

## Boston University College of General Studies

# Collegian

## Focused Forward

Ambition sparked while at CGS has helped drive IFDS (Canada) President and CEO Debralee Goldberg from the classroom to the boardroom

BY ANDREW THURSTON

**Some are inspired to achieve great heights** by a hero or mentor; others are spurred by family pressure. Debralee Goldberg ('76, CAS'78) credits her rise to CEO of a multimillion dollar company to one place.

"Studying wasn't my strong suit in high school," she admits, "so going to the College of General Studies (CGS) was a wonderful opportunity for me. I attribute much of my confidence now to CGS—I've never forgotten that.

"CGS provided me with structure, and developed my ability to read, write, and analyze. The program as a whole had a huge impact on me. As a result, I feel really good about giving back what I can to Boston University."

After a 30-year career in the mutual funds industry, Goldberg now heads Toronto-based financial services firm International Financial Data Services (Canada) Ltd. (IFDS), a joint venture of DST Systems of Kansas City, Missouri, and State Street Bank of Boston.

"I think I've absolutely surpassed any expectation I had for my career," she says. "When I came to CGS, I didn't know where I wanted to work after-



Photo courtesy of Joseph Michael

wards, but after college, I knew I wanted a career."

Since that flash of realization, Goldberg says it's been a "pretty consistent and fortunate upward path." After starting off in an entry-level position in a mutual funds call center for the former Bank of New

England, she was promoted through successive management positions. She joined the management training program at the Bank of Boston and enjoyed eight years learning the ins and outs of the mutual funds industry before taking a five-year break to raise her children.

*continued on page 2*

## Debralee Goldberg

continued from page 1

It was when she returned to work that things really took off—she joined American Express spin-off First Data Investor Services as a vice president, and spent almost a decade growing with the company and the industry. Eventually, she became part of the firm's executive team and participated in its sale to PNC Bank.

In 2001, Goldberg joined DST Systems of Kansas City. As vice president of global account management, she worked closely with a number of major international global financial institutions. During a review a few years ago she expressed an interest in expanding her managerial scope.

In the summer of 2006, she was named president and CEO of IFDS (Canada), which provides mutual funds transfer agent services to Canadian-, European-, and Asian-based mutual fund companies and asset managers.

When asked about the often-cited glass ceiling for female executives, Goldberg says it's never troubled her.

"I know that sounds strange, but I think that I've been extremely fortunate to have never seen it. The only limitations are within me; I've never felt that anyone held me back."

As for the reasons behind her rise, Goldberg places great emphasis on the



Photo courtesy of Joseph Michael

that, while 30 years had brought many changes to the College, key principles remained.

"Ben's experience is somewhat similar to mine. He's a lot more confident than I was, but I believe that CGS gave him the infrastructure for better study habits and provided him with the grounding he needed to continue to SMG. It's been a great road map for him and his future success."

Ben represents the third generation of Goldbergs to attend BU, following his mother and his grandfather, Morris I.

Since graduating, Goldberg has also focused on BU, doing everything from mentoring new graduates to serving on BU's Parents Leadership Council.

"I wish I could give more time. I wish I could do more mentoring for kids who are feeling the same way I did when I went into college, wondering 'am I going to make it?'"

And she does plan to give more.

"I've offered to do some summer management internships up here in Toronto. I've been in the financial services world for my entire career, and I think it's a great career for anyone to get into.

"Many students want to go into investment banking or some sort of fancy type of consulting, and I just don't know if they've gotten the exposure to some of the other career paths that are out there."

As well as crediting Dean Linda Wells—"she is just unbelievable; I love being around her"—as a big factor in her own continued involvement with CGS, Goldberg acknowledges that her close affiliation has also been about keeping herself sharp.

"One of the things BU must ask," she says, "is, 'How do you help a parent feel affiliated with the University and want to get involved?' Parents should start getting something out of it. I've been to a number of events, including lectures, and they were a phenomenal way for me to continue to learn." ●

Rob Zagarella contributed to this article.

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—Debralee Goldberg ('76, CAS'78)

analytical and reasoning skills she picked up at CGS and CAS.

"BU did a good job of giving me strong analytical and negotiating skills, as well as the ability to look at the bigger picture and understand all the different viewpoints of decision-making and leadership. That came out of CGS in a big way—fostered by its integrated program and team orientation."

When her son, Benjamin ('07, SMG '09), entered CGS in 2005, Goldberg saw

Goldberg (SMG'49). Ben's younger brother, Harry, is a freshman in the engineering program at the University of Vermont.

Debralee Goldberg is clearly a strong manager and team player—she defines her success not in terms of bank balances or titles, but "the success of the department, company, or organization that I work with."

"I focus in on where I am now until I think I can't get any more done, and then I start to focus on what I want to do next."

# Summer Facelift for CGS

## Plans take shape for lobby refit this summer

BY ANDREW THURSTON

**The College of General Studies lobby** is to be reborn, and Assistant Dean Stacy Godnick admits the renovation can't come soon enough.

