



Northeastern University

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ALUMNI MAGAZINE UNIVERSITY

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The More Things Change

In the midst of a dramatic transformation that began some fifteen years ago, Northeastern is taking a hard look at where it's been, where it's going—and what it will take to bring alumni along for the ride

By Karen Feldscher

Illustrations by James Steinberg

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Kevin and the seven others in the focus group are asked if they feel connected to Northeastern.

There's a brief pause. Then Kevin says, "Why should I feel connected?"

It's a definite "ouch" moment for anyone who cares about Northeastern. But those who fall within that category—administrators, faculty, loyal groups of alumni, the university's trustees, some current students—are hoping to find ways of getting the ambivalent Kevins out there more engaged with their school.

Certainly, there are plenty of alumni who feel more of a connection than Kevin. Like Kathryn (Sharpe) Zimmerman, LA'75, and her husband, Theodore, BA'74, who still hang out with their Northeastern buddies at Husky hockey, football, and baseball games.

Or like Allen Lomax, LA'77—past president and current executive vice president of the Alumni Association, and president of the Washington, D.C., alumni club. "Every positive thing that's happened in my life traces back to Northeastern," says Lomax, who met his wife and his best friend through NU and whose co-op jobs with the federal government led to his long career at the Government Accountability Office, where he works on strategic planning and performance measurement.

But a lack of engagement is definitely a problem among many Northeastern graduates. According to preliminary results from a recent alumni survey, only about 13 percent feel "definitely connected" to the university. About 58 percent feel "somewhat connected."

And some alums are uncomfortable with the thought of Northeastern's becoming a different place than they recall from twenty, thirty, or forty years ago.

"The alumni we are trying to reach have their own



by James Steinberg

Illustrations

unique experiences and perceptions of Northeastern," says Robert Cunningham, senior vice president for institutional advancement. "They are physically, emotionally, and psychologically invested in the version of Northeastern they knew, and either loved, or didn't, or fell somewhere in between."

He adds, "It's not uncommon for an institution that's changing to have alumni who view current students as different from themselves. And they want to see similarities—people like them who are being given the same experiences and opportunities they had."

Why is it so important to Cunningham and his colleagues to figure out ways of getting alumni to care more about Northeastern? They acknowledge that money is one major reason. Northeastern is currently winding up a \$200 million capital campaign. Fundraising is essential to the progress of any university, particularly in today's ultra-competitive arena.

But administrators want much more than just dollars. They want alumni to feel connected to the university in a deeper way than ever before because, they say, a strong Northeastern depends on it. Alumni are the university's best ambassadors, say officials. Their successes showcase the value of a Northeastern education. They can recruit applicants, provide co-op and job opportunities. And they form a powerful network that all alums may tap into throughout their lives.

That's why officials are keen to reenergize the base. "What we want to do is emphasize the similarity between Northeastern then and now," says College of Arts and Sciences dean James Stellar. "Because, presumably, alumni care about this.

"I mean," Stellar continues, "don't you want to know whom the Red Sox are going to get to replace Curt Schilling if he retires? If it's your team, you're going to be interested in what we're doing here."

Unmistakable signs of growth

So Cunningham and others are overseeing a host of efforts to bring alumni back home. Better forms of communication. Better activities and events. Better programming and affinity groups that serve particular interests or backgrounds. Plans for a new alumni center on campus. Plus, Cunningham has just filled a new position: vice president for alumni relations.

An online alumni survey—Kevin's focus group and several others provided a test run for the questions—was launched over the summer to pinpoint perceptions about Northeastern, to keep both alumni relations and marketing and communications efforts in sync with the needs of nearly 167,000 graduates. A random sampling of alumni were either e-mailed or snail-mailed about the survey. The university is hoping for 3,000 to 4,000 responses, says marketing and communications vice president Brian Kenny, who worked with Cunningham on the project. (As of early August, around 2,500 responses had been received.)

"We need the support, engagement, and investment of our alumni to succeed as a private university," Cunningham explains.

Robert Marini, E'54, H'97, puts it more bluntly. The former chairman of Camp Dresser & McKee, Marini once served as vice chair of Northeastern's board of trustees and ran an earlier NU fundraising campaign—so he knows a little bit about fostering interest in the university.

"People are not going to give money to something they're not involved in," he says. "You can't just look to get into people's pockets. You need to look for opinions and thoughts to keep your school innovative. And when people get involved, they change their view."

Most alumni are aware of at least some of the particulars of the Northeastern transformation, which have been widely reported by such major media outlets as the Boston Globe, the Wall Street Journal, and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The statistics are impressive, indeed. Between 1990 and 2005, the average incoming-freshman SAT score jumped from 950 to 1224. In the same period, the school's acceptance rate improved from 94 percent to 47 percent (more than 25,460 applications came in this year for 2,800 freshman spots). And the graduation rate leapt from an anemic 39 percent to a much more respectable 61 percent.

Such figures, combined with numbers related to faculty and financial resources, last year propelled Northeastern into the top half of the U.S. News & World Report ranking of American colleges and universities for the first time in the school's history. President Richard Freeland has often said he wants Northeastern to move into the ranks of the U.S. News "top 100" schools.

In 2004, U.S. News placed Northeastern at 120 (out of 248 national research universities), up from 162 in 1995. And in this year's ranking, announced in mid-August, Northeastern jumped up to the 115 spot, boosted in large part

by improvements in student selectivity—the acceptance rate dropped from 47 to 42 percent between 2003 and 2004—and freshman retention, which increased from 84 to 86 percent.

The campus has undergone dramatic physical changes, too. Between 1990 and 2004, the university erected a phalanx of eye-catching state-of-the-art buildings, including engineering/science, computer science, and health sciences facilities; a recreation center; and a classroom building.

To further improve the campus experience, Northeastern has built nine new residence halls and is working on the tenth. Currently, 51 percent of undergraduates—roughly 7,300 students, more than double the number fifteen years ago—live in on-campus housing, many of them in dorms that have won top architectural awards. University officials hope to eventually house 75 percent of undergraduates.

Other perceptible differences aren't as quantifiable. Like professor emeritus of electrical engineering Arvin Gabel's observation that today's students frequently sport Northeastern T-shirts, jackets, and sweatshirts. "Before, you saw them wearing stuff from other schools," he notes wryly.

A major public milestone was reached in August 2003, when the Boston Globe ran a lengthy story titled "A Higher Grade," which detailed Northeastern's improvements and proclaimed it "a hot school."

What a turnaround for a place that, a mere dozen years earlier, was often thought of as a second-choice university.

Questions about access

Many alums are proud of the new, more prestigious Northeastern, believing a rising tide lifts all boats. Says

Paula Ficarra Krapf, AS'87, "Because Northeastern is raising its profile and its image, it has more cachet. For those of us who got degrees twenty or so years ago, there's now more value to our diploma because more people have heard of the college."

"A big job for Northeastern," adds president emeritus John A. Curry, LA'56, ME'60, H'96, "is to convince alumni, as we continue to drive toward the top 100, that their diploma is worth more because of the qualitative changes at Northeastern."



In spite of the soaring stats and positive press, however, there are clearly a percentage of alumni who are, in varying degrees, uncomfortable with the "smaller and better" Northeastern, born in the early 1990s in the face of severe fiscal woes.

Some alumni who question Northeastern's current direction wonder if the school is becoming elitist, perhaps forgetting "the little guy" who came to Huntington Avenue when grades or lack of money kept him out of other Boston-area schools.

Former trustee vice-chairman George Kariotis, E'44, H'88, was himself one of those little guys. The son of immigrant parents and a first-generation college student, Kariotis could barely manage the \$125-per-semester tuition in 1940.

"Frankly, I couldn't have afforded \$150," he says. "I got a \$100 scholarship that allowed me to start. Every semester, I'd go see Dean [Harold] Melvin, the dean of students, and he'd give me another \$100. Northeastern was a school that a blue-collar poor kid could go to and get a good education—and good experience to go along with it."

One of Northeastern's many success stories, Kariotis went on to found Alpha Industries, a manufacturer of components for wireless communications; served as the Massachusetts secretary of economic affairs from 1979 to 1983; and ran for governor of Massachusetts against Michael Dukakis in 1986. In 1981, in recognition of a significant gift, Northeastern named a classroom building Kariotis Hall.

Though generally pleased with the "smaller, better" Northeastern, Kariotis says he's puzzled by what he calls "this incessant drive to be in the top 100. I'm not sold on the idea, except from the ego standpoint, that being in the top 100 means a whole lot."

He adds, "I see a sense of elitism growing in the place—which I don't like to see. I don't want to see us be another Harvard or an MIT. We're a different kind of place. Northeastern turns out doers, and I want to see it stay that way."

"I think we should always have some flexibility in bringing in promising students," Kariotis says, "but I don't think we should be hard-nosed about keeping everybody out who doesn't have an SAT of 1250."

Jim Vrabel, LA'71, shares some of the same concerns about Northeastern's priorities. "I think they're not as committed to the urban student, and the poor, and the working-class student as they used to be," he says. "And I think there should be a way for them to continue that mission."

Freeland knows the emphasis on "top 100," especially as it applies to the U.S. News rankings, rankles some.

"Some wonder why a university should tie its strategic development to the moneymaking hustle of a commercial popular magazine," says Freeland. "I think that's a very legitimate concern. That's why I always make it clear, when I have the opportunity to do so, that 'Åtop 100' is only a convenient surrogate for the underlying idea here—which is that Northeastern needs to be positioned as one of the top private universities in the country. I'm not someone who worships at the throne of the U.S. News rankings."

Time for transformation

That said, Freeland notes the rankings do provide a much-needed third-party evaluation of American colleges and universities. "The U.S. News phenomenon has revealed a huge hunger among the general population for some way of getting beyond the self-congratulatory rhetoric of academic institutions," he says. "U.S. News showed us that there is a hunger for external verification and objective data.

"If you look at the individual numbers in the rankings," adds Freeland, "you'll see they are indeed useful indicators of academic standing and the quality of an institution.

"That's why the rankings matter," he says. "The bottom line is, we need to be considered a top-tier university by any reasonable measure—of which U.S. News is one of the most noticed."

Others are equally eloquent and often passionate in their assertion that the university had to change course in the early 1990s, that becoming better academically was the only reasonable course to take.

"The university could not survive standing still," says William Fowler Jr., LA'67, H'00, who taught history and held various administrative posts at Northeastern for twenty-six years before becoming the director of the Massachusetts Historical Society. "No institution can."

They also say that, in spite of all the changes, the university is definitely not becoming elitist. The proof, they say, is Northeastern's continuing commitment to enrolling—albeit in reduced numbers—students who need help, either financially or academically. Not to mention its continuing commitment to co-op and other forms of practical experience.

"We have changed," says Stellar. "We have become more selective. But that doesn't mean we put our nose in the air. It doesn't mean we've forgotten our roots. And it certainly doesn't mean we've changed the co-op program."

Circumstances in the early 1990s—a nationwide dip in the number of eighteen-year-olds, a sluggish economy—forced Northeastern to take stock of where it was. The situation was dire: In fall 1990, freshman enrollments had dropped 28 percent. President Curry had already delayed salary raises, established a hiring freeze, and cut nonsalary budgets. In January 1991, he reluctantly laid off 175 employees.

At the same time, Curry, his lieutenants, and the

trustees—knowing the numbers of high school students would drop even further over the next few years—were determined to develop a strategy that would carry Northeastern successfully into the future.

And so “smaller, better” was born. The university would downsize, its leaders decided, and focus on becoming stronger academically, thereby attracting more better-qualified students.

It had become apparent that one of the university's key missions—access—was being overemphasized. The open-door policy was actually unfair to students: Northeastern admitted nearly everyone who applied, yet graduated fewer than 40 percent of those who enrolled. The policy didn't help the school's reputation, either. And although the policy made financial sense through the late 1970s and 1980s, that ceased to be true after the demographics and the economy went south.

Neal Finnegan, BA'61, H'98, chair of the board of trustees since 1998, was the chair of that body's financial affairs committee in 1990. He remembers, “When the board of trustees looked at Northeastern's behavior during the crisis—we were going broke, and needed 4,400 freshmen to pay the bills—and found out that two-thirds of them were dropping out and we were keeping their money, we didn't like it.”

Says Freeland of the old mentality, “People didn't quite realize, as they dipped lower and lower into the applicant pool, that they were admitting students who had no realistic chance of making it. And, in some sense, that was exploiting the students.”

Historically, Northeastern's focus on access was not about the money, Freeland emphasizes. It was about giving kids a chance to go to college.

Prior to the 1960s, he says, “there was no UMass? ãiBoston. No community colleges. So we filled that niche. And it was tremendously valuable and honorable. But when you add to that public institutions that can offer that kind of education at a price we can't begin to afford, and when you add to that the fact that co-op can't pay for tuition the way it used to, you realize that the model won't work going forward.

“Then the question becomes, How can Northeastern best serve young people?” Freeland says. “And we've answered by reaching out to a broader geographic region; becoming more selective; and, at the same time—relying on the strength of a revitalized and financially healthy institution—working very hard to continue to be accessible to decent numbers of the kinds of young people who have historically come here.”

Finnegan, who was himself a struggling low-income Northeastern student, points out that access wasn't always a frontburner issue at the school.

“We have at times focused on access,” he says. “But it's misunderstanding our history to think that we somehow have always been the accessible school. We were the accessible school when that's what the community needed us to be.”

The constant thread at Northeastern, Finnegan insists, “is that it was founded on a promise to prepare people for the workplace. Co-op, or what we now call practice-oriented education, is the only constant theme in our hundred-odd years of history. The only one.”

Most observers say the drive for excellence has been good for Northeastern.

"When 'Top 100' was first announced, I thought it was crazy," admits Fowler, who has one of the strongest Northeastern pedigrees around: He's an alumnus, a former professor and university administrator, and most recently served as Alumni Association president. (He feels so strongly about the university that he plans to leave his Massachusetts Historical Society post to return to teaching at Northeastern in January.)

"I thought it would cost us billions of dollars," Fowler says. "But now I think we're going to do it. And why should we do it? In order for the university to be strong, we must get better. It's like life: You set goals. It's un-American not to. Were we all happy when the Red Sox were losing every year?"

A balancing act

Today, the goal is to keep Northeastern moving forward. Not just to make sure Northeastern stays intact as a business—though that's obviously important—but also to ensure the university continues to be able to offer its unique brand of education.

Freeland, who has announced he will retire next year, says his dream for Northeastern is "fulfilling our destiny as the premier university in the world for our special form of education, practice-oriented education. In my mind, we are on a mission to convince the world—both academic insiders, and prospective students and their parents—that practice-oriented education is a pedagogical approach that merits at least equal regard for intellectual rigor and developmental horsepower as traditional approaches."

In addition to promoting practice-oriented education and maintaining Northeastern's increasingly high standards, the university's movers and shakers are working to see that on-the-margin students—those with academic promise but little money, first-generation college-goers, or those who grew up in urban areas with limited academic opportunities—are still able to attend Northeastern.

Toward that end, the university has earmarked funds for twenty full scholarships, room and board included, for Boston public high-school students beginning this fall. To prevent the premier institutions—like Boston Latin School—from being overrepresented, no more than two students from each of the city's public high schools will receive the award.

"We know that, for a lot of students in the Boston public schools, financing is a big deal," says dean of admissions Ronn?© Patrick Turner. "We were admitting a lot of these students, but they weren't enrolling because of finances. We know if they are funded fully, they will have the opportunity to benefit from all Northeastern has to offer."

No GPA or SAT requirements will apply to these students, says Turner. They only have to graduate within the top 10 percent of their high school class and be recommended by their school. Throughout their college years, they will be mentored and monitored to ensure their success.

University officials are also working to raise funds for a new scholarship program aimed at helping students who have not yet reached their full promise, but whose background suggests they may be diamonds in the rough. "We know they have potential, but maybe they just started to turn their grades around their senior year," explains Turner, who says this program will also pay full tuition and room and board.

Beyond the special scholarships, says Turner,

Northeastern thoroughly reviews all the applications it receives, to spot potentially successful students who may have unimpressive SAT scores. That's unusual at a large university, she says.

"Folks think the only thing we look at is the SATs," Turner says. "But that's only a small piece. We also look at high school transcripts, the quality of courses, recommendations, essays, student backgrounds. We look for students who have some leadership skills, or who may have chosen a different kind of path. We look for something we call resiliency—students who have had to deal with a difficult situation in their life, and figured out how to move beyond that."

Freeland points out that, even with Northeastern's improving profile, "we are still the university that takes the largest number of graduates from the Boston public schools, and gives the largest amount of money to those students."

No one is denying there have been, and will continue to be, fewer "nontraditional" students at Northeastern than there used to be. Neal Fogg, associate director of Northeastern's University Planning and Research office, notes the correlation that exists between student SAT scores and family socioeconomic level. As Northeastern continues to improve academically, he says, it will automatically draw students from families with a greater ability to pay for college.



Though this is certainly a change for Northeastern, Finnegan points out that many students with lower academic profiles have moved over to lower-cost institutions, such as UMass?Boston and the local community colleges. "At the present time, the access mission has been taken up by others," he says.

"It is not appropriate for us to charge young people \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year to find out if they can do college work," says Finnegan. "That is what we owe young people."

The money game

Many believe the university also owes young people a chance to make it through to the end of their senior year, despite higher education's staggering costs. Today, Northeastern's tuition is more than \$28,000 a year, nearly three times what it was in 1990. Tack on annual room and board, and you're adding another \$10,000.

Administrators know providing adequate financial aid is crucial at Northeastern, where more than 77 percent of students' families have a calculated need, according to financial services dean Seamus Harreys. (By comparison, that's true for only 55 percent of Boston University families.)

Northeastern has worked hard over the years to maintain an adequate level of financial aid. From less than \$10 million in 1990, the university now provides more than \$100 million in annual aid.

But coming up with increasing amounts of money to offset the effects of dwindling federal and state grants and loans, not to mention inflation, isn't easy.

"Northeastern has made up the difference as best as possible," says Harreys, who can't mask the worry in his voice when he talks about the financial aid picture. "The rest is falling on families."

Even with Northeastern's help, Harreys says, some students have no choice but to drop out. The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate, he notes, is 88 percent. Of the 12 percent of freshmen who didn't re-enroll last fall—about 300 students—more than 70 percent cited financial difficulties as their reason for leaving.

Complicating the financial picture is the fact that Northeastern is heavily tuition-dependent. It can't rely as much on two other funding sources—the endowment and alumni giving—because, when compared with similar institutions, Northeastern ranks at the low end for both.

The percentage of Northeastern alumni who donate any amount of money in a given year is just 10 percent. Though some universities to which Northeastern compares itself also rank comparatively low in this regard, most do rank higher than Northeastern. (Of all American universities, Princeton enjoys the highest participation rate, 61 percent.)

"All successful private schools need substantial alumni support," says Finnegan. "Ours is terrible. It's low."

Harreys firmly believes alumni support is critical to keeping financial aid at reasonable levels. "The university can't exponentially increase the financial aid budget forever," he says.

Former Student Government Association president Bill Durkin, a junior, agrees that paying for college is of top concern to students. "Northeastern is closing in on a \$40,000 price tag," he says. "The university has to make an effort to provide ample financial aid for those students who are bright and talented but might not be able to afford to come here."

