An Interview with S.D. Shibulal, COO and Co-founder of Infosys

In 1981, seven software professionals pooled their talent, their ideas, and a modest investment of $250 to found the information technology company Infosys Technologies, Ltd. Today, Infosys is credited with creating the global delivery model that became the foundation of IT outsourcing in India. The company now employs over 90,000 people, reports annual revenues exceeding $4 billion, and has been recognized as one of the world’s best and most innovative organizations by Forbes, BusinessWeek, and Wired.

One of the seven founders of Infosys is MET alumnus S.D. Shibulal (MET’88), who currently serves as its Chief Operating Officer. As this year’s commencement speaker and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Profession, Shibulal shared with the Class of 2008 the insights and philosophies he has gained throughout the course of his extraordinary career. Backstage before the event, he offered the following reflections and advice:

MET: What was the original vision behind the founding of Infosys?

Shibulal: We wanted to build an organization that was respected, and that could provide technology solutions to global corporations. We knew that the adoption of technology was happening at a rapid pace, and we also knew that we had access to a highly-educated workforce in India, which had a set of skills that could make an impact globally.

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Student Surveys

MET 2008 Student Survey Results

What are your motivations for studying at MET? At what point in your life did you decide it was time to go back to school? Would you do it all over again?

These are just a few of the questions MET recently posed to current students with the aim of initiating frank conversations about what the MET student experience is really like. Over 800 students responded to a recent survey, and the results were surprising in a number of ways. Most impressively, students communicated how content they are with the quality of their classes, the caliber of the faculty, and the sense of personal accomplishment they gain from their hard work hitting the books.

continued on page 3 >
DEAR ALUMNI, STUDENTS, AND FRIENDS,

In higher education, assessing performance involves far more than reviewing a financial balance sheet. The fundamental question we always ask ourselves is whether we are true to our word—do we deliver quality education, represent Boston University responsibly, and make a difference in the lives of our students?

This past year has been marked by self-analysis—from accrediting groups and others; through surveys of alumni, students, and faculty; and most importantly by the Board of Overseers at Boston University. In January, the President and Provost appointed a group of overseers and members of the MET Dean’s Advisory Board to examine and showcase what we do. They reviewed our programs and finances, visited classes and interviewed many members of our academic community—and engaged us in a probing and reflective process culminating in a lively discussion at a recent meeting of the Board of Overseers. I am proud of how well we came across, and pleased that the overseers were impressed by our commitment to providing opportunities to learners of all ages, to introducing innovative ways of teaching, and to upholding the high academic standards of the University. I am proud of what we stand for, of the esprit de corps of our faculty and staff and their commitment to our mission and values.

This past year was also distinguished by the presence of a record number of attendees at MET’s May graduation festivities. This issue celebrates those students, who often confirm, through their feedback, that Metropolitan College is truly the stuff that dreams are made of. There is no other enterprise quite like Metropolitan College in American higher education—and with the ringing endorsement of MET’s University leadership and its students, we are well positioned to apply our present strengths to future opportunities.

With my gratitude for your support,

Jay A. Halfond
Dean
MET Student Survey  

Here are some highlights of what current students had to say about who they are and how they rate their experience at MET:

Profile of a MET Student

53% of MET students are over 30 years old. 13% are international, or non-permanent residents of the U.S., and more than half of MET students live more than 30 miles from campus. 68% of respondents have bachelor’s degrees and are pursuing graduate work at MET.

Reasons for studying at MET

94% of students listed personal satisfaction as their primary motivation for returning to school. But they listed other factors, too: 89% cited a desire to improve their income potential, 85% seek to improve their job skills, 84% are pursuing a new field of knowledge, and 82% see their studies as a way to facilitate a career or job change. Only 58% of MET students listed job requirements as an important factor in their decision to take courses or pursue a degree.

Evaluating faculty

92% of MET students reported being satisfied—or very satisfied—with the quality of MET faculty. 84% of students surveyed were satisfied with the availability of MET faculty.

