

Collegian

Chicago's Hockey Savior

It may be a team sport, but fans credit one man with reigniting a city's love of ice hockey.

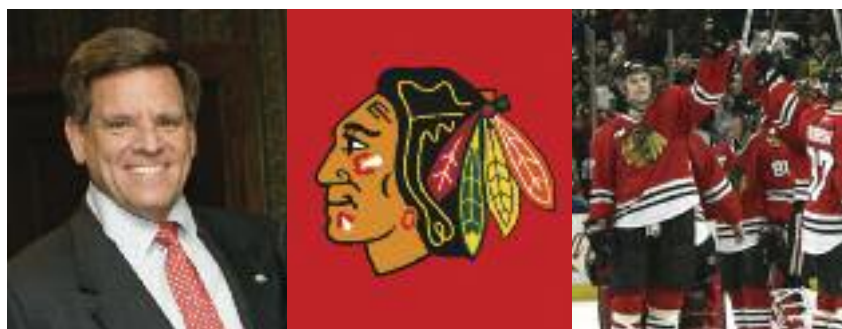
BY ANDREW THURSTON

Chicago loves sports. The natives jam into Wrigley Field for the Cubs, pack U.S. Cellular Field for the White Sox, fill up Soldier Field for the Bears, and squeeze into United Center for the Bulls.

Chicago's National Hockey League (NHL) team, the Blackhawks, has had a trickier time selling seats. And that's being polite. For the last ten years, maybe more, Chicago had been falling out of love with its Blackhawks.

That was until W. Rockwell "Rocky" Wirtz ('73) came along. It's barely a year since he took over the franchise in October 2007, and already the love is back. Attendance is up by around a third, and a decade-long losing streak has been broken with a winning season. Chicago cares about NHL again and, though he's too modest to admit it, there's only one name on the lips of fans: Rocky Wirtz.

"He's the type of owner Chicagoans have been hoping for," says Matt Johnson, a Blackhawks blogger for independent sports media company, Most Valuable Network. On the surface, that



means the type of owner who's going to throw in enough money to bring the Stanley Cup back to Chicago; beyond that, it's someone who's prepared to shake things up front-of-house. Wirtz is that man—he's applying the lessons of some 25 years at the top of the business world to reinvent a sports franchise. The old management hierarchy has been dismantled, replaced by new faces and slick marketing moves; even the traditional game-time organ music has been scaled back in favor of contemporary tunes.

Born into a thriving family business that took in liquor distribution, the Blackhawks, and more, Wirtz could've been forgiven for putting his feet up and letting life roll past. He didn't. Determined to get to work, he crammed courses into every ounce of

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ON THE INSIDE



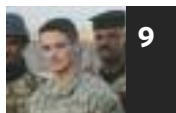
4 The tales of an award-winning author and College legend.



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6 How a ragged letter from the U.S. President got BU voting.



9 Soldiers, actors, authors, composers—what are your classmates doing?

Rocky Wirtz

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Rocky Wirtz on the ice at Chicago's United Center.

free time, finishing his business degree at Northwestern early and punctuating his college career with a stint at the College of General Studies.

"I came to BU because I thought it'd be nice to go out east for a couple of years," says Wirtz, "The hockey was intriguing too, and I liked the city of Boston. Plus, it was nice to have the small structure at CGS."

But business called him back west: "I knew I wanted to go into the wholesale liquor end of the business. Always," says Wirtz. He joined the family firm under the wing of his powerhouse grandfather, Wirtz Corp founder, Arthur Wirtz. A commanding figure who'd make people wait for hours before meeting them in his ice cold office, the elder Wirtz was old school: "You'd be waiting there to be summoned, and after about three and half hours, you'd see people who were full of vinegar at the beginning, be more like a pussycat by the time they got into him," jokes his grandson. By contrast, Rocky Wirtz is famed for his approachability.

But for the tales of watching his grandfather in his domain or of seeing his own father, Bill Wirtz, talk business on the phone until late at night while "his dinner would be in the oven waiting," says Wirtz, he comes back to one important lesson: "I understood I had to lead by example."

And Blackhawks fans are ready to follow. After making his mark in the liquor business, Wirtz took the helm at the Blackhawks, determined to put his hard-earned business savvy to work.

It hadn't always been the plan. Playing for, owning, even cleaning up for an NHL team would be the ultimate for millions of Americans; not Rocky.

