Administration for Arts’ Sake: Three Alumni on a Mission

Plus!
Rachel Black becomes MET’s first full-time faculty member in gastronomy

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Meet Kimberly Grant
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Celebrating 30 years of intergenerational learning at BU. See page 10
Dear MET community,

Metropolitan College continues to grow and thrive. Not because we do what everyone else does, but because there is simply no other enterprise quite like us in our remarkable depth and breadth. First and foremost, we are characterized by our full-time, cross-disciplinary faculty, who (in addition to the standard duties of teaching and scholarship) build and sustain programs and courses, mentor part-time faculty, and explore new modes of teaching. While MET is progressive and entrepreneurial when it comes to new ventures, we are traditional in our academic standards. All of our efforts are grounded in a preoccupation with academic excellence.

While we educate those of all ages, our students are predominately in the midst of careers and adult lives—they are demanding of themselves and of us. MET builds networks externally—with corporations, international universities, and professional associations—to provide valuable educational opportunities to their constituents. At the same time, we are locally engaged and altruistic in the educational opportunities we provide to metropolitan Boston.

We are committed to unrelenting academic innovation and relevance through new fields of study and through teaching that reaches beyond the conventional classroom. We pioneered distance learning for Boston University and continue to be at the forefront nationally, as evidenced by recent recognition from the Sloan Consortium. But technology alone is not the means for innovating: we also value experiential and overseas opportunities that expand the array of educational experiences.

While Metropolitan College offers a robust menu of degrees unique to MET, we also collaborate on and support those offered elsewhere at Boston University. Our faculty and staff demonstrate an uncommon generosity of spirit that engages them throughout BU. We recognize and respect the imprimatur of a great academic institution, and work to further the University’s reputation in the many ways we extend BU to a wide array of students.

Defining such a vast and fluid enterprise like MET is an ongoing, challenging exercise. Determining how to move forward in the future is even more daunting. But our attentiveness to external needs and realities and our agility in responding to those opportunities allow MET to be dynamic and successful. We focus our energies on creating and sustaining educational programs that make a difference in the lives of our students. For our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, my goal—my preoccupation—is to continue to justify your confidence and pride in the quality and reputation of all that we do.

I am pleased to share some of the stories of the past six months.

Jay A. Halfond
Dean
Alumna Endows Fund for Faculty and Staff Development

DURING HER commencement speech last May, alumna Patricia Chadwick (MET’75), recipient of the MET Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Profession, told a personal story about an “angel” in her life: her academic counselor at MET, Annie Martindale. Chadwick describes Martindale, who passed away in her early thirties, as “a marvelous mentor, a facilitator, a morale builder, and a dear friend.

“Annie’s favorite expression was ‘Of course you can.’ She transformed the formidable into the possible,” said Chadwick.

Chadwick attributes her ability to complete her MET degree in economics—earned through the upheaval of several jobs and relocations—to Martindale’s advice and encouragement.

Having gone on to an impressive business career culminating with a position as global partner at Invesco and entrepreneurial success as the founder of the consulting firm Ravengate Partners, Chadwick decided to honor her advisor by giving back to the University. “Remembering Annie throughout my career,” said Chadwick, “I have tried to emulate her spirit of giving.”

The Patricia W. Chadwick Fund for Professional Development celebrates the dedication of those MET faculty and staff members who serve as “angels” to current students seeking advice and counsel. The fund will provide annual grants for professional development opportunities to one or more faculty and staff members exemplifying the highest level of service and commitment to MET and its students.

“We are delighted to be able to formally acknowledge and support MET’s continuing tradition of attentive, compassionate mentoring by awarding these grants to current faculty and staff,” said Dean Halfond. “We are most grateful for Patricia’s generosity and loyalty to her alma mater.”

MET Students Take to TheStreet.com

SOMETIMES a term paper is much more than a term paper. For students in Associate Professor Barry Unger’s online course The Innovation Process: Developing New Products and Services, schoolwork became an opportunity for meaningful collaboration between accomplished professionals—and a national publication.

