whales in their natural habitat, collect oceanographic data, and gather plankton. Her work won her honors, including the 2007 Massachusetts Marine Educator of the Year award.

Through teaching people about whales, Jarzobski hopes to make them care about the sea giants' plight. Twentieth-century commercial whaling—spotting quarry from airplanes, firing exploding harpoons—almost drove many species to extinction. Though some populations have begun to recover since most countries stopped whaling in the 1960s, the animals are still in danger. "Every year, more than 300,000 whales, dolphins, and porpoises die accidentally in entanglements in fishing gear globally," Jarzobski says.

Landlubbers should be concerned. "If all the whales were gone," says Jarzobski, "it's fair to say that a chain reaction would occur and the entire ecosystem would be impacted." Zooplankton—the tiny creatures many whales eat—might multiply dramatically and, in turn, decimate the plants that they eat, photoplankton—the source of half the oxygen we breathe. "There's both an intrinsic value and an instrumental value" in whales' survival.

Today, Jarzobski teaches science and math at the Montessori School in Falmouth. Located on a farm, the unique independent school, which enrolls students from seventh through twelfth grades, focuses on learning by doing—a philosophy that dovetails with Jarzobski's hands-on approach to teaching science and seamanship. Since starting there in 2008, she's spearheaded the school's marine education initiatives, including whale watching trips and boat-building projects.

Meanwhile, Jarzobski continues to work as a whale watch naturalist for Captain John Boats in Plymouth and Alpha Whale Watch in Provincetown, teaching passengers about the wonders in our own aquatic backyard. "There can be hundreds of humpbacks out there sometimes, and it's amazing to get a chance to spend a few hours with them." —Patrick L. Kennedy

KEEPING YOUR EDGE IN AVALANCHE COUNTRY

HENRY SCHNIEWIND KNOWS AVALANCHES AND WHAT IT TAKES TO STAY ON TOP "OFF-PISTE."



Each year, grim headlines tell of skiers and other winter sports enthusiasts who venture off-trail in high mountains and are swept up in avalanches. Victims—or someone in their group or in a group skiing above them—trigger 90 percent of avalanche accidents, and nearly 20 percent of those caught in avalanches die, amounting to more than 150 fatalities annually worldwide—and that number is rising.

Peak 254: With the Grande Sassièrè peak in the background, Henry Schniewind evaluates the gullies and slopes below him in the resort of Tignes, France, to determine if it is safe to ski them with the group he's guiding. Photo by www.peakphotographics.com.



Top: HAT trainer Jimi Fish gives a public "Avalanche Talk" at Dick's Tea Bar, Val d'Isère. Photo by www.peakphotographics.com. Center: With the help of synthetic "seal skins" on the bottom of his skis for traction, Henry Schniewind enjoys ski touring in the French Alps. Photo by Eric Pinn. Bottom: HAT trainer Roddy Clark gives an on-snow course on how to use an avalanche transceiver and conduct a "companion rescue" to find someone who's buried in the snow. Photo by Henry Schniewind.

The Alps top the list for these fatalities. Unlike the ski areas in the western United States, where avalanche risk is managed by blasting the entire area to release unstable snow slabs, in Europe blasting occurs only on the slopes above the "pistes" (ski runs) to protect them. Based in the world-class French Alpine ski resort Val d'Isère, Henry (Hank) Schniewind (CGS'86, CAS'89) is an avalanche and snow expert and "off-piste" (off-trail) guide who knows what it takes to ski safely on the steep, snowy slopes in avalanche territory.

He describes a slab avalanche as a "piece of cake on top of a layer of frosting, or a stronger layer of snow on a weaker one. The power of an avalanche is tremendous," he says. "If you are skiing where a slab releases, you will be taken."

Extreme adventure is a growing industry, Schniewind says, with more tourists now

heading into the wilderness, whether or not they have the necessary skills, knowledge, or experience to handle the conditions. "Off-piste skiing has become trendy," he says, "and lots of people are pushing the envelope. Some in seemingly tame areas don't even realize that they're endangering themselves or others." Skiing off-piste requires training, and with the high number of deaths and injuries caused by mostly medium- and even small-sized avalanches each year, Schniewind has developed a program to meet this need.

In 2001 he created Henry's Avalanche Talk (HAT), one of only a few private safety and risk management programs in the world dedicated to off-piste winter recreation. He and his team of ski professionals and guides train the intrepid, and sometimes foolhardy, how to venture off-trail for big-snow thrills without setting off avalanches, and if they do get caught in one, how to maximize their survival.

Why risk it? What's the allure beyond the trails?

