



Northeastern University

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Northeastern University Alumni Magazine

Office of Marketing and Communications

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# Northeastern University alumni magazine: volume 30, number 5 (May 2005)

Northeastern University - Division of Marketing and Communications

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# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE UNIVERSITY

STAFF AWARDS ADVERTISE SEND CLASS NOTE SEND LETTER UPDATE ADDRESS BACK ISSUES CONTRIBUTE LINKS SEARCH

May 2005 • Volume 30, No. 5



## Features

**A Leading Question**  
**Sitting on the Dock of eBay**  
**Greeks, Unorthodox**

## Departments

**E Line**  
**Alumni Passages**  
**From the Field**  
**Research Briefs**  
**Sports**  
**Books**  
**Classes**  
**First-Person**  
**Husky Tracks**  
**Huskiana**

## Cover Story



### A Leading Question

*How do you build leaders for the twenty-first century? In one undergraduate seminar, bosses-in-training learn by examining the pitfalls in their own backyard.*

By Karen Feldscher  
 Illustrations by Jennifer Feller

They're only students. But Bill Durkin, Lauren Rouleau, and Ashley Adams are in charge.

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Rouleau is the editor of the student-run Northeastern News. She presides over editorial board meetings, serves as the News spokesperson, and guides the paper's section editors with what she hopes is a light hand.

Adams, the SGA vice president for academic affairs, heads up committees, listens to students describe their quandaries, and facilitates problem-solving discussions with academic officials.

• [Full story](#)

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Adams, the SGA vice president for academic affairs, heads up committees, listens to students describe their quandaries, and facilitates problem-solving discussions with academic officials.

All in a day's work for student leaders at most universities.

What's not so typical, though, is the weekly class Durkin, Rouleau, and Adams attend, the one that encourages them to step back and ruminate on the nature of leadership. How it's best done. What sinkholes to avoid. How to reach goals with minimal friction. Whether friction can ever really be avoided.

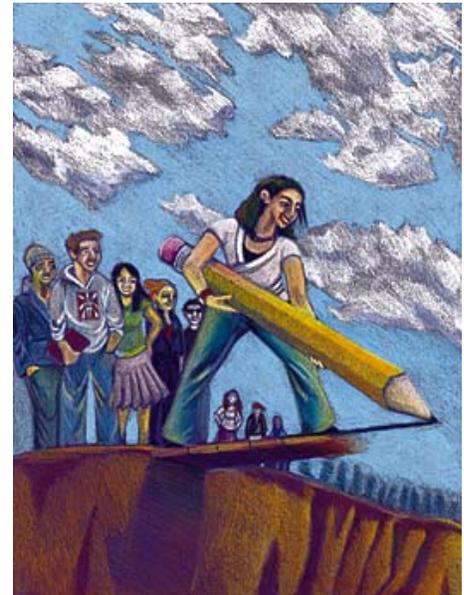
For the past six years, David Rochefort, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Political Science, has brought small but intense groups of student leaders together for a seminar on leadership. From January through April, a dozen or so students examine the challenges of leading, using Northeastern case studies, discussions, and visits from university administrators as their lenses.

The seminar is one of several leadership courses offered at Northeastern, at a time when leadership training is gaining popularity in both academic and corporate settings.

And at a time when a lot of Americans, young people especially, are wondering where all the leaders have gone.

### Homegrown lessons

The student leadership seminar was introduced in



1995, after a group of professors and administrators decided student leaders ought to be able to integrate their extracurricular experiences with an academic perspective.

Today, it draws some of the most prominent students on campus. Rochefort describes class discussions as "active," sometimes "very passionate." No shrinking violets here.

"Everyone in that room has an opinion," agrees Rouleau, a senior.

Proving her point during a class in late February, students respond without hesitation when asked to name the qualities that make a good leader.

"Communication."

"Honesty."

"Self-confidence."

"Charisma."

"Don't micromanage," says Adams. "We've learned in this class how bad that is."

When Rochefort took over the seminar, it was rather loosely structured. "There was no real course or syllabus," he says. "The routine was that the SGA executive board would be sent to the political science department once a year for a course that was supposed to be related to their work as student leaders."

He soon realized the students weren't enamored of the instruction they were getting. So he worked with them to come up with a new approach.

"This is a unique course," says Rochefort. "It really was homegrown. Students get a chance to discuss and analyze leadership, looking at things they know about but maybe haven't considered systematically."

Though participation in the seminar is no longer limited to the SGA executive board, you do have to be a leader in a campus group to enroll. Classroom analysis is sparked by guest appearances by campus officials, who talk about their leadership challenges; President Freeland himself has visited the class for the past four years.

The students also consider various scholarly ideas on the topic of leadership, and parse the successes and failures of current leaders in the news. They even take turns leading the seminar themselves.

But at the heart of the course are the case studies, written by Northeastern students about Northeastern leadership issues. This spring, for example, the class studied a failed residence hall bag-check policy aimed at reducing alcohol and drug use among students, the aftereffects of the decision to switch from quarters to semesters, and the administration's handling of an unexpected "bulge" in the freshman class four years ago.

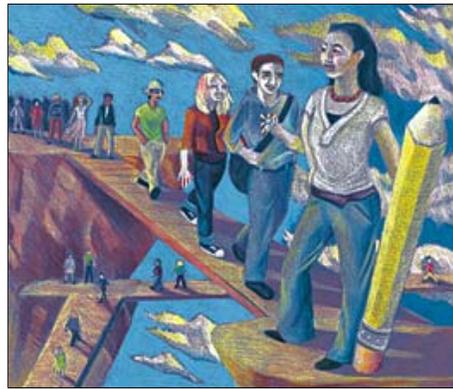
And the class doesn't just read cases. Every year, groups of students write their own. This year's writing

topics: Relations between Northeastern and neighboring communities in the wake of the 2004 Super Bowl riots, the university's response to student alcohol use, and efforts to expand alumni support.

Originally, Rochefort borrowed cases from Harvard Business School and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, two institutions known for producing stellar cases. But, over the years, he's replaced them all with Northeastern-based cases because, he says, focusing on in-house issues offers something special.

"I found the reaction of students to these cases was very strong," he says. "The topics were very immediate to them. These were situations they may have known of firsthand—or they knew some of the students who had written the cases—and they wanted to understand them better."

Talking to the flesh-and-blood officials themselves only piques more interest, Rochefort says: "When we started to have administrators come in to talk about the topics that were the focus of that week's cases, a real synergy took place."



#### **Nature? Or nurture?**

When you ask the students, they say they feed off the electricity.

Abi Green, AS'03, a political science major, says she loved the "energy in the room" when she took the course. "There were a lot of people I'd worked with on events at the university," she says. "But it was great to observe them in a non-urgent capacity. In some ways, it was a case study of what we were doing in real life."

The up-close access gives students a lot of information about how to lead.

"I was hoping the class would help us find out why good leaders are good leaders, and why bad leaders are bad," says Adams, a sophomore. "And that is definitely happening."

Everyone agrees the cases make one thing crystal clear: It's critically important for leaders to be good communicators. "Sometimes the lack of communication has shocked me," Adams says. "I thought that would be the first thing every leader would want to do."

"You've got to look to your key players, and involve them, and get their input," says Durkin, a middler. "If you don't, it blows up in your face."

Another lesson: Good leaders come in many styles.

After the class took a personality test, Rouleau says she realized that although "everyone is really different, everyone in that room, I feel, is a very successful leader. It just reinforces the fact that everyone can do it differently."

That's in line with Rochefort's ideas on leading. "You don't have to be just one type of person to be a leader," he tells the students in early March. "There are hard drivers, and there are nice guys."

Privately, he explains that he also has to work hard to debunk the myth of the born leader.

"It keeps coming up," Rochefort admits. "There are some who think it's genetic or something, that you can see on the playground who is going to be the future leader. This point of view exists not just among students, but among certain academics who write about leadership.

"I don't really believe that myself," he continues. "Your environment and your training have to count, or I would be very discouraged about doing a course like this, which aims to help students improve their leadership skills. Whatever their own basic endowments are, they can certainly benefit from reflecting on and analyzing cases that display leadership challenges."

Rochefort adds, "There are people who are born with some of the skills of leadership. For example, they may be charismatic. But they may also have a terrible lack of organization. You may be born with a gift for public speaking, but that doesn't mean you're good at managing people or organizing an office.

"Successful leadership involves multiple skills," he says. "So one of the things that's emphasized in this course is being able to assess yourself, discover things you need to improve upon, and concentrate on building skills in those areas."

Green found Rochefort's optimistic bent resonated with her. "I think it's great when you start out with some talent," she says. "But, at the same time, what the class showed me is that leadership is a skill you can hone, and learn, and get better at."

#### **The view from the expert's chair**

For their part, the university administrators who have visited the seminar appear to be reaping their own benefits, relishing the opportunity to have frank discussions with students about the complexities of their jobs.

Former student affairs vice president Karen Rigg, who agreed to be the subject of a case study several years back, says the students "asked very thoughtful questions. My sense was that they were bright, committed students who were quite focused on the university and, particularly because of their leadership roles, were wondering how they could contribute to the university."

She welcomed the back-and-forth. "It was wonderful to engage with students at that level, where you're not pontificating, but responding out of your experience

and your commitment to the university," she says.

President Freeland says he's also valued his interactions with the seminar's students, whom he describes as "wanting to mix it up a little bit with somebody who's got a big position." He says he tries to offer them an accurate picture of what it's like to run an organization.

"I think students may have a tendency to equate leadership with sitting at the top of a pyramid, where all you have to do is say something and people do what you tell them," he says. "I try to move them to a place of understanding that there are many ways people exercise leadership, only one of which involves that kind of formal authority.

"For example, there's a form of leadership that occurs through intellectual persuasion, and another that requires setting a good example," says Freeland. "Any leader worth his salt is thinking about a variety of ways to influence the feelings, and thoughts, and behaviors of those within his or her organization, and doesn't think about it in a strictly hierarchical kind of way."

Freeland also emphasizes the significant downside of leading: having to deliver bad news.

"It's very difficult to exercise leadership in any complex organization without, at times, being called upon to make decisions that disappoint or even hurt someone," he says. "But if you assume the responsibility of leadership, then the ethics of that require you to decide what's best for the long-term strengths of the institution you're heading. And that may require you to disappoint or hurt individuals. If you're not prepared to do that, I think it's unethical for you to take the position. It's a big price to pay, and not everyone is ready to pay it."

He continues, "I want to make clear to students that leadership roles can be extremely demanding and full of pain for the people who occupy them. And that leadership is about service—subordinating your own personal interests for the greater good."

Of course, administrators are prepared to tout the joys of leadership, too. During a class in March, College of Arts and Sciences dean James Stellar exuded enthusiasm as he talked about Northeastern's drive to join the ranks of the nation's top-hundred colleges and universities, as ranked by U.S. News & World Report.

"If you can pull people together, get them to work on a common goal that makes sense, get them to feel empowered, they will do things that exceed your imagination," he said.

But Stellar confessed all roads have their twists and turns. "There are a lot of things that happen in leadership that common sense would fix," he said. "I can tell you that because I've made an enormous number of mistakes. I've learned from doing the wrong thing. And I still have a lot of learning to do."

Rocheft asked Stellar to describe the best way to become a leader.

"Fall in love with something," Stellar said. "Build up your credentials. Become excellent. Be a problem-solver. Get people to work together. Pay attention to the system you're in. Find a mentor."

And, he added, don't buy into the "who do you think you are" reaction you sometimes get when you have your eye on a leadership role.

"A lot of people say negative things about leadership," he told the class. "We worry that wanting to become a leader is egotistical. But there's nothing wrong with saying, 'I'm interested.' Just go for it. The fact is, the world needs a lot of leadership."

Especially now, it seems. When the students are asked during another class which leaders they admire, they seem stuck. Someone mentions Franklin Roosevelt. Another, John F. Kennedy. Oprah, someone else chimes in, as the rest of the room chuckles.

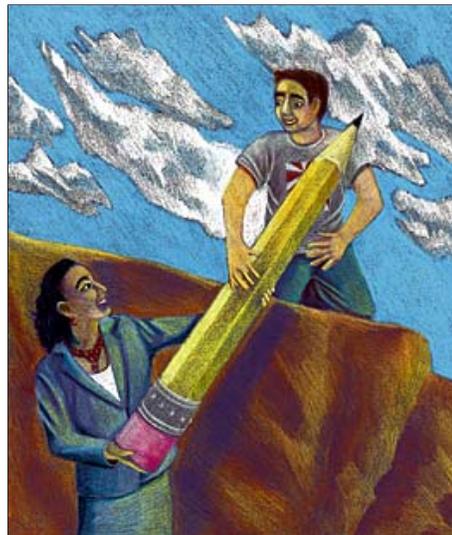
Junior Jillian Sheppard, a member of the Model United Nations Association, sums up the general feeling. "We have no one to look to," she says.

Pressed later on whether there's a leader she respects, junior Nikki Joffe praises Rudy Giuliani for helping New Yorkers regain their footing in the wake of 9/11.

Though he believes there's "a lack of admirable leaders in our world today," Bill Durkin says he admires New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick. "He is humble, always stays focused on the task at hand, fosters a team atmosphere, and is a doer, not a talker," he says.

Ashley Adams says she, too, is generally dismayed with today's leaders, citing their "lack of emphasis on honesty, integrity, and improving life for the members of the world." She says she notices "a lot of focus on money and wealth."

She's hopeful about the future, however. "I feel this generation has the capability to surge ahead, and make the most out of the world."



#### **We're all leaders now**

Despite the lack of charismatic role models, Rochefort and his colleagues believe students can still be taught to act like leaders. And just in time. Increasingly, educators and executives say, people have to act like leaders on the job, regardless of whether they actually

hold a leadership title.

Says Joseph Raelin, the Asa S. Knowles Chair of Practice-Oriented Education and director of Northeastern's Center for Work and Learning, "Things are getting very complicated in organizational life. Job descriptions are volatile. People move around a lot. Some people think it means we need a leader, a hero to save us. I don't see that. I see an interest in having the leadership more distributed in organizations."

"People are increasingly operating in multidisciplinary team environments," says Gerald Herman, assistant history professor and director of interdisciplinary studies at the College of Arts and Sciences. "Learning how to be a leader in a group environment, in which you can't order but can influence change, is becoming increasingly important."

Raelin and Herman have been instrumental in designing leadership programs at Northeastern. So has Christopher Hopey, vice president for adult and continuing education, who agrees with his colleagues' take on leadership in the twenty-first century. "Many organizations have become flat," he says. "People are becoming directors of groups or project managers. More and more, people have to have leadership skills in everything they do."

