The Community Service Center, Boston University’s volunteer hub, just keeps growing.
DEAR BOSTON UNIVERSITY PARENTS.

Another outstanding academic year is approaching its end at Boston University, and our students continue to thrive in our programs and residential campus environment. Their accomplishments and the University’s progress have outweighed the backdrop of the recession that everyone is feeling. I am sure that you have seen news reports over the past several months about how the turbulence in the financial markets and the worsening recession is affecting colleges and universities across America. Virtually every institution is taking extraordinary measures to hold costs, and many have announced significant cuts that will affect programs and even faculty positions. At Boston University, we took steps early in the crisis so that we could, above all, preserve the quality of a BU education, while also maintaining our ability to offer financial assistance to students and their families who face unexpected changes in their circumstances.

To maintain the University’s financial flexibility and direct more funds to student financial aid, we imposed a halt on new construction and a hiring freeze on all but the most essential staff positions, and we froze salaries of senior administrators. We excluded from the hiring freeze positions connected with campus security and student health, and other positions deemed essential to our academic mission. We also have continued searches for faculty positions and are moving forward with initiatives laid out in our strategic plan. We are continuing our focus on financial efficiency; most recently, we have begun examining how we might combine some of our operations in clusters or more centralized centers to save costs without decreasing services to students.

Since last fall we have been reaching out to our undergraduates through e-mails, publications, town meetings, and the individual attention of faculty and staff to assure them of the University’s willingness to aid students whose families are experiencing financial difficulties and uncertainty. Parents with additional and unexpected need should contact the Office of Financial Assistance, and you might also encourage your son or daughter to consult the University Service Center or the Office of the Dean of Students for advice and support.

Boston University is well positioned to continue to excel in our mission of a world-class education for all our undergraduates in a vibrant, residential setting engaged in the city and the world. I look forward to seeing you on campus with your BU student.

With best wishes,

Robert A. Brown
President

DEAR PARENTS,

After a particularly cold and snowy winter, BU is busy welcoming spring. With all the new trees and flowers blooming along Commonwealth Avenue, it is not hard to believe that it is almost time for Commencement!

In this issue of Boston University Parent, we focus on several aspects of student life at BU. Our cover story highlights the Community Service Center and our students’ extraordinary commitment to helping others. We also examine ways to find financial relief during these difficult economic times, and explore the wonderful resources offered at Boston University’s many libraries.

Most important to me, we pay tribute to a very special BU family: Joseph and Donna Ruehl have sent all three of their children—Brian (CAS’03), Brendan (CGS’04, SMG’06), and Christopher (CGS’07, COM’09) to Boston University. As their youngest son prepares for graduation, we honor their legacy and thank them for their commitment to the Parents Leadership Council. (They have been enthusiastic members since the council’s inception.)

The Parents Program congratulates the students of the accomplished Class of 2009 on their graduation and wishes the entire BU community a happy, sunny, and productive summer.

Warm wishes,

Jeanne Knox
Chair, Parents Leadership Council
Mother of Merrill (COM’05) and Bobby (CGS’08, SAR’10)
Internships are an excellent way to gain experience and beef up the résumé, but opportunities that sounded great beforehand sometimes turn out to be exercises in boredom and menial labor. After their own uneven internship experiences, BU public relations majors Lauren Grunstein (COM’08) and Stephanie Gurman (COM’09) decided to help their fellow students avoid internship pitfalls. In February 2008, they launched InternshipRatings.com, a website where student-workers can praise or pan their companies and where internship-seekers can see what they might be getting themselves into. As Grunstein and Gurman say on the site, “We wouldn’t hog a pair of shoes without our best friend’s opinion, so why not apply the same idea to internships?” Today, visitors to the site can get the skinny on 700 potential internships in thirty-six states and D.C. before committing to a summer of fetching dry-cleaning or twiddling thumbs—and get advice from professionals on landing the perfect position, polishing a résumé, and making the most of any internship experience.

