



Pakistan Honors Najam

Country's highest civilian honor is conferred

AS PART of Pakistan's annual Independence Day bestowal of honors, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the honor of *Sitara-i-Imtiaz* (Star of Excellence) on Adil Najam, BU's Frederick S. Pardee Professor of Global Public Policy. On August 14 he was awarded the civil decoration, one of the nation's highest, for his contributions to, and public service in, the field of global environment and development policy.

A College of Arts & Sciences professor of international relations and of geography and environment, Najam is also director of BU's Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, which convenes symposia and conducts interdisciplinary, policy-relevant, future-oriented research that contributes to long-term improvements in the human condition. He also is a member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy.

Before coming to the United States, Najam was a celebrity in Pakistan by his mid-twenties, with high-pro-

file jobs as a sports reporter, a television talk show host, and a national environmental expert. He left Pakistan to pursue an engineering degree at MIT.

His research focuses on issues of global public policy, especially those related to South Asia, Muslim countries, the environment, and development. He was a lead author for the third and fourth assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, work for which the panel was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

BRENDAN GAUTHIER (COM'11)

Alum Awarded Congressional Gold Medal

Edward Brooke's legacy of equal rights lauded

"YOU'VE GOT to get together. We have no alternative. It's time for politics to be put aside on the back burner."

The words of Edward W. Brooke III (LAW'48,'50, HON.'68), spoken during his acceptance of the Congressional Gold Medal in October, reflect the former senator's spirit and legacy as a bipartisan pioneer during a time of national unrest.

The first black member — and only black Republican — elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, Brooke represented Massachusetts from 1967 to 1979. During his tenure, Brooke fought for equal opportunity in education, voting, employment, health services, and affordable housing. In 1969, he organized a coalition of

Democrats, Republicans, and the NAACP to defeat the Supreme Court confirmation of a Nixon nominee accused of repeatedly ruling in favor of segregation.

President Barack Obama, in presenting the medal to Brooke, said, "Today's honor bears a unique significance: bestowed by this body of which he was an esteemed member; presented in this place where he moved the arc of history; surrounded by so many, myself included, who have followed the trail that he blazed."

The Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the nation's legislative branch, has been awarded only 150 times since 1776, when the Second Continental Congress presented it to its first recipient, George Washington. Other winners include Thomas A. Edison, the fourteenth Dalai Lama, and Elie Wiesel (HON.'74), BU's Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities and winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2004 Brooke was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

KELLY CUNNINGHAM



JOHN GOODMAN

Author Robert B. Parker Dies

ROBERT PARKER WROTE without notes, without outlines, without even a story line in his head. He would start each book, he told *Bostonia* in 2005, with an opening premise, hoping it would lead to chapter two and hoping chapter two would lead to chapter three. Inevitably it did, and over thirty-seven years, it led to sixty-five books.

Parker (GRS'57, '71), who had donated his papers and drafts to BU's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, died of a heart attack on January 19, 2010, while sitting at his writing desk in his Cambridge, Massachusetts, home. He was seventy-seven.

Parker pounded out thirty-seven witty and eloquent adventures of his most popular creation: Spenser, the private eye who became the central character of the TV show *Spenser: For Hire*. His character Jesse Stone was the protagonist in nine books and a series of TV movies. AJ

◀ Robert Parker earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in English literature at BU. His doctoral thesis, which he wrote in about two weeks, is in the collection at Mugar Memorial Library.

BU beat BC, 3-2, on January 15 at Fenway Park. Played in front of 38,472 fans, it was the first outdoor hockey game the Terriers have skated in more than fifty years. Fenway started hosting nonbaseball events in 2003. A slide show is at bu.edu/bostonia.