

Boston University Arts & Sciences

arts & sciences

INSIDE:

Do magnets
repel sharks?

Revered Dean
Elsbeth Melville
remembered

Notorious traveling
French sisters

BU (extreme) South

Geomorphologist David Marchant and his team of students discover Antarctica's secret past



from the dean



Open a newspaper or turn on a TV and it's hard to avoid being bombarded by stories about failed financial institutions, corporate layoffs, and stock market tumbles. Indeed, these are troubling economic times.

This past fall, President Robert Brown faced the situation head-on. Rather than taking a wait-and-see approach to the ongoing financial turmoil, he was one of the first university presidents to take serious proactive measures in the crisis. He ordered an immediate freeze on hiring for positions not already authorized, as well as on capital projects that did not have contracts in place. As President Brown stated in his October letter to the University community, "Foremost, we must protect the financial integrity of the University through this turbulent time and provide the most stable environment possible for our students, faculty, and staff." His forethought and prudent planning will help ensure that the University weathers the economic storm and remains on solid financial ground.

As all of us at BU come together to withstand this period of economic uncertainty, Arts & Sciences remains strong. I am very pleased to say that our ambitious program of faculty recruitment is not affected by the freeze, and we are moving ahead with plans to strengthen CAS, not only replacing faculty who retire or leave, but also expanding the faculty by as many as 100 new positions within the decade. The newest members of our faculty are impressive indeed. To get a sense of what they mean for the future of the College, I invite you to take a look at the brief biographies in the roster of new appointments found at www.bu.edu/cas/forms/new-faculty-booklet08.pdf.

This new cohort of teachers and scholars only adds to the luster of the superb professors we already have here. Consider the awards some of them received last fall. Associate Professor of Chemistry Mark Grinstaff was a co-winner of the Edward M. Kennedy Award for Healthcare Innovation presented by the Center for Integration of Medicine & Innovative Technology, and his colleague in Chemistry, Professor John Porco, received the 2009 Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society. International Relations Professor Vivien Schmidt received an honorary degree from the Free University of Brussels. CAS swept the field of winners of the African Studies Association Herskovits Award honoring the most important scholarly work in African studies published in English during the preceding year. The top entries were so good that the prize was awarded to two books, representing three CAS professors: *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles*, *continued on page 9*



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

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? Read about and see videos of BU's successes in 2008—in and out of the classroom and lab, in the City of Boston, and around the globe—in BU's Annual Report online at www.bu.edu/ar.

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Photo courtesy of Craig O'Connell



12 "I felt that all the hours they were in neither the classroom nor the library, I was responsible for them."

Dean Elsbeth Melville (CAS'25)

profiles

8 TOTAL IMMERSION

Alice Gomez (CAS'10) believes in taking full advantage of her student years at BU, studying at CAS and SED and playing lots of clarinet with BU bands.

24 ON THE RIGHT TRACK

David Mundy (CAS'96) knows the best routes to good management and winning car races.

32 PUNCH LINE

My Boys' Jamie Kaler (CAS'87) leaves 'em laughing with his TV roles and stand-up routines.

a&s insider

- 2 >> Heralding the Humanities
- 4 >> What's Worth Reading
- 5 >> Professors to the World
- 6 >> East Asian Explorations
- 7 >> Darwinian Selections

about alumni

- 26 Reunion Highlights: Distinguished Alumni, New Arts & Sciences Trustees and Overseers
- 27 Class Notes
- 28 Message from Alumni Association President
- 30 Thank You, Donors!

features

10 SHARK DEFENDER

Craig O'Connell (CAS'06) researches how sharks react to magnets in hopes of saving these storied fish from extinction.

12 A PARAGON OF HER TIME

The College Club of Boston commemorates Dean Elsbeth Melville (CAS'25), who imbued four decades of BU's women students with self-confidence and leadership skills.

16 EXTREME DIG

In treks to Antarctica, geomorphologist David Marchant and his team of Arts & Sciences students have unearthed ancient secrets of a more temperate clime.

22 FRENCH SISTERS

Professor Elizabeth Goldsmith writes about the adventurous Mancini sisters of 17th-century France who abandoned their families for life on the road.



THE COVER:

A sparse camp provides the only shelter for Arts & Sciences geomorphologist David Marchant and his team of students conducting research in the harsh environment of Antarctica's McMurdo Dry Valleys.

Photo courtesy of David Marchant





Heralding the Humanities

English Professor James Winn speaks ardently of the lifelong value of a grounding in the humanities. “Exposure to drama, opera, art, philosophy, religion—great ideas—will continue to feed your soul,” he says. “We should not be about training students for their first jobs, but preparing them for full and meaningful lives. Today’s students probably will live to be 110. When they retire, it would be nice for them to enjoy cultural riches and broad intellectual life.”

His multiple academic pursuits reflect his conviction. A poetry scholar, he has written books on Alexander Pope and John Dryden, and last year published his compelling study *The Poetry of War*. He is also a prize-winning concert flutist, often performing with colleagues from the College of Fine Arts. Moreover, Winn is interested in the connections among fields of study. His book *The Pale of Words: Reflections on the Humanities and Performance* explores the relationship between literature and the performing arts.

“The reward system in the academy is skewed pretty much to specialists,” he says, “and they often burrow deeply. I’ve spent all of my adult life pursuing more than one field; as a student, I was advised not to let myself be pigeonholed.”

In September, he was appointed the new director of the Boston University Humanities Foundation. Established in 1981, the foundation supports the work of humanities scholars at the University—junior and senior faculty, undergraduate and graduate students. It grants fellowships to faculty, enabling them, for example, to extend sabbaticals to write books and complete research. Winn says,

New director of the Boston University Humanities Foundation, Professor James Winn



“If you’ve been laboring and teaching full-time, an extra six months could buy you the time you need, and we can provide the funding.” Prizes also are awarded to students who have distinguished themselves in humanities fields.

With images of every book published in England from 1475 to 1700, the Early English Books Online database was recently added to Mugar Library with funds from the BU Humanities Foundation.

In particular, the foundation fosters interdisciplinary work with financial support for guest presenters and programs. To enrich research in the humanities, the foundation funds library acquisitions such as the recent addition to Mugar Library of the Early English Books Online database, with images of every book published in England from 1475 to 1700.

Since becoming director, Winn has introduced a new approach to running the foundation. Aiming to make broad-based programming decisions and to fund awards by consensus, he has established an executive committee of senior humanities faculty. Winn is enthusiastic about the theme they have

proposed for the upcoming academic year: Judgments of Value. Posing such challenging questions as what determines aesthetic taste historically, how emotions, reasoning, and the senses affect those judgments, and what criteria are used in judging different art forms, the committee has called for faculty proposals on this interdisciplinary topic.

He notes that Arts & Sciences Dean Virginia Sapiro defines the humanities broadly, and vigorously advocates for collaboration among the disciplines. “A college of arts and sciences cannot be first rate without tremendous strength in the humanities,” she says. “As James Winn takes the helm, the Humanities Foundation will continue to chart a course that stimulates scholarly creativity through individual work and collaboration across the breadth of the arts and humanities.” They both hope to attract increased funding to further the foundation’s impact.

In some ways, his new directorship is quite familiar to Winn, who has succeeded Professor Katherine O’Connor, associate chair of modern languages and comparative literature and professor of Russian. As founding director of the University of

Michigan’s Institute for the Humanities from 1988 to 1996, Winn built a \$13 million endowment and helped nurture a number of vital programs. That success and his experience as chair of BU’s English department from 1998 to 2007 prepared him well for his current post.

Leading a foundation with such wide scope enables Winn to significantly boost the resources available to BU students and faculty in the humanities. He relishes his new role: “How sweet it is,” he says, “to have money to give away to bright people.”

—Jean Hennelly Keith and Jeremy Schwab



LINK TO PROFESSOR JAMES WINN’S BOOK READING at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring09/winn.



What's Worth Reading

For Bill Pierce, the best part of being senior editor for *AGNI* magazine is the chance to meet other writers. "Years back, I was writing in isolation. I had no real community of people doing what I was doing," recalls the fiction writer and essayist. "Through *AGNI*, I became connected to a lot of other writers around the city and beyond."

and India, visit www.agnimagazine.org each month. Updated every two weeks with new content, including fiction, interviews, essays, reviews, and poetry, the webzine features works by prominent authors, as well as up-and-coming writers.

Other indicators of *AGNI*'s success are the coveted grants it's garnered from the

Probably the greatest mark of the journal's success is the long list of careers it has helped launch. *AGNI* is known for publishing the work of talented writers early in their careers. (This may help explain the flood of submissions—nearly 5,000 per year—that Pierce and Birkerts sift through.) Authors whose careers *AGNI* boosted include Seamus Heaney, Joyce Carol Oates, and Jhumpa Lahiri (GRS'93; UNI'95, '97), who interned at *AGNI* and whose short story "Interpreter of Maladies" appeared in the journal in 1998, two years before her short story collection by the same name won the Pulitzer Prize.

The relationship between *AGNI* and the College of Arts & Sciences began when the journal relocated from Antioch College to Boston University in 1987. Since moving to BU, *AGNI* has enriched campus life by providing Arts & Sciences graduate students with a chance to work as interns and by hosting

popular literary readings. Creative Writing faculty also sit on *AGNI*'s Advisory Board.

AGNI's editors see the journal as a conduit in an ongoing cultural dialogue. "You are always voting on what you think is good—what voices are good for our cultural moment—and it feels good when it gets echoed in the greater culture," said Birkerts. Pierce agrees, adding, "We are trying to influence the discussion of what's worth reading, worth paying attention to."—JS



Massachusetts Cultural Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. A *Boston Globe* article ("JOURNALism," August 24, 2008) lists *AGNI* among the top 10 literary magazines in New England. The *Globe* quotes Elizabeth Searle, visiting writer at the University of Massachusetts in Boston and a PEN/New England board member, as saying that *AGNI* "sets the gold standard for magazines in this part of the world, and for the literary world in general."



Professors to the World

CAS faculty record their lectures for all who want to listen

The cars grind to a halt and the commute stalls. As the drivers begin to lay on their horns, you sit back, relax, and spend the next half hour of bumper-to-bumper traffic learning about Mahayana Buddhism from an Arts & Sciences professor.

