He had moved his armies into the Middle East. Now, Sami Nawas sat opposite his opponent, surveying the map unfolded between them. He ignored the thud…thud of far-off artillery fire. The eleven-year-old aimed to beat his aunt at Risk.

Actual bombs bursting in the distance? That had become common background noise over the months since civil war broke out in Lebanon in 1975.

As the boy and his aunt played the board game in the Nawas family's Beirut apartment, one familiar thud was followed by an unexpected BAM! and the windows shattered as a misfired shell exploded just outside. Glass shards flew at them, landing about three feet short.

It was not the first close call, or the last. Nawas's (’85, SMG’87) introduction to the hostilities came at age ten when an angry, pounding mob surrounded the car he was riding in with his mother. The final straw for the family would be a bullet fired at young Sami, narrowly missing him, as he leaned on the rail of their apartment's balcony.

They were Christians in a Muslim neighborhood, and ever since religious tensions in the mixed city had boiled over, even old friends had begun to distance themselves. Growing up, Nawas and
his classmates were “just young kids playing,” he says. But after April 1975, when pitched battles erupted between sectarian militias, “all hell happened—people started noticing who’s what.”

The Lebanese army, itself composed of both Christians and Muslims, dissolved amidst inflight battles, and militias took over the city. Long a prosperous port with modern utilities and a high literacy rate, Beirut now saw its infrastructure fall apart.

“We had no electricity, no refrigeration,” Nawaal recalls. “You had to bring water up four flights of stairs in those twenty flights and you bathed with a lukewarm kettle of water heated on a Bunsen burner.”

“Showers now are a luxury for me,” he adds, laughing. “It’s just a different perspective. I learned to appreciate what I have.” Nawaal says he wouldn’t change anything about his experience. He even jokes about the bullet that “missed me by a hair.”

Nawaal had to bring water up four flights of stairs in those twenty flights and you bathed with a lukewarm kettle of water heated on a Bunsen burner.

After the balcony shooting, the Nawaal family at last emigrated. Sami’s brother and sister were already in college in the United States, and his father had been expanding and diversifying the travel agency he founded in 1949. Sami went to school in Switzerland, where he learned Italian on top of his native French and Arabic.

At age fourteen, Nawaal enrolled in a prep school in New Jersey. “I had a horrible hybrid accent freshman year,” he says, and he took a ration of jeering and for it. “Kids can be brutal in high school.”

Nawaal has a generous soul in general: he once donated a lottery windfall to charity.

Nawaal was consistently one of CGS’s Distinguished Alumni Award winners. “I really feel a sense of compassion for the work of CGS,” he says. “I want to help the College continue and expand its role because I know firsthand there’s a need in the world for education.”

“In the Middle East, a lot of wars could have been stopped with education,” Nawaal reflects, perhaps recollceting his own brushes with death in Beirut. “When people lose hope, they do crazy things. Education gives people hope. I want to invest in that to make sure people have that channel open to them. That’s my passion.”

Nawaal is one of those students. “And they take these kids and train them for two years in a very global, integrated, interdisciplinary program. Then, when you continue into your junior year at SMG, as he did, “you end up with the same BU degree, but you come out, in my opinion, more well-rounded.”

Days after graduation, Sami Nawaal’s brother, Soli, called him from the office of the family business, Nawaal International Travel, based in Connecticut. “Do you have a passport?” Soli asked. Sami did. “Is it valid?” “Good, we need you to go to China for seventeen days.”

Due to strict Chinese rules, a tour group needed to consist of exactly ten people, and when someone dropped out, Nawaal was needed to fill the open spot. “I just went for the educational experience,” he says, but it was the beginning of his career in the travel industry.

Today, Sami Nawaal is vice president of the family company. From its West Coast branch in the San Francisco Bay area, he manages marketing, sales, and overall tour operations for group travelers—ultimately from churches or universities. “Our number-one clientele is the Christian travel market,” Nawaal says. He helps arrange pilgrimages to Jerusalem and to Rome, among other trips.

