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Boston University Arts & Sciences

arts&sciences

FALL 2009

INSIDE:

Beyond race—
examining the nature
of African American
literature

Women investors,
take note

Creative Writing
widens its scope
around the world

“Miss Conduct”
advises on how we
behave

It's a “bonito día” in the neighborhood

Immersing residents of Boston's Roxbury
neighborhood in Spanish language and
Hispanic culture

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from the dean



With another academic year well under way, I can't help noting how much has changed since this time last year, when the world was spiraling into a profound economic crisis. Although the economy is still a long way from recovery as this issue of *arts&sciences* goes to press, I am proud that we remain a healthy, vibrant institution, thanks to the skilled guidance of President

Robert Brown and his leadership team and the campus-wide collaborative efforts to meet the challenges.

What are the signs of this institutional strength and health? Most important, a terrific new undergraduate class has matriculated. Students and their parents have more reason than ever to consider their options carefully, and we came through that test with flying colors. Our newest undergraduates are academically strong and have a fascinating diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and interests. Their class is more international than ever. Not surprisingly, they are also more financially needy than were previous classes.

Attracting great students requires that we continuously assess our programs and determine what we should do better. Last year, the faculty, staff, and students of the Task Force on the First-Year Experience comprehensively examined the experiences of CAS freshmen, and made recommendations for improvements. We will move forward with these, aiming to equip students to succeed and make the most of their college years.

Another great sign of our institutional health is that, unlike many peer institutions, we undertook an ambitious program of faculty recruitment. More than 30 impressive new professors joined Arts & Sciences this fall in diverse fields across the humanities and the social, natural, and quantitative sciences. And we didn't just replace faculty who left or retired; we expanded into critically important teaching and research areas, as the University's strategic plan outlines for our future.

We also have been working hard to develop stronger linkages with you, the Arts & Sciences alumni. One great accomplishment is the creation of the more informative, interesting, and effective new CAS website (www.bu.edu/cas). The alumni section features rich content, including streaming videos of some of the fascinating and provocative lectures and discussions that have taken place on campus. Take yourself back to your alma mater to refresh your education and find out what is happening here.

For other web-based opportunities, we launched a new webinar series last spring with a discussion of climate change and global development led by Adil Najam, a CAS professor and director of the Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future. Forty-five alumni from 17 states and six countries participated. We have created a new annual report, summarized in this magazine beginning on page 25 and available in full multimedia form online at www.bu.edu/cas/ar.

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Jane Williams (CAS'71)

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THE COVER:

Graduate students from GRS Romance Studies are teaching Spanish to elders and others in Roxbury to help foster a sense of community in this Boston neighborhood. Here, a mural with "our idea" in Spanish serves as a colorful backdrop to a Roxbury community garden. Photo by Kalman Zabarsky



VISIT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES WEBSITE at www.bu.edu/cas.

arts&sciences

FALL 2009 | NUMBER 22

Published by Development & Alumni Relations at Boston University's College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

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PHOTOGRAPHY Boston University Photography, unless otherwise noted

Produced by Boston University Creative Services

♻️ Printed on paper containing post-consumer recycled material.

WRITE TO US

We welcome your letters, which will be edited for clarity and length in this publication. Letters will appear in full online on the Arts & Sciences website at www.bu.edu/cas. We also welcome your story ideas. Please write to the Editor, *arts&sciences*, Boston University, 985 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 145, Boston, MA 02215, or e-mail jkeith@bu.edu. Please include your name, address, and BU school(s) and class year(s).



Islam's Visual Kaleidoscope

“There are multiplicities in the Islamic world,” says Emine Fetvacı, an assistant professor of art history who specializes in Islamic visual arts and architecture. “Islam is not homogeneous. Persian is not the same as Arab is not the same as Turk is not the same as Pakistani—even among themselves, these people are so diverse and different from one another. I tell my students to remember that we’re dealing with human civilization and its richness.”

In the classroom, Fetvacı draws on her current research in Asian and Middle Eastern countries to illustrate “the diversity and the colors of the Islamic world.” She invites students to compare, for example, the late 14th- and early 15th-century architecture of Timurid Iran and Central Asia, where mosques and imperial tombs were decorated with geometric designs crafted from blue-and-white tiles, to Egyptian architecture of the same period, whose structures were made completely of stone and embellished with carved inscriptions.

Books, like buildings, show the divergent aesthetics of Islam at any given time. In the 16th century, Ottomans in what is now Turkey had a penchant for illustrated books

on historical subjects—a genre Fetvacı has researched extensively—while the contemporary Safavid Empire in Persia preferred luxuriously bound and crafted but unillustrated books about mythological kings and heroes, and epic love stories.

In 2008, Fetvacı was one of three researchers at BU to be awarded a three-year, \$50,000 Peter Paul Career Development professorship, designed to help promising junior faculty enhance their research program. Fetvacı used the award to travel to India, Syria, Turkey, and other countries to examine and photograph historically significant art and architecture.

Highlights of her research trip included the tomb of the emperor Akbar in Sikandra, India, and Delhi’s Qutb Minar, a tower begun in 1199 AD as a testimonial to the strength of Islam and which, at 238 feet, is the tallest brick minaret in the world.

Now Fetvacı has trained her camera and her attentions on Turkish manuscripts dating to the 1500s, the height of the Ottoman Empire. During that era, she says, political chicanery and public relations posturing by high-ranking members of the Ottoman court contributed to published and subsequently accepted revisionist history.

“I’m working on a monograph about identity formation during this period, how books played into it and how art

helped the process along,” she says. “I’m studying the ways that we think about the past and how certain things have come to be accepted as fact as a result of campaigning and writing.” Books were a means of shaping identity, and the high-level government officials and courtiers who financed their production typically expected a starring role in exchange for their patronage. “One person appears to be very important to a battle described in one book because it’s written by a historian he’s paying; another book shows someone else as the hero of the same conflict because the author is his protégé. I have to read between the lines.”

Fetvacı plans further travel to Islamic countries, as well as to Spain and Italy, and also hopes to visit the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, which houses a valuable collection of Persian manuscripts relating to Islamic art. The Peter Paul award will help her purchase digital images of manuscripts for more detailed study in Boston, and she will use the photos she’s taken of Islamic art during her travels as learning tools in the classroom.

“I find it really important in my teaching to remind and to show my students that when we talk about the Islamic world, we’re talking about a lot of cultural diversity,” says Fetvacı. “We’re talking about good and beautiful things as well as the negative images that we see so often in the media today—it’s imperative we remember that there’s a lot more there.” —*Pamela Cooley*



Portrait of Ottoman Sultan Selim I (1524–1574), Getty Images



From our readers

Classic Dean

MY SPRING ISSUE of *arts&sciences* arrived a week or so ago, and I casually thumbed through the magazine. When I reached page 12, the article about Dean Melville, I let out a very loud scream of delight and amazement! You must have heard that scream in Westwood all the way into Boston.

The picture evoked a flood of wonderful memories for me. There I was in my 1956 “body”—feeling so very proud. I was able to go to my college scrapbook and pull out the newspaper clipping that appeared in *The Boston Sunday Globe*, January 20, 1957. Dean Melville is pinning Lester S. Dewis (then of Natick). I am directly behind the Dean, and beside me is Sadie J. Garner (then of Roxbury). Two others were cropped out of the picture: Shayna A. Chasman (then of Malden, stood behind Lester), and behind Sadie on the far right stood Nancy E. Fowler (then of Milford, Connecticut)...

I have a story that I would like to share with you. In 1955–1956, I served as president of the Harriet Richards Co-op House. In that capacity, I had to report to Dean Melville regularly. In those years, the Dean’s secretary was Marion Parsons, who lived in Medford. Marion drove a young man who lived near her in Medford (and went to her church) back and forth to BU. Russell Downes was attending the BU School of Education on the GI Bill. Well, Dean Melville and Marion Parsons conspired to fix me up with Russell. A “blind date” was arranged in the Dean’s office, and that is where I met Russ. August 29 of 2008 marked our 50th wedding anniversary!...

My major at BU was music (from CAS, not the School of Music). Since college, I have always held a church music position. Beginning in 1960, I have served as Director of Music at the First Baptist Church right here in Westwood. I direct the Chancel Choir, play the organ, and direct the Westwood Ringers. The ringers have been on European concert tours three times!

I have enjoyed carrying the CAS magazine around. I shared the photo with my church choir, and we all had a good laugh over it. Actually, the way I look in the photo is essentially the way I looked when I started at the church in 1960. There are several people in the choir who have been there longer than I have, and who remember very well how I used to look! Oh dear, time marches on!

Please thank Natalie Jacobson McCracken for such a nice article on Dean Melville, who was such a special person to so many of us who knew her.

Marilyn Augusta (Estabrook) Downes (CAS’57)
Westwood, Massachusetts

Read more at www.bu.edu/cas.



THANK YOU for the wonderful feature on Dean Melville. The pictures were classic—just like she was.

I, too, was on the Student Parietals Committee (representing West Campus) in 1968–1970, chaired by Dean Melville. It was one of the most challenging experiences of my wonderful years at BU. She would have been an excellent professor of debate, philosophy, forensics, or just about anything. Sharp, clear thinker—she was a true leader.

Ed Meadows (DGE’70, CAS’72)
Holt, Michigan

New Design

THE NEW DESIGN of *arts&sciences* made for easy (and pleasant) reading. I like the features and the section tabs at the top of the pages.

Sasenarine Persaud (GRS’06)
Tampa, Florida

Read about his book of poems
on page 30.



Antarctica’s Past

IN ADDITION to serving as a staff attorney for the Home School Legal Defense Association (“HSLDA”), I also serve as an adjunct professor of constitutional law for Patrick Henry College.

As someone who is a follower of Jesus Christ and believes that the Bible is God’s word and that it is true, I have found the editorial perspective of your publication almost entirely humanistic in perspective and authorship, but maybe I’ve missed something. If I have, I welcome your rebuttal. In particular I read in the most recent edition of the magazine the article about Geomorphologist David Marchant’s trek to the South Pole where he discovered boulders (among other things) that were in the same place as they were “14 million years ago.” Dr. Marchant is entitled to his beliefs, as you are to yours, and I mine. But we ought to at least mutually recognize that our views regarding the origin of the world are beliefs and that evidence (like Dr. Marchant’s) can be explained in other ways than the idea that the earth is billions of years old.

Michael Donnelly (CAS’90, LAW’97)
Purcellville, Virginia

Read more at www.bu.edu/cas.



from the dean continued

We are also developing new “live and in person” opportunities for alumni. For Boston-area alums, the Discoveries lecture series, now in its third year, draws large crowds for varied topics, such as the financial crisis bailout, the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution (see story on page 4), the problem of forgiveness, and the creation of a dictionary of sign language. See this year’s topics at the Discoveries website, www.bu.edu/cas/alumni/discoveries/, where you can also view videos of past sessions. The “Arts, Culture, and Ideas” lunchtime discussion series, cohosted by the BU Humanities Foundation, is a new and already popular offering. We are also increasing the number of alumni events with great substantive content in cities around the country and the world.

The past season witnessed the growing strength of the Arts & Sciences alumni connection: More of you stepped forward to enable CAS/GRS to serve our students better and attract, retain, and nurture the careers of a terrific faculty of superb teachers and cutting-edge researchers. Despite the economic crisis, more alumni gave to the Arts & Sciences Annual Fund and contributed more dollars than in the previous year. Some of you made very special leadership gifts. Thank you for this critical commitment to the Boston University of tomorrow.

Please enjoy this issue of *arts&sciences*. As always, I welcome your feedback (casdean@bu.edu) and encourage you to get involved with the Alumni Association. Stay in touch with your Boston University College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

Virginia Sapiro
Dean of Arts & Sciences

He likes to tackle problems. When computer science major

David House (CAS'10)

sees a computer, he sees a way to find solutions. Through UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program), he does real research to help create new tools for science.