"The current lobby is cold, drab, and uninviting," she says. "It's a thoroughfare, and not somewhere you'd want to stop. We have up to 1,000 potential students visiting us every Open House and our College enlists the second-largest number of new students every year, so we want to create a space where they and their families feel welcome.

people to sit down and hang out," says Godnick—and space for displays showcasing the work of students and faculty. Technology will also play a part, and high-tech information and touch-screen directories, Web access, and a TV will be installed to lose that "thoroughfare" tag.

With fundraising almost complete, work will start after Commencement 2008, marking the third major construction project for the College in four years. Two renovated study lounges—the Katzenberg Center and Gilbane Lounge—have been unveiled since 2005.

The mastermind behind each project

has been architect Michael Soucy, a man who, according to Godnick, "really understands college life." Soucy, of the Boston office of Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering, plans to employ the use of natural woods, earth-tones, and softer materials into his design. Despite being a great admirer of the building itself, Soucy admits it's time to bring it into the current century.

"It's a wonderful building; it just needs a little updating," he says. "From an architectural standpoint, it's fascinating because it's almost intact; there haven't been any cumbersome renovations in the past, so it's like walking into a building in the 1950s.

"The space, however, is very plain and outdated. What we're trying to do is make it more aesthetically pleasing. The lobby will be a sleek, modern, high-tech environment, with warm and comfortable colors and finishes that make CGS an inviting space to be in."

As with the other CGS renovations, Soucy wants the updated lobby to have a long shelf life.

"We want it to last as long as possible, so it needs to be versatile. Real estate is very valuable, so we have to make sure we don't overbuild—you never know when the College will want to use the lobby for a lecture or reception, and you never want to take away those options." ●



"We want people to have a real feel for the spirit of the College when they first enter," she says, "for them to get a sense of community."

To help capture that spirit, the redesign aims to turn the lobby into a visual focal point, as well as give the CGS and other University communities a place to meet. That means the introduction of comfortable living-room-style seating—"areas for



# Making the Grade

## CGS admissions standards are at an all-time high

BY ROB ZAGARELLA

**Competition to get into college** has never been so fierce. As secondary schools offer Advanced Placement courses in ever-increasing numbers, droves of students are graduating from high school with impressive credentials for college admissions. More high school students are applying to institutes of higher learning today than at any other time in U.S. history, resulting in elevated admissions standards across the country. While throughout its history, the College of General Studies and its predecessors have remained steady in their mission to provide a rigorous interdisciplinary



Dean Linda Wells talking to a parent at a welcome reception during Parents' Weekend 2007.

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CGS Associate Professor Davida Pines and Academic Advisor John Lyons talking to new CGS family Faizaan ('11) and Ambreen Sami. ✓

***"The kind of students whom CGS is serving today is dramatically different. We're selecting students who have taken the most challenging curriculum available to them."***

—Executive Director of Admissions Kelly Walter

curriculum supported by strong faculty-student relationships, it has also evolved consistently to meet student needs. In the past few decades the number of well-qualified applicants to CGS has increased steadily. Many CGS alums who graduated in the late 1970s and early 1980s, whose children are now applying to colleges, are discovering that the bar has been raised.

"The College of Basic Studies (CBS), as CGS was known from 1960 to 1992, used to represent the only opportunity for some students to go to college," says Associate Dean of CGS Robert Oresick. "Many who applied to CBS were not necessarily accepted into other colleges, let alone competitive universities like BU. There was a time when the Admissions Office would take a chance by admitting C or C+ students because an element of potential was identified through the admissions process. Some didn't fare so well, while others excelled, but there was generally more suspense than in regard

to who would go on to earn a degree."

According to Executive Director of Admissions Kelly Walter, the students applying to CGS today don't view the College as their sole road to a college degree, but rather as a vehicle through which to explore various interests while undertaking a challenging program of interdisciplinary study.

"The kind of students whom CGS is serving today is dramatically different," she says. "We're selecting students who have taken the most challenging curriculum available to them. They are very competitive for admission at hundreds of colleges and universities across the country because they have performed well in high school. Incoming CGS freshmen this year ranked in the top 22% of their high schools with an average GPA of 3.20; in 1982, the average student ranked in the top 45% of their class with a 2.51 GPA. This improvement in overall student qualifications is reflected in the changes Dean Linda Wells has made to the curriculum to be more responsive



### BU Applicants

	1982	2007
Freshman applications	16,243	33,930
Freshman admission rate	84%	55%

to these students, who are bright, well-prepared, and eager to be successful in a college-level curriculum.

"Keep in mind that 25 years ago there was a generation of parents, many of whom didn't have the opportunity to attend college," says Walter. "That is a little less true today. We still have first-generation college students in our applicant pool, but even among our most economically disadvantaged students it's



Summer first-year orientation advisors.

not unusual to have at least one parent with a college degree. So you've got heightened family expectations. Parents want the best for their children, which means a bachelor's-level education. Therefore, parents are asking their high schools and communities to better prepare their sons and daughters to attend colleges and universities."