More and more, inquiring minds are accessing the vast knowledge of Boston University professors—on their own terms. From lectures on CD to videos at local libraries, and even on iTunes, BU lectures are increasingly in demand by an information-seeking public.

BU is a prime source for audiovisual distance-learning companies keen to acquire top minds and to profit from the new trend of lifelong learning. "I think it speaks well of the University. It's a great way to get out the brightness, the engagement of our teaching to a new audience," says Associate Professor of Religion and Director of the Core Curriculum M. David Eckel, recruited by The Teaching



Company to record a series on Buddhism. "People know we teach well, and they appreciate the quality we have to offer." The organizations that record college lectures are seeking top-tier faculty—one in 5,000, according to The Teaching Company—professors exemplified by Eckel, who attained the spotlight after winning Boston University's Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998.

"I was buying chicken, and the butcher stopped me and said, 'Are you David Eckel? I just finished watching your lectures.' You never know who's been listening to you, who's watching."

—M. David Eckel

a chance to study philosophy." The lectures do not offer a complete exposition. "We can't possibly do more than scratch the surface," says Roochnik in his introduction to Greek philosophy. However, they do offer a glimpse into new worlds. "It's about getting people interested, giving them a taste of a subject," he says.

James Schmidt, a history professor with CAS and the University Professors Program, and Stephen Prothero, professor of religion, have recorded lectures for The Modern Scholar. Schmidt bases his Enlightenment series—including lectures on Voltaire, Diderot, and the Scottish Enlightenment—on the longer version he teaches at CAS. "Speaking to a microphone was a very different approach from teaching a class. We recorded in a Boston studio. I was clearly the least-hip person ever to walk through there. When we were finishing up, rock bands were coming in to record and there I was, a professor." Roochnik and Eckel agree that recording differs greatly from lecturing live before students. "But in the end," says Roochnik, "we're trying to communicate our subjects and it is teaching, and in that sense it's not so different from a regular class."

Eckel is used to students asking him questions; he just never expected his local butcher to be one of them.

He tells the story of going into a Whole Foods in Brighton, Massachusetts: "I was buying chicken, and the butcher stopped me and said, 'Are you David Eckel? I just finished watching your lectures.' You never know who's been listening to you, who's watching."

The faculty all agree it's about reaching a new, wider audience of people impatient to learn, and they're eager to help. "I love to teach," says Eckel. "I really enjoy the Buddhist tradition, and I love to get others as excited about it as I am myself. With the recordings, it's a different audience, a new audience. I want to inspire spirit, curiosity, a sense of fascination. For a lot of people who wouldn't normally have access to a university, it's a great way to learn."

"Who do I imagine listening?" asks Schmidt. "People stuck in cars and people working out at the Y. And people in trucks. That's who I get e-mails from, anyway." And the professors receive e-mails from all over. Eckel says he once heard from the father of

continued on page 7



VISIT THE AGNI WEBSITE www.bu.edu/agni.



LINKS TO PROFESSORS' BIOS

M. David Eckel www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring09/eckel, David Roochnik www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring09/roochnik, James Schmidt www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring09/schmidt, Stephen Prothero www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring09/prothero.



East Asian Explorations

Luce Foundation Grant Helps Expand East Asian Archaeology Program

Discovering the world's oldest pottery in Yuchanyan Cave in South China. Learning about nomads of the early states of the Mongolian steppe. Arts & Sciences archaeologists are uncovering East Asia's past and enriching the curriculum for students in BU's classrooms.

Thanks to a four-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, teaching and research in East Asian archaeology in the College and Graduate School will receive a big boost. The \$450,000 award from the foundation's Initiative on East and Southeast Asian Archaeology and Early History will bring a new slate of courses in East Asian archaeology and cultural heritage studies, as well as research opportunities and graduate student support to academic programs in the Department of Archaeology.



Photo courtesy of Robert Murowchick

has been appointed to a full-time teaching position as assistant professor of archaeology and anthropology.

The first new East Asian courses—made possible by the grant—began this semester: one focused on the archaeology of Southeast Asia, another examining how politics and nationalism affect archaeology.

“With each astonishing new archaeological discovery that comes out of Asia, we enrich our understanding of how human societies have evolved across time and space.”

—Robert Murowchick

The grant also will help expand the scholarly resources of the department's International Center for East Asian Archaeology & Cultural History (ICEAACH), recognized worldwide as a major focal point of East Asian archaeological research and home of one of the finest library research collections in the field. In the first phase of the new program, Robert Murowchick, director of ICEAACH,

“East Asian archaeology is a dynamic and rich field,” says Ricardo Elia, chair of archaeology. “As the region continues to expand, there is a growing need for regional specialists in both archaeological research and heritage management.”

Boston University boasts the only independent archaeology department in the United States in its own right, not a sub-discipline of another department. Recognized as having one of the leading archaeology programs in the country, the department

offers BA, MA, and PhD degrees through a full range of courses in world archaeology, archaeological heritage management, and archaeological science. The Luce grant enables the department to expand its course offerings on East Asia and further strengthen its position among peer institutions. The new program also offers graduate student fellowships in East and Southeast Asian archaeology and will help BU attract top students in the field. The grant supports travel for student research, travel related to faculty collaborative projects, and library acquisitions.

“This is an incredibly exciting time to be involved in East Asian archaeology,” says Murowchick. “For two decades, the Luce
continued on facing page



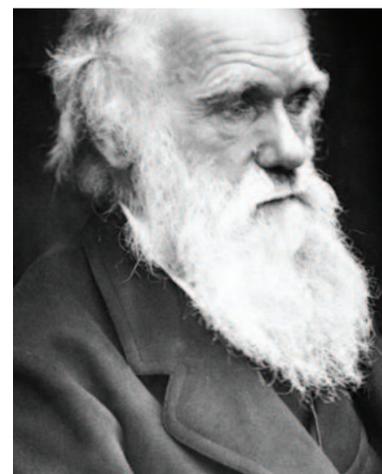
Photo courtesy of the Early Rice Agriculture Project

Excavations conducted by David Cohen (right), an ICEAACH staff member and adjunct assistant professor in archaeology, and an international team have yielded some of the world's oldest pottery at the 18,000-year-old Yuchanyan Cave site in South China.

Photo above middle: Thousands of potsherds, such as these from a Longshan culture village site dating to some 4,500 years ago, have been excavated in Shangqiu, in eastern Henan Province, as part of the Early Shang Civilization Project, based at ICEAACH.



Darwinian Selections



Born two centuries ago, on February 12, naturalist Charles Darwin was to jolt Victorian England and the world beyond with his theory of evolution of the species through natural selection—propelling him into the public arena. This year, his life and work will be celebrated around the world, and Boston University will join in the tribute with a University-wide, yearlong Darwin Festival.

For many months, the Greater Boston Darwin Bicentennial Committee, sponsored by University Provost David Campbell and co-chaired by Arts & Sciences History Professor Thomas Glick and Engineering Professor Charles DeLisi, has been planning events around campus that explore Darwinian themes from an array of disciplinary perspectives. As a

member, as well, of the Boston Area Committee, Glick is organizing programs for the wider community, including outreach to public schools, with colleagues from other local universities, including Harvard, Northeastern, Tufts, Brandeis, and MIT. BU is hosting numerous events for the Darwin commemoration; he says, “It will be the hub of the Hub.”

Festival highlights include a student fair at the George Sherman Union celebrating Darwin's birthday. On a more academic note, a series of multidisciplinary programs sponsored by the Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy & History of Science will gather faculty from around the world to examine the life, work, and influence of Darwin. Campbell and faculty in the various human sciences will discuss the impact of human evolution theory on a wide range of endeavors, including politics, economic markets, religion, attitudes toward mental disorders, and the reception of Darwin's work from Estonia to Brazil. And biologists from around the country will convene at The Castle in late March to ponder “Systems Biology Framed by Ecology.”

Beyond Arts & Sciences, a special exhibit is planned for Mugar Library, and in April, College of Fine Arts Theatre School Director Jim Petosa will direct CFA students in Peter Parnell's *Trumpery*, a play about Darwin's family life and his publication of *The Origin of Species*. Visual Arts Professor Hugh O'Donnell will guide teams of University students in creating Darwinian-themed art to be installed at campus sites in the fall.—JHK

Professors to the World *continued*

one of his colleagues (who also teaches Buddhism), who thanked him for the lecture series because it was the first time he understood why his son liked Buddhism so much. Roochnik received e-mails from a doctor and a lawyer in Brookline, Massachusetts, who wanted to take him out for coffee to discuss the fundamentals of Greek philosophy in greater depth. And, although the professors cover different topics, as Schmidt says in his opening lecture on the Enlightenment, the lectures serve a similar purpose: “To satisfy curiosity about different ways that human beings can live, and, if we're lucky, to acquaint ourselves with certain possibilities, certain opportunities of living that we might have lost sight of.”—Rachel Johnson

East Asian Explorations *continued*

Foundation has played a leadership role in supporting collaborative archaeological field research in East Asia. As opportunities for scholars and students continue to broaden, the Luce grant gives us the means to usher in the next stage of the development of East Asian archaeology, with important new undergraduate and graduate courses and significant forms of student support. With each astonishing new archaeological discovery that comes out of Asia, we enrich our understanding of how human societies have evolved across time and space. The increasingly close ties between Western and Asian scholars encourage a much more open discussion and exchange of ideas, approaches, and concerns.”