"I know students who have had to leave," says Durkin. "For some, their financial situations changed at home, but their financial aid package didn't change with it. But we should never be sending a student away. I think our alumni need to look back and say, 'Maybe I can give something back.'"

Telling Northeastern's story

Some alums don't give back because they don't feel much of a kinship with current Northeastern students. Says Krapf, "People I've talked to feel disconnected from the students of today. Northeastern, to me, was a middle-class, working-class kind of college for kids who were serious and wanted to get something accomplished. Students today seem much more upscale."

But the preliminary findings of the alumni survey indicate many do feel an intergenerational connection. More than 73 percent of respondents said they agreed that funding a scholarship or financial aid was a good reason to give. And those who care deeply about the university share a heartfelt and proud belief that Northeastern students remain, in some ways, a breed unto themselves.

"The fundamental thing in common is our students know what it's like to work in the real world," says Stellar. "They're different in the way they have always

been different. That's why, as a dean, I never worry about mixing students and alumni, because they get along with each other."

Durkin concurs. "We students right now are still hard-working, and dedicated to getting a good education and getting experience in the workplace. We're coming here for the same reasons former students came here. We're not the upper crust of society."

In general, though, with all the ingrained misperceptions and emotional distance, how can the university get alumni to develop a connection to the university? How can it convince them that Northeastern wants and appreciates their opinions?

Jack Moynihan, MPA'93, the new alumni relations vice president—he's put an upbeat "Go, Huskies" on his voice-mail message—has more than a few ideas up his sleeve (see page 59).

He plans to meet alumni from all over the country, to solicit their opinions about Northeastern and gather their programming ideas. He's helping to plan the new alumni center, envisioned as a spot where alumni can network, job-search, hold meetings or events, or just relax together. Moynihan wants his staff to "think outside the box" when it comes to planning alumni events and boosting volunteer ranks.

Still, the university's inner circle knows that harnessing alumni interest will be an uphill battle. The Northeastern —of old a commuter school filled with students running off to co-op positions, classes, and part-time jobs—wasn't really the kind of place that fostered a sense of community. And because Northeastern's reputation wasn't top-notch, particularly through the 1970s and 1980s, some students and alumni were hesitant to even acknowledge where they went to school.

Plus, the university wasn't establishing strong bonds with alumni. "We never really attached an enormous amount of importance to staying in touch with alumni," says Freeland, primarily because "the economics of Northeastern worked very well into the 1980s.

"Even though we weren't graduating large numbers, we had very large numbers of tuition-paying students, we kept our costs down, and we were not only covering our budgets but earning surpluses, and transferring those surpluses to the endowment," he says. "So, because the business model was working, we didn't focus on the fundraising and alumni-relations side of things because, in a way, it wasn't essential."

Today, though, it's a different story. "As we're discovering right now," says Freeland, "you can't make the kind of university we are today—selective, comprehensive, with substantial graduate and research programs, residential, and with good facilities—without a strong fundraising and alumni-relations program."

"The bottom line is, we want alumni to reconnect with Northeastern," Moynihan says. "But because of the kind of university we are, we have to be creative, and we have to be aggressive."

"We haven't taken the time to explain to people what's going on at Northeastern," Fowler says. "And we haven't paid attention to the people who made this possible—the graduates of the fifties, sixties, seventies, and beyond. We need to make them proud of the place, to tell them they built it."

He adds, "We also have to let them know the fundamentals haven't changed. This isn't the new

Northeastern. It's Northeastern."

Karen Feldscher is a senior writer.

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Brains of the Operation

With a new technology and a lot of perseverance, Nassib Chamoun, E'84, has built a medical-device company that may revolutionize patient care

By Lewis I. Rice

Nassib Chamoun, E'84, writes on a whiteboard, looking like the teacher he might have become. He's explaining his company's financial history. This is almost as intricate as the lecture he could give on biomedical signal processing.

There were fifteen rounds of financing, totaling more than \$165 million. They started with Chamoun's own credit cards, then progressed to funding from venture capital firms, an initial public offering, and a corporate partnership.

Chamoun pauses to recount a milestone in the process that, to him, is just as important—perhaps even more so—than the rest of it. Before raising the money from the IPO, he notes, the company nearly went bankrupt.

He says this with the good cheer of a CEO who knows his company, Aspect Medical Systems, recently turned its first profit after eighteen years of existence, whose stock price has more than doubled over the past year.

A medical-device manufacturer, Aspect produces brain-monitoring technology—called bispectral index, or BIS, technology—that assesses the consciousness of patients under anesthesia. To date, BIS technology has been used to monitor more than eleven million anesthetized patients. It may prove to have wider applications for understanding clinical depression and Alzheimer's disease.

But Chamoun's not merely happy the tough times seem to be behind him and his company.

He's happy he had to go through the tough times.

Minding the business

In that sense, Chamoun has been fortunate indeed, with many chances to learn from adversity, both professionally and personally.

The lessons began at an early age. He spent his teen years in Lebanon, his homeland, during a bloody civil war. Arriving in the United States for the first time as a Northeastern undergraduate, he faced anti-Arab slurs. The money for his education suddenly dried up. Later, the company he founded dodged two near bankruptcies, a tortuous FDA clearance process, and a clinical trial that "blew up spectacularly," he says.



Nassib Chamoun
Photography by Webb Chappell

Along the way, Chamoun, who serves as Aspect's president and a member of its board of directors, learned the secret of success: capitalizing on failure. "Success is sometimes blinding and can hurt more than help," he says, "because people lose touch with reality and think they're the best. And they get complacent. They get arrogant. Success is very bad if you don't rein it in and put it in perspective. In fact, I think failure is a greater motivator and driver of focus for me and this company, in trying to understand what went wrong. And truly learning from it to do better."

With this willingness to embrace setbacks, it's not surprising Chamoun chose an entrepreneurial path over the safer courses available to him. After graduating from Northeastern with a degree in electrical engineering, he earned a master's in computer engineering at Boston University. He conducted PhD research on cardiac electrophysiology at the Harvard School of Public Health's Lown Cardiovascular Research Laboratory, under the direction of cardiologist Bernard Lown, who received the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for cofounding the group International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

One day, an anesthesiologist doing a fellowship at the lab told Chamoun that, sure, the heart is interesting, but he really ought to look into the most vital organ of all, the brain. He explained that, thousands of times a day, in hospitals across the world, patients undergoing surgery are given drugs to alter their brain function, rendered unconscious, then woken up. Yet no one knew how the process affects the brain. If someone could find out? That would be a groundbreaking innovation.

The anesthesiologist's challenge made an impact on Chamoun, who accepted an invitation to observe an operation. Ultimately, he decided to set up a company that would develop a brain monitor for use during surgery. "As an engineer, you always try to figure out if you can come up with a solution," he says. "It was a fascination for me to try to understand the brain better. And the anesthesia application seemed to be a very logical first place to start."

But when Chamoun told Lown, his mentor and adviser at Harvard, that he was planning to drop out of school to start the company, Lown told him that was anything but logical, beseeching him to remain in academia. Another mentor did just the opposite. Charles A. Zraket, E'51, H'88, the former head of Mitre Corporation, in Bedford, Massachusetts, told Chamoun an academic setting likely wouldn't offer him the time or the money to accomplish his goals.

The latter's advice resonated with Chamoun, and not just because Zraket, who died in 1997, was a fellow Northeastern grad of Lebanese descent. The risks and rewards of business appealed to him. The pace and bureaucracy of academia didn't. Yet he remains grateful to the Lown Cardiovascular Research Foundation for fully funding his graduate studies, and credits Lown himself with imbuing in him the social mission that helped form Aspect's identity.

Chamoun started his company in 1987 at the age of twenty-five. He figured it would take two or three years and a few million dollars to perfect a technology that would transform patient care.

Measure of success

Aspect's headquarters is located on a busy street in Newton, Massachusetts, lined with retail outlets like Filene's Basement and New England Mobile Book Fair. (Aspect also maintains an international office in the Netherlands.)

The building contains not only the corporate offices, but 20,000 square feet of manufacturing space, where the company's BIS sensors and monitors are assembled and shipped. Like the nearby retail stores, Aspect is a volume business, one that pumps out an average of 18,000 sensors a day. In a room filled with electronic components, circuit boards, and cables, workers assemble and test monitors. Adam King, AS'00, an Aspect communications associate, says the company sometimes sends e-mails looking for employees who'll volunteer their heads for fifteen minutes to help check equipment.



About a third of all U.S. operating rooms have adopted BIS technology, which is used in 160 countries. Sensors affixed to patients' foreheads allow the attached monitor to measure consciousness on a scale of 0 (absence of brain activity) to 100 (fully conscious). The information helps anesthesiologists assess a patient's level of consciousness and adjust anesthesia as needed, generally aiming for a reading between 45 and 60 during surgery.

John Coolidge, vice president of manufacturing operations, says to keep inventory lean Aspect tries to manufacture day by day only about as many products as it sells. The company's operation is modeled after the Toyota production system, or Kaizen method, which rewards employees who make suggestions that improve efficiency.

The CEO encourages an all-for-one attitude at every level of the company. The trimly built forty-three-year-old dresses in the same casual manner as his employees, often wearing a white pullover shirt with the letters BIS imprinted on one short sleeve. Before he launched Aspect, he had never managed a business. He understands his limitations, he says, and credits others for bringing business savvy to the organization and developing technology for the prototype he invented.

Philip Devlin, E'79, ME'83, who joined Aspect in 1990 as the director of product development, enthuses about working at a start-up company after his stints at Raytheon and Beth Israel Hospital. He likens the experience to a roller coaster, exciting for those with the right temperament. "We've had a lot of ups and downs," he says.

Chamoun is a great engineer and visionary, he says. Just as important, he knows when to let go.

"Some entrepreneurs fail because they can't grow with the company," says Devlin, now Aspect's vice president and general manager of neuroscience. "They have to control everything. Nassib does have that entrepreneurial spirit, where it's very important for him to be involved in all aspects of the business. But he's had to learn how to let the company grow, and empower others."

Chamoun says he laughs now at his early "entrepreneurial naivete," which shielded him from the reality of how difficult his venture would be.

For example, the FDA clearance process for the BIS sensor took nine years, following a failed clinical trial that examined patient movement under anesthesia. "If you're deep, you shouldn't move. If you're light, you should move. But there was almost no association," Chamoun remembers. "You couldn't design a more spectacular failure in a clinical trial, even if you planned it that way. Most people would have packed their bags and said sayonara."

Instead, Aspect personnel designed another trial that looked at consciousness and sedation. They were able to show that using BIS technology reduces the amount of drugs patients receive, lessens nausea and vomiting, and accelerates recovery—practical benefits that brought FDA clearance in 1996, and allowed Aspect to become the first company to sell a product that measures the effects of anesthesia on the brain.

Medical awareness

In 2003, the FDA granted clearance for a new indication for BIS monitoring, related to intraoperative awareness—when undersedated patients awaken during surgery but remain unable to move or speak (and therefore can't indicate they're awake). These rare but traumatic instances gained national exposure after being described by a 1997 Time magazine article.

Studies showed BIS monitoring helped reduce such incidents by approximately 80 percent. The Time article quoted Chamoun calling his device "anesthesia's Holy Grail."

Not all anesthesiologists have shared his enthusiasm, however. In a commentary published earlier this year in the American Society of Anesthesiologists newsletter, Dr. Orin F. Guidry, the organization's president-elect, wrote, "There are a number of anesthesiologists who have not embraced the technology and loudly question either the value of the monitors or the way they are marketed." In a letter published last year in the same newsletter, one member asked the organization to "take out large, one-page ads in USA Today and other media outlets to counter this ongoing campaign by Aspect Medical (the manufacturer of the BIS monitor), which frightens and misinforms our patients."

One of Aspect's challenges, says Chamoun, has been to convince anesthesiologists to change the way they've practiced their specialty for decades. Raising a difficult topic involving patient safety engenders resentment among practitioners, he adds.

"The minute the issue of awareness came up, that

created a lot of controversy, created a lot of anxiety, and created some frustration for those who just didn't want to talk about it," he says. "And it's created what I would say is a certain amount of tension between some members of the specialty and Aspect, because we were talking about an adverse outcome, a complication that probably doesn't make some feel comfortable."

According to Chamoun, anesthesiologists' resistance to the technology is subsiding. He notes that Guidry in his commentary urged ASA members "to do what is best for our patients based on science and not paint ourselves into a corner by opposing brain function monitoring because of external forces."

Indeed, every claim Aspect makes is backed by science, says Chamoun, who points to more than 1,900 published studies that support the benefits of BIS technology. Early on, the company marketed its products by touting their capacity to monitor for awareness, not their capacity to reduce the risk of awareness. Only when clinical studies showed that occurrences of awareness were reduced with the use of BIS monitoring did the company begin to make that claim, he says. Aspect's marketing strategy also emphasizes that the technology helps hospitals save money, by reducing sedative drug use and length of stay in intensive care units.

Over the next few years, Chamoun predicts, applications for BIS technology will expand beyond the world of anesthesia. Toward that end, he announced in May a partnership with Boston Scientific, a giant medical-device manufacturer headquartered in Natick, Massachusetts. The company, which owns 27.5 percent of Aspect's stock, will provide \$25 million for research into the diagnosis and treatment of clinical depression and Alzheimer's disease.

Aspect believes its technology will lead to huge advances here. The company cites studies that indicate brain monitoring can predict in a few days whether an antidepressant treatment is likely to work, thereby improving patient care and compliance, and can also identify the cognitive decline that precedes the onset of Alzheimer's.



Across all the hoped-for applications, the market potential for Aspect's technology would amount to several billion dollars of annual revenue, says Chamoun. This would, of course, make him and the company lots of money. But, when he discusses the future, he focuses on the social ramifications, the satisfaction of helping possibly tens of millions of patients every year.

"That's really the goal we're shooting for," he says. "Truly taking brain monitoring and turning it into a tool

that's as practical, useful, and easy to use as the electrocardiogram, and making it part of managing and enhancing the care for millions of patients in the hospital or the doctor's office."

Entrepreneurial passion

In Chamoun's eyes, you're either an entrepreneur, or you're not. The same might be said about scientists. You either approach decisions scientifically, or you don't.

When it came to romance, Chamoun operated like a scientist. As the head of a small start-up, he worked eighty hours a week. He didn't like the atmosphere in bars, or the cigarette smoke. So he turned to the logical solution: personal ads.

Over the course of three or four years, he met more than a hundred women. It was a great opportunity, he says, to learn about the kind of relationship he wanted and the kind of person he wanted it with.

"It was almost a process," he says. "It wasn't just because I met somebody and said, 'Let's get married.' Those are lifetime decisions. You want to be with somebody who shares your values, your religion; who can accept your culture, and contribute their culture to help bring children up properly, to help educate them, to be a good parent, teacher, or mentor to them."

He found that person in his wife, Maureen Kelly-Chamoun. When they met, she worked as a speech pathologist, helping students in the Boston public schools during the day, the elderly at nursing homes in the evening. He liked her sense of compassion and work ethic, and felt she could guide a family's life and education. Now Maureen stays at home raising the couple's four children, ages ten, eight, six, and four. Chamoun says he's glad for the children's sake that she was raised in this country, because she understands far better than he what it's like to grow up here.

A tranquil childhood in Boston is certainly a long way away from what he knew. His home country, he says simply, was a mess. Before coming to Northeastern, he was barely able to attend school at all. Lebanon's schools shut down for extended periods during the country's civil war, which began in 1975. As a teenager, Chamoun was forced to educate himself, largely missing the three years of coursework that were supposed to prepare him for college.

"I absolutely consider that the civil war robbed me of my teenage years," he says. "I was very desperate to get out and have a new home and new country. I really wanted to put it behind me and move on. Coming to Northeastern was the best thing I've done."

He had learned about the school from an uncle, a graduate of Boston University and Harvard Business School, who urged him to study in Boston. Northeastern, he told his nephew, had a reputation as a cosmopolitan school flexible about accepting international students.

That was true, says Chamoun. But when he arrived in America in August 1980, in the midst of the Iranian hostage crisis, he entered an atmosphere of hostility toward people of Middle Eastern descent. Walking

around campus, he heard "f---ing Arab" and the like regularly. (Back in his homeland, as a Lebanese Catholic, he had faced bigotry because he was not Muslim.)



He used the insults to his advantage. Every time people mocked his heavy accent, he would ask them how to say an English word correctly. The harsh treatment forced him to adapt and work harder, he says. Like many immigrants to the United States, he believed it to be a country in which hard work was rewarded.

At Northeastern, he added credits to his course load, wanting to finish his degree quickly. He even petitioned to opt out of the co-op program, telling his stunned adviser that it would be a waste of his time. But he soon needed a co-op job to help pay for school when he lost his parents' financial support after Israel invaded Lebanon. The Lown Lab, which would later accept him as a teaching and visiting fellow, offered him that co-op. He finished his five-year undergraduate program in three years, three months.

Now Aspect is itself a Northeastern co-op employer. Students and all other employees are given a statement of company values, which advises that adversity breeds opportunity and emphasizes the honoring of commitments.

"I'm the anti grass-is-greener philosophy guy," Chamoun says. "Everybody thinks, If I trade my wife, I'm going to get a better wife—or my job. It doesn't mean that, in certain circumstances, that's not the case. But people overdo it, and you end up with people who just spend life bouncing around between jobs, between relationships, and end their lives with nothing to show for it.

"You've got to stick with it," he says. "Think deep down inside about who you want to marry, what kind of job you want to do, and why you want to do any of the things you want to do in life, and just stick to that through thick and thin."

Over the course of a conversation in his office, Chamoun has cataloged all the struggles he's faced during eighteen years of building a company. Now he says, almost as if he were dissecting a case study in front of a class, "If you had known how hard it would be, would you have done it?"

It's a question he doesn't need to answer.

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Medallion Award—winner Herby Duverné, CJ'98, MJ'02, worked hard to be a top security manager. He's become an equally driven optimist.

By Elaine McArdle

All he wanted was a meal at a fast-food restaurant. But, in Brooklyn fifteen years ago, Herby Duverné, CJ'98, MJ'02, had to give up.

He can still picture the scene: the lunch-hour crush at a Roy Rogers in Flatbush, a crowd of hungry customers waiting their turn, the impatient girl behind the counter. Duverné wanted to order a chicken thigh, but couldn't pronounce "thigh," thwarted by his Haitian accent.

Twenty years old, he had been in the United States just a few months, arriving the day after Christmas 1989 with no money in his pockets and not a single word of English in his arsenal. Everything was different and difficult: the weather, the cultural isolation, the cost of living. Even the simple act of ordering food.

"You can't understand the anxiety," Duverné says today. "I have this line of people behind me. I feel embarrassed." He enunciated the word again, tried as hard as he could. The counter girl stared at him blankly. So he shook his head and asked for a wing instead.

A funny story, maybe. A not-atypical vignette of a stranger in a strange land, struggling to fit in. But this little incident knocked Duverné hard. "At that point, I realized one thing," he recalls. "I realized if I don't work hard, if I don't get an education, I would always have to settle for something I don't want."

Right there in the Roy Rogers, Duverné gave himself a talking-to. The amiable young man with no specific plans, a so-so student back home in Port-au-Prince, who in high school chose to study Spanish because it was easier than English, had a revelation. He remembers, "I said, Wow, Herby, this is a story about opportunity—and doing what you must to put yourself in a position to get those opportunities."