Glenn Hall, a student who took Unger’s course as part of the online Master of Science in Project Management program, is editor-in-chief at TheStreet, a digital media company (founded by investment expert Jim Cramer) that provides financial news and investment advice. In a gesture that speaks to the relevance of the MET classroom to the real world, Hall saw fit to share research he and a group of classmates conducted with his investment-savvy readers.

The assignment was to provide strategies to help investment company Charles Schwab stay at the forefront of the financial products and services market based on the advent of recent technologies. In September, TheStreet.com featured the resulting

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BU RECOGNIZES

BOSTON UNIVERSITY PROUDLY RECOGNIZES THE DEDICATION, PARTICIPATION, GENEROSITY, AND LEADERSHIP OF ALUMNI, PARENTS, FRIENDS, AND VOLUNTEERS.

THANK YOU!

Visit bu.edu/recognizes to learn more about the impact of BU donors.

METrics

4,500 Approximate number of hours spent developing the new MET website. (Check it out at bu.edu/met.)

1 Number of BU faculty members in attendance at Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan’s confirmation hearings: MET’s Virginia Greiman.

23 Percentage of BU’s graduate students who are enrolled in MET programs.

4,842 Number of participants in MET’s Seminars in Food, Wine & the Arts during the 2009–10 academic year.

100 Percentage of growth in MET’s gastronomy program in just one year.

22,179 Current number of MET alumni.

150 Approximate number of gallons of water it takes to Zamboni the hockey rink at Agganis Arena.

316 Number of foam fingers distributed to guests at MET Night at Agganis Arena.

10,000 Approximate number of Evergreen students who have taken classes and seminars at BU since 1980.
IT MAY NEVER have occurred to you while enjoying a meal out that the word restaurant derives from the French verb restaurer: to restore. And even given this information, you wouldn’t be likely to infer that in nineteenth-century France the restaurant was a place frequented by aristocrats seeking to restore their health by eating bland, boiled down meats and light puddings. That it was stylish to be sickly and frail. Or that members of the bourgeoisie sought entry to these establishments because dining there would publicly affiliate them with elite social classes that had both the time and means to nurse chic ailments.

But this is precisely the kind of cultural knowledge to be gained from just a quick conversation with MET’s newest, and first, assistant professor of gastronomy, food anthropologist Rachel Eden Black. Black comes to MET with nearly a decade of experience teaching at prestigious European universities, and an insatiable appetite for food studies. Her work has touched upon everything from the history of bottled water in Italy and France to urban agriculture in Canada to the culture of open-air food markets. Her book Porta Palazzo: Food, Identity and Place at the Market, currently under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press, is the culmination of years of ethnographic research in Turin’s Porta Palazzo, the largest open-air market in Europe.

“As someone who grew up in Canada shopping at the grocery store, I always wondered, why do markets still exist?” said Black. “When I moved to France and then Italy for my studies, I began going to the market every day. It’s part of the lifestyle. What fascinated me was the sense of community. I learned so much of the language there, both French and Italian. I met my neighbors. I learned about the cuisine because the person standing next to me would give me a new frittata recipe to use with my zucchini. Every time I went I got a cultural lesson, and the exchanges were so fascinating that I wondered what else might be going on at the market.”

A lot, it turns out. Black’s book, which she describes as providing “snapshots” of this dynamic environment, delves into the marketplace as a space where tensions over immigration are negotiated through the integration of foreign foods into the Italian palate. It explores the market as a site for encountering the exotic at home through access to new flavors and faces. It also analyzes the use of sexual innuendo during the buying and selling process (insert your best bawdy pun about big red tomatoes here), arguing that the market offers vendors and customers a more expansive range of gender roles than those available at home or in the office.

To gather her insights, Black jumped right into the fray at Porta Palazzo. She worked with a Moroccan family in their vegetable stand, sold sweets for a candy vendor, and
New Faculty

befriended local entrepreneurs offering tours of the market. “Ethnography is about being there,” she said. “It’s about talking to people and sharing their lives, not once a week, but every day.”

