The Commencement 2011 Issue

Plus! A new program takes a fresh look at retirement planning

Inside this issue:
- Dean’s Message 2
- METrics 3
- Osher Endowment 4
- Interview: Joseph Mercurio (MET’81) 6
- Commencement 2011 8
- Dr. Pépin, the Chef 10
- MET Gallery 11
- Retirement Management 12
- Off the Press 12
- Savoir Faire 13
- Alumni Gatherings 15

An Interview with Joseph Mercurio (MET’81)
Joseph Mercurio, executive vice president of BU, talks about his 38 years on campus. See page 6.

Osher Endowment
The Bernard Osher Foundation establishes a $1 million endowment to fund scholarships for MET students. See page 4.
Dear MET Community,

A year of planning goes into staging graduation ceremonies. Degree lists are prepared, award winners and speech makers selected, scripts written, facilities organized, food ordered, and diplomas produced, along with so many intricate details leading up to the event. And then it is all hands on deck to manage the flow of two thousand students, their families, and their friends as they descend on BU’s Track and Tennis Center. But as I was leaving this year’s festivities (after shaking six hundred hands, smiling for what seemed like an infinite number of pictures, and hearing “Pomp and Circumstance” still playing in my mind), it occurred to me that even this description vastly understates the work that goes into MET’s graduation.

What we call Commencement is really the culmination and inclusion of everything everyone has done to produce our graduates. Students are recruited and admitted. Faculty develop their syllabi, course materials, and notes—and then spend countless hours teaching, meeting with, and then grading their students. Students read massive amounts of materials, prepare assignments, take exams, and work on projects. But even this tally underestimates the hours leading up to graduation. It fails to take into account all of the conversations, collaborations, and friendships—the informal ways that students build relationships with one another and with the College community. And it ignores the juggling of commitments that our students sustain while they pursue a rigorous program in the context of all else they have in their lives, and the significant others in their work and personal worlds who support them.

Commencement might be a literal beginning, but, fully loaded, the event is as much a crescendo that resounds with all of the effort, experience, and meaning of everything that preceded it. All of this investment attests to what a remarkable achievement it is for everyone who participated in this marathon. The faculty, students, and staff all contributed enormous time and energy leading up to this one moment, this one rite of passage when we declare the process completed and our students graduated. So, after millions and millions of hours of effort, we celebrate for a final two hours what this has meant to all of us—on one Saturday evening in May.

In academe, we measure things in academic years—and this, for Metropolitan College, has been a fine one. This issue of the Metropolitan captures external recognitions, alumni achievements, some exciting activities within the College, a record-breaking donation, and, especially, exuberant graduating students—those who have every reason to celebrate their achievements and mark the moment, as have we, for what this signifies in their lives, and in ours.

Jay A. Halfond
Dean

In his monthly column for The New England Journal of Higher Education, Dean Halfond considers current issues in higher learning, including for-profit universities, the pitfalls of science education, and how the recession affects academic institutions.

You can keep up with his thoughts by visiting nebhe.org.
Making the Honor Roll: Awards for Online Education at MET

THIS SPRING, MET’s Office of Distance Education was honored—repeatedly—for its efforts to deliver the very best in online education.

The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) chose Boston University for the world’s most prestigious award for excellence in online instruction: the 21st Century Best Practices Award for 2011.

“As a premier organization for the entire distance learning profession, we are honoring Boston University as a leader in the industry,” said Dr. John G. Flores, executive director of USDLA.

“Boston University has raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by the University’s contributions to the distance learning industry.”

“Our programs, processes, and quality have matured in the nine years we have been offering online education, positioning us as leaders in this innovative and dynamic mode of delivery,” said Nancy Coleman, director of Distance Education. We are thrilled to be recognized by our peers for that achievement.”

In addition to the USDLA award, two specific courses designed through the Office of Distance Education received Exemplary Course Awards from Blackboard, the leading online education delivery platform. Instructional Designer Jim Frey and College of Fine Arts Professor Judith Simpson were recognized for Contemporary Issues in Art Education, as were Instructional Designer Brad Kay-Goodman and MET Computer Science faculty members Marcia Nizzari (MET’90), Bob Schudy, and Bill Cullen for Bb Classic Architecture.