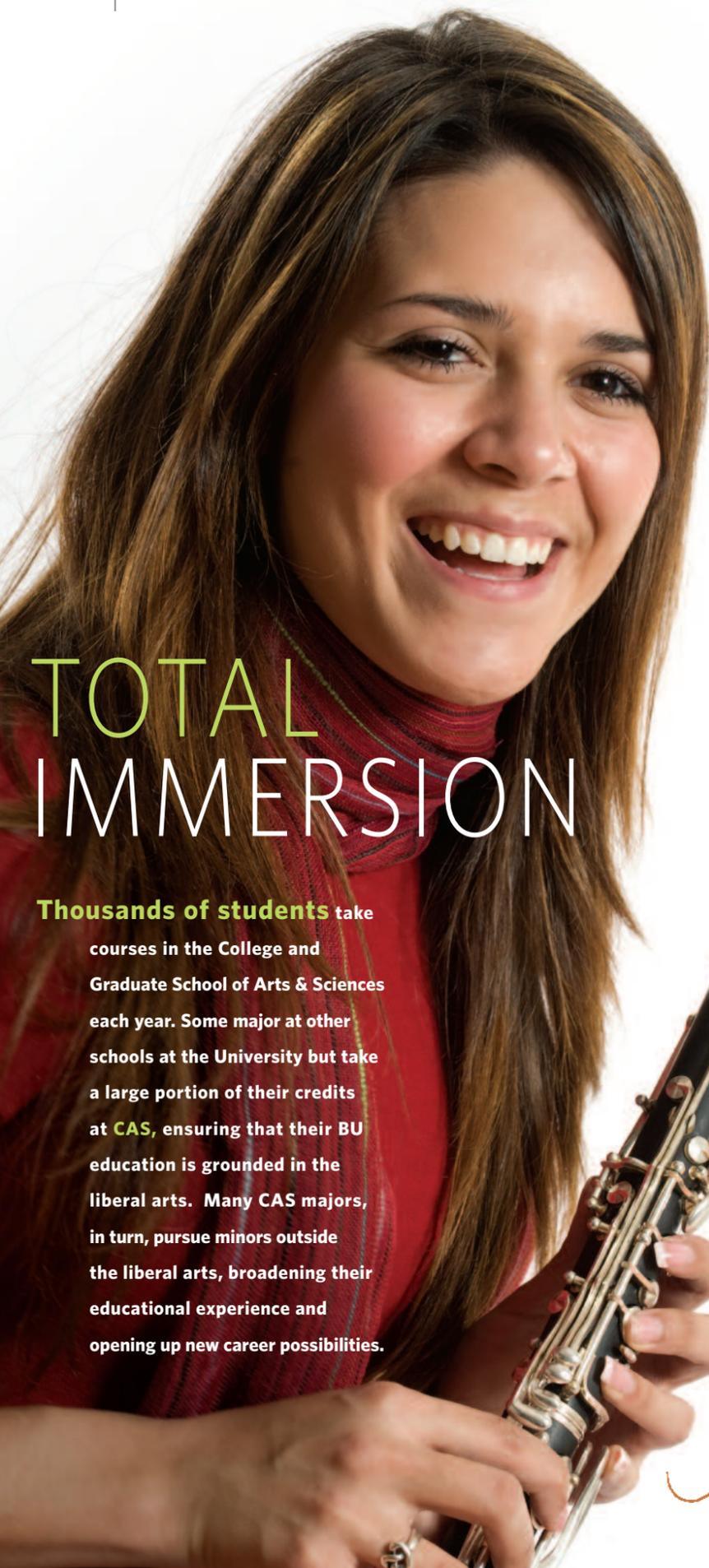
Arts & Sciences Dean Virginia Sapiro notes that the Luce grant also will enhance the activities of the newly formed Center for the Study of Asia, which will become a hub for teaching, research, and public outreach programs on all aspects of Asia at BU. “The center will promote comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and cross-national understanding of Asia,” she says, “connecting the dots among the wide-ranging opportunities and experience we offer at Boston University.”—Amy Biderman



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ICEAACH FIELDWORK at www.bu.edu/asianarc/fieldprojects.html.



TO LEARN MORE about the ever-evolving Darwin Festival, see www.bu.edu/darwin2009.



TOTAL IMMERSION

Thousands of students take courses in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences each year. Some major at other schools at the University but take a large portion of their credits at CAS, ensuring that their BU education is grounded in the liberal arts. Many CAS majors, in turn, pursue minors outside the liberal arts, broadening their educational experience and opening up new career possibilities.

Here is a glimpse into the life of one such student,

Alice Gomez (CAS'10),

whose interests take her into the realms of psychology, education, and music. A junior, Gomez plans to translate her psychology major and education minor into a career as a school psychologist.

Q: Can you describe a typical day in your life?

A: Thursday is my busiest day. I grab a Red Bull on my way out the door in the morning and get to my first class at 9:30; then I have to leave 20 minutes early to get to my Spanish class. After that, I meet with Boston University Bands Director Chris Parks to talk about what's going on with the band. I have to be at all the band meetings because I'm president of the band fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi.

Q: Is it unusual for a woman to become president of the fraternity?

A: It's a co-ed national musical fraternity. Our chapter has eight girls and eight guys. We serve and promote all campus musical organizations. This summer, I went to the leadership symposium for the fraternity in Pittsburgh.

Q: How many hours a week do you devote to band?

A: I don't want to know. I don't think my parents would want to know. A lot!

Q: Where does the marching band practice?

A: We practice on the roof of the facilities building off Babcock Street. The roof has the outline of a football field with the yard markers. We can't use Nickerson Field because everyone on West Campus would be able to hear us. Practicing at 10 on Saturday morning? We wouldn't have many friends.

Q: What kind of music do you like to listen to? What's on your iPod?

A: It ranges from classical to country to whatever. I have all the pep band tunes on my iPod. It's '70s and '80s music that's really bad but really good: "Back in Black," "Vehicle," "China Grove."

Q: How do you juggle all of your commitments?

A: It forces me to get work done. The busier I am, the better I do because you make the time with the time you have. I think I would regret it if I hadn't gotten as involved as I have at BU. There are just so many things to do. As a student, you might as well get as immersed as possible.

Q: Was being at BU a big adjustment for you, coming from Irving, Texas?

A: Well, it was a shock to me that we don't have a football team here. It is a big thing in Texas—you know, *Friday Night Lights*. But I picked up hockey pretty fast. I play the clarinet with the pep band at hockey games, but I would go to the games anyway. I think I've missed maybe two games since I've been here.

Q: What do you want to do after you graduate?

A: I'm considering doing Teach for America (a two-year commitment to teach in rural or urban schools) before going to grad school for psychology.

Ultimately, I think I want to be a school psychologist, which involves the educational, emotional, and other aspects of learning. Teach for America would give me hands-on experience in the classroom.



Q: What do you like most about BU?

A: The University cares about its students. This summer, I played in the Scarlet Band (an ensemble that performs at new student orientations), and I found out in the middle of a performance that my friend from back home died. That same night, my RA knocked on my dorm room door and just said, "If you need anything, come talk to me." Guidance counselors came to talk with me. It wasn't just one time, either; they followed up. Chris Parks said, "If you want to go home—if money is an issue—we'll help you." I didn't take him up on it, but I really appreciated all the support. —JS

from the dean *continued*

and the *Foundation of the Americas, 1585–1660* (Cambridge, 2007), by African Studies and History Professors Linda M. Heywood and John K. Thornton, and *The Nature of Entrustment: Intimacy, Exchange, and the Sacred in Africa* (Yale, 2007), by Anthropology and African Studies Professor Parker Shipton. There's more, but in the interest of space, may I just mention that the BU Mock Mediation Team competed in the American Mock Trial Association's annual National Mediation Tournament in Chicago and won the highest combined overall advocate score out of 32 teams?

Our future also is bolstered by the vital involvement of you, our alumni, who continue to serve as shining examples of the exceptional liberal arts education CAS offers. I was pleased to meet many of you at Reunion and Alumni Weekend in October. This was the first time we held a combined Reunion and Alumni Weekend in the fall, and the turnout was exceptional. Whether I was chatting with young alumni or members of the Golden Terriers, I was struck by the extraordinary things they are doing in their personal and professional lives. Our liberal arts alumni are making great marks in just about every profession and walk of life imaginable—proof positive that a liberal arts degree can lead to great things.

The four Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award winners who were honored at the Reunion Weekend dinner certainly exemplify this. Their career paths typify CAS's emphasis on the importance of broad-based learning and discovery. Whether working to improve the literacy of children in inner-city schools, guiding the start-up of nonprofit organizations, helping entrepreneurial businesses establish new market opportunities, or mentoring and providing internships for BU students, all of the honorees are using their liberal arts degrees to make a real difference in the world. Meet our 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award winners on page 26.

Throughout this issue of *arts&sciences*, you'll read about other alumni—and Arts & Sciences faculty and students—who also are taking bold and innovative steps in their scholarship and research, with impressive results. Our cover story, for example, looks at the remarkable discoveries made by David Marchant, associate professor of earth sciences, during expeditions with his graduate students in Antarctica. A profile of Craig O'Connell (CAS'06) highlights his fascinating research on sharks. Taking steps in a different—and more humorous—direction is Jamie Kaler (CAS'87), successful comedian and star of the TBS show *My Boys*. All of the people featured are pushing the envelope and distinguishing themselves in ways that support our mission and further our reputation.

I can't close this first message of 2009 without noting the extraordinary historical step we are taking in the United States. Regardless of what any of our particular political affiliations might be, by the time you read this, America's first African American president will be starting his leadership era. With all of the challenges facing the world today, we must all wish him—and us—good fortune.

Virginia Sapiro
Dean of Arts & Sciences



VISIT ALICE GOMEZ'S PHOTO GALLERY at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring09/gomez.

SHARK DEFENDER

Do magnets repel sharks? When *MythBusters*—the popular Discovery Channel program that tests all manner of myths, rumors, and legends—took up this question last summer, the show’s hosts at first seemed inclined to confirm the theory. But in the end, they declared the **myth busted**.

Craig O’Connell (CAS’06) thinks they were mistaken. He and his research colleagues have submitted a rebuttal of the show’s findings, and they’re hopeful *MythBusters* will revisit the topic.

O’Connell is a researcher with SharkDefense Technologies, a small company working to develop shark repellents. Since he graduated from CAS’s marine biology program two and a half years ago, he’s been testing his theory that magnets can repel sharks, and he’s convinced he’s onto something.

Saving sharks

While you might expect O’Connell is developing shark repellents to protect people from shark attacks, his actual goal is to protect sharks from people. Scientists estimate that humans kill 100 million sharks every year, leaving many shark species in danger of extinction. O’Connell hopes his research with magnets will provide shark conservationists an inexpensive tool for reducing shark deaths by keeping sharks away from beaches and fishing lines.

Shark conservation has been O’Connell’s passion since his junior year at CAS, when he spent a semester in Ecuador with the College’s tropical ecology program. “We made a stop in Ecuador’s coastal region, and we saw all these fish markets,” he says, “and I noticed the fishermen were catching a lot of sharks.”



Photo courtesy of Craig O’Connell

Craig O’Connell’s research with magnets may help boost shark populations—and TV ratings.

