



Northeastern University

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# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE UNIVERSITY

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March 2005 • Volume 30, No. 4



## Features

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**Huskiana**

## Cover Story



### Making the Grade in Room 33G

*In this Calculus class, the focus is on deriving equality.*

By Charles Fountain  
Photography by Tracy Powell

This is a 1960s Civil Rights story.

That might not be apparent, for the setting is not Birmingham or Selma, but Boston in the here and now.

The challenges are not segregated lunchrooms or voter registration. They are determining the primary equation, or finding the derivative, then factoring it out.

Mastering high school calculus might seem far removed from the fight for racial equality. Yet an undeniable continuum runs from the marches and demonstrations of the mid-century South to the secondary classrooms of new-century Massachusetts. At Northeastern, an associate mathematics professor and social activist has become a central strand in this thread. His mission: Bringing advanced mathematics into the inner city.

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Mastering high school calculus might seem far removed from the fight for racial equality. Yet an undeniable continuum runs from the marches and demonstrations of the mid-century South to the secondary classrooms of new-century Massachusetts. At Northeastern, an associate mathematics professor and social activist has become a central strand in this thread. His mission: Bringing advanced mathematics into the inner city.

In following this singular calling, Robert Case has found a happy and fulfilling confluence of his profession and his values.

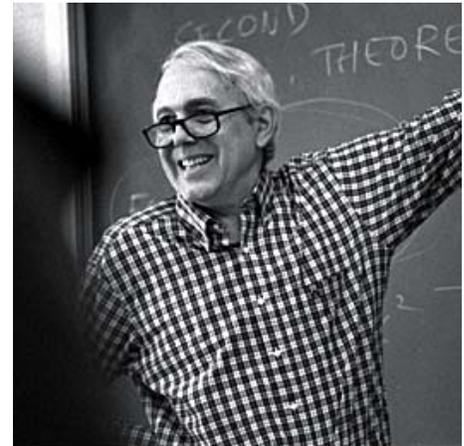
Room 33G in Roxbury's John D. O'Bryant High School of Mathematics and Science has the feel of thousands of other classrooms across the United States.

The students are standard-issue American teen. They slouch into class in every shade of denim, in athletic jerseys and hooded sweats from Old Navy, AE, and Abercrombie. Their shoes are by Chuck Taylor, Nike, and Timberland; their backpacks by North Face and JanSport. Their faces are the faces of the new Boston: Asian, Latino, African-American, and white.

The classroom has Formica-topped tables, hard plastic chairs, and a scuffed linoleum floor. Institutional-beige walls are dotted with student papers and posters celebrating pi and the Great Women of Mathematics. The pencil sharpener in the corner has no cover; the shavings fall to the table, then drip onto the floor.

But however bland the decor, a high school classroom is ultimately a place to dream of the world beyond. And that world seems closer in Room 33G than it might at other high schools. For the windows here on the school's east side reveal a grand, sweeping panorama of the Boston skyline.

It's easy to dream big dreams against such a backdrop. The sun glistens off the downtown towers where Layla Ramirez, captain of the girls' basketball team, might one day work as a lawyer. Unseen beyond the high-



rises is the federal courthouse, where Rami Awag might be stationed for the FBI. The South End's rooftops give way to the Prudential and the Hancock, which might hold the offices of Yun Lai, who plans to study international business at Bentley, Babson, or Boston University.

In the distance behind the Pru, an American flag flies above the Back Bay, where the boutiques of Newbury Street might serve as home to interior designer Brenda Leong. Out of sight just to the west are the Longwood Avenue hospitals, where Katherine Aime might work as a nurse. The city's ever-changing features might be redrawn and shaped by engineers Viet Le, Lucas Shi, or Morales Hendricks.

And Gregory Benoit, the football captain who looks like a young Duke Ellington-if Duke Ellington had had Allen Iverson cornrows-might one day look out upon this same view, from the front of this same classroom, for he is entertaining thoughts of becoming a math teacher.

Whatever the dream, and however it evolves over the college years ahead, what is happening in this Advanced Placement calculus class will definitely enhance these students' prospects, says calculus evangelist Bob Case.

"Studies have shown that mathematics is a kind of bellwether course," he explains. "People with strong mathematics have a better chance of getting into college and succeeding in college. This is sort of a marker for success-mathematics is a symbol for everything else in education."

And yet, a decade ago, these kids might not have had the opportunity to gain a strong math proficiency, either at O'Bryant or at most other Boston high schools. Because high-level mathematics virtually did not exist in the American inner city.

Case estimates that only 40 percent of the nation's inner-city high schools offered a calculus course in 1992. Boston's stats were even worse. Outside of the exam schools-Boston Latin, Latin Academy, and O'Bryant-there were almost no calculus classes to be found.

"Now, a school like Brookline or Duxbury, or any other suburban school, would collapse if they said, 'We're not going to have a calculus course,'" says Case. "The parents would be down there in five minutes. But the urban situation in the United States had gotten to a point where a huge percentage of the inner-city schools didn't have a course that was taken for granted in suburban schools."

So he set out to bring calculus to the Boston schools that didn't have it, and to strengthen the calculus and pre-calculus curriculum at the schools-like O'Bryant-where it needed shoring up.

Case has a gentle, avuncular, professorial manner, a Dale Carnegie-meets-Winston Churchill way of instructing, inspiring, and recruiting to a cause, delivered via impossible-to-diagram but easy-to-follow sentences. In addition to an infectious enthusiasm, he's got a missionary's zeal for the issues he embraces-appropriate, perhaps, for a man who spent twenty years as a Benedictine monk.

He's always been a mathematics professor. He holds a doctorate in mathematics from Yeshiva University, and he served as chairman of the math department at St. Anselm's College before coming to Northeastern in 1970.

Yet over his seventy-two years, Case has never strayed far from the frontlines of the fight for social justice. As a young seminarian and priest, he marched for civil rights, and against the Vietnam War and nuclear power. He fought urban renewal and the casting aside of people and neighborhoods in the name of progress.

Today, the cause is calculus in the inner city. Case sees it not as a different and distinct crusade, but rather as a new chapter in a very old fight.

"There's a threshold here that's very similar [to the Civil Rights movement]," he says, "in terms of people doing things and having access to resources they've never had before. It's a piece of the same story.

"I think you can reach back to any decade of the last several," he says, "and find some element that has something to do with why I'm doing what I'm doing right now. But the most recent piece of it probably began in the late eighties when Bob Moses, who was a key figure in the Civil Rights movement-he worked for voter registration in Mississippi-began to speak about mathematics as the new civil rights frontier."

Moses understood, Case says, that even though black Americans had won equal rights under the law, "without access to an education and without access to a strong curriculum, the population would be left without the equality in society that it needed. There were whole populations that had been excluded from this kind of education."

As a remedy, Moses founded the Algebra Project, a program that brings college-preparatory mathematics to underserved kids. Initially funded by a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant in 1982, the program today has a budget of more than \$2 million, and reaches an estimated 10,000 mostly minority students in rural and inner-city school systems.

Inspired by what Moses had done, Case set out in 1992 to create a calculus version of the Algebra Project. Through a small grant from the National Science Foundation, he began bringing some of Boston's best high-school students to Northeastern for a course in pre-calculus.

But he quickly came to believe that isolating the best students was not the best answer. "I realized the key was not to have kids come on campus to take courses they weren't getting in their high schools," Case says. "The key was to help the high school create the course in the high school, which would thereby benefit many more students."

As a result, in 1993, through another National Science Foundation grant, Case began a program to educate the educators, training high-school math teachers to teach calculus.

He concentrated initially on the many district schools that offered no calculus at all. Now there are calculus courses in all but two Boston high schools-the vocational-tech Madison Park, and Dorchester High

School, which teaches calculus via a television hookup with UMass-Boston.

To implement the new program, Case had to develop new skills. "Here I am, teaching mathematics courses for thirty years, basically," he says. "And now, all of a sudden, I have to become a completely different entity.

"I'm still teaching mathematics," he says. "But now I have to add to that all kinds of schmoozing, and talking with people about things, and starting summer programs to strengthen the through-the-year programs that we had, and talking with Northeastern students about being part of the teaching of high school students.

"Then I had to start to get into what's going to happen to these high school students coming through," he continues. "Are they able to get into college? Are they able to stay in college? Do they have the money to stay in college? So there were all kinds of other questions the ordinary university professor does not even see."

If you teach at the college level, Case says, "you see the tip of the iceberg. You have a list of students who are in your course. You deal with those students and do the best you can with them. But that's the tip of the iceberg."

As Case tried to address access and preparation problems at the secondary level, he says, "there were times a good number of people in the [Northeastern math] department didn't really know what I was doing. But they figured I was doing something pretty good.

"I wasn't very traditional in many ways," he says, "but it got to the point where the calculus program was no longer seen as some sort of eccentric hobby-instead of playing golf, you get involved with the schools. It became a defined part of my mission within the department and the university."

Initially, O'Bryant wasn't part of Case's plan at all. He had assumed his program's resources would be better spent elsewhere since, as an exam school, O'Bryant had always offered an AP calculus course. But he was convinced by Jackie Rivers, who runs the Math Power program at Northeastern's School of Education, that O'Bryant faced many of the same issues that troubled the district schools.

For example, though O'Bryant's student body was more than 40 percent African-American and Hispanic, only 7 to 8 percent of its AP calculus students came from those two groups. Moreover, in the mid-1990s, few O'Bryant students who took the AP calculus exam earned a 3, 4, or 5, scores generally considered in the passing to high-proficiency range. Many AP students didn't even bother to take the exam.

Finally, O'Bryant offered just a single AP calculus class. Since it's the city's "School of Mathematics and Science," Case felt this was inadequate. "They should have several sections of AP calculus," he says.

So, with a five-year grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation—a Quincy, Massachusetts, group concerned with issues of minority access and opportunity in education—Case and his colleagues set out to strengthen calculus at O'Bryant.

Some of the Nellie Mae money is being used to provide stipends for Northeastern math students who tutor O'Bryant kids in the afternoons during the school year. There are also co-op students, such as middler math major Hannah Berardi and engineering graduate student Omari Patterson, E'04, who serve as teaching assistants in O'Bryant math classes.

The bulk of the money-nearly \$70,000 per year-goes to a program called Bridge to Calculus, which brings twenty-odd students to the Northeastern campus during the summer for six weeks, two hours a day, four days a week, to ready themselves for high school calculus.

O'Bryant still has just one AP calculus class. But a section of regular calculus has been added, and-with the algebra and pre-calculus courses for the younger grades strengthened-the pipeline is being filled with more students who will be ready for calculus during their senior year.

Right now, the AP class in Room 33G is one of the unquestioned jewels in Case's citywide initiative. It's taught-coincidentally, but appropriately-by a Northeastern alum, Jason Joseph, AS'02. In just his third year in the classroom, this twenty-five-year-old native of North Smithfield, Rhode Island, is clearly one helluva schoolteacher.

Joseph speaks softly but makes himself heard above the white noise of a high school classroom-the rumble of whispers, the scraping chairs, the rustling papers, the scratching of backpack zippers, even the occasional shout ("Hey, Mr. Joseph!"). Though he has an easy, nonthreatening, embracing manner with his kids, his voice turns quietly but decidedly stern when the din threatens to overwhelm the lesson. He's hit the perfecta every teacher seeks-affection and respect.

"He relates to everybody," says Greg Benoit, the football captain, who hopes to go to UMass-Amherst or Northeastern. "He makes math fun. He's playful, but when it's time to work, he lets you know."

"He takes points off for the smallest things," says Brenda Leong, whose first choice is Syracuse. "But he does it to make you understand. I know it will help in the long run."

If the students pay Joseph tribute with their words, they pay even greater tribute with their eyes. A teenager's eyes cannot lie. The eyes in this room are alive, interested, aware. These students are engaged.

In those moments when the white noise fades and the voices become distinct, from the four corners of the room, in a dozen different conversations, the engagement takes on an almost lyrical tone.

"I left the negative out and didn't deal with it till . . ."

"So you do the derivative to the inside first?"

"You know why? You forgot to distribute to the negative."

"You have to distribute it first, then factor it out."

"I told you that!"

Students here speak a rainbow of languages-Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish. The language they have in common is the language of calculus.

"When you talk about these problems with each other, I want you to speak English," Joseph tells the class in early January. "I know you speak a lot of different languages, and it might be easier for you to talk in your own language. But a lot of this is vocabulary-a lot of what you're going to see on the AP test is vocabulary, different terms for things. It's going to help you a lot if you get used to talking about it in English."

Although the application of calculus is ultimately about finding answers, learning calculus is about learning how to problem solve. Today's calculus, the so-called reform calculus, is as much a right-brain activity as it is left-brain.

"It's more idea-oriented," explains Case. "It's more application-oriented. It's more thought- and problem-solving-oriented, rather than being just simply what we call 'drill-and-kill mathematics'-learning the formulas and applying them, and driving a lot of kids away from mathematics in the process."

Sometimes Joseph's students get too creative, though, prompting him to remind them that when there are different ways to solve a problem, there is generally a most efficient way.

"If you guys need to get from here to the door," says Joseph to his class, standing in a line with the classroom door, maybe twenty feet away, "you're doing this." He walks to the back of the room, then around the perimeter toward the door.

"Yeah, but we'll still get there," protests one student.

"If you don't get lost," counters another.

" Or fall down," chirps a third.

This ever-present-let's call it an involved-insouciance gives the class not only an air of levity, but also a sense of all-for-one. "I love how outgoing this class is," says Katherine Aime, who lives in Hyde Park and is applying to Temple, St. John's, Adelphi, BU, and Northeastern. "It's easy and a lot of fun to learn in this kind of class."

Joseph has the students work out their homework and classroom problems on the blackboard-a moment of truth, their solutions and thought processes standing naked in front of a tough audience. The chalk clicks on the board as formulas stretch out ten or twenty lines, the classroom chatter continuing as the students check their solutions against what's unfolding on the board.

"You're kind of competing with each other," says Lucas Shi, who wants to study mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan. "It motivates you when you're competing with each other. But you're also helping each other. Everyone is different; everyone thinks differently. It's a great opportunity to see how other people do things."

Joseph estimates that at least half his class will pass the AP exam in May-that is, get a score that allows them to bypass an introductory college course or perhaps earn college credit. (At Northeastern, a grade

of 3 or better on the AP exam earns a student four credits and exemption from the Calculus 1 course.)

There is no clearer proof to Case that his program has been a success. But success doesn't mean his work is done.

"When Amalia Rodriques, the great Portuguese singer, died, there was a story in the newspaper by someone who had been on a transatlantic passage to Europe," he remembers. "Rodriques happened to be on the boat, and every night she would get up and sing. She wasn't billed; she wasn't being paid. It was just that she would get up and sing every night for the sheer joy of it. And all the people on the boat would come and listen.

"This was something she just had to do," Case says. "Something that was in her to do. That's the way I feel personally about teaching. I really feel that this is a very, very wonderful opportunity I've been given."

Case may have left the priesthood more than a quarter of a century ago to join the Northeastern faculty, but he is never far from thoughts of the spiritual. "The business of teaching," he says, "is historically the sharing with others what you have contemplated yourself—*contemplata aliis tradere*. Thomas Aquinas talked of it a lot. That in itself is kind of a spiritual connection with people-teaching, and also this business of rights, the idea that we're living in a very unjust society in many ways—it was always a part of my training and background.

"All these pieces were all the same," he says, "all interconnected with each other. I don't think I've ever really given up on any one of them."

Every man and woman deserves certain opportunities, Case believes. "A part of people's rights as human beings is the chance to have a career instead of simply a job," he says. "Another part is the opportunity to take a responsible place in their community, hopefully become more informed about solving social problems. And third, a person needs the possibility of being a creative person; this piece helps a human being become more human.

"It turns out that math helps with all three of these."

*Charles Fountain is an associate professor in the School of Journalism.*

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### Due Diligence

*Superior Court justice Margot Botsford tackles the toughest issues, like evaluating whether the public schools are being given enough to succeed.*

By Karen Feldscher  
 Photography by Jared Leeds

Presiding over criminal cases at Boston's Suffolk Superior Court, Margot Botsford saw the same thing day after day: dozens of young adults, appearing before her as defendants or victims, "already on their way to having no future," she says.

The clockwork regularity was downright depressing.