Continuing to Do Business in India

IN JANUARY, MET graduate students traveled to Mysore and Bangalore to immerse themselves in the world of international business. Revolutionary information technology company Infosys hosted the second annual MET administrative studies course Doing Business in and with India.

S. D. Shibulal (MET’88) has played a critical role in organizing the MET courses at Infosys. A co-founder of Infosys, he was named CEO, in May, in recognition of his vision and leadership. In August, Shibulal will assume responsibility for the $6 billion company, which employs 130,000 people in over 33 countries. The Economic Times quotes Shibulal on his management style: “I believe in leading by example and believe that leadership is about driving change.” This spring he was also elected a trustee of Boston University.

India 2012

MET is already looking forward to offering Doing Business in and with India in January 2012. Visit bu.edu/met/courses for details as they emerge.

MET Associate Dean Tanya Zlateva and CEO of Infosys S. D. Shibulal on the Infosys campus with participants in Doing Business in and with India.

METrics

$1,000,000 Amount of MET’s Bernard Osher Foundation Endowment, a record contribution to scholarships at MET.

15 Number of annual scholarships the interest from the endowment will fund.

6,000' Amount of duct tape used behind the scenes at Commencement.

108,675 Number of plastic bottles recycled to create the 4,347 graduation caps and gowns worn by BU’s Class of 2011.

2,000 Approximate number of hours spent by each MET graduate to earn his or her degree.

1,200,000 Cumulative number of hours spent studying by the 600 members of MET’s Class of 2011 who attended convocation.

5,001 Number of trees planted in the Forêt de Soignes by BU in Brussels as a demonstration of commitment to community.

S. D. Shibulal (MET’88) was named CEO of Infosys and Trustee of BU.
Osher Endowment

$1 Million in Scholarships for Returning Students

A BIOCHEMIST turned banker from Massachusetts. A sous chef turned hotel manager from Marrakesh. A cattle rancher turned social worker from Montana.

William Bennett (MET’11), Jalal Boutou (MET’11), and Carli Russell (MET’09) never crossed paths during their time at MET. Their academic and professional pursuits are as diverse as their geographic origins. What they share is a determinedness that helped them navigate the winding road to their bachelor’s degrees. That, and their status as recipients of The Osher Reentry Scholarship.

The scholarships, offered by MET with grant funds from the Bernard Osher Foundation, support undergraduates who return to higher education after a lapse of five years in their studies. Since 2008, the Osher Foundation has awarded MET $50,000 annually for the purpose of assisting students like Bennett, Boutou, and Russell, who seek to complete the degrees they started before career changes, finances, and life in general got in the way. This spring, the Osher Foundation announced the establishment of a $1 million endowment at MET. The interest from the endowment will fund approximately fifteen reentry scholarships annually. It is the largest gift in MET’s history.

"This support is greatly appreciated," said Dean Halfond. "MET continues to pursue an important access mission. Tuition shouldn’t be a barrier to the opportunity to return to college."

"The funding helped me at a time when I was in need," said Boutou, who recently graduated with a degree in management studies. "It was like water to someone thirsty..."

"It turns out that I love working with business owners. Through my studies I’ve come to understand the critical role banking plays in entrepreneurial ventures and economic development."

William Bennett (MET’11)

"I decided to change my life. I had a friend at BU, and he invited me to his commencement. I loved the red caps and gowns and I asked, ‘Why not me?’"

Jalal Boutou (MET’11)

MET Receives a Record Gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation.
in the desert.” Boutou’s Osher Scholarship arrived during a semester when he had lost the part-time job that helped him pay for his textbooks.

Boutou began his education in hospitality school in Marrakesh. As he followed opportunities to cook at elite restaurants first in Paris and then Boston, his studies were derailed. Frustrated by the long hours and frantic pace of life in the kitchen, he began to think about another path. “I decided to change my life,” said Boutou. “I had a friend at BU, and he invited me to his commencement. I loved the red caps and gowns and I asked, ‘Why not me?’”

Boutou enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College “to get my English going,” since he spoke primarily French at work. Soon ready for a bigger challenge, he set his sights on BU, asking his mother to pray for him to be admitted. He now plans to attend business school with the goal of running a major international hotel (though he admits that his finance courses have opened his eyes to other exciting prospects).

