How do you like your steak? Think beyond medium-rare. Would you prefer it from a test tube, or in the form of a pill? Would you eat it if you had to butcher it yourself? What price are you willing to pay for it in dollars, in environmental impact? These were the questions asked by graduate students in Warren Belasco’s course The Many Meanings of Meat as they developed this commonplace tableside inquiry into one of historical, ethical, cultural, philosophical, economic, and ecological proportions.

Belasco, who joined MET as a visiting professor for the fall 2008 semester, teaches American Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He is also a well-known author whose recent works include Appetite for Change: How the Counterculture Took on the Food Industry, Food Nations: Selling Taste in Consumer Societies, and Meals to Come: A History of the Future of Food.

“Students respond to food as a subject. But meat, as the most problematic foodstuff in the world, always sparks the most intense conversations,” said Belasco. “I thought it would be productive to take a thorough, and interdisciplinary, approach to meat. The graduate program in gastronomy at MET was a perfect setting to do so.” Indeed, MET’s master’s degree in gastronomy—founded with the help of Julia Child and Jacques Pépin—often draws leading minds to its classrooms, both to teach and to learn.

Yet Belasco, like many of his students, faced a dilemma. He had an interest in MET but not the means to be on campus for an entire semester’s worth of coursework. The solution? One of MET’s newest learning formats: the blended classroom. Belasco’s course took place primarily online, but featured two Saturday sessions that brought the entire class together in Boston.

Tapas 2058: A Look at the Food of Tomorrow

in this issue

The Dean’s List . . . . . 5
A Legacy of Service . . . 9

NBC’s Tom Costello Welcomes Off-Campus Alumni

Over 7,500 BU alumni are graduates of off-campus, online, or international programs. As Dean Halfond pointed out at a reception held on their behalf during Alumni Weekend 2008, this roster includes distinguished ambassadors, philanthropists, military leaders, diplomats, and CEOs.

Yet many of them have never had lunch at the GSU, strolled the banks of the Charles, or ridden the T to class. And that’s because many of them have never been to campus.

Providing a twist on the typical stroll down memory lane during this reunion season, MET and BU invited these alums back to their alma mater for the first time. On hand were graduates of programs in Heidelberg, Brussels, and London. In attendance, too, were current students in online programs who live as nearby as Worcester, Massachusetts. Diverse in career, geography, and interests, they shared a laugh over the one thing—besides a BU degree—they held in common: “How many of you guys have been walking around with a map of campus?” asked Tom Costello (MET’96).
METROPOLITAN COLLEGE has, in its forty-three year history, been just as cosmopolitan as metropolitan. Committed to global outreach—through campuses abroad, international students on-campus, and faculty who bring a world of experience and expertise into the classroom—MET has always embraced a mission that extends far beyond this region.

Many of the stories in this edition of the Metropolitan demonstrate this global commitment, but these tell only a small part of what we do. Through BU Global, MET has hosted students from seventy-five countries since 2002. At our center in Brussels, students from thirty-four nations are currently studying management and international relations. Several of our graduate programs—particularly those in actuarial science, administrative studies, and arts administration—attract hundreds of students each year from around the world. About two hundred foreign students also enroll annually through Summer Term. All in all, MET has the third largest international population of BU’s 17 colleges, and accounts for ten percent of the University’s foreign student body—which is the tenth largest in the United States.

In recent years, MET has continued to pursue ways of educating adult learners from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. Through distance learning, MET is creating an increasingly global online classroom of working professionals, and building virtual educational exchange programs with prominent online programs in other countries. MET is also playing a major role in Boston University’s exploration of opportunities abroad. We are currently focusing on Asia, especially India and China. Over the past two years, I have met alumni in Tel Aviv, Brussels, London, Singapore, Shanghai, Bangalore, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

Schools like Metropolitan College, in a worldly city like Boston, will inevitably be globally diverse and innovative. Serving as a microcosm of our global environment, our programs enrich the educational experience of our students. Particularly in these troubled times, a global outreach and perspective makes even more sense as a strategy for ensuring MET’s vibrancy.