In January, a Boston Herald story focused on the growing number of leadership and management programs in Boston, which are attracting not just business executives, but physicians, high school teachers, nonprofit workers, and musicians. Hopey sees the same trend; he calls a degree in leadership "the new arts and sciences degree" for the modern organization.

To capitalize on all the interest, Northeastern's School of Professional and Continuing Studies (SPCS) has launched two new leadership programs. A bachelor's in leadership studies was introduced last September, drawing a hundred students. And a master's in leadership that began in January drew ninety students. Both numbers were higher than expected, Hopey says.

SPCS also offers two other leadership programs: an eighteen-month intensive bachelor's program for mid-career executives with an associate's degree, and a program offering would-be community leaders from the Roxbury area a chance to learn from more experienced leaders.

In spring 2003, the College of Arts and Sciences launched a leadership studies minor, with core courses drawn from communication studies, journalism, interdisciplinary studies, and philosophy (Rochefort's seminar is one of the capstone courses). The minor offers tracks in public policy, military leadership, and women and leadership.

And the Division of Student Affairs runs its own series of leadership programs for students. Seminars cater to both new and experienced leaders; conferences held several times a year discuss such topics as women's leadership, leadership and spirituality, and the entrepreneurial leader.

Not surprisingly, all these programs emphasize hands-on experiences.

"We're making use of Northeastern's interest in

practice-oriented education," says Raelin. "We're saying leadership isn't something you pick up only from reading a book or taking a class. You learn about it, reflect on it, and apply it in practice."

#### **Walking in someone else's shoes**

On a chilly late-February afternoon, in a Ryder Hall classroom with a wall of windows that frame the Egan Research Center and the Ruggles T station, Rochefort's seminar comes to order.

The students' energy plays out in hyper body language: restless hands clicking pens, fingernails tapping, legs jiggling. When Rochefort reminds them of the upcoming deadline for the case studies they're writing, their faces register a mixture of concern, shock, and amusement.

They successfully negotiate an extension for when their first drafts are due.

After that, they get down to the business of the day: examining leadership challenges faced by campus fraternities and sororities.

John Guilfoil, a middler who is the SGA's vice president for administration and public relations, as well as the public relations director for the Kappa Sigma fraternity, leads the discussion. He gives the class some background on Greek organizations' struggle for visibility at Northeastern.

The discussion meanders a bit. Students talk about the stereotypes that plague fraternities and sororities: Animal House-type guys, Coach bag/Ebuying girls. How the Greeks face an uphill battle at an urban school like Northeastern, with so many activities from which to choose. How they're probably more popular at rural schools, where they're the main game around.

Gently, Rochefort steers the conversation in another direction, asking what the organizations—described in the case study under discussion as lacking system-wide coordination—could do to improve their campus standing.

"The Greek organizations want to be taken more seriously," he says. "How do they get to the next level? And, in general, how do organizations get treated more seriously?"

Dialogue and more dialogue is important, Rochefort knows, because leadership isn't an exact science. There are never any one-size-fits-all answers.

By the time students have completed the seminar, Rochefort wants them to have acquired a nuanced, sophisticated way of viewing challenges, which helps them understand why particular initiatives succeed or fail. He also wants them to recognize that leaders themselves are a work in progress.

Some students, Rochefort says, write case studies that strongly reflect their own views; they can't see things from an administrator's standpoint. That's when "it's very helpful for them to meet with the administrator involved," he says, "and realize what it was like to be facing the decision in real time."

When the class studied former residential life director

M. L. Langlie's unsuccessful residence hall bag-check policy, which was designed to reduce drinking and drug-taking in the dorms, the students initially focused on Langlie's missteps. But Rochefort reminded them that her attempt took courage.

"Even though what she came up with wasn't going to be effective, because there was too much opposition, she was recognizing there was a problem," he says. "And, with the students, she was very open and reflective about it, very willing to look back and say, 'Yeah, that was a mistake.'"

He adds, "She learned a lot. And so did we."

*Karen Feldscher is a senior writer.*

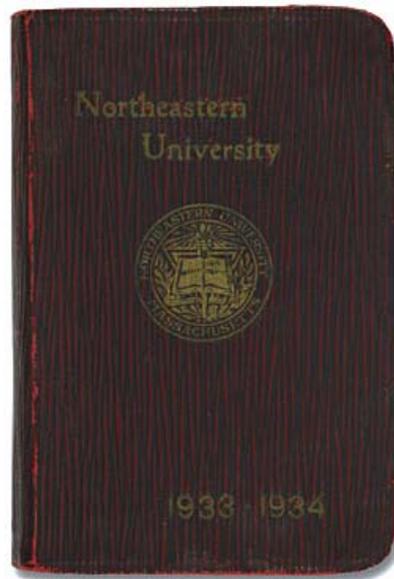


An older Cauldron holds special appeal for anyone interested in Northeastern history, amateur and professional alike. "It's a good resource for images of student life," says Krizack. "We don't have many images in our photo file from Northeastern's early days."

This volume, which was signed by many of the original owner's classmates, certainly offers a snapshot of a cordial campus. See the description of the good works done by the Student Union: "Through its Service and Welfare department, letters, copies of the News [the student paper], flowers, and fruit have been sent to ill students. . . ."

Archives has hundreds of copies of most later Cauldrons, enough to sell them for \$10 apiece. With one exception. "If you come to me with the 1970 edition, I'll be very, very happy," Krizack says. "We have only two copies." She doesn't know why the 1970 edition is so rare, but speculates the politically unsettled times had something to do with it. "Perhaps a lot of things that were normally done during that period weren't done due to the turmoil."

And here's a fun fact: No one knows how the yearbook got its name. It's just always been the Cauldron, from its birth in 1917 until today. "I thought it would be explained in the first edition," says Krizack. "But it isn't."



The

#### **Husky diaries: 1933–1936**

This tiny (2.75-by-4-inch) volume is packed with information for the historian. The first third is an official 1933/1934 student handbook, containing the calendar for the academic year, campus rules and regulations, a list of club activities, school cheers and songs, and more.

The rest is an engagement diary. And this book's owner was a veritable Samuel Pepys. The lined pages are crammed with entries, written so economically in a legible cursive hand that they stretch from December 16, 1933, to January 25, 1936, with room to spare.

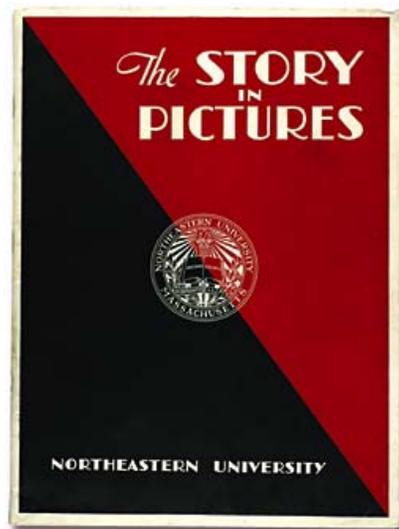
The diarist's identity remains unknown; the book isn't inscribed with a name. Krizack notes that most of the entries refer to social activities—dinners, operas, choir practice. Never to classes or exams. As a result, she

thinks the owner might have been a faculty wife or a student's relative.

One thing is certain: Flipping through the book opens a window onto another era. For instance, on Monday, February 5, 1934, the diarist attended a lecture on "Hitler and the Polish Corridor." The same day, "Mac & Olive" were "guests for ice cream etc." On Friday,

May 18, 1934, a movie was on the agenda: It Happened One Night. There's also this notation: "Drive new Chevrolet for demonstration."

"The entries make it special," Krizack says, approvingly.



**Black-and-white world: Ca. 1934**

"The Story in Pictures" was part of a regular series of promotional brochures printed by Northeastern to give prospective students a taste of life on campus. It did so through a lot of black-and-white photography and surprisingly little text. Krizack says many such viewbooks also included a request for an application form (this one does not).



There's no copyright date given, but the 9-by-12-inch 48-page booklet was probably published in 1934. Krizack says the Glee Club photo is the same one that appears in the 1934 Cauldron. A line in the booklet's introduction holds another clue: "During the past twenty-five years, Northeastern University on the co-operative plan has enjoyed a substantial and wholesome growth." Co-op began in 1909; add twenty-five years, and you hit 1934 on the nose.

Krizack finds these publications valuable for dating historic photos in the Archives collection. But not all

pamphlets are created equal. This one is especially eye-catching, she says. "I totally love the cover—the color, the typeface, and the old seal are great."



#### Collectible compasses: Ca. 1937

This handsome leatherette case—labeled "Northeastern" in gold lettering—holds seven compasses manufactured by New York-based Keuffel and Esser, one of the era's leading producers of drafting tools.

Unfortunately, an eighth compass is missing from the set. "It would be better if it were totally complete, but it's still extremely interesting," says Krizack. She particularly admires the case's interior. "The green velvet is spectacular. It's really fun."

She adds, "We have a photo of a drafting class from the 1930s, and this would be wonderful to display with it."

The compasses were put up for sale by Bud Vana, of Venice, California. They had belonged to his grandfather Kenneth Hunt, a chemical engineering student at Northeastern in the late 1930s. Hunt left his college studies when he was "called off to the war, where he served as a radio operator in North Africa and around the Mediterranean, as well as a mail clerk in Europe," says Vana.

In 1945, Vana says, his grandfather "returned home to Newport, Vermont, and to the family business, the Newport Daily Express, where he worked for the next thirty years as the news editor. He was never able to return to finish his education at Northeastern."



#### Pride of the Huskies: Ca. 1950

Fans will cheer over this felt football-style pennant, which, like the viewbook, sports the old "docendo

discimus" seal. But you don't have to clear a wall to show it off. It's a petite 8.5 inches long.

This was another good find: Archives currently has only one other sports pennant, says Krizack, who deems this one "very cool."

"It's in excellent condition," she says. "It has no holes, and it's not folded." No doubt the flag's size helped keep it well preserved; it's small enough to be tucked tidily between the pages of a book.

Archives plans to file this piece under "Memorabilia," along with a variety of armbands, paperweights, and banners in its collection.



#### **Ceramics class: 1964**

This mint-condition gilt-edged plate commemorates 1964's Senior Week activities, which took place from June 7 through 14.

Why, you might ask, is that image of the Manhattan skyline included along with the Boston Pops and the commencement ball? Well, for one of the week's highlights, the seniors took "party buses" to the Big Apple, where they spent a couple of days at the World's Fair.

According to Krizack, the dish represents yet another rarity. Archives has only two other pieces of china in its collection, including one that shows an early image of the Quad.



#### **Take the E train: 1971**

This 5x7 print of a 1971 photograph of Huntington Avenue near the Quad might seem a modest acquisition. But Krizack says rapid transit fans find such shots irresistible.

"What's really interesting is the train," she says, referring to the electric E Line subway car, whose color belies its Green Line status. "A lot of people collect this kind of transportation memorabilia."

Clearly, Krizack notes, this was not prime time for the boulevard now lushly landscaped and tagged the Avenue of the Arts: "Look at the appalling condition of the street and the tracks," she says.

The good old days? Do a little digging in the past, and sometimes you find the good old days

*Magdalena Hernandez, MBA'02, is a senior editor. If you have your own pieces of Northeastern history you'd like to donate to the university, contact archivist Joan Krizack at [j.krizack@neu.edu](mailto:j.krizack@neu.edu).*

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### Greeks, Unorthodox

*From Aegean climes come students bearing prodigious gifts*

By Eileen McCluskey  
Illustrations by Joseph Adolphe

Gazing out at the fields of his family's struggling farm in Greece in 1967, seventeen-year-old George Panitsidis wondered how he could help support his loved ones.

A decade later, in another town in Greece, twenty-six-year-old Anastasios Sabanis imagined his future. His family owned a modest vineyard, but Sabanis, who excelled in math, wanted to study engineering and see where that took him.

In 1988, a third young man from Greece, Petros Tsitsiricos, whose great-great-uncle had helped free northern Greece from Turkish occupation in the early 1900s, was considering how he might serve his homeland, too.

They all wound up at Northeastern.

The dreams of these men—and their experiences at Northeastern—ultimately led to careers of Olympian proportions. Panitsidis helped build one of the world's largest oil refineries. Sabanis makes wine and exports it around the globe. Tsitsiricos runs a popular test-prep business.

They're just 3 of the 240 NU Greek alumni who live in Greece, representing the second-highest concentration of international Northeastern graduates outside North America (France is first, with 267).

Northeastern officials are nurturing the university's already-strong ties with Greece. Over the decades, alumni events—ranging from informal networking gatherings to more structured meetings—have been hosted by the university or organized by Greek grads. In 2000, President Freeland visited with a group of trustees to accept an honorary degree from the American College of Greece.

Last October, Provost Ahmed Abdelal went to Greece with a delegation of senior faculty and staff to strengthen relationships with key educational institutions, such as the University of Athens, the Fulbright Foundation of Greece, and the National Hellenic Research Foundation. Partnerships under discussion include collaborative research, faculty and student exchanges, and curriculum development that would allow Northeastern undergraduates to earn full credit for a year of study at Greek universities.

The College of Arts and Sciences currently offers study-

abroad opportunities in Greece. This year, seven students studied philosophy, history, art, and other humanities subjects at the American College of Thessaloniki.

So the route between Northeastern and Greece is well traveled. But what lures ambitious students like Panitsidis, Sabanis, and Tsitsiricos to Huntington Avenue?

And why do they still care so much about the university?

Read on.



#### **George Panitsidis E'75, ME'80**

As seventeen-year-old George Panitsidis struggled to learn English during his twelve-day 1967 sea voyage from Greece to Boston, he had big aspirations. Little else, though.

He and his parents, Eustathios and Ekaterini, eighteen-year-old brother Harry, and ten-year-old sister Sophie had left their small farm near a northern village called Kilada with only \$500, which Eustathios had borrowed. Their eight acres of land "were not enough to feed the family," Panitsidis recalls. "Work and money were scarce, and the prospects for an education were very distant."

Thanks to local friends, they secured a small apartment in the South End. George bused tables at Kevin's Wharf, a seafood restaurant on Boston Harbor. Eustathios worked as a baker at Quinzani's Bakery, on Harrison Avenue. Ekaterini stitched men's shoes at a South Boston factory. The \$500 loan was repaid within six months.

Keen on pursuing their educations, George and Harry immediately enrolled in classes for new immigrants. "We studied English in the mornings and worked in the

afternoons," George says. Within a few months, both were enrolled in Boston's English High School.

### From farming to oil farms

Fastforward to 2005. George Panitsidis and business partner Andreas Bardis share ownership of two companies they founded in 1990. Euromichaniki S.A. provides commercial construction; Conapro S.A. specializes in quality control for construction projects.

Through their companies, Panitsidis and Bardis served as project managers of a vast complex built in Athens for the 2004 Olympic Games. The facilities, which include apartment buildings, a shopping mall, and an office complex, housed 1,300 reporters during the games. They are now being retrofitted for sale and lease.