He was going to have to make things happen. That meant leaving the twenty-four-hour fun of New York for a calmer life in Boston. It meant enrolling at a community college to study English while working as a grocery-store bag boy and a janitor at Harvard.

It meant matriculating at Northeastern just three years after arriving in the United States, taking a full course load toward a criminal justice degree while working two, sometimes three, jobs. It meant joining the student government at the same time he was launching his own private investigation firm.

It meant going on to get his master's degree. All fueled by that painful moment in Brooklyn.



Herby

Duverné

Photography by Mary Beth Montgomery

"I start working hard and doing what I had to do," he recalls, "so a lack of education would not prevent me from getting what I want." So he'd never again settle for less than he wanted.

He hasn't. Today, Duverné is a senior security manager at State Street Corporation, one of the world's largest financial institutions, where he oversees the corporate security control center.

At the same time, he's helping other immigrants negotiate their new lives. In Somerville, Massachusetts, where he lives with his wife, Duverné serves on the city's Anti-Gang Board and the Somerville Human Rights Commission, through which he helped organize a public-dialogue project to fight racism. As president of the board of directors at the Haitian Coalition, a Boston-area organization, he improved that group's financial accountability and created an after-school program to give children academic support.

And now Duverné is running for a seat on the school committee, the first Haitian-American to run for elective office in Somerville. His focus: making schools safer, and improving education for the 40 percent of Somerville schoolchildren who don't speak English at home.

In October, in recognition of his professional accomplishments and service to the community, Northeastern will present Duverné its Medallion Award, created for outstanding alumni who've graduated within the past ten years. Earlier this year, he received the YMCA Black Achievers Award. Last year, he was recognized with the William S. Edgerly Community Service Award at State Street.

"This is a person who clearly is an emerging leader in the security world, and is very well respected both here at the college and within the network of security providers in the region and beyond," says Jack Greene, dean of the College of Criminal Justice. "And he has a very strong sense of social responsibility. He represents the very best of the college."

Duverné's resumé and life story make him sound so serious. All work and no joy? Hardly. His greatest asset, next to his drive, is his relentless and contagious optimism. People love to be around him—he's always smiling, always laughing, always saying, Yes, you can! You can do it!

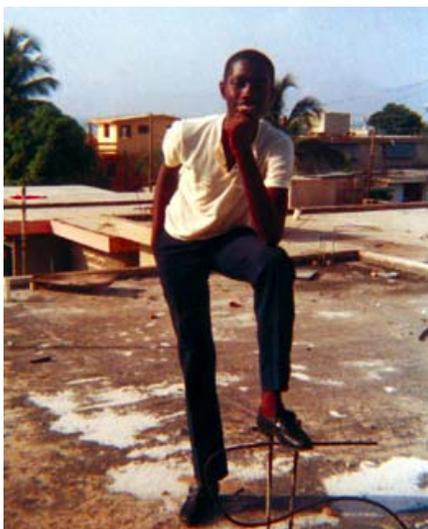
Ask him about growing up in Haiti, where his mother worked for thirty years in a metal factory twelve hours a day, six days a week, for \$5 a day, and he beams. "It was great!" he says, recalling his close-knit neighborhood and childhood friends. Ask about his college days—his bone-crunching work schedule as he kept up his studies and served in student government—and he grins widely. "I loved it!"

Yes, life is very hard sometimes. But Duverné will tell you there's a whole lot to be happy about.

"May I see some ID, please?" The security guard at the front desk of the State Street offices in Quincy checks a visitor's driver's license against a computer screen. "Step right in front of this camera," she says with an efficient friendliness, as she clicks a photograph and creates an instant photo ID to be pinned to the visitor's shirt. "Herby will be down in a minute."

Behind her, the mechanized revolving door at the front of the building howls as it spits employees into the lobby one by one. Along with their business-casual polo

shirts and khaki pants or skirts, they wear employee ID cards around their necks like medallions. Without them, they can't get in.



At State Street, everybody—even the most fleeting visitor—displays a photo ID. Cameras and security guards monitor the three-building campus, keeping watch on 2,900 employees and every guest.

With offices in twenty-five countries and more than 20,000 employees worldwide, State Street is a world leader in investment servicing and management, ranking first in the United States in servicing mutual funds and pension plans as well as in providing foreign-exchange services. Its network covers more than a hundred financial markets around the globe. It has \$9.6 trillion in assets under custody and \$1.4 trillion in assets under management.

That's a lot of dough to safe-keep. Herby Duverné is charged with making sure the company stays secure in an increasingly challenging world.

"Hello there!" A tall, dark man with an enormous smile glides into the lobby and holds out his hand. He's a striking figure with a shaved head, large eyes, a dimple in his right cheek, and a smile that spans his face. The accent that once gave him so much trouble is just a lilting backdrop to his impeccable English.

Duverné joined State Street four years ago after working in the security departments of other corporations, including Kmart and the TJX Companies. Hired to manage State Street's security control center, which monitors security operations worldwide, he was soon handed more responsibilities. Now he oversees the global operation of the ID system, which keeps track of all employees and visitors, and he's in charge of on-site security at six corporate buildings in Massachusetts.

Remember when private security meant putting an aging guard in a goofy uniform at the front of a building? No longer. For decades, major corporations like State Street have viewed security as an integral part of corporate success, a means of minimizing risks both internal and external. Since 9/11, protecting private financial institutions has only gained importance.

These days, top companies rely on those who use sophisticated measures and cutting-edge technology to

reduce harm to assets. At State Street, Duverné's boss holds the title vice president and manager of corporate security—he's another NU grad, Stephen Baker, CJ'81.

For security experts in corporations around the world, there's no such thing as a typical day. Problems can run from the pedestrian—an employee loses his ID badge—to the potentially cataclysmic: fraud, theft by computer hackers, workplace violence, even terrorism.

"There's a lot at stake," explains Duverné. "At State Street, we have trillions of dollars under our custody and management. So security is obviously a top concern of ours."

The State Street security control center is a glassed-in room that holds a number of TV screens, which, at this moment, display various angles of the Quincy campus. But with an extensive camera network at company sites around the globe, Duverné says, "we can display a camera from any site worldwide."

Alongside the security monitors, a flat-screen TV broadcasts Fox News, which is reporting on a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. Should any serious event occur, State Street wants to be able to alert its employees and lessen the risk of injury to them and to corporate operations.

Last summer, the State Street security-management team had an action plan in case something went wrong during the Democratic National Convention in Boston. "We're a global company," Duverné says. "We can't stop operating during the DNC, or after any incident. We make sure our employees stay safe, and, at the same time, reduce the corporation's risk."

Duverné oversees eleven employees in the control center, including three NU graduates. Working there demands excellent skills in critical thinking. "If someone is having an emergency, most of the time that isn't in the book," he says. "You have to think quickly."

According to his boss, Duverné fits that bill. "One of his best qualities is he's not afraid of tackling anything," says Baker. "No matter what it is, he'll figure it out, become an expert, and drive forward to make it happen."

Baker points to the ID system as an example: "It was not his expertise when he first took over, but once he understood what they did, he said, 'This is what we need to improve on,' and he asked me for support from both the management and budget perspectives."

Customers, shareholders, insurance companies—all have to have confidence that assets are safe, says Baker, especially after 9/11. But, when looking for the right attitude to project, a security operation toes a thin line. "We need to make our employees feel secure," he says, "but also make sure the security people are not intimidating." Duverné's outgoing personality and sense of humor set the tone that State Street wants.



In a huge field in Somerville on a hot Saturday, crowds of parents and children wait in line for face-painting, ice cream, and the chance to pose for \$1 photos atop a Harley-Davidson motorcycle (the money goes to help abused children). The city's young mayor, Joseph Curtatone, is taking his turn in the dunking booth, plopping loudly into the tank whenever a softball hits its mark, while a deejay entertains the city's remarkably diverse population by playing songs from Greece, Algeria, Jamaica, and Italy.

It's Somerville's Fourth of July celebration. Amid the swarm of people wilting in the afternoon sun, it's easy to spot Duverné. He's the tall man with the bald pate looking cool and relaxed in khakis and a pressed shirt, stopping to talk to passersby, telling them about his plans to improve the schools.

Duverné was up early today. He ran two and a half miles, then spent the next two hours knocking on some two hundred doors, pitching his candidacy for school committee. About five thousand voters live in his ward. So far, he's reached more than a third of them by campaigning six days a week—after work each day, plus Saturdays—and he's raised more than half of the \$10,000 he budgeted for the November election.

"I don't even think about not winning," he says, even though his opponent is a longtime incumbent. "I don't. I truly believe I'm a better candidate, who can improve things."

His easygoing personality makes him a natural, especially among Somerville's many young people and immigrants. Duverné is reaching out to immigrant parents, encouraging them to get more involved in their children's education. "I saw a great opportunity to make a difference," he says. "I also have a great agenda in terms of what I want to accomplish."

He says he loves Somerville, especially its diversity and youth; 40 percent of voters are under thirty-five years old, 70 percent under fifty-five. "Even so, a lot don't have kids in the school system," he says. "But I truly think people realize the connection between the school system and the quality of a community."

Duverné, thirty-six, knows what it's like not to speak English, what it's like to grow up in a single-parent household. His mother raised him and his sister in a one-room house—"a shack, really," he says—in Port-au-Prince. His mother slept on the floor to give her kids the beds. There was only one neighbor with a TV, so Duverné and his friends would gather outside her house in the evenings to watch American TV shows through the window. Though he loves Haiti, it is a very poor country. He says almost all his friends there are

unemployed. He knew he had to leave in order to work, so he moved to be with his father in Brooklyn.

After the fried-chicken incident, Duverné devoted himself to learning English. While his father was out driving a cab, Duverné sat by himself in the apartment watching children's TV. "I spent a lot of time watching Mr. Rogers. It helped me a lot. But I also knew I had to get to ESL." He started English as a Second Language classes at Queens College in 1990.

A year later, he moved to Massachusetts to focus on his education, and enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College. "I wanted to be in New York," he says. "But those are the hard choices you make in life. It may not be what's hip, but it's the place for you. I decided I would stay, go to school, make friends here."

His first job was at Johnny's FoodMaster in Somerville as a grocery bagger. He then took a second job as a janitor at Harvard University, so he could send money to his mother in Haiti. (She moved to the United States five years ago and now lives in the same apartment complex Duverné lives in, as does his sister.)

"If you are a janitor," he says, "a lot of times people underestimate your value in society or your capacity in terms of intelligence. A lot of times you find people treat you as just a janitor and nothing else." But, he adds, "I kind of didn't let that distract me." He says he would tell himself, "I've got to work, got to take care of my mom in Haiti."

Just three years after landing in the United States, Duverné was at Northeastern, which he chose over Boston University because of the co-op program. "I was really attracted to going to school six months, then stopping to make money, then going back," he says.

Even during his co-ops, he worked extra jobs. A security guard for Harvard Medical School. A store detective for CVS pharmacy. Head of security for the Harvard Coop, where he met his wife, Claire Boice, whom he married last year (he also has an eleven-year-old daughter, Ashley).

"At different moments, I had different jobs, usually based on my class schedule," he recalls. When a new semester began, he'd have to search for new employment. "It was 'Oh, I have to get another job!' It's hard to find a job that lets you take Monday, Wednesday, and Friday off."



Though Duverné had initially planned to become a pharmacist, he couldn't fit chemistry classes around his work schedule. So he opted for criminal justice,

earning a bachelor's, then a master's. He took every course Harvey Burstein, the David B. Schulman Professor of Security, offered at both the undergrad and graduate levels. They still stay in touch.

"He's very outgoing, very friendly," Burstein says. "I still tease Herby because he used to have a habit of showing up for class late, and he was even late when it came to turning in written assignments. So I refer to him as 'the late Mr. Duverné.' He takes it good-naturedly. But he's a hard worker, and very conscientious."

In his second year of college, Duverné decided to join the student government. Why? he's asked. Not busy enough? He laughs, shoots a huge grin. "It was fun!" he exclaims. "It gave me an up-close and personal lesson about democracy at work." He became a student rep for his college, then was elected by the Student Senate to the post of vice president of student affairs, which he held for two years.

"I had a voice," he says. "I used it, too." Working with associate sociology professor Will Holton, Duverné created a student survey on the co-op program, which found that half the student body was dissatisfied with the services of the co-op office. They presented the study to President Curry, and the Northeastern News featured its findings.

As a middler in 1995, he started his own private investigation firm, Duverne Security Evaluation and Services. It's still in operation, although Duverné now spends only a few hours a month doing PI work. "People in school were thinking I was crazy," he says. "'You have a business?'"

Not wanting to reveal client information, he won't discuss his cases. And he refuses to carry a gun. "Never," he says firmly. "I have never seen the need for it. Even when I was a store detective in Cambridge, I never really wanted to have a gun. Because most people—if you know how to talk to them, you will accomplish the task. Sometimes, if you have a gun, people become defensive and won't talk to you."

Eventually, he hopes to be an independent security consultant, advising major companies. For now, however, his sights are trained on the school committee and his work at State Street.

"That's what I really value about this country," he says. "If you work hard, most of the time you will succeed. That's something I did not have in Haiti. I came here—it was 'Wow! Look at the opportunity.' That's the drive I always had, to push myself to do better and be successful."

Elaine McArdle is a freelance writer who lives in Watertown, Massachusetts. She profiled Boston news anchor Rhondella Richardson in the November 2004 issue.

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Eloquent and elegant

Everyone needs African American poetry, author and civil rights champion Maya Angelou told a capacity crowd in Blackman Auditorium in July. In her talk, Angelou—who has written more than twenty books and received fifty honorary degrees—encouraged audience members to read more. Photo by Craig Bailey

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The Swimming Lesson

It's never too late to crawl.

By Herbert Hadad

In most tales of athletic triumph, waves of cheers surround the hero, who stands bowed and tearful in the moment.

I have a story of athletic triumph. Mine is a little different.

Two years ago, fighting off a back injury, I was ordered by my doctor to start walking regularly in an indoor pool?—forward, backward, sideways?—to rebuild my weakened trunk and legs. I often uttered a mantra with each step: "Get better. Get better." This I did untold thousands of times.

Around me, men and women swam with various degrees of skill. Some slapped the water with their hands, suggesting wounded seals. Others glided and darted like sleek dolphins. I envied them all.

One woman, trim and fit, perhaps seventy-five years old, never spoke to me, but I knew she was watching. One morning, she finally answered my nod and hello. "I told my husband about you," she said. "I told him there's a guy at the pool I call the Walkman."

When I made trips to Europe and Asia, I tried to ensure the hotels I stayed at had a pool. In the pool in Prague, a little French boy and girl ensconced with their glamorous mother in an adjacent whirlpool made French baby sounds as I walked past. Being mature, I pretended to be a dog, "Ruuuff, ruuuff," and before their giggles had subsided, I was back again, "Meeow, meeow." It was all in the service of getting stronger.

In my local suburban New York pool, I watched instructors teaching children how to swim. One instructor was Lydia, a large olive-skinned woman of no more than twenty, with kind green eyes. I admired the way she cradled her tiny charges and coaxed them down the lane, praising them like a proud mother as they dog-paddled or kicked like a polliwog.

"When I'm better, can you teach me to be a good swimmer?" I asked after I'd gotten dressed one afternoon.

"Sure," she answered. "By the way, I love your FBI cap." I got her a cap; it served as our contract.

But one day I asked for Lydia and found out she'd moved to Florida. It was okay—I wasn't ready for lessons anyhow. In my middle age, I really couldn't swim. Even when I'd been entirely healthy.



Illustration by Allison Seiffer

Once when I was a boy at the City Point beach in South Boston, my dad walked me into the surf up to my waist. First, he showed me his sure and expert stroke, then he took me by the hands and pulled me through the water. He let go.

I struggled briefly before flipping over onto my back. Though I hadn't learned to swim, I suddenly knew how to float.

Last summer, I admired my own sons and daughter as they swam across Moose Pond in southern Maine, accompanied by friends in a canoe. They had easily mastered swimming as children at their local day camp.

They, in turn, always encouraged Dad's Big Dip. I immersed myself, preferably in seawater, at least once every summer. One time, staying in Hull, I entered the waters of Nantasket Beach by the old Paragon Park and was barely chest-high when the sky rumbled and the lifeguards ordered everyone out. That Big Dip lasted about thirty seconds.

The children didn't know I couldn't swim. My situation reminded me of Ivan in Greenwich Village, a friend of mine from years ago. Ivan was a handsome South American bodybuilder and artist with an attentive wife and two little children. He was fond of telling a particular story from his childhood, about his father rowing him out to sea, lifting him up, and tossing him into the water. "That's how I learned to be an excellent swimmer," he would say at evening get-togethers over wine.

One summer, Ivan's family was planning to visit his birthplace. Weeks before they left, my girlfriend and I visited their apartment. We found Ivan's wife, Hilda, beside herself, wretched with anger. She didn't know where he was. There had been other unexplained absences, too. "He's seeing another woman!" she said. "I've called the divorce lawyer. How could he do this to us?"

We tried to calm her by suggesting there had to be another explanation. "No, no," she said. "What else would keep him away? What secret could there be?"

But there was a secret, and Ivan saved his marriage by revealing it. His father had indeed thrown him into the sea. But, instead of toughening him, it had left him terrified of water. All the talk about his swimming skills was merely bravado.

With the trip to South America and its beaches looming, Ivan felt he had to do something. So he'd signed up at the Y for swimming lessons designed for people traumatized by water. Ultimately, he prevailed over his fear, and the four of us were able to laugh over our wine again.

Midway through my pool-walking regimen, I supplemented my "get better" mantra with lessons in Fundamental Arabic, which I studied at a local college. I photocopied key pages of vocabulary and text, and sealed them in plastic sleeves to protect them at poolside. After a series of laps, I could pause and study, then return to the walking.

If the swimmers and lifeguards heard me repeating "Hakeebatee bijanib ataweel" for "My briefcase is next to the table" or, more useful, "Alhumdu lillah, b'hair" for

"God willing, I am fine," they kept it to themselves.

One day, my doctor said it was time, I could swim. But lessons were another matter. No one at the health club wanted to teach at 5 a.m. or 8 p.m., my available hours. I got a few tips from a congenial young guard named Doug, who had a large blue NY insignia tattooed on his left shoulder to illustrate his love of the Yankees. (He told me he had been sucker-punched in a Boston bar for his devotion. "Must have been near BU?"

I ventured. "No, it was closer to Northeastern, actually," he said.)

But the pivotal guidance came from an unlikely place. My wife and I had thrown a big party for my nephew Brian, an Army captain who was going off to the war in Iraq, and his fiancée, Angela. The morning after, I wandered into the kitchen, where Brian's brother Andrew was rummaging for breakfast. I told him about my quest. He became animated.

"I'm a triathlete," Andrew said. "I can show you some basics. Believe me, Uncle Herb, you can do it." And standing in the kitchen in the gloom of an early Sunday morning, he demonstrated the 1-2-3-kick, 1-2-3-kick you use as you propel your way down the pool on your back, hands at your sides, shoulders shifting in preparation to stroke.

"Once you're adept at kicking," he said, "you can backstroke, and once you're comfortable with that, you just flip onto your stomach and begin to swim."