Quality of experience

91% of MET students would recommend MET to friends, neighbors, and colleagues. And in fact, 22% of MET students learned about MET through a friend or colleague. 92% of students surveyed described themselves as satisfied or very satisfied with their overall academic experience at MET.

Online Alumni Survey

In 2007, graduates of all online programs at BU were given the chance to weigh in on their specific experience as online learners. Among them were alumni of MET’s online programs. Online learners constitute 40% of MET’s student body, and their feedback therefore reflects significantly on MET programs. Online alumni report levels of satisfaction similar to those reported by current students in 2008, and they also share similar motivating factors with their on-campus peers:

Reasons for studying online

66% responded that they were motivated to enroll in an online program by a personal goal to receive a higher degree. 20% listed professional requirements and potential promotion as their reason for pursuing a MET degree. 51% of online alumni cited time constraints as the primary reason they chose to study online.

Perceptions of online learning

Before entering MET’s online programs, 25% of alumni expected online education to be inferior to on-campus education, and only 7% expected online learning to be a superior experience. After experiencing MET’s online programs, 73% of alumni rated online education as equal or superior to on-campus education.

Professional gains

95% of alumni have benefited—or expect to benefit—professionally from their online degree. 93% would choose MET online programs all over again.

Level of Difficulty

41% of alumni reported spending 15–20 hours per week on each online course; accordingly, 44% consider their online courses to be more challenging than on-campus courses.

Q&A

commencement 2008
Which is probably why MET’s new assistant professor of administrative sciences, Virginia Greiman, refers to each of these projects (the former: perhaps the largest public works initiative since the Roman Coliseum; the latter: one of the defining transformations of the late twentieth century) as “mega.” And she’s earned the right to speak of them as she chooses, having served as legal counsel for each during her work with the U.S. Department of State in the 1990s and the Massachusetts Central Artery Project in the early 2000s.

Greiman—a self-described “big picture” thinker whose credentials include a master’s degree in education from BU, a law degree from Suffolk University, a master’s in law from BU, and a teaching fellowship at MIT’s Sloan School of Management—brings with her a distinguished background. She has been teaching part-time at Harvard Law School for eighteen years, at the Boston University School of Law for five, and she is a frequent guest lecturer at universities around the world, including the London School of Economics, the University of Zagreb in Croatia, and Eötvös Lorand University in Hungary.

The key to thinking about mega projects, she asserts, is to approach them much as you would their smaller counterparts: step by step. “The framework of the project breaks complicated tasks down into tangible entities,” she said. “Projects have beginnings, middles, and ends. They have definite goals and finite delivery periods.”

The first step in rebuilding the economy of a country such as Romania? “They needed rules of law that could support the basic structures of capitalism,” she explained. “We worked with the ministries of justice to create an infrastructure that could attract investment money from outside countries.”

From there, she explained, came a focus on entrepreneurship and the introduction of competition into the market. And taking these steps required a concentration on the bare essentials of commerce. Like roads. “This was the 1990s and Croatia had no major highways,” said Greiman. “There was no way for towns and people to connect with one another and transport goods across the country.”

“People were frustrated that they worked very hard for very small salaries,” she said. “The government controlled even centuries-old industries such as rug making. I remember the joy on people’s faces when they realized that they had an opportunity to truly become entrepreneurs.”

Yet Greiman also emphasizes the larger-than-life-sized mistakes that can come along with the mega project. “In the Big Dig we learned that you have to factor in reserves for unanticipated contingencies,” she said. “The scale of a mega project means that the consequences of oversight can be tremendous. The initial cost projections for the Central Artery Project came in at $2 billion, yet it ultimately cost almost $15 billion,” said Greiman. “No one was prepared for the ramifications of an inner-city construction project that required that businesses be kept open. Tunnels were being built within twenty feet of skyscrapers and Gillette’s world headquarters.”

Truly, it would have been impossible to foresee that the tunnels would become archaeological dig sites, as they did when contemporary construction equipment began uncovering Native American and colonial-era artifacts such as clothing, coins, and buildings. “Digging had to proceed very slowly to prevent damage to these objects,” said Greiman. And once all the digging was done, the amount of dirt removed and transported was enough to fill Foxboro Stadium—three times.