Computing Solutions

BY RACHEL JOHNSON

DAVID HOUSE arrived at BU with a theory: the professor with “the most interesting stuff on the door” would be a professor doing fascinating research. He spent his first few days at CAS wandering the halls, investigating professors’ doors, looking for one crammed with flyers, pictures, posters, and inspiration.

He found computer scientist Margrit Betke, whom House calls “the hardest-working professor I have ever known.” Through BU’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, which funds faculty-mentored undergraduates conducting original research, House and Betke teamed up to develop a computer program that helps to track and model cell behavior by using infrared thermal imaging.

“That’s the job of a computer scientist: finding ways to solve problems. Each of us has the capacity to change the world using the creative. We are only limited by our imaginations.”

Unlike more conventional tools, such as standard infrared cameras and flash photography, infrared thermal imaging produces much higher resolution images by recognizing electromagnetic waves and converting them to electrical signals that a computer can then read and understand. The program uses algorithms to generate data about the pictures. Betke’s lab has already participated in studies that use this program to track the nocturnal movements of bat populations by reading their heat.

“I knew about computer science,” House says, “but Professor Betke encouraged me to increase my biology knowledge in my free time in

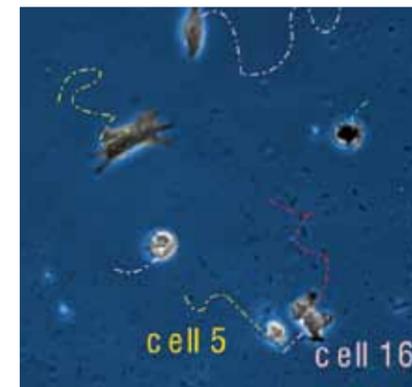
order to really understand all aspects of the program. It’s amazing what you can accomplish with the proper team and the right encouragement.”

After creating and setting up the algorithms with Betke, House collaborated with Joyce Wong, associate chair of the graduate biomedical engineering program, to fine-tune the system to model cellular behavior. “The algorithms can be applied to a variety of biological systems—cells, mammals, anything with heat,” he says. “We want to make it open-source, so eventually any college can use it in many different ways.”

Computers and the possibilities they offer have fascinated House since childhood, when he watched “those ‘80s hacker movies in which an unwitting teen sticks it to The Man and wins,” he says. Now he sees computer science for what it can do and how it can change

the world we live in. “The real computer science is in the abstract,” he says. “It’s about taking a situation and using computers to model that situation to see how something works. Right now, I help computers understand what cells look like and how they behave so they can recognize cells and model their behavior. But the range of possibilities for what computer science can do is enormous.”

Although House doesn’t want to hack into any government supercomputers, he maintains a strong stance on governmental and environmental accountability. He founded the BU chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery, which helps drive local technology-based improve-



This image demonstrates the BU MicroSight system’s ability to automatically record a cell’s lineage through time.

ment projects like technology training for local high school teachers. He also lives in “pika,” a coed, environmentally friendly, MIT-affiliated cooperative in Cambridgeport “full of mathematicians and engineers” who do their own cooking, gardening, and composting; allow pets; and have constructed an enormous tree house attached to the building.

At his core, House likes helping out and untangling obstacles, which is why he finds the field of computer science so rewarding. “I like that people can come to us and say ‘We have a problem and we want you to fix it,’” he says. “That’s the job of a computer scientist: finding ways to solve problems. Each of us has the capacity to change the world using the creative. We are only limited by our imaginations.”

“After graduation, I want to go somewhere that lets me continue this research, to make a real, tangible difference. It’s very hard work, and we may fail a bunch of times trying for an answer, but when we come up with a solution, it’s so rewarding.”

He speaks in your voice:

AMERICAN.



Associate Professor of English Gene Jarrett

GENE ANDREW JARRETT began his 2006 book *Deans and Truants* with a deceptively simple question: What is African American literature? The term, after all, refers not merely to the subject matter of the works it describes but to literature that both represents the African American experience and is written by authors who are themselves black. But what, then, of black authors who have written works without black characters? Or of those who are of mixed race? “You can’t take this question for granted, because it’s at the heart of so many questions of human identity and, in particular, race,” says Jarrett, an associate professor of English.

The editor of such books as *African American Literature Beyond Race: An Alternative Reader* and *The New Negro: Readings on Race, Representation, and African American Culture, 1892-1938* (with Harvard’s Henry Louis Gates, Jr.), Jarrett has spent his career studying racial representation in American literature—in particular, how African Americans have been understood both as characters in and as authors of literary works over the last two centuries. His *Deans and Truants* looks at black authors throughout American history who have used literature to challenge beliefs about race that were accepted as truths in their day. And in his forthcoming book *Representing the Race: The Politics of African American Literature from Jefferson to Obama*, Jarrett examines the political implications of African American literature—from the role that Phillis Wheatley’s poetry played in Thomas Jefferson’s disparagement of African American political unity to the role that Barack Obama’s *Dreams from My Father* has had in shaping the bipartisan, pragmatic political culture of his presidency.

Like other authors who have spoken on behalf of historically disenfranchised groups, African American writers have long understood that the way a group is represented in literature can influence or transform how the members of that group are perceived—and, by extension, how they are treated—in life outside of books. Following the Civil War, for example, a new literary type began to appear in works by African American authors. Known as the “New Negro”—in contrast to the “Old Negro,” the submissive, unrefined, dialect-speaking plantation slave—this figure was well dressed and well educated, a speaker of formal English who was culturally sophisticated and politically active; a character, in other words, who might inspire fondness and admiration in readers, rather than an object of pity or scorn.

The poet, novelist, and essayist Paul Laurence Dunbar could have been a model for the New Negro type. Born to former slaves in 1872, Dunbar became one of the most celebrated black authors of his generation for a series of poems that were pastoral panegyrics to the Old Negro, written in dialect and much lauded for capturing an “authentic black voice,” says Jarrett.

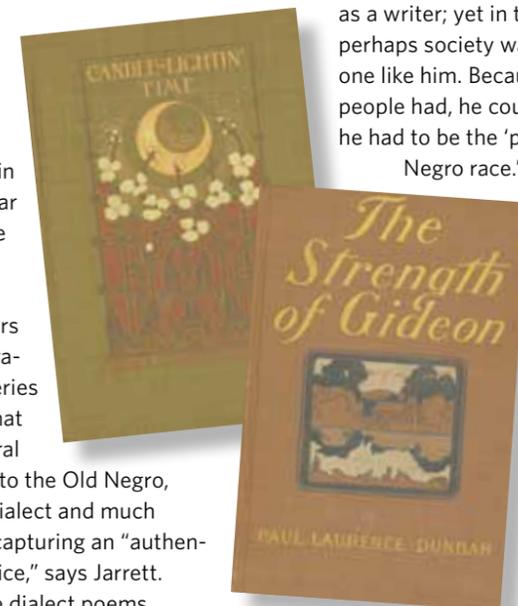
But the dialect poems that earned Dunbar a reputation during his lifetime as the “poet laureate of the Negro race”—a well-intentioned designation, albeit one based on a tacit assumption of difference in kind and ability between races—represented only a small part of his oeuvre. He was also the author of many poems in the American Romantic and Victorian styles, works in formal English on topics of nature, love, and other subjects popular at that time. Additionally, he wrote four novels and more than 100 short stories, only some of which focused on the African American experience.

Jarrett, who has edited several collections of Dunbar’s writings, is now at work on his biography.

“Paul Laurence Dunbar was a man of contradictions,” says Jarrett. “Whereas other writers of his time were working with New Negro images, he was, in his poetry, working with images of the Old Negro in order to make money and to achieve fame. And yet in some ways he

was ahead of his time. He wanted to be considered not as a black writer but just as a writer; yet in that time after slavery, perhaps society was not ready for someone like him. Because of the expectations people had, he couldn’t be just a writer, he had to be the ‘poet laureate of the Negro race.’ That was the burden he had to bear.”

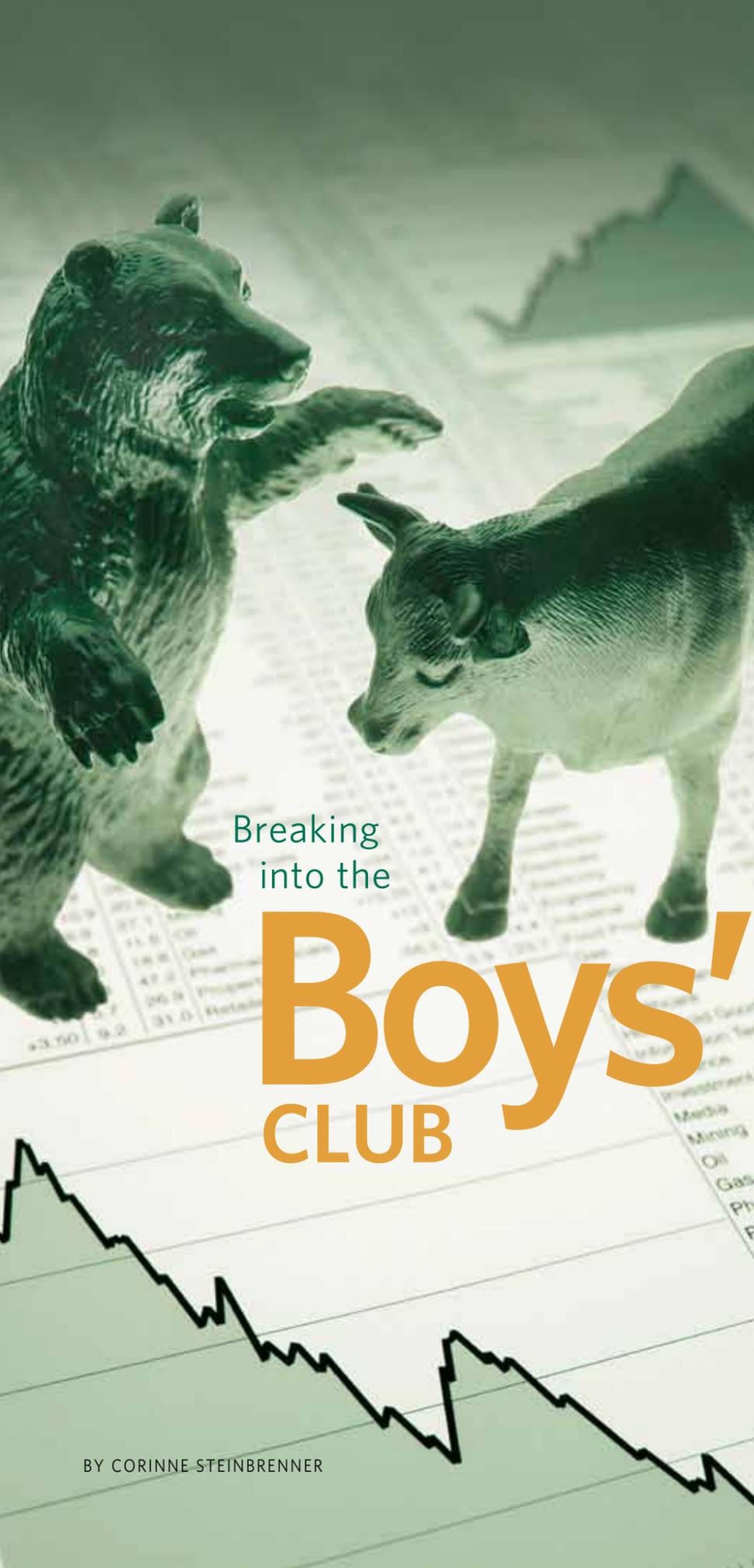
Books by 19th-century author Paul Laurence Dunbar, whose biography Gene Jarrett is writing



Today, in the wake of Obama’s election to the presidency, Jarrett asks whether society might finally be catching up with Dunbar. “Some

people say that we are living in a post-racial world,” Jarrett says. “Whether or not that’s true, perhaps today people are willing to entertain the notion that a person of African descent could be a writer rather than an African American writer. If I were writing *Deans and Truants* today, I might begin differently. Perhaps a new question could be: Why do we still have African American literature as a category? Maybe we should just say ‘American literature.’”