“I’ve worked in hospitality all my life,” he said. “It was my father’s business, it is the industry of Marrakesh. I’ve seen every aspect of hotels and restaurants, and I want to build on the expertise I’ve developed behind the scenes so that I can wear a suit and tie and make the big decisions that really matter.”

Like Boutou, William Bennett realized that his first foray into college was leading him into the wrong career. He left a biochemistry program at Clark University, choosing instead to get his bearings as an intern at a medical technology firm. More experienced but still looking for the right fit five years later, he was hired at Citizens Bank, where, by happenstance, he found his professional calling: risk management in commercial lending. Bennett is now a risk reporting analyst.

“It turns out that I love working with business owners,” said Bennett. “Through my studies I’ve come to understand the critical role banking plays in entrepreneurial ventures and economic development.”

Bennett enrolled at MET in order to take advantage of the tuition benefit at Citizens—and to formalize his emerging interest in banking with a degree. “I was working in a bank with a background in biochemistry,” he said. “I wanted to gain skills in a more relevant area.” Bennett’s ambitions led him into coursework in finance as well, and he completed requirements for majors in both interdisciplinary studies and economics. With so many courses on his agenda, he easily maxed out his tuition benefit each semester, and his Osher funding enabled him to accelerate his studies.

At a time when bank bashing is en vogue, Bennett argues for the value of the institution. “It’s amazing how poorly the economy would work without banks. People who have money don’t just bump into people who need to borrow money,” he said. “And even if they did, they wouldn’t know whether any particular individual is a good person to lend to. Banks not only facilitate this exchange, they take on the responsibility of assessing risk.”

Or so they should, explained Bennett, who sees his career as an opportunity to safeguard against the kind of oversights that fueled the banking crisis of 2008. With an eye on the presidency of a bank in the future, he has begun coursework for his master’s degree.

Carli Russell, on the other hand, has known for a long time that she had a calling for social work. She calls herself a “sidewalk social worker” because she finds herself reaching out to those in need during everyday exchanges at bus stops or the coffee shop. Having grown up on a cattle farm in rural Montana, she says that she learned early on that “life is not always pretty.” A specialist in trauma and crisis intervention, she attributes her interests and abilities to the lessons of the ranch.

“There’s no crying in cattle ranching,” said Russell. “You are expected to be calm, you are expected to be level headed, no matter what. It’s very helpful in a crisis situation.” Russell, who is currently earning a Master of Social Work at BU, has served in both AmeriCorps and Commonwealth Corps. She has opened safe homes for survivors of domestic violence, and worked in housing projects for individuals who are commonly considered “difficult to house,” such as those formerly in prison, struggling with addiction, and living with HIV. She has also volunteered for the Samaritans, Inc. suicide prevention hotline.

These are activities Russell pursued alongside, or in between, her studies in psychology. With her professional goals firmly in place, it was getting the right degree from the right school that was her biggest challenge. Continued on page 15>
Distinguished Alumni

Honoring Yesterday’s Graduates

The 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Metropolitan College Alumni Awards were established to recognize outstanding alumni. Their dedication inspires us to achieve far beyond what we think possible. They define the Metropolitan College student.

Service to Profession

John Maalouf (MET’90, LAW’94)
John Maalouf holds a BS in Economics from MET, a JD from Suffolk University, and an LLM in International Banking and Financial Services from Boston University School of Law. Senior partner at Maalouf, Ashford & Talbot, he has been named one of the Top 10 International Trade and Finance Lawyers by the United States Lawyer Rankings for six consecutive years. His work has recently taken him to the Middle East, where he is representing and advising governments on financial matters during transition from dictatorship to democracy.

Service to Community

Luisa Paiewonsky (MET’96)
Luisa Paiewonsky holds a master’s degree in city planning from MET and a bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College. Her career in public service includes three years in Dominica with the Peace Corps, and over ten years with the Massachusetts Highway Department. As Commissioner of Highways and Administrator of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division, she oversaw the safe construction, maintenance, and operation of the Commonwealth’s 5,000 bridges and 10,000 miles of highway. She is a mentor and lecturer to MET students, and a past president of the Boston Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar. M

An Interview with the “Mayor of BU”

Joseph Mercurio (MET’81), Retiring Executive VP of Boston University and Winner of the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Service to Alma Mater.