Jay A. Halfond
Dean, Metropolitan College and Extended Education Chair, President’s Council for a Global University

Field Trip to the State House

Thanks to instructor Steven Delaney, MET city planning and urban affairs students discussed municipal finance and budgeting—the topic of their graduate seminar—with Massachusetts’ top authority on the matter: State Treasurer Tim Cahill. Cahill (center) is pictured here with MET students Elisabeth Coicou, Sarabjeet Kaur, Deirdre Habershaw, and Delaney (from left to right). [Image]
On The Politics of Policing

Shea Cronin is the newest face in Met’s Department of Applied Social Sciences. A Massachusetts native, Cronin returned to Boston from American University in Washington, D.C., where he has been completing his doctorate on the community politics that shape the style and scope of law enforcement.

Cronin’s doctoral work in criminal justice builds upon an already impressive body of research cultivated during his years as a research associate at Northeastern University. There, he worked on issues ranging from racial profiling practices to the impact of strategic gun violence initiatives in Massachusetts. He has also looked at the role played by advocacy groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving in reducing drunk driving fatalities.

“I’ve worked on both police accountability and criminal justice policy issues,” said Cronin. “I want to know how we can make the criminal justice system more effective at reducing crime, but I also want to know how we can make it more accountable to a broader range of people, and to democratic values.”

For Cronin, there are two important sides to policing: while the police have the authority to enforce the law and maintain order, that authority is ultimately granted by the citizens they serve. In other words, communities should be in open dialog with law enforcement officials to determine what their policing needs are. How aggressive should police be in making arrests? What activities merit arrest? What areas should be patrolled more heavily than others? Are arrests actually a useful means of crime prevention?

According to Cronin, the answers to these questions may, and perhaps should, vary from community to community. Yet his research suggests that individual neighborhoods do not always determine how the police can best serve them. And that is where things get political. “It matters how people in communities vote,” said Cronin. “Whether or not they vote, who they vote for, these are factors that can help determine how attentive the police are to specific perspectives and requests when it comes to enforcement activities.”

“While the quality, style, and magnitude of policing may vary across different neighborhoods in the same city, this variety does not necessarily point to a correlation between a neighborhood’s needs and police responsiveness to those needs,” said Cronin. “What I’ve been finding is that neighborhoods that are well-established, that vote in high numbers, that vote for the parties who win elections—these communities often have the greatest say in how police resources are distributed, and how those resources will be used, citywide.”

And, in some extreme situations, certain communities get left out of this decision-making process altogether. “We like to believe that public agencies like the police distribute their resources based on some rational and concrete criteria—like need,” said Cronin. “But this isn’t really the case, because communities have different levels of power and organization, and therefore influence.”

“Places that probably need the police the most may very well get a more aggressive style of policing, or maybe even more policing,” said Cronin. “But that is not to say they receive responsive or effective policing, and that is because other communities impose enforcement standards from the outside.”

In New York City, he explained, residents that supported Rudolph Giuliani’s candidacy for mayor also tended to favor his emphasis on order-maintenance policing, which is a style of law enforcement that focuses on making arrests for public order offenses such as drunkenness and loitering.

“While Giuliani’s approach has been credited for cleaning up public places like Times Square,” said Cronin, “it may not be the best approach to take in, say, residential areas. Some neighborhoods may see this strategy as an imposition, and if it is implemented unilaterally by the parties in power, citizens can come to experience a disconnect from the police and the politics of the city at large.”

The impetus behind Cronin’s research? “It’s clear that questions about how the criminal justice system operates matter to people’s lives,” said Cronin. “It matters how we treat victims of crime, how we process the accused, and how we respond to the specific needs of specific communities of people.”

Cronin hopes to contribute to the Department of Applied Social Sciences by making his work, well, applicable. “I hope to produce research that is meaningful not just to an academic audience, but to practitioners as well. I would like our department to be a resource here in our own community.”
“I never expected to be part of an experiment like this,” said Belasco. “But it’s been terrific.” The course kicked off with a barbecue during the first week, allowing students to delve, literally, into the essence of meat before beginning the challenge of thinking and writing about this contested dietary mainstay. “For us, conversation happens largely on the discussion board,” said Belasco. “Students collect their thoughts and present them in an elegant way. It has been a real success.”

“We’ve tackled questions about whether a taste for meat is primal or culturally derived, and whether it is or isn’t nutritionally required,” said Belasco. “We’ve asked why men eat more meat—is it fundamentally masculine in some way? We’ve considered the implications of the modern supermarket. How would our attitudes toward meat be different if we were in contact with the animals we eat?”