With the sunny glow of an outdoorsman, Schniewind, an American whose German name loosely translates to "snow wind," describes the glory of off-piste skiing. "A sense of autonomy and adventure, freedom from being shepherded," and being surrounded by fresh powder, open sky, and the soaring mountains, he says, is simply "the best. Especially just after a storm, when the snow hasn't settled or bonded yet, skiing in light snow gives the sensation of grace, smoothness, weightlessness—you feel like you're floating." But he quickly adds, "This is often when it's unstable, so choosing where you go is so important."

He knows what he's talking about. In 1984, while taking a pre-freshman semester with BU's new Study Abroad program in Grenoble, France, he discovered the magic of skiing the majestic mountains of Val d'Isère and triggered an avalanche that nearly overtook him. Although an excellent skier, who as a youngster trained at the Green Mountain Valley School for skiers in Vermont and was a nationally ranked ski racer by age 15, Schniewind had a "high standard of skiing but no mountain knowledge," he realized. After his close encounter, he set about filling that gap.

He calls his experience at Val d'Isère "key," inspiring him to make a career in the mountains. Schniewind entered the College of General Studies (then called the College of Basic Studies) and soon began to shine as a student. Next, with a French major and geology minor at the College of Arts & Sciences, he took a junior year "abroad" to study avalanche forecasting and snow science at Montana State University. He says BU gave him the latitude "to combine a sport with an intellectual endeavor with a business." Right after graduation, he headed to Europe to shape his "dream career."

In France, he saw that skiers were getting caught in avalanches and dying right next to pistes, but that nothing was being done to educate them on how to avoid the perils. With advice from his former professors at MSU, he gave his first off-piste skiing safety slideshow and talk in 1989. Now boasting eight branches in France and the United Kingdom, HAT offers avalanche risk management and ski training, including Schniewind's "Ride Hard, Ride Safe" talks. He envisions a worldwide HAT franchise, he says, "wherever there is deep snow—South America, Europe, the U.S., China, all over."



IF YOU GET CAUGHT IN AN AVALANCHE:

- Try to ski off the moving slab as quickly as possible before it breaks up and takes you. If you are swept away in it, try to "swim" or roll off the slab.
- If you're under the snow when the avalanche stops, try to make an air pocket in front of your mouth (so don't ride off-piste with your pole straps on).



TO SEE MORE OF HAT'S TIPS AND AN EXCITING VIDEO OF OFF-PISTE SKIING, GO TO www.henrysavalanchetalk.com.

Out of sight, out of mind

BY JEREMY SCHWAB



If you couldn't see your mashed potatoes, you probably wouldn't eat them.

That was the premise that BU biopsychologist Alice Cronin-Golomb and her research partners adopted when they designed the "red plate study." Their idea was to see whether senior citizens with advanced Alzheimer's disease would eat more food from red plates than they did from white ones.

The researchers in the Vision & Cognition Lab of the Center for Clinical Biopsychology, which Cronin-Golomb directs, had reason to hope that their experiment would succeed. Nursing home staff often complain that Alzheimer's patients do not finish the food on their plates even when staff encourages them to do so. Forty percent of individuals with severe Alzheimer's lose an unhealthy amount of weight. Previous explanations for this phenomenon included depression, inability to concentrate on more than one food at a time, and inability to eat unassisted. Cronin-Golomb and her colleagues took a different approach. They believed this behavior might be explained by the visual-cognitive deficiencies caused by Alzheimer's. Patients with the disease cannot process visual data—like contrast and depth perception—as well as most other seniors.

So Cronin-Golomb's team, led by then-BU postdoctoral fellow and current Senior Lecturer in Psychology Tracy Dunne (GRS'92, '99), tested advanced Alzheimer's patients' level of food intake with standard white plates and with bright-red ones. What they found was astonishing—patients eating from red plates consumed 25 percent more food than those eating from white plates.

Since these findings were published in 2004, some nursing homes have made red plates the norm. A private company has even marketed special red plates for seniors with visual impairment.

The CAS researchers' approach to the problem of decreased functioning was what led to their breakthrough. Whereas many scientists look for drugs to treat degenerative cognitive diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, Cronin-Golomb and her team focus instead on finding visual aids that can improve patients' quality of life. By assisting Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patients with their visual perception, the researchers actually are able to improve the subjects' mental functioning.

"If the information getting into their brain through their eyes is already degraded, how can you expect them to do much with that?" asks Cronin-Golomb. "If we can enhance how fast they are getting information in, then they can have a better shot at remembering it. For instance, we can improve their reading speed just by enhancing what they see."

It is generally known that memory problems are associated with Alzheimer's disease, but many people don't realize that vision problems can plague these patients as much as their mental challenges do.

Cronin-Golomb and her team put subjects through a battery of tests to determine their visual capabilities—visual psychophysics tests to look at contrast sensitivity, color discrimination, and depth perception; neuropsychological tests to examine object recognition, word reading, facial recognition, and pattern completion; and, finally, tests to determine whether the subjects perform better using visual aids, such as measuring cups with larger lettering. Once researchers understand each subject's abilities, they can then assess how various visual aids improve a patient's visual perception.