Nawaal is also active in his own church. Raised Catholic, he now belongs to a Presbyterian parish, along with his wife and three daughters. Currently, he is training to become a Stephen minister, a nondenominational spiritual counselor for those suffering through crises, such as divorce or illness. (Nawaal is a generous soul in general: he once donated a lottery windfall to charity.)

Nawaal also consistently participates in BU affairs. He is the president of the BU Bay Area Alumni Club and a member of the BU Alumni Council, and for CGS he sits on the Dean’s Advisory Board. During Reunion Weekend in fall 2008, he received CGS’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

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“Education gives people hope.”

He’s a Connector

A hyperactive personality helps Peter Shankman thrive in today’s hyperlinked world.

BY BARI WALSH

It took a while for the world to catch up with Peter Shankman.

Before Twitter, Facebook, and twenty-four-hour news cycles—before attention-deficit disorder—Shankman (’92, COM’94) was a self-described “hyper kid with boundless energy and a critically short attention span. He was creative but unfocused, and he had trouble fitting in. Today, those same qualities make him a master social networker, the lynchpin of an online community that connects reporters looking for sources with experts waiting to be tapped. His website, Help a Reporter Out (www.helpareporter.com), launched last March, now has 50,000 sources signed up—“everyone from public relations firms to mom-and-pop grocery stores to mommy bloggers to Wall Street guys who happen to be experts at bass fishing,” Shankman says. “My logic is, everyone is an expert on something. You might not spend money to promote it, but it’s free”—an HARO is “why the hell wouldn’t you?”

Reporters from large media outlets (the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and small ones (Inventors Digest, Meetings & Conventions), as well as authors of books and blogs, rely on the site when they’re on deadline and need comment. They’ve come to trust that Shankman’s network will lead them to good sources, no matter how esoteric the query.

“I didn’t start it for any other reason than that it was beneficial to the reporters I was friends with,” says Shankman, who ran his own PR agency in Manhattan for ten years. “Every year I’d send out what I called a good karma e-mail to about 75,000 reporters, saying, ‘I’m not pitching you, I just know a lot of people, and if you’re ever on deadline and need something, give me a shout and I’ll see what I can do.’” He started getting queries from reporters he knew, then from reporters he didn’t know. After receiving one particularly random query—as he recalls, it went something like, “Hey Peter, I’m doing a story about Nigerian farming”—he decided to set up a Facebook group so he could funnel queries to his network.

The operation grew beyond Facebook’s size restrictions, so he launched his own site, and membership grew quickly. Shankman still owns his PR firm, called the Geek Factory, but he now focuses exclusively on HARO, which is supported by a simple advertising program that makes it profitable. He rounds up reporters’ queries and sends them out to his members in up to three e-mails a day.

“If I’m late,” he says, “there are 200 Twitter posts going, ‘Where’s the HARO? What’s going on?’”

“I’m a connector,” he says, by way of explaining how good karma became a good business. “But there’s no secret here. I’ve simply come up with something that people need.”

Shankman maintains a blog at http://shankman.com and Twitter under the moniker “skydiver,” named for one of his offline passions. Both sites reveal an outside personality and an all-over-the-map lifestyle. He’s parlayed his command of social media into an active public-speaking career, training PR types on how to use these new tools, which he believes are upending traditional public relations practices.

He’s still hyper, in other words, but now it’s his job. Shankman takes some glee in his personal revenge-of-the-nerds narrative. “The same stuff that got me beaten up in junior high school is what’s making me money today,” he says with a laugh.
Welcome Home

BY ANDREW THURSTON

To CGS students, the new-look lobby at the College is more than the sum of its plasma screens, lounge seating, and computers; it’s a place to call home. Here are their stories of studying, socializing, and—for one very tired crew member—sleeping.

STARBUCKS AVOIDER
Ameen Ashraf, Colombo, Sri Lanka
“I’m reading Modernization and Revolution in China—it’s for social sciences and we have a midterm tomorrow. I used to go downstairs because this area wasn’t too accommodating. It’s more relaxed now, if I go to Starbucks, I end up listening to music and just staring out into space.”