The course ended with a look at the weighty matters facing the future of food production and consumption, especially as the demand for meat increases across the globe. Students learned, for example, that the raising of livestock animals produces more greenhouse gases than do cars and buses. In their final assignment, the class made recommendations and predictions for meat eaters in the next fifty years.

Some offered a tidy answer: vegetarianism. Others asserted that meat consumption can be ethical, economical, and even sustainable through a revival of local, organic farming practices. Still others offered more radical solutions: synthetic and biologically engineered foods. That’s right, test tube meat. To demonstrate their ideas for tomorrow’s meals, students prepared a futuristic feast to close out the course. The “Tapas 2058” menu featured dishes both imaginary and established, both revolutionary and revised.

Charles Kenneth Knox Shelton presented condiments of the future: reconstituted ketchup and mustard prepared from shelf-stable products like tomato powder, which can be whipped into foam through the help of soy products. By contrast, Jesse Kimler emphasized sustenance and self-sufficiency by bringing pork that she raised, slaughtered, and roasted at her home in rural Vermont.

Barbara Rotger and Cathy Suarez brought dishes that combined tradition with utility, custom with conscientiousness. Rotger’s Tortilla Espagnola featured ingredients that can be raised in suburban backyards: eggs from home-grown chickens and potatoes from the garden. Anticipating a need to utilize preserved foods in years to come, Suarez transformed a family recipe for Italian stuffing into a multicultural, colorful, and nourishing bread featuring sundried tomatoes, chorizo, and pistachios.

“There will be multiple futures,” Belasco said. “There will be Wal-Mart, but there will be people raising their own foods as well. There will be diversity, and there probably should be.”

This contact between the time-honored and the yet-to-come also best describes the experience of this hybrid course. After a semester of high tech, virtual conversation in what may very well be the classroom of the future, this group of food scholars joined together—some traveling many miles by plane and car—in order to celebrate their hard work in a most old-fashioned way: by enjoying a good meal in the company of friends.
Everyone knows it’s a good thing to make the Dean’s List. In this new feature, we’ll be celebrating students who have demonstrated the ability to flourish both in and out of the classroom—often at the same time. Their ability to do so makes them exemplary representatives of the dedication and spirit of all MET students.

Regards from an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia

So ends an e-mail message sent from arts administration student David Dell to MET Assistant Professor Richard Maloney. Dell, a technical sergeant in the U.S. Air Forces Central Expeditionary Band, wrote to Maloney to pass along the news that he was, quite literally, administering the arts. Having enrolled in MET because of its proximity to Massachusetts’ Hanscom Air Force Base, where he is stationed, Dell found himself on a journey that took him far from the conveniences of campus and home. He and his fellow band members traveled the world last summer bringing the sounds of America to troops and civilians around the globe.

“We’ve been met with great enthusiasm,” wrote Dell. “Music certainly transcends everything else. Our musicians have risked their lives, traveling via convoy and Blackhawk to bring emotional departure to our troops and to give local citizens a different look (and sound) at Americans.”

Having performed in Djibouti, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, Dell wrote with justifiable pride of his unorthodox tour of duty: “Our bands have done outreach performances for children in orphanages, cancer centers, and hospitals as well as for students in universities and conservatories. And we’ve also done embassy work through military band collaborations in former and current police states.”

Embryo Creative: A Business Born in a MET Classroom

The About Us page of the Embryo Creative website features a curious phenomenon. Each of the company’s five founding members holds a master’s degree in advertising from Boston University. Chris Antonowich, Stephanie Jeskey, Ryan Ferland, Allan Shinohara, and Shannon Hart all earned their degrees through MET’s collaborative part-time M.S. in Advertising program, which features a College of Communication curriculum in a format designed for working professionals.

During their time as students, this group of friends was hatching an idea for the ultimate final project: a company that utilized their expertise in copywriting, graphic design, video production, and account management. Their list of clients already includes Boston and New Hampshire affiliates of National Public Radio, Mercedes-Benz, Nexus, Hasbro Inc., and the Appalachian Mountain Club, to name a few.

Journey from Beijing to Boston

When she arrived on campus from China for the first time this fall, Bingru Wang was already a celebrity. Just weeks earlier, having completed an internship with NBC News during the 2008 Beijing Olympics Games, Wang was featured in a prime time interview with Brian Williams on The Nightly News.