This increase in the college-educated population in each generation has been the trend since the original precursor of CGS, the General College, was founded in

1946 as a way to reach out to veterans of World War II and the Korean War. The establishment of the GI Bill caused a huge social transformation as millions of people who had never dreamed of going to college now had the chance to do so.

"Many of these people hadn't finished high school or had been driving a Jeep around Belgium or a PT boat in New Guinea, not writing term papers," says Oresick. "Therefore, the University decided to establish a college dedicated to developing students as well-rounded human beings through a general education program prior to specialization.

"It was part of a post-WWII ideology that it takes educated citizens to sustain a democracy—people with a good sense of history and social perspective, and an understanding of subjects such as science, poetry, philosophy, and ethics."

Oresick believes that the original mission to develop well-rounded individuals able to think critically and communicate effectively remains at the heart of CGS's interdisciplinary curriculum. The College's acceptance of marginally successful high school students, however, is a thing of the past. "Entering CGS students continue to lie at the margin of general University admissions standards, but over the past 20–25 years, BU has steadily grown more popular, competitive, and therefore, more selective. CGS has mirrored that ascent.

"When average entering BU freshmen were B-range high school students ranking in the top 20 percent of their classes, entering CGS freshmen were C to C+ students ranking in the top half of their classes. Students applying to CGS today must meet more challenging standards than those of the overall University at the time when their parents were applying to college."

Although the high school credentials of students entering CGS today are more impressive than those of past classes, the College has consistently produced successful graduates throughout its history. CGS alumni have gone on to found businesses, write books, produce movies, and gain honors from Emmy Awards to Pulitzer Prizes.

Oresick believes that the team method of instruction at CGS creates an environment in which certain students really thrive. Because professors teach the same group of approximately 110 students throughout the year, and most instruction occurs in discussion sections of 20–25 students without intermediaries like graduate assistants, professors get to know their students well. "SAT scores and GPAs are factors but aren't an absolute indicator of success in college," says Oresick. "The strength of CGS has always been the close relationships between our professors and students, fostered by our team teaching method. Being a freshman at a big university can be a fairly alienating experience. CGS makes it possible to have a small-college experience while enjoying the advantages of a large urban research university." ●

### Average CGS Freshman Profile

	1982	2007
High school class rank	Top 45%	Top 22%
GPA	2.51	3.20
*SAT	906**	1182

### Average BU Freshman Profile

	1982	2007
High school class rank	Top 25%	Top 9%
GPA	3.07	3.60
*SAT	1065***	1335

\*Scores reflect critical reading and math sections only. Please note that in 1996 SAT score scales were re-centered and the verbal section was replaced with critical reading.

\*\*Current SAT equivalent = 1014

\*\*\*Current SAT equivalent = 1153



# Next Stop: Hollywood

## Film society launches movie careers

BY ANDREW THURSTON

**A student group for film lovers** is proving a hotbed of cinematic talent. From small, experimental movies to Hollywood blockbusters, the Film Lovers and Philosophers Society is earning a reputation for turning movie buffs into hot filmmaking prospects.

"I think it gives students a chance to pursue their passion, to share their love of film with others," says Associate Professor of Humanities Kevin Stoehr. He formed the now student-led group for the discussion of philosophical issues in modern and classic films.

"Many of the past presidents of the club have gone on to have very high GPAs and win awards as CGS students. It shows that involving yourself in your passion is something that works to your advantage."

For some former members, that success stretches beyond graduation.

"One of our star former members is Reid Carolin ('02)," says Stoehr, who continues, along with Assistant Professor of Humanities Christopher Fahy, to support the group. "He's been working with Kimberly Peirce [the director of *Boys Don't Cry*] as an associate producer on a new film called *Stop Loss*. He obviously followed his muse into the right area."

Stoehr also highlights the career of Arndt Peemoeller ('06, COM'07). A former club president, Peemoeller credits the society with changing his life.

"The society seems to have a big effect on people," says Peemoeller. "It was really the first contact I had with film as a discipline of study, the first time that I got to dissect different elements of films and engage in a discussion with others on their impact. It was revealing because it was something I had never recognized in film; it really kick-started a passion."

Originally armed with a dream of acting, but held back by a lack of confidence, Peemoeller decided to major in film, bidding his time behind the camera until he "could build up the courage to step in front of it.

"The society was an experience that turned a marginal interest into something really great that never let me go," he says. "I listened to people's opinions on these films and it was pretty mind-blowing. It just generated a huge interest in making films and studying them further. Any thought of

becoming an actor just vanished as I got caught up in the world of filmmaking and study."

Such passion isn't uncommon, according to Stoehr. Since its foundation nearly a decade ago as a place to watch movies that wouldn't fit in the humanities curriculum, the society, he says, has taken on a life of its own.





discussion group was great,” says Mugar. “It allowed us to dive into the core meaning of movies and aspects of them that we might not have seen before.”