IN 1973, Joseph Mercurio (MET’81) accepted a job in the Budget Office at BU, with the intention of using his tuition remission benefit to earn a degree in management. In 1981, he graduated from MET—and in 2011 he announced that, after 38 years of exemplary service to BU, he would finally be taking his skills off-campus and into the world of business.

Mercurio met his wife at BU, and educated his four children at BU. He started as associate budget director and was promoted to assistant vice president and comptroller, vice president for business affairs, senior vice president, and, in 1995, executive vice president.

He pioneered new business models that helped the University’s budget grow from $89 million to $2 billion. He directed over nine million square feet of campus development, including the FitRec Center, Agannis Arena, the Student Village, and the School of Management building. He serves on the MET Dean’s Advisory Board. He administers to every detail of campus life, from the architecture of new buildings to what’s on the menu in the dining halls. And he is admired as a savvy, compassionate, inspiring—and iconic—member of the BU community.

Dubbed by Dean Halfond as both “MET’s favorite son” and “mayor of BU,” Mercurio received the 2011 Metropolitan College Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Alumnus. As he prepares for a new phase in his career, he spoke with MET about his achievements, his management style, and what’s next.
**Metropolitan: What stands out to you about your time as a MET student?**

**MERCURIO:** All of the professors I had were spectacular. Every one of them. It also turned out that taking management classes when I had real management responsibilities had a synergistic effect. One special aspect of my education at MET was that I could apply the things I was learning in class every day. I was able to refine my skill set in a way that would not otherwise have been possible.

**What did you learn at MET that contributed to your successful career?**

The technical aspects of business were important. But what really distinguished my MET degree were the components on organizational behavior and different managerial styles. For example, some management philosophies suggest that individuals need to be highly regulated. Others assert that people want to do a good job, and that management’s role is to remove the obstacles so that people can focus on their work. Taking courses that explored these kinds of ideas allowed me to look at all of the folks I worked with at BU, and to understand that they all wanted to do a good job. What I realized is that I needed to establish relationships with them. That’s the most valuable skill I learned, and I learned it at MET. Over the years I’ve made a lot of friends at BU, and they’ve all done fabulous work for the University. I often get credit for what they’ve achieved, but of course they are the ones who deserve it.

**Why have you stayed at BU so long?**

BU is a very seductive place to work. You’re surrounded by brilliant people. What other employer could offer you concerts, plays, lectures, a library, a bookstore, a basketball team? It’s an extraordinary place to work, raise a family, and become a member of a community.

**What does it take to oversee major building projects on campus?**

The Student Village project is the single biggest project I’ve worked on. It took almost fourteen years from the acquisition of the property to the completion of the buildings. One of the skills you need to undertake a project like this is the ability to analyze information and write well so that you can communicate with others and establish the kind of support required from university staff, architects, general contractors. And I credit MET for these skills. The first thing I did when I got to MET was to take English courses because I felt I was deficient in my ability to write coherently and convey financial information.

**What’s next?**

I’ve always wanted to work in business, in the for-profit sector, since that’s what I’m trained to do.

**Mercurio oversaw the construction of the Student Village on West Campus. From conception to completion, the project took fourteen years.**

**What is the difference between running a business and running a university?**

The difference comes down to different organizational philosophies. At a university, at this university, we want to provide the highest quality of service to our students and faculty, and that takes priority. If surplus needs to be sacrificed, then we do so willingly in order to provide the best experience. For example, we survey students about the dining halls every semester. A couple of years ago, students expressed that they wanted orange juice available all day, not just at breakfast. So we made orange juice available all day, at the cost of $150,000. But this cost was not passed on.

Of course, universities seek, and need, to operate in such a way as to generate a surplus that can be re-invested in academic programs. One of the things I’m proudest of is helping BU to do this. In the 1980s, I helped pioneer a new business model for universities. We transformed auxiliary services—dining, housing, vending, parking—into services that, when run efficiently, can contribute to the university’s bottom line, rather than merely break even. Or worse, cost the university. We were one of the first institutions to realize there was a business model that honors quality while also helping us to operate at a surplus.