“Managing the excavation of the dirt alone was an environmental and logistical challenge,” said Greiman. But these lessons make the stuff of great coursework, and that is exactly how Greiman puts them to use. “The Big Dig is just one of many projects that offers us a rich object of study,” she said. “I really want to help make BU and MET a locus for the study of lessons learned from large infrastructure projects around the world.”
In an article titled “Rising Game Popularity Leads Colleges to Add Classes,” The Boston Business Journal quoted Associate Professor of Computer Science Eric Braude on the development of MET’s new Graduate Certificate in Interactive Multimedia and Game Engineering.

Bob Glovsky is entering his twentieth year as director of the financial planning programs offered through the Center for Professional Education. In those twenty years, he has honored MET as a commencement speaker, an expert in high-profile media venues such as the New York Times, and a respected instructor while also serving as president of Mintz Levin Financial Advisors and hosting The Bob Glovsky Radio Show.

Assistant Professor of Urban Affairs and City Planning Enrique Silva weighed in on a recent Boston zoning amendment in a Boston Globe article “Off Campus, Council Says, Five’s a Crowd.”

Tom Nolan, associate professor of criminal justice, published an article in the New England Law Review in which he explores the influence of television’s CSI within the legal system. Nolan served as an expert voice in the media coverage of the controversy surrounding former New York governor Mark Spitzer, lent his insights on suspects in infant deaths to the Wichita Eagle, and has also served as a resource for local news networks New England Cable News and Boston’s Fox25 News.

Gerry Keegan, director of the Executive Degree Completion Program, was featured with MET student Amy Rutkowski in a Boston Globe article titled “How I Finished My Bachelor’s.” Keegan and Rutkowski described the virtues of the program, which is modeled after an executive MBA but designed for adults who seek to complete an undergraduate degree they previously left unfinished.

Roger Warburton, associate professor of administrative sciences, co-wrote a paper accepted for publication by the International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics: “A Note on Approximate Solutions to the Linear Differential Delay Equation.”

Savoir Faire

STUDENTS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO TURN TO MET FACULTY FOR THEIR EXPERTISE—ACROSS CAMPUS, IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS, AND IN A RANGE OF MEDIA OUTLETS, MET’S FACULTY MEMBERS ARE RECOGNIZED AS LEADERS IN THEIR FIELDS. RECENTLY:

A Fond Farewell

A longtime friend of BU and MET passed away in February. Novelist Ivan Gold taught creative writing at MET and in the College of Arts & Sciences from 1976–2007, sharing his artistic vision—and through it, his redemptive insight into the human predicaments of grief, aging, alcoholism, and personal failure—with generations of devoted students. Gold’s work was admired by literary stalwarts such as critic Lionel Trilling, novelist Philip Roth, and poet Mark Van Doren.

Gold continued teaching throughout his battle with prostate cancer, and remained committed to reviewing student work even after he was hospitalized in the fall of 2007. His own works include Nickel Miseries, Sam in a Dry Season, and Out of a Clear Blue Sky.
Of course, we had no money. We borrowed $250 from our wives and mothers! With this money, and one client in New York City, we got our start.

MET: How did you become involved as a founder?

Shibulal: The real leader behind the founding of the company was N. R. Narayana Murthy, and he was seeking individuals who were multidisciplinary, because he knew that narrowly focused thinking could not result in the creative organization he had in mind.

In 1981, I had a master's degree in physics, had learned to program in a number of languages, and had begun to work as a project manager. It was because of these multiple interests of mine that I fit into the group.

MET: How did you develop this range of interests?

Shibulal: I've always been fascinated by technology, and my first degree in physics reflects that. I became a software engineer by chance. My career progressed very quickly and I found myself taking on roles as a project manager, though I kept a very technical focus. To run a technology-based organization, you have to understand technology.

It was for this reason that I enrolled at MET to get my master's in computer science. Though I had picked up computer skills along the course of my work, I felt that I really needed to put the foundation in place, and to learn the science behind the technology.

MET: What were the first steps in building Infosys?