It wasn’t clear whether the sharks were being caught accidentally by fishermen targeting other species—a phenomenon known as “bycatch” in the fishing industry—or if the fishermen were intentionally catching sharks in order to sell their fins on the black market. To better understand the situation, O’Connell began a daily tally of the dead sharks discarded on the beach near the markets. The number of shark carcasses—most of them finless—he counted at that single beach was shocking, he says, and the experience ignited his desire to save sharks.

Magnetic repulsion

The idea that magnets could play a part in shark conservation came to O’Connell after he learned that sharks have special sensing organs called ampullae of Lorenzini that allow them to detect electrical fields. Sharks use their unique electric sense to locate prey, and some scientists believe they also use it to navigate—by sensing variations in Earth’s magnetic field. If sharks can sense the relatively weak geomagnetic field, O’Connell wondered what happens when they encounter stronger magnetic fields. Could a strong magnet startle a shark and frighten it into keeping its distance?

Shark Taggers

is an NBC reality show that follows marine biologists as they track and tag sharks in various locations around the world. The show’s film crew was working at Sharklab during one of O’Connell’s visits there last fall. They filmed him as he caught a hammerhead and a tiger shark in the waters around Sharklab—but they didn’t stop there. “They wanted absolutely everything,” he says.

“They wanted you eating your food. They wanted you waking up in the morning, at a time when you weren’t really ready to have a camera in your face.”

And there’s more camera time to come: the Discovery Channel is also planning a new series that will focus on SharkDefense’s work with chemical shark repellents. Before they started researching

magnets, O’Connell’s colleagues at SharkDefense were studying chemicals released by decaying shark tissue. Scientists have long noted that sharks flee from areas where they can smell a dead shark, and SharkDefense is working to identify and replicate the chemical compound that triggers this flight response. O’Connell is now assisting with this research and will appear in the Discovery Channel series.

His first opportunity to test sharks’ reactions to magnets came soon after his BU graduation, when he landed a two-month volunteer research position at the well-known Bimini Biological Field Station—known as Sharklab—in the Bahamas. When he got there, he found a group of researchers from SharkDefense Technologies also beginning to experiment with magnets. “They had just come up with the idea before I got to Bimini,” O’Connell says. “It was an amazing coincidence.”

O’Connell joined the SharkDefense team, helping to design and conduct experiments. After his stint at Sharklab ended and he moved to South Carolina for graduate school, he continued to visit the lab every couple of months to assist with the research.

“What we’ve found so far is incredible,” he says. The researchers have added magnets to the netting used to create shark fences, and in some experiments they’ve seen a 95 percent reduction in the number of sharks entering through holes in the netting. They’ve also placed magnets above the hooks on long-line fishing lines, he says, “and we’ve reduced shark catch by 50 percent.”

The SharkDefense researchers are still refining their understanding of how various magnets affect different species of sharks. Their research, for example, indicates that ceramic magnets are

fairly reliable shark repellents, while super-strong rare earth magnets are not. This, they believe, is where *MythBusters* went wrong. The hosts of *MythBusters* started their experiments with ceramic magnets and then switched

to rare earth magnets, which O’Connell believes are so strong that they simply overwhelm sharks’ senses.

O’Connell is enthusiastic about the progress of his research, and he’s optimistic it will yield reliable magnetic shark repellents within four or five years. “The sooner the better,” he says, “so we can save these sharks.” ♦



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAS TROPICAL ECOLOGY PROGRAM at www.bu.edu/biology/undergrad/tropical-ecology.



MEDIA PLATFORM

Others are enthusiastic about Craig O’Connell’s research—if not for its potential to revive depleted shark populations, then for its potential to make thrilling television. In addition to consulting on the *MythBusters* episode, O’Connell has been filmed for a new NBC program called *Shark Taggers*, and he and his SharkDefense colleagues are working with the Discovery Channel on another shark-related series.





*A*t a Maine alumni

dinner in 1945, Boston University

President Daniel Marsh met the

alumna seated next to him, Westbrook

College Dean Elsbeth Melville.

A PARAGON OF HER TIME

The College Club of Boston Honors Dean Emerita Elsbeth Melville

Dean Elsbeth Melville

“What kind of a dean are you?”

he asked. “A good one,”

she responded. Before they had

finished the entrée, he had

hired her as dean of women.

T

he incident, one of many she enjoyed retelling, represents her well: her self-confidence, humor, and ability to win the confidence of others. Melville (CAS'25) was dean of women for 25 years and a leader of Boston women's organizations. Recently, The College Club of Boston, the oldest club for college women in the country, named a handsomely renovated room in its town house for her and a fellow past president.

In 1945, small residences scattered in the city housed 347 BU women. When Melville retired in 1970, some 4,300 women lived on campus. "I felt that all the hours they were in neither the classroom nor the library, I was responsible for them," she said. She created a structure of advising, student governance, training programs, and activities "to develop the social and leadership skills they would need as college women." She made sure every dorm had a silver tea service and held proper teas, where she was met formally at the door and introduced to each woman present, "although I might well know half of them," she said, characteristically aware of both the benefits and the humor of the exercise.

She also came to dorms for informal visits, Esther Hopkins (CAS'47) recalls. "She was delightful. When she called you up and said she wanted you to take part in some activity you always said yes, because she knew you as an individual and what to ask. I was from a poor family; nobody had gone to college. I saw everybody at ease and felt like an outsider. Elsbeth opened me up to things I could do."

Melville was as attentive to born leaders like Olive Lesueur (CAS'66, MET'85), named among Boston's Women of Tomorrow as a high school senior. "You didn't say no to Dean Melville," she agrees, even after graduation; Lesueur remains active in the College Club and the Arts & Sciences alumni board because, long ago, Melville phoned.

The Dean exemplified the University and community service she advocated. Over the years, she was president of the National Council of Camp Fire Girls and eight local organizations, sometimes twice, and a trustee, director, chair of the board, or founder of others. And she was the very model of a mid-century professional woman. She didn't do her own typing, let alone anyone else's; for a BU cookbook, she contributed a recipe from the College Club chef. At 44, she married BU Dean Atlee Percy (SMG'17, GSM'27), 24 years her senior, thus acquiring what she called lovingly "instant

family" without (although she didn't put it that way) having raised children. On campus she remained Dean Melville. "BU has only one Dean Percy," she would say demurely; she would no more have changed

her professional name than have baked cookies. "She opened my eyes to what women were doing before my time," says Caroline Chang (CAS'62). "A lot of us thought we were first."

Many of "her girls" went on to professional achievement: Lesueur is an associate administrator and director at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge. Chang was the long-time manager of the Boston region of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Civil Rights; after BU, Trustee Emerita and Overseer Hopkins earned another four degrees, retired as a manager and patent attorney with Polaroid, and



SEE THE COLLEGE CLUB OF BOSTON'S WEBSITE at www.thecollegeclubofboston.com.



"A lot of us thought we were first."

—Caroline Chang

promptly became deputy general counsel of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Hopkins and Chang are now retired after Melville's fashion, with arrays of community leadership roles.

Melville said she knew every young woman living on campus and every young man who kept one out past curfew. Founder and permanent chair of the Student-Faculty Assembly, she also knew all the student leaders, in a day when activities were firmly guided by staff or faculty advisors. "I gave her a lot of grief as a student, but we came to love each other," recalled the late Paul Liacos (CAS'50, LAW'52, Hon.'96), chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, one of many who put BU leadership experience to demonstrably good use. "Dean Melville loved us students and it showed in all her dealings," says Lou Lataif (SMG'61, Hon.'90), president of Ford Europe before becoming dean of the School of Management. "As needed, she was firm, never brash, always fair."

Through most of Melville's career, universities acted in loco parentis, particularly sheltering women students. Melville dutifully enforced dress codes and curfews as dictated by Presidents Marsh and Case, while privately lobbying for some loosening of the rules.

She spoke proudly of alumnae with professional lives but also of those with careers as wives and mothers. She was, above all, a realist: about how much she could advance the roles of her young women, her duties as the employee of conservative male presidents, and human nature.

Maintaining that balance took humor. Sometime in the fifties, when the Miss America Organization sought academic respectability, BU agreed to sponsor the student named Miss Massachusetts. Melville was her official companion, ironing her gowns (hardly appropriate to Melville's persona) and chaperoning her, even when she appeared with her father in public. It became one of Melville's favorite stories. "When the pageant was over, I tucked her into her boyfriend's car for the trip back from Atlantic City," she'd say blandly. "I was certain that was fine; they probably even stayed in separate hotels."

Then came the turbulent late sixties. "Elsbeth wasn't intimidated by changing times," says Chuck Wexler (CAS'72), who as president of Miles Standish dorm served on the University committee considering student demands to end parietals—dorm curfews and regulations on visitors of the opposite sex. "She had very strong feelings," he says, "but she was a great listener and saw changes were necessary. The students were all impressed by her insight. She made us more responsible. She was a leader among deans for change." Later, as president of CAS student government, he named someone to the Dean Search Committee: not another student, as expected, but Melville. "She had an impact on me forever," summarizes Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum.

After reaching the compulsory retirement age, she was the unpaid, nearly full-time advisor on alumni affairs to a succession of CAS deans for over a decade, and, until a year before her death, in 1997, she remained an extremely active alumna and charmingly relentless fundraiser, preparing for Reunion and Homecoming weekends with energy-boosting transfusions.

She is still a prominent BU figure: her portrait welcomes students to the Melville Lounge in Warren Towers; the University and all three long-standing BU women's organizations award annual Melville scholarships. Liacos called her "the soul of BU." The College Club's new Percy-Dauber Drawing Room reflects her legacy to Boston's women's organizations as well. ♦



Elsbeth Melville, dean of women in 1945–1970, was also a leader of all-campus and community activities and organizations. Photos: page 12, in cap and gown at the Phi Beta Kappa initiation, November 30, 1956; page 14, left, being recognized by the BU Club of Boston on Valentine's Day, 1963; right, speaking at her 90th birthday party, June 16, 1994; page 15, second from left, helping plan a fashion show named in her honor, November 18, 1957.