**Are you going to miss the view from your office?**

Everyone comments on the view when they come into my office. But I find that it becomes a bit invisible because I come here to do my work. What I’m going to miss is the people. It really is true that if you surround yourself with great people, you can do great things.
“It is in the better nature of man to take on challenges and accept that great efforts and courage are necessary for self improvement.”

“Anyone who has the determination and skill to obtain a degree while working by day and studying by night displays the will to inspire others, the will to be a good example.”

Having proven, as graduates, that they are capable of striving, working, and sacrificing, Akers encouraged them to keep doing so—with the purpose of perpetual self-improvement, and with the effect of inspiring others to challenge themselves. Such action, he said, honors what is finest in humanity, and he challenged the Class of 2011 to live up to the very high standards they have already set for themselves.

Set against his inspiring words, here are highlights of Commencement 2011, the celebration of our students’ calling to achieve.
“I challenge you to choose a noble endeavor that will measure and test the best of your energies and skills. You chose to pursue an education not because it was easy, but because it was hard. This is the nobility of your effort at MET; find another great endeavor and follow it as ardently. This will be your second noble calling.”

Undergraduate Certificate of Achievement
Catrina Marie Vear

Excellence in Graduate Studies Awards
Wentao Yuan, Actuarial Science
Lauren Thompson, Administrative Studies
Caitlin Edwards, Advertising
Anne Rebecca Houston, Arts Administration
Patrick Rourke, Computer Science
Erik Kenneth Benson, City Planning & Urban Affairs
Jamie Marie Lewis, Criminal Justice
Barbara Rotger, Gastronomy
Jamie Rauscher, Health Communication

Roger Deveau Part-Time Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching
Donald E. Zizzi, Applied Social Sciences

Distinguished Alumni Awards
John Maalouf, Esq. (MET’90, LAW’94), Service to Profession
Luisa Paiewonsky (MET’96), Service to Community
Joseph Mercurio (MET’81), Service to Alma Mater

“It is easy to put off the pursuit of a dream; we tend to delay pain and toil and that is why many people don’t have the courage to do what you have done. It is easier to stay where you are than to take the steps to climb to a greater opportunity.”
Dr. Jacques Pépin

MET culinary instructor Jacques Pépin received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Boston University at the May 22 University-wide commencement exercises. The acclaimed chef, author, and television personality was recognized for his contributions to the University, including his role as co-founder (with Julia Child) of the MET master’s program in gastronomy and the certificate program in the culinary arts. Pépin, who has been a part-time faculty member at MET since 1983, has taught hundreds of Boston University students. He has additionally drawn over ten thousand residents of greater Boston to BU by hosting informal seminars, demonstrations, discussions, and special cooking events through MET’s Lifelong Learning programs. In 2005, MET honored Pépin with the Roger Deveau Memorial Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award.

Rebecca Alssid, director of Lifelong Learning at MET, says Pépin “epitomizes the best of what a teacher, an artist, and humanist ought to be. He is recognized throughout the world for his culinary skill, his warmth of spirit, and his generosity as an educator and a person.”

The doctorate, said Pépin, “is a great honor and I am humbled, gratified, and very happy. It validates the work of chefs and the importance of cooking, dining, and sharing food with family and friends. Julia would be very proud.”

Pépin’s career began with his exposure to cooking as a child in his parents’ restaurant, Le Pélican, in Bourg-en-Bresse, France. His training includes a formal apprenticeship at the distinguished Grand Hôtel de l’Europe and training under Lucien Diat at the Hôtel Plaza Athénée in Paris. A recipient of the Legion of Honor, he served as personal chef to three French heads of state. In addition to his many contributions to newspapers and magazines, he has published twenty-six books and hosted eleven public television series. Pépin earned a master’s degree in eighteenth-century French literature from Columbia University, where he abandoned his doctorate when he was told that his interest in food and culture did not merit serious study.

“There is a certain irony for me to get a doctoral degree from BU,” said Pépin. “It shows how much the world of food has changed in America, when I consider that my thesis was turned down by Columbia University as not academic enough.”

Culinary legend Jacques Pépin in the kitchen with MET students.

Learn More
Visit bu.edu/foodandwine to learn more about culinary and gastronomy programs at MET.
changed in America, when I consider that my thesis was turned down by Columbia University as not academic enough.”