"It was enough," says Botsford, L'73, who has been a Superior Court associate justice since 1989, "to make you want to figure out how to help kids who live in the city follow other paths earlier on, and thereby have a chance in life."

As a judge, though, she felt she could do only so much. So, in 2001, she decided to spend a seven-month sabbatical volunteering in the schools.

"She wanted to know more about how the Boston public schools worked," says Deanna Jantzen, LA'75, MPA'76, L'95, director of Northeastern's Board of Trustees office and assistant university counsel, who has worked with Botsford, a university trustee, on Northeastern-related issues. "She immersed herself in it because it was an intellectual and emotional challenge," Jantzen says. "She wanted to make sure the kids were getting a good education."

Botsford's deep interest in education-not to mention her willingness to take on tough problems-also led to her being chosen to oversee one of the most challenging cases to come before the Superior Court in recent years, one aimed at determining fair funding formulas for public schools across the Commonwealth.

Nor was that the only blockbuster case to come Botsford's way. Less than a year and a half ago, she issued an important decision involving a long-contested runway at Logan International.

Colleagues say it's no accident Botsford was at the helm of these two trials.

"The reason Margot Botsford handled these cases is because everybody on the court realizes that she is the smartest, certainly the hardest-working, and probably one of the most thoughtful judges on the court," says Carol Ball, L'76, a friend and fellow Superior Court associate justice.

"She is la creme de la creme of the Superior Court."



*Superior Court justice Margot Botsford*

### High profile, high marks

In the Massachusetts judicial system, the Superior Court is the highest-level trial court. It hears both criminal and civil cases, includes an appellate division, and is the court in which grand juries are convened.

According to the thumbnail description on the Massachusetts Bar Association website, at , it's "where eye-catching cases are likely to be tried: e.g., murder, rape, conspiracy, jousts between business interests, trademark disputes, product liability, medical malpractice, and labor controversies."

Seventy-six Superior Court justices are divided among the state's fourteen counties. Suffolk Superior Court, for instance-where Botsford sits-has Boston as its jurisdiction, along with Winthrop, Chelsea, and Revere.

It's a high-profile job, and colleagues say Botsford devotes boundless attention to every detail, even the court committees. "If there's a meeting, she'll go to it," says fellow associate justice Catherine White, L'72.

"And she's always thinking she's not doing enough," adds Nonnie Burnes, L'78, who, along with Botsford, Ball, and White, rounds out a quartet of busy women who serve as both Superior Court associate justices and Northeastern trustees.

White notes that Botsford remembers prodigious amounts of detail, easily recalling cases relevant to particular issues, even their citations-a valuable skill for a judge. "She just has an incredible brain," White says.

In addition to Botsford's impressive work ethic-Burnes says there are "legendary stories about Margot working into the wee hours of the night on opinions"-she gets uniform praise for being a great friend.

"If you have a concern or problem," White says, "she's the first person to ask if everything's okay."

Despite her friend's accomplishments and reputation, Ball says that Botsford is "ridiculously self-effacing. If I were her, I'd have the biggest head of anyone. But she doesn't."

True to form, in talking about her career, Botsford seems anything but wowed by her achievements. On the contrary, she's remarkably, and refreshingly, unassuming. She says that being a judge is great work, intellectually stimulating, and she's lucky to have such an amazing job.

And she freely admits that the first time she put on her judicial robes and approached the bench, she was petrified.

### Behind the big calls

"I didn't know what I was doing," she says. "It was like Goldilocks and the Three Bears. There were three chairs on the bench, because the week before there'd been a medical malpractice tribunal with seating for a judge, a doctor, and a lawyer. The first chair was a little chair, so that's where I sat."

Fast-forward sixteen years, and the picture changes. The fifty-seven-year-old judge doesn't get nervous

anymore when she walks to the bench. Now her nerves kick in at different times, like when a jury is about to announce its verdict, because she knows how much the decision matters to both sides.

One thing is for sure: She likes making the big rulings. Not that she doesn't spend her share of sleepless nights worrying about whether she's made the right ones. But, in her view, the fretting is an easy price to pay, because the job is so close to perfect.

"There are people—a lot of lawyers—who really enjoy advocating on behalf of a person, or a cause, or a case, and trying to persuade the decision maker," she says. "It's not that I don't enjoy that. It's just that I would rather be the decision maker."

For Botsford, the joy comes in thoroughly examining a legal problem, turning it over and over in her mind like a gem until she can see all the facets. "Trying to solve whatever problem a case has is a very challenging and rewarding experience," she explains. Former colleague Maria Krokidas (who formed a law firm with Botsford and Stephen Rosenfeld—then Botsford's colleague, now her husband—in 1979) says Botsford "truly enjoys the mind puzzle of being a judge. And because she's so good, she gets great cases. And she always rises to the occasion."

Indeed, Botsford comes across as particularly well-suited to solving thorny problems. She's smart, straightforward, and reasonable. And clearly fascinated with the nitty-gritty of her work.

Take, for example, the nearly two years she spent wrestling with how to fairly fund Massachusetts public schools. In June 2002, then Superior Court chief justice Suzanne DelVecchio, who knew Botsford had just finished an education-focused sabbatical, asked her to get involved with a major education case, *Hancock v. Driscoll*. Some of the state's poorer school districts had filed a complaint alleging that state funding formulas prevented them from providing an adequate education for the children in their communities.

Botsford's charge: Produce a fact-finding report and recommendations on the matter for the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), the state's highest court.

First she spent several months in preparatory hearings and conferences. Then she conducted seventy-eight days of trial, listening to 114 witnesses and poring over more than a thousand documents.

By last April, Botsford had completed a 350-page report on the case. Burnes suspects it may be the longest opinion ever issued by the Superior Court.

It made several recommendations to the SJC: That, given current education mandates, Massachusetts should reexamine its formula for funding public schools. That local school management and leadership should be improved. And that the state should provide high-quality preschool programs for more children as well as more funding for special education.

"In every one of these [poorer] districts," Botsford wrote in her executive summary, "the students are not receiving the level of education that the Commonwealth has a constitutional duty to provide."

Many observers expected the SJC to rule in favor of the

Hancock plaintiffs, a decision that could have cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars. Instead, in a 5-2 ruling issued in mid-February, the high court dismissed the case.

The SJC justices didn't disagree with Botsford's findings-indeed, Chief Justice Margaret Marshall's majority opinion stated that "no one . . . disputes that serious inadequacies in public education remain." However, the high court determined that the legislature and the executive branch were making steady progress in improving public education, and should continue to do so without undue interference from the courts.

#### **School funding woes**

Fair-education advocates were clearly disappointed by the SJC's decision. The mood was different last year when Botsford first issued her report. Joseph Bage, superintendent for the public school system in Brockton, one of the plaintiff districts in the case, had proclaimed himself "elated."

Norma Shapiro, president of the Council for Fair School Finance and an American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts lobbyist, had praised Botsford's "powerful description of the ways in which children in poorer school districts, especially those with learning disabilities [or] limited English proficiency, racial and ethnic minorities, and those from low-income circumstances, are stymied by inadequate programs and insufficient funds."

But state officials had been less pleased by Botsford's conclusions. They suggested that local school leadership, perhaps more than state funding, plays a significant role in education successes and failures. And they indicated their reluctance to impose new taxes on what they saw as an already overtaxed electorate.

Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney has long believed additional dollars aren't the only answer. "Just . . . sending more money to the same people to do the same things is not going to solve our problems," he said last month after the SJC ruling was announced.

Public school funding is a tricky issue in the Commonwealth, Botsford says. Funding schemes are largely dependent on property taxes, so poorer districts have tended to suffer. Sometimes they complain-as they did in *Hancock v. Driscoll*-that the state isn't doing enough to level the playing field.

The issue first wound up in the courts in the late 1970s. By 1993, a landmark suit had been filed on behalf of children from sixteen different school districts, declaring they were receiving an inadequate education. In response, the SJC ruled that the state constitution requires the Commonwealth to provide an adequate education for all children in its public schools-and that it was failing to do so.

Three days after the SJC's decision, the state legislature-having "seen the handwriting on the wall," says Botsford-passed the Education Reform Act, which restructured the formula by which state funds were doled out to local districts.

"It very much changed the way school funding was distributed," Botsford says. "Pre-nineteen ninety-three, the state was playing an increasing role in [seeing that

funds were distributed fairly], but it was ad hoc and not very well done."

The plaintiffs in the 1993 case agreed to wait and see whether things improved. Meanwhile, the state spent billions more on public education and instituted MCAS (short for Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) testing to hold the schools accountable for student achievement.

Six years later, in 1999, the same school districts, as well as some new ones, were back in court. The situation had improved, they said. But not enough.

For three years, the SJC prodded the disputing parties to reach an agreement. Finally, the high court referred the case to the Superior Court for the finding of facts and evidence, as well as recommendations on how to remedy the situation. Botsford was chosen to oversee the mammoth task.

By then, nineteen communities had signed on as plaintiffs. To streamline the work, Botsford suggested the plaintiffs pick a handful of communities to represent all the others. Brockton, Lowell, Springfield, and Winchendon were chosen.

"The trial was largely factual evidence about these four communities," says Botsford. "And an equal or greater amount of the trial was expert testimony on a whole variety of issues. There was also a lot of evidence from the defendants—from officials from the state Department of Education—whose job it is to evaluate the schools."

#### **Addressing the complexities**

In weighing how to provide a solid public education to all children, Botsford was struck by the daunting, complicated nature of the effort, both in Massachusetts and across the nation.

"There are many reasons, frankly, to be discouraged about it," she said several weeks before the SJC decision was announced. "This litigation is going on all over the country. But it's a very sobering record, with not a lot of successes."

She explains: "In many instances, courts have declared that the state constitution requires the state to play an affirmative role in providing and funding local education. Then the court tells the legislature to come up with the money to do that. Then the legislature balks. And ultimately, in a number of states, the court has basically said, 'This is too much of a political question, and we can't go any further.' And they dismiss the case. It's very depressing."

Asked if she thinks the courts should be more forceful in this arena, Botsford sighs. "Well, I don't know," she says. "It's very hard."

She perks up, however, when describing the complexities of the issue.

"You've got two problems," she says. "You've got the problem of the relationship between the court and the legislature—the separation of powers problem. Then you've got the other problem, traditional in this country, that public education is fundamentally a local enterprise. So you have the court sort of forcing the

state to do something. But in the end, although the localities want more money, I think it's fair to say there's also a certain amount of resistance to state mandates about how that money is going to be used. And that's not even talking about the federal requirements.

"Quite apart from the politics and the funding," she goes on, "is that there are so many variables in play. You've got funding issues, no question. But you've also got teacher-quality issues, parent issues, children's background issues, and management issues. The schools can only do so much."

It's no wonder Botsford can outline the intricacies so neatly, given how much time she's spent trying to understand them. After listening to hours of testimony and reading thousands of pages of documents, Botsford spent the first two months of 2004 working solely on the report. She admits she was nervous about getting it done, having never written anything that long before.

In March, feeling guilty about not attending to her other work, she returned to her normal court routine. With the help of her law clerk, who summarized much of the court testimony, and by working nights and weekends for many months, she finished the report by April.

Last August, more than forty-five statewide groups and forty-seven state legislators filed "friend of the court" briefs on behalf of the student plaintiffs as the case headed back to the SJC. At the time, Michael Weisman, the lead plaintiffs' attorney, cited Botsford's "careful and extensive findings and recommendations."

Even after the SJC's dismissal of the Hancock case, Weisman sounded an upbeat note with his remarks to the press: "The only thing the legislature ought to take away from [the] decision," he said, "is that the court is going to give them some time to get the job done."

#### **"A terrible teacher"**

It's apropos Botsford became so knowledgeable about the dilemmas of providing a good public-school education. At one point in her life, she'd thought about becoming a teacher herself.

The 1969 Barnard College graduate spent six weeks at Harvard's School of Education right after college. But doing practice teaching in a summer school program for Newton kids convinced her she was "a terrible teacher," she says, and she dropped out.

That winter, Botsford took a number of law-related volunteer jobs to see if she liked legal work-and she did. Accepted by several Boston-area law schools, including Harvard, Botsford decided to enroll at Northeastern, lured by its small size and the co-op program.

"Co-op was very helpful," she says. "At one point, I thought I was interested in legal services. But after one co-op quarter doing that, I realized it wasn't for me."

Finally, on co-op as a law clerk for SJC judge Francis Quirico, L'32, Botsford found her niche. "I loved it," she says of her introduction to life on the bench. "The legal issues were interesting, and the idea of being in a position to decide these legal issues, for me, was very

heady. And my judge was terrific."

Botsford spent the next decade and a half in jobs she felt would help her earn her robes. She was an associate at the law firm Hill & Barlow; an assistant attorney general for Massachusetts (including a stint as chief of the opinions division); a partner at Rosenfeld, Botsford & Krokidas; an assistant district attorney for Middlesex County, serving as chief of the appeals and training bureau; a consultant to the Office of the State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, in Miami; and, once again, an assistant district attorney for Middlesex County, this time as chief of the family and community crimes bureau.

In 1988, she finally applied to become a judge in Massachusetts. The judicial nominating committee recommended her as a top candidate for a post on the Superior Court. And she got the job.

Her interest in education, which has never flagged, still finds expression in many areas of her life. As a Northeastern trustee, she has spent the past two years on what Jantzen calls the "thankless but very important work" of chairing the trustees' special committee on graduate education.

"Trying to get your arms around graduate education's policies, programs, and structures is like trying to hug an amoeba," Jantzen says. "But Judge Botsford is very thoughtful about all this and takes it very seriously. She works very hard to get at the underlying issues, and has really helped focus the administration on the important issues regarding the role of graduate education in the university."

Botsford delved just as deeply during the sabbatical she spent in the Boston public schools. Working with Citizen Schools, a nonprofit organization that promotes after-school activities, she helped expand its services, which originally targeted fourth- to seventh-graders, to include eighth-graders as well. The goal was "a more intensive, longer program that would help them make a better transition to high school and, hopefully, college," she says.

She even helped recruit local lawyers to serve as volunteer writing coaches for the kids. "We originally got six or seven firms for that first year, and the program has grown every year since then," she says.

Botsford also took it upon herself to visit roughly twenty Boston high schools.

"It was fascinating to see the schools, and meet the headmasters and staff," she says. "I got the sense there were a lot of really dedicated headmasters with energy and commitment, and they really had a struggle on their hands. I also got a sense of the quite profound differences among the various high schools."

In addition, Botsford volunteered at Brookline High School, helping with a program aimed at boosting achievement among African-American students.

#### **Cleared for takeoff**

In the months before Botsford issued her report on school funding, another hot-button issue got her name in the news. In November 2003, she modified a longstanding injunction against adding a fifth runway to Logan International Airport, thereby clearing the

way for construction.

It was a controversial decision. Residents living near the airport had fought a bitter fight to prevent the Massachusetts Port Authority from building the new runway, contending they were already dealing with overwhelming levels of noise and pollution.

The existing injunction dated back to 1974, when Massport had begun construction on a new runway without conducting a required environmental impact report. Although the port authority contended it should have been exempt from having to produce such a report, a judge ordered the injunction be imposed.

By the early 1990s, hoping to offset existing and projected flight delays at Logan, Massport revived the idea of a fifth runway. Working with the federal and state governments, the port authority completed the necessary environmental reports, and also agreed to use the new runway only for turboprop planes and small jets, and only in certain wind conditions that prevented the use of other runways.

Botsford ruled that, given such limits, as well as the projected increase in airport traffic, it was time to modify the 1974 injunction. The decision didn't please runway opponents. A representative of Communities Against Runway Expansion said of Massport, "They are just trying to jam more concrete into East Boston."

Still, opponents recognized that Botsford's decision—which modified the injunction but kept it in place—would keep the court involved in Massport's plans. It also required Massport to use incentives to shift more air traffic to off-peak hours; encourage greater use of regional airports; and provide soundproofing to homes, schools, and other institutions near the airport.

Botsford knows her decision displeased the towns that abut Logan. And yet, she says, the decision to build the airport so close to residences was made, for better or worse, a long time ago. At this point, compromises must be made.

"For air travelers, the location of Logan Airport is fabulous," she says. "But for those who live around it, it's horrible. My decision says that at the end—although I know it's cold comfort for nearby residents."

#### **For the public good**

Every judge, says Botsford, has a fear of making decisions that lead to adverse consequences. She hasn't been exempt.