SLEEPING ROWER
Sarah Hoile, California
“I’m on the crew team and had lifting this morning at six—when I can find a place to sleep, I’ll sleep. Our season is in the spring, so now we’re just training and getting ready.”

JUSTICE ADVOCATE
Gabe Sherman, California
“I’m going over a paper that I’m editing on unjust laws. I usually have an hour break between class, so I come in here and get some work done. I live about ten minutes away, but usually I just stay around here and hang out.”

QUICK FACEBOOKER
Linda Wuakian, Massachusetts
“I like studying in the privacy of my own room, so I do general things here—hang out, check my e-mails. I never really used to hang out here, maybe around West Campus or something like that, not usually here.”

WHITE NOISE WRITER
Laura Martin, Washington
“I’m working on a paper about morality. I like to see the TV in the background; I like to hear noise and the study lounges are always too quiet.”

UNIVERSITY WRESTLER
Ryan Dowd, New Jersey
“I’m studying for a natural science exam tomorrow. I come here between classes when I don’t feel like walking back to the dorm. I wrestle for the University, so I’m pretty busy now, but that’s why I use times like these to get some work done.”

ABOUT THE NEW LOBBY
Walking into CGS is a very different experience from what it was a year ago. Following the unveiling of the renovated lobby in October, the College’s entrance is no longer a drab thoroughfare. Sunshine pours onto displays of student and faculty work, screens relay the latest world news, and comfortable seating areas give students retreats for relaxing and work.

Funded with the support of alumni and parents, the renovation is the third major construction project for CGS since 2005, following the Katzenberg Center and Gilbane Study Lounge. Speaking at its opening, Dean Linda Wells said the inviting new lobby now embodies the “spirit of the College.”

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**Master of the HOUSE**

The resident assistant of BU’s all-CGS house talks about what it’s like being the guy in charge.

BY CORINNE KATOR

Justin Breton ('08, COM’10), a public relations major from North Vassallboro, Maine, may have finished his CGS courses last year, but he wasn’t about to leave the College behind. To maintain his close relationship with CGS, Breton took on the resident assistant post at Gilbane House, a campus residence exclusively for CGS students. He recently spoke to Collegian about his experience keeping track of 37 of his peers as the house’s one and only RA.

**Q: What’s the atmosphere like at Gilbane House?**

**A:** We have a really respectful environment. When we started out the school year, that’s what a lot of the rules were based on: if you’re respectful of your neighbors, then we’re going to have a good house. The environment is really fun—people are friendly. I see residents going in and out of rooms all the time. Everyone’s also very responsible. I wouldn’t say we’re the party house of Bay State Road, which is a good thing.

**Why did you apply to be an RA?**

I was president of the student government at the College of General Studies my sophomore year, and I knew I wanted to stay connected with the College. CGS has done such great things for me, why wouldn’t I want to stay connected? Also, BU is expensive, and this job takes off a huge chunk. And, of course, the house is gorgeous.

**What’s the best part of being an RA?**

It’s rewarding to know that when residents have questions, they feel comfortable coming to me as somebody who will give them an honest answer. I was in the College of General Studies, and I’ve made the transition from CGS to another college, so I can be a resource for my residents.

**What’s the hardest part of the job?**

The biggest challenge is to make sure all the rules are enforced. Having to discipline people is hard, but we’ve had such a great semester that it hasn’t really had to happen.

**Will your RA experience be valuable to you after you graduate?**

Absolutely. When I was involved in RHA (Resident Hall Association) my freshman year, I worked with seven other people. In CGS, student government last year, I worked with three others. So this is the first time I’ve been in a leadership position on my own, and it’s been great. I’m building up different kinds of experiences, and I’m taking a lot from each of them.