In the interview, she spoke with him about her upcoming studies at BU, and about learning English by studying U.S. newscasts. She also gave a brief recital on the Zheng, a Chinese string instrument with a 2,000-year history. Wang has been playing for sixteen years, and held a solo concert in Beijing in 2006.

But her journey to Boston was far from certain to occur. In August, Wang and her family were still recovering from the country’s Chengdu Earthquake, which had destroyed their home in May. A graduate assistantship proved critical to her ability to study in MET’s arts administration program, where she is now shaping a career in the arts. “I love being in Boston so much,” said Wang. “My teachers, classmates, and friends are wonderful.”
Stephen B. Haines (CGS’78, COM’80)
Photography Editor, The Boston Globe

Stephen Haines teaches in MET’s graduate program in arts administration. Recently, his work was featured in Dean Halfond’s office gallery.

The photograph at left, taken in Texas in the 1980s and originally printed in The Providence Journal, was part of a Pulitzer Prize nominated series of stories and images, “Hunger in America.”

Leader in IT Visits MET

In October, Dr. Ganesh Natarajan made a visit to campus to discuss potential international collaborations between MET’s computer science department and NASSCOM, the preeminent industry association for software and information technology companies in India. During his stay in Boston, Natarajan also spoke at the centennial anniversary celebration of Harvard Business School. He is currently association chairman of NASSCOM and CEO of Zensar.

Natarajan is pictured here (center) with MET’s Chair of Computer Science Lou Chitkushev, Associate Dean Tanya Zlateva, Dean Jay Halfond, and School of Management Professor Sushil Vachani (from left to right).

Advertising the Faces of MET

MET has always been proud of its students. Happily, students have always been proud of MET, too. And we want everyone to know about it. So in our new advertising campaign, we’ve turned to the faces that bring life to our classrooms and programs—their energy, ambition, and commitment are what makes learning at MET such an extraordinary experience. And their successes inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

So keep your eyes open. You may just see one of your classmates the next time you’re riding on the MBTA or flipping through the newspaper. And if you happen to be Rand, Bryan, Ian, Peru, Kathleen, Lucia, Helen, Amy, Stephanie, Chris, Ryan, Allan, Shannon, Tim, or Jill—our thanks to you for letting us share your stories.
MET Initiates New Scholarships

IN RECENT YEARS, MET HAS BEEN LEADING A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TO PROCEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNING, PART-TIME, AND NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS. IN 2008, MET ANNOUNCED TWO NEW SCHOLARSHIPS THAT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF A VARIETY OF DESERVING, YET OFTEN UNDERSERVED, STUDENTS:

Osher Reentry Scholarship
This fall, nine MET students received awards from a scholarship fund that is the result of a newly established affiliation between MET and the Bernard Osher Foundation, a California-based organization that provides grant funding to colleges and universities that serve “reentry” students—those students whose undergraduate study has been interrupted for five or more years.

Working with Ellen Peterson, director of Undergraduate Student Services, Dean Halfond presented the Foundation with MET’s commitment to making higher education accessible to adult learners. The result was an award of $50,000 to fund up to 20 scholarships for MET students during the 2008-2009 school year. “Our mission at MET is to be a vehicle for students who are unable to attend school, for whatever reason, on a full-time basis. We want those students to be able to pursue and complete the degrees they seek,” said Senior Assistant Dean Carl Sessa. “The Osher Reentry Scholarships are a logical vehicle to assist our mission, in that we share with the Foundation a deep dedication to the needs of non-traditional students.”

The award from the Osher Foundation puts MET in the company of 63 other universities offering reentry scholarships to students. “We recognize the need to support students financially,” Peterson said. “Historically, part-time students have been overlooked for scholarship and loan funds. These emerging opportunities are so important. Students receiving these scholarships consistently tell us that they would otherwise be unable to study at BU. We are working to provide resources, and to spread the message that BU is affordable and accessible.”

Scholarships for Mom and Dad
It is well documented that children whose parents earn college degrees are more likely to pursue higher education themselves. With this in mind, and in response to Mayor Menino’s call for Boston-area campuses to interact with the city’s primary and secondary schools, MET recently requested and received funding for a new kind of scholarship. This time, the award is not for children, but for their parents. Specifically, parents of children who attend Boston and Chelsea Public Schools.