In the mid-1990s, she was one of several judges who impounded records related to priests accused of molesting children. The impoundments came to light in a 2002 Boston Globe article reported by the paper's Spotlight Team.

At the time, Botsford says, impounding records wasn't an uncommon practice, as long as attorneys on both sides of a case agreed to it. "If the archdiocese had insisted the records be impounded and the plaintiffs disagreed, I don't think I would have done it," she says now. "But it was a joint motion. The alleged victim didn't want to have this event in the public record."

She adds, "We're all in a different place now, though."

The magnitude of the [clergy sexual abuse] issue changed a lot of people's views about impoundment. Today, I wouldn't do it."

Does she dwell on the fact that her decision added to the secrecy that helped obscure the scandal? "I was sorry," she says. "Maybe I should have been a whole lot smarter and more prescient. But I don't go back and relive it."

Botsford says that judges also worry about cases involving dangerous prisoners who, after serving their terms, have a right to be freed. "Sometimes people get released and go out and murder or rape again, and you think, If only I had decided differently," she says. "It's a terrible feeling. But I don't know what you can do to avoid it. You can't always take the safe course."

Her dual sense of what's reasonable and what's right makes Botsford an excellent judge, colleagues say.

"She has always impressed me as being somebody who has an extremely careful, thoughtful approach, while at the same time being very sensitive to the human aspects," says former partner Krokidas. "She brings the profession to a new level."

Krokidas also lauds Botsford's commitment to public service. "She clearly could have been out in the private sector, doing any number of different things," she says. "But, from the beginning, Margot has chosen a life that's going to keep her very much in the center of very important public issues. That's who she is."

Although people may assume judges have a cushy life, Krokidas adds, "being a judge in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires many huge sacrifices, the first of which is financial. And I don't think they get a whole lot of support from law clerks or support staff. It's a lonely and very demanding profession. The judges work very, very hard."

Clearly, Botsford has impressed others with her intellectual prowess, diligence, modesty, and devotion to the public good. From her point of view, though, she's just trying to do the best job she can. And-even after sixteen years-her eyes brighten when she talks about being a judge.

"It's different all the time, and intellectually challenging," she says. "My colleagues are quite terrific. I love the court staff."

Her final ruling? "I couldn't," she says, "imagine a better job."

*Karen Feldscher is a senior writer.*

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### Making swords into plowshares

*At a "Meet the Authors" lecture in Snell Library in February, two sociology professors tackled the difficult question of why people hate. Jack Levin, the Brudnick Professor of Sociology and Criminology, and associate professor Gordana Rabrenovic-director and associate director, respectively, of the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict, and coauthors of the 2004 book Why We Hate-offered their analyses of a troubling aspect of human nature, and suggested practical methods for creating a more peaceful world.*

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#### Castles of Sand

*The fragility of a dream built on air.*

By Herbert Hadad

It's a comfortable verity: Your home is your castle.

But what happens if you yearn for a real castle? Hanspeter Walder and his wife, Steffi, lived in a good house on one of the best roads in Tarrytown, New York, about three miles from my house. It was a cozy existence. They were known for their sophisticated hospitality. Yet they had a dream.

Across the village, atop the highest hill in the county, stood a century-old Norman-style castle, complete with crenellated towers that looked like a jack-o'-lantern's teeth, richly paneled rooms, and an atmospheric winding driveway, where unsuspecting visitors occasionally encountered grazing deer.

One summer, back when the castle was the headquarters of a community-minded mutual fund, my wife and I attended a party there. Sipping drinks and accepting canapés from waiters in formal wear, we strolled the grounds and gazed out at the Hudson River while the Preservation Hall Jazz Band tapped out their infectious melodies. It was a golden evening.

Then the mutual fund moved out, and the castle fell into disrepair. From their suburban perch across town, the Walders saw their chance. And so Hanspeter, a Swiss man in the employ of the United Bank of Switzerland, and Steffi, a native of Germany, bought the castle. With the help of other family members, they began the task of turning it into a world-class inn.

During their first three years of ownership, the Walders oversaw incredible transformations: thirty-one guest suites, a heated outdoor pool, tennis courts, banquet facilities, a first-class restaurant. One brisk evening in March 1997, they invited community leaders (and my wife and me) to a benefit gala they were hosting.

The once-gloomy mansion—now renamed the Castle at Tarrytown—sparkled with lights and candles and the excited chatter people utter when they are made to feel special. Walder, a tall, handsome man with graying curls, and his lovely wife greeted everyone, offered spectacular food and drink, and appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly as they mingled with their hundreds of guests.

When Evelyn and I and the couple we had invited to join us found all the seating for dinner occupied, Walder himself led us upstairs to one of the newly created suites. "Here you can enjoy your drinks and dinner in peace and quiet," he said, smiling.



*Illustration by Dan Page*

Over time, Hanspeter and Steffi, who ran the inn with their daughter and son-in-law, put the finishing touches on their dream. They built a new guest wing. They hired a sommelier and a French-speaking maitre d'.

The Castle at Tarrytown became one of a handful of American hotels listed in Relais & Châteaux, the international hotel and restaurant guide. Condé Nast Traveler named it one of the top-twenty small hotels in America. Zagat raved about the food at Equus, the inn's restaurant. The building itself won an American Institute of Architects award.

Hanspeter re-entered my life on the morning of September 25, 2001. I'm a press officer at the U.S. Department of Justice, in the New York office. One of my jobs is editing press releases. The words of one release that hit my desk that day almost leaped off the page:

"MARY JO WHITE, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that HANSPETER WALDER, a private banker at United Bank of Switzerland, AG ('UBS'), in Manhattan, was arrested last night on charges that he stole approximately \$70 million from client accounts at UBS."

On the night before, with the inn and the restaurant buzzing with guests, the Walders celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary in the Castle's imposing Great Hall, surrounded by happy family and friends.

But in the lobby were four FBI agents, accompanied by two Tarrytown police officers. The FBI agents made their way to the Great Hall, flagged down a waiter, and asked him to ask Walder to step outside. As guests turned to see what was happening, Walder tried to put his arm around one of the agents in a vain effort at conviviality. In reality, he couldn't have been too surprised to see the FBI there; he had already confessed the embezzlement to his bank.

When Walder declined to leave with the agents, they did what they later said they had hoped to avoid. They handcuffed him and led him away to a patrol car. Walder's last words at the Castle that night were "Don't worry—it's nothing. I'll be back soon."

The cachet of the Castle, which had become a "destination" for visitors to New York and the Lower Hudson Valley, along with the scale of the alleged misdeeds of the international banker/proprietor, spurred hundreds of media inquiries to my office and scores of news accounts in the American and Swiss press.

Shortly after the charges were made public, the federal government took ownership of the Castle and turned over its daily operations to Walder's bank, which had by then fired him. UBS officials fired Steffi, the other family members, and some Castle employees.

The headline of the next press release, dated August 1, 2002, read:

"BANKER PLEADS GUILTY IN U.S. COURT TO STEALING \$70 MILLION TO SUPPORT 'CASTLE AT TARRYTOWN' HOTEL."

Walder, a money manager at UBS, confessed to embezzling from at least twenty-two clients without

their knowledge beginning in the mid-1980s and transferring the cash to accounts he controlled. Much of the money went into an account called 400 Benedict Corporation. The Castle's address is 400 Benedict Avenue.

Ultimately, Walder pleaded guilty to sixteen counts of embezzlement by a bank officer, and agreed to forfeit his interest in the \$70 million in cash, the Castle, and a Manhattan apartment he'd bought with some of the embezzled funds. The inn was sold and rechristened the Castle on the Hudson, by which name it operates today.

On January 13, 2003, there was one more press release. A judge had sentenced Hanspeter to eight years in prison: "WALDER was ordered to be jailed immediately following the sentencing proceeding." At the time, he was fifty-nine years old.

After another spate of news stories, the Walder saga died down, and I more or less forgot about Hanspeter as my office continued to prosecute its usual array of miscreants: terrorists, drug lords, organized crime figures, white-collar criminals.

A few months ago, I was happily distracted from the routines of the workaday world by the presence of my daughter, Sara Jameel, newly returned from almost two years of living and teaching in Prague. She was planning to move into an affordable apartment on Manhattan's East Side, and she and I had become devotees of local tag sales.

One afternoon, we arrived at a sale at a commodious Cape Codstyle house with a landscaped garden and a pool, and joined the many others browsing with a barely concealed zeal for bargains. For my house, I found a set of mahogany end tables, then a large wicker basket for stowing CDs and audiotapes. Sara honed in on a Queen Anne chair upholstered in green for her new bedroom.

We paid for our prizes, which were brought out to the driveway. Two women helped us fit them into our car.

Suddenly, I remembered something. This was the nice Tarrytown street where the Walders had resided. "Wait a minute," I said to one of the women. "I think I know this neighborhood. Do you know who used to live next door?"

"No, tell me," she said.

"He was this Swiss banker who had a dream to open a castle as the best inn and restaurant in America. And he realized his dream, except he had to steal \$70 million to do it."

"How do you know?" asked the other woman.

"My office prosecuted. I'm with the Department of Justice."

As the second woman withdrew into the house, her friend leaned in toward us.

"Not the next house," she whispered. "This house."

"Oh, God," I said. I went inside and walked from room to room until I found Steffi Walder again, and

stammered my apologies.

"There is no need," she said. "You said nothing wrong. Everything you said, he did."

We took each other's hand, and I folded my other hand over hers. She looked into my eyes and smiled. "You're so gracious, Mrs. Walder," I said, much relieved. "Thank you so much."

I walked back outside, and Sara and I drove away with our new possessions, remnants of a castle made of sand, or so it seemed in hindsight.

*Herbert Hadad, a Northeastern graduate and award-winning writer, continues to make house calls.*

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## From the Field

### Reconsidering Terrorism

*We think we know what it is. But do we?*

By Stephen Nathanson

You may wonder where a philosopher like me goes to work "in the field." You may wonder where a philosopher like me goes to work "in the field."

In general, I don't have to go to a special location to conduct research. Anyplace where I can think, write, talk to people, and read what others have written will do. Unlike researchers in other disciplines, who often aim to discover what no one yet knows, philosophers often focus their attention on what we think we already know.

Since the September 11 attacks, I've focused my research on widespread beliefs about terrorism and the ethics of war. My first reaction to the attacks, like that of most citizens, was to conclude that terrorism is a serious evil and terrorist acts are always wrong. Although those beliefs seemed obvious to me, as a philosopher, I knew that they were more problematic than they initially seemed.

To explain why, I need to say something about the methods of philosophical analysis.

The basic methods of philosophy go back to the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates, who inspired some contemporaries-and irritated others-by constantly challenging them to define their terms and justify their beliefs.

He'd ask people questions like "What is justice?" or "What is courage?" Socrates thought you couldn't really know whether someone was just or courageous without being able to define those terms, or describe the qualities that make people just or courageous.

When people couldn't answer his questions-and they generally could not-Socrates would conclude they did not know what they were talking about. No wonder he was unpopular.

After 9/11, I started asking myself similar questions about terrorism. Though terrorism is something most of us readily condemn, we usually can't say what it is, or what makes it immoral. Even scholarly discussions about its nature are confused and contradictory. According to one scholarly article, there are over a hundred different definitions of terrorism.

In my research, the questions I seek to answer are, What, exactly, is terrorism? What makes it wrong? And, finally, are our answers about what makes terrorism wrong consistent with our other moral beliefs? My goal is to be able to give a clear account of the nature of terrorism, and a logically consistent,



Illustration by Mike Hagel

plausible set of reasons for condemning it morally.

To illustrate how I work, consider the view that what makes terrorism wrong is that it kills or injures people. It's a plausible response, but as an explanation it fails. It fails because it does not distinguish terrorism from other killings that most people believe can be morally justified. Anyone who believes that killing in self-defense or waging war can be morally justified cannot condemn terrorism simply because it kills or injures people.

Either we have to find other reasons that set terrorism apart and explain why it's always wrong. Or we must conclude that some acts we had previously thought to be morally right are actually wrong.

It would be easy to condemn terrorism and not condemn similar acts if we were under no obligation to be consistent. But any set of beliefs has to be consistent in order to be correct. A lack of consistency always undermines our logical and moral credibility.

Nevertheless, as we know, moral judgments about violence are often inconsistent. This leads some people to call any condemnation of terrorism hypocritical. They see that acts that are censured when they're performed by one group are often praised when they're performed by another. As the slogan goes, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter."

According to this slogan, there is no such thing as terrorism, because acts of violence are approved or disapproved on the basis of who does them, not on the basis of the action itself. Although there are certainly real acts of violence, the slogan says, whether they constitute terrorism is in the eye of the beholder.

I reject this view. I believe it's possible to define terrorism in a neutral way. According to my definition, terrorist acts are serious acts of violence that target innocent people and are performed in order to advance a political goal or agenda.

Applying this definition impartially can help us avoid the charge of hypocrisy. If we use the definition, we will label all serious acts of violence that intentionally kill or injure innocent people for the sake of a political goal as terrorism. If an ally of ours commits such actions, that ally will be committing terrorism. If "freedom fighters" or others pursuing some valuable goal kill or injure innocent people to achieve their goal, they are terrorists, too, even though their goal may be one that we approve.

In addition, if all acts of terrorism are wrong, then these acts will be wrong even if they are committed by our allies or ourselves, and even if they are done to achieve a valuable goal.

But the impartial labeling and judging of actions can raise other problems for us. We might find that the consistent labeling and judging of terrorist acts conflicts with other beliefs that we hold.

Suppose that we believe the highest duty of a country's leaders is to promote the national interest—to preserve the country's independence, for example, or protect its citizens' freedoms.

In addition, suppose that in some circumstances, the national interest could be promoted by actions that

intentionally kill or injure innocent people. If so, then according to the "national interest is paramount" view, it would be right to kill innocent people.

Following this thinking, terrorist acts that promote the national interest would be morally justified. But if this is true, then terrorism is not always wrong. Unfortunately, we can now see a serious inconsistency in our beliefs. The belief that terrorism is always wrong, which we initially thought was obvious, conflicts with the belief that we should do whatever promotes our national interest, another belief that is also generally taken to be obviously true.

This quandary illustrates the sort of problem philosophers examine. People often find themselves in a position where they have good reasons for each of two beliefs, yet both beliefs cannot be true simultaneously.

Philosophical analysis helps us explore how to resolve these kinds of inconsistencies. In this case, we might decide that terrorism can sometimes be justified. Or, if we stick to the view that terrorism is always wrong, we would have to conclude that some actions are wrong, even if they promote our national interest.

We all engage in this kind of reflection from time to time. What sets philosophers apart is that we attempt to examine, clarify, and criticize beliefs as thoroughly and systematically as possible.

My own research goal is to work out a consistent and plausible set of moral principles that helps us judge acts of war and political violence. Because I believe that terrorism is always wrong, I want to work out the moral limits of what can be done in defense of the national interest, and this part of the work will inevitably be controversial.

As a philosopher, I know that when I present or publish my work, other philosophers will be assessing my conclusions very critically. So I have to examine my beliefs to spot any weaknesses or contradictions. And if I find that some of my beliefs are indefensible, then my commitment to truth should lead me to change them.

*Stephen Nathanson is a professor of philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religion.*

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#### The young and the chipless

Get 'em while they're young. That's the plan behind Jessica Blom-Hoffman's efforts to keep kids from becoming overweight. Working under a new five-year \$616,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, the assistant professor of counseling and applied educational psychology is establishing a program aimed at fostering healthy eating habits at five Boston elementary schools.

The idea is to steer kids toward healthy foods, then track how their eating habits develop, says Blom-Hoffman, who is working with a colleague, associate professor Debra Franko.

Eating habits that are developed early tend to be very stable through life, explains Blom-Hoffman. If we can get to children when they're still developing their dietary preferences, we stand a greater chance of successfully combating obesity than do other school-based programs that start in older grades.

The program will use many approaches to get kids to replace their candy and chips with apples and carrots. In class, students will use an interactive CD-ROM to learn about nutrition. At lunchtime and after school, kids will serve as fruit and vegetable helpers, handing out stickers to classmates who eat healthy foods. At home, students and parents will have access to books and activities on healthy eating.

Teachers and aides will supervise the program, cheering on healthy eating, as will mentors from the Center for the Study of Sport in Society's Athletes in Service to America program.