One experiment the team conducted was to test which shades of gray pills were

easiest for subjects to pick out. Seniors commonly take multiple daily medications, but pill manufacturers often don't take into account patients' vision problems when choosing pill colors. The researchers found that with the right shade of gray, they could help patients more easily locate their medications.

Cronin-Golomb also studies other behaviors caused at least in part by visual impairment. In Parkinson's patients, for instance, her research suggests that walking through a doorway or experiencing other visual triggers may precipitate a patient's "freezing," or being unable to move.

The team's research lends itself to immediate practical applications, and team members are eager to share their knowledge. They collaborate with colleagues at BU Sargent College, the Boston University

Alzheimer's Disease Center, and the Department of Neurology at the School of Medicine. They also educate local caregivers for the elderly about how to use visual aids to improve patients' functioning. Many of these caregivers are family members taking care of loved ones. Others are professional caregivers at day programs for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patients, as well as architects designing living spaces for older adults.

Team member and PhD candidate Tom Laudate recalls an encounter following his talk to a local caregiver support group. "A woman came up to me and said that just the week before, her mother had been in the kitchen trying to pour milk into a mug. The mug was white, the milk was white, and the countertop was white. She poured milk all over the place, and it wasn't until the daughter heard me talk that it clicked in her mind and she understood her mother's vision problem. It's a great feeling to be able to give some information to someone that can make a difference. It's not huge; we are not solving Alzheimer's, but we are helping people in their daily lives."

Laudate is one of many students entering the field of neuroscience today who will help define its future direction.



"This is a field where a lot of the research hasn't been done yet," notes Cronin-Golomb. "Sometimes students ask me questions and I have to offer them my best guess at the answer. I tell them, 'You could do that research.'"

The study of neuroscience at CAS has grown dramatically over the past two decades. When Cronin-Golomb joined the BU faculty in 1989, after getting her PhD from the California Institute of Technology, there were few students in the field of what was then called biopsychology. She played an instrumental role in cultivating the growing student interest in neuroscience. She developed the undergraduate neuropsychology course, which has become a barometer of the growing student interest in the field. Each year enrollment in the course grew until there were 60 students and a waiting list.

The steady growth of interest in this and related courses led CAS to establish a neuroscience major in 2008.

Mentoring the next generation of neuroscientists is a top priority for Cronin-Golomb and her fellow CAS professors connected with the neuroscience major. In the Vision & Cognition Lab, graduate and undergraduate students participate in the leading-edge research.

"The grad students mentor the undergrads," says Cronin-Golomb. "I love that, and I love the idea of undergraduates doing research."

Cronin-Golomb's goal is not only to train others; she is also driven by a personal connection to, and respect for, the elderly. While some people stigmatize Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and approach them with a sense of dread, she recognizes that the elderly, including some of her test subjects, are full of vitality.

"I love working with Parkinson's patients," she says. "It is probably from my background. My grandma lived upstairs from me. She had all these brothers, sisters, and cousins, and they'd play these really competitive games of pinochle. So they weren't doting old people. This gave me the idea of old people as very vivacious, and only later did I come across the attitude that old people are slow and frail."

AMERICAN PORTRAIT

BY TRICIA BRICK

Gallerist and art historian Warren Adelson's love affair with America's paintings