“He wanted to be considered not as a black writer but just as a writer; yet in that time after slavery, perhaps society was not ready for someone like him. Because of the expectations people had, he couldn’t be just a writer, he had to be the ‘poet laureate of the Negro race.’ That was the burden he had to bear.”



Breaking
into the

Boys' CLUB



Initially Jane Williams was snubbed by the financial services industry. Now she's managing a billion dollars in assets and recently has been named by *Barron's* as one of the country's top 100 independent investment advisors.

JANE WILLIAMS (CAS'71) knew exactly what she wanted to do with her degree in economics: become a stockbroker. So after graduation she applied at brokerages in Boston, and when her husband's company transferred him to Chicago, she applied at brokerages there too. In both cities, she recalls, the response was the same: "They said, 'Gee, we'd love to hire you. How fast do you type?'"

When Williams explained that she wasn't interested in typing (she didn't even know how), that she was interested in being licensed as a stockbroker so she could provide investment advice, she was encouraged to take a typing class. "They said, 'We can hire you as an assistant, but we couldn't possibly hire you as a broker.'"

Speaking this summer from her office in Palo Alto, California, where she is CEO of a financial advisory firm that manages \$1 billion in assets, Williams is diplomatic about her early struggles with the financial services industry. "The business world just didn't have much experience with women, and I think there was honest concern at the brokerage level that male clients wouldn't relate well to female brokers," she says. "And you hire people who are like you—and I wasn't like those guys because I was not a guy."

During the three years she spent trying to convince brokerages to hire her, however, she wasn't as understanding. "I was angry," she says. "When you're faced with irrational discrimination—at least in your own mind it's irrational—it doesn't make you discouraged, it makes you angry."

Even Williams's first seemingly positive experiences with financial firms turned out to be lessons in gender discrimination. After failing to find suitable work at Chicago-area brokerages, Williams was hired into a management training program at Harris Trust & Savings Bank—not exactly the work she was looking for, but a step in the right direction. She later learned Harris Trust had paid her a far lower salary than it paid her male counterparts. (Thanks to a class action lawsuit against the bank, she eventually received a check that made up the difference.)

In 1973, Williams got what she thought was her first big break in the brokerage community. Her husband had been transferred to Ottawa, and she decided to give the Canadian brokerages a try. She was thrilled when the hiring manager at Merrill Lynch's Ottawa branch agreed to let her take the aptitude exam for prospective stockbrokers. "I took this thing," she says, "and I thought, 'Wow, I really nailed this. This is no problem. I'm in.'" When she returned to Merrill Lynch for a follow-up interview, however, she was told the brokerage couldn't hire her because she'd done poorly on the exam. She later was able to verify that she had, in fact, passed the test handily. The gentleman at the brokerage had lied to her about her score because he didn't want to hire her.

"I think male brokers, at some level, were conquering a new frontier every time they finished with the last sale. Women were building relationships and looking for their clients to help them build their business."

But a year later—after seeing the excellent work she'd done on contract for the Economic Council of Canada—he did hire her. Williams became, as far as she knew, the only female stockbroker in Merrill Lynch's Canadian system. And when she and her husband moved to Palo Alto a short time later, she transferred to a Merrill Lynch office there and became one of a handful of female brokers in California.

"Much to the brokerage community's surprise, and much to my satisfaction," she says, "men were very happy to deal with women brokers." Williams and her female colleagues seemed to have a different style of doing business, she says, a style that many customers preferred. "I think male brokers, at some level, were conquering a new frontier every time they finished with the last sale. Women were building relationships and looking for their clients to help them build their business."

A highly personalized approach to offering investment advice became the key to Williams's success. In 1982, she and a male colleague left Merrill Lynch to form their own company, and today, she says, Sand Hill Advisors remains successful because it continues its commitment to forming quality relationships with its clients. "Where a Merrill Lynch broker might have two or three hundred clients, our entire firm has 155 clients," she says. These customers include non-profit organizations, small retirement accounts, and wealthy individuals—"our average individual client has about \$6 million of assets with us"—who rely on Williams and her staff to provide in-depth financial planning and then to execute that plan.

Sand Hill Advisors specializes in helping people through financial transitions, and Williams herself specializes in helping women in transition—divorcées fighting for their fair share of family assets, widows managing their own finances for the first time. While the old-school approach to such situations, says Williams, is to "pat the woman on the head and say, 'Don't worry dear, we'll take care of you,'" her approach is more empowering. She teaches women clients about risk, long-term investment returns, estate planning—things that, even today, she finds, women often know less about than men do. Williams's goal is to help these women take control of their own financial lives, to prove to them—just as she proved to the brokerage community 30 years ago—that women and finance can be a winning combination.

Financial Tips for Women

Wealth manager Jane Williams offers the same advice to all her clients: understand your priorities, educate yourself about the investment vehicles available to you, and develop a financial plan and stick with it. For her female clients—who often seem more squeamish about managing their personal finances than her male clients do—she adds these words of wisdom:

Understand Your Priorities

Acknowledge who you are.

If you're motivated to be philanthropic, as many women are, recognize that as a legitimate financial goal. Don't be shy about placing philanthropy among your financial priorities.

Educate Yourself

Read, read, read.

A few books to check out: *Prince Charming Isn't Coming* by Barbara Stanny; *This Is Not the Life I Ordered* by Deborah Collins Stephens, et al.; and *The Informed Investor* by Frank Armstrong III.

Develop a Plan

Understand where risk fits.

Women tend to be more protective of their money, and therefore more risk-averse, than men. But risk does have a proper place in your financial portfolio. Learn to understand risk and then use it to your advantage.

Stick with the Plan

Be honest with your advisor.

When men are dissatisfied with a business relationship, they tend to be aggressive in steering that relationship back on course, while women tend to avoid conflict by simply ending the relationship and starting over with someone else. Part of sticking with your plan, however, is sticking with your advisor. If you feel your advisor has lost sight of your priorities, don't jump ship—confront the issue so it can be resolved.



LESLIE MCCONNELL is long past the age when her mind was a blank slate for language learning. She took her last forgettable Spanish class in college and since then had made only minor attempts to keep up with the language.

But on a recent night, she dreamed of conjugating verbs in Spanish. “For once,” she says, “I can honestly say that I’m acquiring a language. Always in the past, I was just learning it by rote.”

MCCONNELL IS PART of an unlikely group of language learners who congregate each Wednesday in the common room of the Camfield Garden Estates housing development in Boston’s Roxbury neighborhood. Taught by Graduate School of Arts & Sciences student volunteers, many of the class participants are senior citizens, though there are teenagers and working professionals in the group, too. They come from a range of backgrounds: mostly African American, but also Hispanic, Irish, and Lithuanian. And all of them come to class each week not because they have to, but because they want to be able to communicate with Spanish speakers in their lives, or just out of intellectual curiosity.

“I felt I needed to take the class because we live in a bilingual society, and I want to be able to communicate with more people,” says McConnell, a social worker at Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury. “I work with Spanish-speaking people every day, and now I try out my Spanish with them.”

The course, which began in March of 2008, is the brainchild of BU alumna Jewelle Anderson (CFA’84).

A retired Boston Public Schools teacher, Anderson has been a community volunteer for years.



Spanish language students, from left, Debra Anderson and Juanita Jarrett

She decided to launch the class after senior citizens at the Women’s Service Club of Boston, where she then served as vice president and remains a member, told her they wanted an opportunity to learn Spanish. The club is a community service organization founded for black women.

Español

Spoken Here



Spanish language learners, clockwise from left: Irene Smalls, Debra Anderson, Horace Bowden, Maria Luisa Martinez (GRS instructor), Allen Farrar

with a cane. She had a great sense of humor about learning a new language at her age. I was humbled.”

The close-knit nature of the class was a revelation to Martinez. “As a foreigner in this country, I gained a new perspective,” she says. “They showed me an American culture that I have never experienced before—more supportive, warm, and complex. That’s one of the things that I will keep the rest of my life.”

Cultural Exchange

Sisters Lashema Rivera, 15, and Tatyanna McGuire, 21, faithfully attend every meeting of the GRS student-taught Spanish class. They say they are taking the class so that they can converse more easily with their Spanish-speaking relatives.

“When I was little, I knew how to speak Spanish fluently,” explains Rivera, whose father is Puerto Rican. “But I got out of touch with it, so I want to be able to be closer to my other relatives. Also, in today’s society being bilingual really helps. All of my friends speak Creole or Japanese or Spanish.” The sisters’ grandmother, Betty Lou McGuire, is also in the class, and the three practice their Spanish together on a regular basis.

They exemplify the cultural fusion occurring in Roxbury. In recent decades, the predominantly African American neighborhood has seen an influx of immigrants from Latin America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere. A walk through Dudley Square, a busy retail district and public transportation hub, is a study in diversity. A group of teenagers converse in Spanish, sprinkled with English phrases, as they wait for a bus. A local merchant from Jamaica greets customers at his fruit stand as reggae from his stereo pulses out into the square. In front of One United Bank, a branch of the largest African American-owned and -managed bank in the country, a group of elderly men catch up on the day’s gossip.

While interactions among the groups are usually peaceful, misperceptions and distrust can strain neighborly relations. “One of the reasons the class interested me was that it is a small opportunity to begin to improve the relationship between African Americans and Latinos,” says Iffland. “I just think that if more African Americans begin to learn Spanish and learn about Latino culture, and if Latinos learn more about African American culture, some of the friction that has marked the relationship may begin to disappear.”

The class is a prototype of how positive intercultural learning can work. The teachers are patient. The students are motivated and ask a lot of questions,

particularly about the Spanish-speaking countries their teachers have visited. They want to know how life is lived in those countries, and not just through secondhand instruction. Earlier this year, Anderson suggested they go on a trip together to Madrid, Spain, to experience the culture and language firsthand.

The students took up the challenge with gusto. Since May, they have held potluck fundraisers, offering fried fish, barbecued ribs, peach cobbler, candied yams, and a whole array of other dishes to local residents in return for contributions for their trip. Betty Lou McGuire single-handedly provided sweet potato pies, candied yams, and peach cobbler. “They were from heaven,” remembers Anderson.

The planned trip will add a new dimension to the continuing classes. “The value of going to a foreign country is meeting other people—not just speaking a foreign language but getting to know about other people,” says Anderson.



Students (in foreground) Betty Lou McGuire with Juanita Jarrett

To learn about Hispanic culture closer to home, the class takes field trips, such as a recent visit to Casa Romero restaurant in the Back Bay for a private lecture by chef-owner Leo Romero and one of the most basic and pleasant forms of cultural exchange—sampling food. Romero lectured the class about authentic Mexican cuisine as they

“I had an 80-year-old in my class who came in with a cane. She had a great sense of humor about learning a new language at her age. I was humbled.”

—Megan Gibbons (GRS’11)

munched on mole pablano, chiles, and skirt steak.

“There is a real misconception in this country by people who talk about Tex-Mex food; they think everything is all meat and cheese and spices,” he said. “But the food is not as spicy in Mexico. They put chile and other condiments on the table, but chefs don’t put it in the food much.”

Romero’s lesson was simple—cultural misunderstanding comes in many forms, including culinary ones. The implication was that the best way to correct these stereotypes is for people to learn about other cultures beyond the surface.

A Good Life

A commitment to education runs in Jewelle Anderson’s veins. The daughter of a doctor and a schoolteacher, she was born in Alexandria, Louisiana, in 1932, a time when black children rarely received an equal education.

“My grandmother was one of the first blacks to teach in New Orleans public schools,” she recalls. “It was embedded in my family that the women were schoolteachers. My poor brother was a doctor. He didn’t want to be, but men in my family were doctors, or were on the police force. That’s the way it was.”