Now teaching television production in Boston public schools, Mugar has also founded a not-for-profit organization, Press Pass TV, which “works with youth to create civic-minded video journal-

elements and analyze the effects of each,” says Peemoeller. “Every time I make a film or write a screenplay, I go back to those questions and discussions we had. I’m able to step outside my ideas and look at them from a spectator’s point of view, questioning if they really do what I want them to do, and that’s great.”

Current president Noah Benezra (’10) plans to major in film next year, and

**“The society showed me how to dissect the art of filmmaking to its smallest elements and analyze the effects of each.”**

—Arndt Peemoeller (’06, COM’07)

“Nine years ago, I had some students who mentioned films that they thought would work well in the humanities course,” says Stoehr, “and since we had a nice space to show the films, we just spent some extra time showing them. The society grew out of that.”

Founding president Gabriel Mugar (’01, CAS’04) says that the extra time played a big part in helping his understanding of film.

“Classes are only so long, so to be able to supplement them with a really intense

ism.” Although the CGS society inspired Mugar to follow philosophy rather than film at Boston University, he admits its influence continues today.

“I’ve always done video, right from high school, but I’m really happy I did philosophy because it taught my mind to work in a very logical, structured manner; that’s helped me in building curricula and Press Pass TV.”

Currently working as a film editor in Boston, Peemoeller agrees that those undergraduate discussions continue to have an effect.

“The society showed me how to dissect the art of filmmaking to its smallest

believes the society has already given him a great foundation for pursuing his ambition of becoming a movie reviewer.

“I’m extremely excited about getting behind the camera, but right now I’m more into analyzing films and writing about them. When you’re talking with friends about a movie you’ve both seen, or you’re discussing a film in class, it’s like you’re reviewing it.

“Films are the only thing I feel I can study right now, that I can put all my energy towards, and that I can excel in. The society is a place where I can get together with friends and just talk about movies.” ●

# Fall Weekend Getaway

## Annual Reunion to Move from May to October

BY ROB ZAGARELLA

**During annual Reunion and Commencement weekends**, the mingling of new graduates eager to embark upon the next stage of their lives with alumni returning to rekindle old friendships has the campus flush with excitement. Unfortunately, there is not always an abundance of elbow room, with packed halls and booked hotels. Beginning this fall, however, alumni will no longer be sharing the spotlight.

After consideration of feedback from alumni, as well as logistical and scheduling issues, the University has decided to separate the two events and set aside a weekend just for alumni. Reunion and Alumni Weekend 2008 will mark the initial foray into fall on October 24–26.

“I love the idea of moving Reunion to the fall,” says CGS Alumni Board

member Courtney Megliola ('96, COM'98). “Although there has traditionally been a lot of energy in the city and on campus during the combined weekends, it could also get somewhat hectic. There are a lot of colleges in Boston, which means a lot of commencements. It will be nice not having to compete for hotel rooms.”

CGS and University-wide events will give alumni the chance to get together with old classmates and professors, explore the city and campus, and celebrate the BU community. While special recognition will be given to the classes of



1958, 1983, 1998, and 2007, all alumni are encouraged to attend Reunion and Alumni Weekend 2008, as many of the events focus on career development, community engagement, and special BU affinities.

Megliola is helping to plan events for the Class of 1998. “I think the 10-year reunion is a special one,” she says. “At this point in our lives, we are still young but getting more established in our careers. We’re planning events that will allow returning alums to revisit the campus and spend some time in the places where they would hang out as students. We’re hoping to have a comedy night, as well as a pub crawl that includes stops at the BU Pub, the Dugout, and T’s Pub.”

Alumni with questions, or who would like to get involved, are encouraged to e-mail the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@bu.edu](mailto:alumni@bu.edu) or call 800-800-3466. Members of the Class of 1998 may also contact Courtney Megliola at [courtmac2000@yahoo.com](mailto:courtmac2000@yahoo.com). ●



Reunion performer and comedian Greg Fitzsimmons ('87, CAS'89) (second from right) celebrates his 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award with (from left) Paul and Jean Webster ('87, CAS'89, COM'91); Deidre Gale ('89); and Debra Uffer Gold ('87, CAS'89, SED'94).



# CLASS NOTES

## 1950s

**Deane Haerer ('55, COM'57)**, of Trophy Club, Tex., has published his memoir, *Growing up American: A Journey of Discovery*. Please contact Deane at [dhaerer@prodigy.net](mailto:dhaerer@prodigy.net).

## 1960s

**Judith (Villar Del Saz) Socklof ('63, SED'65)**, of Miami, Fla., is now in the antiques business and rents space in a mall in Palmetto Bay, Florida.

**Sue Silverman ('66, COM'68)**, of Grand Haven, Mich., has had her latest memoir, *Love Sick: One Woman's Journey Through Sexual Addiction* (paperback, W. W. Norton), made into a television movie. Please check [www.suewilliamsilverman.com](http://www.suewilliamsilverman.com) for premiere date. She teaches in the MFA in Writing Program at Vermont College.

**Lewis Mann ('67)**, of Green Cove Spring, Fla., retired in April 2006 after 31 years as a financial planner. He and his wife sold their home and hit the road as fulltime RVers, seeing 27 states so far.