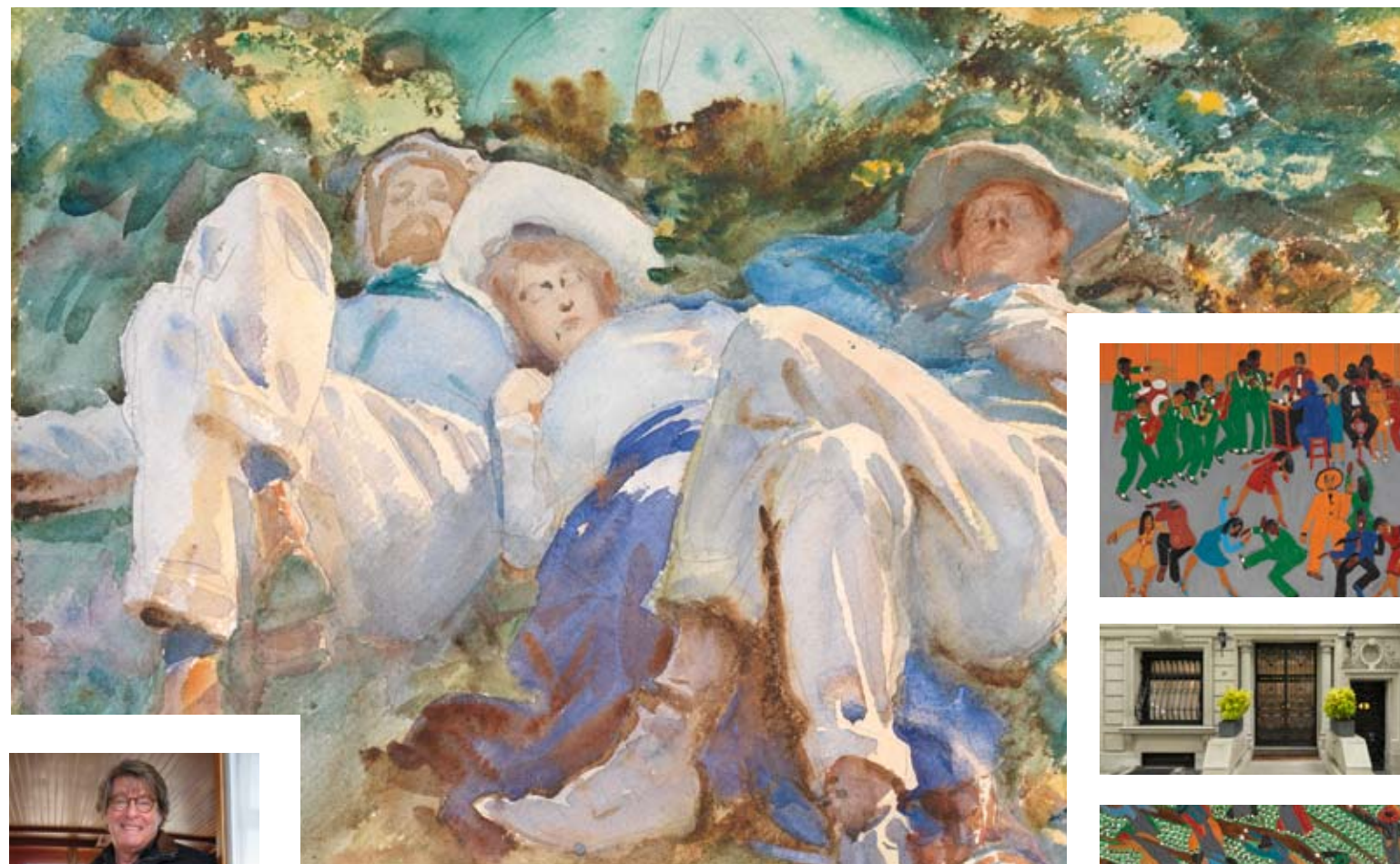
It was 1964, in the days when ladies wore hats and white gloves as they strolled past the venerable art galleries of Boston's Newbury Street. Alongside the established showrooms of Vose, Childs, and Castano, 22-year-old Warren Adelson founded his own salon, Adelson Galleries, in a walk-down storefront at 167 Newbury Street where paintings by Boston impressionists like John J. Enneking and Charles Woodbury could be bought for \$100 or so.

Most American painters were still considered the poor relations of the European artists who occupied the museum walls and art history textbooks of the time, but Adelson, a newly minted graduate of BU's Art History Department, from which he'd earned a master's degree, found in their work a lodestar for his young career. "My time at Boston University taught me about art history and drew me to the areas of art that I found to be the most interesting, which were really Renaissance and Baroque painting," says Adelson (CAS'63, GRS'64). "But I went into American art because it was so inexpensive and available, whereas you couldn't readily go into the Old Master

business. So I dealt in these American pictures, and then the more I looked at them, the more I liked them."

Times have changed. Today, Adelson Galleries is located in an elegant townhouse on Manhattan's East 82nd Street, a stone's throw from the city's Museum Mile. In the intervening years, as he shuttered his Newbury Street shop, moved to New York, and, in 1990, reopened the gallery bearing his name, Adelson has broadened his purview to the present day, representing such contemporary artists as Jamie Wyeth, Andrew Stevovich, and Stephen Scott Young. But he continues to specialize in the turn-of-the-century American artists he'd come to love in his salad days, and upon whose work he has built a reputation as not only a respected gallerist but an eminent art historian.

"Most dealers are interested in showing and promoting their works, and of course they become very knowledgeable," says Patricia Hills, CAS professor of American art history and Adelson's longtime friend. "But Warren brings a rare level of scholarship to the catalogs that his gallery produces; they are like museum catalogs."



Left: Warren Adelson aboard Jamie Wyeth's boat *The Dreadnaught*, Summer 2009

Above: Image from the recent exhibition *American Works on Paper 1880-1930*: John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) *The Siesta*, c. 1905, Watercolor on paper, 14 x 20 inches

Middle Right: Adelson Gallery, New York

Images from the *Winfred Rembert* exhibition, April 7 through May 28, 2010:

Top Right: Winfred Rembert (b. 1945) *Egg: Jazz Dancing*, 2009, Dye on carved and tooled leather, 29 1/4 x 35 1/4 inches

Bottom Right: Winfred Rembert (b. 1945) *Cotton Rows*, 2009, Dye on carved and tooled leather, 23 x 24 3/4 inches

All art images courtesy of Adelson Galleries, New York.