**Q: How does someone go about building a style—finding the right style for their personality?**

A: First of all, look around you on the street, in magazines and movies. Is there someone whose style you really admire? Does that style feel right for you? If you love a sexy bombshell look, you wouldn’t want to suddenly bust out a skinny pencil skirt and three-inch heels every day if, say, you’re a busy caterer. You could take a little of one particular look and a little from another until it feels comfortable for you. If you still feel like you’re wearing a costume or that people are staring, you’re not there yet.

**Your book says that practically everyone at Lucky has an inspiration board, an updated version of the bulletin boards full of photos and quotes, etc., that we all had as teenagers. What kinds of images are on your inspiration board?**

I’ve had inspiration boards since I was about 15. My entire bedroom was covered! The one in my office now has mostly old photos from the seventies. Joni Mitchell, Bianca Jagger, Ali MacGraw. Even later-likes like Bob Dylan, Paul Newman, and Sam Shepard.

**Were you style-conscious while you were at BU?**

I’ve always been style-conscious, even as a child. I would hang out with my mom in the East Village and clock everything that everyone was wearing and then wish it all came in a size 0X. I ended up going to high school in a super-preppy town, so it was hard to really express yourself with clothes without being the butt of jokes. I thought BU had the coolest, most fashionable girls I’d ever seen. I was amazed at how comfortable they were with wearing whatever they wanted.

**What’s your iconic style now?**

Even though I’m 43, I still like the same slightly bohemian and rock and roll things I always have. I’m just a little more age-appropriate about it. I still wear leather pants once in a while, but I’ll throw a nice cashmere sweater over them, not a rock tee.

**Name your five essential wardrobe items.**

Skinny jeans; boots; cashmere sweater; skinny jacket; extra soft, almost sheer t-shirt.

**What is it like working in fashion, among the very-well-put-together? Don’t you die from the pressure?**

I started my career at Sassy which was an underground teenage magazine from Australia. I felt so lucky to be able to wear whatever I wanted, when some of my friends had dress codes at work and had to wear suits and pumps. I got to wear things like bubble skirts and over-the-knee socks and had a lot of fun with it. It wasn’t until a few years later when I had a stint as a fashion writer at Harper’s Bazaar that I felt the pressure. I was even reprimanded for wearing jeans to a fashion show, which of course is de rigueur now.

Tell us about your job. Why does Lucky work so well?

I do everything from working with Kim France on concepts to actually executing them by art directing and styling. I’ve been all over the world, to some of the most beautiful locations—Paris, Marrakech, Buenos Aires, Prague, St. Barts, to name a few. I’m not going to lie—my job is sometimes stressful and not always easy (when we’re on location, we’re definitely not on vacation!), but it’s still challenging and fun. Lucky is great because we really come from the perspective that everyone can have style, not just a select few. We’re your friend. We’re here to let you in on the secret and hold your hand all the way.

**This story originally appeared in Lucky online.**
Rock ‘n’ Roll and the Renaissance

What do rock musicians and the fourteenth-century poet Petrarch have in common? Ask Joellen Masters.

By Corinne Kator

“Professor Masters is absolutely the most brilliant professor I have had yet. She knows an amazing amount of material spanning thousands of years, and she knows the canon like you wouldn’t imagine. Creative, quirky assignments and a tough grade. Awesome prof!”

“She is my favorite professor at BU. Her knowledge and love of the material are inspiring.”

“Ridiculously smart. Film, art, literature, poetry, history, etc., etc., etc. This woman knows practically everything there is to know. Set one of your goals as being half as intelligent as Masters.”

“You have to work hard in her class, but it pays off and you learn a lot. Loved the Renaissance dance!”

Joellen Masters (GRS’88, ’96), assistant professor of humanities, has never looked at her profile page on RateMyProfessors.com. She doesn’t dare. But if she did, she’d see that students who visit the website to make comments about her teaching almost universally appreciate her high academic standards and her creative approach to the classroom.