Shibulal: I can sum up the process in four words: where, when, now, how.

In the beginning, I carried a world map to all of my meetings. I had to explain to people, “Here is Asia, here is India, here is Bangalore.” Then, in the early 1990s, companies were aware of India, and intent on doing business there, but they didn’t know when. In the late 1990s, they started saying, “We want to do it now, but we don’t know how!” And of course it’s our job to show them.

We’ve been able to leverage the fact that through information technology the point of origin and the point of delivery can be disengaged. Innovation tends to happen very locally, but delivery of services now happens globally. Companies can operate for twenty-four hours without asking people to work overnight shifts. Customer support services are a perfect example, and one everybody is now familiar with.

You can follow the sun and get the work done. When the U.S. goes to sleep, Poland is awake. And when Poland is asleep, India is awake. And so on. One result of this is that countries like Singapore, India, and China are now much more relevant to the market. The market is expanding rapidly.

MET: What do you see as the main contributions of Infosys? What are you particularly proud of?

Shibulal: When we built Infosys, most companies in India were family-owned, or were in the public sector. There weren’t many entrepreneurial organizations, so one of our contributions was to show that it could be done with a small investment and hard work.

We also created a tremendous source of employment, and that is a great source of hope. And we had a commitment to building a business and acquiring wealth through legal and ethical means. To someone in the U.S., this statement might not seem that revolutionary. But in the early 1980s, India had a very nascent economy. We set important standards of corporate governance.

MET: Do you have any advice for the Class of 2008?

Shibulal: If I look at my life, I realize that one’s true competition is only oneself. I came to MET because of that. I already had a master's degree, but I wanted to continue to push myself. It was difficult. I was working, I had a daughter. She used to wait up for me until eleven o’clock at night, which was when I came home. But investing in oneself is the most important choice you can make. My best advice is always to stay in competition with yourself.
Federal Recognition for Research at MET and BU

Serving as co-director of BU’s Center for Reliable Information Systems and Cyber Security, MET’s Associate Dean of Academic Programs Tanya Zlateva successfully led a University-wide initiative to achieve recognition as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research for 2008–2013. While BU and MET degree programs in information security have been certified for years by the National Security Agency and the Committee on National Security Systems, research conducted by computer science faculty and graduate students across the university now bears the same prestigious stamp of approval. The designation makes BU and MET eligible to receive funding from a range of federal grants. BU is one of the first schools in the nation to obtain this distinction.

A Virtual Meeting of the Minds

For several years now, MET has used technology to bring the classroom to online students all over the world. It certainly follows that faculty members would now be working—and they are—to bring technology to the classrooms here on campus. But they’re also finding ways to blend the virtual with the real through MET’s newest innovation in higher education: eLive courses and programs that combine in-class and online modes of learning. In March, Associate Dean Tanya Zlateva and Leo Burstein, MET’s new architect of research and technology, hosted a colloquium to explore the latest high-tech tools and to lead faculty in a discussion on how to merge the traditional with the technological in order to provide an optimal learning experience. Read more about MET’s eLive programs at: www.bu.edu/eLive.

Wine in the Woods

A good glass of wine requires few accoutrements to be enjoyed. But when paired with the serene landscape of the New Hampshire woods, the expertise of Master of Wine Bill Nesto, and the culinary creations of Executive Chef Victor Beguin, any Bordeaux or chardonnay is sure to go down all the smoother. In March, guests gathered at BU’s Sargent Center for Outdoor Education to celebrate sustainable agricultural practices by sharing a French country meal comprised wholly of organic food and wines. Read more about Sargent Center’s Outdoor activities and facilities at: www.bu.edu/outdoor.

Friends of Sargent Center, Lisa Murray and James Wood, enjoying Wine in the Woods.
“It feels like a gazillion bucks!”

SO SAID Eddie Wetterland (MET’08), at left, who received his Bachelor of Liberal Studies at MET’s May Commencement ceremonies. He was referring, of course, to the sense of satisfaction shared by his fellow graduates upon completing a labor-intensive and challenging degree program. As usual, students and their families proved willing to travel from destinations as far as California and Brussels, Belgium, to join in on the festivities. And as always, MET offers a resounding congratulations to this year’s graduating class. Here are a few snapshots of the day’s events. For additional highlights, view our online slideshow at: www.bu.edu/met.