It was amazingly simple advice, and, back at the pool, it proved to be true. A stout, powerful swimmer named Bob, who had seen me walk ceaselessly, stopped his own workout to show me how and when to breathe, how to have no fear of putting your head underwater.

I practiced that day and for several more weeks, coming up short, swallowing some of the pool, striving for a breakthrough. People in neighboring lanes cheered me on. Bill, a middle school principal and an outstanding swimmer, waited for me one morning to holler "Herb!" with a thumbs-up. A young, beautiful swimmer who rarely spoke said "Awesome!" to me after a workout.

And on another Sunday morning, I took a deep breath, kicked off, swam underwater, came up for a gulp of air, continued stroking, gulped air again, until I began to see the other end of the pool. "Don't stop. You can make it. Don't stop now!" I told myself. When my fingertips finally grazed tiles, it felt very good.

Popping up, I shouted to the lifeguards, "How long's the pool?"

They looked at each other. "Twenty meters," one said.

At home, I told my wife, Evelyn, about my morning as she prepared for church. She worships at the Union Church of Pocantico Hills. It has windows by Chagall and Matisse, and Rockefellers as members.

She returned a few hours later and reported that the pastor, as was his custom, had asked if there were any announcements or celebrations today. A woman said she'd been married for forty years. A man said his son

had finally finished college.

"I raised my hand and said, 'My husband learned how to swim today,'" Evelyn reported.

"Then what happened?" I asked.

"Well, the pastor smiled," Evelyn said. "And the congregation erupted with laughter."

In the kitchen, so did I.

Herbert Hadad, a Northeastern graduate and award-winning writer, says that, over a lifetime of participating in sports from boxing to swimming, he's never taken a dive.

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Fever Pitch, International

Is Major League Baseball out to conquer the world?

By Alan Klein

Like most institutions today, Major League Baseball—the organization that oversees North America's two top professional baseball leagues, the American League and the National League—is busy reconfiguring itself as a global entity.

But what, precisely, does this effort portend? Will we soon enjoy the multicultural pageantry of a real World Series? Are productive international partnerships being forged? Or is Major League Baseball (MLB) simply trying to colonize the rest of the baseball world?

I've been studying baseball's international reach for the better part of two decades. My 1991 book, *Sugarball: The American Game, the Dominican Dream*, examined the sport's impact on the culture and economy of the Dominican Republic. Six years of firsthand research in eight countries led to my latest book, *Growing the Game: Major League Baseball and Globalization* (Yale University Press, in press).

Though "globalization" is something of a catchall term, used in various ways by culture vultures, researchers, policymakers, and corporate executives, virtually everyone agrees on its effect—a radical compression of space and time.

The capacity to cross the globe in real time, with almost unimagined speed, has depended on two advances: a technological revolution in information sharing and an opening up of political channels. A photo in a book by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, who's written extensively on globalization, captures the concept perfectly. Deep in prayer, an orthodox Jew presses his cell phone against Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, so a relative in Paris can gain the blessings offered to pilgrims who worship at the sacred place.

Are these interconnections good for the world? Or do they merely widen the gap between the rich and the poor? Studying MLB, I've found, offers the chance to study some of globalization's consequences in microcosm.

Consider the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Kansas City Royals, teams at opposite ends of the MLB economic spectrum. The former, which operates in the second-largest U.S. market, pioneered international baseball. The first megastars from Mexico (Fernando Valenzuela) and Japan (Hideo Nomo) came to the United States through the Dodgers, where they electrified fans everywhere. Sizable sums were required to dislodge both from their original Mexican and Japanese home teams.

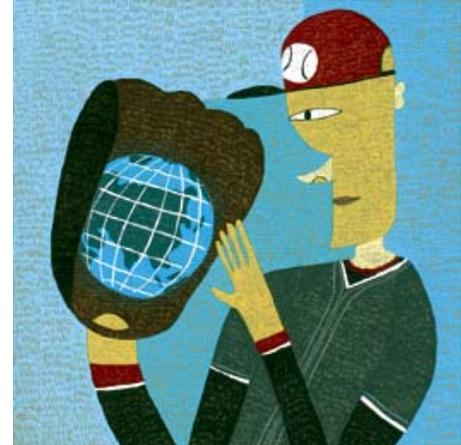


Illustration by Marlena Zuber

Japan remains the single most expensive foreign free-agent market, in large part because the Japanese are so reluctant to lose their national heroes. On a visit to watch the Yomiuri Giants play at the Tokyo Dome, I listened to the reporters around me talk about the fears gripping this nation of baseball fanatics. Ichiro Suzuki and Hideki Matsui had already left for greener American pastures. Would Japan's professional league be further weakened by defections? Would MLB march across the international landscape, trampling everyone in its path?

Small-market teams like the Royals can't begin to even bid on Japanese superstars. So they go to the margins—in the Royals' case, to South Africa. South Africa has virtually no baseball history, but the game is quickly gaining popularity among its schoolchildren. The Royals are betting they can turn good athletes into reasonable prospects. Though this speculation carries risks, the costs of such low-end talent are manageable. To date, the Royals have signed five South African players.

Sitting atop the MLB organization, the Commissioner's Office eagerly looks for new opportunities to generate revenue abroad. Major League Baseball International (MLBI) is the branch that oversees these efforts, selling broadcast rights, corporate sponsorships, licensed products, and special events around the world.

As the game's biggest stars emerge from Tokyo, Santo Domingo, and Caracas, such sales are getting easier to make. MLBI recently signed a record \$275 million deal with Japan's Dentsu Communications to give it TV broadcast rights to MLB games. Japanese fans now watch the New York Yankees (with Matsui in the outfield) nearly as avidly as they watch their beloved Yomiuri Giants, whose ratings have slipped badly over the past few years.

But MLB hasn't found success in all the international locations I studied. Baseball is still a niche sport in Europe, though it's been played there for more than a century. At the 2001 European Championship finals in Bonn, Germany, only a few hundred people watched from the stands; most were relatives or friends of those on the field.

In Italy, I asked some pros playing for the Bologna team whether there was anything distinctly Italian about baseball. They quickly noted that Italian fans are loud and passionate about the game. But, one player added, the fans don't actually know that much about baseball. So why do they come? "It's the lights. I think the lights attract them," he concluded.

Fortunately for those who show up, Italian teams play some of the best baseball in Europe. By comparison, the United Kingdom can barely field a national team, relying heavily on Canadian players, along with the occasional Australian.

To market the game worldwide, MLBI is busily attempting to teach it to school-age children in a wide range of countries. It's also giving accelerated instruction to the world's best players. If MLB could get one or two players from, say, Germany to the majors, it would galvanize that country's interest in baseball, much the way Yao Ming's entry into the NBA got millions of Chinese fans hooked on basketball.

Clearly, MLB has gone global in a multitude of ways. Driving Venezuela's highland roads in search of the

next great pitching star. Negotiating with Korean television networks. Launching an MLB apparel store in Berlin. Establishing a league for twelve-year-olds in Cape Town.

Its methods are creative. And also, I discovered, very necessary. I was surprised to learn how much MLB is depending on globalization to stave off age and decay. The American and National Leagues can no longer reproduce their player base domestically. Their fan base is rapidly aging, too. Though these trends apply to other sports as well, they're more accelerated for baseball.

The health of the game depends on foreign growth. This year, 29 percent of all Major Leaguers come from countries other than the United States, a figure that has risen dramatically over the past decade. Foreign revenue now contributes more than 10 percent of MLB's annual total.

But as MLB expands beyond American borders, is it becoming a more democratic and decentralized organization? Or is it just running an increasingly international enterprise out of the United States?

For now, the evidence points toward the latter. The highly anticipated World Cup—style baseball tournament slated for next March is a case in point. Advance descriptions indicated it would be organized like a World Cup soccer event, with countries participating in the planning and the profit-sharing as equals. In reality, the tournament is being owned and operated by MLB, primarily for MLB. The heavy-handed control has so put off the Japanese and the Koreans, they have threatened to pull out of the competition altogether.

Similar complications would surround any move by MLB to develop franchises outside North America, a step many think the organization may take in the not-so-distant future.

Thorny obstacles are slowing baseball's quest for international growth. The sport still isn't well developed in many countries. The countries in which it has the strongest foothold tend to have the poorest economies. And too many industry leaders lack a truly global vision, one emphasizing collaboration over domination.

As a result, the world won't get a bona fide World Series anytime soon.

Alan Klein is a professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

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An Outside Chance

No surprise: This Canadian loves hockey. Hold the ice, though.

By Paul Perillo

Like many youngsters in Canada, Lauren Edelmeier enjoyed playing hockey. Unlike most of her friends, she didn't play in a rink.

She played on a field. And she mastered her game so completely that today she's the captain of Northeastern's top-ranked field hockey team.

Edelmeier grew up just outside Vancouver in the small town of Delta, British Columbia. Soccer, volleyball, and swimming were her early pursuits. Strapping on hockey skates—not a big draw.

"I'm a die-hard ice hockey fan, even with the lockout and the games not being played. But I never had any interest in playing it," Edelmeier says. "I've always been an outdoor girl. I really enjoy playing out in the weather."

When Edelmeier was a sixth grader, one of her friends got her interested in field hockey. By the eighth grade, she was so proficient she'd decided to give up all her other sports. In high school, she landed a spot on the British Columbia provincial select team, which competed against other Canadian provinces. The team was invited to play in a festival in Florida, and that's where Northeastern coach Cheryl Murtagh caught her first glimpse of her future star.

"Canada has some very good field hockey players, and Lauren is certainly one of them," Murtagh says. "She does so many different things well, and it showed."

As a first step in luring the youngster to Huntington Avenue, Murtagh set up a campus visit for her. If the coaching staff had rehearsed any sales pitches, they found they weren't necessary once Edelmeier saw Northeastern.

"I absolutely fell in love with the place," Edelmeier says. "Everything about it. I really wanted to go someplace where I could be on the water, like in Vancouver, and the co-op program was something that was really important to me. If I'd gone to school in Canada, I was going to go to the University of Victoria, because they offer a similar program. Building my resume while in school was something that really interested me."

Off the field, Edelmeier has developed a solid resume as a junior majoring in business. Her on-the-field resume is equally impressive.



Lauren Edelmeier
Photo by Tracy Powell

During her first two seasons, she worked predominantly as a defensive player, holding down a spot at right defense. Last year, she expanded her role to serve as center defense sweeper and got more involved on offense. She chipped in 3 goals and 8 assists, earning the first 14 points of her career.

According to both Edelmeier and her coach, a deadly accurate penalty-corner stroke accounts for the offensive burst. But it's Edelmeier's ability to prevent goals that's impressed Murtagh more.

"Lauren has been a very important part of the team since her freshman year," Murtagh says of the 2004 America East Defensive Player of the Year. "She has started every game since she's been here. She's just a dominant defender.

"In key situations, when we need someone to come up with a tackle," Murtagh adds, "we know she's going to be the one to do it."

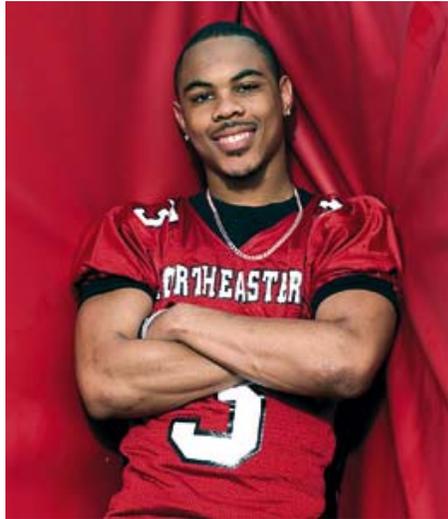
Ironically, Edelmeier came to Northeastern with a totally different mindset. Back in Vancouver, she considered herself an offensive player. But Murtagh had other plans. "Cheryl said, 'You're playing defense,' and that was pretty much it," Edelmeier says with a laugh.

This year, she and her teammates will look to improve upon last season's strong 18-4 showing, which ended with a 4-2 loss to Wake Forest in the Elite Eight. As Northeastern makes its debut in the highly competitive Colonial Athletic Association, the going will get tougher. But top teams like Old Dominion, William and Mary, and James Madison will better prepare the Huskies for tournament play.

With just one year of eligibility remaining, Edelmeier is already looking at life beyond field hockey. She says she has no interest in playing for a national team after college. Yet she may explore the possibility of coaching after taking a couple of years off.

As she winds down her college career, Edelmeier was thrilled to learn recently that Murtagh has added a second Canadian to the roster, largely made up of Massachusetts natives. "It will be nice not to be the only one," Edelmeier says. "I was always teasing Cheryl about bringing another Canadian to the team."

With the standard Edelmeier has set? Rest assured Murtagh plans to keep searching out all the talent she can find north of the border.



*Cory Parks
Photo by Tracy Powell*

Grabbing for Gridiron Glory, and a Title

By Paul Perillo

Like many young football players, Cory Parks expected to sit out his first college season as a redshirt. He didn't expect to actually wear red.

But there he was, less than a month after arriving at Northeastern, donning a red practice jersey as the Huskies prepared for their 2002 season. The color was significant. It meant Parks and ten other similarly clad offensive players would be starters.

"I really had no idea what to expect," Parks says of his freshman season. "I weighed around a hundred and forty-five pounds, so I just assumed they'd redshirt me. Once we got out of training camp and I was wearing a red shirt, I just wanted to contribute any way I could."

Over the past three years, the sure-handed wide receiver from Miami has filled out his 5-foot-11 frame, now tipping the scales at 175. And from the first moment he stepped onto Parsons Field, he's been one of the Atlantic 10's most dangerous targets.

"Cory has an unbelievable knack," explains coach Rocky Hager. "Somehow, when the ball is in flight, he has the ability to catch up to it. It's almost impossible to overthrow him. His ability to bend and twist to make the catch is outstanding."

Even the trip to Northeastern was a winding route for Parks. After being relatively heavily recruited—receiving more than twenty offers—he picked LSU and Toledo as his Division 1-A finalists. Then LSU offered only a partial scholarship, and the Toledo coaching staff that had courted him was fired.

So Parks visited Boston, where he fell in love with Northeastern. Full offers from bigger programs at UNLV and Duke didn't change his mind, and he came to Huntington Avenue.

In his first three seasons, Parks caught 156 passes for 2,510 yards, with 28 touchdowns. He currently trails

only Dave Klemic (1997—2000) in these categories; Klemic racked up 217 receptions for 3,419 yards and 41 touchdowns.

But if Parks has another season like last year's, he may surpass Klemic's numbers. Last season, Parks grabbed 65 balls for 1,096 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also completed both of his two pass attempts, scoring a touchdown both times. His performance was good enough to earn him first-team All-Atlantic 10 honors.

Despite the way he's matured, Parks wouldn't mind revisiting his freshman year. That's when the Huskies went 10-3, won their first-ever Atlantic 10 title, and qualified for the Division 1-AA playoffs for the first and only time.

"I thought it was easy," he says with a laugh. "I came in, we won the league, and went to the playoffs. Now I understand just how difficult it is to accomplish those things."

So as Parks begins his senior season, he's looking for more. He thinks the team as a whole will be more successful in Hager's second year, as everyone gets more comfortable in the new system.

He's also looking for more from himself, even though, for the first time in his college career, he'll be catching passes from someone other than four-year starting quarterback Shawn Brady. In fact, Parks has his sights on becoming an All-American.

And down the road? "I think everyone who plays collegiate sports should think of playing in the pros someday," he says. "You should always dream bigger than what you're already a part of."

"It's the same with the team. We want to win the A-10 title. But, ultimately, everyone is thinking about the national title."

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Failure to Communicate

A sobering look at how the New York Times covered the Holocaust.

By Magdalena Hernandez

Buried by the Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper, by Laurel Leff (Cambridge University Press; Cambridge, England; 2005; 426 pages; \$29)

One of the twentieth century's most troubling questions—How did we allow it to happen?—haunts us still. The issue is the Holocaust, in which upward of thirteen million people, including six million European Jews, were systematically slaughtered by Nazi Germany.

No answer, of course, could ever be satisfactory. Yet vigilance against repeating the past is reason enough to ask the question. And cause enough to sift through the events that led to the massive loss of life, as a means of both understanding the historical context and guarding against another genocide.

Toward this end, School of Journalism associate professor Laurel Leff has researched the relatively scant coverage America's newspaper of record, the New York Times, gave the Holocaust as it was taking place. Buried by the Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper reports her sometimes startling findings.

Why the focus on the Times? Even in the 1930s, Leff says, the paper was preeminent, "unique in the comprehensiveness of its coverage and the extent of its influence among American opinion makers."

This isn't just a look back at the amount and kind of ink allotted to the story. The book attempts to clarify more subterranean matters. Who at the Times made the editorial decisions? Why was information routinely withheld?

In her investigations, Leff, a veteran journalist, takes a fair-minded approach. She points out how difficult it was for Americans to report on the news coming out of Europe in the years before and during World War II. Obtaining information and determining its credibility and importance were formidable tasks. In addition, after having published as fact exaggerated reports of Germany's actions in Belgium during World War I, American newspapers were rightly skeptical about new accounts of German atrocities.

Even so, as Leff details, the paper's omissions seem mind-boggling today. From September 1939 to the end of the war, the Times published only 1,186 stories—an average of seventeen pieces a month—about the Jews' situation in Europe. Front-page articles specifically



Illustration by Julia Vakser

about the Holocaust totaled a paltry twenty-six. Other U.S. newspapers were printing Holocaust stories the Times didn't cover.

Throughout the war, Leff concludes, the Times "treated the persecution and ultimately the annihilation of the Jews of Europe as a secondary story."

She writes about correspondent George Axelsson, who in 1942 penned a series of stories about conditions in Germany for the Times Sunday magazine. One report functioned as a travelogue, says Leff, a "tour of hotels, restaurants, and shops in Berlin, in which he griped about the scarcity of taxis, movies that 'are not entertaining,' and food that 'is not brilliant.'" None of Axelsson's seven lengthy stories mentioned Germany's Jews. Even more disturbing, Leff notes, Axelsson's dispatches displayed a "tendency to describe the Germans acting out of rational impulses rather than unbridled race hatred."

Then there were the decisions made by the Times night editors, known as the bullpen, who chose which stories would run in the paper, and where. Frequently, Leff writes, they "determined that the Jews' annihilation was not a front-page story."

Sometimes the bullpen's editorial choices seemed counterintuitive. In one edition, Leff says, "the arrest of thousands of Jews in France in the summer of 1942 did not warrant the front page, while the arrest of a member of the archbishop's staff for helping them did." On another day, the murder of 480 Czechs was deemed "big news, worthy of two front-page stories, four editorials, and an item in the week in review section." Yet a report "describing the deaths of nearly 3,000 times as many Jews appeared on page five."

Ultimately, the most troubling notes in Leff's investigation arise from her discussion of the role played by publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger (1897-1968), who took over the Gray Lady's reins in 1935. Sulzberger knew how grim the situation was for European Jews; he even arranged to have a few of his relatives flee Germany.

Despite this knowledge, Sulzberger chose to exclude or downplay reports about the Final Solution, partly, says Leff, because he did not want the public to view the Times as a Jewish newspaper. Laudable principles of journalistic objectivity aside, the publisher knew that steering his vessel in the direction of the mainstream was a savvy business decision. In an era of "genteel anti-Semitism," Leff reminds us, scrupulous avoidance of the appearance of a Jewish viewpoint was a way of not alienating readers.