For more than three decades Adelson has been working with Richard Ormond, a distinguished art historian as well as John Singer Sargent's great-nephew, on Sargent's catalogue raisonné—a comprehensive tome detailing all of the artist's known works. The sixth volume of the planned nine-volume series is to be published by Yale University Press this fall. "It's allowed me to follow in Sargent's footsteps and meet some of the people he knew and some of the descendants of people he knew, and to go to some of the places he went—and to get such greater feeling for his life and for his art," Adelson says.

For Adelson, the stories behind the paintings can be as compelling as the art, and he has turned his art historian's eye to books on Sargent, Maurice Prendergast, Childe Hassam, and other artists, as well as to the Mary Cassatt catalogue raisonné, which will be published online next year.

a folk artist, as such," Adelson says. "But I think his work is so evocative, and he's so charismatic, and it's just a great story—one that I think should be shown and told."

The new show is a step in the ongoing evolution of Adelson Galleries, to be sure. But it is less than a departure, in the fundamental sense that Rembert is an American artist—like Sargent and Cassatt, like Winslow Homer and Georgia O'Keeffe, like Jamie Wyeth and his father, Andrew. American art history continues to captivate and inspire Adelson "because it's all about America," he says. "Art isn't just about paintings on walls; it's about who painted them, and why they painted them, and what they were painting, and within what fabric they're woven."

The Evolving World of Art

In his role as chair of the CAS Dean's Leadership Advisory Board, Warren Adelson asked his fellow board members to "look into their hearts and see what most interests them, and to talk about how that interest could align with the curriculum at Boston University." He was speaking from personal experience. In 1996, he endowed the Beaze and Harry Adelson Research Fellowship to support doctoral students' research for their dissertations on topics of American art; the Jan and Warren Adelson Curatorial Fellowship in American Art, established in 2000, provides three years of tuition and a stipend to a student pursuing a PhD in American art history. He has also given to the Patricia Hills Endowed Graduate Fellowship Fund in Art History, and contributed a modest subsidy to the University of California Press for the publication of Hills's new book, *Painting Harlem Modern: The Art of Jacob Lawrence*.

"My interest is to strengthen the American part of the art history curriculum, though the department as a whole has a global focus," says Adelson, whose son, Adam (CGS'10), is a sophomore at BU.

"Over the last decade, our department has been transformed to reflect the increasingly international nature of art today," says Professor Fred Kleiner, chair of the Art History Department. The international focus doesn't mean that Western art is being set aside. Indeed, a new study-abroad program at London's venerable Courtauld Institute of Art offers BU students the opportunity to spend a semester at one of the world's foremost institutions for the study of European art.

And at home, students can get hands-on experience in mounting exhibitions—from planning shows and writing catalog essays to designing lighting—at the Boston University Art Gallery, "the art history equivalent of a lab for a natural-sciences department," Kleiner says. As the curriculum adapts to an evolving field, students are empowered to pursue their individual interests, whether that be in art of the Renaissance or Islamic art; whether they dream of becoming museum curators specializing in Japanese prints or dealers of American art.

JACKED TO THE FUTURE



AN ENTREPRENEUR WITH HIS EYE ALWAYS ON
BRINGING YOU THE NEXT BIG THING

—BY PATRICK L. KENNEDY

The crowd roars and sways to your rendition of Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine." Sweating, shredding hot licks, you nail every note of the guitar solo. Your spouse croons the outro. Thundering away on bass is your 10-year-old cousin. And bashing the drums, your Mom.

Together, you've played your way up from small clubs to stadiums—all without leaving your living room. Or, for that matter, knowing how to play music.

Of course, you've been playing *Rock Band*—the home video game that allows non-musicians to vicariously don spiked leather jackets and live out their dreams of rock stardom, using guitar-shaped controllers, a microphone, and drum pads. The game (along with its related titles, including the original smash hit *Guitar Hero*) has become a popular pastime everywhere, from family gatherings to hip bars, where patrons now play *Rock Band* as easily as they do trivia, foosball, and billiards.

Bryan Biniak (CAS'90) was there when Harmonix, the games' maker, consisted of two guys in a dorm room at MIT. *Guitar Hero's* ancestor was "on a Macintosh computer, on a gray-and-white screen, and the mechanism for making music was a mouse," Biniak recalls. He met the young Harmonix founders in 1995 after receiving a tip from Shelley Moore (CAS'92, GSM'96), who then worked in what was known as the Community Technology Fund at BU (now Technology Development). Becoming Harmonix's vice president for business development, Biniak set about "helping to figure out how to 'productize' the software," he says. With five years of international business experience and contact-building already under his belt, Biniak

began securing investors for this new start-up. Moreover, he worked with Walt Disney Imagineering to create a theme park attraction based on the technology. He developed prototypes of music toys with Mattel and Intel, an arcade game with Sega, and karaoke products with Japanese companies. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Biniak and his colleagues, Harmonix eventually sold to MTV Networks, and *Rock Band* became the social phenomenon that it is today.