Does your student need to buy a cheap graduation gown? Sell a T-pass? Find out what rooms in a new residence hall are like? Hire actors for a film project? On the 8United LiveJournal community, BU students can do all that and much, much more. With more than 7,000 entries and 7,000 comments (and counting) over the last seven years, it’s a rich resource for information from peers. Any student with a LiveJournal account (they’re free) can join the conversation.

The Charles River Campus is transformed each fall by incoming freshmen getting their first taste of student life. But students aren’t the only ones introduced to life at Boston University. Moms and dads get answers to their questions from student orientation volunteers, such as Japanese major Dory Greenberg (CAS’10) and photojournalism major Brendan Gauthier (COM’11), a dynamic duo who used their senses of humor to put parents at ease last summer.

**HOW DID YOU INTERACT WITH PARENTS DURING THE UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION PROGRAM?**

Brendan: As a program assistant, I took parents out on city trips and served as part of the “Parenting during the College Years” panel.

Dory: Brendan and I did role-play skits to introduce issues that freshmen might have in their first year, such as roommate issues and homesickness. That segued into parent questions and a very freeform conversation.

**YOUR PERFORMANCE MADE PARENTS LAUGHING AND CRYING LAST YEAR. WHAT MAKES A GOOD SKIT?**

Brendan: An effective skit really creates visceral reactions in our parent audience. By making the situations as real as possible, Dory and I helped the parents prepare to handle the adjustment of a child going to college.

Dory: You just tap into what you felt as a freshman and use that when you’re reading a scripted scene. I think we did a good job of connecting with parents.

**WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION?**

Brendan: I love Boston University, plain and simple. Orientation is one of my fondest memories and I wanted to help create similar moments for incoming freshmen, their friends, and their families. I want everyone to love this community as much as I do.

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT WORKING UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION?**

Dory: Honestly, the Parents Program was one of my favorite parts. Parents really took the things that Brendan and I had to say to heart. I feel like our being there helped comfort them. It was very rewarding.

**FIRST Impressions**

**what’s HOT**

**what’s NOT**

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Compiled by Dory Greenberg (CAS’10) and Brendan Gauthier (COM’11)
On Friday, January 16, Robert Knox, chair of Boston University’s Board of Trustees, and his wife, Jeanne, chair of the Parents Leadership Council, hosted a small luncheon for BU parents in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Enjoying lunch of the Modern Arabinian hotel were (from left) Robert Knox (CAS’74, COM’75), father of Noor (COM’06) and brother (CAS’08, SAF’10); Diane Hall and her husband, BU Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations; Steve Hall; Imam Labbli (SDM ’96, ’01, ’04) and his mother, Samia Ezat; Jeanne Knox; Donia and Mones Baazy, parents of Ramzy (CAS’11); BU Feel Lady Beverly Brown; and Amrnyt Bzd and Ignaciu (Ismar Garcia-Bengochea, parents of Mousalaf Omar Garcia-Bengochea (ENG’11).

“RESEARCH? YOU MEAN LIKE GOOGLE? Sound familiar? If your son or daughter goes to BU, it’s unlikely.

“One of our resources is migrating to the Web, and new forms of scholarship are emerging, mirroring the social networking environment of our students,” explains Linda Plunket, a BU School of Education librarian and mother of Susan Gillmor (CAS’09). But this phenomenon isn’t dumbing down research materials—it’s making them more sophisticated and accessible.

LIBRARY AT THE FINGERTIPS

One example, says Plunket, is Digication (bu.digication.com)—an electronic portfolio platform the University subscribed to recently for use by students, faculty, and staff. “Students working alone, or in collaboration with other students, create presentations, which typically include images, videos, text, and reflections,” Plunket explains. As with Facebook, MySpace, and similar sites, “students can decide if their portfolios are private or open to their classmates, the entire BU community, or the world at large, and visitors post comments and questions. This is a fascinating way to expand the audience for students’ creative work.”

Anyone with an Internet connection and a BU student ID has access to “about 275 databases—such as PsycINFO, Web of Science, and Education Full Text—and approximately 75,000 electronic journal subscriptions,” explains Plunket. “The holy trinity of iPad, laptop, and coffee,” Robert Hudson, director of BU’s central library, says, has become a campus symbol for mobile scholarship.