Her research methodology translates readily into a philosophy for teaching and working at MET. In her first semester, Black is already busy cultivating community among faculty members and graduate students across the University who have interests in studying food. She’s also building relationships with the students in MET’s burgeoning graduate program in gastronomy. “I really respect and envy my students,” said Black. “I want to be in the program! I want to take every class. When I was studying, there was no program like this. Food studies was about nutrition, not culture and gastronomy. I desperately wanted to study food, but there was no place to do so.”

Having taught at universities in France, Spain, Italy, and Canada, Black reflected that “teaching at MET is very different, and in a good way. At MET you have students who’ve done something in life, and who are ready to study food in a very serious way. It’s so excellent. Because of unique programs like this, the discipline has finally arrived. “I definitely feel part of something special at MET,” she said.

Where’s Prof. Greiman?

Last July, Assistant Professor of Administrative Sciences Virginia Greiman was spotted in a photograph that appeared in Time Magazine. Greiman can be seen sitting among the second row of guests at the Senate confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan. As her former colleague, Greiman attended the proceedings at Justice Kagan’s invitation.

Learn More about gastronomy at MET: bu.edu/gastronomy.

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Arts Administration

Administration for Arts’ Sake

IF A CELLIST performs Bach in an empty concert hall, does he make a sound? If a painting hangs in a deserted wing of the museum, is it art? An aesthete might answer these questions in the affirmative, touting the intrinsic value of the objet d’art, be it a Rodin sculpture or graffiti. No matter how intelligible, no matter the amount of effort involved, no matter how little viewed or heard, the art for art’s sake perspective defends the integrity of creative expression as absolute, and the realm of art as sacrosanct—outside the worldly concerns of audience, budgets, infrastructure, or accountability.

But some would argue that this view of art, while noble and familiar, is threatening to art’s vitality, to its ability to be a vehicle for individual inspiration, intercultural exchange, and social transformation. Among them are three alumni of MET’s graduate program in arts administration whose passion for the arts has led them to tackle the practicalities of making sure art gets funded, experienced, and understood.

**Zakiya Thomas (MET’02)**, manager of community relations at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), recalls that her experience at MET provided a critical reality check. “Those of us who are committed to art have to realize that not everyone loves it the way we do,” said Thomas. “If you assume that all people understand art’s value, then you can’t effectively advocate for the resources required for the arts to flourish. It’s up to us to explain why the arts are important.”

A classically trained violinist, Thomas found herself drawn to the administrative aspects of the art world by the promise of greater impact. “I could reach audiences already invested in music by performing on stage,” she said. “Or, I can take a behind-the-scenes role and reach myriad communities. I want everyone to experience the excitement, enjoyment, and discovery that come with meaningful engagement with the arts.”

In her role at the MFA, this means aligning the goals of a large cultural institution (the preservation and display of “high” artwork) with the demands of the community at large (from local artists who seek the museum’s commitment to their work, to those for whom an art museum seems a bastion of elite culture irrelevant to their daily lives). “I see the community as existing along a continuum of involvement with the arts. My responsibility and goal is to speak to, and involve, individuals at every point along this continuum,” said Thomas.

One strategy for doing this is to transform museums from authoritative arbiters of culture to institutions that provide the context by which people can engage with a work in a way that is personally meaningful. “Simple, personal connections between a viewer and an artwork are the place to begin. It’s not necessarily about the particular strokes on a canvas,” said Thomas. “It’s about a story being told, and once we know that, we can all find ways to relate to works of art that portray even a radically different place, time, culture, or idea.”

Thomas remarked that this ability to relate to the unfamiliar is the ultimate payoff for participating in the arts, particularly in a global economy. **Ben Hires** (CAS’00, STH’03, MET’08) would likely agree. In his role as director of programs at the Boston Children’s Chorus (BCC), he leads the organization’s mission, in his words, “to harness the power and joy of music as a catalyst for social change, specifically by bringing diverse groups of people together around music.” Pursuing this mission means recruiting singers from diverse socioeconomic, religious, and racial backgrounds to participate in the BCC, and creating opportunities for participants to interact with a variety of audiences through their music.

Welcoming singers from ages seven through high school, the BCC provides rigorous musical training that opens doors into world cultures not only through the music students master, but also through an impressive performance schedule that allows participants to contribute to local and international events. A day in Hires’ shoes might involve leading the choir through any number of events—such as a 5K run and concert in support of suicide prevention, a ceremony for Mike Lowell at Fenway Park, a performance at the premiere of Opera Boston’s Madame Whitesnake, or a concert at Petra in Jordan.