Extreme Dig

GEOMORPHOLOGIST

DAVID MARCHANT

UNEARTHS ANTARCTICA'S
GREEN PAST

BY JEREMY SCHWAB

Kate Swanger (GRS'09) examines a soil pit in Antarctica's Dry Valleys. Each year, Associate Professor David Marchant leads a team of Arts & Sciences students to brave the frigid Antarctic summer in search of clues about past climate change.
Photo courtesy of Kate Swanger



Associate Professor David Marchant

Photo courtesy of David Marchant

Frigid, bone-dry outcrops of rock surrounded by a sea of ice, the McMurdo Dry Valleys of Antarctica present one of the most inhospitable environments on Earth. Here, each Antarctic summer, Associate Professor of Earth Sciences David Marchant leads a team of Arts & Sciences students and other researchers from around the world to probe the secrets of Antarctica's distant past.

The Dry Valleys are an ideal place to search for clues to Earth's geologic history. Unlike the other 98 percent of Antarctica, the valleys are ice-free due to an almost total lack of precipitation. This means that their geological features remain exposed.

"When we are walking around Beacon Valley, we might as well be walking around Earth 14 million years ago," says Marchant. "Some boulders are still in the same positions that they were then."

Over the years, Marchant's National Science Foundation-funded research discoveries have added volumes to our knowledge of past climate conditions in Antarctica, earning him a global reputation in geomorphology. Until recently, however, he and his team were missing a crucial

Middle Miocene period found anywhere on Earth. Published last year in *PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences)*, the discovery opened a window onto one of the most dramatic climate shifts in Earth's history.

By measuring the level of argon in layers of volcanic ash deposited within, above, and below the fossil layer, the researchers determined that the fossils were between 14.1 and 13.9 million years old. (The argon in volcanic ash builds up at a known rate



Photo courtesy of David Marchant

Life at World's End

Working in the Dry Valleys during Antarctica's summer—from about mid-November to mid-February—is a test of endurance. David Marchant and his team spend long, grueling days sampling, digging, and hauling rocks and sediment back to camp for analysis. Their camp is little more than a few tents, a stove for cooking, and plenty of rope to tether the tents when the wind grows violent. Drained of nutrients, the weary researchers end each day with a huge, high-protein meal. No matter how much they eat, however, they still lose weight.

Despite the enduring cold (the average temperature during the most recent BU expedition was -5°F), isolation, near-constant daylight, and absence of heat and showers,

intrepid graduate students return year after year to participate in this scientific quest. Indeed, to many, the Spartan conditions are part of the draw.

Kate Swanger recalls the isolation and bare-bones lifestyle of her trips to the frozen continent. "I think one of the things that really struck me was being so far away from technology," she says. "We lived in tents, and the only connection to the world was the limited use of a satellite phone. It was really freeing to focus on the small group of people there and to see how tight that community could be."

"Everyone who goes to Antarctica has a longing to go back," says Marchant. "Maybe it is the intense quiet, the sense of being on a different planet."

"When we are walking around Beacon Valley, we might as well be walking around Earth 14 million years ago."

—David Marchant

piece from the puzzle of Antarctica's climate history: at what point did Antarctica become the barren, frozen region that it is today. The answer came in 2004 when Marchant and students Adam Lewis (GRS'05), Douglas Kowalewski (GRS'09), and Kate Swanger (GRS'09) unearthed a 50-centimeter-thick layer of fossils from an ancient lakebed in the Dry Valleys.

The fossilized mosses, algae, and insects are so well preserved that "when you first put the mosses in water, the leaves unfurl," Marchant says. In fact, they are among the best-preserved fossils from the



Photo courtesy of (Mitt.) Broth. ex. Paris.



Photo courtesy of David Marchant

"When you first put the mosses in water, the leaves unfurl."

—David Marchant

while other elements decay, and is used to calculate when the ash fell.) The volcanic activity during this period was greater than it is today, accounting for the deposition of multiple layers of ash. Above the fossil layers, the researchers found coarse rock deposits of the type left by cold-based, non-melting glaciers as exist in Antarctica today. The presence of these coarse deposits indicates that the region underwent a dramatic, permanent cooling following the deposition of the fossils. By comparing the temperatures at which the fossilized species are known to survive with the temperature required for cold-based glacier formation, the researchers estimated that atmospheric temperatures plummeted by at least 14°F. This cooling period, called the Middle Miocene Climate Transition, killed off plant and animal species and caused glaciers to advance to cover the continent. It was the second of three permanent global cooling shifts over the

Above: Stem and leaves of the semiaquatic moss Drepanocladus longifolius. Arts & Sciences researchers found remarkably well-preserved specimens of the moss in an ancient lakebed in the Dry Valleys. Sean Mackay (GRS'13) takes field notes.

past 65 million years that created the conditions for Earth's present-day climate. Of the three climate shifts, the Middle Miocene Climate Transition is the one that scientists knew least about regarding its timing and its effect on Antarctica.

Nobody can say for sure what caused this dramatic drop in temperature, but before the shift, the climate in the Dry Valleys was similar to present-day southern South America. Mosses and shrubs covered the landscape, which was pocked by alpine lakes fed by meltwater from temperate-style glaciers. Beetles and midges thrived in bogs, while dwarf southern beech trees may have grown at low elevations.

The upshot of Marchant's latest find is that we now know when interior Antarctica transitioned from a tundra ecosystem to

a polar desert. We also can be reasonably sure that the East Antarctic Ice Sheet, the largest ice mass on the planet, has remained permanently frozen for 13.9 million years. Some scientists have suggested that the ice may have receded during a warm interval roughly four million years ago. However, the geological evidence unearthed by Marchant's team and the exceedingly well-preserved nature of the fossils they found indicate that interior Antarctica remained, in the words of the research team, a "paralyzed landscape." This last finding suggests that the East Antarctic Ice Sheet, which is separate from the more vulnerable and smaller West Antarctic Ice Sheet, could remain frozen despite future global warming.



Out of This World

Marchant's sense of being on another planet while in Antarctica is not so far-fetched. With a dry, subfreezing climate for the past 13.9 million years, Antarctica has a lot in common with Mars. In recent years, Marchant, his students, and colleagues from Brown University have examined photos of the surface of Mars for telltale features of cold-based glaciation—features they've grown accustomed to while working in Antarctica. Funded by NASA and the National Science Foundation, their work is aimed at finding likely locations of past glaciers as well as present-day buried ice on the Red Planet.

The researchers have made some promising discoveries. Certain Antarctic landforms, such as the polygons formed by periodic contractions of the frozen ground, indicate the presence of shallow subsurface ice. The team has looked for similar landforms on Mars. Their work was rewarded last year when NASA's Phoenix Lander found ice just below the surface—right where Marchant and his colleagues said it should be.

"For the past 20 years, I thought I'd been focused solely on Antarctica and global climate change," says Marchant. "But now I realize that I've actually been working on Earth's best analog for Mars, and the similarities in surface processes and recent landscape development are striking. In fact, I am now learning more about Antarctica by studying images of the surface of Mars."

Polar Legacy

Marchant's worldwide reputation as a glacial geomorphologist attracts a dedicated group of graduate and undergraduate students to the Arts & Sciences Department of Earth Sciences each year. Many want to travel with him to Antarctica, where they can follow in the footsteps of polar explorers. Sean Mackay (GRS'13) is one of these. "The location itself holds a lot of significance as a place on Earth that is one of the most ancient and pristine," he says. "There is a little bit of the adventure left, which is pretty rare in this world."

Like many of Marchant's students, Mackay came to Boston University specifically to work under his tutelage. "I found BU because of this research," says Mackay. "They are bringing students into the field to do the cutting-edge work that matters."

Marchant first became interested in geology during a cross-country bike trip after high school. He snapped photos of dramatic landforms in Yellowstone National Park and later shared them with a geology class at Tufts University, where he was on a pre-med track. Marchant became so fascinated by exploring geologic processes that he switched to a geology major. He initially planned to study beach morphology, which might have brought him to far warmer climes than Antarctica's for his life's work. However, as a graduate student in geology at the University of Maine, Marchant was persuaded by his professor, noted Antarctic glaciologist George Denton, to travel with him on a research trip to Antarctica.

"The science was so fantastic," recalls Marchant. "We were doing groundbreaking research. It changed my life, in part because it was such a hard experience that it gave me a lot of confidence in my ability."

Marchant went on to earn his PhD at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and, in 1999, became only the fifth geologist since 1926 to receive the W. S. Bruce Medal from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Physical Society, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. First won



Photo courtesy of David Marchant

by James Wordie, the chief scientist for Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, the medal was given to Marchant for his work demonstrating the stability of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet.

"Everyone who goes to Antarctica has a longing to go back. Maybe it is the intense quiet, the sense of being on a different planet."

—David Marchant

What comes next for Marchant? His team plans to continue drilling into Antarctic glaciers to study the composition of the Earth's atmosphere between two and three million years ago. By doing so, they hope to find clues about what might have led to the most recent major global cooling shift. Marchant also wants to look for evidence of the formation of alpine glaciers in Antarctica in response to another major global cooling around 34 million years ago.



SEE DAVID MARCHANT'S WEB PAGE, with photos of his most recent Antarctic expedition, at www.bu.edu/dbin/es/index.php/people/faculty/david-r-marchant.

CHECK THE EARTH SCIENCES WEBSITE at www.bu.edu/es.