Pépin’s involvement with MET helped to launch food into mainstream academics. He has established a teaching legacy at MET that approaches cuisine from a perspective in which creativity is enabled by skillfulness, and intellectual curiosity is enabled by practicality. Under his guidance, MET’s gastronomy degree and culinary arts certificate have developed into highly regarded academic and professional credentials. “Whatever you learn here in these programs, you will use,” said Pépin. “Whether you become a food writer, a concierge, a chef. You learn the core of the whole food business. It’s a terrific program.”

**Vámanos! Abroad at BU**

Pictured here is Dean Halfond, along with the 175 students of CEU Universidad San Pablo who have studied with MET faculty at their campus in Spain. Soon, they will pack their bags for a semester—or more—abroad at Boston University. Through the efforts of MET’s Abroad at BU office and Administrative Sciences department, CEU San Pablo students enroll in MET courses that count toward their undergraduate degree requirements. Abroad at BU welcomes hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students annually through partnerships with universities across Europe, South America, and Asia.

**Chatting with Chef Pépin**

Visit [bu.edu/met/chef-pepin](http://bu.edu/met/chef-pepin) to read our in-depth interview with Pépin, and for a video conversation about his honorary BU doctorate.

**MET Gallery**

Currently on display in the MET Gallery.

**Maine Interiors—Dreams of Home**

Photographs by Annie Claflin

Graduate Student, Arts Administration

“I began making images of my family, our home, and the surrounding landscape in Maine over a decade ago. My interior photographs often abstract space, using lines, shapes, and light patterns to define the composition. This body of work is motivated by dreams I have while I am away. In these dreams, I see only small details of my family’s home, but even the tiniest view of a specific texture or form evokes familiarity and comfort.”

View more of Claflin’s work at [annieclaflin.com](http://annieclaflin.com).

**Top L:** Beach Door Ajar, 2009

**Top R:** Glass on Map Table, 2009

**Bottom L:** Window Streaks, 2010

**Bottom R:** Up Down Stairs, 2009
How to Spend for Retirement: A New Program Shifts Paradigm for Financial Advisors

IT’S NO SECRET that millions of Americans have watched their retirement savings dwindle away in the recent recession. But a new program offered by MET’s Center for Professional Education (CPE) raises fundamental questions about the financial losses so many have incurred. Is the market really the culprit? Or is there simply a need to rethink retirement investment strategies?

The first curriculum of its kind, CPE’s online Retirement Management Program prepares financial advisors and professionals to take a fresh look at how to steer clients toward a financially solvent retirement. For example, the program considers retirees’ need to spend, not just save. It considers the complex ways that health care affects the household balance sheet. And it takes an unflinching look at risk in order to help advisors balance client needs for both investment growth and investment security—a balance clearly lacking in many retirement savings plans prior to recent economic events.

The online Retirement Management Program fulfills the educational requirements toward the Retirement Management Analyst (RMA) designation, which is awarded by the Retirement Income Industry Association (RIIA). This close relationship between academic preparation and best industry practices is a hallmark of CPE programs. CPE has developed the educational tools to assist the financial sector in elevating its own standards: John Sullivan, editor of Investment Advisor magazine and editor of the Retirement Channel for AdvisorOne.com, declared that the CPE program adds “academic heft” to the RMA designation.

"Boston University is the first institution of higher learning to offer the educational component leading to what we believe to be an important industry credential," commented Director of CPE Ruth Ann Murray. "The Retirement Management Program reflects a continuing tradition of innovation in education at both BU and CPE."

Offered three times online each year, the Retirement Management Program takes four weeks to complete. Students benefit from cohort-based learning and instruction from working retirement management professionals. M

Learn More about the Retirement Management Program at: bu.edu/professional.

USA Today Features MET Alumna JoAn Blake
National magazine USA Today featured JoAn Blake, pictured here, in its series on what is becoming the new normal in higher education: the increasing presence of the “non-traditional” student. Blake—recipient of a MET scholarship for parents of Boston Public School students—will graduate in September with her BS in Biomedical Laboratory & Clinical Sciences.

At the age of 42, Blake decided to earn her bachelor’s degree in honor of her daughter Shaina, who died in a car accident at the age of nineteen after having successfully battled a rare bone cancer in her childhood.