Children participating in the study will be tracked over the next five years, to see if the program helps create long-term healthy eaters. All in the study will be involved in a physical-activity promotion program, already in place through Athletes in Service to America. At the end of the study, Blom-Hoffman will compare the kids who were offered both the nutritional and exercise portions of the program with those who participated only in the physical activity part.

Exposing kids to new foods, and giving them as many positive experiences as they can have, without pressure, is really important, says Blom-Hoffman. You'd be surprised, but some young children have a hard time even identifying a fruit or a vegetable.

#### Electric avenue

A deregulated market is making it especially difficult for the electricity industry to avoid catastrophic power outages, like the one that stilled a large part of the East Coast in summer 2003.

Now, Northeastern electrical engineers working with academic, business, and environmental experts under a three-year \$270,000 National Science Foundation grant are developing a mathematical model aimed at sidestepping such outages.

Engineering professor Alex Stankovic, associate professor Bradley Lehman, and dean Allen Soyster along with Andrew Saric of the Cacak College of Engineering, in Serbia and Montenegro, and colleagues from Temple and Syracuse Universities have teamed up with ISO New England, the nonprofit organization that runs the region's transmission grid, to create a robust model for operating power systems.

The ideal model, says Stankovic, would keep the whole grid running, even when individual pieces of equipment fail.

The ISO is in charge of balancing generation and loads, so they can instruct individual generators to raise or lower generation to exactly match the actual load, he says. The system has to be able to withstand unplanned removals of some pieces of equipment.

Stankovic and his colleagues must consider a vast array of mathematical variables related to the operation of all parts of the electrical system. It's not easy to let the operation of the system hang on a set of numbers, Stankovic says. You want to make sure your model is very good, even, he says, to the point that it's resilient to unavoidable small inaccuracies in the model itself.

The model makers, says Stankovic, are pushing the envelope of what's known on the research end, under the umbrella of applied mathematics, operations research, and energy engineering.

#### **Cocaine on the brain**

Because its users don't get withdrawal symptoms like sweats and cramps, some experts believe an addiction to cocaine is purely psychological. James Stellar believes otherwise.

The psychology professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences thinks a cocaine high which he describes as a euphoric state that makes your boyfriend gorgeous and your life perfect somehow alters brain activity, thereby creating physical addiction.

With a team of undergraduate researchers, Stellar, a neuroscientist, is studying a portion of the brain called the nucleus accumbens, which plays an important role in reward, pleasure, and addiction, as well as the neurotransmitter dopamine. The researchers examine the brains of rats before, during, and after exposure to cocaine, looking for alterations in brain-activity patterns.

The team also measures a rat's pleasure responses. One experiment allows rats to inject themselves with cocaine by pushing a lever. Electrodes attached to the animal's brains monitor activity fluctuations as the rats get high.

Stellar has heard anecdotal stories about former addicts whose cravings are triggered by random occurrences, like the mother who rushes to buy cocaine after spilling baby powder. Anything associated

with cocaine memories a scent, a pattern on a necktie can trigger a craving, he says.

Our interest is the brain circuitry that mediates reward and motivation, into which cocaine taps to create human addiction, explains Stellar. Our big goal is to pinpoint what exactly happens, biologically, in the brain of a cocaine-addicted rat.

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### Huskies to Red Sox: Bring It On

*Chance to play Series champs has everyone seeing stars.*

By Paul Perillo

Like most baseball players growing up in the Boston area, Jeff Heriot idolized the Red Sox. A Franklin High School grad who transferred to Northeastern from UMass-Amherst, Heriot was obsessed with all things baseball. Particularly the home team.

So imagine the young outfielder's reaction last March when he stepped into the batter's box at City of Palms Park in Fort Myers, Florida, and stared out at right-hander Curt Schilling. A long-awaited exhibition game between the Huskies and the Red Sox was bringing Heriot face to face with Boston's celebrated off-season acquisition, in Schilling's first appearance with the team.

"It was the second inning," Heriot recalls of his lone at-bat, "and Paul Koslowski had just gotten a hit off of Schilling. All that did was upset him. He threw a ninety-five-mile-per-hour fastball on the first pitch. I swung so hard I came out of my cleats and missed. The next pitch was a splitter in the dirt that I took for a ball. Then he tried to pick off Paul and threw the ball over Kevin Millar's head-that just made him even madder."

Heriot regarded his opponent with escalating awe. "You know how Schilling gets when he starts stomping around the mound and you can almost see the steam coming out of his ears," he says. "He pulled the brim of his hat down over his eyes as he got back on the mound. I was like, 'Holy crap!' He threw me two more ninety-five-plus fastballs and just blew me away."

Despite the smackdown, Heriot can't wait to do it again. This year, come March 4 at City of Palms Park, the senior co-captain and his teammates will be taking on defending World Series champs.

That's enough to excite even a baseball lifer like coach Neil McPhee. "It's an incredible thrill for everybody connected to Northeastern," McPhee says. "It doesn't get any bigger in New England in terms of publicity, and this year it should be a notch up because of the World Series."

McPhee knows the Sox game bears many dividends for Husky athletics. Most major college teams play exhibitions against their Major League neighbors; this game telegraphs to potential recruits that Northeastern is a big-time program, too.

The match-up also gives Northeastern baseball a chance to shine in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Last



Photo by Dayin Chen, Northeastern News

year, 500 to 600 alums, university officials, and friends were on hand for the pregame cookout and the exhibition, which NESN televised live back home. For a school about to step up to a new competition level this summer, when it moves from the America East to the Colonial Athletic Association, such exposure is welcome.

"It's a great event for us and the university as a whole," McPhee says. "There's nothing negative about it. It's a huge plus."

And if the Huskies lose—as they did last year, 7-0—no one cares a whit. Playing the game is all that matters. Heriot will never forget arriving at the ballpark last March.

"I remember seeing the field and then turning toward the bullpen where Alan Embree was warming up, throwing ninety-five," he says. "I just thought, 'Holy cow, we're going to play the Red Sox!' We started stretching out and getting ready, and they were really cool, joking around with us and stuff. You don't feel like a fan when you're out on the field wearing a uniform, but, at the same time, these are the guys you've rooted for all your life."

Junior catcher Matt Morizio, a Waltham, Massachusetts, native, nabbed one of the three hits the Huskies managed to get in the game, all against Schilling.

"It was amazing how smooth Schilling was and how fast the ball gets on top of you," Morizio says. "He threw me all three of his pitches. I swung over a splitter, fouled off a fastball, and was lucky he threw a curve in the dirt. The count went to two-and-two, and I figured he'd just throw a fastball to a college kid. Luckily, I was right, and I grounded one between short and third for a single."

At the time, Morizio didn't think much about the game's impact, "but when we got home and about a thousand people came up to me to say they'd watched me on TV, I started to understand," he says.

He's ready to take on the Sox again. This year, though, he's thinking he might like to come home with a few spoils.

"Maybe this time," Morizio says, "I can get some autographs."



Laura Chmielewski (photo by Tracy Powell)

### How to Be a World-Class Projectile

Laura Chmielewski didn't quite know what to think the first time she ran with a big pole toward a little hole in front of a large pad.

She had never attempted the pole vault before. But the minute her brother told her she couldn't do it because she was a girl, Chmielewski decided to skip the formal training.

"I was a high school sophomore, and he was doing it, so I figured it couldn't be that hard," she recalls. "But then I started running, and the pole is pretty big. They say it's going to bend, but you never know. It was exciting, and scary."

Within a year, Chmielewski was out-jumping her brother. Today, she's on track to qualify for the Olympics as the Huskies' best-ever woman pole-vaulter.

The junior from Monmouth, New Jersey, who transferred to NU from Rutgers, set school indoor and outdoor records (12 feet 9.5 and 13 feet 3.75, respectively) and qualified for the NCAA championships in her first season with the Huskies last year. This season, she's already smashed that indoor record, clearing 13 feet 6.5 last month.

Like many pole-vaulters, Chmielewski is a former gymnast who, after years of physical stress and pain, went looking for a new outlet.

"There are a lot of similarities between the two sports," Chmielewski says. "You need to have a really strong work ethic, because gymnastics requires a lot of hours in the gym. Also, being upside down in the air is normal for a gymnast, and that's how you end up when you clear the bar."

Assistant track coach Brenner Abbott, a former pole-vaulter himself, understands the various elements that underlie success in the sport. "It's a pretty strange event," he says. "It combines the speed of a sprinter, the ability of a gymnast, and the strength of a thrower."

"Mentally, vaulters are a different breed," Abbott says. "It's the only event where the person is the projectile. You have to be extremely confident or extremely stupid."

Abbott says Chmielewski fits the confident description perfectly. Already considered the best woman vaulter in New England history, she's improving with almost every jump.

"There's a great deal of technique involved, starting with the run and plant of the jump," Abbott says. "You have to introduce energy into the jump, and plant the pole into the hole to go from horizontal to vertical without losing energy. Then you have to press the pole away from you before flying away and cork-screwing over the bar.

"The partnership of energy seems pretty simple in theory, but there are so many parts involved, it's hard to get them all in," he says. "Laura does it very well."

On the men's side, Ryan Cahill, Aaron Hill, and Mike Couch have either cracked the 16-foot mark or approached it. But Chmielewski may have the brightest future of all the Husky vaulters. The graphic design major, who hopes to work in marketing someday, has designs on competing in the under-twenty-five meet in Turkey this summer before preparing for the Olympics.

"I'm training to be a professional athlete," Chmielewski says. "I've already reached the height requirement to compete," a mark of 13 feet 4.

She's also already the right combination of daredevil and technician. "Pole-vaulting requires such a combination of the mental and the physical," she says. "Every jump is different, but there's so much that needs to be the same."

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#### "Strong to the Finich"

*Ahoy, mateys! Chart the progress of Popeye the Sailor Man.*

By Magdalena Hernandez

Popeye: An Illustrated Cultural History, Second Edition, by Fred M. Grandinetti (McFarland & Company; Jefferson, North Carolina; 337 pages; \$45)

Comics don't get no respect. Sure, they're an acceptable diversion when you're a kid. But how many adults pay close attention to what's going on in the funny pages?

Still, the tide seems to be turning, if ever so slowly. American Splendor and Crumb introduced a couple of counterculture cartoonists to mainstream movie audiences and renewed acclaim. Graphic novelists such as Art Spiegelman and Phoebe Gloeckner continue to earn praise for their unusual perspectives on difficult topics.

Which is only fair. The most successful cartoon heroes tap into our deepest unconscious desires. To live life as a carefree teenager surrounded by Betty's and Veronica's charms. To leap tall buildings in a single bound. To be one tough gazookus, which hates all palookas.

That's right: One of our more enduring heroes turned seventy-six in January, likely inspiring an enthusiastic round of "Happy Boitdays." Popeye the Sailor Man has captivated generations of admirers. In fact, he stars in the longest-running cartoon series ever (take that, SpongeBob SquarePants).

In Popeye: An Illustrated Cultural History, Fred Grandinetti, AS'84, who cofounded the International Popeye Fan Club seventeen years ago, covers the ancient mariner with the wide-ranging energy of a diehard fanatic. Not only does he sketch Popeye's evolution as he sailed from comic strip, to silver screen, to the murky waters of TV syndication, he also includes comprehensive character and episode guides.

Ever wonder why Popeye sometimes sports a captain's hat? Why Bluto occasionally answers to "Brutus"? Why some cartoons show Popeye with both eyes wide open? Grandinetti provides the answers to all your Popeye pop-culture queries.

As the author chronicles, the seeds for Popeye were sown in 1919 when cartoonist E. C. Segar began inking a strip called "Thimble Theatre," featuring Olive Oyl and her family. Ten years later, cartoon history was made when Olive's brother Castor Oyl encounters "an odd-looking, fat-forearmed, pipe-smoking sailor." The old salt's popularity grew quickly, and he soon took center stage in his own strip.



Illustration by Andy Rash

Yet it's something of a surprise to learn that Popeye and his quirks didn't spring fully formed from Segar's mind. Filmmakers Max and Dave Fleischer, who began producing animated Popeye films in 1933, were instrumental in developing some of the familiar iconic imagery, such as the can of spinach and the Popeye the Sailor Man (toot, toot) theme song. Even the famous phrase "I yam what I yam" originated on a Popeye radio show that ran from 1935 through 1937; the show's sponsor, Wheatena, wanted to avoid any plugs for spinach.

After Segar's death in 1938, various animators stepped in to man the strip and the comic books, a kind of artistic musical chairs that introduced inconsistencies into the cartoon's style and personalities.

Remarkably, over the decades Popeye has appeared in every major medium: comic strips, comic books, radio, recordings, TV, stage, animated and live-action films. Not to mention countless product endorsements. Popeye: An Illustrated Cultural History invites us to rethink Popeye's place in the culture by underscoring his popularity and sway.

For his part, Grandinetti argues Popeye is historically more admired than a certain four-fingered rodent. "No one can deny that Mickey Mouse is popular with millions today as a popular cartoon symbol," he writes, "but for the sheer volume of animated cartoons produced starting in the 1930s to the 1980s, Popeye still holds the record as the most successful animated cartoon character for both film and television."

The swab even influenced Superman, Grandinetti says: "Jerry Siegel, one of Superman's creators . . . readily admits that the animated Popeye cartoons were a primary influence. He envisioned similar fast-paced action turning on the hero's superhuman strength, but played straight instead of for laughs."

Don't forget the vintage toys and lunchboxes. The author claims Popeye has become "one of the most popular and sought-after character collectibles today."

Oddly, though, Grandinetti doesn't delve much into why Popeye has enjoyed such lasting popularity. The longest meditation on the topic comes from a pastor, whose reprinted letter discusses how the strip's characters teach spiritual values while they entertain.

Spiritual growth aside, a few surprises emerge when you reacquaint yourself with the old sea dog's exploits, which include a fair bit of saltiness. For instance, in the older cartoons, fickle girlfriend Olive Oyl (who only looks extra-virgin, owing to her apparent lack of secondary sexual characteristics) blithely flirts with Bluto and other ardent admirers, leaving Popeye to save her from what today might be called date rape.

Then there's Popeye's readiness to brawl. The comic strip was created during boxing's heyday, Grandinetti explains, and the theatrical shorts were geared toward adults, which caused the animators to up the grittiness level even more.

The book shines whenever such context is provided. But despite the book's subtitle, Grandinetti stops just short of addressing much of the social commentary inherent in the cartoons.

In the 1950s, we're told, a "common plot device" had

Olive Oyl appearing as a potential employer of Popeye and Bluto. And in the 1970s cartoons, Olive functions "more as a team player with Popeye than as someone he has to save from Bluto," Grandinetti says, without further elaboration.

Readers can connect their own dots, of course-the women's movement was so transforming American culture that Olive's damsel-in-distress persona needed adjustment-but the author misses opportunities to deepen the book's impact by glossing over teachable moments like these.

That's not to say Grandinetti entirely resists editorializing. He weighs in on a number of subjects, many related to animation. Ted Turner's "shoddy" colorization of the black-and-white cartoons, he says, often introduced careless mistakes. In one obvious howler, the colored version shortened the name on baby nephew Peepeye's highchair to "Pee."

With more cultural analysis, this book would have packed an even more muscular wallop. All in all, though, it's still a terrific resource for anyone interested in pop culture, comic books, animation, or Popeye himself. Grandinetti knows his sailor man inside and out. And that ain't just pipe-tootin'.

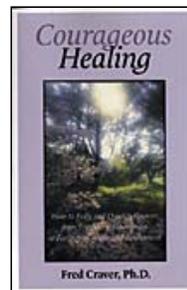
*Magdalena Hernandez, MBA'02, is a senior editor.*

## Bookmarks

### **Courageous Healing: How to Fully and Quickly Recover from Traumatic Experiences or Feelings of Anger and Resentment**

by Fred Craver; Riko Books; 2004

After suffering multiple misfortunes-including partial blindness-Fred Craver, MEd'77, found healing via a variety of avenues.

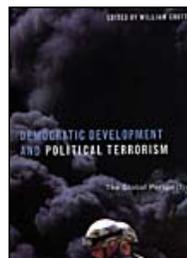


Part memoir, part manual, *Courageous Healing* recounts this journey to recovery. Using affirmations and new therapeutic techniques, Craver transformed anger and grief into peace and contentment. By dissolving negative feelings, he claimed hard-won renewal.