“I’ve always felt that this was the one missing thing. I want to set an example for my daughter. I want that credential behind my name.”

– Rosemary Gammon (MET’08), Undergraduate Degree Completion Program

Grace Ryder-O’Malley (MET’08), winner of the Excellence in Graduate Study Award in Arts Administration. She was acknowledged for a near-perfect grade point average as well as her contributions to the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, her work as co-editor of the Arts Administration newsletter, and her role as secretary of the Arts Administration Student Association.

Alexa Sardina (MET’08), winner of the Excellence in Graduate Study Award in Criminal Justice. In 2003 Sardina started the It Happened to Alexa Foundation, which provides rape survivors with financial and emotional support during the trial process. To date, her foundation has assisted over 300 victims of sexual assault in 32 states and 10 countries.
"My experience was awesome. I loved it. The professors were fantastic. This is the first school in all of my experience where all of my professors were there at all times."

– James McMahon II (MET'08), MSCIS online

Pablo Aboumrad Kawage (MET’08), recipient of the Excellence in Graduate Study Award in City Planning. In addition to earning a grade point average of 3.78, Aboumrad founded and led the Master of City Planning and Master of Urban Affairs Student Association, which organized student events and developed a year-long lecture series that brought experts to campus. Aboumrad also participated in the development of a new website for the Master of City Planning and Master of Urban Affairs programs.

Howard Williams (MET'86, SED'89), above, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Alma Mater. Williams has served on the Dean's Advisory Board, the Boston University Alumni Council, and the University Overseers' review committee in addition to serving as a much-loved adjunct faculty member in the Executive Degree Completion Program. Assistant Dean Sonia Parker described him as "the epitome of a dedicated alumnus and volunteer."

Johan Danneels (MET'83), founder and CEO of silicon technology company Essensium, gave the commencement address at MET's campus in Brussels.
Commencement Awards

Distinguished Alumni Awards
Howard Williams, MET’86
Service to Alma Mater
S.D. Shibulal, MET’88
Service to Profession
Roger Deveau Memorial Part-Time Faculty Award
John Day
Computer Science
Certificate of Undergraduate Achievement
Lisa A. Granquist Dorward
Alumni Student Leader Award
Carnot Jean-Marie Sylvestre

Excellence in Graduate Studies Awards
Esther Polevoy
Actuarial Science
Carmelo Onorio Monaco Rosato
Administrative Studies
Grace Ryder-O’Malley
Arts Administration
Antonio Martin
Computer Science
Pablo Aboumrad Kawage
City Planning
Alexa Diane Sardina
Criminal Justice

Leadership Circle of Giving
Leadership Circle members are alumni and friends of Metropolitan College who have made a financial commitment of $1,000 or more towards the needs of the College. The Leadership Circle recognizes donations within the current fiscal year and multi-year pledges to any Metropolitan College Fund. A special thank you to all FY08 MET donors can be found at www.bu.edu/alumni/met/donors.

- Mr. and Mrs. Gregory (MET’06) and Lillian Baker
- Mr. J. Leo Barry and Overbrook Farm
- The Bernard Osher Foundation
- Mr. Wayne A. Bishop, MET’74
- Mr. C. Richard Carlson, MET’70
- The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy
- Ms. Marsha A. Cohen, MET’76
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- Mr. Edward P. Lacey, MET’81
- Mr. Arnold S. Lerner, MET’74
- Mr. Lawrence Howard Levine, CGS’78, MET’80
- Mr. Michael J. McCabe, MET’87, MET’87
- Ms. Linda Elorient McCutcheon, DGE’75, MET’77
- MIB Inc.
- Ms. Leslie A. Patton, MET’98
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- Mrs. Isabel Kathleen Duggan Pisano, MET’87
- Mr. Philippe Rixhon, MET’81
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- The Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation
- Mr. Andrei Soran, MET’92
- Mr. Dean E. Taylor, MET’78
- Dr. Thomas Wesley Weeks Sr., MET’69, MET’74
- Mr. Mati Weiderpass, MET’85
- Mr. Hugh M. Wilkinson III, MET’83
- Howard E. Williams, Ed.D., MET’86, SED’89
- Mr. Leon E. Wilson, MET’75