Memoir of a Wannabe Latina:
A Latin American Love Song for My Sons
Anne Kirchheimer (MET’73, GRS’79)
Outskirts Press, 2010

Equal parts cultural and personal history, this intricately woven autobiography accounts for how a German Jewish girl who grew up on Long Island Sound developed a love for the Spanish-speaking world that led her to international adventure, professional opportunity, and the fulfillment of family life with her two adopted Brazilian sons.

Kirchheimer’s conversational prose jumps back and forth in time, with vibrant anecdotes spilling easily into further recollections and reflections, much as if the book were taking place over a cup of coffee with the author. Replete with references to pop music, political events, intellectual fads, literature, and television, the book provides an intimate rendering of Kirchheimer’s life. Formerly an award-winning reporter for the Boston Globe, Kirchheimer writes with great generosity, assuring her audience, and especially her sons, that no life story is overdetermined by its point of origin: “We all have a legacy but our path is our own, even if it seems farfetched, divergent from the place from which we spring.”

Off the Press

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**MVP: Most Valuable Professor**

JETBLUE AIRWAYS and the Boston Red Sox honored MET professor Bruce Berman this April at Fenway Park, naming him “Most Valuable Teacher” for his efforts in his popular MET course, Politics, Public Relations, and Public Policy: The Boston Harbor Clean-Up. Berman has provided hundreds of BU students with a hands-on look at the complicated interplay of wildlife, commerce, and activism in this unique marine environment. His prize? Berman threw the first pitch in the first Red Sox versus Yankees series of the 2011 season.

Berman was also honored for his efforts as communication director and spokesman for the non-profit group Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, where he has designed free environmental education programs that have connected 50,000 youth and teens to Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands since 2002.

Berman said of his prize that “It is quite an honor, and a big responsibility. I have much more experience casting for big striped bass on Boston Harbor than I do pitching at Fenway Park.”

**John Day**, lecturer in computer science, will give the keynote address at the European Commission’s Future Internet Assembly in Budapest. He will also give lectures and meetings in Dublin and Barcelona. Day is additionally an internationally recognized expert on Jesuit maps of Asia, and served as a consultant to Christie’s auction house on a late-seventeenth-century Japanese manuscript copy of the Matteo Ricci World Map of 1602, which was auctioned in June.

**Li-Yu Dong**, a master’s degree student in administrative studies, received a 2010-2011 Boston University John Silber–Republic of China Scholarship. Only four BU students receive the scholarship each year.

**Ginny Greiman**, assistant professor of administrative sciences, presented her research on cybertraffic and investor-state dispute resolution at the Faculty Roundtable on Human Rights at the Harvard National Model United Nations 2011.

**Pauline Hamel**, health communication lecturer, delivered her talk “Public Health and the Health Communicator: Rethinking Our Views of the American Health Care System” at the Brilliance in Biocommunications Conference. She will also deliver “Can You Hear Me Now? Health Communication, Compassion, and Readiness to Listen” at the Meeting of the Transplant Financial Coordinators.

Chair of Applied Social Sciences **Dan LeClair** will serve as co-chair at the 16th annual World Congress of the International Society for Criminology in Kobe, Japan. He will present a paper entitled “Criminology and Criminal Justice without Borders: Online Degrees.”

**Ryan Shaffer**, a master’s degree student in computer science, won the Applied Science Award at Boston University’s Annual Science Day for his presentation “Integer Factorization Using F# and Windows Azure.”


**Project Management Takes off at NASA**

In February, Ginny Greiman, assistant professor of administrative sciences, addressed a crowd of over two hundred at the NASA Project Management Challenge 2011 Conference. While delivering her talk “Megaproject Risk Management: Lessons from the Big Dig,” she had the opportunity to meet up with several MET project management alumni in attendance. She is pictured here (l-r) with Dorothy Tiffany (MET ’07), project management challenge chair for NASA; Khang Ta (MET ’10), manager of technical publications and aftermarket configuration management at Hamilton Sundstrand Power Systems; and Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon.

**MET instructor** Bruce Berman, pictured here in the red hat, was honored at Fenway for his efforts in environmental education.
Mohit Hamad (MET'82), MET Dean’s Advisory Board member and CEO of the Centre for Development Management Studies, announced the opening of the Centre’s postgraduate management school, the CGCDEM Institute of Management in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is the first internationally managed business school in Nepal.