Panitsidis first met Bardis in 1976, while vacationing in Greece after finishing his undergraduate studies. He'd applied for a job as a construction engineer in Saudi Arabia with Petrola International. Bardis was the project manager. "The interview lasted less than half an hour, and I was offered the job," Panitsidis says.

By the time he was twenty-six, Panitsidis was helping to build an oil storage-tank farm. Two years later, he was promoted to project manager of ventures worth more than \$1 billion.

In 1988, Panitsidis concluded the seven-year, \$8 billion construction of a huge oil refinery along Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast. The Rabigh Refinery includes a 20 million-barrel storage-tank farm and a 5,000-person housing community. Currently producing 400,000 barrels per day, Rabigh is one of the world's largest oil refineries.

Panitsidis's enthusiasm for construction was whetted before he entered Northeastern, when he helped a small contractor build houses. "I didn't know anything about engineering," he says with a quiet laugh. "But when I saw construction projects—building things where there was nothing, watching the structures take shape, battling with nature—this interested me. I also wanted to get away from farming—I did not like it.

"It was like a dream for me, to go to NU," he continues. "I knew the co-op program would be very helpful. Also, all the people I met in the school for new immigrants talked about how great NU is."

And, luckily, the campus was close to his work. In 1970, Panitsidis had jumped at a chance to lease a Citgo station on Mass. Ave. in Cambridge. The previous lessee "did no automobile repair work, even though there was space for it," Panitsidis says. "So Citgo did not want him to keep leasing from them.

"I put up all my savings, plus borrowed \$8,000 from my father," he says. "I then had to furnish the station's repair section with tools and equipment—but I was short of money."

"Why should they trust me?"

Determined but nervous, Panitsidis went to a bank to apply for a \$15,000 loan. Despite having no experience with loans, he says, he told the manager "in plain words who I was and what I was planning to do." The

application required a guarantor. Anxiously, Panitsidis filled in the only logical choice: his father. "When I left the bank, I was thinking, Who am I, and why should they trust me with their money?"

A few days later, the bank manager called with the good news. "I was so amazed, I did not even ask the conditions or the interest rate," says Panitsidis, chuckling.

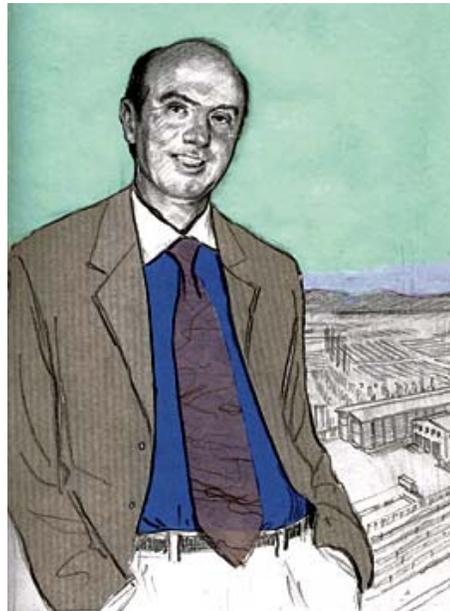
The student's grueling schedule started at 6:00 every morning. First came classes and studying. Then he'd head to the Citgo station, where he often worked until midnight. "It was a very difficult time," he says. "But it was also exciting to run the business, because my main clients were students from Harvard and MIT. I took good care of their Peugeots, Renaults, and some very expensive Jaguars and Mercedes."

Panitsidis's career success allowed him to replace his parents' dilapidated Kilada farmhouse with a modern new home in 1986. Eustathios and Ekaterini lived there until Eustathios's death in 2004, at eighty-two.

Now Ekaterini lives in Athens with George (though she summers in Kilada, to stay close to village friends). "I am very pleased to be able to help my family," Panitsidis says.

He also enjoys helping his alma mater, which he credits for his financial success. In fact, Panitsidis has helped fund Northeastern's Seismic Recording Station, run by Mishac Yegian, distinguished professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

"Greece lies in a highly seismic area," Panitsidis says. "So funding Mishac's research may bring us closer to preventing destruction. And at the same time, it helps NU."



**Anastasios Sabanis E'77, ME'78**

When you think, think big. Otherwise, don't think at

all."

It's how Anastasios Sabanis sums up his approach to life, describing both his whirlwind matriculation through Northeastern and, today, his three blossoming vineyard businesses.

Sabanis was twenty-six when he came to the United States in 1976. He had his heart set on Northeastern because, he says, "NU has a strong name and a good reputation in Greece, especially for its College of Engineering."

He's never forgotten how encouraged he felt during his first conversation with a faculty member—John Rossettos—even before he'd been accepted at Northeastern. "I told him, if you accept me to NU, you will not lose," Sabanis says with a laugh.

Rossettos, still a professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at Northeastern, hasn't forgotten Sabanis, either. "I remember Anastasios," he says. "His math skills must have been impressive, or I wouldn't have recalled him after all this time."

Indeed, one of Sabanis's brightest memories from his college days—aside from fishing expeditions in Hyannisport—was when he scored 100 percent on a math exam required of all engineering students. "The second-highest mark was below 70," Sabanis recalls. "I felt really good because I was called into the math department and congratulated."

#### **Engineering wine**

True to his life motto, Sabanis finished his master's degree in nine months rather than the usual two years. "This was difficult," he admits. "I had to take up to six or seven courses per quarter to achieve my goal."

When he returned home to Greece, he worked briefly in the construction industry, but soon found his way back to Sabanis Wines, the vineyards that have been in his family for a century.

Sabanis says he enjoys "the economy of the factory, the machines, the grapes—everything. Wine is like a baby. You grow it, you see it develop, you enjoy it. It's good work."

Though the vineyards may appear an unlikely vocation for an engineer, Sabanis sees a natural fit. "The great thing about an engineering education," he says, "is you learn to think in structured and methodical ways. I believe an engineer can face and successfully tackle any problem."

Rossettos couldn't agree more. "I've always encouraged students to study engineering," he says, "even if later on they work in law, business, or—in Anastasios's case—the winemaking industry."

Today, Sabanis runs a trio of winemaking concerns: Ino SA, Evoiki SA, and Sabanis Wines.

#### **Wealth of ambition**

The family's vineyards, based in Avlida, yield whites, reds, and sparkling wines. Since Sabanis took over the business in the late 1970s, he's added five varieties of grapes for the red wines, six varieties for the whites.

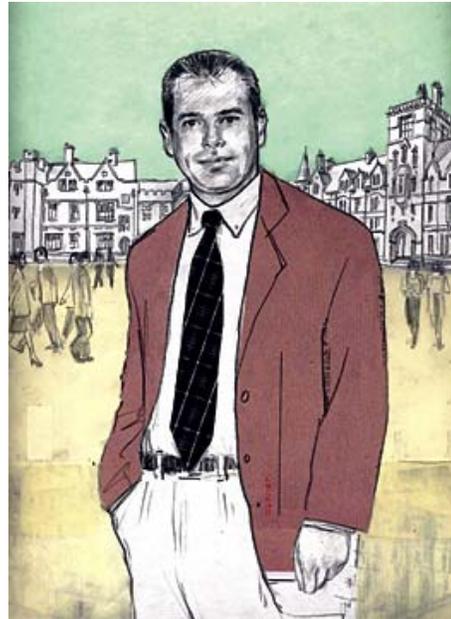
Though he hopes his only child, John, will one day join the family business, he won't dictate his career. The young man has earned an MBA and a law degree at the American College of Greece and may continue his education in America, at either Harvard or Northeastern. "John knows so much about the world," his father says with obvious pride.

Sabanis runs Evoiki and Ino with close friend Manolis Skouloudis. Evoiki produces rectified concentrated must (a sugary syrup derived from grapes), concentrated grape juice, and a variety of wines.

Ino makes eighty-seven wines, using grapes from Greece's traditional wine-producing regions, such as Macedonia and Peloponnesus. The company website boasts of Ino's "ultramodern" wine factory, with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. Its export business includes most countries in the European Union, along with the United States, Australia, and Japan.

Clearly, Sabanis's maxim has paid off handsomely. It never hurts to think big, he says: "If you want to open a small shop by yourself, you'll have to work all day.

"So why don't you open a supermarket? You'll work the same amount."



#### **Petros Tsitsiricos MBA'90**

From an early age, Petros Tsitsiricos knew he wanted to help others. "Since I was a young person, my friends and classmates saw me as a counselor for their problems," he says, "and I felt like their tutor."

This descendant of Pavlos Melas, a historical figure revered by many Greeks as a Macedonian freedom fighter, much preferred the latter role. "Counselors analyze and help solve people's problems," Tsitsiricos says. "Educators give people the tools to solve their own problems."

Eventually, Tsitsiricos linked his interest in education to

his drive to give back to his country, and formed Network Educational Services and Consulting. Through Network, a test-preparation business much like Kaplan, he helps his fellow citizens find their way to the best universities in the world.

"If Greeks want a useful and productive education," Tsitsiricos says, "they should go abroad, especially to English-speaking institutions, American or British." Why? For one reason, he explains, such schools encourage "collaborative team projects, in which students work together doing research—even if that means staying up overnight with pizza and Coke.

"That may sound trivial to someone who's grown up in the United States," he says, "but very rarely do people participate in such projects in Greek schools."

#### **Keying in on Northeastern**

Tsitsiricos grew up in Athens, where his father worked as the director of research and development for a power utility and his mother was a pharmacist. Petros and younger brother Marios, now a cardiologist at the Red Cross Hospital in Athens, attended the prestigious Athens College High School.

After earning an undergraduate degree in economics from the Athens School of Economics and Business Science, Tsitsiricos chose Northeastern for his MBA studies, bypassing such schools as the University of California, Irvine, and the Manchester Business School, in England. "Class sizes were much smaller at NU," he says. "Also, one of my high school classmates was already at NU, and he told me great things about the university."

The teacher in Tsitsiricos quickly surfaced at Northeastern. He noticed many of his classmates didn't know much about personal computers, which were still relatively new. So he and a friend, German student Thomas Updike, pooled their high-tech knowledge and created the MBA Computer Club. "We gave out our personal telephone numbers," Tsitsiricos says, "so any students could call us with their computer questions."

Meanwhile, Tsitsiricos got a teaching assistantship, which won him a tuition waiver. "I felt not only encouraged, but also rewarded by the university for my efforts in school," he says. "This gave me a proud feeling, and made my family proud."

#### **Multiple choices**

Today, Tsitsiricos is proud of Network, which he founded in 1993. The company offers preparatory courses for standardized tests, such as the European GCE

A-Levels and the internationally recognized GRE, GMAT, and SAT. It also runs a college-prep course that, when successfully completed, guarantees admission to undergraduate studies in Britain.

By 2004, Network's annual revenues had grown nearly sevenfold, from \$136,000 to \$900,000.

Tsitsiricos is laying claim to a rich untapped market. "In Europe, Greece has the largest number of master's and PhD holders relative to the population," he explains. His graduate education, he says, developed

his business acuity. "NU gave me the opportunity to calculate and confront the risk factors."

But it wasn't just the potential for financial success that inspired him. "I also felt good about the business," he says. "We have all heard of scandals in other industries. But we don't see, say,

X university or Y school involved in major scandals or corruption cases. Education is a clean, honest industry."

Now, to broaden his compatriots' chances for an excellent education abroad, he's offering to establish a new Northeastern alumni group in Greece.

In fact, Tsitsiricos has pledged the use of Network offices for gatherings and recruiting activities until, he says with characteristic enthusiasm, "we are lucky enough to get our own dedicated facility."

*Eileen McCluskey, MBA'86, is a freelance writer. Her feature on biology professor Carol Warner's egg, embryo, and stem-cell research appeared in the January issue.*

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## E Line

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### Story Index

- Northeastern receives \$4.6 million from a pair of bequests  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Wiring all alumni: Grads get new online boost  
>> [Read more...](#)
- A sharper focus on Mideast collaborations  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Explosion rocks Kerr Hall; fall reopening planned  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Snell Library to settle in and get comfy  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Take a Bow!  
Highlighting NU faculty and staff members  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Spring training leads to hot co-op experience in Florida  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Asian center opens  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Ivory tower, get to know Main St., prods expert  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Biz whizzes earn a seventh Beanpot  
>> [Read more...](#)
- African American activists take stock of their storied past  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Rescue at sea aided by research student  
>> [Read more...](#)
- University involves neighbors in plans  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Finding ways toward fairer health care  
>> [Read more...](#)
- Steroids spell danger, panelists tell students  
>> [Read more...](#)



### Steering higher education

*William Bulger, former president of the Massachusetts senate and the University of Massachusetts system, discusses higher-education leadership in one of a series of lectures at Northeastern. At left: Political science professor and former Bay State governor Michael Dukakis.*

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Alumni Passages

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### Bowing Out of the Game

*There's a right way. Then there's the way we usually choose.*

By Herbert Hadad

I bunked, as New Yorkers say, into the powerful broadcaster outside a Manhattan park. Something was wrong.

The friend I knew as smart, proud, talented, and good-natured was civil enough. But his voice had a sullen edge I'd never heard before. I didn't ask what the matter was, because he was clearly not going to tell me.

By coincidence, a short time later, I visited the great steel and glass tower that houses his television network. I looked for him amid the bustle of producers, reporters, clerks, and technicians but couldn't spot him.

Someone directed me to his office, where I found him sitting at his desk. He gave desultory answers when I asked about his family, who were fine, and his tennis game, which was as good as ever. His opinions on the national scene and the war were well informed.

I still could not figure out what was wrong. It was only after I had repaired to a staff dining room for lunch and he mysteriously reappeared and asked to join me that I knew: He had nothing to do. He was in a professional and emotional crisis, after having been told he was no longer really wanted at work.

As we chatted over tuna wraps, his contributions to the conversation were marked by anger and pettiness, which I found heart-rending. Without revealing outright what I thought I knew, I began to talk about teaching as a career.

I told him I'd taught essay writing and had even considered taking a job as a professor of print journalism at the American University in Cairo. "I'm sure they'd love to have you at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism," I said, but he slapped the idea down like it was no more than an annoying housefly.

What do you do when you love a job and it no longer loves you back? Conversely, how do you extract yourself from a job you've begun to loathe? I was not really in a position to advise my friend or anyone else, for my own history of bowing out of jobs is, to put the best spin on it, checkered.

Several years ago, I signed on as the manager of public information for a big power company. The pay was good, and the medical and pension plans



Illustration by Dan Cleri

generous. The job itself was soon dreadful.

In the wake of a problem—a blackout or a manhole explosion, for instance—the company posture was twofold: Point a finger, and duck. Having been trained in emergency public relations, I knew there was a better way: Take responsibility, reassure the public, and fix the problem.