"I was a big hockey fan, but I was more interested in business, that's why I went into the liquor business. Starting there forces you to become a very good businessman."

"When you move over to the hockey side, then it makes a lot of sense, but there are not too many people who made their fortunes in hockey. They might have done well if they'd sold it, but they weren't rolling in dough operating it."

He may not be able to get the Blackhawks rolling in the dough just yet, but Wirtz believes he can "create the gold standard" in the sport for how a franchise should be run.

"You approach your business on the ice the same way you approach your business off the ice," he says. "You have seamless preparation to create the best in sports

entertainment. We're looking to elevate our business side to be a model in sports, but the ultimate goal is to win the Stanley Cup."

That kind of approach meant that Wirtz was making changes, on and off the ice, within days of taking charge. A TV deal was struck—the first ever for Blackhawks home games—a new president came in from the Chicago Cubs, and team legends were invited back on the ice after years in the cold. Optimism quickly began to spread among fans. Even the players picked up on the vibe, turning in 40 victories.

"Rocky has thrown his wallet into the ring in order to keep key players, and promises to do the same to bring players in, but that's just the beginning," says Johnson. "What really hits home with me is that he is present in the organization—he attends games, he smiles, makes appearances, holds press conferences, and cheers his beloved Blackhawks. His accessibility has put him at the top of the heap when it comes to Chicago sports ownership."

Wirtz wouldn't go that far—"It's like the coach; he's only as good as the team," he says—but the challenge of competing against the Windy City's other sports draws has clearly got him fired up: "It's good that you have to make yourself relevant; if you're not relevant to your fans, then there's no reason to continue. We're trying to reconnect with the fans."

It seems to be working: Chicago loves sports. No exceptions. ●
Rob Zagarella contributed to this article.

CGS: IN BRIEF

BY RACHEL JOHNSON AND ANDREW THURSTON

Going Green

Moves begin toward an eco-friendly College

The College of General Studies has launched its first green scheme, starting with recycling bins and energy-saving lightbulbs. That seemed an easy enough first step for CGS, but with funding, contractor deals, and disposal to negotiate, it was a steep learning curve. The impact, by contrast, was immediate: “As soon as the bins were out, they were filled within hours—the need was there,” says the College’s recycling coordinator, Heidi Chase.

And while the recycling process continues to have unforeseen hurdles—students not rinsing bottles has left Chase “dealing with the stickiness of going green”—she’s already thinking about what comes next: “We wanted to start small, and then expand as the program succeeded.”

A model for expansion could be the School of Education’s pioneering sedGreen, a committee of faculty, staff, and students, which recently made the leap from recycling bins to a rooftop solar panel and wind turbine.

To find out more about BU’s green efforts, visit our Greening the Campus website: www.bu.edu/green.

Helping CGS go green are (from l to r): Adanta Ahanonu ('08), Morgan Mooney ('08), Heidi Chase (SPH'08), and Justin Breton ('08).



Student Athlete Awards

A small group of seniors were recognized at the annual BU Student Athlete awards. Honors go to the top-pick male and female athletes, as well as those who led their respective sports.

Six CGS alums picked up awards: Pam Spuehler ('06, CAS'08) for field hockey*, Derek Puerta ('05, COM'08) for soccer**, Molly Collins ('06, CAS'08) for lacrosse, Jay Gorman ('06, CAS'08) for wrestling, Megan Labella ('06, COM'08) for track and field, and Giulio Gallarotti ('06, COM'08) for tennis.

* Also named top female athlete.

** Also named top male scholar-athlete.

Scarlet Key Society

An unprecedented number CGS alumni joined the prestigious Scarlet Key Society in spring 2008, honoring their service to BU. Shown below with Dean Wells and other academic advisors are: Francesca Okolie ('06, CAS'08), Rani Woods, ('06, CAS'08), Feather Moy-Welsh ('06, CAS'08), Jacques Minoyan ('06, CAS'08), Erica Mosca* ('06, COM'08), Jamie Williams** ('06, UNI'08), Ricardo Junquera ('06, CAS'08), Vanessa Porter ('06, CAS'08), and Mark DiCristofaro ('06, COM'08). Katelyn Guastafarro ('06, CAS'08), not pictured, also joined the society.

* Also given the BU Alumni Award. ** Also given the BU Commitment to Service Award.