Hires’ work is to see that Boston-area students have the opportunity to study music in a disciplined and advanced way, and to share that hard-earned skill with local and world audiences. “Their exuberance and joy and curiosity is something I want to support,” he said. “I admire what these kids do. It’s beautiful to see them channel all their effort and enthusiasm into a concert, and to see their growth.” That growth has led to musical prowess, a broader worldview, and increasingly, to college scholarships.

A former student of philosophy and theology (he holds three degrees from BU), Hires asserts that “music and art help us to grapple with the world because they express complex emotions and situations like life and death, spirituality, love.” Like Thomas, Hires espouses an argument for the worldly

**Arts Administration at MET**

Now in its 16th year, MET’s master’s program in arts administration has over 300 alumni, many in prominent positions around the U.S. and world. The highly respected program features faculty and instructors who are practicing artists and administrators, and an internship component that provides hands-on access to administering the arts.

To learn more about arts administration at MET, visit bu.edu/met.
consequence of art that is transforming the way that art is administered. “In the past, the arts haven’t really been accountable for anything besides the making of art. But I don’t think that’s going to fly anymore. You can’t just be good; you have to be relevant.”

The world of art, in other words, can and should be part of the world at large. Claudia Castro (MET’04), coordinator for the Culture Sector of the Brazilian office of the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), is tackling this issue in an international setting. Her job is to collaborate with artists and administrators throughout the twenty-two countries of Ibero-America (and often beyond) to transform international ideas into opportunities for the arts at the local level. “We are trying to build momentum around institutions like museums,” said Castro. “We need to use our own creativity for creating community engagement and quality programming. The arts administration program helped me broaden my perspective on the art world.”

Castro, a trained flutist, reflected that “an artist is always trying to communicate something to someone, but that’s hard to do if people are not there to listen to you. You have to go out and reach them. When I came to BU I learned how to do that in an organized way.” Some of Castro’s tactics are dramatic, but effective. “Through a partnership between OEI and the Brazilian government,” she said, “we are building museums in communities of greater social need, especially places where there is violence. Instead of working to bring people to museums, we are bringing museums to people.”

The initiative is inspired by the work of residents of Favela de Maré, a shantytown on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. With help from the Brazilian Institute of Museums, they created the Museu da Maré. “A group of community members decided to reclaim their origins and history by creating a museum,” said Castro. “They built a collection from the donation of personal objects, photographs, and oral histories. They took charge of the depiction of their community, and the museum is now a peace zone that counteracts drug trafficking in the area. I work to locate and channel this kind of expertise so that we can, through cooperation, make a similar social impact in other Brazilian communities.”

What these alumni seem to have gained from their time in MET’s arts administration program is a set of skills that helps them support their lofty goals through the difficult work of managing budgets, negotiating conflicting priorities, and cultivating audiences—and a drive to administrate for art’s sake. Their efforts are what make the arts viable, accessible, pertinent.

And they have all returned to MET to share their expertise and contribute to the continued vitality of a unique and valued program. Hires currently serves as president of the Arts Administration Alumni Association. Thomas is a guest lecturer in the Art and the Community course. And Castro’s international perspective and interests fueled the development of a new course in Comparative Cultural Policy that allows students to travel and engage with arts administrators outside the U.S. M
**Interview: Kimberly Grant**

**METropolitan: What draws you to the work that you do?**

**Grant:** I started as a Ruby Tuesday server waiting tables in college, and I found that I truly love making people happy, and seeing it on their faces. I also happen to have a passion for food and the experience of eating out. My career is the melding of two passions: serving people and enjoying great food with friends and family.

**What is your role as executive vice president of Ruby Tuesday?**

I am responsible for developing and executing the strategic operating initiatives at Ruby Tuesday. I travel every week visiting our restaurants, looking through the eyes of a customer. I’m looking at the quality of the food and service, so I talk to the guests, and I taste the food (my job involves a lot of eating!). And I look for opportunities to mentor and coach team members. My goal is to make a positive difference in the day of our team and our guests.