Here's a self-help book that transcends the typical ten-step prescription. Craver has penned a useful book for anyone striving to conquer personal setbacks.

### **Democratic Development and Political Terrorism: The Global Perspective** edited by William Crotty; Northeastern University Press; 2004

This essay collection-edited by Professor William Crotty, Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in



Public Life and Center for the Study of Democracy director-helps us grapple with the challenges of a post-9/11 world, including terrorism's global scale.

Writers explore such topics as the root causes of terrorism, the complexities of attempts to democratize totalitarian regimes, the relationship between terrorism and authoritarian repression, and the ways in which foreign policy can check international political violence.

The result is a comprehensive, if chilling, analysis of our new reality.



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### 1930s

Lester C. Huse, E'35, of Randolph Center, Vermont, has made a strong impression on his friends and acquaintances. This note comes in from neighbor Christopher L. Slayton: "Lester lives alone across the street from me. He is still very active mentally, solving any problems that will give purpose to each day. His physical mobility is decreasing, but it is not uncommon to see him still mowing his two acres of lawn, snowblowing his driveway, or tending his flowers and shrubs while sitting on his lawn tractor. Les also manages his household chores. His computer has enabled him to spend the past ten years researching his heritage. This project is just about complete, and all the Huses are in correct chronological order. Les has been accepted for admittance to a newly constructed assisted-living complex. He has enjoyed a productive and successful career as an engineer, a loving marriage, and close ties with his children and extended family. He has contributed his talents and financial resources to each community in which he's resided. Les demonstrates clearly what it means to be a lifelong learner and to meet each day with a positive attitude."

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### 1950s

David D. Blair Jr., E'54, of Farmers Branch, Texas, is the chairman of the North Texas Tollway Authority's board of directors. He is also the chairman emeritus of Blair Engineering, from which he retired in 1993, and the chairman and chief executive officer of Blair Enterprises. He served eight years as mayor of Farmers Branch and another eight years on its city council. Blair's community involvement has included acting as director of Valwood Improvement District, vice chairman and board member of the Farmers Branch Zoning Board of Appeals, director of the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce and the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, and president of Metroplex Mayors Association. To recognize Blair's contributions to education, the Carrollton/Farmers Branch School District named an intermediate school in Farmers Branch the Dave Blair Intermediate School. Blair is a member of Northeastern's National Council and a registered professional engineer in Texas.

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### 1960s

Ralph S. Gootner, UC'61, of Lake Worth, Florida, has stayed busy for the last decade and a half—after a thirty-four-year career with IBM—primarily through his work with the International Standardization Organization (ISO). Among other accomplishments, Gootner has served as director of the South Florida Technology Transfer Center, developed an ISO-9000 program for manufacturers, and worked as a visiting professor at Florida International University under a NASA grant to deliver ISO-9000.

David D. Haskell, LA'63, of Malden, Massachusetts, writes, "In 2003, I was laid off after forty-three years with United Press International, the worldwide news organization where I began my career as an office boy (they call them editorial assistants now) on co-op. Being free from deadlines, I took a two-month, 13,000-mile auto trip around the United States with my wife, Ethel. We are now wrapping up a book about our experiences. Late in 2004, however, there was a setback. Experiencing chest pains, I was diagnosed with severe blockage to my heart and underwent a quintuple bypass operation in mid-November. Fortunately, my recovery process appears to be progressing well, and Ethel and I look forward to many more years of retirement, spoiling our grandchildren and doing some more traveling."

David R. Sawyer, Ed'63, requests that members of the class of 1963 send their e-mail addresses and names at graduation to [davenu1963@comcast.net](mailto:davenu1963@comcast.net) so he can update the class database. Sawyer is married to Cynthia (Goodwin), Ed'66. They live in Ayer, Massachusetts.

Paul Coran, BA'64, of Rockville, Maryland, is an administrative judge and member of the Personnel Appeals Board of the Government Accountability Office.

Joe Caruso, E'65, of Westwood, Massachusetts, is the president of Bantam Group, a business and financial consulting company. Caruso also serves on the boards of Accumenta, Boston Micromachines, and Process Analytical. He is a trustee of Quant Funds, and past president of the New England chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Sharon E. Crane, Ed'67, of St. Petersburg, Florida, retired after thirty-six years of teaching U.S. history and government at O. H. Platt High School in Meriden, Connecticut. "Moved to Florida in 2004, and am currently a consultant and trainer in computer applications for computer phobics," she writes.

Paul J. Donnelly, E'68, is the senior project architect in the science and technology group at the firm Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, in St. Louis, where he is collaborating on a project for the Indianapolis Airport. In addition, he is the Voyles Professor of Architecture

at Washington University. He previously taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Roger Williams University. Donnelly is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Kenneth R. Forte, BA'68, of Clermont, Florida, retired from the U.S. Air Force in a formal ceremony on July 3, 2004. He had served as chief financial officer of Hanscom Air Force Base in Lexington, Massachusetts. Forte spent more than thirty years in federal service, twenty-three of them as a CFO on a number of multibillion-dollar Air Force programs. He is also a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel. He moved with his wife, Rita, and their golden retriever, Riley, to the Sunshine State from Burlington, Massachusetts. Forte's e-mail address is [retiredforte@yahoo.com](mailto:retiredforte@yahoo.com).

Charlie Rutz, BA'68, and his wife, Jan, of Clearwater, Florida, and Wellfleet, Massachusetts, hosted the Sigma Phi Alpha/Phi Sigma Kappa reunion weekend in Wellfleet in early October 2004. Rutz reports that fraternity brothers from the classes of 1955 to 1983 attended. "Many of the brothers had not seen each other for almost forty years," he writes. The weekend included a Friday-night cocktail party at the Sheraton Four Point. On Saturday morning, guests enjoyed golf, whale watches, bicycle rides, nature walks, dune buggy rides, and shopping around Cape Cod. The Saturday afternoon party included a vote to use the proceeds from the fraternity house's sale to establish a Northeastern scholarship in memory of deceased frat brothers. Rutz invites frat brothers to contact him at [crutz13@msn.com](mailto:crutz13@msn.com) or visit the website at [www.come.to/phisigmakappa](http://www.come.to/phisigmakappa). Anyone interested in alumni rosters may also contact him.

William S. Howard, E'69, of Neshanic Station, New Jersey, is an executive vice president at CDM, a global engineering and consulting firm headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Howard serves as chairman of the American Council of Engineering Companies, which is dedicated to representing the business interests of engineering firms nationwide. He is also a member of the National Commission for Cooperative Education, on whose board of directors he serves. Howard was elected to Northeastern's Board of Trustees in May 2004.

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### 1970s

Kay Canavino, LA'70, of Adams, Massachusetts, writes that after nearly twenty years as a studio photographer in Somerville, Massachusetts, she has "answered the call for more trees" and moved to the Berkshires, where she opened a new studio. Her website can be found at [www.kaycanavino.com](http://www.kaycanavino.com).

Peter Motyka, PAH'70, of Dudley, Massachusetts, was ordained a deacon of the Worcester diocese on December 4, 2004. A pharmacist with Brooks Pharmacy, Motyka and his wife, Patricia, have three children. He has received the Bronze Pelican Award from the Boy Scouts of America Catholic Committee and the St. George Medal from the Office of Youth Ministry. Motyka has been the music director at St. Anthony's Church for eleven years.

Joseph J. Seymour, BA'70, of Glenmont, New York, retired in late 2004 as the executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Seymour was named executive director following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, replacing Neil Levin, who died in the World Trade Center. Seymour led the effort to reopen the PATH train system, which was destroyed by the 9/11 attacks, and played a key role in planning for the rebuilding of the WTC site. Seymour received the Howard S. Cullman Award, the highest honor presented to a Port Authority employee.

Phil Vibert, LA'70, of Medway, Massachusetts, is a senior engineer for Tuthill Vacuum and Blower Systems in Springfield, Missouri. He has written a number of papers and publications on vacuum pumps and systems.

Lawrence K. Fink, E'71, of Randolph, New Jersey, is a vice president and manager of construction services for the transportation-design firm STV Incorporated's Northeast Infrastructure Group. He has worked for the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the New York State Thruway Authority, the New York State Department of Transportation, and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

Stephen W. Shippie, BA'72, of Jerusalem, Israel, writes, "My thirty-five years in the U.S. financial services industry has spanned four careers. The most recent change has come by way of downsizing in the financial industry. I have gravitated to a new career as an international financial consultant, completing my second year on assignment as a senior financial adviser for a USAID-sponsored project, the Palestinian Enterprise Revitalization (PER) project. Our goal is to help Palestinian businesses in both the West Bank and Gaza. Through local staff and consultants, PER delivers technical assistance to improve the financial performance and stimulate employment at both existing businesses and start-ups."

Joan B. Walker, LA'72, of Brookfield, Massachusetts, became the town accountant in Charlton on January 3. She had previously served as town accountant in Grafton and Holland, and town accountant and chief procurement officer in Warren. She earlier worked in the deposit operations and financial accounting office of the former Bank of Boston.

Thomas M. Finneran, BA'73, H'97, of Mattapan, Massachusetts, who stepped down as speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 2004, now serves as president of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, which represents more than 400 companies, academic institutions, and service organizations involved in biotechnology and health care. In the House, Finneran represented the Massachusetts Twelfth Suffolk District starting in 1979, served as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee from 1991 to 1996, and was elected speaker in 1996.

Mark Fitzgerald, E'73, of Norfolk, Virginia, has been promoted to vice admiral in the U.S. Navy. He is the commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, which is responsible for naval operations and the defense of U.S. interests in the North Atlantic, and the multinational NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic. Fitzgerald led the first Navy strike on Baghdad during the opening hour of Operation Desert Storm and has been involved in military operations in Afghanistan and Yemen.

Frank D'Andraia, MA'74, of Missoula, Montana, is dean of library services and professor of library science at the University of Montana's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library.

Susan Major, LA'74, MBA'78, of Rancho Santa Fe, California, has been appointed to the board of directors for the Girl Scouts, San Diego Imperial Council. Major is the managing director of technology and practice at Slayton International Executive Search. She has served on a number of professional and community groups, including the San Diego Telecom Council, Women in Wireless, the Northeastern University Corporation, the Rancho Santa Fe Community Center, the Old Globe Theatre, and Children's Hospital Auxiliary.

Phillip Thomson, Ed'74, of Pleasanton, California, has been appointed area vice president at Curriculum Advantage. "Essentially, I travel around the West, selling a great little software package to schools," he writes.

Marlene B. Seltzer, MA'76, of Gloucester, Massachusetts, became the chief executive officer at Boston's Jobs for the Future (JFF) in October 2004. She was formerly the organization's president, having joined JFF in 1995 as executive vice president. Prior to that, Seltzer served as the commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Employment and Training.

Marc Abrams, BA'78, of Jericho, New York, is the founder of Transitions, an advisory service that helps the ill and bereaved manage crisis.

David Ewer, LA'78, of Helena, Montana, has been appointed that state's budget director. He and his wife, Gail, have two children, Meredith and Mallory.

Joanne L. Hood, LA'78, GB'99, of Flagstaff, Arizona, is the associate director of undergraduate admissions at Northern Arizona University, where she has worked

since 1996. Hood recently earned a master's in counseling from Northern Arizona and is now a certified professional counselor.

Jon Dana, BB'79, of Lee, New Hampshire, is in his twenty-first year as athletic trainer at the University of New Hampshire. He's also the school's director of sports medicine. Last summer, he was the trainer for men's and women's track and field at the Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. In 2003, he was the trainer for the U.S. men's handball squad at the Pan American Games, in the Dominican Republic.

Kathleen Davidson, N'79, was named 2004 Best Nurse Leader by Advance for Nurses magazine. Davidson, who has a master's degree in nursing from Boston University and a master of business administration from Suffolk University, is the vice president of nursing at Boston Medical Center.

Seth Livingstone, LA'79, of Potomac Falls, Virginia, is in his sixth year as a baseball reporter and columnist for USA Today Sports Weekly. A voter for the Baseball Hall of Fame, Livingstone previously worked twenty-four years at the Patriot Ledger, in Quincy, Massachusetts. He and his wife, Marcy, live with their teenage children, Amanda and Andrew.

Chris Troyanos, BB'79, of Norfolk, Massachusetts, has been inducted into the Babson College Athletics Hall of Fame. He was an athletic trainer for twenty-five years at Babson, where he set up and ran a physical therapy clinic. He now works as Babson's athletics fundraiser and the medical coordinator for the Boston Marathon.

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### 1980s

Brian J. Louf, CJ'81, of Beverly, Massachusetts, is a colonel in the U.S. Marines. He reports he is serving as a deputy command director at the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, in Colorado Springs, on a presidential recall in the war on terror.

Sylvio Theriault, MBA'81, of Somersworth, New Hampshire, is the chief financial officer of VXI Corporation, a manufacturer of voice-recognition products. He was previously president, chief executive officer, and chief financial officer at Spaulding Composites.

Kris Piarik, AS'82, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, has been promoted to assistant managing editor for local news at the Lowell Sun. Piarik began working at the paper in 1982 as a police reporter.

Wendy T. Gordon, AS'83, of Suffern, New York, is an adjunct professor at the State University of New York in Rockland. She is planning to take twenty-five students to Italy this month to study at the Culinary Institute of Florence. "I am excited to be given this opportunity to expose my students to a different culture while learning traditional Italian methods of cookery," she writes.

Patrick M. Devine, BB'84, of Columbia, Maryland, writes, "I have worked for Montgomery County public schools since 1997. In August, I was appointed to the position of special-education supervisor. I now monitor and support special-education services and programs for thirty-two schools in the BethesdaChevy Chase area. Would love to hear from any of my classmates or Choral Society members from 1979 to 1983." His e-mail address is [patrick\\_m\\_devine@mcpsmd.org](mailto:patrick_m_devine@mcpsmd.org).

Mark S. Florence, BA'84, MBA'01, of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, is the vice president of sales for CardioDynamics, which creates products to battle cardiovascular disease. He was previously vice president and general manager at Moore Medical Corporation.

Linda H. Pettingell, BA'84, of Concord, Massachusetts, has been promoted to senior vice president for human resources and corporate services at the biopharmaceutical company Transkaryotic Therapies, in Cambridge.

Chris Scott, AS'84, of Merrimac, Massachusetts, has been named city editor at the Lowell Sun. Scott has covered municipal government for the Sun, which he joined shortly after graduation.

Pam Stark, MBA'84, and her husband, Shelly Guyer, live in Norwalk, Connecticut, where Stark is the city clerk and grants coordinator. She says she's "involved in developing collaboratives and leveraging scarce

dollars for the city from nonprofits and for-profits, while focusing on arts/culture, social services, youth leadership, and antigang efforts with the police and the Department of Justice." She previously worked seven years at the Volunteer Consulting Group, in Manhattan. Stark says she would "love to hear from Northeastern friends and colleagues, also faculty." Her e-mail address is [pamstark@optonline.net](mailto:pamstark@optonline.net).

Marty Trackman, BA'84, of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, writes that he has been "happily married to Brenda for twelve-plus years. We have twin daughters who will be eight years old this spring. Life is good." Trackman has started an e-commerce business called BagOfTheMonth.com.

Michael G. Williams, AS'84, of Dorchester, Massachusetts, is the emerging markets manager for the northeast region at Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation, which is based in Milwaukee. He previously was national business development and relationship manager for Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and a mortgage loan officer for BankBoston. Williams is currently a loan committee member for Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation.

George W. Earle, E'85, of San Jose, California, says he "has become an entrepreneur," noting that he's worked at eight start-ups, two of which he founded. He's currently vice president of engineering at Crossapps, a developer of health-care management systems. He and his wife have three daughters.

Ian Campbell, CS'86, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, is president and chief executive officer at the consulting firm Nucleus Research, in Wellesley. He previously was vice president at International Data Corporation.

Dave Crowley, PAH'86, of Canton, Massachusetts, is the corporate environmental health and safety director at HP Hood, a dairy-processing firm headquartered in Chelsea. He also serves as the president of the Greater Boston chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). Crowley notes that he started out in the funeral business but transferred to Northeastern with the intention of becoming a forensic toxicologist. After co-op jobs, he decided to go into the environmental field, starting at Inland Pollution Control, in Braintree. He holds credentials as a certified safety professional, certified hazardous materials manager, and certified environmental trainer, and has traveled throughout the United States and Europe on safety-training tours. Crowley has served on the board of directors for the Massachusetts Safety Council and is a member of several National Safety Council committees as well as the International Dairy Foods Association. In 2002, ASSE named him Safety Professional of the Year. Crowley and his wife, Penny, have two children.