FINGERTIPS AT THE LIBRARY

While many students prefer to do research over lattes at Espresso Royale, most seek remote electronic resources as a complement to—not a replacement for—physical campus libraries. Says Joanne Miller (COM’00), a journalism major, “I do research for my psychology classes both through the actual tests at the library and through the online databases. If I can’t get work done at my apartment or in my room, though, I’ll head over to the library; a change of scenery can sometimes help me get over writer’s block.”

Dropping by the bricks-and-mortar library to turn pages, participate in library-use classes, and interact with real, live humans, confirms Plunket, provides certain advantages that the Web just can’t replicate. “There is a lot of collaboration and peer-to-peer informal coaching in the libraries. Students gather and simultaneously study, chat, drink coffee or tea, meet classmates, and work on papers, projects, and assignments.”

Whether face-to-face or via electronic portals, says Plunket, the bottom line is this: “At the BU libraries, students help other students a great deal.”

Trustee Challenge means Twofold Opportunity

As the economy languishes and increasing numbers of Boston University students look to the University for help, external support from the BU community has become more vital than ever.

To inspire alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends to join together to help BU meet its students’ needs, University Trustee and entrepreneur Sidney J. Feldenstein (COM’64) and his wife, Lisa, have challenged community members to donate a collective $1 million to the University between April 1 and June 30, 2009. Sid and Lisa will personally match all new or increased gifts dollar for dollar—instantly doubling them—up to an additional $1 million dollars. The upshot: a potential influx of $2 million or more in student support in just three months.

The Parents Program urges you to join this effort, to whatever degree you are able. Visit www.bu.edu/feldensteinchallenge to make your gift to the Student Life Fund, the University’s Scholarship Fund, BU Athletics, your son’s or daughter’s school or college, campus libraries, or BU’s area of greatest need. Your generosity, multiplied by two, will directly support students who need emergency financial aid, stipends to purchase books, or funding for research projects—and could help a struggling student make it to Commencement.
**Keep the University Service Center in Mind.**

**Denise Mooney**
Associate Vice President for Enrollment & Student Affairs; Director, University Service Center

"If you don't know where to go for help, you feel like you have a problem that crosses offices, or your issue seems too personal or complex to explain at a first counter someplace, come to the University Service Center. The USC has a staff of generalists who are here to help students, whatever their concerns. The associate directors answer the phones and greet students when they come in, so you'll immediately talk to somebody who is very experienced, who knows about the different offices on campus and how they interrelate. There isn’t really any question you can ask to which we’d respond. ‘We can’t help you.’ We will either answer the question for you or put you in touch with the campus office that can best respond."

**Work Options Exist for International Students.**

**James Leck**
Associate Director for Student Services, International Students & Scholars Office
www.bu.edu/iss | 19 Deering St.

"Financial aid is not always available to students who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States. But international students can work on campus, twenty hours a week during the school year and forty hours a week during the summer. The government also provides some work authorization options for students of both F1 and J1 immigration status who are in an economic hardship situation due to unforeseen circumstances. If you’re not going to be able to finish your program, that’s a hardship. And the fluctuation of currencies that we’re seeing in this financial crisis is certainly an unforeseen circumstance. So we might be able to help you apply for work authorization that you can use to try and make enough money to continue in your program."

**Credit Cards: Don’t Use Them.**

**Vincent Simonelli**
Director, Student Loans

"Credit is not real money, it’s not cash. So don’t use it like cash. Use it only when it’s absolutely necessary. If you borrow $2,500 on a credit card and pay it back using the minimum payments, at 18 to 22 percent interest, it’ll take you more than five years to pay off. By the time you’re done, you will have spent approximately $7,000. Borrowing $2,500 and paying $5,000 for the privilege is not a very good deal. Student credit-card debt in this country is going sky high, and parent credit-card debt related to students is going even higher. Don’t do that to your parents. Use your credit card for emergencies, or don’t use it at all."