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**We recently spoke with Grant about her career—which she began nineteen years ago as a Ruby Tuesday server—and just what draws an executive at the top of her game to study at MET.**

**Learn More about online programs at MET: bu.edu/online.**
How did you make the climb from server to executive?
It was a faster process than you might expect. I still think of my time waiting tables as a highlight of my career. During those years I gained invaluable insight into providing great service. The key, by the way, is sincerity. I soon started opening new restaurants as a trainer, then I became a manager, and then a managing partner. A little later I was asked to work in the finance department in our headquarters, and I embraced the challenge. I came to understand the connection between what we do for the customers and how the company makes money. After that I returned to operations and began supervising forty restaurants, which turned into a couple hundred restaurants, and then five years later I started overseeing them all.

You'd already made it to the top levels of your profession, so why return to graduate school?
I'm always looking for a challenge. I have a great deal of hands-on experience in the hospitality industry. My undergraduate degree in hotel and restaurant management helps me day to day, but what I've found in the last couple of years is that I am involved in conversations about high-level finance and business strategy. I spend a lot of time working with the CEO and CFO, and the Board of Directors. I really wanted to gain an academic foundation that would enhance my on-the-ground experience and allow me to participate more constructively in my daily interactions.

Has your time at MET paid off in the board room?
Absolutely. I now understand the mechanics of the activities we engage in as a business, the how-and-why behind the scenes. My comprehension of the company’s processes has totally changed. For example, I was learning about equity offerings in class at the very same time we were making an equity offering to the public. I hadn’t done it before, but I found myself able to contribute productively to our strategy sessions. The risk management class, which was exceptional, has helped me generate solid, meaningful quarterly risk assessments for our company.

You could have chosen any school, any Ivy League program. Why MET? Why finance? Why online?
I had specific criteria. I wanted a degree in finance from an institution with a great reputation for providing a challenging academic environment. I looked at a lot of MBA programs that just didn’t have the depth of coverage I was seeking. I also needed a program that could accommodate my wild schedule... Finally, I wanted a school that was technologically advanced so that I could do most things virtually. MET had all of this.

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Did the program meet your expectations?
The program exceeded my expectations. One of my concerns was that the information in the classes might be overly abstract, but what I found was a very good balance of academic theory and business application. Because many of the professors had had careers in business, they used current events to communicate the lessons in each class. What better time to learn about risk and financial turmoil than during the banking crisis? I was learning concepts and taking notes that were benefitting me every day and allowing me to make meaningful contributions.

How did you manage an executive career, travel, a new baby, and a demanding academic work load? Do you have advice for other MET students?
The degree is important, but not as important as learning the material. I didn’t want to just memorize it and forget it afterwards, I wanted to actually learn it and be able to apply it. You’ll need fifteen to twenty hours a week to really get something out of the experience. I literally allotted the time in my calendar so that I knew what hours of the day were dedicated to studying. I kept to that commitment, and it didn’t take away from family or professional time because it was already integrated. Committing the time is half the battle.

What is your favorite item on the Ruby Tuesday menu?
If I'm trying to be somewhat healthy, the Chicken Fresco with a side of fresh grilled asparagus, and white cheddar mashed potatoes (they're my guilty pleasure). If I'm indulging, definitely the Triple Prime Burger.
IN NOVEMBER, Evergreen participants gathered to celebrate thirty years of intergenerational learning at BU. The Evergreen program began in 1980 with 35 students over the age of sixty-five. These students came from neighborhoods immediately surrounding BU, and traveled to campus on a little red school bus that chauffeured them to summer courses designed especially for them. Today approximately 1,500 Evergreen students—those over the age of 58—attend lectures and seminar series, and even audit BU courses, each semester. Over the last thirty years, an estimated 10,000 Evergreen students have come to campus to enjoy each other’s company, interact with faculty, and learn alongside BU undergraduates.

Among them are current Evergreeners Carol Connolly and Barbara Fay (SED’71). Connolly, who recently retired from a career as an administrative assistant, expressed her delight at joining the BU community—especially because her great-niece is also beginning her studies at the University. In a testament to the uniqueness of the program, two generations from a single family are enjoying their “freshman year” together.