Katherine Meyer, MET’s community programs manager, proposed the establishment of a fund that would halve the cost of attending MET for parents looking to return to school. Boston University accepted her proposal, dedicating up to forty scholarships that make the cost of attendance at MET comparable to the cost of attending community college. “Parents are so surprised to learn that this scholarship is for them,” said Meyer.

So surprised, in fact, that Meyer knew she would need help spreading the word. To enlist that help, Meyer established Boston University, for the first time, as a member of the Massachusetts Campus Compact, a group of 69 Massachusetts colleges committed to community outreach. As a member of the Campus Compact, BU and MET became eligible to receive resources from the AmeriCorps* VISTA program, a national service organization that aims to fight poverty through a variety of strategies, including education. With this support, Meyer recruited Jessica Hill, a grant-funded community programs coordinator who has been working hard to raise awareness about the scholarship.

“My work this year is really about planting the seeds that a college education is possible, even for parents who think they can’t afford it, or who think they don’t have the time,” she said.

“Going back to school is not a decision people make overnight,” said Hill. “But parents are excited to tell people that they are thinking about applying to BU, and delighted to know that a scholarship exists for them.”

Jessica Hill is working with MET to offer scholarships to local parents.
Costello, a decorated journalist whose face you may recognize from his nightly role as NBC’s congressional correspondent on the financial rescue package, received his master’s degree in multinational commerce from Boston University’s campus in Brussels. As a member of the MET Dean’s Advisory Board, he helped initiate the event and served as its guest of honor. In his remarks to fellow off-campus grads, he joked about the peculiarities of studying at BU from afar while also emphasizing the importance of the University’s commitment to international education.

“When people find out I earned my master’s at BU, they immediately begin quizzing me about Boston,” he said. “They ask me if I’ve been to a particular pub or if I went to baseball games at Fenway. Though I didn’t have those experiences, I was fortunate to be part of a fantastic international program that literally changed my life and career,” he said. “Since the 1960s, BU has had the foresight to recognize the value of overseas programs.”

A forum on global education in a time of global crisis

Costello offered his career trajectory as a kind of object lesson on the virtues of gaining international experience and perspective, and he emphasized the critical need to continue helping students cultivate a worldly outlook, particularly in light of the recent global economic crisis.

Looking for a new direction and a little adventure in 1995, Costello left a job as a television reporter in Denver, relocated to Brussels, and enrolled in a master’s program at BU’s campus there. “I was able to get a brand-name education from BU with an international dimension as an added benefit,” he said. “One of my professors was a former ambassador who told stories about being accused of participation in a Soviet spy ring.”

“My time at BU re-launched my career. The day before my last final I got a job offer to work as CNBC’s London correspondent. It was the perfect opportunity to combine my television experience with my new master’s degree.”

During his time with CNBC, Costello would go on to serve as NASDAQ correspondent, and then senior correspondent for CBNC Business News. In 2004, he was invited to what he called the “mother ship” of news: NBC in New York City. And from there, he took on his current role in Washington, D.C. Costello has reported on the launch of the Euro, the burst of the dot com bubble, and the reopening of the NASDAQ after 9/11—and he has traveled the world documenting the economies of Japan, Germany, and the Middle East.

“In Dubai, a sheik invited me to a Bedouin camp in the desert, where we had an amazing feast,” said Costello. “Then his cell phone rang, and he proceeded to conduct a deal between New York and Singapore from the top of a sand dune. And I thought, what a world we live in. How amazing to witness it. But none of this would be possible had I not had the opportunity to go to BU in Brussels.”

Turning to the events of today and the insights he has gained while covering the financial crisis in Washington, D.C., he commented that “we are in a serious time indeed, and it is in this environment, it occurs to me, where BU is so vital.”

“We need worldly perspectives about how to bring prosperity back to this global economy and society,” said Costello. “I think that is why this university has stood out, why it continues to stand out, and why we, as alumni, can be a part of helping it do that.”
There, she serves as a director on the boards of two major corporations: Shriram Global Enterprises Ltd., and New Horizons India Ltd. She also commits significant time and energy to the efforts of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, which addresses the social, educational, and economic needs of women and girls in India's rural settings. Mahatma Gandhi, who founded the KGNMT in 1945, named it in honor of his wife. Bharat Ram’s special connection to the Trust is that its founder and namesake are her great grandparents. Bharat Ram described her perspectives on the KGNMT in a recent interview with MET:

**MET: Can you describe the Kasturba Ghandi National Memorial Trust and its activities?**

**Bharat Ram:** Mahatma Gandhi founded the Trust in 1945. It is worth noting that this was before India gained political independence in 1947. However, the Trust’s focus on economic independence, education, self-reliance, health care, and the ability to live a life of dignity, which were all fundamental to the Mahatma’s vision of the world, remain vitally important and relevant even today as India emerges as an economic power.