Over the last twelve years, this creativity has manifested itself time and time again in challenging and entertaining group assignments that have made Masters a CGS favorite. To help emphasize the importance of patterns during the Renaissance, for example, Masters has asked groups of students to learn and perform a traditional Renaissance dance. To reinforce a lesson on Renaissance poetry, she’s asked students to analyze contemporary songs—including “Little Red Corvette” by Prince and “It’s So Hard” by the Weather Girls—according to the established conventions of Renaissance love poetry.

She also recently surprised students by showing them the movie Training Day—a shoot-'em-up cop drama starring Denzel Washington—to illustrate Aristotle’s theory of tragedy: “It’s very Aristotelian: it happens in 24 hours; everything in that plot is necessary; it supports the idea of the tragic hero,” Masters says of the film. “I’m just letting students see that nothing has really changed that much, that people are always building on these kinds of traditions.”

Masters is often overwhelmed by the enthusiasm with which students tackle her assignments. “They put so much time in and so much thought,” she says. The success of her classes, she adds, is due as much to her students’ willingness to embrace challenges as it is to her teaching. “I work hard,” she says, “but I think it’s easier at CGS to put that kind of energy into your teaching. You have this very close connection with students, so they’re trying their best to do well for you, which makes you want to try even harder to set the bar a little higher for them.”

Joellen Masters is the recipient of the College of General Studies 2008 Suezel Award, which recognizes and honors outstanding professors. The award was established in 2004 with a gift from the estate of Dr. Ismail Suezel.

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS

Looking for a good book to read or an interesting movie to rent on Friday night? We asked Assistant Professor of Humanities Joellen Masters to recommend some of her favorites:

Books
The Ambassadors (Henry James, 1903)
The Age of Innocence (Edith Wharton, 1920)
Speak, Memory (Vladimír Nabokov, 1951)
The Assistant (Bernard Malamud, 1957)
Travels from the Toolroom (Nina Shalat, 1960)
Pale Fire (Vladimir Nabokov, 1962)
Elizabeth Bishop, The Complete Poems (1927–1979)
Chronicles of Death Foretold (Gabriel García Márquez, 1981)
Oscar and Lucinda (Peter Carey, 1988)
The War (Comer McPherson, 1997)

Movies
The Lady Vanishes (Alfred Hitchcock, 1938)
Laurel (Otto Preminger, 1944)
Crisis Cross (Robert Siodmak, 1949)
The Heiress (William Wyler, 1949)
The Earrings of Madame de… (Max Ophuls, 1953)
The Railway Man (Piotr Geremi, 1956)
Nights of Cabiria (Federico Fellini, 1957)
Battle of a Soldier (Gregor Chukhrai, 1959)
The Hustler (Robert Rossen, 1961)
The Leopard (Lucchino Visconti, 1963)
Klute (Alan Pakula, 1971)
The Deer Hunter (Michael Cimino, 1978)

The Power of Pen and Page

Rhetoric professor Megan Sullivan sees reading and writing as tools that can change the world.

By Corinne Kator and Yelizaveta DImant

Megan Sullivan first picked up Dubliners, James Joyce’s short-story collection depicting Irish middle-class life in the early twentieth century, as a graduate student in Rhode Island. “When I read it, I thought, ‘Oh my god—I know these people. These are my uncles and aunts and my extended family,’” she says. Although it had been decades since Joyce crafted his book’s characters, and just as long since Sullivan’s great grandparents had left Ireland for America, the stories were still able to teach her truths about her family and herself.

After experiencing this connection, Sullivan dove into the writings of Mary Beckett, Eavan Boland, and other contemporary Irish women. She eventually wrote a doctoral dissertation and then a book on women in literature and film in Northern Ireland. “When I began reading about Northern Ireland,” she says, “I realized that this literature was having an impact on people’s daily lives. I became interested in what literature was really doing in Ireland, what writing was doing in Ireland.”

Sullivan’s own experiences with discovering herself through reading and writing—and her observations of what reading and writing had accomplished in Northern Ireland—are what inspire her teaching today. Associate Professor Sullivan teaches rhetoric to CGS freshmen, focusing specifically on teaching them to express their thoughts in writing.