The fortress mentality became so unpalatable that I asked for a transfer and was put in charge of writing the annual report. Though trying to please the various layers of an executive committee was not exactly fun, I liked having a role in producing an important document.

My new boss, however, learned I wrote freelance stories for the New York Times, the New York Daily News, and other papers. She accused me of using company time for my outside work, even using company postage to mail stories in, transgressions I scrupulously avoided.

I went to the man who'd hired me. "She can say anything she wants," he said. So I kicked my complaint upstairs to the brass. I explained I was working diligently on my project. I also mentioned the man in the next office, someone protected by my boss, who seemed to be conducting an accounting service in some Slavic language on the side.

One night, I found a note, written in English, in my office: "If I ever see you in the street, I will break your legs at the knees." Not exactly a communication out of the IRS handbook. I cleared off my desk, left a photocopy of the note for the front office, and fled.

A call to a lawyer the next day came to naught. A friend at the utility later told me word had spread, Kremlin-like, that I'd had a nervous breakdown.

Recently, during a ride home on the commuter train, a good-looking woman of forty or so smiled at me. We started chatting, and I discovered she worked as a graphic artist at a giant food and tobacco company where I used to work as a writer/consultant. She remembered me, and we talked about the people we knew and how the great corporation was dissecting and reinventing itself to survive the anti-tobacco movement.

I'd loved working at those Park Avenue headquarters, even as the company prospered around the world selling cigarettes and cheese spreads. I loved emerging from Grand Central Terminal on a bright summer morning, humming the taxi-horn music from *An American in Paris*, stepping into the building to the greetings of receptionists and colleagues, flicking on the lights and the computer in my office, and beginning the day's labors.

Paid by the hour, I wrote speeches and op-ed pieces. The company—from the director of editorial services to the chairman—appreciated earnest and skillful efforts and said so, in word and deed. "You're here because you're a thoroughbred, not a workhorse," one supervisor said.

In contrast to my experience at the utility, I was even encouraged to continue my freelance career. They were proud I wrote for the Times. "Use our computers and phones and fax machine. Even call upon the

secretary," my boss said. "My only request is that you bill us only for work you do for us."

The company held a communications conference at Disney World and invited me to attend. They sponsored a tort-reform conference in San Diego that featured an English lord; they flew me out to write his remarks. They gave me a raise.

And then, one day, they said it was over. I remember what I said when I heard: "This is awful. I just signed up my son for Syracuse University. I don't know how I'll be able to afford it."

My boss explained the regulatory and political climate was so tense and sensitive the company lawyers had decided they could no longer keep freelancers on the premises. When I got home, forlorn, my son said, "Dad, maybe you weren't cut out to promote smoking." How sweet, how wise.

So I was fired, but I was still trusted. "Use the office for two months," my boss said. "We'll pay you, but don't feel obliged to turn out any work. Just work at getting a new spot for yourself." They gave me an office party and tacked on a parting bonus. Today, my former boss and I are still friends.

Meeting the woman on the train brought back a rush of good feelings. "Know what else I miss?" I told her. "The company store." I felt like a Santa Claus when I treated my family and neighbors to the best coffees and chocolates and mints from the corporate product line.

"Here's my card," she said. "Call me, and I'll take you in."

I felt like hugging her. For some reason, a New Yorker cartoon flashed to mind. A man is on the phone in an office, talking to someone who has just suggested they "do lunch." He replies, "How about never? Is never good for you?" It always makes me laugh, but the laugh is a mordant one.

Somehow, seeing the broadcaster and reminiscing with the woman reminded me of the first crush I'd had growing up in Boston. She and I had great times and lots of laughs. We'd expressed our love for each other.

I often wonder what it would be like if we ran into each other. Would we hug and shed a tear and introduce spouses? Or would she thrust out an elegant, bejeweled hand, murmur a few polite words, and keep walking?

It's precisely because I bungled the bowing out that her memory still lingers so persistently. I've forgotten the content of the spat over the phone, but I remember it was loud and bruising, and demeaning for both of us. I saw her only once afterward, crossing the street in a raincoat as I passed in a cab.

I know what I have to do. I'm going to call the broadcaster and ask him to meet me by the park.

"It's about dignity, pal," I'm going to tell him. "Your departure doesn't have to be a humiliation. Tidy up your benefits. Make your retirement announcement. Then hold your head high, and bow out with your dignity intact."

*Herbert Hadad, a Northeastern graduate and award-winning writer, tells his children to forgo acting dignified but to treasure their dignity.*

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE UNIVERSITY

STAFF

AWARDS

ADVERTISE

SEND CLASS NOTE

SEND LETTER

UPDATE ADDRESS

BACK ISSUES

CONTRIBUTE

LINKS

SEARCH

May 2005

## From the Field

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

#### A Gesture Life

*In nineteenth-century America, "Deaf" didn't always mean "different."*

By Harlan Lane

In 1973, when I was a visiting professor at the University of California, San Diego, a colleague drew my attention to something I must have seen before but had never really noticed.

Sitting on a terrace overlooking the Pacific, two people were deep in conversation—eyes locked, bodies inclined toward each other, alternating turns. But you couldn't hear a sound. They were communicating with their hands, faces, and bodies.

"What do you see?" my colleague asked. I couldn't be watching a language, I thought—language must be spoken and heard. I guessed I was seeing some kind of manual code based on English.

"Wrong," she said. "Those are Deaf people. We have discovered they are using a manual language with a vocabulary and a grammar all its own."

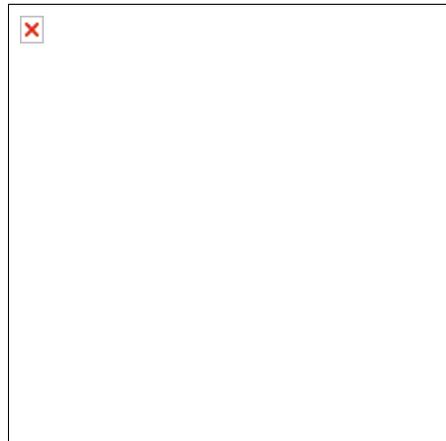
Astonished and excited, I began studying the Deaf children of Deaf parents, who had learned American Sign Language (as it would come to be called) as a native language. And I began to see how Deaf people were a target of prejudice and discrimination, even down to the prohibition of their language in the schools they attended.

There were no books on the history of the Deaf-World, as the Deaf call their culture, only chapters in two textbooks written by hearing people for the teachers of the Deaf. In essence, these chapters were a paean to hearing people's selfless devotion to the Deaf.

I was too familiar with the theft of black history to miss the point, so I decided to write a more accurate history of the Deaf. A dozen years later, *When the Mind Hears* was published by Random House.

My most recent book, published by Beacon Press in September 2004, is *A Deaf Artist in Early America: The Worlds of John Brewster Jr.* A New Englander who lived from 1766 to 1854, Brewster was arguably the best of all the early American portraitists who painted in the popular "plain style." The book looks at his life and art, as well as U.S. Deaf history during roughly the same period.

The American Deaf-World has major roots in Henniker, New Hampshire, and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The social fabric in these communities, including their use of sign language, differed markedly. It turns out these differences teach us a lot about how minority cultures are formed.



*Illustration by Dan Marzitutto*

The first great American Deaf leader was Thomas Brown, born in Henniker in 1804. Brown was a slender, powerful man with a large head, gray eyes, and a facial tic from a childhood encounter with an ox. At eighteen, he enrolled at the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, in Hartford, Connecticut, where he studied under the two founders of American Deaf education, Laurent Clerc, a Deaf Frenchman, and Thomas Gallaudet, a hearing American.

At school, Brown met fellow student Mary Smith. Her family came from Martha's Vineyard, where Deaf people—especially in several remote communities "up island"—were quite common.

Mary's maternal grandmother and paternal grandfather were Deaf, but her mother and father were hearing. This was not unusual on the Vineyard; many Deaf children had parents who could hear, along with a mixture of hearing and Deaf relatives.

On the mainland, Deaf people married other Deaf people 80 percent of the time. On the Vineyard, it was nearly the reverse: Deaf people married hearing people 65 percent of the time. All this mixed marriage was made possible by the widespread use of sign language among the hearing people there. And what made that possible was no doubt the large number of families that included both Deaf and hearing children and adults.

Thomas and Mary married, and settled on his parents' farm in Henniker. The extended Brown family included many Deaf and a few hearing members. Thomas's father, Nahum, and his sister were Deaf; there were two Deaf nephews, who took Deaf wives. Mary gave birth to a Deaf son. Other Deaf couples lived in nearby towns. So it was quite a little community that worked and celebrated together, and attended the interpreted services at the local Congregational church.

As the nineteenth century approached its midpoint, Brown proposed the "mutes of America" meet in Hartford to show their gratitude to Gallaudet and Clerc. It would be the largest gathering of Deaf people assembled anywhere, anytime in history. Two hundred Deaf people, some from as far away as Virginia, converged for the ceremony, joining two hundred American Asylum pupils.

The following year, Deaf representatives from the New England states met for a week at the Browns' house to frame a constitution for the New England Gallaudet Association. Later, members talked about applying to Congress for a land grant out West and instituting a Deaf commonwealth (it never happened). There were more regional and national meetings. A Gallaudet monument, created exclusively by Deaf artists, was erected in Hartford.

A group consciousness had clearly begun to emerge among the Deaf. Brown and his associates saw the Deaf as a distinct group with a language and a way of life that needed to be fostered. Contemporary newspapers published by Deaf people called Brown the "patriarch of the silent tribe."

In stark contrast, accounts of life on Martha's Vineyard during the same era reveal no events or structures that set Deaf people apart from hearing people—no leaders, no gathering places, no organizations, no monuments.

What led to this extreme difference in group consciousness on the mainland and the Vineyard? The answer seems to be biology, a difference in the genetic basis of the two Deaf societies.

In dominant transmission of hereditary traits, which I believe occurred in Henniker, every generation is likely to contain Deaf children. About half of all children will probably be Deaf. And, within a small margin of statistical error, this turned out to be true in the Brown family.

But in recessive transmission of hereditary traits, which probably occurred on the Vineyard, a Deaf person may have cousins, uncles, aunts, or grandparents who are Deaf, but perhaps not immediate family. A Deaf person may readily have hearing parents, as Mary Smith did, or hearing children.

In such a setting, Deaf people may feel connected to an extended family and community, one that includes hearing people. But they may not feel like a distinct group or a link in the chain of Deaf heritage, stretching from the past down to the future.

That's because it takes a "them" for an "us" to develop. The blending of hearing and Deaf lives on the Vineyard, underpinned by genetics and strengthened by a shared language, discouraged seeing hearing people as "them."

Conversely, many members of the Henniker Deaf enclave had Deaf parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, and the boundary between their sense of "us" and the surrounding hearing community was more sharply demarcated.

This tale of two places leaves us with two lessons. First, on the mid-nineteenth-century Vineyard, where Deaf people were integrated with hearing people and most people could sign, the Deaf were seldom seen as different, and never as handicapped.

Second, the rich legacy left by the early Deaf-World came not from an integrated community, but an enclosed one. Minority leaders often deplore an indifferent and estranged society that shows little interest in their culture and language. Yet Deaf history tells us that, paradoxically, minority consciousness and pride are fostered by majority estrangement, not by assimilation.

The history of the Deaf is the story of an ethnic group seeking acceptance of their language. It is a familiar and instructive theme if you realize, as three decades ago I did not, that language doesn't, by definition, have to be spoken and heard.

*Harlan Lane is a Matthews Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Psychology.*

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Sports

### Features

A Leading Question  
Sitting on the Dock of eBay  
Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line  
Alumni Passages  
From the Field  
Sports  
Books  
Classes  
First-Person  
Husky Tracks  
Huskiana

#### Old Hands Onboard

*A boatload of sharp veterans gives men's crew an extra edge.*

By Paul Perillo

Men's crew has long been recognized as one of Northeastern's most successful athletic programs. But hang on to your oars: Even amid the fabled glory, 2005 promises to be a year to be remembered.

Last year, coach John Pojednic saw his team finish fourth at the Eastern Sprints, fifth in the national rankings.

This year? Nearly all the members of last year's varsity boat will be back.

"We have seven rowers returning this season," Pojednic says. "We usually have about three or four returners in any given year. So this is a new experience for us, a very exciting one."

The news gets better. The eighth and final rower—senior Petar Lovric, of Zagreb, Croatia—has already spent two seasons (2002 and 2003) in the Huskies' top boat, before taking last year off in an effort (ultimately unsuccessful) to qualify for the Olympics. Even coxswain Jeff Haelle is returning with varsity experience.

That meant last month the Huskies began the season with no openings in the varsity boat. "We're usually looking to fill four or five seats," Pojednic says, "and not having to do that allowed us to spend the preseason doing a lot more work on and off the water, because the guys know what it takes to be successful."

This gives Northeastern an advantage usually reserved for West Coast powers California, Washington, and Stanford, and East Coast rivals Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, Brown, and BU, which routinely return much of their talent each year.

In addition to Lovric, Northeastern's seasoned varsity squad includes senior captain Brogan Graham; junior Craig Smallwood, in the stroke seat; 6-foot-5, 200-pound senior Dustin Carle, one of the team's strongest members; and juniors Tom Manz, Shane O'Mara, and Will Miller.

Rounding out the old-timers is senior Mike Tripician, rowing in the varsity boat for his third year. At

6-foot-1, 185 pounds, Tripician is the smallest athlete in the boat, known for his aggressive pulling.

The overall increase in the team's talent is due,



*The varsity squad  
Photo by Tracy Powell*

Pojednic believes, to the explosion of high school rowing over the past ten years. It allows Northeastern to recruit more successfully over a broader base. Once, the bulk of the squad's roster had to come from on-campus searches for what Pojednic calls "diamonds in the rough": The coaches would keep their eyes peeled for students who had a good build for rowing and then plead with them to give it a try, whatever their experience level.

Of course, there will always be a place for novice rowers. About a dozen newcomers hold a place on this year's roster.

In fact, Pojednic is quick to point out, 2003 captain Mark Shamp was originally a walk-on. This season, three walk-ons—Steve McLane, Kyle Loten, and Pat Mahady—are competing for spots. But now the struggle is for spots in the second varsity boat, not the lead boat.

"We are very deep as a program, and that's great," says Pojednic. "The freshman coach [John Lindberg] and I are very thorough in recruiting. We cast a wide net across the United States and Canada." They're finding Northeastern academics—and co-op, in particular—is a big draw. "The co-op program provides our student-athletes the opportunity to supplement the cost of education, and we've attracted a lot of fine candidates as a result," Pojednic says.