Gale Pollock (MET’84), former acting surgeon general of the Army and MET commencement speaker, is attending Harvard’s year-long Advanced Leadership Initiative. Pollock intends to use what she learns in the program—designed for those with over twenty years of leadership experience—to enrich the lives of people with limited eyesight. Pollock was featured, along with other Initiative participants, in the April 6, 2011, Boston Globe article “Harvard Helps Retired Leaders Find New Purpose.”

Barbara Rotger (MET’11) was featured in the May 18, 2011, Boston Globe article “Something Old, Something New” for her master’s research in gastronomy, which studies old recipe collections. Barbara received the 2011 Excellence in Graduate Study Award for Gastronomy at MET’s convocation.

Jason Sobocinski (MET’07) of New Haven, CT, is owner of Caseus Fromagerie and Bistro. On April 30, 2011, Jason hosted “The Big Cheese,” an episode of Food Jammers, on the Cooking Channel.

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Hussain Ali (MET’11)

Continued on page 15>

Class Notes

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

Elizabeth Bouhmadouche (MET’99), registrar and director of enrollment services at the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, is a 2011 recipient of the prestigious BU Perkins Award. Each year, the Faculty Council presents this staff accolade for distinguished service.

Albert Diaz (MET’93) of Charlotte, NC, is now a federal judge for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in North Carolina. He was appointed by President Obama over a year ago, and confirmed by Congress in December 2010. He is the first Latino to hold this position.

Duane Jackson (MET’76) of New York, NY, was ranked number eight in Time Magazine’s list of 2010 people of the year for his efforts, along with other street vendors, in thwarting the Times Square Bomber. He is featured in two of the magazine’s issues: “Person of the Year” and “The Year in Review.” He was also named a Hero of the Decade in the New York Daily News in December 2010.

Nicole Hawkes (MET’02) was named BU’s new associate provost for strategic initiatives. Read about her appointment at bu.edu/today/node/12169.
Alumni Gatherings

BioMed Night  Students, faculty, and alumni from MET’s undergraduate Biomedical Laboratory and Clinical Sciences program enjoyed an opportunity to socialize outside of the lab.

Portsmouth, NH  Howard Williams, EdD (MET ‘86, SED ‘89), hosted a gathering for the MET community in the New Hampshire area. In attendance were Liberty Mutual employees (pictured left) who are students and alumni of MET programs. The evening featured a golf simulator; Jim O’Donoghue (MET ’81), pictured right, tries out his swing.

Urban Affairs | City Planning  Alums of the Urban Affairs and City Planning programs engaged current students in discussion. Alumni panelists included (l-r): Shannon Greenwell (MET ’11), project manager, National Rural Transit Assistance Program; Gail Dighton-Berliger (MET ’08), portfolio manager, Boston Community Capital; Jennifer Stacy (CAS ’03, MET ’10), business and finance coordinator, Office of Sustainability at Harvard; Derek Valentine (MET ’10), senior land use planner, City of Newton, MA; Gretchen Ashton (MET ’88), president, Ashton Associates; Jean McCluskey (MET ’74), president, Mission-Focused Alliance, LLC.

Continued from page 5>

Russell planned to attend BU after high school, but found that she couldn’t afford it, even with a financial aid package. Russell additionally manages chronic epilepsy, which required surgery during her undergraduate years. After trying out three different colleges that never quite matched her expectations, and overcoming the disruption of her medical condition, she saw an advertisement for MET while riding the T.

“I went to an open house, and learned that coming to BU was finally financially attainable,” said Russell. “Plus, I couldn’t believe the warmth of the people at MET. With my history, it would have been easy to feel lost. But I never did. The Osher Scholarship was completely serendipitous and was certainly helpful.”

With ambitions to join a high-profile organization such as Harvard’s McLean psychiatric hospital or the VA, Russell is personally modest about her pursuits. “Someone has to do this work,” she said. “It’s a matter of social justice. It’s my own way of leveling out the balance a bit.”

Russell’s sentiments are in the spirit of the Osher Foundation, whose generosity has inspired, for Boutou, a similar wish to pay it forward. “I received a scholarship from someone who didn’t even know me,” he said. “I’ve made a personal commitment to help students like me in the future, when I have the resources to do so. And I will.”

Continued from page 14>