The Story Teller

Robert Wexelblatt is an award-winning author and teacher, but, he tells *Collegian*, he can never mix his two lives.



BY ANDREW THURSTON

It's a cozy image of an author's den. A summer room where stories take shape, with the comforting atmosphere of an old pipe, a lamp made in ninth grade, a worn-out door doubling as a desk, and a father's old stapler. This is the summer sanctuary of Robert Wexelblatt. In his other life, his fall, winter, and spring life, Wexelblatt teaches from a shady office tucked away on a top-floor corner of the College of General Studies.

The seasonal split is Wexelblatt's way of separating his creative writing from his life as a college professor. During his 30 years teaching literature and philosophy at CGS, Wexelblatt has never

been able to mix his two lives; a prolific author, he can't begin to put pen to paper during a semester, instead dedicating entire summers to feverish bouts of writing. Our conversation shares that sharp break—talk of books doesn't mingle with enthusiastic tales of current classes and past classroom glories.

First we hear from Wexelblatt the author, beginning to promote his award-winning new novel, *Zublinka Among Women*.

"My doctoral dissertation was a test of character rather than of talent; writing came again in reaction to that forced labor. I remember that I just wrote story after story; it came flooding out and I realized it was something I wanted to do."

It's the story of an immigrant academic coming to terms with America and his former life behind the Iron Curtain. While *Zublinka* enters the novel with scholarly bravado, Wexelblatt introduces his own story with an admission. He confesses that, "maladjusted and lonely" during high school, he was the archetypal teenage poet. Writing then took a backseat when he was in college until an irksome doctoral dissertation opened the floodgates.

"My doctoral dissertation was a test of character rather than of talent; writing came again in reaction to that forced labor. I remember that I just wrote story after story; it came flooding out and I realized it was something I wanted to do."

The words continued to pour out during subsequent summers—he's since published streams of short stories, including two collections, and a book of essays. But one short story continued to demand more—the tale of Dr. Zublinka.

"Right after I graduated, I took a trip to Europe and spent four days in Prague; it's a capital I've been drawing from ever since," says Wexelblatt. "It entered my imagination and I began picturing this character who left, not as a young man but in his middle age. Why would he do that? The reason became crucial."

After *Zublinka*'s first appearance, Wexelblatt itched to keep exploring.

"When the collection was reviewed, this story was mentioned more than the others, and I didn't feel as if I was done with the character. I wrote a couple of stories about him, but I decided I could only understand the character better in an extended fiction, so then I very deliberately sat down to write a novel."

Though not his first attempt at a novel—"There are two or three others, but they're not any good"—going back to a character did mark something of a departure.

"I like to publish because I like to be done with something. My publisher has big marketing plans for *Zublinka Among Women*, but I warned him that I'm not going to be good at that; I tend to lose interest when something is done."

But the marketing, the photo shoots, the interviews, seem to be a necessary payoff, a stamp of approval that will allow him to pick up the fountain pen he uses for his fiction again next year.

"I think of publishing as a validation. It's as if someone says 'You have permission to write something.' Writing is very challenging, but I feel compelled to do it. When you write something, you feel more powerful; I feel that I'm entitled to the air and water I'm using up a little more because I'm being productive."

Now we meet another Robert Wexelblatt. In the blink of a question, the author slides from view: "I'm in teaching mode, or I'm in writing mode," he warns.

The professor's story begins with an exclamation during Wexelblatt's undergraduate studies.

"I grew up in a family of lawyers and thought I would be a lawyer because that's what you did if you were male," says Wexelblatt. "Halfway through college, I woke up and had an oral hallucination: a voice said: 'How would you like to be a



lawyer all day?' I said out loud, 'No!' It was a revelation."

Trouble is, says Wexelblatt, nothing stepped in to replace lawyer as a career path, so he sulked until, he says, "One day I found myself in front of a class during my PhD program and discovered how much I liked it."

The College of General Studies proved to be the natural home for this new-found direction. Affectionately known as Wex by generations of stu-

dents, he revels in being a generalist. A morning passes as he excitedly shares 30 years of anecdotes, of a student who was "superficially a cliché" but became a globe-trotting free-spirit married to a gigolo, and of a bored geology professor who switched fields to become the country's leading ornithologist.