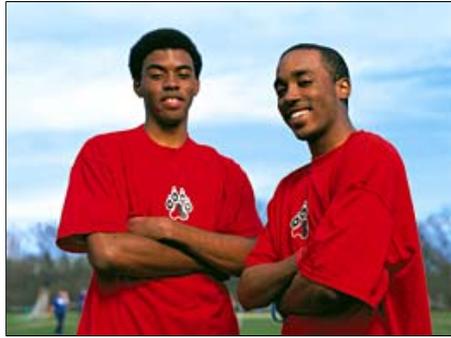
Another factor that makes Northeastern rowing strong is the Charles River's proximity to other schools. With Harvard, BU, and a host of others within shouting distance, the Huskies have no problems finding fierce workout partners.

"That's a major benefit," Pojednic says. "Having a lot of teams around here helps our athletes see competitors every day and keeps them on their toes in practice. Everything is a lot sharper because of that constant competition."

Northeastern will have to be razor-sharp to stay near the top of the heap. Its league, the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges, has seventeen members; thirteen to fifteen of them tend to be ranked among the nation's top twenty. After this season's first three meets—the San Diego Crew Classic, and matchups against BU and Brown—Northeastern was ranked sixth nationally.

Desire is a keen motivator. Even before the first boat hit the water for the first run this year, Pojednic envisioned his veteran Huskies being in the hunt for a national championship.

"I would expect our efforts will be rewarded with medals," he says. "Being competitive among the best programs in the country is what we expect."



*Peter Jasmin and Idris Payne  
Photo by Tracy Powell*

### **Racing to the Beat of a Different Drum**

When sprinter Idris Payne and hurdler Peter Jasmin join forces at a track meet, happiness reigns and results boards soar. Never mind that they're the Huskies' version of the Odd Couple.

Payne, a junior majoring in business, loves to talk. And he doesn't shy away from bold statements, like the one he offered coach Sherman Hart just days after arriving as a freshman.

"He walked into my office—like the fourth day he was here—with a piece of paper in his hands," Hart recalls. "On the paper, he had written '47.4,' and he said, 'This is what I'm going to run.' And then he pinned it up on my wall."

Now, the best Payne had ever run the 400 meters in high school (at the Bronx's Fordham Prep) was in the 51-second range. But here he was, before his first practice, guaranteeing his coach he'd chop four seconds off his best time.

"I told Sherman before I even came here that I would talk so much I would drive him crazy," Payne says. "But I also knew I had to back it up."

So he's bettered his brash prediction again and again. This winter, he took first place at the America East Championships with a time of 46.76. As a junior, he set an NU record with a 46.71 mark.

In contrast to his friend, Jasmin says very little, brash or otherwise. Both Payne and Hart say it took the team almost four years to get the junior from Middletown, New York, to leap into a casual conversation.

"He doesn't say much," Payne reports. "But when he does have something to say, everyone listens. He's one of those guys who has everyone's respect."

Hart warns against confusing Jasmin's soft-spoken nature for a lack of fire. "Peter is extraordinarily competitive," the coach says. "As an athlete, he's kind of like a time bomb—when the gun goes off, he just explodes."

Which is what he did last year when he ran a 7.71 55-hurdles at a meet at BU. He's since improved that mark several times over, including a 7.59 at the New England Championships in February, good for second place.

Jasmin, an electrical engineering major, admits he has a quiet manner. "It's just the way I've always been," he says. But Payne is starting to rub off a little. "Idris is a really fun guy to be around. I'm trying to be a little more like that."

Hart first saw both athletes in 2001, at the New York high school state finals. When the coach arrived to watch Payne compete, though, he found him sitting in the stands.

"He didn't make it to the finals, and he was pretty disappointed," Hart says. "But while we were watching, we talked a lot. His father told me that I was the first person to go tit for tat with him, and that Idris was going to go to Northeastern."

Hart watched Jasmin run very well that day, displaying rare technique for such a young hurdler. Jasmin gives Northeastern hurdles coach Anya Forrest credit for honing his technique even more.

"I really noticed a difference between my sophomore and junior seasons, after she came," Jasmin says. "I enjoy the technical aspect of hurdles. It's not just about getting from one point to another. I like having something in the way."

Both Payne and Jasmin have had very little in their way during their three-plus seasons together. With just an outdoor season of eligibility remaining for both, another America East title would make the perfect swan song.

Which they'd sing in perfect harmony.

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

## Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

## Books

### "At Play in the Fields of the Scoreboard"

*A history of the Hub's sports grounds.*

By Magdalena Hernandez

Boston's Ballparks and Arenas, by Alan E. Foulds (Northeastern University Press, Boston; published by the University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire; 2005; 221 pages; \$24.95)

All roads lead to Northeastern. Or maybe it just sometimes seems that way in Boston. Though several area schools trump NU in age, the university is tightly woven into the fabric of the city's history. In fact, Boston's professional sports history had its start in our own backyard. Or, to be more exact, underneath our parking garage.

Northeastern's campus was once home to no fewer than three of Boston's major playing fields: the South End Grounds (aforementioned cradle, in 1871, of Beantown's pro sports), the Huntington Avenue Grounds, and the Boston Arena (better known to current Huskies as Matthews Arena).

The ties between gown and town extend to the present, says Alan E. Foulds in his new book, Boston's Ballparks and Arenas. As he points out, "These venues were the birthplaces of nine major-league teams, five of which still exist today."

Foulds, a magazine editor with an interest in sports and New England history, has hit upon a novel way to explore the country's greatest sports town. His encyclopedic book takes readers on a site-by-site tour of the city's ballparks and arenas, both past and present.

Reviewing Boston's athletic legacy through the prism of its landmark venues grants a new perspective. Suddenly, a site's importance extends beyond the relatively fleeting fortunes of the team it housed. And its own characteristics—proximity to an interstate highway, say, or seating capacity—help us interpret its historical and cultural significance.

The book's first section catalogs the "nine wonders" of Boston sports: the South End Grounds, the Huntington Avenue Grounds, Fenway Park, Braves Field, Boston Arena, Boston Garden, the FleetCenter, Foxborough Stadium, and Gillette Stadium.

As the nation's oldest existing professional baseball pitch, Fenway Park casts the longest shadow. The author skillfully discusses the Red Sox' 1912 migration from the Huntington Avenue Grounds as well as memorable moments from recent history, such as the 1986 World Series loss and the heart-wrenching 1999 Ted Williams tribute (Bosox faithful may be disappointed to learn the book went to press before the



Illustration by Dennis Allain

gloom-erasing 2004 World Series win).

Younger readers will discover Fenway was once home to Boston's football and soccer franchises. Soccer great Pelé even played there in 1968, when the Boston Beacons took on the Santos Club of Brazil.

Foulds's discussions of the South End Grounds, the Huntington Avenue Grounds (where the first World Series was played, in 1903), and Braves Field are equally well sketched, providing a primer on baseball's infancy.

Though some of the book's stories will be familiar to avid sports fans, Foulds does an admirable job of collecting infamous idiosyncrasies and historic firsts. The origins of Fenway's Green Monster and the "Williamsburg" zone are explained, for instance. Hockey enthusiasts will find out when the Zamboni's ice-smoothing technology made its NHL debut—in 1954, at the Boston Garden.

Unfamiliar ghosts materialize in section two, which tells the story of six forgotten playing fields: the Dartmouth Street Grounds, the Congress Street Grounds, the Worcester County Agricultural Fairgrounds, Sam Mark's Stadium, Balmoral Park, and Lincoln Park.

Foulds's chapters on Lincoln Park and the Worcester County Agricultural Fairgrounds are particular standouts. The former field, which opened around 1930 in Roxbury, served for six years as a backdrop for black baseball teams, in an era when black players were excluded from the major leagues. Foulds explores the history of black baseball through such sources as the Boston Chronicle, a black newspaper from those years. (It turns out another close Northeastern neighbor, Carter Playground, also hosted games between black teams.)

The Worcester County Agricultural Fairgrounds was a pockmarked stretch of land used for county fairs. It even served as a training and recruiting camp for Union soldiers during the Civil War. But from 1879 to 1898, it was baseball country.

A National League team named the Worcesters called the unlikely field home for three seasons, starting in 1880. Unfortunately, Foulds tells us, the Worcesters' second season "was plagued by miscues and bad performance," some the stuff of amateurs. During one game, shortstop Arthur Irwin broke his leg rounding first, and the team had no replacement on the bench. So "Flip Flaherty, owner of a local sporting-goods store, was called out of the stands. He donned a uniform and finished the game."

Despite that fan's can-do attitude, the game ended in a tie. One season later, after an 18-66 losing record and poor gate receipts, the Worcesters resigned from the National League.

Though time's progress has erased nearly every trace of the Worcester fairgrounds, it holds a permanent place in sports history. The site boasted pro baseball's first perfect game, pitched by the Worcesters' J. Lee Richmond against Cleveland on June 12, 1880.

In the book's brief final section, Foulds gives an overview of Boston playing fields that, though they hosted professional games, never quite made it into the big leagues—either intentionally or by misfortune.

Such almost-rans run the gamut from Harvard Stadium to the Tsongas Arena.

As in any good history, Boston's Ballparks and Arenas offers a wealth of information. Foulds is adept at mining sources for sports trivia, which he scatters generously throughout the book. He's also selected a variety of interesting photographs and drawings to illustrate his narrative. There's a shot of Boston Garden going up, for example. And another poignant one of it coming down.

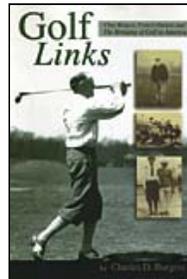
He even includes brief accounts of how some sports shrines have been desecrated by commencements, circuses, and concerts (perhaps just in time to welcome the Rolling Stones to Fenway).

In all, Foulds has written a breezy, engaging overview—a fine book for history buffs, be they fascinated by Boston or by sports. And proud Huskies will undoubtedly learn about connections to the past they didn't know they had.

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

## Bookmarks

**Golf Links: Chay Burgess, Francis Ouimet, and the Bringing of Golf to America**, by Charles D. Burgess; Rounder Books; 2005

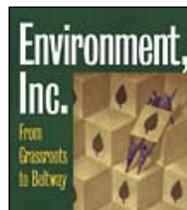


Few pastimes garner more enthusiasts than golf. In this tribute to the game's evolution, Charles D. Burgess, Ed'69, MEd'74, illuminates its early days by detailing his great-grandfather Chay Burgess's pivotal role.

A boy wonder at golf and soccer in his native Scotland during the late 1800s, Chay found success as a golf teacher after emigrating to the United States. He ultimately trained three U.S. champs, including Francis Ouimet, who won the 1913 U.S. Open in dramatic fashion.

Charles Burgess, a Boston public school teacher and administrator, strikes a delicate balance here between ancestral homage and sports history.

**Environment, Inc.: From Grassroots to Beltway**, by Christopher J. Bosso; University Press of Kansas; 2005



This country's environmental advocacy groups strive to

preserve the natural world.

Yet as they mature and gain power, is it possible they've gone from fighting the Man to walking in his oxfords?

Associate political science professor Christopher J. Bosso chronicles the evolution of more than thirty environmental advocacy groups—from fringe movements to mainstream political forces. He also lays out the challenges activist groups face in a setting of PACs and pork-barrel politics.

Not just for policy wonks, this volume offers invaluable insights on the impact of environmental organizations.

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

[STAFF](#)   [AWARDS](#)   [ADVERTISE](#)   [SEND CLASS NOTE](#)   [SEND LETTER](#)   [UPDATE ADDRESS](#)   [BACK ISSUES](#)   [CONTRIBUTE](#)   [LINKS](#)   [SEARCH](#)

May 2005

## Classes

### Features

A Leading Question

[1940s](#)

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

[1950s](#)

Greeks, Unorthodox

[1960s](#)

### Departments

E Line

[1970s](#)

Alumni Passages

[1980s](#)

From the Field

Sports

[1990s](#)

Books

Classes

[2000s](#)

First-Person

Husky Tracks

[Alumni Deaths](#)

Huskiana

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Classes

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### 1940s

Albert F. Varner Jr., BA'43, of Alpharetta, Georgia, writes of a personal reunion he enjoyed, one sixty years in coming. Varner served as an ensign aboard the battleship USS Idaho in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. Randall Sledge, a yeoman on the Idaho, worked closely with Varner in both decoding messages and manning one of the ship's fourteen-inch guns. "We watched every day, for two 4-hour shifts, so we got to know each other pretty well," Varner says. When Varner transferred off the ship in 1944, it was the last he saw of Sledge—until late last year. "I saw his name on a newsletter roster of our shipmates, and I decided to write him a letter," says Varner. They corresponded by mail and e-mail until Sledge—returning to his Louisiana home from Raleigh, North Carolina—stopped at Varner's home in Georgia. They spent the visit going over Varner's wartime memorabilia and reminiscing about the dangerous times shared by two young men sixty years ago.

George Engelson, LI'46, and his wife, Bernice, of Lake Worth, Florida, report a large number of family ties with Northeastern. Their children are alumni: Heather Grossack, N'67; David Engelson, BB'80; Eric Engelson, LA'72; and Jerrald Engelson, LA'75, N'96. There also is an NU daughter-in-law, Linda Engelson, BB'80 (David's wife). In the third generation are Joe Lepore, CJ'98, and Alex Engelson, CJ'05. George, who is retired from Cabot Corporation, and Bernice will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary this year.

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Classes

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### 1950s

Dan deBenedictis, L'56, of Milton, Massachusetts, and his wife, Anita, will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary in June. As a young man, deBenedictis served in the U.S. Marines during World War II. After passing the bar in 1961, he opened a real-estate law firm in 1964. He closed his office in 1985, worked as a bank attorney, then became a mediator in the Consumer Protection division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. In January, deBenedictis, who has no plans to retire, celebrated his ninetieth birthday. "It's the most momentous birthday I have ever had," he says. "The best time is the later years. You have wisdom, and you are calmed down. You can concentrate on what's most important to you, your wife, children, and grandchildren."

Robert A. Hefford, BA'57, of Austin, Texas, served twenty-seven years in the U.S. Army, from the time he was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1957 (after participating in ROTC at Northeastern, where he was also the track team MVP in 1956), to his retirement as colonel in 1984. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam, one as a helicopter pilot and the other as the commander of a unit of gunship helicopters. He received the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross (for heroism), the Silver Star with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. After returning from Vietnam, Hefford served tours of duty in the Pentagon, Dallas, and Fort Knox, Kentucky. Following military retirement, he was the plans and operations officer for the Texas governor's Division of Emergency Management. He then became director of research and special projects for the Texas Department of Insurance. He and his wife, Valerie Ann, have five children and seven grandchildren.

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Classes

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### 1960s

Karl Bossi, LA'62, of Venice, Florida, has finished penning his memoirs, *Just Call Me Moose! Growing Up Italian in America*, released in April by Gondola Press.