Fay, a former elementary school teacher, exemplifies the energy and drive of Evergreen students. Prior to attending the celebration, which started at 1 p.m., she had already made two trips to the gym and participated in a volunteer medical study. “Just don’t stop!” said Fay, commenting on the importance of staying active and engaged during retirement.

The event began with a panel discussion led by Dean Halfond, and closed with a recital of rarely performed operatic works. The panel featured favorite Evergreen faculty, who described the extraordinary experience of welcoming these spirited and insightful students into their classrooms. They reminisced with the audience about watching Evergreen students step into the role of surrogate grandparents to undergraduates, and about the astonishing historical perspectives they bring to the classroom dynamic. Joel Sheveloff, professor of music, recalled the day he was lecturing about Gershwin, when he discovered that his Evergreen student had actually played the viola under the direction of the famous composer.

“Evergreen was ahead of its time,” said Halfond. “It thrived before it was fashionable to open college campuses to older citizens, before the phrase lifelong learning existed, and before foundations began to fund learning-in-retirement communities.” Halfond acknowledged the efforts of BU President Emeritus John Silber, who founded the program, and Director
of Lifelong Learning Rebecca Alssid, who has administered Evergreen since it began.

“It is so precious for our undergraduates to see what it means to learn just for learning’s sake,” said Associate Professor Jonathan Ribner, whose art history classes have been popular among Evergreen students for years. “Younger students are under so much pressure to make the grade that they sometimes lose sight of the joy of education.”

“I’m always surprised by the personal and professional experiences Evergreen students have had,” commented Michael Fleming, who teaches clinical psychology—as well as a favorite Evergreen seminar, Psychology Goes to the Movies. “I once had a student who knew Anna Freud, and had visited Freud’s home. I’m always so grateful for the opportunity to learn from my Evergreen students.”

Sheveloff closed his remarks with a tribute in the form of a humorous Groucho Marx anecdote. “Old Groucho had a story,” he said, “about an instance when an old woman approached him on the street and whispered to him, ‘Never die, you’re just too wonderful.’ That’s how I feel about all of you,” said Sheveloff.

Sharing this sentiment, though taking a different tone, Ribner quoted Robert Browning’s poem “Rabbi Ben Ezra” for the audience: “Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be.”

“I predict that thirty years from now, we will be celebrating Evergreen’s sixtieth birthday,” said Halfond. “In the meantime, I hope we all stay ever green.”

Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be.

- Robert Browning, “Rabbi Ben Ezra”

Learn More about Evergreen at bu.edu/evergreen.

Associate Professor of Administrative Sciences Roger Warburton received the Innovative Scholar Grant for Distance Education from the Provost’s Faculty Advisory Board for Distance Education and the Center for Excellence in Teaching.


Associate Professor and Chair of Administrative Sciences Kip Becker was appointed to the Board of European and Mediterranean (EuroMed) Research Business Institute as country director for the United States.

Rachel Black, assistant professor of gastronomy, edited the newly released title Alcohol in Popular Culture: An Encyclopedia. She also authored “Buona Forchetta: Overeating in Italy,” which appears in Adventures in Eating: Anthropological Experiences in Dining from Around the World.

Associate Professor of the Practice of Administrative Sciences Bill Chambers published “The Changing Landscape for Credit Ratings” in LAW 360.


The work of Daniel Ranalli, associate professor and director of arts administration, was featured in a retrospective exhibit at the Provincetown Art Association & Museum from October through January.

Assistant Professor of Urban Affairs and City Planning Enrique Silva published “Complex Natural Disasters and the Role of the University” in Purdue Center Issues in Brief #17.

IN ADDITION to her role as associate dean for academic programs and associate professor of computer science at MET, Tanya Zlateva also serves as director of the Boston University Center for Reliable Information Systems & Cyber Security (RISCS). RISCS is a collaborative effort involving faculty from MET, the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), and the College of Engineering (ENG). Its mission is to foster multidisciplinary research and education in all aspects of information security. Partnership with industry is also a key goal for RISCS.