"I don't actually like being around people who are like me," says Wexelblatt, nodding toward the open office doors of the historians and scientists he shares a floor with. "You make a bargain when you teach at CGS. I willingly gave up being an authority on something. But my interests are varied, and one of the real delights is that I've been able to teach a philosophy course; I never would've done that in a traditional English department."

One thing he won't willingly give up is his summer: "I need a lot of empty time to write," he says. But at the end of those three months of "lonely writing," the author will be locked away until the next summer, allowing the teacher to get back to work. ●



Hail to the Chief

If you thought college students were apathetic, you were just speaking to the wrong ones.

BY ANDREW THURSTON

The letter from the President of the United States is ragged and filthy; one of the stains could even be peanut butter. Every word has been pored over for a decade, but one sentence is always read a little more than the others. The letter is from Bill Clinton to Rani Woods ('06, CAS'08); he was the president, she was a second-grader looking for answers on the environment.

"The last line said that it was my responsibility to help society," says Woods. "I didn't know in second grade what that meant, but I knew I owed someone something, owed this country something. Since then, that's been the definitive theme in anything I've gotten involved in."

At some point, she doesn't remember when, Woods realized the letter, now battered by frequent reading, wasn't handwritten; by then, it didn't matter.

"It was an auto pen letter that probably didn't mean anything to anyone, but when you're in second grade, you think the president wants you to be a leader. It's still my most prized possession. It's just this messy, disgusting letter on my shelf and I still look to it because I know that it's important."

And so when she came to BU, Woods became a leader: first "screaming my lungs out outside Marsh Chapel" for justice and equality as president of the Unitarian Society, then taking the helm for the BU Democrats, and finally as the driving force behind a campus-wide campaign to get more students to the voting booth. That movement, the cross-party Race to

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2008, built up enough momentum to secure ex-presidential candidate Senator John Kerry as a speaker and land Woods spots on CNN and C-SPAN.

For a couple of months in the fall of 2007, campus Democrats and Republicans set aside their differences to organize the nonpartisan campaign, trying to tap into the new-found passion for politics sweeping the nation's colleges.

"This was about bringing in those people who have been outside the electorate. The great thing we did was to say you just have to be passionate about an issue, not a party."

The team behind the campaign organized YouTube videos, a website, and a two-day event, with speakers talking about the environment, human rights, the economy, and other hot topics. They then tried to help students find the presidential primary candidate who best matched their view on an issue.

As for Kerry, getting him to speak may've been a coup, but he shouldn't expect a return invitation from Woods. Not without showing her his script first anyway.

"Kerry was a surprise. We were hoping he'd share some of the insight from his presidential run; unfortunately, it seemed more like he was running for president again. We got an update on foreign policy that couldn't be matched by anyone else; I just wish he'd stayed more focused on the students.

"For a lot of people, it's about having a big name. For me, that wasn't what this conference was about; the conference was about activism."

Activism seems to keep Woods ticking, and she gives an exasperated puff of the cheeks as we talk about the alleged apathy of younger voters.

"I'm tired of it. We're not apathetic, we do care about issues, we're not just this 'I' generation," she says firmly. "It may not be every student who's going to create a conference, but there are a lot of students out there who are trying to make their stamp."

Woods's own stamp isn't just limited to the United States. Born in India, but raised alongside her Japanese brother by a Finnish mother and Polish father in the cultural melting pot of Los Angeles, she claims a "combined sense of responsibility to this country with an international interest."

A semester spent working in the United Kingdom government's foreign office—as part of the Boston University intern abroad program—helped channel some of that interest into action. And when a British reality TV star whipped up a storm in India after racially abusing a Bollywood actress, Woods found herself a close-up witness to a diplomatic crisis.

"It was horrible; it was really hard for the people, and it brought up a lot of feelings and emotions. It was a huge embarrassment, and there were formal apologies to the Indian government."

Standing at the center of the UK parliament was, however, compelling for Woods: "Standing in there, I thought: 'Wow, this is history; they used to rule the world from here.'"

Such power may be out of Woods's reach for the moment—she's about to start a public affairs program in L.A. Besides, she confesses that she doesn't crave a life in the spotlight, admitting politics may be too much of a "bloody sport" for her. Then again, just how many future candidates have coyly demurred when asked if they intend to run for office? ●



From Fine Design to Fine Wine

The graphic designer's guide to high-end restaurant management.