The KGNMT is present all over India and the work it does is determined by the specific needs of the area in which it is located. In Assam and Kashmir, the KGNMT has worked among societies affected by terrorism. In Central India, the KGNMT works with tribal populations to generate employment. In the South a lot of work is done with leprosy patients, and in Delhi we focus on primary healthcare for women and children, and especially on educating young girls who have been abandoned by their families.

**MET: What motivates you to dedicate your time, energy, and effort to the girls of India?**

**Bharat Ram:** I believe strongly in the idea of giving back to society. This is a concept that exists all over the world. It links humanity.

India is a country that is generating great interest for its phenomenal entrepreneurial spirit. Fifty percent of our population is below the age of thirty. However, despite the wealth that obviously exists, there are still parts of India that are abysmally poor. We have large populations living in squalor and in the most dismal conditions. Working at the grass roots level keeps me in touch with this reality, and it is absolutely true that individuals and institutions can make a difference in the lives of countless people. India is a place where this is easy to see.

**MET: Can you describe your experience as a BU student in Rome? What role has your education played in your professional and philanthropic pursuits?**

**Bharat Ram:** Education not only gave me the tools to embark upon a career, but it also prepared me to look upon issues and face situations with an open mind. We have to constantly keep ourselves in touch with the changing world.

I remember very fondly my time as a BU student. We were a very diverse and international group of students. There was a lot of laughter and camaraderie, but we all took our studies very seriously, and in this we were helped and encouraged by our excellent faculty.
Arts Administration

MET’s Arts Administration Alumni Association hosted a panel discussion on developing and motivating non-profit boards. Arts administration lecturer Janet Bailey mediated the discussion. Pictured here are guest panelists Jim Ricciuti (MET’05), director of development of Passim Folk Music and Cultural Center; Barb Seidl, former president of the Board for Women in Film & Video New England; Catherine Peterson, executive director of ArtsBoston; and Bill Nigreen, principal, Facilitation for Social Change and chair of the Board of Overseers, Boston Landmarks Orchestra (left to right).

Each year, MET alumni, students, staff, and faculty get the Thanksgiving holiday off to a good start by cheering on the Terrier hockey team. Here are some photo highlights of this year’s event.

Kay Moriarty O’Dwyer (MET’05) and MET Alumni Officer Laura Blanchard

Carnot Sylvestre (MET’08) and his son Sebastian

Steve Garfinkle (MET’72) and his wife Barbara

Criminal Justice faculty and staff Mary Ellen Mastorilli, Kristin Boches (MET’08), and Tom Nolan (SED’91, ’00)

Jackie Boyle (MET’07) and Samantha Robin (MET’09)

Evergreen students Fred and Lynn Basch
Mike Cooke (MET’06) of Vancouver, WA, was recently promoted to the rank of commander with the Clark County Sheriff’s Office. He has been assigned to command the Central Precinct of the Sheriff’s Office. He continues to teach in the Criminal Justice Department at Portland Community College. Write to Mike at mcooke@pacifier.com.

Tom Costello (MET’96) is an NBC News correspondent based in Washington, D.C. Tom recently visited campus as a guest speaker during Alumni Weekend. Tom also participated at an all-University panel in D.C. about the U.S. economy, a subject he reports on frequently.

William Fitzhugh (MET’02) of Gaithersburg, MD, has recently joined a new company, 5AM Solutions, that specializes in software solutions to support research and development in the life sciences. Contact William at wfitzhugh@5amsolutions.com.

Gali Halpern (MET’06) is the General Manager of the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC), which presents free productions of Shakespeare on the Boston Common. Learn about Shakespeare on the Common at commonshakes.org.

Brian Hubbard (MET’07) of Piedmont, SC, has been promoted to the position of Chair of the School of Information Technology and Business at ITT Technical Institute, in Greenville, SC.

Tom Laszewski (MET’02) of Hampton, NH, has recently published Oracle Modernization Solutions with co-author Jason Williamson. A Packt Publishing release, the book focuses on two approaches to legacy modernization: SOA integration and re-architecting. Contact Tom at t.laszewski@comcast.net.