An assimilationist, Sulzberger believed being Jewish was not an ethnicity, but a religious choice. He also believed he was American first, Jewish second. Sulzberger was a product of his times—an enormously successful man who, though perhaps not a self-hating Jew, remained anxious about how others saw both him and his newspaper.

And he had justifiable cause for concern. There was a widely held fear the war effort might be jeopardized if Americans thought their sons were fighting to save Jews. Even when reporters wrote about atrocities involving victims they knew were chiefly Jewish, they tended to downplay religion, or stress the wide range of groups being affected by Hitler's vicious campaign. Overall, the Times portrayed the Jews as just one of

many groups persecuted by the Nazis—not a group singled out for eradication.

Today, the results of these policies read like willful ignorance. "Though the majority of people hounding embassies for visas and boarding rickety boats for uncertain destinations were Jews," Leff writes, "Times editorials maintained that the refugee crisis was not particularly a Jewish problem." Even after the Nazis' anti-Semitism was public knowledge, stories about the Holocaust failed to receive prominence in the pages of the Times.

"The New York Times contributed to the public's ignorance," Leff concludes—a searing allegation against any media outlet, much less the country's leading paper.

Leff has written a compelling, clear-eyed depiction of an American institution that failed in its responsibilities to empower the afflicted, tell the truth, and uphold its readers' right to know. Her thoroughly researched and well-argued assessments make for a discomforting look at a painful chapter in journalism's history.

The book also provides insight into the quotidian realities that continue to affect news coverage today. Editors make rapid-fire decisions, sometimes based on less-than-exalted considerations related to staff availability, personal preferences, or assumptions about what the public will tolerate. In turn, these imperfect choices shape public opinion, even the outlook of government officials.

Read *Buried by the Times*, and you'll be reminded of the unceasing importance of the fourth estate. You'll also encounter a cautionary tale. What will future generations think when they look back on the way we're currently covering human tragedies, such as the one playing out in Sudan's Darfur region? Especially when they see how much journalistic attention was devoted to Tom Cruise's romantic relationships and Michael Jackson's nose.

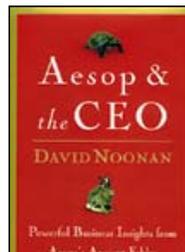
When the media cater to what inquiring minds want to know—at the price of what they need to know—the most urgent news of the day doesn't get the attention and action it merits. And, in retrospect, we'll wonder how we allowed that to happen.

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

Bookmarks

Aesop & the CEO: Powerful Business Insights from Aesop's Ancient Fables, by David C. Noonan; Nelson Books; 2005

Searching for more meaning in management, David C. Noonan, E'75, has turned tales by the Greek fabulist



Aesop into a primer on business. The fable of the ant and the grasshopper, for example, stresses the importance of long-term planning. Other topics range from appreciating employees to packaging products. A seasoned consultant, Noonan writes knowledgeably about workplace challenges.

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1930s

William Triant, L'33, of Watertown, Massachusetts, passed away on March 12. He was a hundred years old. Triant practiced law for sixty-five years, retiring at age ninety-five. During the 1960s, he founded a West Virginia gas exploration company, Syndex Resources. Triant, who was born in Vresthena, Greece, leaves a son and daughter-in-law, James and Diane Triant, of Wellesley, Massachusetts; another son, Arthur, of Phoenix; and six grandchildren.

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1940s

Henry A. Kingsbury, E'43, of Bradenton, Florida, served in World War II. He was a lieutenant in the Civil Engineer Corps in Hawaii, the Philippines, and China. He and his wife, Hazel, have been married for sixty-one years. They spend summers in Perry, Maine, on the Bay of Fundy. He notes he still works part time for a local architect.

Harold Bongarten, ME'47, of Tucson, writes, "I am already looking forward to our sixtieth reunion. Four of my grandchildren graduated from college (one from law school), and two are still in high school."

K. Charles (Kopsiaftis) Kopley, LA'48, of Chicago, writes, "Shortly after graduating, I came to Chicago and have been here ever since. We have three children, who all work in real estate. I retired in 1991 from chemical distributor Harcros Chemical. We are now doing some traveling; the latest trip was to the Antarctic."

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1950s

Francis J. Madden, E'51, of Quincy, Massachusetts, was one of five recipients of the 2005 Charles Stark Draper Prize, presented by the National Academy of Engineering, for his work on CORONA, the first U.S. spy satellite. Madden had served as chief engineer of Itek Corporation's CORONA Camera Project program, until he retired in 1975. In 2000, he was named a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance by the National Reconnaissance Office. Madden is also one of the founders of the Northeastern RE-SEED (Retirees Enhancing Science Education through Experiments and Demonstrations) program, which sends retired scientists and engineers into middle schools to demonstrate practical applications of mathematics and science.

James Greenwood, BA'55, of Arlington, Massachusetts, journeyed to England in May with his sons, Thomas and David. They were making their first acquaintance with English relatives.

Anthony D. Napolitano, LA'55, of Somerville, Massachusetts, served on his class's reunion committee in April. Reunion events included a reception at Sudbury's Wayside Inn, a presentation at Northeastern's Shillman Hall, a Boston Duck Boat tour, a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, dinner at the Marriott Hotel in Newton, and the Golden Grads march at commencement.

Joe Valof, BA'55, MBA'63, of Westborough, Massachusetts, has written a research paper for Paralyzed Veterans of America in response to the organization's annual legal-writing competition. The competition topic was "Should a Veteran Be Entitled to Retain a Lawyer for Adjudication of Claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs." Part of Valof's research included sending an e-mail questionnaire to all members of the Northeastern ROTC Alumni Association.

C. Thomas Burke, BA'57, of Great Falls, Virginia, writes, "I've served at the U.S. State Department from 1990 through the present. In 1991, I was appointed by President George H. W. Bush as deputy commissioner of the Commission for the Study of Alternatives to the Panama Canal. In 1995, I received an Outstanding Alumni Award for business and industry."

Eugene Lally, E'57, of Mission Viejo, California, is the head research economist at Dynamic Development Corporation, a think tank in El Toro. He developed a new consumer value index, a way to evaluate how the economy is affecting consumers. In February, his interest in photography took him to the seventh Death Valley Historic Conference, where he presented a paper that detailed how he became the first person to shoot a photo containing both the highest (Mount Whitney) and lowest (Badwater) points in the forty-eight contiguous states.

Steven Selman, LA'59, of Westford, Massachusetts, is the author of *Prehumous (As Opposed to Posthumous): Unpoetic Poems about Sex, Violence, and Secrets They Don't Want You to Know*. The volume takes an often-humorous look at a range of topics. A retired Army colonel, Selman served two tours of duty in Vietnam and won a Bronze Star. In the Army Reserves, he completed psychotherapist training. In civilian life, he served as chief of human relations at Hanscom Air Force Base, in Bedford; chief equal employment opportunity counselor and mediator at the Air Force Systems Command; and lecturer in psychology, sociology, and business management at Western New England College, in Springfield.

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1960s

Karl R. Bossi, LA'62, of Venice, Florida, has written *Just Call Me Moose! Growing Up Italian in America*, which was published in April by Gondola Press. Part of the book covers his time as a student at Northeastern (and his co-op job in Brookline). Bossi grew up in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and served in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He led a bomb disposal unit in Vietnam, and later became an aerospace logistics engineer.

Brian R. Smith, E'62, of Shanghai, is a professor at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, the leading financial educational institution in China. He teaches financial and cost accounting. Smith has been in China since 1999; until 2004, he ran an MBA program in partnership with Napier University, in Edinburgh. He is married to Zhang Yan (Linda). Smith recently wrote his thirteenth book, *Living in the Shadow of the Chairman*, which he describes as a "tongue-in-cheek look at modern China and her people." He can be e-mailed at brsmith15@yahoo.com.

John Power, BA'63, of Walpole, Massachusetts, writes, "I've been actively working to extend the NU Alumni Association's message to everyone I meet. My town alone boasts over a hundred alumni! Everyone should encourage their friends to sign up for the online community. NU has a huge alumni base, and we can make an enormous difference."

Maureen (Sexton) Barry, E'65, of Naples, Florida, writes, "I retired in 1997, and Dick and I moved to Florida. I am looking forward to seeing classmates and sorority sisters at the fortieth reunion in October!"

David Nelson, Ed'65, of Sharon, Massachusetts, shares this reminder: "Calling all class of 1965 education majors. The fortieth anniversary is coming."

Patricia (O'Brien) Reveliotto, Ed'65, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, writes, "Nick, E'63, and I have been in New Jersey since 1974. We are now retired and enjoy traveling. We plan on attending the fortieth reunion."

Ed Teixeira, BA'66, of Stonybrook, New York, is the president of FranchiseKnowHow, a franchise development consulting firm. His book *Franchising from the Inside Out* was published by Xlibris.

Warren Russo, LA'67, of Amesbury, Massachusetts, writes, "While pursuing careers in newspapers and corporate communications, I earned advanced degrees in journalism and management, later founded an advertising agency, and am now in government service at Hanscom Air Force Base. After joining the Navy as a reservist some years ago, I have literally sailed around the world. It would be great to hear from my NU classmates before I deploy to Iraq for my third war, later this year. You can reach me via e-mail at

warren.russo@alumni.neu.edu."

Michael Stedman, LA'67, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, and his wife, Barbara, were part of a Global Volunteers team that in February worked on childcare and construction projects at a community daycare center in Calderón, a town on the outskirts of Quito, Ecuador.

Jeffrey E. Stone, LA'68, of Salina, Kansas, is the BASIS specialist working on eligibility assessments for the Disability Planning Organization in Kansas. He was previously the night operations officer at UMB Bank in Salina, where he lives with his daughter, Lee Ann.

Larry A. Altersitz, LA'69, of Westville, New Jersey, reports he was awarded U.S. patent 6,846,967 on January 25 for a process to dispose of all levels of nuclear waste.

Leonard Cohen, E'69, of Waterford, Connecticut, writes, "I am still working for the U.S. Navy, and just received my forty-year pin. I plan to continue to work for another year and a half."

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Chester S. Drake, E'70, is the in-country engineering manager at Tetra Tech in Afghanistan, where he has been since 2003 working with both the Army Corps of Engineers and Perini, an international contractor. Tetra Tech provides consulting, engineering, and technical services. When Drake is not overseas, he lives in Franklin, Massachusetts, with his wife, Lynn.

Janyce Greenblott, LA'70, of Hallandale Beach, Florida, is the coordinator for noncredit programs in the Department of Continuing and Professional Studies at Florida International University, in Miami. She previously served as director of sales and marketing at Nursing Unlimited. Greenblott has been living in the Miami area since 1982.

Russell Menko, LA'70, of Rochester Hills, Michigan, writes, "I graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School with a master of science in software engineering. 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 granddaughters."

Elizabeth Ricci, MS'70, of North Andover, Massachusetts, is the vice president of engineering at Authoria, a human resources communications company. She was named one of ten Women to Watch by Mass High Tech, which compiled the list of top New England leaders and innovators.

Ingrid Watkins, BB'70, of Plantation, Florida, retired on September 1, 2004, from the U.S. Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. She has a law practice specializing in wills, trusts, and estate planning, as well as guardianship and probate law. She'd like to hear from classmates at ltciew@aol.com.

Kenneth Zucker, LA'70, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has practiced endodontics (root-canal specialization) since 1983. He is the chair of continuing education for the American Association of Endodontics. He's also active in the American Dental Association.

Stacey E. Alsfeld, BA'71, of Attleboro, Massachusetts, is the general manager of Truex in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Truex manufactures deep-drawn and stamped metal parts. He was formerly general manager of the precision products unit at Texas Instruments.

Robert Brown, LA'71, of Greenfield, Massachusetts, is a twenty-six-year probation officer at Greenfield District Court. He was among ten officers honored in April during a Probation Employee Recognition Award ceremony held at the Massachusetts State House.

Eduard Christian, LA'71, of Lexington, Massachusetts, writes, "After thirty years in the hospitality business, I have formed a new company, Food for Thought

Education Alliance. We train hospitality, restaurant, and food-service companies in improving employee morale and customer service. About five years ago, I started becoming certified in various training courses such as ServeSafe, TIPS, and even Laughter Yoga! I've been teaching ever since. I'm hooked. It feels great to give guidance to younger folks facing our industry's challenges." Christian can be contacted at foodpro@alumni.neu.edu or foodpro@post.harvard.edu.

Patricia Kitchen, LA'71, of New York City, writes, "I'm teaching classes at New York University: careers for people who love to write and correcting your career course in your twenties. By day, I'm still a career/workplace writer for Newsday."

Richard Wissenbach, E'71, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, is a senior vice president and general manager for the compound semiconductor/epitaxial process equipment group at Veeco Instruments. The Woodbury, New York?Ai based company manufactures products for the data storage, semiconductor, and wireless markets.

Anita S. Kaplan, LA'72, of Williamsville, New York, is the executive vice president of academic affairs at Erie Community College, which belongs to the State University of New York system. She previously worked in the Massachusetts community college system for more than twenty-five years. Kaplan served as an American Council on Education Fellow at Northeastern from 1997 to 1998.

Donald K. Williams, BA'72, of New York City, is the executive vice president of Eonstreams, where he heads the New York City office. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, Eonstreams is a streaming media company. Williams previously served as vice president of national sales at Petry Media.

Tom Wittenhagen, Ed'72, of Billerica, Massachusetts, is the head coach of the Watertown High School varsity cross-country, and boys' indoor and outdoor track teams. He has coached at Watertown for the last eleven years. In 2004?Ai2005, he was named the Boys' Cross-Country Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association. A former Huskies track captain, he coached at Northeastern for eleven years.

Bob Abramms, E'73, of Amherst, Massachusetts, is the project director of the Population Map, published by ODT. The map image represents each country according to its population, not by the size of its land mass. The map also tracks demographic changes over time. More information is available online, at www.odt.org.

Randie Blunt, Ed'73, of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, reports he has happily retired, after thirty-two years as a district manager at Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Paul B. Doran, E'73, ME'79, of Hollis, New Hampshire, is a senior water consultant at the consulting company R. W. Beck, in Boston. He was formerly director of engineering at Alternative Resources, a management and environmental consulting company in Concord, Massachusetts.

Bernard A. Drew, LA'73, of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, is a freelance writer and editor. He has

written three reference books for Libraries Unlimited. The latest is titled 100 Most Popular Genre Fiction Authors. He also penned Jingle of the Silver Spurs: The Hopalong Cassidy Radio Program 1950-1952; Hopalong Cassidy: The Clarence E. Mulford Story; If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window: Origins of the African American Community in Sheffield, Great Barrington, and Stockbridge; and Great Barrington: Great Town, Great History. In addition, Drew contributed the introduction to Compliments of the Domino Lady, a collection of six Lars Anderson short stories. He is a past president of the Great Barrington and Berkshire County historical societies and served on the boards of the Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage Area and its African American Heritage Trail Committee.

John A. Fiore, LA'73, MBA'78, of Wayland, Massachusetts, is the executive vice president and head of investor services technology at the Bank of New York. Until recently, he was president of Wayland Associates.

Erik Hoffer, BA'73, is a member of the board of directors of Digital Descriptor Systems in Sea Girt, New Jersey. He is the president of CGM Applied Security Technologies, a provider of protective security technology in Somerset, New Jersey.

Robert LeBlanc, E'74, ME'81, of Burlington, Massachusetts, is the chair of the Rules Committee of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. He also serves as deputy legal counsel for the Democratic State Committee. A lawyer practicing in Methuen and Boston, LeBlanc is a former city manager and city councilor; he's also a former trustee of Suffolk University.

William Mostyn, L'74, of Charlotte, North Carolina, is the deputy general counsel and corporate secretary at Bank of America.

Richard R. Peppe, MBA'74, of Derry, New Hampshire, writes, "I am still in solo law practice in Pembroke, concentrating in real-estate law. I also wrote a book, Nuclear Weapons and the Blue-Eyed People."

Jeanne Ryan, LA'74, of Peru, New York, received the Chancellor's Research Recognition Award from the State University of New York (SUNY). She chairs the psychology department at SUNY-Plattsburgh. In 1994, Ryan established SUNY-Plattsburgh's traumatic brain injury program. She also works as a coordinator of support-group activities at the Brain Injury Association of New York. She received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1994.

Christina Crugnola-Petruniw, LA'75, ME'77, of Canterbury, Connecticut, earned a master of arts in teaching from Sacred Heart University, in Fairfield. She was awarded a certificate for outstanding master's project in education for detailing a method of teaching fourth-grade mathematics that increased test scores. Before she returned to college to prepare for a second career as an elementary school teacher, Crugnola-Petruniw worked twenty-four years for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. She retired as a manager of statistical analysis.

Judith (Greenfield) Hering, BB'75, of Silver Spring, Maryland, writes, "I left the Boston area in 1975; I was in New York through 1981, and have lived in Maryland ever since. I work as a vocational/ educational

counselor for the city of Greenbelt, and as the supervisor for adult education and GED (high school equivalency diploma) instructor for Montgomery College. I earned a master's degree in counseling and education. I am married and have three daughters."

Ken Marshall, Ed'75, of Hingham, Massachusetts, is the chairman and CEO of Boston-based Extraprise, a business-process outsourcing, database marketing, and systems-integration company.

William Abroms, CJ'76, of Duluth, Georgia, writes, "We have a new son, Will, who turned one on February 17."

Kevin T. Cronin, L'76, of McLean, Virginia, is the executive director of the American Academy of Actuaries. He is a visiting professor of legal studies in the Department of Risk Management and Insurance at Georgia State University. He has worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was CEO of the International Insurance Council, and served as president of the northern region of the Federation of Latin American Insurance Trade Associations.

Donna (Holmes) Earnest, BB'76, of Liberty Township, New Jersey, writes, "I am working for the State of New Jersey as a habilitation plan coordinator in the Division of Developmental Disabilities. I earned two master's degrees from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. I have two sons. I am currently living in the middle of Jenny Jump State Park, on the side of a mountain overlooking Mountain Lake, where I enjoy year-round fishing. Would love to hear from all buddies from the 1975-1976 Student Federation."

Kenneth E. Walto, LA'76, of Dalton, Massachusetts, writes, "I am pleased to report that two of my children have followed in their old man's footsteps at Northeastern: Daniel, CJ'05, and Kevin, AS'06. Kevin has even had the pleasure of taking courses with two of my former mentors, Andy Sum and Sungwoo Kim. I also have a budding nursing student; I hope she will soon follow her brothers to NU."

Howard P. Bruck, MBA'77, of Marietta, Georgia, is a senior executive with the Thomas Group, a consulting firm. He has also worked at Oracle and Apple Computer.

Mike Cassettari, BA'77, of Lexington, Massachusetts, is the vice president of marketing at Mathsoft Engineering and Education, a calculation management company in Cambridge. He was previously vice president of marketing at Affinova.

Paul Donovan, UC'77, of Newton, Massachusetts, writes, "I returned to the work force as a consultant in global customs compliance for W. R. Grace in August 2004, after taking early retirement in 2001 from the Robert Allen Group. I celebrate good health and run marathons."

Mildred Gabriel, PAH'77, of Tamuning, Guam, writes, "There will be two generations of Northeastern graduates from my family. My daughter, Melissa, will be attending Northeastern this fall, following in the footsteps of her mother and entering into the pharmacy program at Bouv?©."