“I feel very strongly that the way we read and write can change the world,” she says. “I know that sounds terribly grandiose, but it’s true.” And while she doesn’t necessarily expect her students’ writing to end hunger or bring about world peace, she says, “students can write to better understand themselves and their place in the world, and I think that’s very important.”

The ability to write, she adds, is one of the most important things a school can teach its students. “What else,” she asks, “is going to help people figure out what they think and what they can do about it, unless they write it?”

Not one to preach what she doesn’t practice, Sullivan is herself a prolific writer, publishing books and articles in several of her areas of expertise, including Irish studies and writing instruction. She also writes to explore aspects of her personal life. She’s currently working on a collection of essays about the experiences that led her to become a teacher, and she’s considering a book about love, marriage, and disability, based on her experience meeting and marrying her husband, who is blind. In practically every aspect of her life, it seems, she has a book in progress. “I have all these ideas,” she says. “If only I had the time.”

Megan Sullivan is the recipient of the College of General Studies 2008 Richter Award, which recognizes excellence in interdisciplinary teaching. The award, named in honor of Professor Peterlyn Richter was established in 1988 and made possible by a gift from Gary Knorr (64, COM’66).
BY CORINNE KATOR

During her freshman year at CGS, Kirsten Lundeen (’01, CAS’03) settled into a seat in the Jacob Sleeper Auditorium for an introductory lecture for the next semester’s natural science course. Lundeen, who was considering declaring a major in political science, listened as Associate Professor Robert Scholtz talked about geology and the wonders of plate tectonics, and something clicked inside her. “That lecture rekindled my love for playing in the mud,” she says. “So I signed up for Intro. to Earth Sciences for my sophomore-year, first-semester elective, and I fell in love. I absolutely fell in love.”

Lundeen eventually graduated from the College of Arts & Sciences with a degree in environmental earth sciences. It wasn’t the first time she had followed her passion to an unlikely place and succeeded there: As a teenager in the suburbs of Portland, Oregon, Lundeen surprised her parents by announcing that instead of following family footsteps to Oregon State University, she wanted to attend college on the East Coast. She then came to Boston University and thrived here, despite being 3,000 miles from home. Today, Lundeen is once again demonstrating her ability to prosper in improbable places.

She was recently promoted to associate director in BU Development & Alumni Relations, with responsibility for young alumni, student, and career programs. Alumni relations may seem an unusual career choice for someone with a degree in earth sciences, but Lundeen says the job is a perfect fit.

“I use my degree every day,” she says. “My hard science background taught me all about data management and data analysis; that actually becomes really handy in my job.” When she started at CGS, she was able to use her skills to combat discrimination in the workplace and was able to make a career of helping other people be philanthropic.

True to form, Lundeen took her new found passion and ran with it. “I use my degree every day,” she says. “My hard science background taught me all about data management and data analysis; that actually becomes really handy in my job.” When she started at CGS, she was able to use her skills to combat discrimination in the workplace and was able to make a career of helping other people be philanthropic.

But when she graduated from BU, she wasn’t even aware she could make a career of helping other people be philanthropic. But when CGS Dean Linda Wells called her a few months after graduation to suggest she apply for the alumni officer position at CGS, she decided to give it a shot. Once she was hired, she knew she’d made the right move. “The job opened up a whole new world for me,” she says. True to form, Lundeen took her newfound passion and ran with it. Her colleagues at CGS say she raised both the annual fund and alumni relations to new heights at the College with her hard work and creative ideas, and that she’s working on behalf of all BU alumni, they’re sure she’ll do the same for the University as a whole. 

1960s

Steven Cohen (’64, CAS’69) of Southampton, PA, has been elected president of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association for the 2009-2010 term. He has a private practice devoted to therapy and forensic psychology.

John Capucilli (’63) reports having lived “a fulfilling life” since departing CGS back in 1965. His exploits include substitute teaching in Boston area schools; a military post in Heidelberg, Germany; a tour in Vietnam; a job at the Playboy Club in Boston’s Park Square; running a successful nightclub; and a couple of divorces; working as a guard at Boston’s Deer Island Prison; a job as a planer and developer for the city of Boston; and twenty years as a yacht captain for the wealthy and powerful. Along the way he earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona and a Master of Public Administration from Suffolk University.