**The Best Place to Find Scholarships? Your Hometown.**

**Christine McGuire**
Executive Director, Financial Assistance

"There’s still a lot of money out there, and you never know there might be something in your background that triggers a scholarship opportunity. Try some of the many scholarship search engines you can find on our website, such as College Board, FastWeb, Yahoo, and CollegeNET Mach2g. They’re tough because they’re national, but it’s worth doing. My other advice is go back to your hometown. Talk to people. Talk to your parents’ employers about whether they offer scholarships. Most students get scholarships in their hometown, not from some national source. So don’t be afraid to ask."

**The Real Issue Is Not the Economic Times; It’s Knowing What You Want to Do.**

**Richard Leger**
Director, Career Services
www.bu.edu/careers | 19 Deering St.

"Don’t alter your major or your career direction because of a recession. Don’t let what the press or anybody else is saying dampen your spirits or your desire to pursue the career you want. Instead, think in terms of how you can maneuver your interest levels, your skills, your academic preparation in ways that are exciting to you. Career Services can help you understand what makes you tick so that you can begin to explore the world of work with some sense of knowledge about yourself and how you might fit into it. If you get clarity about your own sense of direction, you’ll be able to manage whatever economic situation lies ahead of you."

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**Crashing Stock Markets and Rising Unemployment Have Many Students & Parents Worried About Paying for Another Year at Boston University.**

At the University’s November 4 and December 1 Financial Concerns Forums, BU administrators suggested a range of strategies for combating financial strain, from answering Quickie Job postings (on BU’s Student Link) or enrolling in the monthly tuition payment plan to joining the Reserve Officer Training Corps or applying the ideas listed here. But they stressed one point above all others: “You may be sitting there saying, ‘I don’t know what I need to do. I don’t know where to start.’” Christine McGuire, executive director of financial assistance, told the sixty-plus students at the December forum, “Come in and sit down and talk to us, and we’ll help you sort it out. We’ll help you figure out what you need to do. We want to hear from you if you and your family feel like you’re in financial crisis.”
On a chilly Sunday in February, hundreds of Boston University students make their way to the George Sherman Student Union, some arriving before sunrise. They come with sleeping bags and pillows, playing cards and board games, determined to claim their spots and get their numbers. And they wait through the night, sleeping little or not at all, until the first 346 get what they came for. Red Sox tickets? Concert passes? No. They’re here to sign up to spend their spring breaks volunteering.

“I don’t think you’ll find a lot of places where people will line up to pay money and wait outside and wait over the weekend to do service,” says Jessica Tanhauser (SMG’09), half of the team managing the Community Service Center’s Alternative Spring Break program this year. “I feel more of a sense of school spirit and community pride at [the Community Service Center] than at sports games,” adds Anne Hetherrington (SMG’09), the other half.

That spirit and excitement characterizes many BU students, and as a result the Community Service Center (CSC) is thriving. The almost entirely student-run center encompasses thirteen programs and provides service opportunities across the city, state, and country to a diverse range of students from all of BU’s schools and colleges. Those students log more than 76,000 volunteer hours each year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTERED

The Community Service Center resides on the fourth floor of the Student Union, its walls covered in wacky construction-paper art. Occupied by one staff member, a graduate intern, twenty-four student program managers, and many more students working as coordinators and volunteers, the space is cramped at times, but that only makes for a tighter-knit community of students devoting their time to service.

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) and the First Year Student Outreach Project (FY SOP) are the center’s most visible and popular programs, but through the eleven others—addressing issues from the environment to human rights to AIDS awareness to homelessness and housing—students volunteer at more than 100 sites each week.

“We have a wide range of programs so that we can cater to different students,” says Lindsey Wyld (SED’09), the lone staff member who directs the center. “The programs all have their own history, and I love them all for different reasons.”

There’s a Student Food Rescue, for which volunteers use CSC vans to deliver 50,000 pounds of food annually from local businesses to food pantries and shelters. In Wizards, students perform science experiments at after-school programs for elementary and middle school classes. Even the smallest program, Voices from the Middle, has a huge impact on the community, says Wyld. Each semester, through Voices, seven BU students help East Boston eighth-graders create plays about often-intense social justice issues. The plays are then performed at the Black Box Theatre on campus. “This is some of the most meaningful stuff we do,” says Wyld.