Pamela Dembski Hart, PAH'77, and her husband, Raymond, live in Holliston, Massachusetts. She is senior partner and health- and safety-compliance

specialist at Total Compliance Solutions, a Wellesley-based provider of programs for the health-care industry. Hart stays busy with cross-training, biking, Nautilus, and gardening. As a U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration compliance specialist, she has written a number of articles on facility care, and infection-control and sterilization technology.

Richard J. Malone, ME'77, of Beverly, Massachusetts, is a senior vice president in the process engineering group of EBI Consulting in Burlington.

R Wagner, UC'77, of Austin, Texas, writes, "This year, I'm saxophone section leader for the Austin Symphonic Band, our volunteer municipal band. We performed at an international band conference in Seattle in November 2004. I play tenor sax, and occasionally baritone sax. I'm an adjunct faculty member at St. Edward's University in Austin, teaching introductory computer science courses. (Yes, my degree was in accounting, not computer science. It's been a strange twenty-seven years.) I am also one of the leaders of the St. Ed's Afghan Project, making blankets for charity. I've had to cut back a little on my activities in the past two years, since I got diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF). I'm doing well so far, and I'm keeping a blog about CHF. I'll be moving up to Maryland in June 2005, and I am looking forward to being in the Northeast again."

Paul Wooten, L'77, of Brooklyn, is one of six candidates running for district attorney. He is a former Brooklyn assistant district attorney, and has been in private practice for fifteen years.

James Benning, LA'78, of Middlesex, New Jersey, is a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch in Bridgewater. He previously worked at Bankers Trust.

Larry Buchsbaum, BA'78, of Marblehead, Massachusetts, is the director of marketing for professional services at Information Mapping, in Waltham. He was director of international marketing with Invest Northern Ireland.

Joseph (Jay) Devlin Jr., UC'78, of Brewster, Massachusetts, retired from the Boston Police Department in 2004. After twenty-five years of service, he almost immediately began a new career. Devlin took an intensive six-month course at the French Culinary Institute in New York City and was awarded the grand diploma in culinary art. He now works at Chillingsworth Restaurant, in Brewster.

A. John Gill, LA'78, of Schwenksville, Pennsylvania, writes, "I'm celebrating my first (and very successful) year in real estate with my partner and fianc?©e, Margarita Swartz, in the Collegeville/Blue Bell area of eastern Pennsylvania."

Geetha Ramamurthy, UC'78, of Brookline, Massachusetts, is the executive director of TIE-Boston, a nonprofit organization that encourages and supports entrepreneurship in New England. Ramamurthy formerly served as the organization's director of operations and external affairs.

William J. Reed, E'78, of Pembroke, Massachusetts, has been promoted to senior vice president and made a member of the board of directors at Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, an engineering company in Burlington.

Barry Steinhardt, L'78, of Westport, Connecticut, is the director of the Technology and Liberty program at the American Civil Liberties Union.

Paul Tumolo, UC'78, UC'81, of Medway, Massachusetts, started Edusult Performance Systems, a management consulting firm, in 2002. Clients include Fidelity Investments, Boston Scientific, and Teradyne.

Lindsay Cook, PA'79, of West Newton, Massachusetts, is a member of the board of overseers of MSPCA?Angell, a leader in animal protection and veterinary medicine. The organization runs three veterinary care centers, including Boston's Angell Animal Medical Center, and seven animal care and adoption centers. Cook is also a member of the board of directors for the New England?Canada Business Council. He is a principal at Kinnen, a mergers and acquisitions advisory company.

Michael Halpern, UC'79, of Lynnfield, Massachusetts, is a senior vice president in Citigroup's architecture and emerging technologies organization. He and his wife, Pamela, AS'71, have three children. The family already boasts five Northeastern degrees, with another in the works: Son Anthony is a current Northeastern student.

Dan Kennedy, LA'79, of Danvers, Massachusetts, has left his position as the media critic for the Boston Phoenix to become a visiting professor at Northeastern's School of Journalism. He is a former winner of the National Press Club's Arthur Rowse Award for Press Criticism. In 2003, he published *Little People: Learning to See the World Through My Daughter's Eyes*.

Harris L. MacNeill, BA'79, of Northborough, Massachusetts, is the president of MacNeill Engineering Worldwide, the world's largest maker of plastic cleats and metal spikes for athletic shoes (under the brand name Champ). The company's accounts include Adidas, Reebok, New Balance, and Nike.

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Calvin M. Allsop, BA'80, of West Hartford, Connecticut, is an investment representative at Fidelity Investments, where he manages stock and bond portfolios for individuals. He says he'd like to hear from friends at cma15@aol.com.

David Z. Prince, CJ'80, of Fort Washington, Maryland, received the Nguzu Saba Award from the African American Institute and the Brutus "Skip" Wright Memorial Scholarship from Iota Phi Theta Fraternity. He graduated from Howard University School of Law in 1985 and earned a graduate certificate in public management from George Washington University in 2003. Prince is now the director of equal employment opportunity at the District of Columbia Department of Mental Health. He notes he plays jazz guitar after hours with a band called Phaze II.

John Doring, E'81, of Marblehead, Massachusetts, is a senior program director with EBI Consulting's process engineering group in Burlington. He has worked as a construction project manager since 1988.

Helen O. Enahoro, PAH'81, of Oyo State, Nigeria, is head of the laboratory department at Baptist Medical Center, in Ogbomoso. She and her husband have four children, Imuzese Ohiole, Aigboje Ohiorenuan, Omolegho Biodun, and Ebihonmon Omokhipen.

Ursula Pennell, PAH'81, is a systems implementation specialist with EMRConsultant, in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The company helps doctors implement electronic medical records.

Rita (Balian) Allen, BA'82, of Belmont, Massachusetts, has opened Rita B. Allen Associates, which specializes in career management, counseling, and coaching of individuals and organizations. Her e-mail address is rita@ritaballenassociates.com. In addition, she teaches human resources classes at Northeastern's School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

Karen A. Bordeleau, AS'82, and David A. Boulanger, BA'82, of Smithfield, Rhode Island, will celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on September 20. Bordeleau is the assistant managing editor of the Providence Journal. Boulanger is the controller for the leasing division of Bank of America. They have two daughters, Lauren and Caroline. Friends can write them at david.a.boulanger@bankofamerica.com or kbordele@projo.com.

James Crider, AGS'82, of Cataumet, Massachusetts, has a private psychotherapy practice; he also lectures at Cape Cod Community College.

Margaret J. Cromwell, PAH'82, of Plainsboro, New Jersey, is a senior consultant with BESLER Consulting, in Princeton.

Marsha Fanucci, MBA'82, of Winchester, Massachusetts, is a member of the board of directors at Cambridge-based Momenta, a biotechnology company. She is senior vice president and chief financial officer at Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

John "Jack" McGee, UC'82, of Maynard, Massachusetts, recently earned a master's degree in accounting from Northeastern. He is an accounting manager at W. R. Grace, in Cambridge. He has worked at the company for twenty-one years.

Armand Morin, UC'82, is a senior vice president for operations at Private Healthcare Systems, in Waltham, Massachusetts.

James E. Murphy, UC'82, MBA'88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, is the president of Citistreet, a global benefits-delivery firm. He and his wife have three daughters.

Susan Salvo, AS'82, of Manchester, Connecticut, writes, "I run a sales, marketing, and training company to help clients generate new revenue by presales/appointment setting, one-on-one cold-call coaching, and a half-day seminar."

Steven Surowitz, L'82, of Hazlet, New Jersey, is the chief division counsel for the FBI, based in Newark. He was formerly a supervisory special agent with the FBI, based in New York City.

Kathleen Carney Thibeault, N'82, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, earned a master's degree in anesthesiology from Florida International University, in Miami. She works at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center. She and her husband, Don, have three children, Andrew, John, and Madeline.

Ted Behrens, E'83, of Spring, Texas, is a partner at Synaptic Decisions, in Houston. The company provides commercial contract, asset, and investment services.

Rosalind F. Berman-Myerson, AS'83, of Quincy, Massachusetts, writes, "I married Fred Myerson in 1997. In 1987, I received a certificate in meeting management from the College of Continuing and Professional Studies at Bentley College. I was in the direct-marketing industry from 1998 to spring 2002, when I was laid off. I am currently doing some substitute teaching. I am eager to get back into the corporate sector. I would like to hear from other speech communication/communication studies majors to see what they are doing now."

Melinda Kramer-Ernst, CS'83, of Chicago, is the managing director and chief technology officer at hedge fund Grosvenor Capital Management.

David Leitao, BA'83, is the new head men's basketball coach at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville. He previously coached at Northeastern, the University of Connecticut, and DePaul. Gabriel Nacht, MBA'83, of Granite Bay, California, is the senior vice president and CFO of Meridian Systems, a vendor of project management solutions to the real-estate and construction industries. He and his wife, Suzanne, have two children.

Anne Proctor, E'83, of Wallingford, Connecticut, is a project manager with consulting firm Woodard & Curran, in Cheshire.

Patrick J. Lott, BA'84, of Somerville, New Jersey, is an assistant principal at Bernardsville Middle School. A former Mr. Husky and Mayor of Huntington Avenue, he and his wife, Lois, have a daughter, Erin.

Sharyn Lovejoy, N'84, of Ashburnham, Massachusetts, writes, "I'm keeping busy by renovating an old house. I live near the New Hampshire border and go north as often as I can to hike, camp, ski, and find deals on antiques."

Michael Shea, BA'84, of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, writes, "I've enjoyed progressive high-tech career assignments, relocations, and international travel of 250,000 miles annually since leaving NU. After a long stint at IBM, I'm now vice president of worldwide sales at a U.K.-based software technology firm, CopperEye. My biggest success has been the arrival of my first child, William, born in July 2003. This, of course, is all thanks to my wife of three years, Josephine. To accommodate our expanding family and tweaked priorities, we moved from Rye, New York, to South Kingstown. We continue to enjoy sailing with the American Yacht Club in New York, motorcycle touring, and visiting with family and friends around the globe."

Mark Tuniewicz, BA'84, of La Jolla, California, is the manager of credit and collections at Intuit, in San Diego. He reports he's "happily single and enjoying a snow-free environment for the first time in forty-three years."

Robert Bodoni, CJ'85, MJ'86, of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, earned the designation of fraud claim law associate through the American Educational Institute. He is a senior supervisor in the Special Investigation Unit at MetLife. "My primary focus is in the oversight of the Special Operations Group handling major provider ring investigations," he writes.

Robert V. Donahoe, E'85, of Newton, Massachusetts, is an associate with the Cambridge law firm Lowrie, Lando, and Anastasi. Anthony Lent, BA'85, of Northville, Michigan, is the regional vice president of sales and marketing for Comcast in Southfield. He was formerly vice president of wireless at General Motors, OnStar division.

John Morosini, AS'85, of Winthrop, Massachusetts, is the director of human resources at SEI Companies of Boston. He and his wife have one son.

Brian F. Shea, PAH'85, GB'88, of Peabody, Massachusetts, writes, "I am excited to announce that I was appointed to the editorial advisory board for a new health-care journal, Patient Safety and Quality. I continue to work toward improving patient safety at hospitals in the United States."

Robert "Skip" Bensley, AS'86, writes, "It's been forever since I talked with anyone from Speare Hall East, circa 1981. I was wondering where everyone else is these days. Drop me a line." His e-mail address is skip@brilliantvideoproductions.com.

Lisa Cukier, AS'86, of Brookline, Massachusetts, is a partner in the Boston law firm Burns & Levinson. She is a member of the Probate Litigation Group, Divorce and Family Law Group, and the Family Advisory Services Team. She is the president of the Massachusetts Family and Probate Inn of Court, was formerly co-chair of the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association,

and was on the board of directors of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

Ellen (Yanofsky) Foley, AS'86, of Worcester, Massachusetts, and husband Kevin celebrated the birth of Richard Kevin on June 6, 2004, in Framingham. "Richie was born two months early," she writes. "But after eighteen days in the hospital, the baby came home, and now he is happy and healthy. We are truly blessed to have our son."

J. Michael Menadue, BA'86, MBA'91, of Boston, is the president of two firms, the Red House Design Company, an architectural and design business in Cambridge, and the Construction Management Team, in Brighton. He says he'd like to get classmates together. His e-mail address is redhousedesignco@hotmail.com.

Paul Altmeyer, AS'87, of Boston, is a member of the sales staff at WBZ News Radio 1030. He previously worked at the New England Sports Network for nine years.

Anne-Marie Dinius, E'87, L'98, of Emerald Hills, California, is a patent litigation attorney with Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin, a San Francisco law firm. She was with Sony Computer Entertainment America.

Thomas Donnelly, BA'87, and Doreen Strilkauskas, N'93, of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, were married in April. Donnelly notes he's still working as an information technology administrator with the Environmental Protection Agency. Strilkauskas is a nurse practitioner in Providence.

Karl Elken, BA'87, of Half Moon Bay, California, is the publisher of eWEEK, the Ziff Davis Media enterprise weekly. He was previously its national associate publisher.

Janica (Nieh) Midiri, AS'87, of Westwood, Massachusetts, and her husband, Patrick, celebrated the birth of their first child, Nicola Angelina, in December 2004. Midiri reports that the baby, though only two pounds at birth, is now at home and thriving. Her e-mail address is janica220@yahoo.com.

Linda Pesaturo, AS'87, of Nashua, New Hampshire, earned an MBA with high distinction from Rivier College. She is a marketing communications manager at Macronetics.

Craig W. Semple, BB'87, of Clinton, Connecticut, is the Madison School District director of athletic programs. "Sports Illustrated honored our high school, Daniel Hand, as the most outstanding athletic program in the state," he writes. Semple can be reached at semple@madison.k12.ct.us.

Gary Smith, L'87, of West Newton, Massachusetts, gave a presentation on cross-border licensing and IP transactions with Canadian companies at the Doing Business with Canada seminar, sponsored in May by the Boston Bar Association and the New England? ÆCanada Business Council. Smith heads the intellectual property and technology practice at Posternak Blankstein & Lund, in Boston. He was named a Massachusetts Super Lawyer by Boston magazine.

Scott Heslink, E'88, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and

his wife, Donna, celebrated the birth of their second son, John Davis, in April. Heslink is senior vice president and quality and productivity executive of consumer-deposit products at Bank of America.

Bonni Hodges, GB'88, of Cortland, New York, is an associate professor and chair of the health department at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Cortland. She was honored in April as one of the most important and innovative scholars in the SUNY system. Hodges, who joined Cortland's faculty in 1992, has chaired the health department since 2003.

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

Michael Silver, BA'88, of Buenos Aires, writes, "I have been living in Argentina for about two years now. I rent apartments to tourists, a big change from my career at Oracle database programming in the United States. I've been in a relationship for two years now with Luis." His e-mail is michael@buenosairesliving.com.

Ricky Bagolie, BA'89, of Jersey City, New Jersey, writes, "My law firm, Bagolie Friedman, is now located in the city's historic Five Corners Building."

Thomas Bentley, CS'89, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, writes, "I am an advisory software engineer at IBM. Recent accomplishments include the Outstanding Technical Achievement Award for XML in Domino, the Invention Achievement Award for reaching First Plateau for patent applications, and a U.S. patent for System and Method for Providing Wireless Device Access to Scheduling Applications."

Shawn Cain, AS'89, of North Chelmsford, Massachusetts is the vice president of operations at Arbios Systems, a biomedical device company based in Los Angeles.

Kevin Cassell, MA'89, of El Prado, New Mexico, is the head of the English department at the University of New Mexico, in Taos. He teaches undergraduate classes in writing, literature, and film. His e-mail address is kevincassell@usa.net.

Eileen Crehan, CJ'89, of Quincy, Massachusetts, was diagnosed with leukemia on April 8, 2004, and has been fighting the disease every day since. Crehan is the sole woman member of the Massachusetts State Police motorcycle unit, where she holds the rank of sergeant. She and her husband, State Police Sergeant Scott Collins, have four children. Crehan attended Northeastern on an athletic scholarship and still holds the school record for the javelin.

Chris Eldredge, AS'89, of Denver, is the managing director of the insurance brokerage Acordia, a Wells Fargo company, where he oversees Colorado operations. Formerly, he was regional manager for business sales at Liberty Mutual's North Texas operation. Sam Heidari, E'89, of Menlo Park, California, is the president and CEO of Doradus Technologies. E-mail him at sam.heidari@doradus-tech.com.

Kenneth Miller, MBA'89, of Brookline, Massachusetts, is a marketing analyst at iKnowtion, in Burlington. He was previously a reporting and data analyst at Amergent.

Tom Murphy, MCS'89, of Franklin, Massachusetts, is the vice president of marketing at Relicore, a Burlington software company.

Homer Pien, MCS'89, PHD'93, of Andover, Massachusetts, is the managing director at the Center for Biomarkers in Imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital and the cofounder of SRU Biosystems, a biotech start-up. Pien has been an adjunct professor in Northeastern's College of Computer and Information Science since 1993.

Tom Spencer, MBA'89, of Franklin, Massachusetts, is the vice president of operations for Bio-key International, in Marlborough. He was previously vice president of finance for Create!form International. He and his wife, Coreen, have two daughters.

Stephen Svensen, CJ'89, of Cohasset, Massachusetts, is a senior member of the trading desk at Pacific Growth Equities, a Boston investment bank. He formerly served as assistant vice president in equity trading at BB&T Capital Markets.

John Zukowski, CS'89, of Needham, Massachusetts, provides strategic Java consulting, and has written several Java guides and more than two hundred articles. He also teaches web technology courses at Northeastern.

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Matthew Edson, CJ'90, of Reading, Massachusetts, is a member of the Reading Police Department. In March, he was involved in an auto chase and arrested three men who attempted to steal power tools from the Home Depot in Reading.

Brian Perry, CS'90, of Newton, Massachusetts, is the founder of BKP Technologies, a computer consulting and software company.

Darlene Conners, AS'91, of Foxborough, Massachusetts, is the human resources director for real estate developer Campanelli Companies, in Braintree. She and her fianc?©, Mike, have two children, Brianna and Michael Jr. "Would love to hear what old friends are up to via e-mail," she writes. Her e-mail address is darleneconners@msn.com.

Thomas Fallon, SET'91, of Salisbury, Massachusetts, was recently promoted to industrial engineer in the lean manufacturing division of the U.S. Department of the Navy at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, in New Hampshire. "I formerly held employment at the shipyard as an information technology specialist in the IT division. I have spent the last ten years in this field. The change to engineering is a rewarding move."

Maureen Hoye, BB'91, of Framingham, Massachusetts, married John McCarthy, of Cork, Ireland, on November 21, 2004. A reception was held in Assonet. Their e-mail address is mehoye@verizon.net.

Janet Madigan, MN'91, of Abington, Massachusetts, is the president of the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives and the treasurer of the Massachusetts Center for Nursing.

Kim (Weist) Piasecki, GB'91, of Moorestown, New Jersey, writes, "After graduation in 1991, I returned to New Jersey to live and work. I have been working as a psychotherapist since 1991, and am now a Licensed Professional Counselor. In 1996, I got married and have since had two beautiful daughters, Samantha and Emma. I also have a stepson, Adam." Tamara C.

Richardson, CJ'91, of West Orange, New Jersey, is the owner of Taceri, which specializes in women's shoes.