**Randy Miller ('67, SMG'69)**, of Portland, Ore., is on the board of the BU Alumni Council and is a volunteer for CGS. He is excited about plans to renovate the main lobby of CGS this summer, and remembers the "Marble" in the original building on Boylston Street. If any alumni know of the Marble's whereabouts, Randy would like to know. You can e-mail him at [randy@mooreco.com](mailto:randy@mooreco.com).

**Dave Stonecliffe ('67)**, of Barre, Vt., works in computers for the State of Vermont and is about a year away from retirement. Dave says: "I think often of Bob Rich from CBS and his kind heart, and example of charity and service to others."

**Bill Harrington ('68, CAS'70)**, of Fall River, Mass., after many years in the computer industry, now works for the U.S. Air Force in security services. A member of the Masons, Bill is widowed, losing his dear wife to pancreatic cancer, and has two children, who are both in college and of whom he is "immodestly proud."

## 1970s

**Deborah Dougherty ('70, COM'72)**, of West Falmouth, Mass, after 30 years in health care marketing and public relations, has moved into health care fundraising, and is now a Senior Development Officer for the Cape Cod Healthcare Foundation. She recently received her CFRE designation as a Certified Fund Raising Executive.

**David Cox ('71)**, of Hamden, Conn., is building his own business after 25-plus years of selling. You can check out his website at [www.homeservices.cc](http://www.homeservices.cc).

**Chris Rector ('71)**, of Thomaston, Maine, a three-term member of the Maine House of Representatives, is running for the Maine State Senate in District 22. He also serves as a board member of the Maine Economic Growth Council, the Maine Compact for Higher Education, and the Community Preservation Advisory Committee. He continues to operate an art publishing business with his wife, Betsy, and their two sons.

**Bonnie Engelman ('72, CAS'76)**, of Rensselaer, N.Y., has just finished her coursework toward a Ph.D. in Literacy/Reading at SUNY Albany. She is a college instructor in reading and composition and has written for various newspapers, and teaches courses in the summer through an academic enrichment camp for kids.

**(Aileen) Leigh Podgorski ('72)**, of Van Nuys, Calif., premiered her documentary film, *We Are Still Here*, the story of Katherine Siva Saubel and the Cahuilla Indians of Southern California, at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association in Borrego Springs in April 2007. DVDs are available on her website: [www.underthehillproductions.com](http://www.underthehillproductions.com).

**Gershon Blumstein ('74, CAS'76)**, of West Bloomfield, Mich., is an associate at Booz Allen Hamilton, supporting the U.S. Army, focusing his efforts on bringing the soldiers home from their tour of duty. He is working on a master's in organizational change at Hawaii Pacific University in the online program. After spending the last 32 years working as an engineer, Gershon has discovered that his true love is liberal arts. Contact him at [Blumstein\\_gershon@bah.com](mailto:Blumstein_gershon@bah.com).

**David Buttolph ('77, CAS'79)**, of New Canaan, Conn., is the managing director of Brookside Capital Partners in Greenwich, Conn. An avid hockey fan, David attended the BU vs. Cornell hockey game at Madison Square Garden with his family in November.

**Michael Gualtieri ('77, COM'80)** of West Hartford, Conn., is the president and owner of ProCourier, Inc., a same-day delivery company. He also serves as First VP to MCAA, the national industry association based in Washington, D.C. ([www.mcaa.com](http://www.mcaa.com)). Mike would love hearing from former classmates: [mikeg@pro-courier.com](mailto:mikeg@pro-courier.com).

**Lori Kamer-Licker ('77)**, of Holbrook, N.Y., is an occupational therapist and works with children in the school setting. In June 2006, she wrote and self-published a handwriting and activities book called *Writing-Right with Professor Pendleton Pencil*. Her website is [www.professorpendletonpencil.com](http://www.professorpendletonpencil.com).

## 1980s

**David Borchardt ('80, ENG'83)**, of Clarksburg, Md., is director of sustainable development at The Tower Companies, working towards environmentally conscious and sustainable development.

**David Fuhrer ('80, COM'82)**, of Los Angeles, president of FUNANUF, released his book, *Backwards*, in December 2007, which teaches kids the art of speaking backwards. David is also the Guinness World Record holder for speaking backwards.

**Alvin Daniels ('86, COM'88)**, of Chicago, Ill., runs his own TV, video, film, and mixed media production company. In the summer, his company's film, *Hiding Places*, will be presented at the Hollywood Film Festival. Alvin also teaches TV and film production at Northwestern University and Kennedy-King College.

**David Dorfman ('86, CAS'88, LAW'91)**, of New York, ran the Chicago Marathon in October 2007 as the honored teammate for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

**David Holland, Esq. ('86, CAS'89)**, of New York, has been an attorney for the last 13 years. He loves working in general litigation and criminal defense practice. David would like to hear from anyone, at [david.holland@att.net](mailto:david.holland@att.net).

**Tony Miller ('86, SMG'88)**, of Calabasas, Calif., is in partnership with his brother in a real estate investment firm. Tony has been happily married to Lisa for the past 17 years and they have three boys.