George O'Leary, E'63, of Boston, is the president and chief executive officer of Bonso Electronics International. A member of the board of directors, he has been with Bonso for fifteen years. O'Leary was formerly chief executive officer and director at Micro General Corporation and vice president and general manager at Lanier Business Products.

Barry A. Berkowitz, PAH'64, of Framingham, Massachusetts, is the president and chief executive officer of Scion Pharmaceuticals. Previously, he was corporate vice president at Albany Molecular Research, a drug discovery and manufacturing company.

Bruce Dreyfus, Ed'64, of Marietta, Georgia, has published *Personal Marketing Strategy Program for Transition Candidates*. "After working in talent acquisition for the last fifteen years and being inundated with resumé's, I decided to change how dehirees seek new employment," he says. The volume is available at .

Maurice R. McMahon, E'64, of Chula Vista, California, has retired as executive director of San Diego's Southwest Regional Maintenance Center, which coordinates visits to naval ships and shipyards. He notes he spent forty and a half years in federal service. "I am enjoying time with my grandson and helping out at the local elementary school," he writes.

John J. McQuade, UC'65, of Essex Junction, Vermont, writes that he "completed a twenty-eight-year engineering career at Sylvania and IBM in the early 1990s, then failed as a self-employed business manager. I did, however, emerge as a reasonably astute investor, and am now living the life of plenty in beautiful Vermont."

Richard Neal, Ed'65, H'91, a retired U.S. Marine Corps general, spoke at the dedication of the Veterans Memorial in Hingham, Massachusetts, in November 2004. "It really represents the townspeople of Hingham taking the time and putting the effort together to build this monument so that they would pay tribute to veterans from all the wars," Neal said after the dedication.

David F. Rivers, E'65, of Wallingford, Connecticut, is a member of the advisory board for AdZone Research, a producer of software that monitors the Internet. He was formerly vice president at Pfizer, where he worked for thirty-four years.

Thomas J. Hurley, UC'67, of Sylvania, Ohio, is the chief operating officer and principal at Findley Davies, a

human-resources consulting company in Toledo. He and his wife, Holly, have three children, Tommy, Andy, and Kathleen.

Myron Dittmer, LA'68, of Melrose, Massachusetts, is vice president of quality and engineering at the pharmaceuticals and biotech firm Hyaluron, in Burlington. He writes, "My wife, Rosemarie, is a course-development consultant and part-time instructor for Northeastern. She is also assistant dean of career development at a state community college. My older daughter, Julie-Anne, was recently married and works for an investment firm in Boston. My younger daughter, Joanna, is a teacher in the Westford school system. My son, Tom, is finishing his senior year at Syracuse." Dittmer can be reached by e-mail at [mdittmer@hyaluron.com](mailto:mdittmer@hyaluron.com).

Fredric Cramer, E'69, of Acton, Massachusetts, is a vice president at Konarka Technologies, which develops products that convert light into energy. He was formerly a general manager at Nova Biomedical, which produces critical-care and blood-testing devices; he also worked at Polaroid.

Dick Remillard, AS'69, UC'72, of Billerica, Massachusetts, is an enthusiastic and experienced modeler, and a member of the USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild. Before retiring, he was a scientist and field engineer for a Burlington company for twenty-seven years. During that time, he was also active in modeling; he currently builds all his models from scratch using raw materials. "I got to the point where I didn't even build kits anymore," he says. "I now scratch-build my models after doing years of research on what I'm building, using original architectural plans and photographs."

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Classes

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### 1970s

Russell H. Menko, LA'70, of Rochester Hills, Michigan, writes, "I am proud to say I graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School with a master of science. For the past four years, I've been working on software for the U.S. Army. My wife, Susan, and I are blessed with three great children and two beautiful grandchildren. I would love to hear from any of my classmates." His e-mail address is [rmenko@wideopenwest.com](mailto:rmenko@wideopenwest.com).

Donald W. Morgan, BA'70, of Dublin, California, is vice president and chief financial officer at RAE Systems, which develops and manufactures chemical and radiation-detection monitors and networks. Morgan was previously CFO at Larscom, a provider of network-access equipment.

William J. Shea, LA'70, MA'72, of North Andover, Massachusetts, is a member of the board of directors of the wealth-management firm Boston Private Financial Holdings. A trustee of Northeastern and Children's Hospital, Shea was president and chief executive officer at the insurance company Conseco, chaired the board of directors of Centennial Technologies, and was vice chairman and chief financial officer at BankBoston. He is also a member of the Board of Executive Committee for the Boston Stock Exchange.

Michael A. McCarthy, LA'71, MA'73, of Westport, Connecticut, is the vice president of Eastern United States sales for Paychex, which performs payroll and human-resources outsourcing. He has been with the company since 1990.

Russell Rylko, Ed'71, of Hyde Park, Massachusetts, is the president of the Mystic Valley Railway Society, a thirty-five-year-old organization with nearly 4,000 members. A retired science teacher from the Natick public schools, Rylko was a member of the Railway Club during his years at Northeastern.

Jim Vrabel, LA'71, of Brookline, Massachusetts, is the author of *When in Boston: A Timeline and Almanac*. Vrabel and the volume drew acclaim during a March event sponsored by the Bostonian Society at the Old State House.

Robert A. DeLeo, LA'72, of Winthrop, Massachusetts, is serving his eighth term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He was appointed the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee by Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi early this year. DeLeo, who has chaired several other committees, is a key player in the drafting of the state's \$23 billion budget.

Elizabeth Tempesta Kevilus, BB'72, of San Antonio, Texas, received a master of divinity degree in May 2004 from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She says, "I am loving my appointment as pastor of a

United Methodist Church."

Alan Neville, MBA'73, of Cumberland, Rhode Island, is the vice president of marketing and community development at Crossroads Rhode Island, a provider of services for the homeless. He and his wife, Clara, have two sons.

Stephan Ross, MEd'73, H'88, of Newton, Massachusetts, marked the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II earlier this year. He is a member of the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and a founder of the New England Holocaust Memorial. Ross was born Szmulek Rozental in Lodz, Poland, in 1931. From 1941 to 1945, he spent time in ten concentration camps, including Auschwitz, and was liberated from Dachau on April 29, 1945. After moving to the United States and earning degrees at the University of Vermont and Boston University, as well as Northeastern, he became a staff psychologist at the Boston Community Center. Ross now speaks to school groups about the Holocaust. He has two children, Julie and Michael.

Michael P. Smith, LA'73, of Hamden, Connecticut, is in his twentieth year as the head of the fine arts department at Hamden Hall Country Day School, where he teaches acting and dramatic-literature classes, and directs two major productions each year. Smith reports he's still active in the Actors' Equity Association and will be appearing in a summer production by the Elm Shakespeare Company. Married with three children, he and his family will be traveling to Paris in July to visit his oldest daughter.

Hilda Douglas, Ed'74, of Norfolk, Massachusetts, reports the death of her husband, Paul I. Douglas, E'73, ME'75. "He worked as head patent counsel for Duracell, and worked for Gillette at the Prudential for the past thirteen years," Hilda writes. "He had returned to NU to speak to students in the recent past. For over eleven years, he had worked at building his own experimental aircraft. On October 29, 2004, a craft failed mechanically, and he died upon impact in a crash. He truly lived his dream."

Jack Donovan, E'75, ME'78, of Boston, is a deputy director of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority. "We are currently updating the Blue, Green, and Red Line stations to increase capacity, make stations compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and switch to swipe-card entry. The majority of the work should be completed by 2007," he writes.

Thomas Sheerin, CJ'75, of Weymouth, Massachusetts, is the Boston metropolitan area police commander for the Federal Protective Service (FPS) division in the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. A lieutenant colonel, Sheerin has worked for FPS for twenty-seven years. He was previously commander in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. His e-mail address is [thomas.sheerin@dhs.gov](mailto:thomas.sheerin@dhs.gov).

Dennis Beaudoin, PAH'77, of Auburn, Washington, retired in 2003 as a colonel in the U.S. Army after twenty-six years as a pharmacy officer. His duty stations included Germany, Somalia, New York, California, Texas, Colorado, Washington, and Hawaii. Upon retirement, he became the lead oncology pharmacist at the Swedish Cancer Institute, in Seattle. In 2004, he joined Schering Plough, a pharmaceutical company based in New Jersey, where he is a national

account manager in federal sales.

Henry Nasella, BA'77, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been appointed a member of the board of directors of Denny's Corporation, the restaurant chain. A Northeastern trustee, Nasella is a partner at Apax Partners, a private equity firm. Formerly, he was president of Staples, chairman and chief executive officer of Star Markets, and a principal at Phillips-Smith venture capital group.

Grace L. Blunt, LA'78, of West Boylston, Massachusetts, is the director of human resources at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. She was previously senior vice president of bank administration at Community National Bank.

Lynn Puleo Hyman, BPH'78, lives in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Alan, and sons Zach and Adam. She works at Willow Dale Elementary School. "I have worked as a substitute teacher for the last six years, first in Texas and currently in Pennsylvania. I just accepted a position as an aide to those with autism and find the work extremely rewarding," she writes.

Tim Moore, CJ'78, MEd'84, of Willow Spring, North Carolina, has attained the Certified Workforce Development Professional (CWDP) credential from the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. He notes there are fewer than 1,500 CWDPs in the country. Moore has been a director of the Center for Employment Training in the Raleigh/Durham area since 1995. George Chagaris, Ed'79, of Newmarket, New Hampshire, writes, "I taught algebra for two years in Lexington before moving on to my current job as a software engineer with Liberty Mutual. I am currently awaiting my fourth kidney transplant. I would love to hear from any students to whom I taught freshman algebra in 1979." Chagaris's e-mail address is [georgechag@aol.com](mailto:georgechag@aol.com).

Michael Foy, E'79, of Sharon, Massachusetts, is the author of Future Perfect, a science-fiction novel about a character transported back to the West in 1868. It's his second novel. Foy has authored three short stories for the Internet: "The Adventures of the Moonstone," "The Solar Winds of Change," and "A Land to Call Our Own." He's now working on a third novel, Camelot's Assassin.

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Classes

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### 1980s

Michael Dragone, PAH'80, UC'83, of Taunton, Massachusetts, is a regulatory manager in New England for the American Red Cross.

Peter Kaberides, CJ'80, of San Antonio, Texas, retired in June 2004 from the U.S. Army with the rank of lieutenant colonel, after twenty-four years of service. He and his wife, Kathy, celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary in February. They have two children, Niki and Theo. "While my wife works, I'm relaxing and enjoying a year of no work," he says. "Will start searching soon and get back into the job market by the end of the summer."

Russ Nagle, E'80, of Newton, Massachusetts, is a senior systems architect for Applied Micro Circuits Corporation, a semiconductor company.

Michael W. Smith, MA'80, PHD'83, L'93, of Malden, Massachusetts, describes himself as "a sociologist who also happens to practice criminal defense, civil rights, and immigration law." In December 2004, he was granted tenure at St. Anselm College, in Manchester, New Hampshire, where he teaches criminology, race and ethnic relations, and the sociology of terrorism and genocide. Over the past two years, Smith has presented papers at academic conferences in New York City, Florence, Rhodes, Amsterdam, and Havana. This summer, he will travel to South Africa to study the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Arthur Mushkin, MBA'81, of West Boyford, Massachusetts, is the vice president of human resources at UNICCO Service Company, which provides facilities maintenance.

Margot Nickerson-Malpher, UC'81, of Topsfield, Maine, reports that she has opened a private kennel for miniature poodles and embarked on a new career as a purebred dog breeder for American Kennel Club shows. She has previously worked as a purchasing agent, a business administrator, a technical editor, and a technical documentation specialist. "This experience and my education have been very beneficial in paving the groundwork for a new career," she writes. Her e-mail address is [margotkm@hotmail.com](mailto:margotkm@hotmail.com).

Gerard L. Ready, MPA'81, reports he is nearing the end of a twenty-one-year sentence he is serving at the Massachusetts Department of Corrections prison in Bridgewater. He writes, "I will need help finding housing (one room will do fine after two decades in a six-by-ten cell), employment (of any kind in any field), and socialization. I am willing and able to relocate anywhere. Anyone who can help may write to me: Inmate #M10302, M.T.C., 30 Administration Road, Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324."

Paul Tumolo, UC'81, of Medway, Massachusetts, is the

founder and principal of Edusult Performance Systems, an executive education and management consulting company he started in 2002.

Julie Gersten, CJ'82, of Miami Beach, Florida, teaches fourth grade in Miami. She has a ten-year-old daughter, Leigh. Gersten's e-mail address is [tworubens@the-beach.net](mailto:tworubens@the-beach.net).

Michael Kardok, BA'82, of Needham, Massachusetts, is a senior vice president and fund treasurer at IXIS Asset Management Group North America, in Boston.

Alan Feinberg, MBA'83, of Los Gatos, California, is a senior business unit director at Atrenta, which audits designs for electronics companies. He most recently served as vice president of marketing at Monterey Design Systems.

Michael J. Mitsock, ME'83, of Westford, Massachusetts, is the chief marketing officer at Tele Atlas, a digital mapping company. He formerly was vice president of worldwide marketing and product management at Lightbridge, a transaction-processing company.

Wendy Talbert-Gordon, AS'83, took twenty-nine of her students at the State University of New YorkRockland to culinary school in Florence, Italy, during spring break this year. She helped develop a course titled "A Taste of Italy" in conjunction with the Office of International Studies at SUNYRockland, where she is an adjunct professor. She and her husband, Keith Gordon, AS'82, live in Suffern, New York.

Monte Ford, BA'84, of Southlake, Texas, is a senior vice president and chief information officer at American Airlines. In February, he was named one of the seventy-five most powerful African Americans in corporate America by Black Enterprise magazine.

Michael Mainelli, E'84, of Orlando, Florida, is the president of Invivo Corporation, which is part of Intermagnetics General Corporation. Mainelli is responsible for the company's medical-device business. He has worked at Stryker Spine, Stryker Japan, and General Electric.

Thomas Scott, PA'84, of Irwin, Pennsylvania, is the vice president of finance at World Health Alternatives. He was previously chief financial officer at a collection of television stations affiliated with NBC and ABC.

Stephen Winslow, MBA'84, of Concord, Massachusetts, is a senior vice president and chief financial officer at Cumberland Farms. He previously served as a senior vice president and chief financial officer at U.S. Toy Group at Hasbro and CFO of the Walt Disney Company's Global Retail Division.

William Hill, L'85, of Acton, Massachusetts, in February was elected president of the board of directors of the Appalachian Mountain Club. A litigation partner at the Boston law firm Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, he has been active with the Appalachian Mountain Club as vice president, member of the executive committee, and co-chair of the conservation programs committee. Hill chairs the Acton Conservation Commission and is a trustee of the Acton Conservation Trust. Last December, he and his daughter climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania.