Victoria A. Duntzee, N'86, of Leicester, Massachusetts, writes, "I am now working at Care Management Services, which is part of Health Plans, Inc., as a nurse case manager, and loving it. My husband, William, is a federal marshal out of Boston, and our daughter, Alexandra, is in first grade. Do we ever have reunions for nursing class? Please feel free to contact me. I would love to see classmates." Her e-mail address is [vickiedrn@charter.net](mailto:vickiedrn@charter.net).

Dan Weston, E'86, of Long Beach, California, writes, "I was just promoted to principal engineer/scientist at the

Boeing Company in Huntington Beach. I've been here since graduation working on missiles, heavy launch vehicles, spacecraft, and even the space station. I am looking forward to the upcoming moon/Mars missions."

Marc Cremer, E'87, of Austin, Texas, is the vice president of sales at Tata Systems, a developer of service-delivery platforms for communications service providers. Before joining Tata, Cremer was the vice president of sales for the Mobility Solutions Group of PCTEL, Inc. Kimi Iguchi, MBA'87, of South Boston, is the vice president of finance at Cyberkinetics Neurotechnology Systems, in Foxborough. Previously, she was senior director of financial reporting at Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

John Furrier, CS'88, of Palo Alto, California, is the vice president of sales at NetLine Corporation, in Los Gatos. He previously was founder and chief executive officer at Broadband Developments.

Richard Goldenberg, BA'88, of Schuylerville, New York, is a major in the U.S. Army, currently serving in Tikrit, Iraq, with the 42nd Infantry Division, also known as the Rainbow Division. He is the task force public-affairs officer, overseeing public information, media facilitation, and organization communication programs. During his tour of duty, Goldenberg will help the transitional Iraqi government hold national, regional, and local elections, and draft a national referendum for a new constitution.

Thomas Bentley, CS'89, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, writes, "Well, my great-grandfather and grandfather would be proud. A Bentley family member has finally gotten a patent: Patent No. 6,757,530 B2, System and Method for Providing Wireless Access to Scheduling Applications."

Julia Lopez-Robertson, BB'89, of Tucson, earned a doctorate in language, reading, and culture from the University of Arizona last December.

Sal Lupoli, BA'89, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, writes, "Hello to all my pizza-loving friends. All is well at the Lupoli estate with my wonderful wife, Katie, and two children. I've expanded my horizons and started a door-to-door business selling high-end shower-curtain rings and bathroom plungers. Stay in touch." His e-mail address is [salsjustpizza@aol.com](mailto:salsjustpizza@aol.com).

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### 1990s

Charles Frampton, MBA'90, of Concord, Massachusetts, is vice president of operations at UpToDate, in Wellesley. The company provides clinical information for physicians.

Joseph G. Grassi, AS'90, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, opened Beacon Appraisals, a residential real-estate appraisal company. Grassi, who has been a member of the Cambridge School Committee since 1994, can be reached at [beaconappraisals@msn.com](mailto:beaconappraisals@msn.com).

Lisa (Gans) Griswold, AS'90, and Tom Griswold, E'90, of Plainfield, Illinois, celebrated the birth of Ethan Jacob on August 3, 2004. The family has an older son, Jarod. Their e-mail address is [tgris@earthlink.net](mailto:tgris@earthlink.net).

Stuart Selber, MTPW'90, of State College, Pennsylvania, has earned tenure and been promoted to associate professor of English at Pennsylvania State University.

Ennio J. Carboni, CJ'91, MBA'93, of Belmont, Massachusetts, writes, "Laura [Panos] and I had a busy year. We married January 3, 2004, one year after meeting at Governor Mitt Romney's inauguration dinner. And we received a Christmas gift: Max Alexander, born December 3, 2004. Mom is corporate counsel for the New England Journal of Medicine/MMS, and I am working in product management at Computer Associates." Carboni's e-mail address is [ennio.carboni@ca.com](mailto:ennio.carboni@ca.com).

Lisa Coville-King, BA'91, of Southbury, Connecticut, writes, "I have recently moved from Norwalk with my husband of seven years, Greg King, and our boys, Jason, five; Nathaniel, three; and Liam, nine months. I am a stay-at-home mom."

Ari A. Porth, AS'91, of Coral Springs, Florida, is a new state representative. He writes, "I was interested in public service even before my days with the Student Government Association at Northeastern. I finally took the leap and decided to run for a seat in the Florida House of Representatives. After a grueling two-year campaign, I am happy to report I am the newly elected representative for House District 96, representing the northwest parts of Broward County." Porth is a prosecutor in the state attorney's office. He can be e-mailed at [coraldem@aol.com](mailto:coraldem@aol.com).

Velia M. Carboni-Baldassarre, BA'92, of Belmont, Massachusetts, writes, "Rob and I had our first child in October 2004. Joseph is keeping us up at night, but we are enjoying him tremendously." A technology consultant for Fidelity Investments, she can be e-mailed at [velia.carboni@fmr.com](mailto:velia.carboni@fmr.com).

Jeannette M. Hixon, MEd'92, of Weymouth, Massachusetts, was presented the Donald L.

McCullough Award by the National Association for Campus Activities in November 2004. Hixon is the director of the Bentley College Multicultural Center.

Deb Stanley, BB'92, of Fort Collins, Colorado, has been a physical therapist and an athletic trainer for nine years. She and her husband, Matt, celebrated the birth of a son, Brendan, on April 6, 2004. They have an older daughter, Sydney.

Christine (Haberle) Colella, AS'93, and Thomas Colella, CJ'93, of Wayne, New Jersey, welcomed the birth of Ryan John on September 28, 2004. Reid is their older son. E-mail Christine at [chaberle@qibbonslaw.com](mailto:chaberle@qibbonslaw.com).

Keith Powers, AS'93, of Santa Monica, California, is the vice president of strategy and business development at the not-for-profit X PRIZE Foundation, which offered a \$10 million prize for the first private flight into space. He was responsible for raising nearly \$4 million in corporate sponsorship in less than forty days leading up to the most recent attempt at the prize. On October 4, 2004, SpaceShipOne, piloted by Brian Binnie, flew higher than 360,000 feet to win the prize and break an unofficial altitude record that had stood for more than forty years.

Marissa (Pelton) Eller, AS'94, of Tuckahoe, New York, and Clinton Eller, BA'94, celebrated the birth of their son, Owen Davis, on October 20, 2004. They say they'd like to hear from classmates by e-mail at [c.eller@att.net](mailto:c.eller@att.net). Jordana R. Goodstein, N'94, of Bethesda, Maryland, notes that she provides various promotional products that companies can use for logo placement. "Would love to hear from old classmates and meet new ones as well," she writes. Her e-mail address is [jordana.goodstein@leewayne.com](mailto:jordana.goodstein@leewayne.com).

Kevin J. McGovern, BB'94, of Watertown, Massachusetts, is the president of McGovern Physical Therapy Associates, with offices in Revere, Malden, and Beverly. In 2004, his company won the Physical Therapy Practice of the Year Award from Advance for Directors in Rehabilitation magazine. His employees include Matthew Haley, BB'96; Sean Flaherty, BB'96; and Erin (Neary) Anderson, BB'01, GB'02. McGovern can be reached by e-mail at [kmcgovern@mcgovernpt.com](mailto:kmcgovern@mcgovernpt.com).

Erik Nedeau, CJ'94, married Amy Lyman on August 2, 2003. They live in Belchertown, Massachusetts. Amy is a Boston College graduate. The couple met at a track practice at Amherst College, where Nedeau, a former track standout at Northeastern, coaches.

Kurt P. and Yvonne Lum Westergren, both BA'94, live with their daughter, Greta, in New York City. "We left Boston four years ago and live in midtown Manhattan. Yvonne left her career as a fashion designer to raise our daughter," writes Kurt, who is a vice president with Sanford Bernstein, a unit of Alliance Capital. He can be e-mailed at [kurtwestergren@hotmail.com](mailto:kurtwestergren@hotmail.com).

Tom Cosseboom, BA'95, of Wall, New Jersey, is vice president of investment compliance at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. James R. Laurila, ME'95, of Florence, Massachusetts, has been named an associate with Dufresne-Henry, an engineering, planning, landscape architecture, and environmental science company. A senior project engineer, he specializes in the planning, design, and construction of solid-waste management facilities.

Erez Ofer, MBA'95, of South Grafton, Massachusetts, is vice president of technology strategy at EMC, the world's largest information storage and management company.

Chukwudozie Okpalaobieri, AS'96, of Chicago, writes, "Went back to law school at Northwestern after working for years in Boston. Will graduate in May 2006. Got married in 2001. We had our first child in April 2002, and a new baby boy on October 22, 2004. I am on the Northwestern Journal of International Law and Business. I have a job offer with a major law firm in Chicago and plan to practice in the corporate area."

Amy L. Monteiro, AS'97, of Norwood, Massachusetts, is a kindergarten teacher in the Westwood public school system. She received a master's degree in child development and early-childhood education from Wheelock College in 2000. Monteiro was married in Las Vegas last summer. Her e-mail address is [amy@blueskeyes.com](mailto:amy@blueskeyes.com).

Carole A. Symonds, PA'97, of Arlington, Massachusetts, is a partner in the Private Company Services tax practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Thaddeus Hoffmeister, L'98, of Washington, D.C., is the legislative director for U.S. representative Bob Filner, a Democrat from California, and is a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Kara Misto, N'98, of Providence, Rhode Island, and her husband celebrated the birth of their second child, James, on December 14, 2004. Everett is their first child. Misto received a master's degree in nursing education from the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing in May 2004. In September 2004, she became a full-time faculty member at the college. She teaches medical/surgical nursing.

Ara Hagopian, MBA'99, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, has been using paint, pen, and pencil to create artistic works depicting flowers, landscapes, and symbolic abstracts for twenty-five years. In spring 2004, he took first prize at the Chelmsford Art Society's thirty-sixth annual Fourth of July exhibition, his first public showing. In November 2004, his exhibition "Abstract and Traditional" was mounted at the Chelmsford Public Library.

Gary E. McGillivray, AS'99, writes, "I am now a trial attorney living and working in Marina Bay, Massachusetts. I specialize in plaintiffs' personal-injury law at the firm of Giarrusso, Norton, Cooley & McGlone. I have been in practice for two years, having graduated from Boston's New England School of Law in 2002. NU taught me to persevere, which has served me well in representing catastrophically injured clients." McGillivray can be reached by e-mail at [garvm@qncm.net](mailto:garvm@qncm.net).

Jeffrey Velez, BA'99, of Derry, New Hampshire, married Amy Shattuck on July 29, 2000. Their son, Jeffrey Jr., was born exactly two years later. Velez left the accounting field in 2003 to start his own business and now publishes Realty Mart, a real-estate magazine, out of his home.

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### 2000s

John E. Bishop, MBA'00, of Groton, Massachusetts, is the new vice president of pharmaceutical sciences and manufacturing at Momenta Pharmaceuticals. Bishop earned a doctorate in organic chemistry at the University of California.

Sara E. Derick, N'00, of Hyde Park, Massachusetts, writes, "I was married on October 30, 2004, in Sturbridge. My husband, Patrick, completed eight years of military service with the U.S. Army in September and is now attending the Boston Police Academy. I am a labor and delivery nurse in Boston. We recently purchased a home and are enjoying married life."

Leonor Gonzalez and Alexander Luft, both BA'00, of San Francisco, were married August 7, 2004, in Munich, Germany. "Many of our close friends from the BSIB program attended," writes Gonzalez. The e-mail address is [leonorfilardo@yahoo.com](mailto:leonorfilardo@yahoo.com).

Michael J. Carlucci Kennedy, AS'00, of New York City, writes, "Just wanted to give the official heads-up that I changed my last name to Kennedy. I am working on Wall Street with Matt Geoffroy, BA'00. All the NU lacrosse alumni had a blast at last year's first alumni game. It was great to see all the guys who made it out last year, and I hope to see more 'lax' alumni this year."

Varflay C. Kesselly, AS'00, writes, "I currently live in Arlington, Virginia, and work as a homeland security analyst for Science Applications International Corporation, a research and engineering company. I moved from the Boston area shortly after graduate school at Suffolk University. I can be reached at [varflay@yahoo.com](mailto:varflay@yahoo.com)."

Erin Smith, AS'00, of Brookline, Massachusetts, reports that she is working toward a doctorate in biochemistry at Boston University. She has finished the class work and has begun the research studies required for a dissertation.

Romben Aquino, L'01, of New York City, is a staff attorney at the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. He notes that after work he "can usually be found making the rounds of Manhattan's karaoke circuit."

Kathleen Deely, MA'01, of Arlington, Massachusetts, has been appointed the assistant lifestyle editor at the Lowell Sun. She began working at the newspaper in 1999 as a town reporter.

Jennifer L. Bradley, AS'02, of New Rochelle, New York, is engaged to be married to Jack Celata, AS'04. A former member of the Northeastern swim team, Bradley is an account executive with Lane & Coady

Public Relations.

Sarah Wardrop, AS'02, of Concord, New Hampshire, is the music director at WUMB-FM 91.9, the public radio station at UMassBoston.

Scott Wisnaskas, CJ'02, MJ'03, of Whitman, Massachusetts, is an assistant track and field coach at Northeastern. A former distance runner for the Huskies, he earned AllAmerica East honors in cross-country in 2000, was a team Most Valuable Player twice, and captained the track team as a senior.

Jeanne M. Lightbody, UC'03, of Foxboro, Massachusetts, writes, "Right after graduation, I passed the MTEL exams for high school biology. I wanted to teach. I put my resume out and was contacted for a position in the business world. So I ended up back in information technology. I spent the last year enjoying the new job, traveling, and riding my bicycle. Now I find I am ready to start working on a master's degree. Stay tuned."

Tarah Toohil, AS'03, of Drums, Pennsylvania, was honored in November 2004 with one of the inaugural Elpis Awards from the NephCure Foundation, an organization committed to seeking a cause and cure for the kidney conditions nephrotic syndrome and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis. In 2003, Toohil donated a kidney to her mother, Barbara, at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

John Mazzacano, BA'04, of Ramsey, New Jersey, is a sales associate in the Bergen County regional office of Weichert Commercial Brokerage.