**Chris Orestis ('86, COM'89)**, of Portland, Maine, works as a consultant and also owns a company providing funding solutions for long-term care services. Chris can be reached at [corestis@maine.rr.com](mailto:corestis@maine.rr.com).

**Lynn Sturgess ('86, CAS'88)**, of Lawrenceville, Ga., after practicing environmental law for almost 15 years, has joined a new firm and started practicing family and juvenile law. Lynn has been married for 18 years and has two daughters. She would love to hear from old friends from the Class of '88 and can be reached at [lynn@millsoslaw.com](mailto:lynn@millsoslaw.com).

**Michele Sczerbinski Diaz ('88, COM'90)**, of Warwick, R.I., and her husband, Rob, had a son, Benjamin Robert (below), born on January 30, 2007. Michele is head of advancement at the Wheeler School in Providence, R.I.



Photo courtesy of Michele Sczerbinski

**Tara (Carpenter) Jones ('89, SMG'91)**, of Dacula, Ga., recently opened a faux finishing studio, Faux Maison, a one-stop-shop for luxury wall finishes and interior decorating. Check out [www.fauxmaison.com](http://www.fauxmaison.com) to learn more. She would love to hear from her old friends, "Totally Paulie, Jon Levin, Marty Miroslaw, Dave Olcott, Anna Reggiero, Julie Mannogian, and Billy McClay of the Class of 1989." You can reach Tara at [geoffstl@aol.com](mailto:geoffstl@aol.com).

**Shari Judenberg ('89, SMG'91)**, of Marietta, Ga., describes life as a full-time mom of two daughters as "the best career I've ever had." She is still in touch with several BU friends but would love to hear from the ones she's lost contact with. Please e-mail Shari at [sjudenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:sjudenberg@yahoo.com).

# CLASS NOTES

**Jennifer Trowe-Donatelli ('89, COM'91)**, of Huntington, N.Y., spent several years working her way up the television production ladder, being a producer for *Dateline NBC* and *TODAY* shows, winning numerous CABLE ACE awards and an Emmy. Jennifer is now the executive producer of a national pet show called *Pet Tails* as well as author of self-help books for moms. She looks forward to hearing from any CGS or COM alumni at [jtdonatelli@optonline.net](mailto:jtdonatelli@optonline.net).

## 1990s

**Alexander Southall ('90, COM'92)**, far right, of Brighton, Mass., recently took a trip with several alumni friends to the Grand Canyon, including, from left: **Karl Dietel ('90, COM'92)**, **Roy Kim ('90, CAS'92)**, **Joel Poole (CAS/GRS'92)**, **Mike Charles ('90, SMG'92)**, and **Allan Suarez ('90, COM'96)**.



Photo courtesy of Alexander Southall

**Stephen Bromley ('91, CAS'94)**, of Hollywood, Fla., married Marina Rankovic this past summer in Islamorada, Fla. They have a four-year-old boy, Marko.

**David Reznikow ('94, CAS'95)**, of Newton Center, Mass., was married to Jennifer Brommer in November 2007.



Photo courtesy of David Reznikow

**Danielle Restieaux-Louis ('95, CAS'97)**, and **Christopher Pacetta ('95, COM'97)**, of New York, are engaged to be married in June 2008. They lived on the same floor of Sleeper Hall during their freshman year and were put in the same Capstone group during their sophomore year. After college they lost touch, but in May 2006, Danielle read a story on [www.McSweeneys.com](http://www.McSweeneys.com) that she loved and it turned out to be written by Christopher. She e-mailed him, he e-mailed her back, and now they are living very happily ever after.

**Jordan Nodelman ('96, CAS'98)**, of New Haven, Conn., is starting an organic coffee roasting business. He is also the VP of Operations for his family's lighting and manufacturing business, based in Bridgeport, Conn.

**Gunnar Glueck ('97, CAS'99)**, of Everett, Mass., has opened an advertising agency and, more recently, a personal training studio for women.

**Greg Mattera ('97, COM'99)**, of Walpole, Mass., a vice president at Premere Color, sells commercial mail-advertising printing services to corporate, financial, retail, educational, health care, high-tech, nonprofit, and casino markets nationally. He and his wife, **Summer (Harrington) Mattera (SAR'99)**, welcomed their son, Brayden Michael Mattera, on October 8, 2006, and introduced him to Mickey Mouse on a recent trip to Disney World.



Photo courtesy of Greg Mattera

**Wing Yin Winnie Choi ('98, SMG'00)**, of Hong Kong, currently works for Monster.com as marketing manager. She has a four-year-old son and is expecting her second child.



**Marshall Levit ('98, COM'00)**, of Houston, Tex., will be earning an MBA with a concentration in ethics from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Tex., in May 2008. He can be contacted at [mlevit1@yahoo.com](mailto:mlevit1@yahoo.com).