Public service was also a family tradition. Anderson recalls Sunday afternoons spent walking through the countryside with her siblings, trailing their father as he made the rounds from one home to the next. “Every Sunday after church, he’d take his bag and we’d go out with him to the country to treat people without much money,” she says. “He would knock on doors, and ask ‘Is anybody ill?’”

Anderson was drawn ultimately toward working with children, as were her mother, grandmother, and aunts before her. She worked for a time with preschoolers at the YWCA on Clarendon Street, and taught history, social studies, art, and music to Boston Public Schools elementary and middle school students for 22 years, retiring in 2003.

Her interest in education led her back to the classroom early last year, this time organizing the Spanish class through the Women’s Service Club. “I wanted this to be a joyful class,” she says. “I want to see growth, to have them learn about Spanish food and go to a foreign country—and see the social life of a foreign country.”

Now Anderson’s vision has become a reality, creating a fruitful partnership between BU and the Women’s Service Club that nurtures both students and teachers. Romance Studies Chair James Iffland is committed to deepening that collaboration. “I would like to really strengthen this relationship, and recruit more students willing to take the extra time to teach in Roxbury,” he says. “I want to make sure this program continues and expands. It seems to be a perfect fit between the needs of the Boston community and the capacity of BU to help.”



Instructor Maria Luisa Martinez, at left, with student Lashema Rivera

With only a tiny budget for the class, Anderson decided she needed volunteer teachers. So she approached BU Romance Studies Professor James Iffland, then head of the Spanish section and now department chair, to see if he could recommend any graduate students who would volunteer their time. “I knew that BU would have great teachers,” she explains. Iffland promised her he would send along some of his best.

He saw an opportunity not just to help senior citizens and other local residents, but also to enrich the graduate student experience in the Romance Studies Department. “It seemed to be a perfect project for our students to provide a service to the community,” says Iffland. “It also gives graduate students a chance to teach in an environment that is very different from the environment they’ve been teaching in at BU. I think that universities should be doing more of this type of activity.”

The class took off from the start. Twenty students showed up the first day, drawn by flyers and newspaper advertisements Anderson posted, and, over the next few months, all but three attended regularly. As the students and teachers got to know one another, they developed a strong camaraderie. Last December, the students organized a party to celebrate the end of their first year together, and to thank instructors Megan Gibbons, Maria Luisa Martinez, and Peter Mahoney.

The three instructors, all 2011 classmates who plan to become Spanish professors, say the experience has broadened their perspective on what learning can be. “I have gained a continuing appreciation that learning is, or can be, a lifelong process,” says Gibbons. “I had an 80-year-old in my class who came in



READ THIS ARTICLE IN SPANISH, at www.bu.edu/cas.

Passionate Romanticist

BY NATALIE JACOBSON MCCRACKEN

ENGLISH PROFESSOR DAVID WAGENKNECHT once summed up a student's final paper as "profoundly wrongheaded."

"That struck me immediately as true," recalls Keith Johnson (GRS'99, '08), the critiqued student, now assistant professor of English at Augusta State University in Georgia. "'Nevertheless,' David continued, 'I always learn from your papers.' And this, too, struck me immediately as true. Basically everything he ever said struck me immediately as true."

As Wagenknecht retires, students, alumni, and colleagues echo Johnson's praise, calling him "an extraordinarily generous reader and listener and profoundly humane" (Emily Rohrbach, GRS'96, '07, assistant professor of English, Northwestern University); "gracious and accommodating" (Sharifah Aishah Osman, GRS'05, senior lecturer in English, University of Malaya); and "an absolute dream of an advisor and a tremendously influential teacher" (Johnson).

"The first thing every student encountered was his extreme brilliance and kindness," says William Carroll, Wagenknecht's faculty colleague for 38 years and now department chair. "David was one of the most important intellectual presences in the department for decades."

As a student, Wagenknecht (CAS'62, GRS'64) had no thought of teaching in the department where his father, Edward, was a professor. Having earned a BA and MA in English, David taught for a year at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts and then at the University of Hull, England.

"I felt pretty inadequate when I started teaching," he recalls with the modesty that charms students and colleagues. "Part of the reason was that I was inadequate; I taught [in addition to American literature] the British Romantic Period, and I'd never

taken a course in Romantic literature." After a year at what is now UMass Lowell, he earned a doctorate at the University of Sussex "because I had been so happy in England, in Hull. I thought I'd be immigrating, but I found out how profoundly American I was." He and his wife, Patricia (Terwilliger, GRS'62), who met in BU's English department, came home.

He taught at Northeastern University for two years before returning to the department in 1971, this time on the faculty. "Coming to work at BU was very far from my mind until the door miraculously opened," Wagenknecht says. "The miracle was the quality of the department that welcomed me and made it possible for me to develop the intellectual passions I have."



"I feel his influence daily in my own journey as a teacher and scholar."

—Jonathan Mulrooney (GRS'01)

Those passions center on the Romantics, William Blake particularly (Belknap Press of Harvard published his *Blake's night: William Blake and the idea of pastoral* in 1973), and Sigmund Freud and the arcane psychoanalytic theorist Jacques Lacan. In 1978, Wagenknecht began editing *Studies in Romanticism*. "Under David's editorship it has become the journal in the field of British and Continental Romantic

literature and the arts," says Professor Charles Rzepka, who after a year under Wagenknecht's tutelage will succeed him as editor. "Part of what makes it so good is David's own intellectual curiosity and broad-ranging openness to new approaches, and his encyclopedic knowledge not only of what's out there, but also what direction it's taking."

Teaching has been his other intellectual passion. "David's seminars were always extremely challenging and daring," writes Alex Bove (CAS'93, GRS'95, '05), instructor in English, SUNY Buffalo. "I learned from David that learning, thinking, teaching, and writing don't require you to be on solid ground, and that, in fact, the best results often come when your feet leave the ground. I felt as though when I was in one of David's seminars I was taking part in a rare and valuable event." Rohrbach characterizes the seminars as "encounters with the irreducible difficulty and strangeness of aesthetic experience." Says Jonathan Mulrooney (GRS'01), associate professor of English, College of the Holy Cross, "He is fundamentally concerned with leading the authentic life of the intellectual, without capitulation to professional trends, and to modeling that for his students. I feel his influence daily in my own journey as a teacher and scholar."

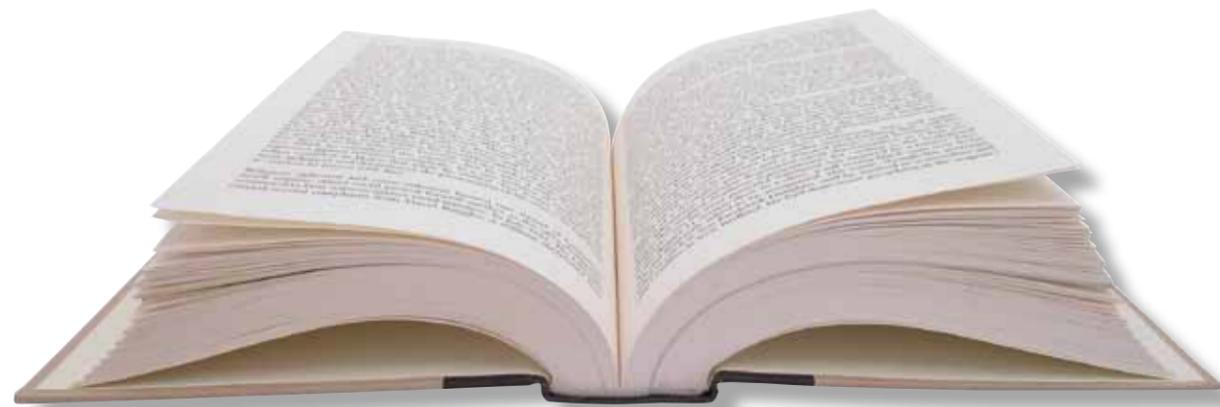
Along with the generations of literary scholars he sent out to educate and inspire younger generations were the equally appreciative undergraduates on distinctly nonliterary career paths. "I can't tell you how many times I've sat in his office, just chatting," says advisee Katie Hairston (CAS'11), an English major planning to be a large-animal veterinarian. "He has been a phenomenal professor."

Says Bove, "There should be a Nobel in teaching."

Music of the Gods

The retirement gift presented to David Wagenknecht by his English department colleagues seems at once markedly imaginative and inevitable: an aeolian harp, the first most had ever seen. Wooden instruments played on only by the wind, they were a fashionable feature of genteel 19th-century homes, resting before open windows, where their strings, all tuned to the same key but of varying thicknesses, produced random, overlapping harmonics. To Romantic writers, they often represented nature as muse, inspiration of artists.

These days aeolian harps can be ordered on the Internet, but the English faculty wanted something special. Their gift was custom-made by Toby Rzepka, professional craftsman of fine string instruments and son of English Professor Charles Rzepka. Based, appropriately, on an early 19th-century English design, its body is of dramatically figured maple, with red cedar, blondewood, and Brazilian rosewood elements and veneer trim, including a blue-and-white rosette suggesting gusting wind. It is, as its delighted owner says, simply "beautiful."—NJM



As the Twig Is Bent

Over a long career, Edward Wagenknecht (1900–2004), father of David as well as Walter (CAS'69, STH'73, MED'79) and Robert, and BU professor of English from 1947 to 1965, published essays and reviews beyond number and some 70 books. They include studies of American literature—his scholarly specialty—English literature, and a steady stream of biographies focused on character rather than chronology (remarkable in the late twenties, when they began), with subjects ranging from Poe, Henry James, and Whittier to Shakespeare and Dickens to silent movie stars. "He was passionate about early cinema," David recalls. His *The Movies in the Age of Innocence* (1962) remains a classic.

BY TRICIA BRICK

ALONG A LONELY STRETCH of road that slices through an impoverished swath of the Argentine Pampas, a fictional cattle truck overturns, setting off a chain of events that will end in violence. News of the accident spreads quickly, and hungry people from the surrounding community begin to gather in hopes of scavenging meat from the wreckage to feed their families. But a stand-off between the locals and the police defending the ruined meat soon escalates, with the officers opening fire on the hungry poor.

Literature & Culture

Beyond Our Borders

Overseer Robert Hildreth Advances Creative Writing Internationally

As Jordan Coriza (GRS'09) continued to read aloud from his short story "Skinned" in Leslie Epstein's Creative Writing Program fiction workshop, one listener was moved by more than Coriza's considerable literary gifts. Robert Hildreth, the vice chair of Boston University's Board of Overseers and founder and president of International Bank Services (IBS), Inc., was sitting in on Epstein's workshop that day. A philanthropist with a deep and multifaceted interest in Latin America, Hildreth was struck by the eye-opening perspective brought to the class by Coriza, who is himself Argentine.

"There's a magic in Leslie's workshops that really draws the students out, and this story had such a unique topic and a unique sensibility," recalls Hildreth. "And it got me daydreaming: What would it be like if every writer here could know what this student knows, could share that experience?"

Now the program's students will have just such an opportunity. In the spring, Hildreth presented the Creative Writing Program with a \$2 million gift to create two new, globally focused initiatives. The Robert Pinsky Global Fellowship in Creative Writing, honoring the professor and past U.S. Poet Laureate, will send MFA students to the international locales of their choice to write, study, and experience life abroad. The Leslie Epstein International Visiting Professorship, named in honor of the celebrated novelist who has directed the Creative Writing Program for more than 30 years, will bring prominent writers from other countries to lead workshops and other courses on campus.

"Since everything about my career has been international, I was intrigued by the idea that different literary traditions, from different countries, could learn from one another and influence one another," says Hildreth. "I'm trying to break down some barriers, and I have two battering rams: to send our students there, and to bring their best here."

The gift was the culmination of a serendipitous match



between a philanthropic businessman with a dual passion for education and international and immigration issues and a historically distinguished writing program with a growing global focus. "Because of Bob's interests and his thinking, the gift will bring another unique emphasis to our program: international awareness," Pinsky says. "The very existence of these imaginative and substantial new programs should inspire all of our students to enrich their work with an

awareness of other languages, other cultures, other possibilities."