In July, the Center announced that a team of BU researchers led by Professor Mark Crovella from CAS, and in collaboration with Deutsche Telecom, Raytheon BBN Technologies, and Warwick University, had won a $3 million award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the purposes of studying the security risks of “softphones”—that is, cell phones sophisticated enough to serve as general-purpose computing devices. The RISCS grant, written with key input from Dean Zlateva on information security education and outreach, proposes to study the unique security threats presented by softphones. These threats range from the vulnerability of user privacy and personal finances to potential disruptions in emergency services that rely on dependable communication systems.

In September, and again with the participation of Dean Zlateva, RISCS procured another $3 million award from the NSF for the purposes of studying cloud computing, and particularly the integrity of cloud computing services when it comes to protecting customer data. The cloud computing grant is led by Professor Azer Bestavros from CAS, in cooperation with Brown University and the University of California at Irvine.

“My enthusiastic congratulations to the RISCS team, to MET’s leadership in this important University-wide center, and especially to Dean Zlateva, for achieving significant research funding for these undertakings,” said Dean Halfond.

“These awards are the result of five years of working together and forging collaborations,” said Zlateva. “They bring RISCS to the forefront of information security research and education and demonstrate what can be achieved when gifted researchers from varied disciplines and perspectives combine their talents.”

Jeannie Motherwell is MET’s program assistant for arts administration. Learn more about her art at jeanniemotherwell.com.
At its sixteenth annual international conference in November, the Sloan Consortium honored Boston University for excellence in institution-wide online education. The Sloan Consortium is the leading professional organization for online teaching and learning, with the stated mission of leading efforts to integrate online education into the mainstream of higher education—and in so doing, improving the quality, scale, and breadth of education.

All of Boston University’s online education is designed, implemented, and supported through the efforts of a dynamo staff of twenty-two that comprises MET’s Distance Education team. This group of instructional designers, student services coordinators, technical producers, and administrators delivers programming to the 2,500 students from all 50 states and 44 countries who currently study online at BU. They work with faculty and staff from MET, the College of Communication, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Engineering, Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, the College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Medicine, and the School of Education to produce programs in areas as diverse as health communication, manufacturing engineering, occupational therapy, criminal justice, management, computer information systems, and music education.

Dr. Burks Oakley II, chair of the Sloan Consortium Awards Committee, commented that “The 2010 recipients all have demonstrated exceptional leadership and real success in advancing online education.”

Dean Halfond extended congratulations to the entire BU community, including the faculty members who work with Distance Education for long hours to create courses and programs worthy of the BU name. “This is an especially meaningful public recognition to receive, and it reinforces the excellent contributions that so many make to this enterprise,” he said. “It is particularly gratifying to realize and celebrate just how far we have come since we launched our first fully online degree program in 2002.”

A number of features distinguish the unique BU model for online education, including a commitment to offering full degree programs online that feature a high level of faculty involvement, instructional design support, and student engagement and interaction—along with an international outreach effort that draws high-caliber, mature students to online programs at BU.

“We’re thrilled to be a recipient of this award because it validates how hard we’ve worked to implement high standards,” said Director of Distance Education Nancy Coleman. “It rewards the efforts that our faculty and staff have put into building quality online programs.”

Read Hall, Kennedy, and Wekesa’s article at: thestreet.com/story/10848235/1.

Learn more about online education at BU. Visit: bu.edu/online
Alumni Gatherings

Washington, DC
The PMI® Global Congress 2010 provided occasion for MET’s project management faculty, students, and alumni to get together.

Alexandria, VA
Daniel (MET’91) and Karen Sanders (MET’91), winners of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Alma Mater, hosted an Octoberfest celebration for MET alumni and online students in their home.

Urban Affairs gathering to share ideas and unwind
Students and alums of MET’s graduate programs in city planning and urban affairs share ideas and unwind after attending a session of The Edge: Urban and Regional Conversations at Boston University, a series of seminars and panel discussions presented by the Department of Applied Social Sciences.

MET Night
The 6th annual MET Night at Agganis Arena was a great success. Faculty, students, staff, and alums enjoyed some pub time before cheering on the #1 ranked BU Terriers against their rivals, the UMaine Black Bears. The teams tied 2-2 in overtime.