BY PATRICK L. KENNEDY

A flash of teenage resolve can pay off sometimes. Back in Orange County, California, Cristina Barbatti's dreams of college on the East Coast smacked into a parental wall. "My dad wanted me to go to a school in San Diego," she recalls. "When I told him I wanted to go to Boston, he said, 'You know I've always said you can do anything you put your mind to, and you're gonna have to figure this one out on your own.'"

"I said, 'Watch me.'"

By scholarship, and working two jobs, Barbatti ('05, COM'07) came to Boston University College of General Studies. However, after two years, her scholarship ended. "I wasn't sure if I could continue here."

Thanks to the generosity of an alum, she could and did. Barbatti received one of two \$10K scholarships for students completing CGS and continuing in COM. "I would not have been able to stay at BU if I hadn't gotten that scholarship," says Barbatti, who also secured a position as a resident assistant in the CGS House. "I was really, really fortunate."

Around this time, Barbatti left her hostess job at fashionable Newbury Street eatery Sonsie for an even better one at nearby Clio. "The restaurant industry works so well with a school schedule," Barbatti says. Despite the long days, she stuck with it because she enjoyed it. "I would much rather be in a candle-lit, people-filled environment on my feet, than sitting in a fluorescent-lit cubicle by myself," she says.

The experience also spurred her to take an elective in the School of Hospitality Administration, Introduction to Fine Wines. "My wine textbook was probably bigger than all of my other books at the time," she says, laughing. "It's huge!" The hefty tome sits on her coffee table today.

At COM, meanwhile, Barbatti was drawn to the creative side of advertising. She became an art director in AdLab, the College's student-run advertising agency.



"We designed a newsletter for a real estate company, and I loved it."

After graduation, Barbatti moved back to California and began applying for openings in ad agencies. To tide her over, she took a hostess job at a brand-new upscale Huntington Beach restaurant called Flight Bistro and Social Lounge. "I thought, 'I'll do it part-time while I continue my job search—no big deal.'"

In two weeks, she was hired as manager.

And it turns out, not only is her salary higher than it would've been at some of the jobs she'd been applying for, "It really is a combination of my degree and my restaurant background... I do all the designing and illustrations for our table-top and e-mail promotions; I helped design our

menu and our website—and I could never have done that if I hadn't taken design at BU."

Doubling as event manager for Flight's fancy function room, she's put on everything from a fundraiser for Invisible Children—a nonprofit dedicated to bettering life for children in war-torn Uganda—to a 40th birthday party featuring a performance by Afroman.

For advice or just to chat, Barbatti still calls her old CGS mentors and classmates often; those were the strongest relationships she formed here, she says. "I'm so happy I went to CGS. I can't imagine doing BU any other way."

What will Barbatti do next?

Watch her. ●

Class Notes

1960s

Milton "Sandy" Martin ('60, COM'62), of Durham, N.H., is the president of Martin Family Enterprises, a financial service company. He is also the director for the Exeter Rotary's Karaoke Idol and Dance Event, which provides local performers the opportunity to showcase their talents and help with a good cause.

K. Gordon White ('60, SED'63), of Sabattus, Maine, is in his fourth year of retirement after a long career as an Episcopal priest.

Bernice Jasper ('61, CAS'63), of Newport, R.I., fondly recalls the College when it was located on Boylston Street and Exeter; among her memories is this one of dozing in art class: "Mr. Snyder taught art," she writes, "and even though I must admit to snoozing in the darkened lecture hall when he turned down the lights and showed art slides, I passed his course with a never-to-be relinquished appreciation of art."

Sandy (Cohen) Ojeda ('64, SED'66), of San Fernando, Calif., recently retired from a rewarding teaching career with the Los Angeles Schools, and now tutors and writes a column for a newspaper. She would love to hear from classmates and friends at sosandybeach@verizon.net.

Gerard Snyder, VMD ('65, CAS'67), of Secaucus, N.J., is senior editor at Veterinary Productivity, a consulting company and periodical producer. Snyder has practiced veterinary medicine for 35 years.

Edward Westerman ('66, COM'68), of Framingham, Mass., was elected chairman of the board of Art beCAUSE, a foundation raising money to fund research into the environmental causes of breast cancer (www.artbecause.org). Ed has been a member of the foundation's board for four years.