Marchant's enthusiasm for his research bubbles over into his family life. Asked whether after 20 years "on the ice" he plans to end his yearly pilgrimage, he says he can't stop "until I get the chance to show my kids this wonderful place." Marchant's son, Taylor, is seven and his daughter, Olivia, is four. Their proud father jokes that despite their young ages they "already know about the Mid-Miocene Climate Transition. What have I done?" For BU students, Marchant's dedication to his work means many more seasons searching for climate treasures in the coldest, driest, and windiest place on Earth. ♦

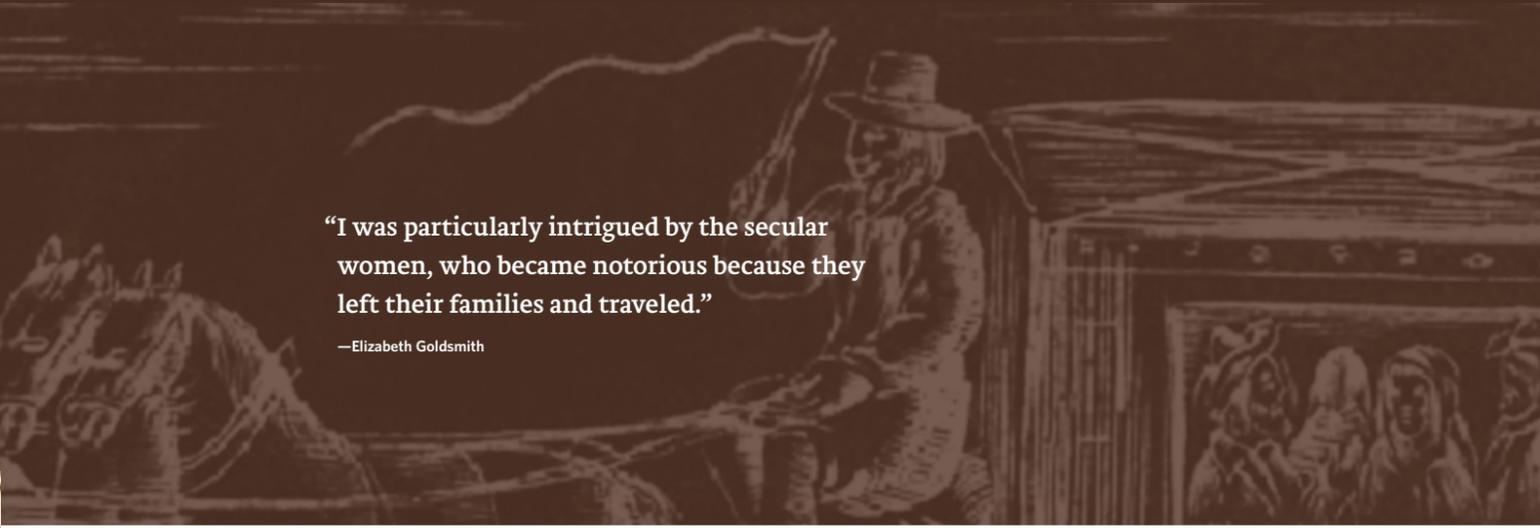
Douglas Kowalewski (GRS'09) uses a shallow-seismic reflection technique (striking the ground to create vibrations that help "map" what is underground) to determine the depth of debris-covered glacier ice in the Dry Valleys.

BY SHERYL FLATOW

French Sisters



de parler ma
allurer contes
nest si faux
divertissement
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“I was particularly intrigued by the secular women, who became notorious because they left their families and traveled.”

—Elizabeth Goldsmith

It sounds like a plot dreamed up by a novelist with a vivid imagination. Two sisters in 17th-century Europe leave their aristocratic husbands—one a Roman prince and the other a French religious zealot—and abandon their families. They spend their lives traveling, trying to develop a network that will help sustain them. Along the way, there are kidnapping plots, stalking, and other forms of danger.

But it's all true. Hortense and Marie Mancini are the central figures in a book currently being written by Elizabeth Goldsmith, professor of French and academic affairs director at International Programs. Goldsmith first wrote about the sisters in 2001 in *Publishing Women's Life Stories in France, 1647-1720*, which examines the memoirs of six 17th-century women—three religious, three secular—and how they came to be published.

“I was particularly intrigued by the secular women, who became notorious because they left their families and traveled,” she says. “They wrote to defend their reputations. I started looking more into Hortense and Marie Mancini, trying to figure out how they traveled, how they got around.”

The Mancini sisters had been brought up in the court of Louis XIV—Marie was the Sun King's first mistress—and for different reasons and at different times, both walked out on unhappy marriages, even though it meant leaving behind their children.



SEE PROFESSOR ELIZABETH GOLDSMITH'S BIO at www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring09/goldsmith.

“I'm interested in how women's travel relates to the idea of taking risks and the usefulness of taking risks,” says Goldsmith.

“I also wanted to know why women on the road were so fascinating to everybody. The Mancini sisters were early media figures. Their travels were documented in news gazettes and in correspondence, in addition to their own memoirs.”

Eager to learn more about their experiences, Goldsmith searched the family archives of Prince Colonna, Marie's husband, in Subiaco, Italy. There, she says, “I found an incredible number of letters and documents that tracked her movements and the movements of her sister.”

Left: Hortense Mancini (top) and her sister Marie (bottom) gained notoriety in the 17th century for abandoning their families in favor of life on the road. Photo at right: Professor Elizabeth Goldsmith

Prior to researching *Life Stories*, she was unsure how the women got from place to place. Goldsmith's work reveals that the sisters' seemingly arbitrary paths were the result of an early and often imperfect form of public transportation—the postal system. “In the late 17th century, there were regularly scheduled carriages that carried mail all over Europe,” Goldsmith says, “and that's what made it possible for the women to travel the way they did. When I first traced their travels, their routes didn't make any sense to me. Then I realized they were connecting with postal coaches, and they weren't necessarily sure where the coaches would lead them.”

Goldsmith finds the stories of these women invigorating. “People tend to assume that women from this period weren't able to operate freely at all,” she says. “And despite the fact that these women had a very difficult time on the road, there's a kind of exuberance to their stories that I find fascinating and uplifting. They really made something of their lives and their educations in deciding to write about themselves and defend themselves and go public with their stories.”

She hopes that historical figures like the Mancinis can help readers see the eddies and whirls in history's flow. “People are surprised to learn that progress in the area of women's independence does not move steadily from this dark period of the past toward this bright and open period of modernity. There are different moments in history when you see examples of women being able to defy convention in interesting ways.” ♦

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ON THE RIGHT TRACK



FROM HOUSTON TO BOSTON AND BACK,
DAVID MUNDY HAS LEARNED

THE MECHANICS OF MANAGEMENT AND MOTOR SPORTS

BY PATRICK L. KENNEDY

DAVID MUNDY waited to speak. The La Porte–Bayshore (Texas) Chamber of Commerce was naming his firm the 2006 Company of the Year. Introducing Mundy, the emcee concluded: “David graduated from Boston University in 1996 and moved back to Texas to begin his education.”

“That line got a big laugh,” recalls Mundy (CAS’96), an industrial-services contractor and semipro race car driver/owner. “But in a lot of ways, your education continues every day. And when you quit learning, you’re dead.”

Now, Mundy, president of the Houston-based Mundy Companies, hopes to bring to BU the lessons he’s picked up over the last dozen years, whether in the

boardroom, on the job site, or even behind the wheel. Dean Virginia Sapiro has named him to the College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Advisory Board.

Mundy enjoyed his time in Boston, he says, despite the climate. “Locals told me, ‘Don’t worry, we haven’t had a real winter in yeeeahh,’” he recounts. Cue the Blizzard of ’93, freshman year. “I thought I’d died and gone to hell.”

At CAS, he double-majored in philosophy and history, and is still a big reader of history. “One thing I really admired about BU at the time, and still do, is that in that kind of department, you don’t have to toe a particular line of thought.”

During the summers, Mundy cut his teeth on industrial work, including in chemical plants and oil refineries in Texas. “My first job was as a helper in a vessel fabrication shop,” he remembers. “I found that I liked the business and I liked the people.”

After graduation, Mundy went to work in human resources for the Mundy Companies. Founded by his grandfather, A.J. Mundy, the business provides and manages temporary and permanent workers for industrial operations. Across the country, thousands of Mundy employees fill mechanical maintenance, small capital project, and operations support needs, such as packaging, railroad loading, warehouse, security, and janitorial work.

In the family’s long-term plan, Mundy and his now-business partner were to eventually take over the company from their father and uncle (A.J.’s sons), who had begun easing into retirement. “Then my father was diagnosed with terminal cancer,” Mundy says. “So a seven-year plan was condensed into about twelve months.” After his father’s death in 2002, the young managers had to take charge.

The business has not only thrived but expanded in the years since. Mundy deflects credit. “We really benefited in that we inherited an absolutely stellar team here, and that makes a huge difference.”

Mundy also inherited a passion for auto racing. An open-wheel (similar to Indy) car driver, he is co-owner of Mundill, one of the top teams in the Star Mazda Championship circuit, which he likens to “double-A baseball, but for racing.”

“I’ve been around it all my life,” he explains. “My dad raced dirt bikes when I was a kid, my uncle raced dragsters, and I hung around a motorcycle shop.”

Nowadays, he races only “on occasion,” Mundy says. He and his wife “have three children under the age of four, with a fourth on the way,” meaning the lure of high speeds “fades a bit,” he admits.

Threaded through Mundy’s work and hobbies are not only a fascination with the mechanical but a love of problem-solving, which he intends to turn toward his new role at CAS. As development officer Karen Fung explains it, the 15-member Leadership Advisory Board is “a high-level, thoughtful, committed group of people outside the

Long an active alum, David Mundy is a member of the new Leadership Advisory Board at CAS.

academy with whom Dean Sapiro can consult to bounce ideas around, discuss situations, and seek real-world opinions and counsel.”

“I’m excited to think about the challenges the College is going to face,” says Mundy. “BU is a wonderful, special place.” ♦

good times and high honors

ARTS & SCIENCES ALUMS REUNITE *and* PAY TRIBUTE to AWARD WINNERS

Alumni enjoyed perfect fall weather when they gathered for Boston University's Reunion and Alumni Weekend, October 24–26. CAS (and former CLA) and GRS alums of all ages reconnected with classmates and faculty members at events that included alumni college classes, an Oktoberfest celebration, and a Young Alumni Community Service Project and BU Beach Bash. Adding to the weekend's good spirits, the men's ice hockey team routed the University of Michigan, 7–2.



Laura Deaton (CAS'86) is founder of Full Glass, a management, fundraising, marketing, and leadership consulting firm for nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, located in Port St. Joe, Florida. Full Glass provides services to organizations such as the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Charleston Breast Center, the YWCA of Greater Charleston, and the Tallahassee Animal Shelter Foundation. Deaton was also the executive director of a San Francisco-area Big Brothers-Big Sisters agency. She was presented with her award by John Connery (CAS'69).



Matthew B. Smith (CAS'70, GSM'72) is managing director of investments for Connecticut Innovations, Inc., which provides strategic capital and operational insight for emerging companies in energy, biotechnology, information technology, and photonics. Judith Hurwitz (CAS'73, COM'75) presented his award. Smith has been involved with cutting-edge development of health care organizations, including HMOs, cancer centers, and medical technology start-up companies. At BU, he helped found and promote a biotechnology affinity group, while mentoring and providing internships for students.