* This list reflects contributions as of June 9, 2008.
Mayor Menino Honors City Scholars

The City of Boston’s City Scholar program provides scholarships for municipal employees attending MET programs. Befittingly, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino made a visit to campus to celebrate City Scholars who are currently completing MET master’s degrees in criminal justice, urban affairs, city planning, arts administration, and computer science. Mayor Menino joined faculty and students for the second year in a row for what is well on its way to becoming an annual event.

METrics

3 Number of times you could fill Foxboro Stadium—where the New England Patriots play—with the amount of dirt removed from Boston during the Big Dig.

20 Number of years Robert Glovsky has served as Program Director for the Financial Planning Programs at BU.

258,000 Number of BU alumni, of which MET’s Class of 2008 is now a part!

72 Temperature, in Fahrenheit degrees, on Commencement Day. 2008 marks the first time in five years that the sun came out for the graduates.

53 Percentage of MET students who live more than thirty miles from the Boston University campus.

73 Percentage of MET’s online students and alumni who rate online learning as equivalent, and even superior, to on-campus learning.

24 Number of MET military students stationed in Iraq who received prepaid phone cards thanks to the donations of MET faculty and staff. Karen Murphy, assistant director of the Center for Professional Education, led fundraising efforts to purchase the phone cards, which help students to stay in touch with their families while stationed abroad.

commencement 2008
In the case of Alon Raviv, MET owes a debt of gratitude to the verity of the old adage that behind every good man is a good woman. Raviv, who joined MET’s administrative sciences faculty in 2007 as an assistant professor, found himself looking for opportunities in Boston when his wife accepted a post-doctoral position in computer science at MIT.

The pair arrived from Israel in December, and despite his doubts about the chilly New England winter, Raviv reports that “MET is a fascinating place to begin my second career.”

In his first career, Raviv applied his research interests in finance to his work in the Analytic Development Unit at Bank Hapoalim, Israel’s largest bank. There, he developed mathematical models to help the bank make critical decisions on a whole range of factors, including the optimization of assets allocation among liquid and illiquid funds, the valuation of financial services products, and the determination of fair price for its securities, whose market values shift almost constantly in real time.

Having earned his doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem exploring precisely these questions, Raviv’s expertise is a hot commodity in and of itself. The current mortgage lending crisis is a perfect example, he says, of a failure to calculate the risks of default attendant to low lending rates. “It shows us that our current models are not sophisticated enough to describe the modern world,” he said. “They cannot take into account enough risk.”

This need for ingenuity in matters of practice is a key motivating factor for Raviv’s research, which can be found in recent editions of scholarly publications such as the Journal of Banking and Finance and the Journal of Futures Markets. And tangible contact with the dynamics of the market, he insists, is likewise fodder for better scholarship. “Research cannot be a stand alone task,” said Raviv. “If you want to be a good finance professional, you should have a comprehensive knowledge, a critical part of which comes from experience as a practitioner.”

Similarly, Raviv sees teaching as a third point of his ideal intellectual triangle. “Teaching is a way to challenge your ideas,” he said. “Can you demonstrate your research in an understandable way? Does it make sense to your students, many of whom, at the graduate level, are professionals and experts themselves? At its best, teaching is a reciprocal activity between instructors and students.”

It is no wonder, then, that Raviv is enjoying his time at the head of MET classrooms, where research, teaching, and the real world often coalesce. “I am particularly surprised by the quality of our international students,” he said. “They are familiar with their local markets and they bring knowledge to class that often makes it possible to engage in an impromptu comparative study.”