Michael McCabe (MET’87, MET’87) recently became a Director of Deloitte in New York City. Mike is a long-time member of the Dean’s Advisory Board.

Ramesh Kumar Nanjundaiya (MET’81) of Dubai, UAE, is a senior commercial/corporate lender with Barclays Bank PLC. He launched into a banking career after completing his master’s degree from MET. His career has taken him to Western Europe, India, and now the Middle East. He is in regular touch with BU and is a member of the Dean’s Advisory board of MET. Write to Ramesh at rameshkumarn@hotmail.com.

Peter Raimondi (MET’80, LAW’83) is founder and president of Banyan Partners LLC. Peter created Banyan as a boutique Wealth Management firm concentrating on selected individual clients and their personal wealth management. Visit banyanpartners.net for details.

Timothy M. Schmidt (MET’84) of Huntsville, AL, was promoted to director, Test & Evaluation, L-3 Communications Corporation, Huntsville Division. A retired Lieutenant Colonel, Tim supports the Missile Defense Agency’s Ground Based Midcourse Defense Test Directorate. Contact him at tschmidt@knology.net.

Thaddeus (Toby) J. Yurek III (MET’04) of Henderson, NV, graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctorate from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada (UNLV) in May. Toby also recently completed the Nevada State Bar exam, expecting results in November. He currently serves the Henderson Police Department as Lieutenant of Criminalistics (CSI). Contact Toby at Thaddeus.yurek@cityofhenderson.com.

Dave Zeltserman (MET’87), of Needham, MA, recently released the first of three forthcoming novels with UK publisher Serpent’s Tail: Small Crimes. National Public Radio named the book one of the five best crime and mystery novels of 2008. E-mail Dave at dave.zeltserman@gmail.com.

Corrections
Our sincere apologies to alumni Eddy Wetterland (MET’08) and Ram Kumar (GSM’82, MET’86), whose names were misspelled in the last edition of the Metropolitan.
New Program in **Genealogical Research**

The word genealogy might conjure images of dusty tomes sitting on abandoned shelves, or even the charming scrawls of an elementary school student’s rendering of the family tree. But the Center for Professional Education’s (CPE) newest program, which leads to a Certificate in Genealogical Research, is testament to the fact that genealogy is not, by any means, an antiquated discipline. And certainly, it isn’t child’s play.

Thomas W. Jones—program instructor and fellow of the American Society of Genealogists—maintains that genealogical research methods are relevant to over forty other disciplines, such as law, history, library science, and even genetics.

His claim is supported by the extraordinary range of issues and inquiries to which genealogical information can contribute greater clarity. Think missing heirs, forged identities, medical mysteries, disputed estates, and the locating of adopted children. These are the kinds of matters graduates of the program will be prepared to tackle. And they constitute the reasons why skills in genealogical research are highly employable.

Consider a case study. In 2008, Sharon Sergeant (MET’83), another member of the distinguished faculty team leading the CPE program, made headlines by discrediting Misha Defonseca’s bestselling 1997 autobiography, *Misha: A Memoire of the Holocaust Years*. Defonseca’s fabricated story detailed her childhood flight from Nazi soldiers, and a lengthy trek across Europe in the company of a protective pack of wolves.

Because vital records in Belgium (her home country) were closed, Defonseca was able to prevent anyone from discovering her actual identity, and her hoax, for nearly ten years. The veracity of her story is critical, as it sits at the heart of an ongoing $32 million law suit between Defonseca and her publisher.

The key to Sergeant’s ability to get to the bottom of the matter was her application of the Genealogical Proof Standard®, the gold standard of the discipline—and the foundation of the CPE curriculum. Jones and Sergeant are joined by Richard Andrew Pierce, Dr. Mary Ann Boyle, Elissa Scalise Powell, and Melinde Lutz Sanborn. Sanborn, who is both a fellow and the vice president of the American Society of Genealogists, designed the program to serve the needs of serious hobbyists as well as current and aspiring genealogical professionals.

The program’s focus on methodology, evidence evaluation, and problem solving helps students navigate information available through Internet sources, and provides the tools to determine what is, and is not, credible documentation.

For additional information on the Certificate in Genealogical Research, visit bu.edu/professional.

*Melinde Lutz Sanborn contributed to this article.*