Hildreth knows firsthand the potentially life-changing power of immersion in a foreign culture. The seeds of his philanthropic and career focus on international issues were planted by his father, Richard (SMG'37, SED'49), a history teacher who first piqued his son's interest in the world outside the U.S. International issues were common topics of conversation in the Hildreth household, and by the time young Robert reached his freshman year of college, he was eager to travel abroad.

Joining a Spanish-language immersion program, he traveled to Zacatecas, Mexico. During the four months he spent living with a family there, he found himself powerfully drawn to the people, who were open and friendly and interested in hearing about life in the U.S., and to the region's culture. After graduating from Harvard University and earning master's degrees from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and George Washington University, he returned to the region—this time to La Paz, Bolivia—where he worked for several years as an economist specializing in Latin America for the International Monetary Fund.

"My interest in international issues, and in immigrant issues in particular, flowed directly out of my experience in Latin America," he says. "Once I got back to the States, I very much wanted to help the people I knew. My philosophy is that immigration is critical to our country. And of course like most Americans I believe that education is something—is the

thing—that can advance you, something that you own and nobody else owns. But I am not a philosopher; I am a doer."

"I'm trying to break down some barriers, and I have two battering rams: to send our students there, and to bring their best here."

After returning to his home state of Massachusetts, Hildreth became a supporter of the Boston University/Chelsea Partnership in the immigrant-populous Chelsea Public Schools, beginning a strong relationship with his father's alma mater that culminated in his election to the Board of Overseers. His evolving role as a member of the BU community, coinciding with a lifelong fascination with poetry, soon led him to Robert Pinsky's Favorite Poem Project (www.favoritepoem.org) and, in turn, to the Creative Writing Program. The academic home of the historic workshops where Robert Lowell once taught Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, and George Starbuck had grown into a program with a global focus, drawing writers from across the U.S. and around the world to study in a community of distinguished fiction writers, poets, and playwrights. The faculty includes Chinese-born novelist Ha Jin (GRS'93) and Irish-born playwright Ronan Noone (GRS'01), and past writer-teachers have included the poets Derek Walcott, born in St. Lucia, and Charles Simic, from the former Yugoslavia; British novelists Penelope Mortimer and Margot Livesey; and Russian translator Victor Golyshev.

Hildreth's gift will broaden the program's reputation as an international literary force while providing student writers with a rare opportunity to expand their personal and literary world views. "There is no other gift of this kind in any other program we are aware of," says program director Epstein. "Our students can go anywhere in the world they like and do whatever they want when away. They don't have to write, because we have every faith that having to be on their own, drawing on what they see and hear as well as their own wits, will in the not-very-long run enhance their skills as poets and novelists and playwrights. Things that shake you up, that break the routine, that give you a new pair of eyes tend to do that."

Support the Leslie Epstein Professorship

Robert Hildreth has challenged all supporters, admirers, and friends of Professor Leslie Epstein to join him in building the endowment for the Leslie Epstein International Visiting Professorship. Hildreth will match each gift, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$1 million. To make your gift online, go to www.bu.edu/alumni/giving/online/index.html and enter "Leslie Epstein Professorship" in the space provided in the "your gift designation" section. For more information, contact Karen Weiss Jones, chief advancement officer for Arts & Sciences, at karenwj@bu.edu or 617-358-1214.

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Jacques P. Leveille, GRS'76*
June K. Lewin, CFA'61
Stephanie Behrakis Liakos, GRS'91*
Anastasia Sylvester Lyman, CFA'72
William M. Lyman, CFA'71
P. E. MacAllister
Tosui Machida*
Cynthia Caldwell Martin, CAS'77*
Gerald E. Mayo, CAS'53*
Richard O. Michaud, GRS'69, '71*
Anthony Miller*
Pamela Miller*
Andrew T. Moo, CAS'78*
Alexander Woodrow Moore, CAS'84*
Nevine Nassif*
David Paul Neumann, CAS'81*
Florence E. Perry, CAS'49*
Gregory C. Persak, CAS'77, MED'81*
Astrid O. Peterson, CAS'74, MED'77*
Patricia K. Phelan*
Kathryn A. Piffat, LAW'89; GRS'92, '01
Thomas G. Polefka*
Spiros Polemis*
Susan Lukacs Positan, CAS'70
Wayne J. Positan, CAS'70
Marilyn M. Pratt, CAS'61*
William E. Racolin, CAS'66*
Dana B. Rasmussen*
Nancy E. Rasmusson, CAS'60*
Christopher du Pont Roosevelt
Ruth W. Rosenthal
Edward Rydzak, CAS'83*
Steven H. Sall, CAS'75*
P. G. Schmanska, CAS'56*
Alan and Angel Schneider*
Barbara M. Schreiber, GRS'81*
William and Kathy Smilow, CAS'86*
James W. Smith*
John R. Smith, GRS'92, '99*
Rebecca Tseng Smith, CAS'80, STH'82*
Leslie Sparks*
John W. Spencer, CAS'69*
Richard M. Steinschneider*
Janet R. Stradley

Mark R. Sultan*
Jason M. Sumner, CAS'73, GRS'76*
Robert Szafranski
Elaine Szujewski*
Ellen D. Teplitz, CAS'77*
Joanne Thier
Richard James Towle
Lee D. Vincent
Jerry A. Viscione, GSM'67; GRS'69, '73
Laura F. Walsh-Strandskov
Gerard Garnett Ward, CAS'75*
Hilton S. Weiner, CAS'78*
Fred Bruce Weiss, CAS'85
Richard P. Wenzelberger, CAS'66*
Vincent J. Wernig, DGE'48, CAS'49*
Virginia T. Wetherill, CAS'52
William H. Wood
Cathleen Ann Woods-King, CAS'86*
Jeffrey Wyman, GRS'60*
Howard C. Yang
Steven L. Yellen and Karen B. Leeds*
Linda Yellin, CAS'62*
Robert E. Yellin, CAS'61*
Mendal Lane Yoho*
Sherrie Zacharius*
Kathryn J. Zox, CAS'69, SED'72*

* Denotes Annual Fund Leadership Giving Society Member

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American Mathematical Society
American Psychoanalytic Association
The American Psychological Foundation
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Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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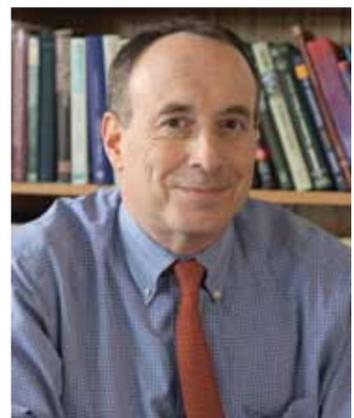


Meet CAS's Warren Professors

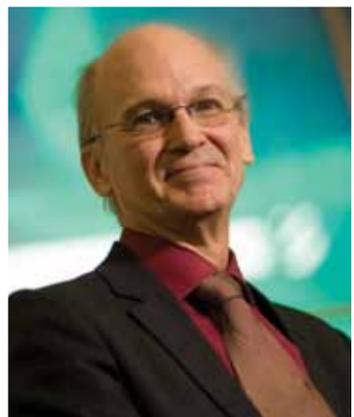
FACULTY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR SCHOLARLY, CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS



Professor Nancy Kopell



Professor Larry Kotlikoff



Professor James Winn

BU's founding president, William Fairfield Warren, had a vision for an institution where students would receive an exceptional liberal arts education without regard to sex, race, or religion. His groundbreaking approach and forethought are reflected in the professorships created in his name in 2008. The William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professorships, established on the recommendation of an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Council, recognize the University's most distinguished faculty. According to BU President Robert A. Brown, the award is intended as the highest honor for senior faculty members who continue to be involved in research, scholarship, and teaching, as well as the civic life of the University.

"Professors Kopell, Kotlikoff, and Winn stand out for their fundamental scholarly contributions to their fields, the international recognition of their work, and their tireless efforts as citizens of Boston University."

—Dean of Arts & Sciences Virginia Sapiro

Named to receive the distinguished appointments in June were two CAS faculty members: Nancy Kopell, the William Goodwin Aurelio Professor of Mathematics and Science, and Larry Kotlikoff, professor of economics. Then, in August, James Winn, professor of English, became the fifth BU professor to receive the honor. The CAS faculty joined George Annas, the Edward R. Utley Professor of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights and chair of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights in the School of Public

Health, and James Collins, professor of biomedical engineering in the College of Engineering, announced as Warren Professors in May.

"If one is looking for great scholar/teachers, the College of Arts & Sciences offers many choices across many fields," said Arts & Sciences Dean Virginia Sapiro. "Professors Kopell, Kotlikoff, and Winn stand out for their fundamental scholarly contributions to their fields, the international recognition of their work, and their tireless efforts as citizens of Boston University."

Kopell, who also is the cofounder and codirector of the Center for Biodynamics in the College of Engineering, said, "I think BU is an extraordinary place for people to work collaboratively on interdisciplinary questions."

Kotlikoff, who has been at BU for 25 years, said he was "deeply honored" by the award. "It's been a great pleasure to work with my colleagues and the administration to build a world-class economics department and university."

Winn, who also is director of the BU Humanities Foundation, said, "I think of this award as a symbolic endorsement of the broad and deep investigation of cultures that we call the humanities, the respect for past wisdom that drives all historical work, and the willingness to cross disciplinary borders that often enables fresh thinking. I hope that my being singled out for this award will be encouraging to others who work in these vital areas."

—Amy J. Davis

The Difference a Year Makes

COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES
2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

We're not just saving paper. We charted new territory this year by publishing the Arts & Sciences annual report online for the first time. The electronic report allows us to use interactive multimedia techniques and high-impact graphics to showcase the College's many accomplishments with a contemporary edge.

Our message is clear: we are healthy and strong despite the challenges of the global financial crisis, and we have continued to make steady progress toward the goals laid out in Boston University's Strategic Plan.

Topping our list of accomplishments:

- We hired 32 new faculty members who are working at the frontiers of their disciplines. Of these, 19 replaced professors who retired or left BU, and 13 expanded our numbers to add strength in critical areas of research and teaching as we made progress toward adding 100 new faculty to Arts & Sciences over 10 years. Our impressive new faculty hail from top universities, including University of California-Berkeley, Brown, Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Michigan, and Princeton.
- We have continued transforming our classrooms and laboratories, enabling us to offer CAS/GRS students state-of-the-art teaching, and provide our researchers with the facilities they need to make path-breaking research contributions.
- A Task Force on the First-Year Experience studied principles and best practices that should guide the curricular and co-curricular offerings for freshmen from the moment they arrive on campus through the end of their first year to give them a strong foundation for success in and beyond college.
- We attracted more alumni engagement than ever before through their participation in events and through their financial contributions, despite the difficult times.

Here are some noteworthy highlights from the past year in Arts & Sciences. We invite you to view the entire Annual Report at www.bu.edu/cas/ar. With a few clicks of the mouse, you will quickly see how vibrant this great learning community is, even in a challenging economy.



Research and Scholarship

CAS faculty were highly productive in their research and scholarly accomplishments, winning record levels of grant funding. The total dollar amount of new grants and contracts was \$85,677,728, an increase of \$8,147,497 (10.5 percent) over the previous year. Most notable was the Chemistry Department, which increased the total number of awards from 29 to 65 and total dollars from \$6.5 million to \$11.1 million.

Curriculum Changes

New degree programs put the spotlight on public health as an interdisciplinary area of rapidly growing interest for liberal arts undergraduates and a key component of professional engagement with underserved populations in the United States and throughout the developing world. Our new BA/MPH dual degree program makes it possible for qualified CAS sophomores and juniors to gain early admission to the School of Public Health and, by taking foundational coursework in epidemiology, biostatistics, and health law as electives toward the BA, to complete all requirements for the MPH within five years of entering BU as freshmen. Other new degree programs include:

- MA degrees in Global Development Economics (GDE) and Global Development Policy (GDP) that will prepare students for a fast-growing number and variety of careers in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of initiatives to improve living standards, health, and quality of life.
- A BA in Comparative Literature, a collaborative major housed in the Department of Modern Languages & Comparative Literature that draws on faculty and coursework in the departments of Classical Studies, English, Romance Studies, and Religion.
- A BA in Chinese Language & Literature serves a national need for college graduates with linguistic proficiency and in-depth knowledge of Chinese culture.