“We can test textbook theories about how to prevent inflation, for example, against policy measures adapted in Uruguay, Argentina, or China. This is a unique contribution to MET classrooms that only students can make,” said Raviv.
Health Communication continued from back cover

“In some ways, current problems with health and health care come down to an issue of literacy,” said Dr. Domenic Screnci, adjunct assistant professor of international health and executive director of media and technology, who coordinates the health and medical components of the program. “It is essential, as a matter of public interest, that we find a way to do a better job of facilitating meaningful contact between many interested parties.”

The job of the health communicator is to bridge the gap between, say, pharmaceutical companies and nurses, health officials and at-risk populations, or insurance companies and consumers, with the result being a more informed population, more responsive industries, and policies that are more attuned to real public needs. The M.S. in Health Communication will give students the dual vocabulary they need to fulfill this role by focusing on communication strategies as well as providing a solid foundation in the science and the practices fueling many contemporary health issues.

“Our curriculum allows professionals in public relations, business, and health care to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to effectively convey health, organizational, and business decisions; to influence public awareness of health care issues; to advocate for better policies and programs; and to address consumer needs,” said Screnci.

The M.S. in Health Communication is the first program of its kind to be delivered in an online format. “Being able to reach people who may not have local access to this kind of program is very exciting,” said Quigley.

MET is currently accepting applications for the M.S. in Health Communication. To learn more about the program, visit: www.bu.edu/online.

Healthcare Executive Joins the MET Dean’s Advisory Board

Andrei Soran (MET’92), CEO of MetroWest Medical Center, recently joined the MET Dean’s Advisory Board. Soran holds a degree in physical therapy from Tel Aviv University and earned a master of science in management from MET. He has also served as CEO at Nashoba Valley Medical Center and COO at Merrimack Valley Hospital. As a hospital administrator, he offered his insights into the current need for qualified health communicators:

“Healthcare service is a very competitive environment. Most healthcare providers are looking to distinguish themselves in the eyes of patients, who ultimately have a choice where to receive the care they need. This is best accomplished through communication because it allows patients to be informed consumers. There are plenty of communication graduates, but there are very few who have an understanding of the medical field and its terminology, and the differing needs of the many constituents we serve. When we introduce a new service, for example, our doctors need to know the research behind it, our staff needs to know how it effects our operations, and our patients need to know how it benefits their health.

MET and COM’s graduate degree in health communication is prepared to address the real need for professionals who can communicate effectively with each of these groups, and in the language of the field. I can speak from experience when I say that individuals who enter the job market with these skills will be viewed very positively by employers.”

For further information or to discuss your specific interests confidentially and with no obligation, please contact:

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Did you know that with a bequest intention for Metropolitan College you can:
• Provide endowment support for the program of your choice
• Create a lasting legacy to honor or memorialize your family, friends, or yourself
• Say “thank you” with an endowed fund to honor a favorite BU professor or mentor
• Maintain your current lifestyle, safeguard the interests of your heirs, and fulfill your charitable wishes
• Provide crucial endowment support to our internationally renowned University
In March, MET alumni, students, and prospective students gathered at BU’s Tyngsboro campus. MET computer science faculty members mingled with students and shared their perspectives on current trends in the fields of computer science, telecommunication, and information technology.

Associate Professor of Computer Science Anatoly Temkin and alumnus Gary Malkin (CAS’83, MET’92).

MET alumni are always finding ways to get together—the past months have featured events in New York, California, and, pictured here, Florida, Arizona, and Boston. Now is the perfect time to make plans to attend Reunion & Alumni Weekend in October. We hope to see you there!
Faheem Ahmed (MET’01) of West Jordan, UT, is a quality assurance engineer at Ingenix, a health information technology company. He and his wife, Noreen, have a 4-year-old daughter, Zoha, and a 16-month-old son, Sulaiman. He would love to connect with other BU alumni in the Salt Lake City area. E-mail him at faheemahmed@hotmail.com.

Philip A. Becnel IV (MET’06) of Arlington, VA, is a licensed private investigator and managing partner of Dinolt Becnel & Wells Investigative Group, LLC, with offices in San Francisco, Denver, and the Washington, DC, area. For more information visit www.dinolt.com.