Kirk Paul Kirkman, BA'85, of Collegeville, Pennsylvania,

is the vice president of physician recruitment and retention at Zix Corporation. Formerly, he was vice president of sales and head of customer care at Amicore.

Patricia Vinchesi, MPA'85, of Conway, Massachusetts, has been South Hadley's town administrator for more than four years and is the president of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. She and her husband have two daughters. "I'd love to hear from old poly sci teaching assistants," she says. Her e-mail address is [fitzfest@comcast.net](mailto:fitzfest@comcast.net).

Doug Burns, ME'86, of Westford, Massachusetts, is vice president of consulting services/chief scientist at Signal Integrity Software, which specializes in high-speed interconnect design and analysis. He has experience at Honeywell, Digital, and Compaq Computer.

Larry Chisvin, E'86, is the chief operating officer at PLX Technology, a high-tech firm based in Sunnyvale, California. He was previously the company's vice president of marketing. Chisvin has also been director of marketing at Neomagic, and worked at LSI Logic, S3, Philips, Western Digital, and Digital Equipment.

Nancy Lafianza, PAH'86, of Hanover, Massachusetts, is the director of health-information management and privacy officer at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. A registered health-information administrator, she has also worked at Milton and St. Elizabeth's Hospitals.

Susan Barbieri Montgomery, L'86, of Westport Point, Massachusetts, is the vice chair of the intellectual property law section of the American Bar Association. A partner in the intellectual property group at Foley Hoag, Montgomery is also an adjunct professor at Suffolk University School of Law.

Andrea Waterson, MBA'86, of Westport, Connecticut, is the managing director of the West Division of GE Commercial Finance Corporate Lending, based in Beverly Hills, California. Waterson has been with GE Commercial Finance for more than five years, most recently as managing director of the business credit group.

Marc Cremer, E'87, of Austin, Texas, is the vice president of sales at Tataru Systems. He has fifteen years of experience in wireless mobility, semiconductor, and enterprise software sales management.

Deborah Gold, BA'87, and Robin Gold, AS'91, of Barrington, Rhode Island, together sold just under \$10 million in real estate in 2004 in Rhode Island and Bristol County, Massachusetts. The sisters achieved this while raising young families; Deborah has three children, and Robin has two. They can be e-mailed at [debbiegold@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:debbiegold@coldwellbanker.com) and [robingold@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:robingold@coldwellbanker.com).

Kristie (Haas) Jorgensen, PAH'87, of Lee, New Hampshire, is a senior pharmaceutical sales specialist at Sepracor in Marlborough, Massachusetts. "Nathan and I love to ski, golf, hike, and travel," she writes.

John Petrin, MPA'87, of Marlborough, Massachusetts, became the town manager in Ashland in January. Previously, he was the assistant school superintendent in Marlborough. He and his wife, Kim, have a son.

Kumiki Gibson, L'88, of Baltimore, Maryland, is the senior vice president of administration, chief governance officer, and counselor to the president of the National Urban League. Previously, she was vice president and general counsel at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to that, she served as counsel to Vice President Al Gore, a partner at Williams and Connolly, and an attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Thomas J. Lynch, MBA'88, of Zephyrhills, Florida, is the vice president of information technology at URS. Before joining the company in 1996, he was the chief information officer at Air and Water Technologies.

Jim Pimentel, AS'88, of Orange Park, Florida, is the police legal adviser for the Clay County Sheriff's Office. For seven and a half years, he was a prosecutor with the state attorney's office in Jacksonville.

Edward (Ned) Sennott Jr., CJ'88, and his wife, Suzanne, celebrated the birth of their first child, Patrick Joseph, on January 8. They live in Norwood, Massachusetts.

Mark Tardif, AS'88, of Waterville, Maine, is the associate director of college communications at Unity College. Formerly, he was a public relations officer at Thomas College. Tardif can be e-mailed at [mtardif@unity.edu](mailto:mtardif@unity.edu).

Grace E. (Reidy) Girotti, MCS'89, of Danville, New Hampshire, married Robert Girotti in 2002. She reports she retired from programming in January 2003 and she and her husband celebrated the birth of their son, Thomas Anthony, in September 2003. "I've never been more satisfied with my life than I am now as a wife and mother," she writes.

Elliott B. Herman, PA'89, of Needham, Massachusetts, is a partner at PRW Associates, a financial-services provider in Quincy. He focuses on investment plans and opportunities.

Dawn Taylor Thompson, CJ'89, of Richmond, Massachusetts, writes, "In 2004, I ran for the Massachusetts Senate in Berkshire, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. I'm the president of Thompson Construction, a masonry and general contracting firm, and president of Sudds Mill E-Z Wash, a small chain of laundromats. My husband, Steve, and I have eight children. I became a certified teacher in 1998, teaching government and world history, mostly to high school juniors." .

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

## Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

## Classes

### 1990s

Mark Bloomberg, MBA'90, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, is the chief medical officer at WiFimed in Maynard and an associate clinical professor at Tufts University School of Medicine. Formerly, he was the chief medical officer at Private Health Care Systems. Bloomberg is a graduate of Rutgers University Medical School.

Brenda (Blaney) Cuccinello, BPH'90, lives in her hometown of West Long Branch, New Jersey, with her husband, Terry, and sons Michael and Nicholas. She is the director of rehabilitation at Avante Nursing and Rehab, a long-term care and subacute facility. She says she and her sister, Andrea, often think of their Northeastern classmates and would like to hear from them. Her e-mail address is [bbpt37@yahoo.com](mailto:bbpt37@yahoo.com).

Jerry S. D'Aniello, CJ'90, of Somerville, New Jersey, has joined the law firm of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus. He focuses on family and matrimonial law. D'Aniello is a member of the bars of New Jersey, New York, Washington, D.C., the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He lectures and publishes actively on matrimonial law. In addition, he serves in a number of court-appointed programs concerning mediation of divorce and family law.

Edward C. English, MS'90, of Needham, Massachusetts, is the vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer of Praecis Pharmaceuticals. He has been with the company since 1997. Prior to that, he was a manager at KPMG.

Joseph G. Grassi, AS'90, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the owner of Beacon Appraisals, which appraises residential real estate. He has been a member of the Cambridge School Committee since 1994. Grassi's e-mail address is [beaconappraisals@msn.com](mailto:beaconappraisals@msn.com).

Peter J. Moran, MBA'90, of Arlington, Virginia, writes, "I am trying to get in touch with all September 1990 Co-op MBA graduates to organize a reunion." His e-mail address is [petermoran@yahoo.com](mailto:petermoran@yahoo.com).

Jon Boroshok, MBA'91, of Groton, Massachusetts, owns Marcom Outsource, a public-relations consulting company. He's also an adjunct instructor at Northeastern, teaching a graduate marketing-writing course. "I feel like a real-life Welcome Back, Kotter," writes Boroshok, who has taught public relations and writing at Emerson and Bentley Colleges. He has also contributed articles to a wide range of publications, including the Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Boston Globe. He and his wife, Caren, live in Groton with their daughter, Stephanie, and son, Tyler. Friends may write him at [jb@marcomoutsource.com](mailto:jb@marcomoutsource.com) or [jb@pipeline.com](mailto:jb@pipeline.com).

Tinamarie (Micacci) Blinn, BA'92, of Kensington,

Connecticut, and her husband, Roger, celebrated the birth of their second child, Douglas Roger, on September 1, 2004, at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. She is the vice president of quality at TM Industries.

James P. Carey, BA'92, of Belmont, Massachusetts, was appointed to the Board of Bar Overseers, a panel of eight lawyers and four nonlawyers appointed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to investigate allegations of professional misconduct by attorneys. Carey is a certified public accountant who specializes in forensic accounting, commercial-insurance claim services, litigation services, and general management consulting.

Roslyn M. Michelson, UC'92, of Winchester, Massachusetts, writes, "I met my husband after getting my master's in nursing at UMassBoston, and we married in 1999. He became an NU grad in 2002 after getting his MBA. In August 2003, we finalized the adoption of our daughter, Daria, from Russia. I am working part-time in the operating room at Massachusetts General Hospital and love it. If anyone from the BSN program remembers me, I would love to get in touch. My e-mail address is [roslyn@alumni.neu.edu](mailto:roslyn@alumni.neu.edu)."

Scot Petersen, MA'92, of Beverly, Massachusetts, is the editor of eWEEK, a Ziff Davis Media publication. He previously was news editor. Petersen has covered the high-tech industry for ten years. He joined eWEEK as department editor in 1995; he became deputy news editor in 1999 and news editor in 2000. Before joining Ziff Davis, Petersen worked at the Boston Herald, the Boston Business Journal, and the Beverly Times.

Kelli M. Trudel, Ed'92, of Dallas, writes, "I have taken a position at MediServe Information Systems as the regional vice president of sales for the Texas region. Looking for old alumni." She can be e-mailed at [kellitrudel@hotmail.com](mailto:kellitrudel@hotmail.com).

Viki Vale-Salah, AS'92, MEd'97, of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and her husband, Paul Salah, celebrated the first birthday of their daughter, Sophie Rose, earlier this year. "She is the love of our life," writes Vale-Salah, who is a lead teacher in the Boston public schools. "My art degree from Northeastern, my master's in expressive therapies from Lesley, and especially my master's in special needs from Northeastern have provided me with the skills to be a creative and successful educator. I am forever grateful to my professors at Northeastern."

Dan Donner, BA'93, of San Francisco, is a senior vice president at the investment bank Leerink Swann and Company. He notes his daughter, Ashley, was born in July 2004 and a second child is expected this August. Donner can be e-mailed at [dan.donner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dan.donner@sbcglobal.net).

Alyssa (Santoro) Gagnon, N'93, and her husband, Brian, celebrated the birth of their second child, Madeline Rose, on June 25, 2004. A son, Noah, is their older child. Alyssa is an oncology nurse at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Brian is director of business development at Monster. They live in Medway, Massachusetts.

J. Jay Gannon, BA'93, and Kelly Gentry, AS'98, were married October 9, 2004, in Napa, California. They honeymooned in Hawaii and now live in West New York, New Jersey.

Patrick L. Reynolds, AS'93, of Chesapeake, Virginia, started Ashby Development, a commercial and industrial real-estate development company.

Michael Scanlon, GB'93, of Robbinsville, New Jersey, is the general manager of the Rose Garden, a 21,000-seat arena in Portland, Oregon, that is the home of the NBA's Portland Trailblazers. He also oversees management of the Portland Veterans Memorial Coliseum, which seats 12,800. He and his wife, Emilia, have a daughter, Allison.

L. Danny Tromp, PHD'93, of Burlington, Massachusetts, was recognized as one of the 2004 Alumni of the Year by the Society of Latino Alumni at Northeastern. He has been with MITRE Corporation since 1986 and is the director of the sensor, processing, and exploitation-systems technical center. His research areas and interests include detection and estimation theory, spectrum analysis and statistical signal processing, and network centric sensing.

David S. Brown, CJ'94, of Lewisville, Texas, writes, "Last year was busy for me. In December, I finally completed my secondary certification requirements for social studies at the University of North Texas. This January, I started teaching at R. L. Turner High School in Carrollton, Texas. My classes consist of a section of ninth-grade geography and four sections of eleventh-grade U.S. history. The district offers classes in criminal justice at one of the other campuses. I hope to put my much-valued undergraduate degree to use teaching a criminal justice class or two, though I want to continue on the history track. I just love it. I would like to hear from some of my fellow Huskies. Best to all." Brown can be e-mailed at [gfh7367@yahoo.com](mailto:gfh7367@yahoo.com) or [brownda@cfbisd.edu](mailto:brownda@cfbisd.edu).

Ken Hyers, MA'95, is a principal analyst in charge of global wireless operator research for ABI Research in Oyster Bay, New York. He previously worked at In-Stat.

John Kelly, MBA'95, of Windham, New Hampshire, is director of product marketing at ApplQ in Burlington, Massachusetts. He chairs the Storage Networking Industry Association's Storage Management Forum Requirements Committee. Formerly, he was director of product marketing at Sun Microsystems.

Michael Labinski, MBA'95, of Boston, is the chief financial officer at Mathsoft in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He had been vice president of finance and administration since March 2003.

Erez Ofer, MBA'95, of South Grafton, Massachusetts, is a venture partner with Greylock Partners, in Waltham. The company is expanding its Israeli investment focus. Ofer, who holds more than thirty storage-related patents, was executive vice president of technology strategy at EMC Corporation.

David B. Estrada, CJ'96, married Heidi Farber in October 2004. They live in Boston. He has been with the Boston Police Department for ten years and is the president of the Greater Boston chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association. "We provide support services and resources for people with spinal-cord injuries and their families," he writes. The organization's website is at .

Eileen Olfiers-Whalen, BPH'96, of Carmel, New York, is

a senior therapist at Physical Therapy at Jefferson Valley. She writes, "I am back to work for the past two and a half years after the birth of my beautiful daughter, Hailey. She was a true angel to me. She got me through the death of my father. My daughter celebrated her third birthday in October 2004. She loves coming to work with me on the weekend and 'fixing people.' I have lost track of many of my former classmates and would like very much to be reunited with them. Feel free to drop me a line." Her e-mail address is [colifiers@hotmail.com](mailto:colifiers@hotmail.com).

Noel Texeira, CJ'96, of Foxborough, Massachusetts, was named the 2004 Fan of the Year by the New England Patriots. He and his family were honored at Gillette Stadium during the last game of the Patriots' regular season, against the San Francisco 49ers. Texeira received the Joseph R. Mastrangelo Fan of the Year Memorial Trophy from the Bank of America; the trophy was presented by Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi. A five-minute video of Texeira and his family was shown on the Jumbotron at halftime, and a whirlwind of interviews followed over the next ten days. "To be honored," Texeira writes, "a fan must demonstrate a higher standard of dedication and passion to the Patriots, and the fan must also be nominated by someone other than himself (thank you, Jay and Jen). I was quite honored to be recognized, and the trophy, actually a twenty-pound bronze sculpture, sits proudly on my mantle." Texeira is a senior corporate systems engineer at EMC Corporation.

Pamela Walsh, AS'96, of Concord, New Hampshire, is the communications director on the staff of John Lynch, the Democratic governor of New Hampshire. Walsh was communications director for the New Hampshire Democratic Party and press aide for former governor Jean Shaheen. Prior to that, she was a reporter at the Concord Monitor. At Northeastern, she was editor of the Northeastern News and a student intern at the Boston Globe.

Kristen S. Cloutier, AS'97, of Auburn, Maine, is engaged to be married to Denny Patrick Bourgoin. The wedding is planned for August 19, 2006, on the campus of Bates College, where Cloutier is an event planner.