He now lives with his wife, Martha Marine, and has since visited Brazil, Pakistan, Dubai, Singapore, Qatar, and Bahrain.

1980s

Eric Masson (’80, SM’83) of Biscail Press, NY, was proud to send his oldest son to BU this academic year as a freshman in the School of Management. He says having a child at BU has been more fun than he expected. “The very special connection I have with my son has become even better as we’re sharing what we have in common about Boston and BU. Each phone call and visit is an enjoy- able walk down memory lane.”

Martha Shaw (’86, CAS’89) of Hartford, CT, is an attorney with Howard Ludorf. She is planning a trip to Thailand with William LeFevre (M’93), who was her off-campus college roommate two decades ago. The two are hoping to travel together to the strength of the bonds forged from the rich experi- ences of studying at BU.

Nina Arnfeld (’86, CAS’89) of Brookline, MA, runs her own professional organizing company, Organized by Nina. She recently discovered Facebook and found reconnecting with friends—the old-fashioned way—enjoyable.

1990s

Kevin Sanderson (’94, CAS’96) of Saratoga, FL, practices employment, discrimination, and business law, and is a partner with the Firm of Caven & Koller in Orlando. He has a professional track record of diverse international and local representation for the St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami in 2006. Kevin is co-chair of the BU Alumni Club of Greater Sarasota.

Danielle Polisi (’96, CAS’01) of Boston writes that she is proud to be serving America’s veterans by pro- viding psychosocial therapy to returning troops at the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Boston. She adds, “I would like to send a hello to all my fellow alumns (Class of 1996), I hope everyone is well.” E-mail Danielle at danielle.polisi.va.gov.

Eden Garber-Schmitz (’98, CAS’02) of Mamaroneck, NY, and her husband, Joshua Smith, are raising the arrival of their first child, Atticus Ward Smith, who was born on October 14, 2008. Eden works as a senior asset controller at MFS Investment Management. E-mail her at eden, hartley@gmail.com.

Lee Igles (‘99, SAR’00, SED’01) of Edgewater, NJ, is an assistant professor in the School of Education at the College of Professional Studies at New York University. He also heads the Polsky Dreier Social of New York City.

Heather (Johnson) Fordyce (’99, SMG’01) of Centennial, CO, married (ex, Fortruse on Cape Cod) July 2, 2008. Ashley Sinter (’99, COM’02) and Meredith Thomas (’99, COM’01) were married in Brooklyn.

Several other Terrans attended the wedding. Cara (Rosani) Dwyer (SAR’00, 02), Kiki (Littman) Kutch (ENG’01), Lauren Gromley (SED’02), Jeff Sodeman (CAS’01), Jeremy Roach (CAS’01), Bob Holman (’99, COM’01), Jacob Schenda (ENG’01), Jason Weiner (ENG’02), Matt Solcekas (CAS’10), Shye Toodek (AS’01), Ashley (Elisa) Papadopoulos (’99, SED’02), George Papadopoulos (ENG’01), Norman (SAR’01, ENG’02), and Kevin Salkaen (CAS’02) attended. Heather encourages old friends and class- mates to e-mail her at heatherkutch@gmail.com.

Amy (Gimo) Igles (’99, SED’01) of Edgewater, NJ, is a reading teacher at Woodcliff Middle School in Woodcliff Lake, NJ. She was recently awarded a fully funded postdoctoral fellowship in Japan through the JSPS Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program.

Cheri Mar (’99, CAS’02) of Dauphin, HI, is an exec- utive administrative assistant at a human services company. She is also an active Hatha Yoga teacher and is studying for advanced certification as a pro- fessional yoga therapist.

2000s

Jaron Friedman (’01, SM’03) of New York, NY, has worked at The Boston Beer Company for more than five years. He recently accepted a new position as the company’s Northeast convenience channel manager.