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Here’s your chance to get caught up on what your classmates have been doing. Let us know what you’re up to.

Submit class notes to:
Boston University
Metropolitan College Alumni Office
755 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

bu.edu/alumni/classnotes

Diana Alva (MET ’06) and her husband Jose welcomed the birth of their daughter, Mariana Alva Salazar, born on May 26, 2010.

Tom Costello (MET ’96), Washington Correspondent for NBC News, recently won two Edward R. Murrow awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association. The awards honor excellence in electronic journalism. He and his colleagues won the Video Breaking News Coverage award for their coverage of the “Miracle on the Hudson.” They also won the Video NewsCast award for their coverage of “The Crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407.”

Martine Dulles (MET ’73) is now director of international sales for the Gigi New York collection of leather goods from Graphic Image.

Mary Kennard (CGS ’74, MET ’76), vice president and general counsel at American University, recently became a director of the Association of Corporate Counsel (the in-house corporate bar association).

Joanne Luciano (MET ’82, GRS ’96) has joined Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as research associate professor in the Tetherless World Research Constellation. Her research uses computational modeling and Internet data to improve health care and advance medical discovery.

John Molière (MET ’86) was recently named president of the National Veteran Small Business Coalition.

Seth Pritikin (CAS ’99, MET ’06, GSM ’10) is now technical product marketing manager for Ipswitch, Inc. In October, the BU School of Social Work Alumni Association honored him with an award for Outstanding Contributions to the School of Social Work.

Advisory Board Member
Arthur Allen (MET’95), 1947–2010

Arthur Allen (MET ’95) will be remembered as an entrepreneur, a community leader, and a loyal MET alumnus. Allen was known for his spirit of generosity, which manifested itself in a remarkable range of pursuits. A pilot, Allen worked to teach youth with attention deficit disorder how to gain focus through flying lessons. Owner of a home security company and childhood victim of domestic violence, he made alert necklaces available to a local women’s crisis center. A graduate of Metropolitan College, he helped lead fundraising efforts for the Scholarship for Cancer Patients and Survivors. A successful businessman, he eagerly offered his time and expertise to the Dean’s Advisory Board.

“Arthur was a truly fine person, accomplished and humble. He always offered a friendly smile and welcoming manner along with his service to community and the University,” said Advisory Board Member Leon Wilson (MET’75). In 2007, MET honored Allen with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Community. Allen was founder and owner of Omni Security Team, an emergency medical technician and instructor, and served on the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission from 1998 to 2007.

“Arthur made a difference in this life,” said Advisory Board Member Linda McCutcheon (DGE’75, MET’77). “His passion and dedication should be an inspiration to us all.”

Senior Lecturer
Jim Cormier, 1945–2010

Admired by his students for his ability to set clear standards and his commitment to their learning experience, MET Senior Lecturer in Administrative Sciences Jim Cormier died of pulmonary fibrosis in October.

“Professor Cormier took the time to look out for the best interests of his students,” said one former student. “He did his very best to ensure that we left his class with a full comprehension of the subject matter.”

Cormier began teaching for MET on a part-time basis in 1991, and received the Roger Deveau Memorial Part-Time Faculty Award in 1997 for his work on campus and also his involvement with MET programs for military students.

“I remember the first day I met Jim,” said Chair of Administrative Sciences Kip Becker. “We needed someone who could teach a class that was beginning in just a week, and Jim, with his moxie, jumped right in. He was a friend from that first meeting and was an important part of the department’s success over the past decades. His enthusiasm for teaching was always clear, and he loved his students.”

Cormier’s career included over twenty-five years of domestic and international experience as a marketing and management consultant to corporations such as IBM, The Disney Stores, and Lucent Technologies. He transformed this experience into a foundation for teaching courses in marketing management, project management, electronic commerce, and advertising.

“Jim was a loyal supporter of the department and the Metropolitan College community,” said Becker. “We in turn felt proud that he was our colleague.”

The MET and Boston University community gathered to honor Cormier at a memorial service held on campus at Marsh Chapel in December.
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