**William Sargent ('98, COM'00)**, has relocated to Singapore, after five years in Sydney and two years in Paris. He is working in communications within the financial services industry. You can contact him at [wsargent98@yahoo.com](mailto:wsargent98@yahoo.com).

**Edward Welch, Esq. ('98, CAS'00)**, of Miami, Fla., has joined the law firm of Ehrenstein Charbonneau Calderin. You can contact him at [ew@eccounsel.com](mailto:ew@eccounsel.com) or 305-722-2002.

**Erik Bresocnik ('99, SED'01)**, of Old Bridge, N.J., and Kerri-Ann Cenci were married July 28, 2007.

**Chris Mailloux (CAS'00)**, was the best man. Alumni in attendance included **Josh Spiegler (SMG'03)**, **James Ng (CAS'03)**, **Peter Katzman (CAS'00)**, **Kevin Spector (COM'01)**, **Kelley (Sprague) Gonzalez (SED'01)**, **Joseph Beaulieu (CAS'03)**, **Andrew Weig (CAS'00)**, **Nancy Bresocnik (SAR'97, '99)**, **Evan McKelvey (CAS'03)**, **Ben Homer ('01, SMG'03)**, **Adrian Gonzalez ('99)**, and **Fernando Estrella (CAS'97)**. Erik is a high school history teacher in Carteret, N.J. Contact him at [erikbresocnik@hotmail.com](mailto:erikbresocnik@hotmail.com).

**Rachel Gunsberg ('99, COM'01)**, of Glen Rock, N.J., recently made a career change from PR/marketing into recruiting. She spends most of her free time with her family, including her new niece, Lily (Grandpa is **Frank Gunsberg, SMG'67**).

**Laura Inserra ('99, COM'01)**, of Williamsburg, Va., has moved from New York City to Washington, D.C., to work as a producer for National Geographic.

**Elizabeth (Pavrides) Lowery ('99, COM'01)**, and husband, **Layne Lowery (CAS'01)**, have moved to Fairfield County, Conn., from Boston, where she has taken a job as the assistant director of career placement at Sacred Heart University.

**Albert Ondis ('99, CAS'01)**, of Lincoln, R.I., married **Barbra Galdo (SED'00)** on March 17, 2007, in Miami, Fla. Albie works as a financial analyst and Barbra is an elementary school teacher. You can contact them at [albie@astromed.com](mailto:albie@astromed.com).

**Robert Weston ('99)**, and **Teresa (Petruccelli) Weston ('99, CAS'02)**, of Flushing, N.Y., welcomed their daughter, Julia Jane Weston, into the world on September 20, 2007.

## 2000s

**Libby Cherrington ('00, SED'02)**, and Joe Kendrick, of Cincinnati, Ohio, celebrated the birth of their son, Jack, on September 10, 2007. Libby teaches second grade and is working on her master's at Xavier University.

**Nikoletta E. Kanakis ('00, CAS'03)**, of Clovis, N.Mex., was deployed last summer with the United States Air Force to Ali Air Base, Iraq. She was stationed with U.S. and coalition troops and was honorably discharged in January 2008. She has relocated to Australia to join her fiancé, Daniel, and hopes to make a new career in new media journalism and documentary filmmaking.

**Miranda (Singh) Madar ('00, COM'02)**, of Atlanta, Ga., was married on August 4, 2007, to Saif Madar. Miranda is an account supervisor at Moxie Interactive, a digital ad agency in Atlanta.

**Adam Marks ('00, COM'03)**, of Jamaica Plain, Mass., and **Jessica Johnson (CAS'02)**, were married on September 2, 2007, in Boston.

**Natasha DaSilva ('01, SMG'03)**, of Hoboken, N.J., is engaged to marry **James Rowan ('01, SMG'03)**, on September 13, 2008, in New York. She will finish her master's in organizational psychology in May 2008 and has been recruited to work for Colgate-Palmolive's Global Human Resources Development program. She can be reached at [nldsilva@gmail.com](mailto:nldsilva@gmail.com).

**Laura Harvey ('01, CAS'03)**, of Chicago, Ill., is engaged to **Matthew Nazzaro (SMG'03)**. They will be married in November 2008 in Boston. College friend and roommate **Jennie Rosman ('01, COM '03)** is among the bridesmaids. Laura was accepted at the University of Illinois, Chicago, for the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner master's program and is expected to graduate in 2010.

**Sarah Lemme ('01, SMG'03)**, of Astoria, N.Y., is working on her MBA at Baruch College, New York. She is engaged and plans to marry on June 14, 2008. Classmates and friends can reach her at [www.myspace.com/scorpiontails](http://www.myspace.com/scorpiontails).

**Brandon Leitner ('03, CAS'05)**, of Brookline, Mass., is working as a commercial real estate advisor with CresaPartners in downtown Boston.

**Patrick May ('03, CAS'05)**, of Providence, R.I., wrote, directed, and produced his first feature-length low-budget movie, *The Grateful Undead*. He is planning to show the movie at select small venues around the country. For more information and to see a trailer, go to [www.myspace.com/gratefulundead](http://www.myspace.com/gratefulundead).