Erik Boucier (‘02, COM’04) joined the San Jose, CA, office of the executive compensation consulting firm Compensia as a senior consultant. E-mail him at eboucier@compensia.com.


PARTY PLANNER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Last spring, Gail Casyton (’02, COM’04) arranged a swanky Moskitoبوسغ-themed private party in actor David Hasselhoff’s backyard. Over the summer, she coordi- nated a Movember-themed video game marketing project Komin (creator of the game sensa- tion Dance Dance Revolution) as part of a three-night game-themed cruise for the rock band Linkin Park.

Of all the events she organized last year, the most successful was Casyston’s favorite. “We had to do so much in such a short period of time,” she says. “I’m going to coordinate twenty-four events in six months on a little over a month was really hectic, but the experience was amazing.”

Cayton and her business partner, Shannon Casystem (’03, COM’06), launched their startup company, Party Interest, in 2006. Since then, the company has grown phenomenally. “We’re approaching the one-million-dollar mark in sales,” says Cayton, who runs operations—“to be a northern bureau.”

Judges for the Stevie Awards for Women in Business thought it was exciting, too. They recently honored Cayton and Hansen with their 2008 Best Young Entrepreneur Award. Unfortunately, the young women had been informed that the awards dinner was actually a surprise dinner in New York—they already had an event booked in LA that weekend.

Lily Sworket (’03, CAS’05) is a wildlife biologist for the Turner Endangered Species Fund in the Amundsen Ranch in Truth or Consequences, NM. She is the project leader for the Aplopus Falcon reintroduction project in Asia, and the interim project leader for the Bolson Tirtur captive breeding project.

Dana Henderson (’04, COM’06) is a reporter and fill-in host for Show Me St. Louis at KSD-TV, the CBS affiliate in St. Louis, and is studying for advanced certification as a pro- fessional yoga therapist.

STAY IN TOUCH
Send your personal or professional news to cgalsalu@bu.edu. Notes may be edited for style and length.

To help us stay in touch with you, CGS would like to have current e-mail addresses for all alumns. Please send this information to cgsalum@bu.edu.
Dear Friends,

The current domestic and worldwide financial crisis affects all of us, including our students and their families. It is the highest priority of the University to retain all of our students and find ways to help address their unexpected financial needs as they pursue a BU education. This has led to a lot of belt-tightening measures around campus, including a hiring freeze for some positions and a delay on capital projects not yet in the construction phase.

We at CGS have been affected by the freeze in that Kirsten Lundeen, our development/alumni officer who had been with us for five years, accepted a new position within BU Development & Alumni Relations before the hiring freeze went into effect, and we haven’t yet been able to replace her. Kirsten is now associate director for alumni relations with a focus on young alumni, student, and career outreach, so you will see her many talents being utilized in these very important areas of alumni relations. I will miss her enthusiasm and boundless energy, but I am happy she chose to remain at BU. I hope to report to you on her replacement in the next issue of Collegian. In the meantime, Peri Onipede, director of development and alumni relations, will be handling our outreach to alumni, along with her other duties.

Fortunately, we have been able to complete our building projects here at CGS, along with other academic initiatives. Since I became dean in 2000, CGS has embarked on an ambitious undertaking to upgrade facilities, increase financial aid for deserving students, and provide support for faculty research. I have communicated these developments to you in previous letters. In summary, we have completed three major renovation projects in the last four years—the Brendan Gilbane Study Lounge, the Marilyn & Jeffrey Katzenberg Center, and the new CGS lobby, finished in August. Over Parents Weekend in October 2008, we held the dedication of the lobby, which provides the first impression for any visitor to the College. The event was well attended and our president, Robert Brown, used the occasion to thank parents and other donors for their gifts, which had such far-reaching impact.

Please stay in touch with the College, our faculty, and the classmates who shaped your time here. I hope to see you whenever you are visiting campus or during my travels around the country.

You have my best wishes,

Linda Wells, Dean

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