1970s

Gershon "Gersh" Blumstein ('74, CAS'76), of West Bloomfield, Mich., is the corporate Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt for Detroit Edison Energy. Blumstein and his wife have four children. He is also pursuing a master's in organizational change. He hopes to hear from fellow classmates at gershblumstein@comcast.net.

Sue Thau ('74, CAS'76), of White Plains, N.Y., after a career as a psychotherapist and eight years as a kosher caterer, has opened a café. Sue would love to hear from old BU friends at sthau-taim@att.net.

Margaret Lowrie Robertson ('75, COM'77), of London, UK, continues to receive acclaim for her first novel, *Season of Betrayal*. This novel details

the personal struggles of an American wife who finds herself in war-torn Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983, following her journalist husband. Most recently, Robertson was an international correspondent for CNN's London Bureau and lives in the city with her husband, Nic Robertson, and their two daughters.

Michael Gualtieri ('77, COM'80), of West Hartford, Conn., was elected president of the Messenger Courier Association of the Americas for 2008-09. Gualtieri has worked in the courier industry for almost 30 years, founding ProCourier in 1997. He lives in West Hartford with his wife, Sharon, and their three children.

1980s

Cyndi Miller Middleton ('80, COM'82), of Pepperell, Mass., president and CEO of Four Paws Design, recently launched a line of all-natural dog shampoo and aromatherapy sprays. The two years spent at CGS were the cornerstone for 20 successful years in the high-tech industry and now life as an entrepreneur. Learn more at www.fourpawsdesign.com.

Jennifer Poteet ('83), of Glen Ridge, N.J., currently serves as the premiums manager for Thirteen/WNET in New York.



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The poster features a woman in a white sweater and skirt holding a large megaphone, set against a red and white background. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts.

CLASS NOTES

Stuart Trautenberg ('83), of Laguna Beach, Calif., started his executive search firm in Kenmore Square when he was 23 years old. Stuart is happy to report that he recently celebrated his company's 20th anniversary. He and his wife have a two year old. Stuart recalls: "My life experience at CGS was the toughest education apart from surviving Atlantic City High School in New Jersey. Professors like Dean Wells did not let me snow them with my silver tongue and charm, and mentored me to work hard with no shortcuts. I was taught structure and discipline. I needed it."

Steven Schoenfeld ('84, CAS'86), of Portland, Ore., is practicing law, specializing in workers' compensation and civil rights cases. He has been published on his practice area. He has two children, ages 16 and 13.

Sami Nawas ('85, SMG'87), of Atherton, Calif., is leading the revival of the San Francisco Bay Area BU Alumni Club and connecting with many local BU graduates. He says he is "rewarded by meeting many other wonderful alumni." Sami is married and has three daughters. He would love to hear from all CGS alumni in the Bay Area. Connect with Sami at saminawas@alum.bu.edu.

Alvin Daniels ('86, COM'88), of Chicago, Ill., has directed a film, *Smokescreen*, which will be featured in the 2008 Hollywood Black Film Festival in Los Angeles.

Martha Shaw ('86, CAS'89), of Hartford, Conn., is a partner in a midsize Hartford law firm where she practices employment and civil rights defense work. She is happily renovating an old Victorian home with her partner, Dave. Friends and classmates can e-mail Martha at marthashaw@hotmail.com.

1990s

Michael Polin ('90, COM'92), of Bradenton, Fla., works in the communications and marketing department for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Fla. Polin and his wife, Mary, have a son, Erik, 6.

Michelle "Mimi" Murphy ('91), of Milwaukee, Wis., earned her JD from Marquette University Law School in May 2008. Following CGS, Mimi matriculated at Georgetown University, where she completed her BA in government and theology, then earned a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University. Mimi would love to hear from her fellow classmates, **Shelly Hamm ('92, COM'93)**, **Michael T. Smith ('91, COM'93)**, **Juliet McCort**, and **Erick Riley ('91, CAS'93, MET'00)**. You can contact Mimi at mimi_murphy@hotmail.com.

Tracy Paul ('91, COM'93), of New York agency, Tracy Paul & Company, Inc. (www.tracypaul.com), continues to grow in status in the PR and marketing arena. Tracy was married in October 2007 and is expecting a baby boy. Tracy and her family have been living between New York and Los Angeles for the past two years.