Margarita M. Muñoz (CAS'72) is principal of Rafael Hernández School, a bilingual school in Boston that places equal emphasis on Spanish and English literacy. Her presenter was Olive Lesueur (CAS'66, MET'85). In 2001, the Hernández School was one of 10 Massachusetts schools recognized for improved MCAS scores and was named as one of Boston's 23 Effective Practices Schools. Muñoz's many awards include selection as one of the "100 Outstanding Women in Massachusetts" by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union.



Alicia Cannon Mullen (CAS'83) is founder of Washing Pond Ventures, a Chicago-based early-stage venture fund that works with IT-enabled businesses. *LANTIMES* magazine named her as one of the "Top 100 Women in Computing." As the senior vice president of management information systems for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Mullen implemented use of leading-edge handheld wireless devices, which transformed the way business is conducted on the trading floor. At BU, she was the first woman to graduate from the Department of Computer Science, blazing the trail for the many women computer science majors who have followed. Mullen recently joined the CAS Leadership Advisory Board. James Argeros (CAS'51) presented her award.

More than 70 guests attended the CAS/GRS Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on Friday to honor four distinguished alumni for their outstanding contributions to profession, community, and Alma Mater. The awards were presented by former Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Each year, we celebrate Arts & Sciences alumni who have distinguished themselves in service to the community, their profession, or their Alma Mater. In the spring, we will begin to take nominations for the 2009 awardees who will be honored on October 23. Please look for the e-mail announcing the start of the nominating process or go to www.bu.edu/cas/alumni/. If BU does not have your e-mail address, you can submit it at www.bu.edu/alumni/services/address/.

ARTS & SCIENCES ALUMS IN CHARGE

In 2008, two Arts & Sciences alums were appointed to the Boston University Boards of Trustees and Overseers, respectively. Stephen R. Karp (CAS'63), founder and chairman of New England Development, Inc., Newton, Massachusetts, became a trustee in September, while Shamim A. Dahod (CGS'76, CAS'78, MED'87), a physician with Chelmsford Primary Care in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, became an overseer in April.

Other Arts & Sciences alumni serving on the University's boards are:

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William Thomas Logan Jr. (CAS'49) of Harpswell, Maine, passed away. His daughter, Heather Logan Weiler, writes, "It is with great sadness I am writing to let you know that my father, one of your distinguished alumni, has passed away. He was, as you are aware, a Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Gamma Mu society member. He was a supporter of Boston University throughout his lifetime. His obituary appeared in the *Portland Press Herald* on July 5, 2008. He is survived by my mother, **Margaret Miller Logan (PAL'48)**."

George R. Stockbridge (CAS'53, GRS'54; CLA Class President) of Old Greenwich, Conn., writes, "I am still active in my printing/packaging paper brokerage business, at least part-time, and do substitute teaching in the Greenwich middle and high schools. Carol and I moved one mile away to a smaller home last year, still in our beloved Old Greenwich community. Would like to hear from colleagues at stockint@aol.com."

Tom O'Connell (SED'60, GRS'61) of Dennisport, Mass., was invited by Barnes & Noble in Hyannis to present his new memoir, *Bugging Out: An Army Memoir (1954)*, at a special Cape Cod Writers' Night. In early 2007, his memoir was selected by the *Jordan Rich Show* for its Winter 2008 Book List at WBZ Radio Boston. Tom describes *Bugging Out* as "the misadventures of a military misfit."

Ronald (Courtemanche) Court (CAS'65) of Essex Junction, Vt., was re-elected president and chief executive officer of the Booker T. Washington Society, a national nonprofit he co-founded to celebrate the legacy of Booker T. Washington and help students become leaders with character and integrity. See: www.BTWSociety.org. E-mail Ronald at court@BTWSociety.org.

James F. Kaiser (CAS'68) of Norwood, Mass., has recently returned from Korea, where he taught coordinated sciences at The International School of Busan. The previous year, he was a member of the faculty at The International School of Penang-Uplands in Malaysia, where he taught physics and general science. After teaching science in Massachusetts for 35 years, he has joined the international circuit, substituting as needed in various international schools and enjoying visiting and exploring foreign countries.

Karen Morris (CAS'72) of Belmont, Mass., recently published a book on beading. A former associate editor at *Threads* magazine, Morris says her new book grew out of her experiences working at a bead store and answering questions, teaching classes, and learning

everything she could about beads and beading techniques. She writes, "Is there a correlation between mathematics and beadwork? Definitely. In a woven piece, the beads are like pixels." Check out her website at www.BeadingsAnswerBook.com. Karen's first book, published in 2001 by the Taunton Press, was *Sewing Lingerie That Fits: Stylish Underwear, Sleepwear and Loungewear for Everyday Living*. E-mail Karen at kmorris88@mac.com.

Raymond L. McDonald (CLA'73) of Santa Barbara, Calif., became the executive director of the Santa Barbara County California Workforce Investment Board (WIB) on July 7, 2008. He is one of only 49 WIB directors in California, responsible for the policy development and implementation of workforce programs for job seekers and businesses. In addition to his position with the Santa Barbara County WIB, McDonald serves on the Board of Directors of the California Workforce Association and on the statewide Labor Market Information Advisory Group. Prior to moving to his new position, he was employed by the San Jose/Silicon Valley Workforce Investment Board, work2future, as the manager for grants and development, after serving as the one-stop system manager. McDonald also worked for the State of California in Sacramento as a program manager and as the director of workforce services for the Solano County WIB.

Mark Lane (CAS'76, GRS'79) of Ormond Beach, Fla., is metro columnist for *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*. A book of his columns, *Sandspurs: Notes from a Coastal Columnist*, was published in September by University Press of Florida. The pieces range from state politics, dashboard sociology, local color, and NASCAR commentary to Darwinian gardening advice and explorations of The Great Florida Myth. The book is part of the Florida History and Culture series. E-mail Mark at MR.Lane@gmail.com.

Keith Armstrong (CAS'80) of Fairfax, Calif., co-authored *Courage After Fire* (Ulysses Press) with Suzanne Best and Paula Domenici. *Courage After Fire* is a self-help book written for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and their loved ones. The book offers information and tips for family members and close friends—those who have kept things going on the home front and waited anxiously for their veteran's return. It is also for doctors, counselors, employers, coworkers, and others who may be asked to help with a veteran's transition. Keith is a licensed social worker. E-mail Keith at keith.armstrong@couraageafterfire.com.

Daramana Gata (CAS'82, ENG'85) of Plano, Tex., writes, "After a four-year term at AT&T Bell Labs, I have been working at Texas Instruments for the past 19 years. There, I am the section manager of the Portable Audio Converters Design group in Dallas. My circuit designs have been a part of over \$1 billion of generated revenue. I hold seven patents."



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAS/GRS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS, visit: www.bu.edu/cas.

FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT BU AT LARGE on *Bostonia's* exciting new website at www.bu.edu/bostonia.

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR ALUMS IN YOUR AREA and how to become more involved in the BU community at www.bu.edu/alumni.

cas/grs alumni association

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



Greetings from the Arts & Sciences Alumni Association! As those of you who were able to attend Reunion and Alumni Weekend 2008 in October know, it provided a wonderful opportunity for all BU alumni to reunite with classmates and faculty. Changing Reunion to a fall weekend enables all alums to enjoy BU the way we remember it: bustling with students and faculty and buzzing with energy.

Next year's Reunion and Alumni Weekend is planned for Friday, October 23 through Sunday, October 25. Save the date!

Meeting this year's award recipients at the CAS/GRS Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner was a privilege. The unique and fascinating stories that these alumni shared highlighted how their experience as Arts & Sciences students at Boston University enabled them to pursue such a high level of success in their professions, as well as in their communities.

Read about Laura Deaton (CAS'86), Alicia Cannon Mullen (CAS'83), Margarita M. Muñiz (CAS'72), and Matthew B. Smith (CAS'70, GSM'72) on page 26. They represent the strength of the Arts & Sciences alumni community, and the Alumni Association is proud to recognize their tremendous accomplishments.

The Association is also very enthusiastic about the Discoveries learning and lecture series, now in its second year. The events have wonderfully demonstrated the depth and breadth of teaching and research at BU. I invite you to attend the panel discussion on April 16, "The Bailout, Six Months Later: Where Are We, and What Lies Ahead?" Please see www.bu.edu/alumni/events for more details, when available. Except for perhaps a BU men's hockey win, nothing can compete with the excitement of a room filled with BU alumni gathered to hear from some of the University's best faculty minds.

Han Han (CAS'96)

Han Han is an information technology project manager at Harvard Business School.

class notes continued

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.

Aaron Kampfe (CAS'90) and **David Heinzen (CFA'89)** of Red Lodge, Mont., announce the birth of their son, Amos Olivier Kampfe, on February 6, 2008. Aaron owns and operates two adventure travel companies—OutWest Global Adventures and Mytineraries, Inc. David is the principal cellist for the Billings Symphony and teaches in a private cello studio. They live in Red Lodge, Mont., a ski resort town near Yellowstone National Park. E-mail Aaron at aaron@mytineraries.com.

Scott Monty (CAS'92, GSM'96, MED'96) of Dearborn, Mich., writes, "After two years of writing the Social Media Marketing Blog, an internationally recognized site, and a year with crayon, LLC, a strategic advisory consultancy in the digital marketing field, I was recruited by Ford Motor Company to head global social media efforts. My responsibilities include setting a corporate social media strategy, helping many departments—from IT to Customer Service, Product Development to Marketing, Communications to HR—understand the new world of digital communications and connecting Ford with customers in new and unique ways." E-mail Scott at scott@scottmonty.com.

Michael Maguire (CAS'93) and **Jill (Coletta) Maguire (COM'93)** of West Roxbury, Mass., announce the birth of their second child, Meghan Elizabeth, on July 16, 2008. They note that two-year-old Alexander couldn't be happier. Contact them at MickTheTailor@rcn.com or astrea@rcn.com, respectively.