That wouldn't be the first or last time Biniak helped turn an idea into a success. As chief operating officer of YourMobile in 2001, he was instrumental in bringing the first ring tones to cell phones across North America. When the business sold to Vivendi Universal and became Moviso, Biniak stayed on and worked to bring music, videos, and even Match.com to phones.

From there, Biniak was recruited by American Greetings, the world's second-largest greeting-card company, to start its wireless division. Managing

150 executives in eight offices around the globe, he grew the business from zero to \$28 million in revenues. "I partnered with Univision and we created Univision Mobile, offering wireless content to the Hispanic market in the U.S. We partnered with [rap producer] Russell Simmons and created Def Jam Mobile, and worked with *Sports Illustrated* to create SI Mobile."

Biniak's most recent venture, Jacked, might change the way we watch TV. "The idea is to reinvent television from a theatrical or linear, passive experience, to an interactive, participatory, social experience," says Biniak. A California resident, he started the company in 2006 in the Santa Monica Library before moving it to an office next to a repair shop at the city's airport.

The Jacked technology offers viewers a suite of automatically updating applications, such as link suggestions, photos, news feeds, and live chat, that complement their chosen TV programming. According to research Biniak follows, many Americans (especially young ones) watch television while simultaneously using their laptop computers to look up information, or converse with friends, about the broadcast they're watching.

"There's a huge percentage of people in this country who stopped waiting for interactive television and, with the proliferation of wireless devices and networks in-home, basically started creating their own interactive television experiences. But they have to go look for this stuff manually. What we're doing is automating that."

Biniak's goal is to make Jacked the standard "second screen" application, the way Google is the standard search engine. Jacked's first product, launched in December 2007, is the SPORTSTOP. The company has deals with broadcasters and sports leagues to provide fans with the service during games—for example, Jacked runs on NBCSports.com during Sunday night football. Revenues come from targeted advertising.

BINIAK'S MOST RECENT VENTURE, JACKED, MIGHT CHANGE THE WAY WE WATCH TV.

Jacked began as an application for laptops, but that is changing, Biniak says. "Now, with connected TVs, internet-enabled televisions, we can actually bring Jacked to the television as an overlay for the live broadcast."

Biniak also envisions a near future in which viewers use Jacked to accompany not only sports but also current events coverage, in which alternative sources of information and images would pop up alongside staid network anchors. "We



Photo of Bryan Biniak by Gina Conte.

don't see the reality of what's happening in a lot of places around the world," says Biniak, whose work has taken him all over South and Central America as well as Asia. "Imagine what would happen if people really saw what was going on in Darfur, unsanitized, while they were watching the news."

That vision, Biniak says, is "one of the reasons we are selling to a bigger company with greater resources." With the sale, announced this spring, Jacked will reach a wider audience faster, "and then we don't have to work so hard with our two nickels to get it to where we want it to go."

Biniak remains managing director of Provenance Ventures, a seed and early-stage venture capital firm he founded to support what he calls socially forward investments in media and communications.

He also frequently crosses paths with fellow entrepreneurs who attended BU—some of them his classmates and co-founders of the Kappa Sigma fraternity or the Homecoming committee. "The University encouraged that kind of creative, entrepreneurial approach," says the onetime Scarlet Key winner.

BU also gave Biniak "the opportunity to explore and find out what shoe fits," he adds, recounting his early career interests—psychology, psychiatry—and part-time jobs at Perkins School for the Blind and as a nursing assistant in various hospitals. "Then somehow I navigated into international business and economics!"

"I really look at my experience at Boston University as giving me the confidence to do what I've been able to do today," Biniak says. "I always felt that I had that kind of energy and passion and I just hadn't figured out a way to access it. All those different things at BU allowed me to tap into it, and that ultimately, I think, has been my greatest success."

Dancing Triangles, Zooming Sierpinski!

ROBERT DEVANEY
NAMED AS FIRST FELD
FAMILY PROFESSOR

Mathematicians see beauty in complex equations and chaotic patterns, a symmetry that can elude the rest of us. Some professors, however, can

both see this beauty and teach others to see it as well. Creating wonder out of numbers is Arts & Sciences Professor of Mathematics & Statistics Robert Devaney's specialty, and part of the reason he will be the first CAS Feld Family Professor of Teaching Excellence, beginning in September 2010. Devaney is fascinated with the patterns of dynamical systems—any process that changes or moves in time, from chemical reactions to the movement of the stock market—and the intricacies of complex fractal objects, the fragmented geometric shapes of these systems.