William Frazier, BPH'97, and Denise (Brousseau) Frazier, CJ'98, of Allenstown, New Hampshire, celebrated the birth of their second child, Pressley Mary, on November 11, 2004.

Jennifer Cardillo French, BPH'97, of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, is a division manager for Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals.

Vijay Daryanani, BPH'98, GB'99, married Sarina Ajwani, of Miami, Florida, on August 22, 2004. They live in Wakefield, Massachusetts. Daryanani is a clinical sports therapist at the Therapy Centers of Marblehead and has his own personal-training company, V-Fit.

Mark Doran, E'98, and Gale Marticio, BA'99, of Norwood, Massachusetts, are engaged to be married. The wedding is planned for 2006.

Haniza Mokhtar, BA'98, of Sanjara, Malaysia, is the director of She's Fit, a women-only gym in Kuala Lumpur. "You can come in any shape, size, and ability without being judged. You don't have to be intimidated here," she says.

Jim Murphy, BA'98, of North Reading, Massachusetts, is the head coach of the football program at Merrimack College.

Scott Burgess, BPH'99, of Derry, New Hampshire, works alongside Murphy as the strength and conditioning coach for football at Merrimack.

Henry Hanley, MBA'99, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, is the chief financial officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket.

Philip Kasiecki, E'99, of Chelsea, Massachusetts, is the managing editor of Hoopville , a website that covers college basketball, the NBA draft, and college recruiting.

James Rosenberg, L'99, of Bow, New Hampshire, is a former assistant state attorney general who was one-half of the task force that investigated the Catholic Diocese of Manchester for failing to protect children from sexually abusive priests. A trial lawyer with the Concord firm Shaheen & Gordon, he's now part of a litigation team working on behalf of the Democratic Party investigating allegations of phone jamming by the New Hampshire State Republican Committee in the 2002 election. Outside the courtroom, he is a member of the board of directors of the Concord Family YMCA.

Adam Thomas, BPH'99, of Marshfield, Massachusetts, is the athletic trainer for the football program at Merrimack College.

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Classes

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### 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.

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Alumni Deaths

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

#### 1920s

Hilda Loysen, BB'20, July 1, 2004

John J. Barry, E'24, January 8

#### 1930s

Robert W. Olsen, E'37, November 2, 2003

Laurie A. Ebacher, L'39, January 10

William C. Petraske, E'39, September 22, 2004

#### 1940s

Edward M. Higgins, L'40, August 26, 2004

John M. Connor, E'42, November 14, 2004

Frank J. Lariviere, E'42, June 4, 2003

C. Richard Noble, E'42, February 21, 2004

Benjamin F. Allen, E'43, January 24

James C. Hebard, E'43, January 12

James E. Washburn, BA'43, December 3, 2004

Helen E. Adams, LA'49, UC'67, MA'71, August 7, 2004

Edward F. McLaughlin, L'49, January 21

#### 1950s

John P. Carroll, BA'50, July 1, 2003

Nancy R. Lower, BB'52, May 24, 2004

Robert E. Simon, LC'53, B'57, November 30, 2003

Paul J. Morrissey, B'55, August 8, 2003

Anthony F. Martinez, E'57, January 19, 2004

Oscar Pellegrin, LC'58, B'60, July 5, 2003

John J. Santoro, LC'58, UC'61, May 22, 2004

#### 1960s

Richard M. Potter, LC'60, August 22, 2004

Phillip E. Chelidona, BA'63, January 24, 2004

James P. Hanrihan, E'65, ME'73, March 1, 2004

Raymond J. Piercey, LC'66, July 7, 2003

#### 1970s

David H. Foxwell, BA'72, January 31

Gregory A. Leonard, BA'73 December 7, 2004

John J. McCarthy, LA'73, September 18, 2003

Charles W. Costello, UC'74, November 22, 2004

Ann C. Egan, L'74, November 19, 2004

Mary R. Flynn, MEd'74, January 4

Joseph J. Sullivan, BA'75, September 10, 2003

William A. Gray, MA'76, October 16, 2004

Jeffrey J. Carlson, PA'79, January 5

#### 1980s

Kevin C. Hughes, E'81, December 18, 2004

John L. Need, MBA'85, January 16

#### 1990s

Kim-Marie Walker, L'94, January 16

Paul Walker, E'95, August 8, 2003

#### 2000s

Aida Zuhric, BA'01, August 10, 2004

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay

Greeks, Unorthodox

## Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

## First-Person

MJ Knoll-Finn, MBA'04

Our baby boy is in my arms trying to settle down for a nap. From the other room, our four-year-old son is calling me to come listen to his "concert." The house is a mess, and I am running on five hours of interrupted sleep. My wife, Chris, motions that she will take William, who's finally asleep. I kiss her on the cheek, and she whispers, "Go enjoy your concert." When I go in to hear Henry play his instruments, the joy on his face and the fun we have together overcome my fatigue.

I wonder how I got so lucky—to have a wonderful life partner, as well as two incredible boys who fill our lives with laughter, learning, and joy. I can't help thinking I have a good life.

Last year, more good fortune came my way when Chris and I were given the right to marry. We're a gay couple who have been together since 1993. Though we had a commitment ceremony in 1996, we were not legally recognized as a couple until May 20, 2004, when we married in Boston's Arlington Street Church.

Our simple wedding didn't have the complicated planning or the long guest list of our commitment ceremony. But when we heard "By the power vested in me by the state of Massachusetts, I now pronounce you married," our elation was beyond words.

I had not believed I would have the chance to legally marry Chris in my lifetime.

Last year, I cried at times as I listened to people talk about us as though we were pariahs, as though we were going to bring down society if we were treated as equals. I was glad Henry was too young to understand what was being said; I think it would have made him sad and confused.

Even now, Massachusetts and gay marriage are a lightning rod for those who want to keep marriage exclusively heterosexual. It's difficult for me to understand how people can view me as less than equal because I happen to be in love with a woman. I still struggle with the hatred and intolerance people have for the gay community.

Just wanting to have access to the institution of marriage signals that gays are trying to build stronger families and communities. Matrimony has brought Chris and me a sense of respect and belonging. And, although we're married only under Massachusetts state law, some things are easier.

For instance, when William was born last year, both our names were on the birth certificate as his legal parents. Marriage did that for us. When Henry was born in 2000, only the birth mother could sign the birth



Photo courtesy MJ Knoll-Finn

certificate when a gay couple had a child. The other parent had to adopt the child at a later date to have legal ties to the child.

Now I don't have to worry that, if one of us is hospitalized, we could be prevented from seeing each other. That is powerful in a practical and emotional way.

Our son Henry was in the hospital when he was four months old, with a difficult diagnosis that meant prolonged treatment. One of our first thoughts was, Will the hospital let both Chris and me make decisions about Henry's care? Will we be treated like a family? Thankfully, we were at a very open hospital. But it was not always easy.

Another change: After our wedding last year, we became the Knoll-Finns. Although I was happy to share Chris's name, I didn't think about it a lot until Henry, who has always carried both our names, started to really celebrate how we were all Knoll-Finns now. He loved it. He would talk about how the Knoll-Finns were going to do this or that. Hearing him reaffirmed for me how important this marriage is for our children.

Our boys will feel the security of a family that is recognized through the simple act of a legal marriage. Although we hope the legality of our union will one day be recognized in all fifty states and by the federal government, our marriage has made me proud and given me hope that our children will have an easier time in life.

Each year with Chris is richer and fuller than the one before. We have been through tragedies and triumphs in our twelve years together, like every other couple have. We consider parenting our boys to the best of our abilities our number-one task. What's made this year more special is that we are now legally recognized as a family.

We still have a long way to go to find true equality, but this marriage is a step. We are the Knoll-Finns, and I'm grateful to Massachusetts for making it clear that we deserve to be recognized in all legal ways.

*MJ Knoll-Finn is assistant dean and director of admissions at the School of Law.*

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay  
Greeks, Unorthodox

## Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

## Husky Tracks

### Secrets to His Success

Mystery writer Al Blanchard, Ed'69, MA'75, left at the top of his game.

"Al died upwardly mobile," says Hallie Ephron, fellow mystery novelist and crime fiction reviewer for the Boston Globe. "His writing career was in full throttle."

"He was a vibrant, full-of-life guy, with a future," agrees mystery writer Bill Tapply, once Blanchard's literary mentor.

Blanchard, a fifty-nine-year-old Waltham native, died suddenly last November while attending a mystery writers conference called the New England Crime Bake, which he had helped found.

He was in his third year as president of the New England chapter of Mystery Writers of America. "Al made the group a very welcoming place for new writers," says Ephron. "He let others share the spotlight with him. He was generous. As an author, he was prolific, and fearless."

Blanchard had eased into a second career as a mystery writer after thirty-four years of teaching social studies in the Waltham public schools, from which he retired in 2003. The seed was planted fifteen years ago, when Blanchard and wife Enid went to a talk given by Tapply—himself a former teacher—at the Waltham Public Library.

On the way to the book signing afterward, Enid had a thought. "It was raining," she says, "and we were walking together under one umbrella. And I said to Al, 'You know, you could do that.'"

Tapply remembers, "After my talk, this guy came up to me and said, 'Someday I'm going to do what you do.' Three years later, Al ended up in my writing group." Over the next six years, the group's weekly Wednesday-night meetings spawned the first two of Blanchard's five mystery novels.

His art drew from his life. In *Murder at Walden Pond*, protagonist Steve Asher is a middle school teacher who, by necessity, becomes a criminal investigator—and, yes, he's also a Northeastern alumnus. So is criminal justice major James Callahan, Blanchard's homicide detective in *The Iscariot Conspiracy*.

Another book in the Callahan mystery series, *The Disappearance of Jenny Drago*, has been optioned by a film production company.

Friends and family are still dealing with their loss. "Al was respected because of his work with the New England mystery writers group," says Tapply. "And because he wrote books people like to read. But the



Al Blanchard

Photo courtesy Koenisha Publications

thing about Al that's way more important than his career is what a wonderful man he was. Everyone is just blown away."

- Katy Kramer, MA'00



*The Sarofeens with members of their big-name bridal party.*

*Photo Courtesy Koenisha Publications*

### **Bridal Broadcast**

Louise Fullerton, BHS'01, GB'02, and Rob Sarofeen, BA'02, had a terrific turnout for their wedding. About a hundred guests gathered for the February 11 nuptials.

That's not counting the studio and television audiences—which added 4.3 million more to the guest list.

The twosome tied the knot on Live with Regis and Kelly as winners of the daytime show's annual "Live Wedding" contest. Despite all the exposure, their big-day jitters were under control. "I think I would have been a little more apprehensive," Rob says, "if there were actually 4.3 million people I was onstage in front of."

In addition to their wedding, the Sarofeens won a honeymoon, a van, even a makeover for the groom. They also got the chance to motivate others to overcome life's difficult obstacles.

Rob is a quadriplegic as a result of a high-school diving accident, and has faced numerous health complications ever since. In fact, Louise entered the Live contest after Rob was hospitalized with kidney failure for a month last fall. "At the time, it was a big realization for both of us that we wanted to get married sooner rather than later," she says. "It just made us realize that what we had was so special, and we didn't want to let it go, ever."

Their love story began at Northeastern. Louise was a resident assistant in Willis Hall, where Rob also lived. He first visited her to borrow a stapler, but soon he was interested in more than office supplies. "Whenever I saw her, something would draw me to her," he says.

Rob now works as a financial analyst, Louise as a physical therapist. After the ceremony, they received many messages from well-wishers, including some notes from people in wheelchairs who'd been inspired by their story.

"If there's somebody else out there in this situation, there is hope," Louise says. "There is a lot you can do,

no matter what the situation is."

- Lewis I. Rice, MA'96



*Barbara Springer*  
Photo Courtesy Barbara Springer

### **Patriotic Pull**

Twice a week, Barbara Springer, BHD'86, drops by the White House. She's not part of George W. Bush's inner circle, but she still does a lot of legwork there. She's a physical therapist for the White House staff, dealing with knotty hamstring, tendon, and rotator-cuff problems.

"I love it," Springer says. "Everyone is very smart—and they follow directions."

But that's not the only place she tells VIPs what to do. Springer, a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, is the chief of physical therapy services at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she directs the therapists who treat soldiers who've been injured in Iraq. "It's labor-intensive," she says. "We bring amputees up to sports-level activities quickly—they're otherwise in pretty good shape."

She's responsible for 3,900 patients and a staff of forty-three. She's also a public relations manager of sorts. "I'm the gatekeeper," she explains. Springer has maneuvered such high-profile visitors as Tom Hanks, Michael Bolton, and Geraldo Rivera through the clinic. ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN have visited. So has the most famous initial of all: W.

It's beyond where Springer envisioned her military career would take her. By her own admission, she was a "small-town girl" from Fort Fairfield, Maine. At Northeastern, she was in ROTC. "Boston was an adventure, and I got to travel a lot," she says. Co-ops took her from Caribou, Maine, to Denver, to New Orleans.

In 1986, she entered the Army as a physical therapist and second lieutenant. She expected to be out in four years.

She hasn't hung up her uniform yet. Along the way, she's earned a master's degree in exercise physiology from the University of Hawaii and a doctoral degree in health education from the University of Texas at Austin.

Today, her sons say the details of her job provide great show-and-tells and reports for their third- and eighth-grade classes. Springer remains wide-eyed herself: "I

still feel like it's a dream."

- *Katy Kramer, MA'00*

# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE    UNIVERSITY

STAFF    AWARDS    ADVERTISE    SEND CLASS NOTE    SEND LETTER    UPDATE ADDRESS    BACK ISSUES    CONTRIBUTE    LINKS    SEARCH

May 2005

## Huskiana

### Features

A Leading Question

Sitting on the Dock of eBay  
Greeks, Unorthodox

### Departments

E Line

Alumni Passages

From the Field

Sports

Books

Classes

First-Person

Husky Tracks

Huskiana

### Just Add Water: 1968

Step right up, ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to Northeastern's United Fund Carnival, and its main attraction, Soak-a-Prof!

The rules of engagement? For two bits, you had three (count 'em, three!) shots to shower your prof with love. Professor Louis Cooperstein (right), chairman of the Modern Languages department, was one of the good-humored targets.

Other fundraising gimmicks included a kissing booth, a pool-shooting contest, and a dart board. The Student Union raised \$153 for the United Fund and agencies combating starvation in Biafra. Good, clean fun for a worthy cause.

Was the success of Soak-a-Prof a sign that students felt increasingly less shy about challenging authority? Northeastern's campus culture was certainly more fluid in 1968. Student government was officially recognized for the first time. The role of faculty advisers was redefined. Compulsory attendance at convocation was dropped.

But the timing might be more coincidence than watertight theory. For now, let's just call it a wash.



*Photo from University Libraries Archives and Special Collections Department*