Renee Sevelitte, UC'91, UC'93, of Amesbury, Massachusetts, is planning an art workshop based on her book You Are a Work of ART! at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, in Washington, D.C.

Tiffany (Rollins) Currie, BB'92, and Wayne Currie, CJ'88, of Haverhill, Massachusetts, celebrated the birth of a son, Kaiden Torrance, on January 6. His siblings are sisters Mackenzie, Alysha, and Dayna.

Catherine Dennis, UC'92, of Chicago writes, "I moved in 1992 and have worked in technology sales management ever since. I was with SPSS for many of those years. Currently, I want to use my experience in building/rebuilding inside sales organizations, sales operations, and performance improvement."

Joseph Dunlap, AS'92, of Hartford, Wisconsin, and his wife, Brenda, welcomed the birth of daughter Avery Morgan on March 23 in Menomonee Falls. The Dunlaps have two other daughters, Elisa and Alexa.

Susan Grossberg, L'92, of Melrose, Massachusetts, was presented the Denis Maguire Pro Bono Award by the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association in March 2004. The award recognizes her work in behalf of indigent clients, assistance for HIV/AIDS victims, protection of single mothers, and prevention of shutoffs and home loss for elderly clients.

Mike Harrington, BA'92, of Melrose, Massachusetts, is an account executive for SunGard Availability Services, a financial services software company.

Meri (Aschner) Levine, BA'92, of West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and her husband, Marc, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Alexis Ann, in September 2004. Gabe is their older child. Levine can be reached by e-mail at meri.a.levine@comcast.net.

Marylee Condon Lyndon, BB'92, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, reports she married William Lyndon in 2000. They celebrated the birth of their daughter, Caroline, on December 5, 2003. Lyndon is a principal consultant medical recruiter with Enid Chesterfield, a recruiting firm in Boston. Her e-mail address is marylee@enidchesterfield.com.

Dina (Tenaglia) Mastrocola, AS'92, of Hanover, Massachusetts, and her husband, Paul, welcomed the birth of a daughter, Gillian Grace, in July 2004. Gillian's older brother is Justin.

Shawn W. Murphy, MA'92, of Plattsburgh, New York, writes, "This past year, I was promoted to associate professor of journalism at Plattsburgh State University. I married Elaine Ostry, an English professor at SUNY? ÆPlattsburgh. We honeymooned in the Canadian Rockies." His e-mail address is shawn.murphy@plattsburgh.edu.

Saswati Paul, L'92, of San Mateo, California, celebrated the birth of her son, Amit Paul Krishnan, on March 8. He joins a sister, Anika.

Kathryn (Yerge) Rebhan, BA'92, of Buffalo, New York, celebrated the birth of Joseph Thomas II on December 29, 2004. She and her husband, Thomas, also have a daughter, Dagny.

John Beckford, UC'93, MBA'98, of Margate, Florida, is a licensed realtor with All Homes Realty in Coral Springs. "Decided to make a career change in January 2005. As a focused and enterprising person, the challenges of a sales career in the real-estate industry will definitely lead me to self-actualization," he writes.

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

Stephen Garrepy, BA'93, of Fort Lauderdale, is a managing partner of the Titans of South Florida, a regional real-estate development company that has holdings in Florida and the Great Smoky Mountains area of Tennessee.

Laura (Schroth) Hester, CJ'93, writes, "I have worked in the criminal justice field since being a co-op student. I feel fortunate to have such a rewarding career in federal service. After spending almost six years as a deputy U.S. marshal in Washington, D.C., and Boston, I decided to change gears. In July 1999, I transferred to the U.S. Probation Office in Boston and began my new position as a U.S. probation officer. I have worked in both the pre-sentence and supervision units. In April 2004, I transferred to the Plymouth office, where I continue to work as a U.S. probation officer in the supervision unit. On September 23, 2003, I married my best friend, Thomas Hester (who is also in the CJ field). I finally settled down and landed back on Cape Cod. In April 2004, I obtained my real estate license and handle most areas of Cape Cod. I hope to change gears again soon and do real estate full time."

Tamara Zeytoonian Kefeyan, BB'93, of Watertown, Massachusetts, and her husband, John, celebrated the birth of their first child, Nathan. "I received my master's degree in physical therapy in California and lived there for four years. I am a practicing physical therapist in Boston," she writes.

Lisa Loveland, AS'93, and George Proakis, E'95, of Melrose, Massachusetts, were married October 10, 2004, on the island of Chios in Greece. Northeastern alumni in attendance included Mike Davis, AS'92, Bruce Skillin, AS'94, and Robert Pepe, AS'97. In November 2004, the couple held a Spencer, Massachusetts, reception, attended by numerous NU graduates. They are rehabbing their Victorian home. Loveland is an attorney for the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. Proakis is the chief planner for the city of Lowell.

Timothy O'Malley, CJ'93, of the Bronx, New York, served an eleven-month tour of duty in Iraq with the 172nd Infantry of the New Hampshire National Guard. "We provided route and convoy security throughout the Sunni Triangle, including Baghdad, Fallujah, and Taji," he writes.

Miklos Sandorfi, E'93, of Foxborough, Massachusetts, is the chief technology officer at SEPATON, a Marlborough-based data storage company. He joined the company in 2002. Sandorfi holds twelve granted and eight pending patents.

Eric Schreiber, E'93, of Hollywood, Florida, writes, "We are blessed with the arrival of our baby girl?Äour first daughter and our son's first sister. I am still working with Royal Caribbean Cruises, and have been promoted to the position of manager for electrical engineering."

Manya Chait, MBA'94, of Lexington, Massachusetts, is the vice president of public relations at VistaPrint, a graphic design and printing company in Lexington.

Michael Daly, GB'94, MBA'96, of North Easton, Massachusetts, is the women's lacrosse coach at Stonehill College, in Easton. His team has won the Division 2 national championship two of the last three years. Last year's champions went undefeated, for a 21-0 record. This past summer, Daly coached the U.S. Women's National Team in Australia. He was formerly

a graduate assistant in campus recreation at Northeastern.

Timothy Foley, GB'94, of Westborough, Massachusetts, is a staff scientist III in the clinical laboratory science division at Genzyme in Framingham.

Jordana (Lawrence) Goodstein-Lawrence, N'94, of Bethesda, Maryland, is an account executive at Lee Wayne, a promotional products company.

Claudia Guzman, BA'94, of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, is a data analyst at Chadwick Martin Bailey, a market research firm in Boston. She has a master's degree from Bentley College in information-age marketing and a certificate in business data analysis.

Francisco Lorite, AS'94, of Los Angeles, is a movie director whose production, *Cuco Gomez-Gomez Is Dead*, won the Best Cine Latino Award (Short) at the D.C. Independent Film Festival, in Washington. At age nineteen, Lorite moved from Spain to study theater at Northeastern.

Rachael (Perry) Lumpkin, E'94, of Chesterfield, Virginia, and Gregory Lumpkin celebrated the birth of Savannah Louise on July 13, 2004. "She came six weeks early, but she did great, only spending six days in the hospital before she came home," writes Lumpkin.

John Murdock, E'94, of Grafton, Massachusetts, is the director of business development at Extraprise Group, a consulting firm in Boston. He and his wife, Maria, have a daughter, Amanda.

Sheila (Borghi) Nash, CJ'94, of McLean, Virginia, and husband Alan celebrated the birth of Ava Sabrina on May 9, in Washington, D.C. Ava joins her brother, Spencer.

Kevin O'Connor, CJ'94, and Cynthia (Meacham) O'Connor, PAH'94, of Milford, Massachusetts, celebrated the birth of their third child, Ryan Andrew, on September 16, 2004. Kevin works for the FBI, and Cindy is a pharmacist with Brooks Pharmacy. The family includes older children Kaitlyn and Kevin.

Mark Payton, AS'94, of North Wales, Pennsylvania, writes, "I am an import manager for one of the largest stainless steel companies in the United States, Specialty Nickel Alloy. I also have my own business in sports production. Since 1994, I've been involved in sports production at all levels, from high school games to professional sports. I frequently work at CN8 in Philadelphia. I've also done stints at ESPN, TNT, Fox, and Westwood One Radio."

Dan Zeytoonian, BA'94, of Weatherford, Oklahoma, is a major in the U.S. Army. He was promoted to that rank by General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a ceremony at the U.S. embassy in Cairo, Egypt. Zeytoonian is working toward the completion of his master's degree in international relations. He can be e-mailed at american_in_cairo@hotmail.com.

Richard Barthelmess, UC'95, of Danvers, Massachusetts, recently accepted a position as patrolman in the Danvers Police Department. He was formerly employed at the Hamilton Police Department.

"After serving Hamilton for over four years, I have finally moved on to my hometown police department," he writes.

Kelly Jones, BA'95, is the vice president and director of marketing at Atlantic Trust's private wealth management division in New York City.

Scott Lanciloti, GB'95, of West Newton, Massachusetts, heads up sales in the northeast United States for WILink, an investor-relations services provider.

Jennifer (Robinson) McAdams, AS'95, of Groton, Massachusetts, and her husband, Kevin, celebrated the birth of their son, Robinson James, on March 24, 2004.

Laura Noonan, L'95, of Scituate, Massachusetts, is the president of two companies, Screened Images Multimedia (SIM) and the Corrections Connection News Network, both based in Quincy. SIM develops websites and manages information technology systems. Corrections Connection is a weekly and daily news source for the corrections industry. Her husband, Joseph, is the CEO of both companies. Noonan produced her first inmate orientation video for the Norfolk (Massachusetts) county sheriff when she was nineteen.

Marcus Randolph, MBA'95, of Richmond, Virginia, is the director of finance and operations at Highland Park Community Development, in Richmond. The organization provides affordable housing for low- to moderate-income households.

Renee Somers, MA'95, of New York City, earned a doctorate in English from the University of Rhode Island. She is on tenure track as an assistant professor at LaGuardia Community College, in New York City. Somers has completed two books, *Edith Wharton as Spatial Activist and Analyst* (due out this fall from Routledge) and *Film, Television, and Contemporary Culture* (forthcoming from Longman). Friends can write her at rsomers@lagcc.cuny.edu.

Kris Boccia, AS'96, of Arvada, Colorado, and his wife, Laura, celebrated the birth of their son, Zane, on June 1. Their older son is Mason. Boccia was presented the Outstanding Recruitment Excellence Award from Bell Aerospace and Technologies. He has worked at the company since 2002. His e-mail address is kboccia@hotmail.com.

Erin L. Boyar, MJ'96, of North Smithfield, Rhode Island, is the associate director of planning and research at the state's Department of Corrections. She started working at the department in 1997 as a principal planner.

Kathleen Bryant, N'96, and Dustin Rand, E'97, of Framingham, Massachusetts, welcomed the birth of Anja Mae on March 8. Her older sister is Ruby.

Karen Cajka, MA'96, of Johnson City, Tennessee, was presented the Irish-American Research Travel Fellowship this year from the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The fellowship allows her to travel to Dublin and Belfast to continue work and research on novelist and poet Dorothea Annesley DuBois. Cajka is an assistant professor of English at East Tennessee State University.

Heather Clark, N'96, of Medford, Massachusetts, is

engaged to marry Stephen Davis, also of Medford.

Henry Daley, L'96, of Alexandria, Virginia, is a partner in the intellectual property group of Venable. He was a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop.

Dennis G. Dallaire Jr., CJ'96, MPA'02, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, is a mayoral candidate. He has previously worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C.; the Massachusetts state legislature; and the Los Angeles mayor's office.

John Dunn, AS'96, of Nashua, New Hampshire, earned a law degree from the Massachusetts College of Law in June 2004. He started a Nevada-based business called Granite State Paralegal and Seminar Services.

Nancy Hanisch, AS'96, of St. Augustine, Florida, received a master's degree in psychiatric rehabilitation from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Hanisch is the director of employment services for the Arc of the St. Johns as well as the president of the Florida Association for Persons in Supported Employment. Both organizations serve people with disabilities. Her e-mail address is njh3@earthlink.net.

Evangelea Spirounias, AS'96, of Watertown, Massachusetts, married Matt Kelly on June 12, 2004, in Portland, Maine. Rachael (Lott) Gelowski, BA'98, was a bridesmaid. Cristina (Nunes) Bettencourt, BPH'96, and Chris Vardo, BPH'97, attended the wedding. The honeymoon was in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. Spirounias, who is originally from Old Orchard Beach, Maine, is a corporate account manager at Harvard Business School Publishing.

Noel Texeira, CJ'96, of Foxborough, Massachusetts, was a guest of U.S. senator Ted Kennedy at the White House reception for the New England Patriots, which honored the team's victory in the 2004 Super Bowl.

Christopher Wernau, E'96, of Concord, Georgia, is a senior quality engineer at Gardner Denver, blower division, in Peachtree City. He formerly served as a quality engineer at Vernay Manufacturing. He and his wife, Belinda, E'97, live on a farm with their four sons, Andrew, Daniel, Erik, and Ferris.

January (Damon) Hattabaugh, BPH'97, of Leominster, Massachusetts, and her husband, Joe, welcomed the arrival of Cadence Riley on November 24, 2004.

Thomas Landry, CJ'97, of Canton, Michigan, is a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service. Previously assigned to the Detroit field office, he was transferred in May to the dignitary protective division in Washington, D.C.

Linda Lovejoy-Smith, N'97, of East Brookfield, Massachusetts, left her job at Harrington Memorial Hospital, in Southbridge, to spend time with her son, Stephen, who came home on leave from Iraq. Lovejoy-Smith previously worked at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, in Boston, and St. Vincent Hospital and UMass Memorial Medical Center, in Worcester.

Jonathan Violette and Tara (Toth) Violette, both BPH'97, of North Conway, New Hampshire, celebrated the birth of Lauren Elizabeth on December 17, 2004. Logan Philip is the baby's older brother.

Peter J. DeChaves, E'98, and Eileen (Marinella)

DeChaves, BPH'98, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Julia Eleanor, on March 18. They were married in October 2001.

James Dooley, BA'98, of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, earned an MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Management on June 3. He is a general manager in merchandising at Target.

Mark Doran, E'98, and Gale Marticio, BA'99, of Norwood, Massachusetts, are engaged to be married.

William Dube, AS'98, of Rochester, New York, writes, "I worked in Ohio for the John Kerry campaign. Even though we lost, it was a wonderful experience. I am now working on the Wade Norwood campaign. He is running for mayor in Rochester."

Mary Candler Freed, L'98, of Alexandria, Virginia, is an associate in the commercial litigation practice group at Venable. Katrina Gundal-Zaid and Ali Zaid, both E'98, of Lexington, Massachusetts, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Laila Frances, on March 9.

James Hurd, SET'98, of Littleton, Massachusetts, married Emily Smyth on May 14. Chris Chiumiento, E'98, was the best man, and Alex Urquizo, E'96, was the groomsman. Other Northeastern alumni in attendance included Corinna Balsamo, UC'74, UC'77; Robert Cicerchia, E'97; Rick Melloy, E'97; Claudio Capoccia, SET'98; Jeanine Chapman, AS'98; Lourie (Cruz) Sarcione, SET'98; and Roberto Burgos, SET'99. Hurd earned an MBA from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell this past spring. Hurd's e-mail address is jchurd@comcast.net.

Jessica (Bradford) Mulhall, BPH'98, and John Mulhall, E'98, of Ashburnham, Massachusetts, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Abigail Mary, on March 22 in Gardner. Zacharia A. El-Harouchy, BA'99, of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, writes, "If any of you ever come to the Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, or South Africa and need some contacts, it will be my pleasure to help." El-Harouchy is a deputy operations manager for conglomerate AP Moller-Maersk. His e-mail address is zachelharouchy@hotmail.com.

Dovie King, L'99, of Pasadena, California, writes, "I have taken over the Debtor Assistance Project at Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law office. I assist low-income debtors with all aspects of bankruptcy."

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Simone A. Bethge, GB'00, of Hessia, Germany, is a medical doctor at Klinikum Fulda Medical. She notes she became an MD and earned a PhD in 2002. She spent a year as an orthopedic surgeon in Frankfurt and switched to internal medicine in 2004. "My new favorite hobby is archery," she writes.

Amy Black and Christopher Wright, both BA'00, of Old Bridge, New Jersey, celebrated their fourth wedding anniversary on June 10. "We have volunteered to help out at some local New Jersey college fairs with the Northeastern admissions team," writes Black, who is a human resources consultant for talent acquisition and diversity at Verizon Wireless corporate headquarters. Her e-mail address is amy.r.black@verizonwireless.com.

Wright is a senior business information analyst at HSBC. His e-mail address is christopher.x.wright@us.hsbc.com.

Erick Cassie, UC'00, UC'03, of Lynn, Massachusetts, is a constable in Essex County, Massachusetts. He played the role of calligrapher Arthur Tappan on They Made America's "Rebels," part of WGBH-TV's The American Experience series.

Kevin Denis, ME'00, of Bowie, Maryland, writes, "I have taken a position at NASA Goddard to develop MEMS microshutter arrays as part of the NIR spectrometer on the James Webb Space Telescope (the website is <http://www.jwst.nasa.gov>). Its mission is to study the evolution of the early universe. It is scheduled to launch in 2011."

Marc Ian Federman, AS'00, of Malibu, California, married Annie Heller in March. He is studying audio postproduction for television and film at Modern Music, a music editing company in Los Angeles.

Joseph Louf, SET'00, writes, "Moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, just after graduation. I launched my own mortgage brokerage here and am set up now to broker Massachusetts and Florida. I never thought I would be at this point in my life, but thanks to NU's education and structure, I had an advantage over everyone around me. I worked harder for what I wanted. This weekend, we opened up during the local Youth Day, which we sponsored as our kickoff party. We also sponsor a local youth baseball program."

Michael Loughran, AS'00, of Orlando, Florida, writes, "Last year, I was hired by Walt Disney Company as an associate broadcast manager. Previously, I worked as a post-production supervisor for Lightship Entertainment, a local production company producing programming for the Travel Channel. In my current role, I market the Walt Disney Resort within programming on Disney-owned networks such as ABC,

Disney Channel, and ESPN."

Christopher Moezzi, MBA'00, is vice president of business development at Faraday Technology, a semiconductor company in Sunnyvale, California. He was previously senior director of strategic marketing at Conexant/Globespan.

Peter Szyjka, BA'00, of Quincy, Massachusetts, has opened a law practice. He specializes in trusts, wills, probate law, estate planning, prenuptial agreements, personal bankruptcy, small-business law, and European Union law.

Andy Trincia, MBA'00, of Long Beach, California, is a communications manager at the Boeing Company in Seal Beach. Trincia served for two years in the Peace Corps as a business volunteer in Romania. Prior to that, he held senior communication posts at Fidelity Investments and Wachovia Corporation.

Melissa Aiello, AS'01, of Rutherford, New Jersey, is an account executive with R&J Public Relations, in Bridgewater. Her clients are in the fields of health care, communications, and consumer electronics.

Dorothy A. (Wagner)Fraggetta, UC'01, of Beverly, Massachusetts, is a member of the client development team at Payrolls Plus, in Danvers. On May 14 and 15, she participated in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer and raised \$2,000. She can be reached by e-mail at dotfraggetta@comcast.net.