To spread the excitement, Devaney created the Dynamical Systems and Technology Project at Boston University, a website aimed at making complex computer-generated fractals like Sierpinski triangles, Julia sets, and Mandelbrot sets accessible to high school teachers and engaging for their students. "He is the epitome of what a teacher should be," says one of his former students. "He loves his subject and inspires others to pursue that love and make it their own." The Feld Family Professorship is the latest in a long list of accolades Devaney has earned over 30 years at CAS, including BU's 2003 Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching and his induction in 2009 into the Massachusetts Mathematics Educators Hall of Fame.

The Feld family has long supported Boston University, having established SMG's Feld Family Career Center and Agganis Arena's Feld Family Skating Center. Kenneth Feld (SMG'70), chair and CEO of Feld Entertainment, is a BU trustee and chair of the Trustees' Development & Alumni Committee. The Feld Family Foundation's recent \$10 million pledge to BU establishes professorships in three schools attended by members of the family—the College of Arts & Sciences (Bonnie Feld, CAS'73), College of Communication (Alana Feld, COM'02), and School of Management—and will also support other areas of the University.

The CAS Feld Family Professorship is awarded for an initial term of five years, honoring previous achievements as well as continued scholarship and teaching by the Feld Professor. Says Dean of Arts & Sciences Virginia Sapiro, "I am delighted that this professorship allows us to underscore our commitment to excellence in both research and teaching, and to the idea that the best of our faculty are superb scholars who are devoted to undergraduate and graduate education." —Rachel Johnson

To take in a quick show at the Fractal Movie Theater, go to www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Devaney.



Book It

Steven Biondolillo (CAS'77) conquered a mountain of difficulties growing up—an early childhood of harsh poverty and neglect, then life in an orphanage—and went on to become a University-educated wordsmith, an elite wrestler and coach, a highly successful fundraiser for nonprofits, and a loving family man. Be inspired by his first book of poetry, *Macaroni and Cheese Manifesto*, which illuminates touch points along his unique path.

For an exotic adventure, try Amanda Cushman's (CAS'06) translation of *Zarma Folktales of Niger*, based on folklore passed down through generations of a little-known West African people.—JHK

Read more about both writers at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/Bookit.



Rediscover BU

Planet Earth is two-thirds water, yet humankind has focused the majority of its conservation resources and efforts on terra firma.

For Earth Day, on April 22, Arts & Sciences alumni gathered for a panel discussion by faculty from the Boston University Marine Program and Department of Earth Sciences on detecting the human impact on marine environments—and how we can protect and restore these vulnerable ecosystems.

Take a look at issues that matter through the Arts & Sciences Discoveries Lecture Series. Hear distinguished faculty offer their insights into the issues of the day, engage in a lively discussion forum, and meet fellow alums during a post-lecture reception.—JS

For more information, visit www.bu.edu/cas/alumni/discoveries.



Marc Mappen (CAS'67) published *There's More to New Jersey Than the Sopranos* (Rutgers University Press). He is entering his tenth year as the director of the New Jersey Historical Commission. This book—his fifth—has been called by historian Tom Fleming "a delightful read, full of wit and information on every page." Contact Marc at mmappen@gmail.com.

Mark Zvonkovic (CAS'72) of New York City published his first novel, *When Mermaids Sing* (iUniverse 2009). Information about the novel can be found at www.whenmermaidssing.com.

Donald Carmel (CAS'75, MET'76) of Washington, D.C., was recently promoted to the rank of colonel in the United States Army. Col. Carmel was previously employed as an investment banker in New York City. He changed careers after the 9/11 attacks against the United States. To learn more about the awards and decorations he's earned, visit Class Notes online at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring10/class-notes.

Sally Rae Rogers (CAS'75) released *Feel Your Heart's Magic*, a CD of original stories and songs for children that were performed live at Boston's First Night. It is an interactive, uplifting spiritual adventure for young children and families. Children with communication problems will be inspired to communicate. The Jewish legend about Baal Shem Tov has original songs created for this telling. If you have a child, know a child, or ever were a child, this makes a perfect gift. The CD can be purchased at <http://cdbaby.com/cd/SallyRaeRogers>.

Russell L. Fischer (CAS'80) is honored to be included in the Marquis *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, and *Who's Who in Business and Finance* for 2010. Russ is the past president of the BU Alumni Association of Southeast Florida. Contact him at rf3300@aol.com.

John D. Becker (GRS'83) of Castle Rock, Colo., has been appointed a Presidential Management Fellow, a prestigious and highly selective fellowship for recent graduates working within the federal government. Becker received his PhD from the University of Denver's Joseph Korbel School

of International Studies prior to his selection to the fellowship. He will be working as a program and management analyst in the Finance Center of the Small Business Administration in Denver, serving as an advisor to the center's director.