Most programs require a semester-long commitment from volunteers but can take as little as two or three hours each week. And for those students whose work and class schedules don’t permit weekly volunteering, the center holds an Annual Day of Service, collaborates with other campus student groups to sponsor World AIDS Day activities, works with student radio station WBUR to hold a Date Auction fundraiser, hosts an Idealist.org career fair, and helps students get involved in service activities outside of BU.

“There’s a longstanding legacy at BU of giving back to the community, the city, and the state,” says Assistant Dean of Students Deryl Delacar. “The Community Service Center is a tradition at BU and it’s growing by leaps and bounds.”

CATCHING THE BUG

Involvement in the Community Service Center often starts before students attend their first classes at the University. Many incoming freshmen cut their summer vacations short and move to campus a week early to participate in the First Year Student Outreach Project. This year, the program celebrates its twentieth anniversary at BU, and it’s more popular than ever.

Six hundred freshmen, one hundred and fifty staff leaders, eighteen student coordinators, and one program manager join forces for the week-long event, which includes three days of service at seventy sites across the city and state and a full day of education. According to Wyld, it’s during this week that most students catch the community-service bug.

“Students think this is just one week of service, but when it’s over, they don’t want the week to end,” she says. “They come back and say, ‘Where can I sign up? I want to get involved.’”

Brandon Polzik (CAS’09), this year’s FY SOP program manager, is the perfect example. “At freshmen orientation, someone literally jumped in front of me and thrust an application in my face,” he remembers. “I was curious, so I applied, and got in.”

Skeptical at first of his placement in the area of elder issues, Polzik soon embraced the opportunity to form a lasting relationship with a low-income elder in the community through Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly. “From that one experience, I’ve had three great years of volunteering and making a new friend.”
**RESEARCH + DISCOVERY**

**Pounding Down the Door**

As an undergraduate researcher, Megan Lorenzi (CAS’09) explores the physiology of weight gain—and gains something herself.

**By Andrea Baird (COM’05)**

On an icy February morning, in BU Biology Professor Eric Widmaier’s neuroendocrinology lab, Megan Lorenzi (CAS’09) is burning mouse poop. It’s not the most glamorous job—she’d know; she has three—but it’s necessary to a research project that Lorenzi hopes will change lives. It has already changed one: hers.

**DISCOUNTING CALORIES?**

Lorenzi, a senior biology and psychology double major, has worked in Widmaier’s lab through the University’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program since the end of her sophomore year. The hours the research has added to the Stilwater, Oklahoma, native’s workload as a student, nanny, and waitress paid off last spring in a paper published with Widmaier in the scientific journal Endocrine.

The published study was part of Widmaier’s ongoing investigations into how mammals react to dietary fats. Though common dietary wisdom holds that body weight is controlled by a balance between calories eaten and calories burned and, yes, excreted, “We found out that the balance can be altered by the kind of fat in the diet,” says Lorenzi.

Over a six-week period, mice fed a low-fat diet with a high ratio of unsaturated to saturated fats gained little weight. Mice eating a high-fat diet rich in unsaturated fats became obese; those eating high levels of saturated fats slightly more so, despite eating similar levels of calories, protein, and sugar. Most surprisingly, however, mice on a low-fat diet skewed toward saturated fats also increased in body mass, by almost 25 percent, again despite consuming and absorbing an amount of calories similar to that consumed by all the other mice.

“Saturated fats are causing your body to do something to make you become obese, even in the absence of excess calories, but we don’t really know why. No one knows why,” says Lorenzi about the lab’s continuing research. “That’s what we’re trying to figure out.”

Though the findings are preliminary—“mice aren’t humans,” she’s quick to point out—they help that they’ll add to the empirical arsenal combating the nation’s obesity epidemic and “help lead us to more healthy eating habits.”

“It’s completely changed the way I eat,” says Lorenzi, who has stopped counting calories and started focusing on the types of fats she consumes. “It also became a vegetarian. So did my mom.”

**WEIGHTY GAINS**

The change has gone deeper than diet.

At first, “It was really intimidating just how much [Professor Widmaier] expected me to do on my own,” says Lorenzi. But today, “I feel very confident going into any kind of lab.”