Enrollment

College of Arts & Sciences' entering 2008 enrollment topped 9,300 for the fourth consecutive year, including a freshman class of 1,953 that far exceeded our goal of 1,807, with no significant loss in standard quality measures. We made substantial enrollment-driven additions to and subtractions from the class



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WARREN PROFESSORS, visit: www.bu.edu/cas.

Live and Kicking

JAMES MONTGOMERY (DGE'69, CAS'71), BLUES HARP LEGEND

BY PATRICK KENNEDY

schedule, especially in foreign languages, in keeping with our pledge to talented and eager freshmen that they would not only be able to meet requirements, but also exercise choice and explore any Arts & Sciences discipline in the first semester.

Financial Strength

The College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences achieved a balanced unrestricted expense budget of \$88,604,641 at the close of the 2009 fiscal year. The College provided almost \$750,000 in one-time restricted funds to its departments and centers to support needs identified as priorities during the FY 2009 budget planning exercise.

- Roughly \$382,000 of annual giving funds were used to support laboratory equipment and supplies.
- More than \$202,000 in unrestricted endowment income was used to support computing requirements and faculty travel.
- Approximately \$163,000 of indirect cost recovery funds were provided to support research and miscellaneous operating needs.

Development & Alumni Relations

Gift revenues to Arts & Sciences totaled \$7,375,967. While this is a decline of 16.5 percent from FY08, pledges (future gifts to be paid in one to five years) increased 12 percent, indicating a strong gift pipeline for the next few years. A positive trend is that gifts to the CAS/GRS Annual Funds (unrestricted gifts) increased 9 percent to a total of \$893,958, reflecting renewed, successful outreach to alumni, parents, and friends of the College.

Dean Sapiro traveled extensively across the nation to visit alumni, parents, and friends of Arts & Sciences and continued building a base of support.



More Good News

The African Studies Center further strengthened the African Language Program with a new institutional partnership with the Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis in Senegal and the introduction of Ajami Arabic script in Wolof, Pulaar, and Hausa classes.

The BU Marine Program continued to expand academic partnerships with three leading New England marine research institutions: the New England Aquarium, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA), and the Sea Education Association.

The BU Mock Mediation Team had the top overall score out of 32 teams at the American Mock Trial Association's annual National Mediation Tournament in November. Mentored by CAS Assistant Dean for Pre-Law Advising Edward Stern, BU team members also placed second and fourth in Final Round Advocacy and third in Final Round Mediation.

The Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies & Civilizations initiated an intensive Arabic study abroad program in Morocco for undergraduate students. Launched in the spring 2009 semester, the program was an immediate success. Fifteen students (the target number) were sent to Rabat, where students experienced home stays with local Moroccan families and had the opportunity to go on guided cultural excursions, as well as take courses.

The Women's Studies Program created the Boston University Faculty Network for Women's Studies, Gender & Sexuality by reaching out to all faculty on the Charles River and Medical campuses who have research and teaching interests in women's studies, including work on gender and/or sexuality. More than 150 BU faculty members joined the network, and more than 50 attended the network's inaugural "meet and greet" in December.



In February, Dan Aykroyd invited James Montgomery to help him open the new House of Blues in Boston. (The Harvard Square HOB closed a few years ago; the new one opened on Lansdowne Street, replacing Axis and Avalon.) Montgomery goes back a ways with Aykroyd. In this millennium, he played the actor's 50th birthday party. But he also played his 25th, back in the '70s. Surely, that was a bacchanalian brouhaha. The aging Elwood Blues' half-century celebration must have seemed very different, right?

"Yeah," says Montgomery, "his 50th was much wilder."

Three-harp blow-off: from left, Jimmy Woods, Dan Aykroyd, and James Montgomery at opening night of the new House of Blues in Boston

Photo courtesy of James Montgomery

THE FIRST TIME bluesman James Montgomery split a bill with Aerosmith, the rockers opened for him in Boston University's Sargent Gymnasium in the early 1970s.

"The opening band [Aerosmith] came on and had a big, huge banner, and a wall of Marshall stacks and smoke machines and a couple pyrotechnics," recalls Montgomery ('71), laughing. "Then, peel away all this equipment, and there's the headliner [The James Montgomery Band] using a couple amps and a drum kit."

That up-and-coming hard-rock band's career "took off fast," Montgomery says of the now-legendary Aerosmith. Not only because of their raucous live show, he notes, but because "everyone in that band is an accomplished blues musician—they understand the roots of the music."

Montgomery would know: The blues harmonica great has jammed with and learned from the best—such names as John Lee Hooker, James Cotton, and Junior Wells. And as for succeeding in the music business—not to mention rocking it on stage—Montgomery's been no slouch himself these four decades. (In fact, slouch is the last word you'd associate with a man known for his vigorous

high kicks on stage.) He's toured with Bruce Springsteen and Bonnie Raitt. He's released several albums, one of which cracked the Billboard Top 10. And the Detroit native has stayed true to his own roots, earning his title as president of the New England Blues Society.

What's he been up to lately? Montgomery wrote and recorded music for the new blues film, *Delta Rising* (www.deltarising.com), narrated by Morgan Freeman. Filmed largely in Clarksdale, Mississippi, "It's a documentary about the Delta blues—which is arguably America's biggest cultural export," Montgomery says. "The film is really well done and thorough—and it features me, so it has some of the greatest entertainers in the world," he jokes.

Last year, Montgomery recorded and gigged with Aerosmith drummer Joey Kramer in the Kramer-Montgomery Band. "It was a fun project," Montgomery says. "And I really discovered, he's one of the best drummers on the planet. He can play any groove."

On his career as a working—and enterprising—musician, Montgomery reflects, "Running your own business is always a challenge. You have to be inven-

tive. You have to make sure you market your product correctly. Of course, the product I sell is myself," he adds. "It's almost like there's two me's: There's the fearless guy you see on stage, and then there's me who sits at home on the patio, does some gardening, and enjoys a glass of wine with dinner." (He lives in Newport, Rhode Island, in a restored church that was once a stop on the antebellum Underground Railroad.)

The quondam English major hasn't forgotten his liberal arts education—he tells interviewers how the blues exemplifies Aristotle's principle of catharsis. And he frequently runs into old friends from his BU days. "That's the great thing about my job," he says. Classmates he hasn't heard from in years will find out his band's coming to town, and drop him a line. "It's not like normally when someone visits—'Did you see so-and-so when he was in town?' 'No! I missed him!' Because most people when they visit don't run an ad in the paper announcing that they're gonna be there. So, I've been really fortunate."

To learn more about what James Montgomery is up to, visit www.jamesmontgomery.com.



SEE THE COMPLETE ARTS & SCIENCES ANNUAL REPORT at www.bu.edu/cas/ar.

Distinguished Company

ARTS & SCIENCES ALUMNI RECEIVE HONORS AT ALUMNI WEEKEND

As the fall foliage brightened the New England landscape, Arts & Sciences alumni from around the globe converged on Boston for Alumni Weekend, October 23–25. The festivities included classes and symposia, campus tours, school and college social gatherings, a community service project, and a men's ice hockey game vs. University of Michigan.



Arts & Sciences recognized four alumni at a Distinguished Alumni Awards Reception Friday evening. The awards honored alumni for accomplishments in their professions and dedicated service to their community and alma mater.

Other Arts & Sciences alums presented the awards at the ceremony, including Han Han (CAS'96), former president of the CAS/GRS Alumni Association, and three former Distinguished Alumni Award winners—Olive Lesueur (CAS'66, MET'85), Margarita Muñiz (CAS'72), and Ajmal Qureshi (GRS'78). John Connery (CAS'69), also a former award recipient, emceed.

Distinguished Alumni

CAPTAIN SHOSHANA S. CHATFIELD, CAS'88

Becoming one of the highest-ranking women in the United States Navy at a young age is a major accomplishment and a testament to Shoshana Chatfield's tenacity and talent. Her rise through the ranks began in 1988 when she received her commission as a Naval officer through Navy ROTC at BU. After earning her pilot's wings in 1989, she was assigned to the U.S. Navy's West Coast Helicopter Combat Support Squadrons. She later served as an assistant professor of political science at the United States Air Force Academy, and in 2006 was assigned as the deputy executive assistant to the chief of naval operations. Chatfield's career took her directly into a war zone when she commanded a provincial reconstruction team in Farah Province, Afghanistan, in 2008. In her next assignment, she will serve as commodore of the Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, Pacific, which is based in San Diego, California.

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER C. HENES, DGE'70, CAS'73

As a deputy state judge advocate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Military Division, Christopher Henes works to help solve the complex and unusual legal issues encountered by soldiers and their families during overseas deployments. He has served in the military since 1970. The Army

has twice awarded him the Meritorious Service Medal for his work providing legal counsel during Operation Desert Storm and Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Prior to his current work, he had an established private law practice, Henes and Donovan, in Dedham, Massachusetts. Henes is active in his community, having served on the Westwood Finance Commission and the Westwood Educational Foundation; he is also a member of American Legion Post #320. He has maintained close ties with his alma mater as an active member of the BU Army ROTC Alumni Association, BU Hockey Alumni, and Friends of BU Hockey. He comes from a long line of BU alums—with aunts, uncles, cousins, a sister, and mother who are fellow alumni.

LARRY NICTER, CGS'71, CAS'73, MED'78

Larry Nichter is the founder and president of the Plastics Foundation, whose mission is to train and equip medical personnel overseas to treat acquired and congenital deformities. He has been on 51 overseas medical missions, performing reconstructive surgery on thousands of children, and training hundreds of physicians. These life-altering medical missions to remote locations in developing countries have brought a fresh start to children who otherwise might have lived their lives with the stigma of deformity. In addition to his philanthropic work, Nichter is the president of the Pacific Center for Plastic Surgery, where he also serves as a plastic surgeon. After his training, he joined the University of Southern California, Division of Plastic Surgery, as clinical faculty and head of plastic surgical research. There, he became a tenured professor and helped develop the division into one of the largest and most prestigious plastic surgical residencies in the country. His mother, Beatrice Nichter (SED'83), and sister, Susan Nichter (CFA'78, '84), are BU alumnae.

WAYNE J. POSITAN, CAS'70

Wayne Positan is a leader in the legal community. He chaired the American Bar Association Commission on Multijurisdictional Practice, whose recommendations on the Model Rules of Professional Conduct have been adopted in 42 states. An attorney and managing partner with Lum, Drasco & Positan LLC, he chairs the firm's Labor, Employment, and Government Group. He has been involved in many appellate decisions that have shaped the development of labor and employment law in New Jersey. *Best Lawyers in America* has recognized him every year since 1993 in labor and employment law. He recently received the 2009 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law and the New Jersey State Bar Association. Positan has remained connected with his alma mater through Friends of BU Hockey. He is also a long-time financial supporter of the University. His BU family includes his wife Susan (CAS'70), daughter Brooke (COM'02), and sister Karen (COM'76).

In addition to the Distinguished Alumni Awards given by Arts & Sciences, the University bestows several Alumni Awards and Young Alumni Awards each year. This year, three of the six recipients were CAS alums; Thomas Insel (CAS'72, MED'74) and Karen Mavrides (CAS'68) won Alumni Awards, and Alexi Giannoulis (CAS'98) won a Young Alumni Award. All exemplify the many ways in which Arts & Sciences alumni are contributing to their alma mater, professions, and community.

Class Notes

Florence E. (Flo) Perry (CAS'49) of Sacramento, Calif., writes, "As the 60th anniversary of my graduation from Boston University approaches, I am reminded of the wonderful difference this graduation made in my life.