Cameron Davis (CGS'84, CAS'86), appointed by U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in July 2009 as senior advisor, is the Obama administration's point person for restoring the Great Lakes. He's also now an author for the first time. *Confluence* (Booksurge, 2009) is in a new genre: the genealogical memoir or "genoir." In it, he makes family histories fun to read, using his own 300-year family story as an example (including encounters with Lincoln, Washington, and Chicago gangsters—all true).

Elaina (Roschke) Stuard (CAS'87) of Cincinnati, Ohio, is a financial advisor with the Sittenfeld, Stuard & Thornberry Group for Robert W. Baird & Co. In her spare time, she is an advocate for those with special needs. E-mail her at estuard@rwbaird.com.

R. Thomas Rankin (CAS'88) writes, "I still live in Jamestown, N.Y., with my wife and son. This past year, I made partner in my law firm, Goodell & Rankin, and became head of the criminal defense practice group of our two-person law firm. I look forward to arguing my first case before the New York Court of Appeals in 2010. Does anybody know any good hotels in Albany? Not much else going on here except raking leaves and showing my son the subtleties of macaroni and cheese." E-mail Tom at stampguy19@hotmail.com.

Charles "Skuk" Jones (CAS'89) completed his PhD in public policy at UMass Boston, and is now a fellow in the Energy Technology Innovation Policy group at Harvard's Kennedy School.

Jonathan Weinstein (CAS'89) has co-authored, with his business partner Tim Jaques, *Achieving Project Management Success in the Federal Government* (Management Concepts, 2010). This is a first-of-its-kind view into effective project management practices across the huge U.S. government enterprise, providing real-life

case studies from the perspectives of executives and practitioners. Jon has also co-authored chapters in two recent books and numerous articles on project management, organizational development, and other topics. He lives in historic Ellicott City, Md., with his wife, Margaret (SAR'90), and two sons. Jon is a founding partner of Line of Sight (www.line-of-sight.com), which delivers project management, process reengineering, and organizational change management services to government and private sector clients. Reach Jon at jweinstein@line-of-sight.com.

Julie Hooper (CAS'92) of Austin, Tex., has been named the 2010 Outstanding Professional Fundraiser by the Greater Austin Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She is the Assistant Dean for Development & External Relations at the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture. Contact her at jlulierob01@earthlink.net.

Mitchell Goldstein (CAS'93) and his wife, Deanna, would like to announce the birth of their third child. Daughter Ella Winter Goldstein was born on December 20, 2009. Mitch looks forward to catching up with old friends. E-mail him at mpgoldstein@yahoo.com.

Catherine (Hussan) LeDuc (CAS'93) and her husband, Michael, proudly announce the birth of their second child, Jacob Paul, on October 9, 2009. Little JP was also welcomed by his older brother, Aaron.

Nomi (Pearlman) Burstein (CAS'94) and Michael A. Burstein (GRS'93) welcomed twin girls, Elisheva Meira and Yael Batya, on July 19, 2009. Reach Nomi at gnomi@asknomi.com.

Tracy (Quinn) McLennan (CAS'94, COM'94) joined Vistaprint—the global company that offers high-quality printed marketing products and services for small businesses and consumers—as the senior copy manager in the Marketing Services Department. She and her husband live in Shrewsbury, Mass., and are enjoying raising their three-year-old son, Andrew. Contact Tracy at tquinnmclennan@gmail.com.

Amy E. Robertson (CAS'94) moved from Seattle, Wash., to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in 2007, and in 2009 published her first book, *Honduras and the Bay Islands* (Moon Handbooks), which she co-authored with Chris Humphrey. Amy has been freelance writing for magazines and newspapers for the past four years. A select list of her publications can be found at www.mediabistro.com/AmyERobertson. She hopes fellow alumni will visit Honduras soon! Reach her at aerobertson@yahoo.com.

Zarrar Sehgal (CAS'94) was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Zarrar is a partner at the law firm of Clifford Chance, where he heads the Global Asset Finance group. Contact him at zsehgal@gmail.com.

Graham Morehead (CAS'95) is currently pursuing a PhD in computer science at the University of Maine, with a concentration in linguistic knowledge representation. Contact him at gm@pangeon.com.

Kimberly (Audet) Cornwell (CAS'96, LAW'99) and Peter "Chip" Cornwell (SAR'97) of North Attleboro, Mass., announce the birth of their second

I just ...

- published a book
- went back to school
- found my calling
- saw the world
- went on a mission
- got married
- had a baby
- started my first job
- finished my last job



Whatever you've been up to, we'd like to hear about it. Send us an e-mail with your stories or photos, and we'll share them in Class Notes.

casalum@bu.edu