Others feel confident in their abilities as well. Initially, “I didn’t even tell anyone about [the publication],” she says. “I didn’t think it was that big of a deal.”

Until she consulted her advisor about graduate schools, that is. Despite Lorenzi’s less-than-perfect grades, he suggested top institutions like Columbia University. “I said, ‘Did you see my GPA?’ He said, ‘Well, you have a publication in your junior year,’ recalls Lorenzi, who hopes to start earning a graduate degree in public health after a year of public service through AmeriCorps.

In March, her research was chosen for April’s Boston Undergraduate Research Symposium at Harvard University. Thanks to her time in the lab, she says, “A lot more doors opened up to me.”

“Undergraduates like Megan make a real contribution to scientific research at Boston University,” says Widmaier, a 2007 winner of BU’s Metcalff Award for excellence in teaching. “I look forward to seeing her do great things in the future.”

To learn more about BU’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, visit www.bu.edu/urop.

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**And though he’s graduating in May, Polick will participate in his fifth FY SOP this summer, the first student to have done so.**

**Move over, cancun**

The most notable growth within the Community Service Center has been in the number of students clamoring to join Alternative Spring Break. Thirty-two trips embarked this year—up from twenty-five last year and only ten trips five years ago—giving 422 students and staff members the chance to participate.

The premise of ASB is simple. Gather ten to fifteen students, put them in a van, and drive them somewhere in the country where they can pitch in to help: a reservation in Oklahoma, a national park on Cumberland Island near Georgia, a gay and lesbian advocacy organization in Michigan. But students help themselves as much.

Introduced to the center through her experience in FY SOP, Jessica Tannhauser went on her first ASB trip, to an abused children’s center in Mississippi, partly because it was so inexpensive compared to a typical spring break—this year’s trip: cost $50 per student—and also because, as a lifelong Girl Scout, she is committed to service.

“I’ve seen parts of our country I would otherwise have no reason to visit. I experienced different cultures while meeting great groups of people around BU from all different backgrounds and majors,” says Tannhauser. “And these experiences have helped grow my leadership skills exponentially.”

Adds Anne Hetherington, “What was most surprising was not just the experience I had, but the things I took away that added to the person I wanted to be.”

**In the Heart of the City, in the Service of the City**

Taking to heart these words—spoken by the University’s third president, Lemuel Merfin—BU students gave a unique inaugural gift to President Robert Brown in 2005.

“They didn’t want to buy him a book; they didn’t want to buy him a jacket, a baseball cap, a hockey puck, or a paperweight,” says Dean DeLuca. So, they collectively performed 750 hours of community service in Brown’s name. “That beats a paperweight any day of the week.”

Young folks who are coming to BU have a spirit amongst themselves that is so giving, and that spirit is contagious. More and more, [the CSC] is going to put BU on the map as a community service hub,” forecasts DeLuca.

As the center’s growth continues and volunteers and staff members constantly look for ways to better the programs—such as greener practices and increased outreach across campus—that spirit seems to remain constant.

Says Tannhauser, “It’s what drew me in initially. All these people were so excited about community service, and I thought, ‘This is perfect for me.’”

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**How you can help**

- ASB trips happen all over the U.S. You can:
  - Give students a break from P&As and host a group for a home-cooked meal, or meet them at their volunteer site with a well-deserved snack.
  - Help a group of students reach their destination by filling up their gas tank along the way.
  - Provide students a place to stay, whether you have connections to a YMCA, an area hotel, or another appropriate venue for ten students.
  - Offer ideas about possible service sites, connections, or opportunities for students, such as internships.
  - Are you an expert in one of the FY SOP issue areas? Volunteer to share your experience and knowledge during the program’s Day of Education.
  - Donate to any program at the CSC.
  - Take part in a day of service in Boston.
  - Ready to get involved? Want to learn more? Contact Lindsey Wyld at 617-353-4720 or lwyld@bu.edu.