In order to attend college, I worked long hours at St. Clair's restaurant in Harvard Square and lived in the North End Union, a settlement house, as a group worker, earning my tuition and housing. I attended classes full time, sang in the Chapel Choir, took part in many college activities, and considered myself twice blessed.

I married **Bob Perry** in June 1949; he had graduated from CLA and was attending the BU School of Theology. We served churches in the New England Conference for 10 years and had four children, ages 11 to just one year when Bob decided that California was his spiritual home. So, we packed up a trailer with sleeping bags, food, diapers, and all our belongings, and set off in our Rambler station wagon for a monthlong trip to Granada Hills, where our assignment was to build a new church. What a culture shock! But we did it.

Our second assignment was at University Methodist Church in Redlands, where I earned my teaching credential. Then for 30 years I taught and later became a principal, as well as continued to be a mother to our brood and a rather outspoken pastor's wife.

We moved to Sacramento in 1996 to be closer to our daughters and our six grandsons. Now we have two great-grandsons as well. Bob passed away in 1998. He was a warm, caring pastor, a brilliant musician and composer, and a talented artist.

I bask in the circle of family and friends. Poetry is my passion. Through it I have helped others open their hearts. I have shown children how to delight in their unique rhythms. I have learned to view life as part of an eternal mystery. Poetry is my way of making real, extraordinary experiences of love, creativity, and family, which prove that there is a spirit that blesses my life.

To read a poem of Flo's, go to www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/Fall09/perry.

Robert Michael (CAS'58) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., has written three plays: a full-length Holocaust work titled *The Presence*, and two short plays titled *Alexa and Dan* and *P-Town*. All three will be read this year at the Murfreesboro Little Theatre. Robert also has written 75 short stories, two ("Proud" and "Mr. Christian") published in *Poetica* and one ("Emeritus") in *The Jewish Magazine*. Reach Robert at leahcimrobert@gmail.com.

Eleanor (Kemler) Feinberg (CAS'60) of Champaign, Ill., graduated from the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute. She continues in private practice in Champaign, where she resides with her husband, **Walter (CAS'60, GRS'62, '66)**.

Richard H. Cummings (CAS'71) of Dusseldorf, Germany, has written *Cold War Radio: The Dangerous History of American Broadcasting in Europe, 1950–1989*, published by McFarland & Company. Cummings was the director of security for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty for 15 years beginning in 1980. He notes that the history of the radio stations in the Cold War era reveals the perils their staff faced from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Romania, and other Communist states. Reach Richard at rcix9@arcor.de.

Caroline Downing (CAS'76) of Potsdam, N.Y., was named SUNY (State University of New York) Distinguished Teaching Professor. She teaches art history and archaeology at SUNY Potsdam. Contact Downing at downincj@potsteam.edu.

Ellen Hochman (CAS'76) of Pennsylvania took advantage of her unemployed status by realizing a long-held dream to ride her bicycle across the United States. She traveled along the northern U.S. border from the Pacific Northwest to Boston. The route included a ferry ride across Lake Michigan to avoid going around Chicago. View Ellen's online journal at www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/dreamtrip2009.

Patricia Loiko (CAS'78) of Chicago, Ill., was appointed executive director for museum registration at The Art Institute of Chicago in August 2008. She was formerly head registrar at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

David Bernz (CAS'80) of Beacon, N.Y., has been a singing attorney for most of the past two decades. Recently, he co-produced Pete Seeger's latest CD, *At 89*, which was nominated for a Grammy. He also plays with his own group, *Work O' the Weavers*, which pays tribute to Seeger's pioneering folk quartet, *The Weavers*. David lives in New York's Hudson Valley with his wife and two teenage sons.

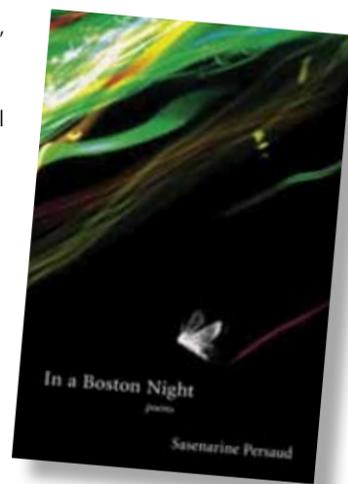
Steven Emmanuel (CAS'81) of Virginia Beach, Va., has produced *Making Peace with Vietnam*, a feature-length documentary about the challenges of reconciliation in the aftermath of war. Charles Griswold, CAS philosophy professor, is interviewed in the film. *Making Peace* was an "official selection" at the New Beijing International film festival. The film also will be broadcast on Vietnam National Television (VTV). Contact Steven at semmanuel@vvc.edu.



READ MORE ABOUT THESE AND BU'S OTHER ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS at www.bu.edu/today.

Poetically Yogic

Greater Boston, and Boston University in particular, inhabit the poems of Sasenarine Persaud's latest book, *In a Boston Night* (TSAR Publications, 2008). Riding the Green Line to campus, listening to Nobel Laureate and fellow West Indian Derek Walcott read his poetry in a BU auditorium, and musing on the banks of the Charles, Persaud (GRS'06) evokes scenes from his student days in the GRS Creative Writing program as the backdrop for his observations on race and culture, sexual passion and love, writing and nature. The *Boston Night* collection confronts controversy, for example, the relative inattention to the deaths of 20 million Russians and the extermination of Roma gypsies in "Revision, World War II." Persaud says, "Poets are not afraid to look at the truth... They have an obligation to speak for those who haven't been heard."



Of Indian ancestry, he grew up as an ethnic minority in Guyana and later spent a decade in Toronto, where he won literary awards, including the K. M. Hunter Foundation Emerging Artists Award for fiction and the Arthur Schomburg Award for his contribution to Caribbean literature. He is a pioneer of "Yogic Realism," a writing philosophy based on ancient Indian literary tradition. The author of three books of fiction and six poetry collections, Persaud now resides in Tampa, Florida, where he works as a bank analyst.—JHK

To read more of Persaud's work, go to <http://poets-and-co.blogspot.com>.

Did you know?

Boston University ranked among the top 10 research universities nationwide for faculty productivity in five different areas of the liberal arts, according to the most recent Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (2007). The University ranked first for French Language & Literature, second for English Language & Literature, fourth for Bioinformatics & Computational Biology, seventh for Mathematics, and tenth for Biostatistics.

Whatever your news, we want to hear it. Send us an e-mail at casalum@bu.edu. We'll publish your news or photo in Class Notes. And we'll make sure you're up-to-date on what's new at BU.

Theo Gluck (CAS'81, COM'84) of Studio City, Cal., is approaching his 20th year with The Walt Disney Studios and is in his fifth year as the studio's director of library restoration and preservation. His team was responsible for the March 2009 Blu-ray release of *Pinocchio* and the upcoming release of *Snow White*. Look for the digitally restored *Dumbo* in March 2010.

Cameron Davis (CAS'86) is the CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes (www.greatlakes.org). His international relations major is coming in handy for work on U.S.-Canadian Great Lakes issues. In his personal time, he served as a senior advisor to the Obama presidential campaign. Son Sage keeps him even busier.

Matt Hickerson (CAS'86) of Northport, N.Y., published his first children's chapter book. *A Ball in the Woods* tells the story of two sisters and their loyal dog who venture into the woods in search of a lost soccer ball and encounter adventure along the way. Learn more at www.matthickerson.wordpress.com. The book is available at amazon.com.

Daniel Charles Morris (GRS'86) of West Lafayette, Ind., is co-editor of *The New York Public Intellectuals and Beyond: Exploring Liberal Humanism, Jewish Identity, and the American Protest Tradition* (Purdue University Press, 2008). In spring 2009, he held the Walt Whitman Chair in American Culture Studies at Radboud University, Netherlands, through the Fulbright Program.

Wilfred Labiosa (CAS'93) of Boston, Mass., is working at Casa Esperanza, in Roxbury, as the director, Relapse Prevention & Outpatient Services, and director, Women's Residential Program. He had the honor of presenting his research on clients with co-occurring disorders at an international medical conference in Habana, Cuba.

David Schwalb (CAS'93) and his wife, Shawna, of Chicago, Ill., announce the birth of their second child, Gavin Isaac Schwalb, on March 8, 2009. Schwalb is president of Schwalb Realty Group, Inc., which specializes in the private brokerage of commercial real estate. The Schwalbs live on the north side of Chicago. E-mail David at david@schwalb.com.

Jo Anne (Domingo) Lemus (CAS'94) and her husband, Abel, of Pearl City, Hawaii, announce the birth of their second child, Alyssa Leilani, on November 17, 2008. Alyssa's big sister, Isabel Anne, was 3½ years old. Both Jo Anne and Abel are airway transportation system specialists with the FAA. Jo Anne is part of the Radar/Automation Group and Abel is in the Data/Communication Group. E-mail Jo Anne at joamingo@hotmail.com.

Sara Walz (CAS'94) and her partner, Cheryl Lawrence, of Chicago, Ill., welcomed the birth of their daughter, Augusta Rose, on December 16, 2008. Sara is a counselor at the Women's Center at Northwestern University. She would love to hear from her classmates at sara.walz@gmail.com.

Jennifer (Ewen) Frank (CAS'95, MED/BUSM'99) and husband, **Ben (MED'02)**, of Neenah, Wis., welcomed son Caleb Benjamin on June 23. He joins older siblings Joshua, 6; Natalie, 5; and Rachel, 3. Jennifer is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. Ben continues the hardest job of all as a stay-at-home dad. Contact Jennifer at drjenfrank@gmail.com.

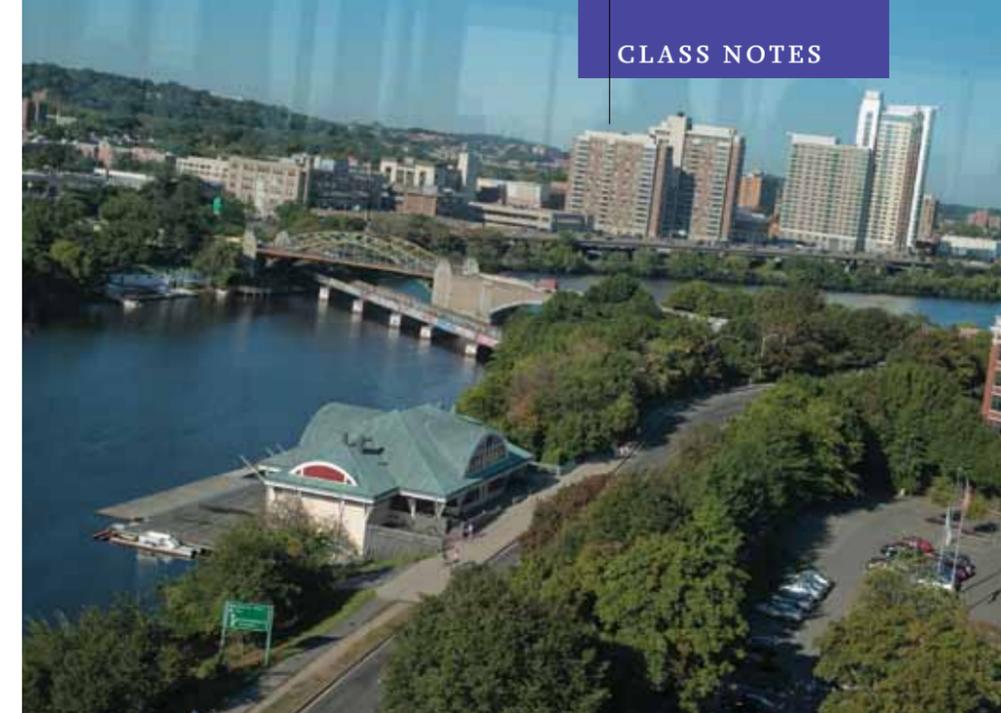
James Lavino (CGS'93, CAS'95) of London, England, composed the score to the HBO documentary film *Which Way Home*, which premiered on HBO in August. James also was commissioned to write a piece for the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The new piece, "They Have Become Bright Stars," received its premiere on May 8 at St. Paul's Cathedral in the presence of Charles, Prince of Wales; Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall; and Prince Andrew, Duke of York. Learn more about James's music at www.jameslavino.com. Contact James at music@jameslavino.com.