James Lavino ('93, CAS'95), of London, UK, and his wife Molly Hughes met as students on the BU Oxford program and have lived in London since 2002. James makes his living as a composer. He was recently commissioned to write a piece for the choir of Westminster Abbey, and last year scored documentary films for HBO and the BBC. He is currently collaborating on a film score with members of Radiohead and Clap Your Hands Say Yeah. You can reach him and learn more about his music at www.jameslavino.com.

Christina Bozarth ('95, CAS'97), of Haddonfield, N.J., is a senior benefits specialist with Lockheed Martin in Cherry Hill, N.J. She received her MPA from Rutgers University in 2006. Christina found her best friend, her dog Pooka, at a local nonprofit animal rescue where she volunteers. She would love to hear from Claflin Hall friends and CGS alumni, at christinaboazarth@gmail.com.

Larry Margulies ('95, CAS'97), of Brookline, Mass., owns Bagel Rising, a bagel bakery in Allston, MA, and three Espresso Royale Cafes in Boston, one on campus.

Jon Marrelli ('96, CAS'98), of Brooklyn, N.Y., recently became licensed as a clinical psychologist. He encourages old friends and colleagues to contact him at jmarr31975@aol.com.

Israel Whitbeck ('96, CAS'98), of Laguna Hills, Calif., was married to Johana Gomez in February 2008. He lives and works in Orange County as an attorney with the firm Graves & King, LLP. Israel can be reached at vegasws@yahoo.com.

Alex Baldwin ('99, SMG'01), of Chicago, Ill., received his MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business in June 2008. He is now headed to London, UK, to work and pursue his love of travel. Any friends who would like to reconnect with Alex can reach him at alexbaldwin@alum.bu.edu.

Mark Celusniak ('99, SMG'01), of Littleton, Colo., and his wife, **Kristen Faerber Celusniak (CFA'01)**, moved to Denver in 2006. Mark works with a wealth management team at UBS and Kristen runs her own business as a private music instructor for both voice and piano. They plan to start a family soon. They would like to hear from any alumni living in the Denver metro area and can be reached at mcelus@hotmail.com.

2000

Michael Cohen ('00, COM'02), of Smithtown, N.Y., will be celebrating his wedding in October in East Meadow, N.Y., and would like to say hello to the BU friends he has lost touch with. Please feel free to write to Michael at mscottcohen@gmail.com.

Dianna Jouan ('00, CAS'02), of Redwood City, Calif., is enrolled part time at the University of San Francisco, earning an MBA while working full time at Stanford University. She was married in 2007 to Timothy Robertson in Carmel, CA; her bridesmaid was **Annina Donaldson ('01, SMG'03)**.

Andrew Keith ('00, CAS'03), of Watertown, Mass., formerly the drummer for Addison Groove Project, is an investment counselor with LaSalle St. Securities in Framingham. Get in touch with Andrew at andrewjkeith1@gmail.com.

Kavita Contractor Morris ('00, SMG'02), of Hong Kong, has relocated to Hong Kong with her husband. She would love to hear from old friends and can be contacted at kavita_c@yahoo.com.

Kate Abney ('01, CAS'03), of Denver, Colo., has been living in the Wild Coast region of South Africa since 2004. Kate established a South African registered NPO/volunteer project to provide supplemental education and extracurricular activities to school children in the area, including computer courses, English courses, tutoring, and a surf team. Since her departure from the project, Kate has explored central and southern Africa extensively. In August, Kate will move to the Czech Republic to teach English before returning to South Africa to work for the University of Capetown.

Victoria Britton ('01, CAS'03), of Somerville, N.J., married Michael J. Allen Jr., on April 12, 2008, at the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, Conn. BU alumni in attendance included **Kristin Cass**

Kate Abney (back row, left) with volunteers and students in South Africa.





Captain Jordan Vanek with soldiers of the 35th Brigade in Iraq. Jordan is right of center, without a helmet.

(CAS'03), Jodie Friedman ('01, SMG'03), Kirsten Lundeen ('01, CAS'03), Shane Morgan ('01, CAS'05), Therese Mace ('01, CAS'03), and Glendon Coburn (ENG'02, '05).

Jonathan Avidan ('02, SMG'04), of Langhorne, Pa., is the director of strategic development for Calle Financial Network, LLC, managing \$50 million of assets. In March 2007, he married Ashley.

Andrew Hass ('02, COM'04), of Acton, Mass., recently graduated from the University of Miami School of Law. After taking two concurrent bar exams, he traveled around the world, visiting eleven countries in nine weeks. Andrew is currently practicing in Boston.