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**Contact Information**

**Lincoln Wyld**

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NEWS BITES
A SAMPLER OF CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

BU: SUSTAINING BU
In an ongoing effort to make Boston University more eco-friendly, University leaders hired Somerville architect Dennis Carlberg in January as the school’s first director of sustainability. Carlberg will oversee the BU Sustainability Committee, a group of faculty members, staff, and students working to reduce energy consumption and decrease waste across campus. With costs on the rise, the new director says, investing in sustainable technologies makes sense both environmentally and fiscally. “Ultimately,” he says, “we have to ensure that whatever decisions we make today will not adversely affect future generations.” *

ATHLETICS: MR. 800
With a 3-1 road victory over Merrimack on January 30, Terrier hockey coach Jack Parker joined an elite group of collegiate coaches with 800 career victories. Only former Michigan State coach Ron Mason and Boston College coach Jerry York have more, and Parker is the first coach in NCAA history to win 800 games at one school. "Jack Parker epitomizes the very best in college coaching, and the milestone of his 800th victory is a testimony to the quality of his program and his skill as a leader on and off the ice,” says BU President Robert A. Brown. “The whole BU community is bursting with pride today.” *

COM: TRAINING THE WATCHDOGS
In January, the College of Communication launched the New England Center for Investigative Reporting at Boston University, a one-of-a-kind news center where students and veteran local reporters will produce original, in-depth reports for area media. “Our core belief is that investigative reporting is one of democracy’s most important tools for providing citizens with the information they need to hold the powerful accountable and to make informed decisions,” says center director Joe Bergantino, a COM adjunct faculty member and an Emmy Award-winning Boston broadcast journalist. The center will be a key component of COM’s journalism program, acting as an incubator for the next generation of reporters specializing in long-form journalism. *

CFA: GREEN SEASONED
Four College of Fine Arts School of Theatre undergraduates landed roles in The Com is Green, a Huntington Theatre Company mainstage production that ran from January 9 to February 8. Their first time on stage with Tony-nominated actress and former Grey’s Anatomy cast member Kate Burton, daughter of theater legend Richard Burton. Because the Huntington is the theater-in-residence at Boston University, alumni are often part of the cast and crew, but it’s less common for undergraduates to walk the boards. “College students don’t generally have the opportunity to share a stage with such a seasoned actor,” says Danny Byrck (CFA ’09), “so even though my character is secondary and I don’t have a lot of lines, it’s still a huge deal.” *

SHA: NEW CURRICULUM CHECKS IN
This spring, the School of Hospitality launched five new courses following a curriculum review that took in benchmarking against rival schools, student focus groups, and a study of scholarly thinking on course design. Changes include the introduction of three required courses in hospitality leadership, revenue management and technology, and lodging operations and technology, plus new electives in asset management and professional development. Says Associate Professor Stan Buchin, “Our major focus was to train people for operations positions with the ultimate objective that they could rise to lead their facilities.” *

SED: JUMPSTARTING EDUCATION
This year, participation nearly doubled in the School of Education’s partnership with Jumpstart, a national organization of volunteers devoted to ensuring that children enter school prepared to succeed. Marissa Peterson, BU’s Jumpstart site manager, says forty undergraduate students joined the Jumpstart Corps (part of the AmeriCorps network) and currently serve forty preschoolers in one-on-one partnerships in Boston. The children at Higginson Elementary in Roxbury, Ellis Memorial and Escuelita Bakeen in the South End, and the Ekoit School in the North End showed great progress after only five weeks of reading stories, assembling puzzles, singing songs, painting, drawing, and writing with the Jumpstart Corps members.

MET: NOT JUST A GAME
The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that software publishing, which includes video games, will grow by 68 percent between 2002 and 2012. Now, a new graduate certificate program at Metropolitan College offers training in video-game programming and design, a discipline whose applications have grown way beyond simulating violence for overcaffeinated teenagers. “The idea of making a game has changed to mean the creation of any interactive, entertaining, engaging experience with a computer,” says Eric Braude, MET associate professor of computer science and a co-founder of the new certificate program. “And that’s pretty much pervasive now when it comes to computer applications, whether they’re run on your desktop, on a handheld device, or at the supermarket checkout line.” *

* To read the full article, visit www.bu.edu/today.
On October 18–19, 2008, approximately 2,000 BU parents came to Boston to visit their students, meet each other, and enjoy a taste of life on campus. Join them this October for Parents Weekend 2009!