Martin Brunswick (MET’90) of Boston, MA, is director of information technology at Network Health, a health plan serving more than 125,000 members. He oversees analytics, data warehouse management, and e-business.

Albert Diaz (MET’93) of Charlotte, NC, has been reappointed by Governor Michael F. Easley to a five-year term as Special Superior Court Judge, and will continue to serve as one of three judges on the North Carolina Business Court.

David M. Fitzgerald (MET’84) of Harrisburg, PA, received his third Navy Legion of Merit award last June for leadership and service in Singapore after the 2004 tsunami. David is the deputy commander of Navy Family Support.

Richard Fontaine (MET’80) of Plympton, MA, is vice president for technology and chief information officer at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Noelle Foye (MET’05) of Brockton, MA, was named education director of the Fuller Craft Museum.

Jesse Freeman (MET’07) of Miami, FL, teaches criminal justice at Florida National College.

Moti Friedman (MET’95) of Ramat Gan, Israel, writes that he is very proud of his father, Joseph Friedman, consultant of signal transaction at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Moti writes, “The son of a researcher became a business researcher, a lot due to Boston University.”

Tiffany Gailliard (MET’97) of Boston, MA, has returned to Boston after spending one and a half years in Jacksonville, FL. She is a client service manager at State Street Corporation. E-mail her at MissTiff71@yahoo.com.

Adrienne George (MET’06) of Halmstad, Sweden, won two awards for her blog, Black Women in Europe. The 2007 Black Eblog Awards named Adrienne’s blog the best international blog by popular vote, and separately by judges’ vote. Visit her blog at www.blackwomenineurope.blogspot.com.

Steven Hardy (MET’04) and his wife Jesse, of Bermuda, announce the birth of their daughter Stephanie. E-mail Steve at bdabye@gmail.com.

Yih-Sheng Sid Kuo (MET’07) of Taipei, Taiwan, recently joined SonoSite, Inc., as a sales development manager of China/Asia. E-mail him at sid.kuo@sonosite.com.

Kurt Marisa (MET’91) of Alexandria, VA, received the award of Third Degree Knight Commander of the Dannebrog from the Danish Ministry of Defense at the end of his three-year tour as U.S. Air Attaché to Denmark. Upon his return, he was promoted to full colonel in the U.S. Air Force and reassigned to the Headquarters Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Directorate. E-mail him at kmsl_marisa@hotmail.com.

Jeffrey Mohr (MET’05) of Baton Rouge, LA, was elected president of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Louisiana at the group’s convention and exposition last year. E-mail him at jmohr@mohragency.com.

Dennis Springhetti (MET’84) of Baghdad, Iraq, is in his second year as a facility manager for the U.S. State Department.


Timothy Sullivan (MET’95) of Boston, MA, and New York, NY, is area manager and vice president of Citibank North America, and is overseeing Citibank’s expansion in to Boston, which includes a branch on BU’s Charles River Campus.

Paula Tognarelli (MET’03) of Cambridge, MA, is executive director and curator of the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, MA.
MET and COM Launch Nation’s First Online Master’s Degree in Health Communication

Beginning in September, students from all over the world, and from different professional walks of life, will have the chance to study together while tackling some of today’s most challenging issues in MET’s newest program: the online Master of Science in Health Communication.

This new degree reflects a cross-college effort to leverage a variety of BU resources—MET’s capabilities as a leader in online education, the College of Communication’s nationally-recognized curriculum and faculty, and the University’s highly-regarded expertise in the critical fields of nutrition, disease, ethics, epidemiology, and health policy.

The impetus behind the program is at least twofold. One aim is decidedly practical: to prepare students to meet the increasing demand for health communicators in a wide range of industries and fields: biotechnology, insurance, social work, marketing, nursing, business, and education, to name just a few.

Associate Professor of Public Relations Stephen Quigley, who serves as the communication faculty coordinator for the program and will be teaching its first course, stresses that “at every level—individual, organizational, and societal—we see a pressing demand for skilled health communicators.”

A second aim has to do with addressing the root causes of this increased demand: the decided urgency for increased dialog between the public and the experts upon whom they rely for health information, products, policies, and leadership.

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