**Gil Adler ('04, SMG'06)**, originally of Franklin Lakes, N.J., volunteered with the Israel Defense Force Special Forces Counter-Terror Scout Sniper Reconnaissance Unit and is currently serving out missions with his team as a staff sergeant in the West Bank and Gaza. He can be reached in Israel at [giladler@gmail.com](mailto:giladler@gmail.com) or 011-972-052-665-6615.

**Igal Svet ('04, COM'06)**, of Los Angeles, Calif., is working as an assistant for Reveille, a leading independent Hollywood production studio and distribution company.

**Greg White ('04, COM'06)**, of Los Angeles, Calif., has been a freelance writer for Dave Letterman's monologue for the past year. He recently moved to

Los Angeles to continue working on his career in the TV and film industries.

**Jim Boynton ('05, SMG'07)**, of Boston, Mass., is licensed as a financial advisor for Baystate Financial Services and still attends BU hockey games and alumni networking events. Jim has two brothers currently enrolled at BU. You can contact Jim at [boyntonBU@aol.com](mailto:boyntonBU@aol.com).

*Due to the overwhelming response, some notes may 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](mailto:cgsalum@bu.edu).*

**WHAT'S NEW?**

We'd love to hear from you! CGS alumni and friends are invited to submit news for publication in the Class Notes section of *Collegian*.

Please take a moment to fill us in on your professional and/or personal news. Send your class note to the

College of General Studies Development and Alumni Office, Boston University, 871 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, or e-mail [cgsalum@bu.edu](mailto:cgsalum@bu.edu). Notes may be edited for style and length.

## Students Leap into College Life

A new program to give CGS students a glimpse of college life held its inaugural session in the fall of 2006. Quickstart aims to prepare new students for CGS with adventure and team-building activities, from tower climbing to canoeing. Quickstart is held at BU's Sargent Center for Outdoor Education in Hancock, New Hampshire.

"We can't think of a better way to prepare for the adventure that lies ahead than to spend a weekend getting to know fellow CGS students, faculty, and staff," says Dean Linda Wells. "Quickstart is our way of welcoming people to the CGS community."



Alexandra Hammond ('11) looks on as Paul Hutchinson, assistant coordinator for BU's Sargent Center for Outdoor Education, performs a safety check for Marta Baranovska ('10), as she prepares to ascend the 35-foot climbing tower.

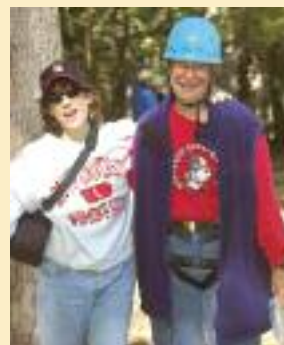


First-year students, from left, John Beato, Kehvon Thomas, John Sherer, Sarah Cunningham, and Elizabeth Werber wait their turn on the high ropes.



Madison Zraick ('11) navigates the high ropes course.

Photos courtesy of Kari Lavalli (GRS'92), CGS assistant professor of natural sciences.



CGS Assistant Dean Stacy Godnick congratulates Assistant Professor of Humanities Cheryl Boots (GRS'94, '00) on completing the high ropes course.

## DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

In January of this year, I traveled to Japan with Bernice Lerner, director of Boston University's Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character. We traveled to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima, visiting educational institutions to learn about their academic models and giving invited talks on character education and women in higher education.

Over the past few years, I have also traveled to Switzerland, England, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and throughout the United States, comparing different approaches to teaching and learning at academic institutions. These visits have reaffirmed my belief in the power of the College of General Studies' teaching model. Our unique core curriculum provides students with a challenging program of interdisciplinary study focused on the history of ideas and modes of intellectual thought.

As alumni, you are the best examples of the successes of the CGS program. In reading the class notes in this issue of *Collegian*, you will be struck, as was I, by the life

paths which have led each of you in different directions; nonetheless, what binds you together are the foundations you built at CGS.

Since becoming dean in 2000, I have focused our efforts on three areas critical to the success and growth of CGS: study opportunities for students, faculty development, and facilities improvements. The support of alumni made possible the James Wilcox Undergraduate Research Fund; the Ismail Sensel Award Fund for outstanding professorial achievement; the Diane Payne Fund for undergraduate support; and the critical CGS Annual Fund, which breaks records every year.

Many of you have been very generous, making possible the Brendan F. Gilbane House, the Gilbane Study Lounge, and the Marilyn and Jeffrey Katzenberg Center. I am looking forward to the renovation of the CGS lobby over the summer—a major project which would not be possible without the support of alumni, parents, and friends of the College.

If you are interested in supporting CGS in the areas of fundraising, leadership, or outreach, please contact us at [cgsalum@bu.edu](mailto:cgsalum@bu.edu) or 617-353-2891. Please stay in touch with the College, our faculty, and the classmates who helped shape your time here. I hope to see you at Reunion 2008, October 24–26.

Warm wishes,

Linda Wells, Dean

SUPPLEMENT TO *BOSTONIA*

## Collegian

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