Katie Hill ('02, CAS'04), is serving as a logistics readiness officer in the U.S. Air Force stationed in the UK.

Melissa Murphy ('02, COM'04), of Everett, Mass., recently passed the bar exam in Massachusetts and is employed as an attorney for the City of Everett. You can e-mail her at mmurph@alum.bu.edu.

Captain Jordan Vanek ('02, CAS'04), of Fairfield, Conn., is deployed to Iraq. He is serving as a military advisor to the 4th Regiment 35th Brigade 9th Iraqi Army Division in Baghdad. Alumni and friends can send their well wishes to jordan.vanek@us.army.mil.

Robert Favuzza ('03, SMG'05), of Los Angeles, Calif., is the chief operating officer of the Feit Company. He was engaged to Erica Cassidy on Christmas Eve, 2007.

Maria Hiraldo ('04, CAS'06), of Arlington, Va., is in a doctoral program in clinical psychology at George Washington University. She hopes to practice in psychological assessment and neuropsychology,

focusing on physical and emotional trauma, and developmental disorders.

Elena Kazlo ('05, CAS'07), of Glen Riddle Lima, Pa., is back in school, waist-deep in pre-med courses at the University of Massachusetts. She plans a much-needed year off before starting medical school.

Sarah Nanasi ('05, SMG'07), of Englewood, N.J., works for the family diamond dealer business, Nanasi Enterprises. She says of CGS: "I truly believe that I got where I am today because of the fundamental skills I acquired in CGS."

Due to the overwhelming response to class notes, some notes have been edited for length or content, or moved to Bostonia. If you'd like any more information about these class notes, please contact Kirsten Lundeen at 617-353-2891 or cgsalum@bu.edu.

Stay in touch

Whether you want to share a marriage, birth, career change, or anything else, we'd love to hear from you.

Send your news to cgsalum@bu.edu. Notes may be edited for style and length.

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A generous matching incentive spurred Boston University's Class of 2008 to break fund-raising records with its Gift Campaign. Inspired by "the wonderful start in life" BU gave them, Ellen (DGE'70, CAS'72) and Meyer (DGE'70) Koplow offered to

match the graduating class's donations, up to \$110,310. The class raised \$110,310, more than any previous class.

"We hope that our gift will show the senior class and future classes that alumni contributions are an essential element in making Boston University truly great," Meyer told members of the Class of 2008 Gift Program.

To learn more about matching gift opportunities, call Development & Alumni Officer Kirsten Lundeen at 617-353-2891 or e-mail cgsalum@bu.edu.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

I am extremely happy to report that in the 2008 fiscal year, we had a 14 percent increase in alumni gifts and a 22 percent increase in overall giving. Thanks to all of you who have been so loyal and supportive of the College of General Studies; the impact of your gifts is far-reaching.

Ambitious projects

Over the last eight years, we've embarked on an ambitious undertaking to upgrade our facilities, increase financial aid for deserving students, and seek support for faculty research initiatives. In the last four years, we've invested over \$3 million into three major renovation projects—the Brendan Gilbane Study Lounge, the Marilyn & Jeffrey Katzenberg Center, and the lobby.

Two new CGS scholarships were created this year, so students who should be at BU can now afford to pursue an outstanding education. In the 2007/2008 academic year, 19 of our faculty were funded to present at conferences around the world.

Student successes

Just this past spring, the number of graduating seniors who began their work at CGS and went on to receive Scarlet Key, athletic honors, or Latin honors was astonishing. It is no wonder that BU President Robert A. Brown continues to speak positively about the success of our students. The investments you have made at CGS by attending this College and continuing to support it as alumni have paid dividends a hundred times over.

Your support

I know many of you live a great distance from BU, but, in addition to your financial support, you can provide other valuable services for your Alma Mater—recommend CGS to prospective students, tell us how the University can better communicate with you, suggest events or activities you'd like to see in your area, and help us locate missing classmates.

Please stay in touch with the College, faculty, and classmates who shaped your time here. I hope to see you soon at our Alumni Awards dinner, the CGS open house, or one of the many other activities during Reunion and Alumni Weekend 2008, October 24–26.

You have my best wishes,

Linda Wells, Dean

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**Boston University College of
General Studies Alumni Newsletter**

FALL 2008

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