Every Friday from 3 to 5 p.m., students gather in BU’s Howard Thurman Center for Coffee & Conversation, a casual coffee klatch with Dean of Students Kenneth Elmore (SED’87). What started in 2003 as an opportunity for students to air complaints has evolved into a spirited weekly debate about the hot-button issues of the day. This spring’s conversations have parsed President Obama’s inauguration speech and examined the state of education in America. Visit Dean Elmore’s blog (blogs.bu.edu/kennmore) to see what’s up for discussion this week.

Encourage your graduating senior to help the Class of ’09 shine by giving $20.09 to the Class Gift Campaign. Gifts can be made to any BU school or college in honor of the mentor of your student’s choice!

To learn more, visit www.bu.edu/classgift.
When he first came to Boston University, Mississippi native Michael Koan (ENG’09) couldn’t decide what to major in. After switching from aerospace engineering to astronomy and physics, he finally settled on biomedical engineering’s pre-med track. A lead tutor at the University’s Educational Resource Center, Koan uses his passion for science, math, and engineering to help other students succeed academically. He’s also gained nunca-mia enthusiasm. Boston dining has inspired Koan’s interest in food, and he aspires to own a restaurant—and be able to cook a fancy dinner for his friends. — JM


2. What is your best memory? Winning Millionaire, easily the best movie I’ve seen in a while

3. What is your best memory? Joanne Chang, owner of Flour in Boston’s South End, who changed careers from mathematician to baker

4. Who is your hero? A Tide-to-Go pen that I hardly ever use and a mini flashlight

5. What is the best thing you have accomplished? I’m pretty good ice skater, and I can read palms. None of my college friends know how good I am at street hockey and playing the violin.

6. What is your best memory? Being part of the committee that rewrote the Educational Resource Center’s Peer Tutoring Manual, and my internship at NASA

7. What is your best memory? The diversity on campus. It is such a priceless experience to be surrounded by different people.

8. What is your best memory? Soundtracks from movies, music I hear on the radio

9. What is your best memory? Michael and Judy Adler

10. What is your best memory? Sanford, Class of 2009

11. What is your best memory? Stephanie Mattson

12. What is your best memory? David Alter (CGS’78, SM’80)

13. What is your best memory? Sarah, Class of 2009

14. What is your best memory? Robert Bobb

15. What is your best memory? City of Chicago

16. What is your best memory? What is your best memory? city of Chicago

17. What is your best memory? Vito’s, Class of 2009

18. What is your best memory? William and Debra Lee (CQS’76, CAS’78) Goldberg

19. What is your best memory? Elizabeth Gunnell

20. What is your best memory? James and Debra Hoback

Michael and Judy Adler

Sanford, Class of 2009

David Alter (CQS’78, SM’80)

Sarah, Class of 2009

Robert Bobb

City of Chicago

Vito’s

William and Debra Lee

Elizabeth Gunnell

James and Debra Hoback

Lisa Stewart Jacobs (CAS’77)

Candice James-Selander

Ratan and Deepika Jindal

Heman and Madhulika Kanoria

Sunil and Sunita Kanoria

Jeanne Knox

Koan’s interests in food, and he aspires to own a restaurant—and be able to cook a fancy dinner for his friends. — NM

Taking the Lead

The Boston University Parents Program extends heartfelt thanks to the following members of the Parents Leadership Council for their continued guidance, participation, and support.

Parent Leadership Council Chair

Massachusetts, Class of 2008

Massachusetts, Class of 2008

Connecticut, Class of 2010

Kentucky, Class of 2010

Florida, Class of 2009

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Please visit the Parents Program website, at www.bu.edu/parentsprogram, to make a gift today. Together we can prepare our students for success.

Your contribution to the Parents Annual Campaign can support:

- SPECIFIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
- SCHOLARSHIPS
- LIBRARIES
- ATHLETICS
- STUDENT LIFE
- THE UNIVERSITY’S AREA OF GREATEST NEED