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#### 1920s

Milton H. Merchant, E'27, April 21, 2004  
 Mary D. Horton, BB'28, July 19, 2003  
 Anne Haworth Fritz, BB'29, October 20, 2003  
 Charles R. Thombs, E'29, June 1, 2003  
 Chester M. White, E'29, March 19, 2004

#### 1930s

Irving I. Breitman, L'30, January 22, 2004  
 John A. Cullinan, E'30, May 21, 2004  
 Bernard Ritea, E'30, November 12, 2004  
 Lester H. Olson, LC'31, July 5, 2004  
 Lilla Andrew Clark, BB'32, December 2, 2003  
 Helen W. Cottee, BB'32, July 10, 2003  
 Merton G. Parsons, LC'32, August 6, 2003  
 Ernest Blumberg, L'33, May 15, 2004  
 Sidney G. Brown, L'34, January 15, 2004  
 Howard F. Jones, E'34, September 19, 2003  
 Marie Silber Nitchman, BB'34, September 26, 2004  
 Ellsworth W. Dolan, BA'35, April 23, 2004  
 Sylvia Sandler Dubins, L'35, October 16, 2003  
 George H. Goff, B'35, September 4, 2003  
 Edward C. Hunt, L'35, October 2, 2003  
 William E. Johnson, E'35, January 8, 2004  
 Bernard H. Michelson, E'35, November 2, 2004  
 Robert G. Mitchell, E'35, December 1, 2004  
 William J. Tuller, E'35, November 9, 2004  
 Gertrude C. Bowles, BB'36, March 15, 2004  
 Arthur B. Crooks, BA'36, July 2, 2004  
 Roy A. Nelson, E'36, September 7, 2004  
 Everett M. Fazioli, E'37, August 29, 2004  
 Saul E. Jofte, L'37, February 5, 2004  
 Heath E. Morse, E'37, September 9, 2004  
 Robert W. Turner, E'37, August 28, 2004  
 John B. Cadogan, E'38, May 21, 2004  
 Peter C. Dulak, B'38, June 21, 2004  
 Harriet M. Gray, BB'38, August 11, 2003  
 Arthur J. Hanflig, L'38, October 2, 2004  
 Neal V. Humphrey, E'38, May 29, 2004  
 Leonard H. Straw, E'38, June 5, 2004  
 Priscilla Cunningham, BB'39, May 24, 2004  
 Alphonso Liberace, L'39, January 26, 2004  
 Allan C. Wilson, BA'39, June 11, 2003

#### 1940s

Robert B. Eaton, P'40, January 22, 2004  
 Lawrence J. Fallon, L'40, October 31, 2004  
 Joseph J. O'Connor, LC'40, LC'41, B'48, June 8, 2004  
 Alfred R. Pricolo, B'40, September 21, 2004  
 Margery J. Sage, BB'40, September 9, 2004  
 Earl L. Chatterton, E'41, January 22, 2004  
 Leonard C. Farney, E'41, November 17, 2004  
 Hyman L. Fishman, P'41, May 30, 2004  
 Albert J. Luftman, L'41, November 26, 2003  
 Robert S. Marston, E'41, May 23, 2004  
 Michael J. Rymsha, E'41, June 19, 2003  
 John Stepasiuk, BA'41, May 25, 2004  
 Helen E. Travers, BB'41, May 5, 2004  
 Herbert G. Weightman, E'41, June 9, 2004  
 Eleanor L. Cooley, B'42, August 5, 2004  
 John A. Higgins, E'42, September 13, 2004  
 Alvin R. Ingram, MA'42, January 23, 2004

Joseph B. Nadol, L'42, June 20, 2004  
 William Tick, L'42, August 17, 2004  
 Lawrence E. Whitney, E'42, April 14, 2004  
 Herbert Birnbaum, LA'43, July 10, 2004  
 Edward S. Grodziski, LC'43, September 9, 2004  
 Charles H. Cook, LA'44, April 5, 2004  
 Joan Murphy Dazzi, BB'44, June 30, 2003  
 Alexander McCracken, BA'44, November 24, 2004  
 Frank J. Tomaini, E'44, November 1, 2004  
 Martin W. Donovan, LA'45, April 24, 2004  
 Eugenia Scanlon Decarli, BB'46, June 19, 2003  
 Charles T. Mitchell, E'46, B'53, August 4, 2004  
 Peter S. Wondolowski, L'46, July 30, 2004  
 Arthur M. Ayvazian, LA'47, July 13, 2003  
 Faliero Fabio, E'47, April 9, 2003  
 Louis S. Howland, LA'47, November 23, 2003  
 Florence S. Stern, LA'47, January 11, 2004  
 Arthur C. Bardelli, LC'48, B'51, MBA'65, October 15, 2003  
 Edward Beale, E'48, September 6, 2004  
 Paul P. Frieser, BA'48, April 23, 2004  
 Samuel A. Hickox, B'48, October 29, 2003  
 Arnold Katz, E'48, January 30, 2004  
 Leonard L. Leinonen, E'48, ME'69, June 16, 2004  
 Steven J. Macora, B'48, April 9, 2004  
 George S. Mulcahy, E'48, August 14, 2004  
 Gerald E. Trudel, L'48, July 6, 2003  
 Bernard Ullian, L'48, March 8, 2004  
 Lester S. Goodman, BA'49, August 1, 2004  
 David C. Peak, BA'49, June 16, 2004  
 Joseph G. Sakey, LA'49, November 22, 2004  
 Herbert C. Single, E'49, June 3, 2004

#### 1950s

Francis W. Carpenter, LC'50, August 16, 2004  
 John F. Delibero, P'50, May 3, 2004  
 Albert J. Dudzik, B'50, April 20, 2004  
 Robert C. Gardner, BA'50, September 12, 2003  
 Murray N. Markson, BA'50, September 17, 2004  
 Leo D. Matteosian, E'50, January 6, 2004  
 Michael Niznik, E'50, September 21, 2004  
 Fernand J. Belanger, LA'51, MBA'60, November 5, 2003  
 Edward J. Brzys, B'51, July 16, 2003  
 John A. Caputo, B'51, MBA'53, July 19, 2003  
 Francis J. Conroy, LC'51, B'54, March 26, 2004  
 Charles M. Copeland, BA'51, June 22, 2004  
 Emile Dudziak, L'51, November 14, 2003  
 Andrew A. Lalikos, E'51, April 18, 2003  
 George N. Metilinos, P'51, January 19, 2004  
 Chrystal M. Rothamel, B'51, October 6, 2004  
 Alban G. Sheehan, LC'51, October 25, 2004  
 Richard A. Smith, LC'51, B'53, July 10, 2004  
 Richard C. Woodfall, BA'51, MBA'66, September 7, 2003  
 Robert H. Byrne, LA'52, September 29, 2004  
 James A. Donnelly, LC'52, B'54, May 10, 2003  
 Joseph H. Gately, B'52, April 29, 2004  
 Leonard J. Gosselin, BB'52, April 18, 2003  
 Edward E. Graf, LC'52, B'54, November 2, 2004  
 John N. Harriott, BA'52, May 16, 2003  
 Sidney Maylor, LC'52, B'55, January 14, 2004  
 Dana W. McKechnie, E'52, July 4, 2003  
 Harvey Rooks, BA'52, July 2, 2004  
 Donald F. Shephard, LC'52, B'54, September 18, 2003  
 Carl M. Smith, LC'52, B'53, E'63, August 22, 2004  
 Melvin S. Smith, L'52, February 15, 2004  
 James F. Swanson, B'52, April 18, 2003  
 Claude F. Valle, E'52, MA'58, October 27, 2004  
 Frederick Vogt, E'52, June 15, 2003  
 Leon A. Williams, BA'52, July 11, 2003  
 Melvin E. Carlson, LC'53, B'55, July 21, 2003  
 Henry A. Chevrette, LC'53, B'55, LC'61, February 24, 2004  
 Roger A. Cossaboom, E'53, January 28, 2004  
 Albert E. Cutting, E'53, MBA'62, July 18, 2004  
 Robert Dushan, E'53, July 20, 2004  
 William G. Field, MA'53, January 24, 2004  
 Douglas P. Forbes, E'53, November 27, 2003

Leonard W. Forbes, LC'53, November 12, 2003  
 George C. Gay, LC'53, UC'64, MEd'70, February 7, 2004  
 Dikran R. Manoogian, LC'53, B'56, July 9, 2004  
 William L. Potter, LC'53, UC'61, May 5, 2004  
 Joseph H. Smith, B'53, January 18, 2004  
 John L. Sullivan, B'53, February 24, 2004  
 Albert G. Berberian, E'54, June 23, 2004  
 Ludy J. Bonfiglio, LC'54, B'56, June 27, 2004  
 William B. Briggs, LC'54, B'57, MBA'64, September 8, 2004  
 Robert A. Cline, BA'54, February 14, 2004  
 Warren W. Howlett, B'54, December 17, 2003  
 Joseph P. McSweeney, B'54, November 13, 2004  
 William J. Naulty, LC'54, June 5, 2003  
 Roger W. Provost, LC'54, B'55, October 25, 2003  
 Allan A. Ryan, B'54, June 19, 2004  
 Christy A. Vose, P'54, July 24, 2004  
 Douglas B. Whitney, ME'54, September 22, 2004  
 Elliot J. Atlas, B'55, November 20, 2003  
 William J. Bonafede, E'55, July 6, 2003  
 Ralph A. Cardarelli, E'55, ME'68, August 13, 2003  
 Charles E. Dallachie, LA'55, September 28, 2003  
 Richard W. Emery, BA'55, March 27, 2004  
 Robert F. Foye, B'55, May 8, 2003  
 George A. Gould, B'55, June 10, 2004  
 James P. Grant, B'55, November 11, 2004  
 John W. Harnden, BB'55, December 10, 2003  
 Antanas Januska, B'55, B'57, July 1, 2003  
 Robert E. Mattson, BA'55, November 27, 2004  
 Frederick J. Mauriello, MBA'55, August 30, 2004  
 Richard W. McCarthy, LC'55, B'56, October 10, 2004  
 William F. Meara, L'55, August 24, 2004  
 Conrad D. Racine, BA'55, July 25, 2004  
 Ronald White, E'55, December 23, 2003  
 William A. White, LC'55, UC'68, September 26, 2003  
 David M. Bahia, E'56, August 24, 2004  
 James F. Dick, ME'56, October 10, 2003  
 Philip A. Dick, ME'56, October 3, 2003  
 Robert E. Hale, BA'56, October 19, 2003  
 John A. Prokopy, B'56, July 23, 2003  
 Henry S. Stowers, B'56, August 5, 2004  
 Alfred Unterberg, LC'56, June 21, 2004  
 David S. Berggren, BA'57, September 17, 2004  
 Walter F. Boisclair, LC'57, B'60, September 8, 2003  
 Arnold R. Carlson, MBA'57, October 5, 2003  
 Robert V. Cosman, E'57, February 5, 2004  
 Barbara Delemos Drinan, LA'57, LA'60, April 1, 2004  
 Janice F. Harman, BB'57, September 14, 2003  
 Earle R. Laste, E'57, ME'59, November 27, 2004  
 R. Paul Mastrocola, E'57, November 24, 2004  
 Albert J. Oliva, BA'57, May 6, 2004  
 Allan K. Parker, E'57, May 26, 2004  
 Clyde F. Shufelt, E'57, ME'66, November 1, 2003  
 John W. Covell, P'58, February 26, 2004  
 Leonard G. Dunn, BA'58, July 30, 2004  
 Manhart L. Galambos, B'58, February 15, 2004  
 James D. Harrington, LC'58, B'59, December 6, 2003  
 A. Louise Lane-Parker, Ed'58, June 14, 2003  
 Salvatore Macera, B'58, B'60, October 29, 2003  
 Normand A. Vaillant, E'58, January 6, 2004  
 Richard Y. Clark, ME'59, August 24, 2004  
 Nicholas A. Decoulos, B'59, September 30, 2004  
 Norman J. Diamond, P'59, July 27, 2004  
 John J. Farrell, E'59, June 5, 2003  
 Sylvia Fishman, BB'59, June 5, 2004  
 Norman A. Johnson, LC'59, October 2, 2003  
 Henry J. Kerr, E'59, August 24, 2004  
 William A. MacWilliam, B'59, August 11, 2003  
 Joseph E. McNulty, LC'59, UC'61, July 17, 2003  
 John T. Mellen, B'59, August 16, 2003  
 John G. Stanley, B'59, October 29, 2004  
 Paul Witty, BA'59, October 15, 2004

#### 1960s

Edwin H. Beckvold, B'60, December 16, 2003  
 Alvan A. Innis, BA'60, January 17, 2004

John J. Kelleher, E'60, December 22, 2003  
 John M. McLaughlin, LC'60, UC'62, July 5, 2004  
 Robert Sinclair, B'60, September 28, 2003  
 Edmund P. Sullivan, E'60, ME'62, June 9, 2004  
 Francis F. Tully, MBA'60, August 29, 2004  
 Alfred S. Weincroft, LA'60, October 5, 2004  
 William C. Wild, MBA'60, February 29, 2004  
 Richard T. Brophy, UC'61, January 14, 2004  
 David M. Crehan, MEd'61, April 14, 2003  
 Thomas F. Cullen, E'61, July 7, 2004  
 Robert A. Deleo, UC'61, November 7, 2003  
 John W. Doran, MBA'61, July 17, 2004  
 Richard F. Dutting, ME'61, September 23, 2004  
 Paul J. Grant, E'61, ME'63, March 4, 2004  
 John F. Harding, LA'61, July 14, 2004  
 Bruce MacDonald, UC'61, May 30, 2004  
 Louis A. Marotta, LC'61, UC'70, May 31, 2003  
 Michael P. Tierney, LC'61, UC'63, July 3, 2003  
 Bruce M. Walker, UC'61, June 25, 2004  
 Richard G. Demmler, BA'62, May 23, 2004  
 Richard L. Doucette, E'62, November 21, 2004  
 Patrick J. Hurley, LC'62, October 16, 2003  
 Roger J. Lavoie, LC'62, MBA'70, June 23, 2003  
 George R. Osborne, LC'62, July 25, 2004  
 Patricia F. Reynolds, MBA'62, November 1, 2003  
 Angelo J. Zucco, MEd'62, August 7, 2004  
 Donald R. Carlson, UC'63, September 2, 2004  
 George W. Clark, BA'63, April 4, 2003  
 Edward G. McFaden, LC'63, UC'65, January 15, 2004  
 William G. Skulley, MEd'63, October 12, 2003  
 Curtis F. Torrey, BA'63, July 21, 2004  
 Ilmars Berzins, BA'64, October 18, 2004  
 Leonard O. Bourgeois, UC'64, April 11, 2004  
 Howard W. Chin, MBA'64, November 3, 2004  
 Charles F. Flaherty, LA'64, October 4, 2004  
 Carl G. Gal, LC'64, UC'69, December 3, 2003  
 Edward A. Johnson, UC'64, January 22, 2004  
 Salvatore Lippiello, LC'64, January 28, 2004  
 Robert M. Nataupsky, BA'64, May 5, 2004  
 Richard P. Robinson, LC'64, UC'66, February 18, 2004  
 Myron H. Smith, MBA'64, January 15, 2004  
 Robert P. Walker, BA'64, June 3, 2004  
 Francis V. Alla, BA'65, October 1, 2004  
 Charles J. Barbanti, MBA'65, August 7, 2004  
 Ellen M. Connolly, MBA'65, February 17, 2004  
 Joseph L. Dunn, UC'65, June 23, 2004  
 Peggy E. Gleicher, MA'65, June 5, 2004  
 Paul E. Jenney, BA'65, January 10, 2004  
 Henry J. Mulligan, LC'65, September 9, 2004  
 Stanley Natanson, LA'65, September 5, 2004  
 Joseph T. Purretta, UC'65, March 31, 2004  
 Willis A. Soper, MBA'65, January 26, 2004  
 Richard T. Ward, UC'66, June 10, 2003  
 Paul C. Watson, ME'66, August 10, 2004  
 Jorge E. Ardila, E'67, March 7, 2004  
 Stephen J. Duggan, UC'67, June 30, 2003  
 Thomas L. Gigliotti, BA'67, February 20, 2004  
 Kenneth A. Mason, MA'67, September 6, 2004  
 Helen M. Oroski, MEd'67, November 3, 2004  
 Robert W. Sossong, BA'67, September 14, 2003  
 Carol A. Bedard, UC'68, September 19, 2004  
 David M. Bishop, MEd'68, March 18, 2004  
 Thomas J. Daley, ME'68, August 13, 2004  
 Ellis J. Field, UC'68, LC'68, January 2, 2004  
 Frederick A. Larson, ME'68, March 14, 2004  
 Clarence R. Fitzgibbon, LA'69, November 26, 2003  
 John W. Gates, MBA'69, January 26, 2004  
 Marshal E. Johnson, BA'69, MBA'74, August 25, 2004  
 Kenneth C. Taber, ME'69, December 10, 2003  
 Peter R. Veckery, UC'69, June 14, 2004

#### 1970s

Gary J. Cameron, E'70, November 12, 2004  
 Milan Cesnek, UC'70, July 10, 2003  
 Glendon H. Dwinells, UC'70, June 17, 2004