James Lavino (CGS'93, CAS'95) of London, England, released the soundtrack album to *Woodpecker*, a film by director (and fellow BU alumnus **Alex Karpovsky, UNI'97**). The *Woodpecker* album, which is available on iTunes, Amazon MP3, and other online stores, is performed by James, Colin Greenwood (from the band Radiohead), and Lee & Tyler Sargent (from the band Clap Your Hands Say Yeah). James also was commissioned to write a choral piece for the choir of Westminster Abbey. You can learn more about his work by visiting his website: www.jameslavino.com. E-mail James at music@jameslavino.com.

Hannah (Goldberg) Venit (CAS'96) of Cheltenham, Pa., and Kyle Venit announce the birth of their son, Daniel Matthew Venit, on November 28, 2007. Hannah can be contacted at Shark362@aol.com.

Christine (Soo) Dahlquist (CAS'98) of New York, N.Y., married **Tor-Björn Dahlquist (CGS'96, MET'99)** on October 11, 2008, in New York, N.Y. **Colleen Woods Heikka (COM'98)** was in attendance. Tor-Björn is an insurance analyst for the Insurance Services Office in New Jersey and Christine is a director of finance for Nickelodeon in New York.

Dana (Grieco) Gulino (CAS'98) of Sparta, N.J., and Greg Gulino are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Leah Patricia, on March 26, 2008. Leah is named after Dana's mother, Patricia Grieco, who passed away suddenly on November 19, 2007. Dana says she can't wait to pack Leah up and ship her to BU in 18 years. E-mail Dana at danaann1023@yahoo.com.

Sara (Kustron) Siskavich (CAS'99, GRS'01) of Amherst, N.H., and Brad Siskavich were married on September 26, 2008, in the bride's hometown of Milford, N.H. The maid of honor was **Brenda Berasi (CAS'99, GRS'03)**. **Kristin Foord (GRS'01)** was also a bridesmaid. In June of 2008, the couple relocated from the Boston area to their new home in Amherst, N.H. They would love to hear from old Boston friends. E-mail Sara at sarakustron@gmail.com.

Valiant Richey (CAS'00, GRS'00) and **Sarah (Haines) Richey (COM'00)** of Seattle, Wash., were married on August 9, 2008. **Benjamin Gardiner (MET'98)** served as best man and **Colleen Scott (ENG'98)** was in attendance. Val is a deputy prosecutor for King County and Sarah is a brand manager for Wizards of the Coast, a Hasbro subsidiary.

Jessie (Lemovitz) Lee (CAS'01) and Eric Lee of Shrewsbury, Mass., welcomed their first child, Justin Connor Lee, on July 26, 2008. He was born at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, Mass.

Kristan (Donahue) Howard (CAS'02) of Philadelphia, Pa., and Patrick Howard were married on June 6, 2008, in Philadelphia. **Lisa Salzone (CAS'02, SED'03)** was a member of the bridal party. Also attending the wedding was **Annie Pappas (CAS'02)**. Kristan and Patrick are both attorneys. E-mail Kristan at kdonahue17@hotmail.com.

Audrey (Mahler) Reese (CAS'02, SED'03) and **Nicholas Reese (CAS'02)** are in Zambia working with FORGE, a nonprofit organization with a mission to build upon the capacity of African refugees to cultivate empowered communities and create the conditions for peace and prosperity in their countries. Audrey is working with the FORGE Post-Secondary Scholarship Fund to provide the structure and means for exceptional refugee students to attend university, obtain a degree, and outfit themselves with the qualifications necessary to find a job upon their return to their home countries.



Arts & Sciences administrators and BU Marine Program (BUMP) faculty and staff pose with Sea Education Association (SEA) personnel during a tour of the Corwith Cramer in summer 2008. The 134-foot steel brigantine sailed last fall as the research vessel for a BUMP/SEA Marine Semester course, Tropical Oceanography of the Caribbean Sea. Pictured, from left, are CAS Senior Associate Dean Susan Jackson, Biology Chair Geoffrey Cooper, SEA Academic Dean Paul Joyce, Arts & Sciences Dean Virginia Sapiro, BUMP Program Manager Jennifer Ryan, SEA President John Bullard, Rachel Scudder (GRS'09,'13), BUMP Director Rick Murray, SEA faculty member Gary Jaroslow, and SEA Enrollment Dean Glen Thomas.

Nick is working at the Meheba Refugee Settlement on the Adult Skills Project, Women's Center, Refugee Advocacy Initiative, and Peace Education and Computer Training Center. He will soon move into the camp operations coordinator position. E-mail Audrey at areese@forgenow.org.

Sally Bessee (CAS'03) of Quincy, Mass., married **Nathan Penney (CAS'03)** on October 4, 2008, in New Britain, Conn. Attendees and wedding participants included BU alums **Brandi (Simpson) Schulze (CAS'03)**, **Jeff Schulze (CAS'03, MED'07)**, and **Dave Huang (CAS'05, SED'07)**, and **Rodrigo Pereyra (CAS'05)**. E-mail Sally at sbessee@alum.bu.edu.

Laura Cali (CAS'03) of San Francisco, Calif., recently attained fellowship in the Casualty Actuarial Society and is working as a consulting actuary for the Tillinghast insurance consulting business of Towers Perrin. E-mail Laura at lcali@alum.bu.edu.

Shara Eisenberger (CAS'03) of Riverdale, N.Y., was named one of the 30 under-30 top executives in the music industry by *Billboard Magazine*. Shara is currently the associate director of music resources for EMI Music Publishing in New York, N.Y.

Shanna Spinello (CAS'03) of New York, N.Y., is the production stage manager for the off-Broadway show *The Fantasticks*, the longest-running musical in the world. The production is at the Snapple Theater Center in New York City's Times Square.

Will Titus (CAS'05) married **Becca Sniderman (CAS'04)** on May 31, 2008, at Old Orchard Beach in Maine. BU alumni attending or taking part in the wedding included **Tim Cook (CAS'05)**, **Sarah Fogley Cook (CAS'05)**, **Matt Brookover (CAS'04)**, **Mary Aquino (COM'05)**, **Bobbie Bencio (COM'05)**, **Rebecca Bourke (CAS'05, SED'07)**, and **Rodrigo Pereyra (CAS'05)**.

Rebekah Lee Conway Roulier (CAS'06) of Wakefield, Mass., was married to Gavin Roulier on May 24, 2008, followed by a reception at Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough, N.H. Many friends and family were present, including a few BU alumnae. Rebekah writes, "Gavin and I met on eHarmony and can't wait to spend the rest of our lives together!" BU alums attending or taking part in the wedding included **Meghann Cook (COM'06)**, **Diana Kearney (CAS'06)**, **Elizabeth Lima (SAR'07)**, and **Rebecca Brady (CAS'10)**. E-mail Rebekah at rebekahconwayroulier@gmail.com.

Hyan Kim (CAS'07) of Saratoga, Calif., was made account executive at the interactive agency AKQA's headquarters in San Francisco, Calif. Her clients include Xbox and Nike. She has been with the agency since February of 2007. E-mail her at hyan.kim@akqa.com.

Eleni Belisonzi (CAS'08) is working as a victim witness advocate at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

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Punch Line

BY JEREMY SCHWAB

At the heart of Jamie Kaler's comedy is a fascination with life's blunders and bizarre moments. A stand-up comic and actor who plays Mike Callahan in the TBS sitcom *My Boys*, Kaler (CAS'87) says he likes to make people laugh, often at his own expense.

"I focus a lot on the dumb things that happen to me every day," he said during a recent trip to Boston. "To tell a joke and then someone laughs—it's the ultimate drug. I'm sometimes surprised I can make a living at it."

On a Friday evening in September, Kaler brought his routine before a packed crowd of undergraduates in the basement of the George Sherman Union, part of BU's Laugh Out Loud Comedy Series. He regaled the crowd with bawdy tales of romantic mishaps, BU misadventures, and insights into everything from the lottery to chimpanzees. He even made light of the age gap separating him from his audience members: "I'm at the age where I need to tell a woman I've been divorced, just so she thinks I'm capable of committing." Following the show, Kaler joked with fans and friends, clearly in his element.

While success may be coming more easily for Kaler now, it took him years to reach this high point. When he first decided he wanted to become an actor, he was living in California, working as a bartender, after five years in the Navy. One day, he auditioned for a Sea World commercial and got the part. That first experience—easy money and a chance to perform for an audience—was enough to get him hooked.

He soon discovered, however, that landing a part is not always so easy. For a while, he made commercials whenever he could. "I went to so many auditions and got rejected so many times," he reflects. "I think one of my best skills is that anytime I do fail, I learn from it. Each year, it's gotten better." Soon, Kaler started to get appearances on TV shows like *Will & Grace* and *The King of Queens*. He also got parts in movies, including *The Family Stone* and *Spanglish*, and performed in a few plays.

"The last couple of years, it's been amazing for me," he says. "You finally reach the point where you get to do what you want to do. But I still kind of feel as if I am pulling the wool over someone's eyes whenever I get a spot."

The success of *My Boys*, a sitcom about a tomboy sportscaster and her group of guy pals, may have surprised some people, but not Kaler. "I knew right away that the show was going to go," he recalls. "The chemistry's amazing on the show. We were hanging out from day one. We have a ball shooting it."

Now, *My Boys* is in its third season, and Kaler is making the most of his breakthrough success. He writes a popular *My Boys* blog and is touring the country to broaden the fan base for his stand-up show. He even landed a spot in the traveling comedy show "Blue Collar Comedy: The Next Generation."

"To tell a joke and then someone laughs—it's the ultimate drug."

Acting was not Kaler's original career plan. He says that when he was a student at CAS, he had no idea he would wind up as an actor and comedian. He wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and join the Navy. He credits BU with continuing his personal development and introducing him to a broader world. Arriving on an ROTC scholarship, he was immediately struck by the energy on campus and the opportunity to meet all sorts of people.

"One thing I liked about the University was it's in a big city," says the New Hampshire native. "You didn't need to be in a frat; you were in the city of Boston. There were people of all different backgrounds, and you were just thrown in together."

The chance to interact with a wide range of people is part of what keeps stand-up comedy interesting to Kaler. He loves meeting fans, and can't imagine why anyone would be shy about approaching him in a crowd. "I went to Fenway Park last night and got recognized by a whole boatload of guys," he said during his most recent swing through Boston. "I am always amused by people who come up to me and say, 'I'm so sorry for intruding.' I'm glad people are excited about the show. If they weren't, I'd be back to bartending." ♦

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