Henry Hampton (CAS'96) of Fort Mill, S.C., is the regional chief pilot for Mesa Airlines (doing business as US Airways Express). Henry has been a pilot with Mesa since August 2003. E-mail him at henryhampton@hotmail.com.

David Pai (CAS'96) of San Francisco, Cal., is a deputy attorney general at the State of California's Department of Justice. When not daydreaming, he represents state agencies in employment and constitutional law matters. Reach David at davepai@gmail.com.

Jeff Rush (CGS'94, CAS'96) of New York, N.Y., was married to Stephanie Elam of Saratoga, Cal., at the Cordevalle Club in San Martin, Cal., on Aug. 2, 2008. The couple resides in New York City, where Jeff is in the Investments & Wealth Management Group at Merrill Lynch and Stephanie is a broadcast journalist at CNN. To view a slide show of the wedding, go to www.lisaleigh.com/slideshows/StephanieJeff/. Reach Jeff at jeff.rush@alum.bu.edu.

Margaretta (Gillis) Silva (CAS'96) and **David Silva (MED'07)** of New York City are proud to announce the birth of their son, Nicholas James. He joins older siblings Isabella, 6; Anna, 4; and Anthony, 2. Margaretta is a stay-at-home mother and David is a senior business development analyst.



Shin Yu Pai (CAS'97) of Seattle, Wash., received a fellowship from the Life of Discovery Program sponsored by the International Writers Program at the University of Iowa.

Nicole (Williams) Adamowicz (CAS'99, SED'99, GRS'01) and her husband, Matthew, of Waltham, Mass., happily welcomed their first child, James Wyatt Adamowicz, on February 7, 2009.

Suzyn-Elayne Soler (CAS'00, SED'02) of Jensen Beach, Fla., announces her engagement to Juan Pablo Camargo of Bogota, Colombia, and of Fort Myers, Fla. The couple plans to marry in early 2011. Suzyn-Elayne would love to hear from old friends at suzyn-elayne.soler@alum.bu.edu.

Jennifer Sullivan (CAS'00, MET'06) of Cambridge, Mass., and business partner James Gilbert launched Plus1TV, an independent video network that delivers original online content across four initial channels (music, film, food, and humor) in December 2008. Jennifer, who works full time in BU's Distance Education Office as manager of online student services, notes that she worked nights and weekends to start her online business venture. Reach her at jsullivan@plus1tv.com.

Maegan Brooks, Esq. (CAS'01) of Springfield, Mass., has opened a law practice dedicated to furthering economic development through the cultivation of small businesses and social enterprises. Visit her website at www.mbrookslawoffice.com. Contact her at maeganbrooks@hotmail.com.

Robert A. Caplen (CAS'01, GRS'01) of Washington, D.C., recently published "The 'Charlie Brown Rain Cloud Effect' in International Law: An Empirical Case Study" with the *Capital University Law Review*. A recent constitutional law article, "When Batson Met Grutter: Exploring the Ramifications of the

Supreme Court's Diversity Pronouncements within the Computerized Jury Selection Paradigm," was published by the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*. Reach Robert at rcaplen@aol.com.

Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz (CAS'01) of Washington, D.C., completed a dual master's program at American University in Washington, D.C. She now has a Master of Arts in teaching secondary English and a Master of Arts in international peace and conflict resolution. This fall, she'll teach high school English at the American School of Doha in Doha, Qatar.

Ashley Barrington (CAS'02) and **Christopher Ludlow (ENG'02)** welcomed John Atticus ("Jack") Ludlow into the world on September 28, 2008. Contact Ashley at akb4444@hotmail.com.

Tara (Paradise) Dwyer (CAS'02) of Rhinebeck, N.Y., married Charles Dwyer on December 1, 2007, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. **Cristina DeCelestino (SMG'02)** attended the wedding. The Dwyers welcomed their first child, Wilhelmina Catherine, on September 12, 2008. Contact Tara at taraparadise@yahoo.com.

Susanne Matias (CAS'02, MED'04) of Glendale, Ariz., graduated from Midwestern University—Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 5, 2009. She will complete a one-year internship in St. Petersburg, Fla., before pursuing a residency in obstetrics and gynecology. Contact Susanne at bugirl380@yahoo.com.

Kristen (Marx) Russo (CAS'02) of Buffalo, N.Y., married Michael Russo on October 4, 2008, in Buffalo. Contact Kristen at kmarx06@hotmail.com.

Rebecca Bartels (CAS'03) of Miami Beach, Fla., married Jeremy Firth at the BU Castle on May 23, 2009. Rebecca is a marketing manager for the Burger King Corporation and Jeremy is an attorney at Markowitz, Davis, Ringel, and Trusty, PA. The couple resides in Miami Beach, Fla.

Matthew Glenn (CAS'03) of Bivalve, N.J., a former captain of the Terrier sailing team, is now captain of the schooner *AJ Meerwald*. The restored Delaware Bay oyster boat provides science and maritime-based experiential education programs on the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays and New York Harbor. Visit www.bayshorediscovery.org.

Joyce Liang (CAS'03) of San Jose, Cal., has launched a fashion blog, *Studio Purpura Fashion* (<http://blogs.studio-purpura.com>). The blog covers the latest in fashion news and trends, provides style tips for women, and offers coupon codes for sample sales.

Monique Maria (Tamez) Marsh (CAS'03) and Robert Marsh of La Quinta, Calif., announce the birth of their first child, Mackenzie, on November 26, 2008. Contact them at mommarsh15@gmail.com.

Michelle Wassenaar (CAS'03) married **Ian Menzies (ENG'03)** on March 7, 2009, in Oak Lawn, Ill. **Elizabeth (Mahon) Brown (CAS'02)**, **John G. Manna (CAS'02)** and **Rebecca Taylor (MET'05)** were in the wedding party; **Patrick Sexton (ENG'04, '07)**, **Melissa (Kent) Krueger (COM'97)**, **Caitlin Conway (SED'06)**, **Samuel Kurnit (CAS'06)**, and **Alex Macnow (CAS'08)** attended the wedding. The couple is residing in Brighton, Mass. Contact Michelle at danae@alum.bu.edu.

Cory Bortnick (CAS'04) of Brooklyn, N.Y., was awarded an Emmy by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for his work writing and producing *Minyanville's World in Review*, the first animated news show. He tells *arts&sciences* that he was "very surprised" to receive the honor. E-mail Bortnick at corybortnick@gmail.com.

Nadine Champsi (CAS'04) of Pittsburgh, Pa., married Kevin Carl on March 7, 2009. **Edward Garcia (CAS'04)** attended the wedding. Nadine and Kevin reside in Pittsburgh.

Nicholas Kassotis (CAS'04) of Virginia Beach, Va., was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. After graduating from BU, he received a JD from Northeastern School of Law in 2007, then was commissioned in the U.S. Navy. He is stationed in Norfolk, Va. Contact Nicholas at nickkassotis@gmail.com.

Lindsey Lariviere (CAS'04) received a master's degree in French language and literature and returned to the Boston area in December 2008. She completed her last semester of graduate school at California State University, Fullerton, after spending four weeks in Armenia in the summer of 2008 to study the Persian language. She now resides in Fall River, Mass. Contact her at lalariv@yahoo.com.

Jennifer Wallace (CAS'04) of Athens, Ohio, and Daniel Turek of McLean, Va., were married on April 11, 2009, in Cuzco, Peru. **Rebecca Manzolini (CAS'02)** attended the wedding and hiked to Machu Picchu, along with 20 other daring friends and family, with the soon-to-be bride and groom for four days prior to the wedding. Jennifer and Daniel are living in Mar Vista, Cal., and teach at a private high school in Los Angeles. They look forward to a lifetime of adventures together.

Rachael (Petro) Wojtovich (CAS'05) and **Andrew Wojtovich (CAS'05)** of Rochester, N.Y., welcomed their first child, Jackson Avery, on August 26, 2008. Rachael graduated in May 2009 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine, and will be a pediatric resident at Strong Children's Hospital in Rochester, N.Y. Andrew expects to receive his PhD in pharmacology, also from the University of Rochester School of Medicine, in 2010.

Julie Ann Ackerman (CAS'07, GRS'07) of Somerville, Mass., was awarded a Fulbright Postgraduate Student Scholarship to study at University College London/The Anna Freud Center. She will complete an MSc in psychoanalytic developmental psychology. Contact Julie Ann at Julie.n.ackerman@gmail.com.

Jesse D. Rodgers (CAS'07) of Northfield, N.J., finished his first year at Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark, N.J. He spent the summer working as a judicial extern for The Honorable Katharine S. Hayden, U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey. E-mail Jesse at jessedrogers@gmail.com.

Jason Sanders (CAS'07) of Framingham, Mass., is an MD/PhD candidate at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, researching the biology of aging and emergency care.

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Minding Your Manners

BY JEAN HENNELLY KEITH

Her stage background shows. With regal posture and a sleek, studied look all her own, Robin Abrahams (GRS'02) is a poised presence in any setting. But in conversation, the way she works her expressive eyebrows—"Vulcan," she calls them—makes clear that despite her sophistication, she sees life's funny side.

In describing her unlikely career path from theater gigs in Kansas City to writing a popular manners column in Boston and teaching psychology at Harvard, she quips, "I'm not a one-job woman."

Abrahams earned a BA in theater at the University of Kansas, in her home state, then worked in the midwest for the next six years as a theater publicist, stand-up comedian, and volunteer at a battered women's shelter. Figuring out that the common thread of her interests was human behavior—what makes people tick—she packed up and headed to Beantown to earn a doctorate in research psychology at Boston University. Despite a Presidential Scholarship at GRS, she needed a job to manage Boston's steep living costs, so she juggled posts as a communications manager at Harvard and a psych adjunct at BU and other local colleges, while moonlighting as a writing teacher.

Today she's still juggling, as a part-time research associate in organizational behavior at the Harvard Business School, a trustee and volunteer at the Underground Railway Theater in Cambridge, and an acclaimed author and speaker.

She is most well-known, though, as "Miss Conduct," *The Boston Globe Sunday Magazine* columnist who advises inquiring readers on how to manage the complexities of 21st-century social situations: how to fend off creepy come-ons; what to say to a sneezing atheist; how to host a dinner party for fruitarian, Kosher-keeping, allergic, and carnivorous guests. She's pleased to note that her readership spans a wide age range from teens to seniors—and even includes a fourth-grader.

Her new book, *Miss Conduct's Mind Over Manners: Master the Slippery Rules of Modern Ethics and Etiquette* (Henry Holt/Times Books), published in May, delves into the evolution of behavior, including the tribal "fear of differences" that underlies our customs and quirks. Although Abrahams stresses that she has no disagreement with Emily and Peggy Post or other etiquette experts, she is more interested in the rationale behind the rules of conduct than strict adherence to them, preferring to offer "options and interpretations." In *Mind Over Manners*, she tackles life's essential topics: food, health, money, romance, and religion. The fond owner of mixed-breed terrier Milo, who twirls for company, Abrahams also devotes a chapter to human and pet relationships.

She is married to Marc Abrahams, founder of the Ig Nobel prizes—"for achievements that first make people laugh, then make them think"—and also a comedian. As a convert to Judaism who passionately embraces her adopted religion, Robin gives talks she calls "Jew by Choice, Yenta by Birth."

Although she acknowledges that "new technology has complicated communications immensely," Abrahams is an unabashed fan and user of social media. Her readers can chat with her on Twitter, link to some of her recent guest author appearances on the *Today Show* and *Fox News*, and hear her bimonthly WCRN Radio segments on her blog and website—and, as a bonus, see a video of mannerly Milo.



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