Marilyn Giles, BB'70, December 25, 2003  
 Lawrence E. Huffling, LA'70, April 8, 2004  
 Paul K. King, BA'70, April 28, 2004  
 Carl F. Lemuth, ME'70, March 21, 2004  
 Roy E. Lundin, UC'70, October 11, 2004  
 Dennis P. Lynch, E'70, September 19, 2004  
 Jeannie B. Budd, Ed'71, September 16, 2004  
 Janice Cohen Fiano, LA'71, April 10, 2003  
 Joseph A. Frisbie, UC'71, MBA'75, October 19, 2003  
 Vincent P. Riley, UC'71, September 19, 2004  
 Walter T. McDonald, E'72, ME'91, September 23, 2003  
 Robert J. Price, UC'72, UC'76, March 24, 2004  
 Daniel R. Rohleder, E'72, August 18, 2004  
 Milton D. Sterrett, UC'72, March 26, 2004  
 Kenneth A. Cloutier, UC'73, UC'85, February 7, 2004  
 Paul I. Douglas, E'73, ME'75, October 29, 2004  
 Richard P. Flaherty, E'73, January 28, 2004  
 Narayan N. Gidwani, E'73, March 6, 2004  
 Anthony G. Munt, LC'73, March 7, 2004  
 Ronald R. Reinhold, ME'73, June 10, 2003  
 Cynthia J. Baron, MA'74, August 6, 2004  
 Richard V. Comeau, MBA'74, August 8, 2004  
 Paul E. Deveau, BA'74, March 16, 2004  
 Mary M. Graham, UC'74, September 23, 2004  
 Ture A. Heline, LC'74, August 22, 2004  
 Edward T. Hoey, LA'74, April 20, 2003  
 Lawrence R. Keats, MBA'74, May 5, 2004  
 Gregory G. Larson, UC'74, August 15, 2003  
 Edward A. Leitao, LA'74, July 27, 2004  
 David A. Manning, UC'74, August 30, 2004  
 Thomas J. Morrow, E'74, August 10, 2003  
 Paul V. O'Connor, CJ'74, July 3, 2004  
 Paul Rodrigues, BA'74, September 7, 2003  
 Helen M. Volkmann, UC'74, December 24, 2003  
 Ronald E. Beaupre, LC'75, December 9, 2003  
 Charles M. Beckert, Ed'75, May 1, 2003  
 Michael V. Lavelle, Ed'75, November 6, 2003  
 Chester W. MacDonald, UC'75, July 19, 2004  
 Margaret M. Martinez, BB'75, November 25, 2003  
 Patricia McCormick McCarter, PA'75, February 7, 2004  
 John M. Otis, UC'75, February 22, 2004  
 James R. Burns, UC'76, July 13, 2003  
 James S. Carey, LC'76, UC'77, August 23, 2003  
 Arthur E. Cederquist, UC'76, UC'79, February 9, 2004  
 Lorraine Einis, MPH'76, August 2, 2003  
 Ann P. Gallagher, MEd'76, December 20, 2003  
 Robert P. Noonan, E'76, ME'84, July 21, 2004  
 Charles N. Solimini, UC'76, UC'78, February 10, 2004  
 Walter D. Barlow, Ed'77, August 30, 2003  
 Shek T. Chan, E'77, July 10, 2003  
 Janette L. Everton, UC'77, August 26, 2003  
 Thomas V. Giovannini, BA'77, February 1, 2004  
 Edward J. Hurley, UC'77, UC'80, June 25, 2004  
 Bernard L. O'Quinn, UC'77, December 19, 2003  
 Hilaria E. Adams, UC'78, UC'80, October 5, 2003  
 James L. Gallagher, LA'78, October 9, 2003  
 Allen D. Gilbert, UC'79, September 14, 2003  
 Laura B. Monroe, L'79, November 21, 2004

#### 1980s

Daniel Daly, LC'80, LC'83, July 22, 2003  
 Anne L. Freedman, L'80, August 28, 2004  
 Robert P. Kelleher, UC'80, August 8, 2003  
 Charles H. Marston, MEd'80, September 4, 2004  
 Sammy Sit, PAH'80, November 2, 2003  
 Barton J. Yatchmenoff, MA'80, September 20, 2004  
 Douglas Ciccolo, BA'81, August 22, 2004  
 Robert A. Monaco, LC'81, April 4, 2003  
 Katherine M. Skinner, UC'81, April 18, 2004  
 Marie H. Van Son, MEd'81, February 19, 2004  
 Nancy M. Durkee, GB'82, January 8, 2004  
 Christopher Sconzo, BA'82, November 30, 2003  
 Nancy J. Ayers, UC'84, May 8, 2004  
 Kathleen G. Dalrymple, BPH'84, August 29, 2003  
 Bruce E. Hamblet, LC'84, September 1, 2004

Frank J. Mottolo, BA'84, June 19, 2004  
Norman R. Gallant, E'85, August 17, 2004  
Karl B. Robinson, BA'85, August 6, 2004  
Scott Donovan, AS'86, November 2, 2004  
William A. Hodges, UC'86, February 13, 2004  
Cecile Bouthiller, Ed'88, July 6, 2004  
Madeline M. Mitrano, UC'89, January 21, 2004

**1990s**

Virginia A. Perry, UC'90, UC'93, January 23, 2004  
Hien V. Pham, E'90, February 27, 2004  
Christine A. Keener, L'91, December 8, 2004  
Richard G. Duca, UC'93, UC'94, April 22, 2003  
Carl L. Benson, UC'94, UC'97, August 11, 2004  
Rosaria M. Bertone, BB'95, July 22, 2004  
Lawrence E. Monks, E'96, June 28, 2004  
Maureen Sheehan, Ed'96, December 18, 2003  
John L. Cain, UC'97, May 15, 2004

**2000s**

Heidi J. Block, MA'01, July 6, 2004  
Lauren B. Salb, AS'01, October 7, 2003  
Gordon Woodhouse, UC'01, June 5, 2004  
Naila Liz Zayas, UC'02, March 8, 2004

# Northeastern

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## First-Person

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### Charles Parsons, UC'93

Since graduating from Northeastern twelve years ago, I've lived and worked in more than a dozen Pacific Rim countries. When I first came to Thailand in 1994, I found I started making friends and business connections there almost immediately. It was clear to me why Thailand is called the Land of Smiles.

So, later that same year, I bought a condo in Bangkok. I'd been living in hotels for almost two years, and I wanted a place to call home.

I met a young Thai woman, Jang, who became my wife in 1996. Our daughters were born in 1997 and 2000. Two years ago, I established my own company, Parsons Globe, which specializes in sales and marketing in Asia, management training, and new-business development assistance for multinational companies coming to Thailand or expanding into the Asian region.

On December 26 last year, my family woke up as usual at our home in Bangkok. But as we dug into blueberry pancakes, we began to hear ominous reports on CNN. Something unusual and destructive was happening in and around Phuket, and elsewhere in the Andaman coastal areas.

By mid-afternoon, the reports were getting comprehensive enough for my family and me—and the entire world—to see what had really happened in paradise on that quiet morning. An undersea earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, had triggered a massive tsunami.

As one of the world's most-popular tropical destinations, Thailand was filled with people on holiday. The waves slammed the beach resorts on the west coast and outlying islands, which draw well-to-do travelers from around the world.

These resorts are also the destination of choice for many wealthy Thai citizens—including, that day, a princess, Ubolratana, and her twenty-one-year-old son, Khun Poom Jensen, the King of Thailand's grandson. The family was vacationing in an area called Phang Nga, which, like many other seaside locales, was hit by waves some thirty feet high.

The princess survived. Her son, however, did not. His death shocked the Thai people and made news in the rest of the world. (Even former U.S. presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and President George W. Bush offered their condolences at the Thai embassy in Washington, D.C. in early January.)

Describing the overall destruction and aftermath of the tsunami is difficult. In some places, the waves were so strong that boats were cast a mile inland, or lodged



*Photo courtesy Charles Parsons*

high up in trees. Large structures, parts of small towns, even entire villages were ripped out and pulled to sea.

Areas in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, where I've traveled for work, and in the Andaman Sea, where I've spent holidays, are completely gone, as if erased from the map. It felt strange for me to realize that I've spent a lot of time in many of the affected seaside resorts—and most often during Christmas week.

Authorities are still trying to identify thousands of bodies stored in refrigerated containers all over the region, so that those listed as missing can finally be accounted for. By early February, the number of people killed in South Asia was estimated at nearly 300,000. The total will likely rise even higher as remote areas are inspected more thoroughly.

Of course, the closer a tragedy hits home, the more it hurts. I lost a friend, someone who probably spent only four or five days a year on holiday. She was having breakfast as the first wave hit. According to people who were with her, the wave pushed, pulled, and suddenly everything that was there a moment before was gone. I have close business associates and grad school classmates in Bangkok who lost friends and family members.

On the other hand, the outpouring of volunteers and all forms of aid has been amazing, and the spirit of caring from the world community is starting to help those most affected. Prime ministers from several European countries have come to Thailand to offer their support and express their thanks for all that is being done in behalf of their missing and injured citizens.

Thailand is known for its kind people and close-knit society. It's not surprising that the kingdom has thrown itself behind an enormous volunteer effort, stretching from December 26 until today. The Thai culture and sense of community will help the country rebuild, recover, and regain normality.

I am confident Thailand will be even stronger as a result of the tragedy. There is talk of better planning, zoning, and early-warning systems, and an increased focus on maintaining stricter standards, so that paradise lost will be restored for all to enjoy. In some areas, this is already happening.

My advice to anyone looking for spectacular natural beauty, great food, and some of the nicest people around: Save your frequent-flyer miles, and come to Thailand. Jang, the girls, and I would be happy to meet you and help you in any way we could during your stay. Feel free to e-mail me; my address is [charles@parsonsglobe.com](mailto:charles@parsonsglobe.com).

Best wishes, from the Land of Smiles.

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## Husky Tracks

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### Michelangelo of Miniatures

If you're searching the web for info on mixed-media collages, try googling the keywords "contemporary," "experimental," or "quirky." You might find works by Andrea Fuhrman, MEd'79. She describes her postcard-sized creations as a mélange of "candy-wrapper bits, old dictionaries, home-decorating magazines, paper sunglasses from the eye doctors, biology texts, thrift-store items, fabric remnants, and things I find on the street."

Plus a dash of whimsy. "They're a little tongue-in-cheek," says Fuhrman, who sometimes sews objects onto 4-by-6- or 6-by-8-inch landscapes elaborately framed with gold leaf.

The tiny works are making big waves. Fuhrman has shown widely and earned numerous artist-in-residencies. At the 2003 Postcard Art Competition and Exhibition, Fuhrman made the winners' circle for "You Forgot Your Purse," which features a Michelangelo-like hand of God reaching for Adam.

Many of her intimate pieces are borne of a childhood spent looking at pharmaceutical specimen slides. "I spent hours squinting through the eyepiece of my father's microscope," she says.

Other early influences? The New London, Connecticut, native was one of a handful of thirteen-year-olds who had a job at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, where she mixed tempera paint and prepared art clay for the Saturday classes the museum hosted.

"My parents worried I would not earn a living," Fuhrman says, so the onetime English major earned a master of education in counseling at Northeastern. Encouraged by an NU playwriting professor who recognized her creative spirit, she went on to get a BFA and an MFA, then paid off her student loans through a directorship at the Arts as Healing program at the Washington University School of Medicine's Siteman Cancer Center, in St. Louis.

She's no starving artist now. But she does recycle.

- Katy Kramer, MA'00



*Andrea Fuhrman*

*Photo courtesy of Andrea Fuhrman*



### **It's the Money, Honey**

Brett Graff, AS'92, is not your typical economist. Sure, she writes articles for the Miami Herald about such trends as the decline of flextime in the workplace. She's also a wife and mom, with a little standup comedian thrown in. Now she's managed to parlay all those roles into one: guru of home finance.

Graff is appearing regularly on PBS's Nightly Business Report in a segment called "Home Ec with Brett Graff," which explains how economic indicators affect families. The national spotlight may be bright today, but as a Northeastern student Graff didn't exactly have a solid career forecast.

"Actually," she says, "I knew I'd graduate, and they told me I'd graduate, but I never really pictured the day. Once it was there, I said, 'Oh, my God, I have to get a life.'" First, she landed a job as a federal economist in Washington, D.C. Then she headed to South Florida, where she still lives, to work as a journalist at the Daily Business Review.

All was not sunshine at the beginning. "After the first story I'd written," Graf recalls, "the editor came out of her office and said to me, 'What'll we do?' So I got a writing coach. I won't say there wasn't crying. There was crying."

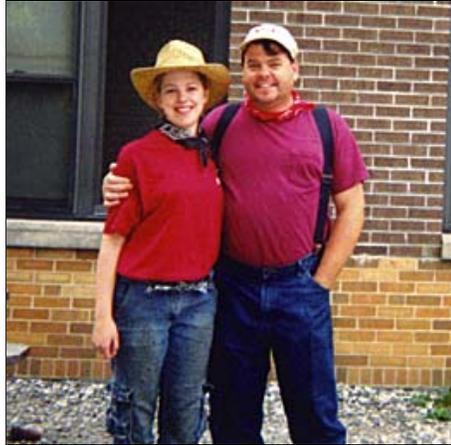
Despite the tears, Graff and the Review won an award that year for her piece on an unscrupulous accountant who had eviscerated a family business. The following year, Graff became a correspondent for Reuters in its Miami bureau.

Graff has spent plenty of time in print. Currently the editor in chief of Key Biscayne Magazine, she's also penned numerous pieces for American Baby, Glamour, and Redbook, and written a food column for a Miami glossy.

On television, her "Home Ec" pieces profit from the everyday details of her domestic life. Graff draws on stories inspired by her two girls, ages seventeen months and three years. She also works husband Bob Einhorn in occasionally.

"He gets a kick out it," she says. "He's proud."

- *Katy Kramer, MA'00*



### Sweet Home Appalachia

"It's not This Old House," says Bruce Kilgallon, CJ'81. "We have to budget materials, people, and resources carefully. We don't want to waste anything, so we measure at least twice."

For the past five years, Kilgallon and his nineteen-year-old daughter, Katelin, have spent the week after Independence Day repairing and building homes for families in rural Appalachia. They jack up houses to shore up foundations, put on roofs, and dig ditches for plumbing.

As volunteers for the Appalachia Service Project (ASP), the Kilgallons—along with approximately eighty-five others from Massachusetts's South Shore—drive vans to Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, or Kentucky to renovate homes in low-income areas. Father and daughter typically work on one project for five days before making the two-day trek back home.

ASP, based in Johnson City, Tennessee, was started in 1969 in association with the United Methodist Church. The organization annually hosts about 15,000 volunteers from numerous states and denominations. Some, like the Kilgallons, offer one week of summer service. Others volunteer year-round. The handyfolks don't need special skills: ASP provides a crash course in construction at mandatory pre-trip workshops.

Specializations, however, sometimes emerge. "I'm pretty good with roofs," says Kilgallon. "All kinds of roofs." He also assumes responsibility for the handful of college and high school kids assigned to his work team.

Houses aren't the only things that change. "Many of [the students] can't believe this is the U.S.A.," says Kilgallon, who is a claims supervisor for a medical-malpractice insurance group. "They come back with a better appreciation of what they have."

And Kilgallon's community service doesn't end with home improvement. He fundraises for ASP year-round. A one-week trip "costs about \$475 per person," he says, "which pays for transportation, housing—often the high school gymnasium—and materials." Despite the spartan accommodations, he and Katelin keep going back.

"It's a fulfilling week," Kilgallon says. "I like meeting new people, and I'm impressed with the kids. And you help a less-fortunate family have a better home."

- *Katy Kramer, MA'00*

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### The Station Masters: 1921

Say you need a refresher on the Pythagorean theorem. Who are you gonna call?

These men on the roof of the Y might have done the trick. They were civil engineering students who had climbed atop the YMCA building to erect a new triangulation signal, dubbed Station Northeastern.

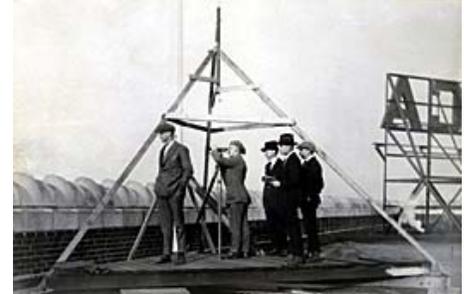
The signal aided large-scale surveying. Triangulation divides a region into a series of triangular elements, allowing distances and directions to be accurately pinpointed by measuring a signal from two or three different points and applying a little trigonometry.

NU's signal formed one vertex in the triangle. The other two were in Mount Auburn Cemetery and the State House cupola. (In case you're wondering, the distance from Station Northeastern to the golden dome was 9,002 feet, 6.75 inches.)

These sophomores extended the triangulation network to include Parker Hill and points in the Fenway. Observations could be made simultaneously on the signal and from the station. Pretty handy for civil engineers figuring out a construction layout or a property boundary.

Of course, such profligate use of manpower is now for squares only. One surveyor with a backpackful of tools could do the same job today.

And she'd probably still help you out with that theorem.



*Photo from University Libraries Archives and Special Collections Department*