Board of Trustees Appoints Stephen Karp (CAS'63)

Real estate expert is founder and chair of New England Development

STEPHEN R. KARP, who heads one of the premier real estate companies in the Northeast, was appointed to the Boston University Board of Trustees at a board meeting earlier this semester.

Karp (CAS'63) is the founder and chair of New England Development, a firm ranked second on the 2006 *Boston Business Journal* list of the area's largest commercial developers.

"Stephen Karp is an outstanding and welcome addition to the board," says Robert A. Knox (CAS'74, GSM'75), chair of the Board of Trustees. "His vision, business acumen, and management experience are highly valued attributes that will considerably strengthen our governance capabilities, particularly as the University executes its strategic plan and must decide which investments will deliver the most significant impact to improve its overall standing in the years to come."

Karp developed one of the first enclosed malls in the Northeast, which opened in 1972, and founded New England Development in 1978. The company's current development portfolio includes CambridgeSide Galleria and Pier 4, a planned mixeduse project on the South Boston waterfront.

Karp is past chair and a current member of the International Council of Shopping Centers board of trustees and a member of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and the Urban Land Institute.

He is also chair of the board of trustees of Children's Hospital Boston, a trustee and past chair of Children's Hospital Trust, an overseer for Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and a trustee of Union College and the Belmont Hill School.

Student ID



How did you choose your UNI concentration?

I did Model UN in high school, and somehow I constantly ended up with African countries. I started taking Arabic at BU, and that got me interested in the northern sphere. I've been interested in the environment forever — my dad was a Boy Scout, and we went camping and hiking all the time.

Have you studied abroad?

I went on BU's Niger program in fall 2007, and then last spring I went to an English-speaking university in Morocco called Al Akhawayn. A lot of the students were children of Moroccan princes and ministers. At the school, I was dealing with people who had a lot of money, who were a bit more narrow-minded, and then on the weekends I was going out and seeing the real Morocco.

Any local customs that you miss?

I miss eating "African style." Family and friends gather around one big plate of food that everyone eats from and shares. The different table setup means learning a whole new mealtime etiquette: never reach across the dish, don't lick your fingers, break up large vegetables for everyone to share, etc. Meals are a time for everyone to come together, and the physical proximity of it makes you feel that much closer to your friends.

I heard you hosted a fundraising dinner for Africa in your apartment.

I worked at the national museum while I was in Niger, and when I went back last summer to work at a crop research institute, a lot of the friends I had made wanted help selling tapestries and jewelry they had made. There's a war going on, so what little tourism they had is now nonexistent. So when I got back to the States, I had people over, cooked, and tried to sell things. It's the most "fair trade" you're going to get: straight from the artisan to America and back.

Do you have a job?

I work at Agganis Arena as an usher, and I'm interning at the American Islamic Congress. I write for their newsletter, Civil Rights in the Middle East Report, trying to get activists from around the world to work together.

What's your favorite place in Boston?

The Minot Rose Garden in Brookline. It's this tiny park with a playground, and there's a really nice rose garden. It's quiet, but at the same time you're a block away from the city.

KATIE KOCH (CAS'09, COM'09)