Sara Daniele Guardino, L'01, of Allston, Massachusetts, married Jeffrey Tristram Colket on April 9 at the Castle on the campus of Boston University. She is a lawyer at the Tobacco Control Resource Center, a nonprofit organization that supports anti-tobacco lawsuits and regulation. The organization is housed at the Northeastern School of Law, where Guardino serves as an adjunct professor on legal issues and public health.

Jason R. Harvey, BB'01, GB'02, of Warwick, Rhode Island, married Michelle Arabella Capone on October 8, 2004, in Portsmouth. They honeymooned in Hawaii. Harvey works at Elite Physical Therapy.

Domingos Lamas, BA'01, of Redondo Beach, California, spent a month in Africa during the past winter. "I spent a hundred percent of my time doing volunteer work with orphans, HIV patients, and youth with Burkitt's lymphoma. We had two armed robberies while I was there," he writes. "I am now sharing my experiences, raising funds, and looking at the needs in my area to start a project similar to the one in Africa." He can be reached by e-mail at dilamas@yahoo.com.

Carmelyn Malalis, L'01, of Brooklyn, New York, is an employment lawyer at Outten and Golden. She also is the cofounder of BABAE, an organization for Filipina survivors of violence in New York and New Jersey, the first and only program of its kind in the United States.

Andrea (Veneziano) Trembath, MS'01, of Pembroke, Massachusetts, married Justin Trembath in June 2004. They live in an 1840s farmhouse. She is the director of finance at Harvard University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Trembath notes she "spends free time working on house projects in Pembroke and Martha's Vineyard."

Diane Bellavance, PHD'02, of Boston, writes, "I am

currently teaching cyberlaw, policy, and society and also information technology for the PC at Lasell College, in Newton. My publisher is offering twenty-five pages of my PhD dissertation free online: It's titled 'Worker Resources as Capital in Computer Home-Based Work,' and is located at <http://www.lib.umi.com/dissertations/fullcit/3039561>."

Jane Elizabeth Boon, PHD'02, of New York City, married Norman Pearlstine on April 19. She is an engineering consultant who specializes in improving the flow of industrial products and materials. Her husband is the editor in chief of Time.

Kristi (De Young) Bosco, BA'02, and Louis Bosco, AS'02, of Malden, Massachusetts, were married on September 18, 2004. Kristi is a human resources administrator at Bloomingdale's in Chestnut Hill, and Louis is a case manager at Goodwill Industries.

Gretchen (Kaplinger) Duford BA'02, of Medford, Massachusetts, married Tom Duford on June 19, 2004. They enjoyed a three-week honeymoon.

Melanie Grandy, AS'02, of Bristol, Connecticut, earned a master's degree in biology from Boston College in December 2004. She is currently working at MIT.

Timothy Gray, BHS'02, and Michele Askew, BA'04, of Brighton, Massachusetts, are engaged to be married.

Patrice Lambert, AS'02, of Malverne, New York, writes, "After spending the last two years changing my profession and starting to work in the veterinary field, I have been accepted to veterinary school. This May, I began attending the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine as a member of the class of 2008."

Stephanie Marticello, BHS'02, of Watertown, Connecticut, is an epidemiologist with the Connecticut Department of Public Health immunization program. She earned a master's degree in public health from Yale University in 2004.

Julia Murphree, AS'02, of New York City, shares this account of what it's like to be a graduate who gives back to the co-op program: "While studying communication studies, I completed co-ops at various public relations agencies, including Weber Shandwick (formerly the Weber Group) and Allied Advertising. Because of my experience, I secured a job immediately after graduation as a fashion and beauty publicist at LaForce & Stevens, a top agency. After six months, I was promoted to account executive. A year later, I accepted a job as a senior account executive at another reputable agency, Bratskeir & Seidman. After eighteen months, I was promoted to account supervisor. I recently started a co-op program at our agency. Our first Northeastern co-op student, Sarah Buchine (a middler majoring in communication studies), completed her six months. She's thrilled by the experience she's gained. And last November, Stephanie Scheider, AS'03, moved to New York and started working at Bratskeir. She's been a tremendous addition to the agency. It's nice to have a little NU community here at Bratskeir."

Joseph Myers, AS'02, of Salt Lake City, writes, "I have recently moved from Boston with my fiancée, Sarah Caret. I am contracting for multiple Utah-based agencies and designing several high-profile websites. In our spare time, we are exploring the gorgeous Utah

backcountry on foot, bike, and skis with our Husky (Roxie) and Weimaraner (Blitz)."

Dan Nadworny, N'02, of Medford, Massachusetts, last spring recruited more than twenty Northeastern student volunteers for a mock disaster drill at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center emergency department, where he works.

Brian Richardson Smith, BA'02, of Newton, Massachusetts, received a master's certificate from Harvard University Extension School's Center for Special Studies in Business Administration on June 9.

Craig Standish, BA'02, of Syracuse, New York, married Lynne O'Connell on August 7, 2004, in Cohasset, Massachusetts. Standish is a second-year law student at the Syracuse University College of Law.

Michelle Stein, AS'02, of New York City, is engaged to Lucas Cucuccio.

Heather Ann Berg, AS'03, of Miramar, Florida, is engaged to David Merrill Harvey Jr. Berg is working toward a master's degree at Barry University, in Tampa, and plans to become a school psychologist.

Patrick Kavey, MS'03, of South Boston, is the New England managing director at Foundation Source, a provider of support services for private foundations. Previously, he was a vice president at Fidelity Investments Charitable Services.

Kathleen Elizabeth McWade, AS'03, of Winthrop, Massachusetts, ran the Boston Marathon last April in four hours, forty-nine minutes.

Elizabeth Mead, BA'03, and Ryan Levison, CJ'04, of Brighton, Massachusetts, are engaged to be married. Mead is a human resources generalist at Target in Milford. Levison is a security manager at Target in Woburn.

Mark Del Negro, CJ'03, of Agawam, Massachusetts, qualified to play in the U.S. Amateur Public Links Golf Tournament in July. The tourney is one of thirteen conducted each year by the U.S. Golf Association. He plans to turn professional within the next couple of years.

Margaret Amelia Buckingham, GB'04, of Lutz, Florida, is engaged to be married to Jeffrey Kent Christy. She is a speech language pathologist at the Boas Center, in Lutz.

Michael Kofman, AS'04, of Dorchester, Massachusetts, writes, "I have been accepted for a master's in Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. So I hope some of my classmates or political science buddies are kicking around in D.C. If you're working or studying in D.C., send me an e-mail so we can catch up." The address is mkofman@law.harvard.edu.

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Grace E. Felker, BB'26, March 1

Barnet Bookman, P'27, January 24

Josephine Schmaltz Harris, BB'28, September 28, 2004

Leo Ross, E'28, July 3, 2004

30s

Harold E. Everitt, E'31, July 17, 2004

Freeman W. Towers, E'31, December 21, 2004

M. Anthony Casella, E'32, March 12

William Triant, L'33, March 12

Norman H. Cooper, E'34, April 10

Cyrus T. Cunningham, E'34, January 27

Rose L. Sidman, L'35, February 7

Charles G. Lauckner, E'36, January 1

Harvey S. Brittain, E'38, November 15, 2003

Barbara W. Geyer, BB'38, November 1, 2004

Arnold B. Davis, E'39, February 15

R. Winston Gardner, E'39, February 13, 2004

40s

Max S. Geller, L'40, April 25

Raymond W. Julian, L'40, May 20

William R. MacDonough, LA'40, February 13

Carl F. Van Bennekom, E'40, December 30, 2003

Arthur Whittaker, L'40, March 30

John B. Baldasaro, BA'41, March 16

John J. Hayes, L'41, February 1

John F. Lovett Sr., E'41, April 2

Russell J. Rogers, E'41, November 5, 2004

Richard S. Sanderson, L'41, November 21, 2004

Cornelius M. Sullivan, LA'41, June 8, 2004

John E. Barclay, E'42, August 6, 2004

Pyrma Darrah Vezina, BB'42, August 14, 2004

Robert C. Campbell, BA'43, April 16

Calvin A. King, E'43, March 3

Henry L. Milo, E'43, March 6, 2004

Natalie W. Garrard, BB'44, February 8, 2004

John J. Kelley, E'45, November 30, 2004

Arthur White, LA'46, January 1

Irving Aronson, E'47, December 21, 2004

Ann M. Condron, BB'47, December 14, 2003

William H. Green, LA'47, September 19, 2004

Donald B. Thomas, E'47, November 23, 2003

Arthur H. Hansen, E'48, December 7, 2004

Earle C. Hazelwood, E'48, April 3

Carney M. Terzian, E'48, January 24

Alexander F. Webster, BA'48, February 13

Vico Alibrandi, LC'49, B'54, January 1, 2004

Charlotte Reines Aronson, LA'49, February 10

John W. Forrest, LC'49, B'50, January 1

George B. Gunderson, B'49, March 31, 2004

50s

Philip Brady, B'50, MBA'56, September 5, 2004

Lucia B. Frisk, BB'50, November 23, 2004

James W. MacFarlane, LC'50, B'53, March 15

Roland E. Paradis, LA'50, December 25, 2004

Fred J. Scalese, LC'50, April 22

Roy G. Berg, E'51, November 18, 2004

Lawrence A. Gomes, LA'51, December 25, 2004

Robert H. Turve, E'51, January 13

John J. Desveaux, B'52, January 11

Robert L. Devlin, LC'52, B'53, November 27, 2004

Theodore J. Paquette, LC'52, BB'54, MBA'57, January 12

David W. Paulson, E'52, January 24

Lawrence J. Murphy, LC'53, B'56, June 6, 2004

Robert E. Payson, BA'53, February 25

Robert M. Tully, B'53, January 1

James H. Bentley, B'54, February 26

James F. Broderick, B'54, March 25

Cleveland M. Coats, LC'54, B'58, May 7, 2004

Ross P. Federico, B'54, January 17

Walter V. Linden, LC'54, B'56, January 15

William R. Mulligan, LA'54, March 1

Douglas Richards, LA'54, September 24, 2004

Fred A. Rundlett, LA'54, June 29, 2004

Frank A. Battista, BA'55, June 2, 2004

William E. Grady, LC'55, B'57, MBA'86, January 16

John G. Pryor, E'55, March 24

S. Paul Simons, BA'55, February 9, 2004

Thomas E. Concannon, B'56, January 1

Joseph A. Dolan, LC'56, B'59, February 27

Robert L. Howie, B'56, November 24, 2004

Andrew W. McGowan, B'56, February 8

Andrew F. Sears, LC'56, B'59, MBA'69, December 2, 2004

Stanley T. Burak, E'57, September 27, 2003

C. Anthony Lauricella, LC'57, UC'61, December 24, 2003

Hugh N. Close, LC'58, B'59, March 4, 2004

Robert A. Dahms, BA'58, March 30

George Kechejian, E'58, May 9

Joseph F. Tencati, LC'58, B'60, May 20, 2004

Howard E. Boone, B'59, December 3, 2004

Leo L. Lima, MBA'59, December 14, 2004

Leo Morgan, LC'59, UC'62, December 16, 2003

60s

John Cadogan, LC'60, UC'63, February 15, 2004

Richard W. Dynan, B'60, September 8, 2004

Joseph J. Martori, LC'60, UC'66, February 19

Andrew P. Mimms, P'60, December 12, 2004

Janet K. Powers, Ed'60, December 6, 2003

Richard H. Woodward, LC'60, November 14, 2003

Donna Hendrickson, BB'61, April 23, 2004

James L. Marnell, UC'61, May 5

Charles R. Schmidt, LC'61, December 31, 2003

Paul G. Swindlehurst Sr., UC'61, February 28

Allan M. Brown, E'62, November 21, 2004

Frank Denton, LC'62, March 23

Sumner Gordon, Ed'62, April 11, 2004

Ralph V. Vinciguerra, LC'62, UC'63, March 24

James R. Crose, E'63, October 30, 2004

Michael Gianelli, BA'63, October 25, 2004

Richard E. Jones, MBA'63, February 20

William J. Sikoryak, LC'64, December 28, 2004

A. Paul Cameron, MBA'65, October 19, 2004

Philip Beilock, MBA'66, May 8

Vito W. Adamo, MA'67, December 10, 2004

James C. Chace, MEd'68, January 27

Fabio H. Colasacco, E'68, ME'69, February 12

Hervey J. Le Boeuf, LC'68, UC'71, MBA'76, January 8

Naomi Berger Davidson, MA'69, April 10

William D. O'Brien, BA'69, April 4, 2004

70s

Edward F. Forrest, UC'70, UC'74, May 28

Thomas C. Pond, ME'70, February 18, 2004

Adeline H. Rappaport, MEd'70, April 1, 2004

Mary M. Rossiter, MEd'70, March 13

Edward H. Kanter, MEd'71, October 24, 2004

Pamela Hunters Leonard, LA'71, December 6, 2004

William T. O'Brien, UC'71, UC'73, MA'75, September 16, 2004

John P. Bernardone, LC'72, March 12

William J. Hazen, ME'72, June 14, 2004

John Marigliano, LC'72, LC'77, November 23, 2004

Robert E. Lawler, UC'73, UC'76, September 20, 2004

Wing-Ar Moy, LA'73, October 24, 2004

Pauline Burke, BA'74, August 11, 2004

Dennis R. Moore, MA'74, January 24

Florence E. Saunders, LA'74, January 14

Sherman J. Weiss, LA'74, January 20, 2004

William Main, E'75, February 5

Stephen M. McLaughlin, UC'75, UC'78, January 8

Rudolph P. Massaro, ME'76, June 6, 2004

Ellen B. Robzen, PAH'76, December 12, 2004

Edward P. Hanway, UC'77, UC'78, April 6, 2004

Kevin R. Prendergast, E'77, May 23

Edward A. Totten, UC'77, UC'78, MPA'81, August 13, 2004

Joseph L. Curreri, UC'79, August 10, 2004

James W. Mattos, E'79, December 22, 2004

80s

Timothy P. Poirier, BA'80, January 6

Mary A. Doyle, ME'81, April 22

Henry Thaelke, CS'82, November 21, 2004

John B. Robinson, BA'84, February 25, 2004

Robert E. Nee, CJ'85, September 19, 2004

Andrea E. Revaz, UC'89, UC'95, June 23, 2004

90s

Linwood E. Clarke, UC'90, March 19

Laurie J. Holbrook, AS'91, March 9

Shannon S. Gibson, MJ'93, March 16, 2004

Paul M. Mazzorana, CJ'94, February 13

Ekaterina Tchoudnovskaia, AS'94, August 10, 2004

Thomas J. Brady, UC'95, November 18, 2004

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Tracey A. O'Hara, AS'02, February 23

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Francis Blessington

The American poet Carl Sandburg used to begin his readings with this anecdote. Two sailors are marooned on an island. Each decides to write a poem. The first sailor writes, "I lost my all/In the Bay of Bengal."

The second sailor writes, "I lost my shirt/In the Bay of Bengal."

The first sailor says, "That's not a poem. It doesn't even rhyme."

The second sailor says, "It's a better poem than yours. It's real, unlike that nonsense you wrote."

Sandburg's point was that poetry is not a place for needless exaggeration, and that one of its purposes is to purify language, put it more in line with reality.

More and more, however, the language we use and hear is inflated and manipulative. I call these flights of rhetoric "fictions."

The term has a specific and layered meaning. "Fiction" is not the same as "spin," which indicates interpretation. It's not "myth," which implies a total falsehood.

Instead, fictions are somewhat true, or—as some films claim—they're "based on a true story." They contain complex cultural and historical attitudes. They try to create a view of the world. They may masquerade as fact, but they're not fact. They are, quite simply, fictional.

It's not news that linguistic assumptions permeate our society. What's news is that so many of us—possibly because we live in a visual age—aren't aware of them. Yet these fictions work on us, especially if we're oblivious to them. Fictions can prevent us from thinking clearly, critically, and creatively, for they channel our thinking in rigid ways.

If we don't realize we are surrounded by fictions, we can make dangerous mistakes. As the Confucian text suggests, language is the first thing that goes corrupt in a society.

Let's examine some fictions that underlie our world.

Take the weather report. We know the facts: The Earth is a terrarium in which wind, water, and sun combine, fairly predictably, into a pattern of seasons. Once, weather reports tended to emphasize the positive. Today's rain will pass by tomorrow night; sunshine will return the day after. The former fiction of the weather report: "Storms never last."



Photo courtesy Francis Blessington

Post-9/11 weather reports tell us that although the rain will stop tomorrow night, a storm is brewing for next week, so stay tuned. The rhetoric: "Good weather doesn't last. A storm is always on the way."

The language becomes even more bloated during the winter, when a "monster" snowstorm is about to pounce on poor, helpless Boston.

I know simply telling New Englanders that, yes, it snows in February would take all the fun out of a coming storm. However, suggesting folks run out to buy blankets, flashlights, batteries, and canned food conjures the common fiction that "it's hell out there." Even rainstorms are sometimes accompanied by warnings of floods, high winds, and power outages. The weather hasn't changed, just the rhetoric.

Another recent fiction was borrowed from the classical world: The United States of America is an empire, more powerful than the Roman Empire, indeed, the most powerful empire of all time; it will soon rule the world unopposed. This fiction has been widely believed. But the difficulties of fighting terrorists after 9/11 and of winning a war against Iraq are indicating it may not have staying power.

Of course, fictions apply to many aspects of our lives, and many, like good stories, help us make sense out of the world. But fictions are useful for only so long.

As with all rhetoric, we have to ask ourselves why we are being told something, and why in this particular way. What purpose does the speaker have? Does he want my money, my vote, my approval, my condemnation, my body, or my soul? The essence of modern critical thinking is to realize that for every observation, there is an observer.

Fictions carried too far are destructive. For instance, a hatred of the New York Yankees too easily morphs into starting fires and wrecking cars after a baseball game. It can even be the excuse for violence against Yankee fans.

You may well disagree with all the examples I've offered here. I'm not interested in gaining your agreement, just your awareness. Find your own examples. Be alert to all that passes around you. Expand your critical thinking into other spheres; I've named only a few. Many more fictions exist in advertising, films, religion, and—alas!—the classroom.

I don't suggest you become a moral prig, ruin the party, or fail to enjoy the agreeable emotions that are generated by some of the rhetoric that surrounds you. But remember that a fiction is not an absolute truth. The mind needs flexibility, not dead and entrapping metaphors.

Since I started with the ideas of one poet, I'll end with the words of another, Frederick Langbridge: "Two men look out through the same bars: /One sees the mud, and one the stars."

Use your intellect to help others out of their prisons. Help them see more than mud or, even, stars. To think critically is to be alive.

Francis Blessington is a professor in the Department of English.

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Baby Talk

Want to know what your toddlers are babbling about? Just ask them.

Or so says Michelle Anthony, one of the founders of Signing Smart, a Denver-based program that helps parents and caregivers teach American Sign Language (ASL) to hearing children. "It's a wonderful way to have conversations with your six-month-old," says Anthony, who earned an ASL certificate at Northeastern in 1996.

ASL works for tykes because the gross motor skills needed for signing develop sooner than the fine motor skills needed for speech. "Children naturally reach and grasp before they talk," explains Anthony.

And teaching signs offers a bonus: You jump-start your children's language development. "At eighteen months," Anthony says, "most children know ten to fifty words. By contrast, kids from Signing Smart will know seventy-nine signs and a hundred and five spoken words."

Anthony began signing almost by accident. In the early 1990s, she was the director of the nursery program at the Wheeler School, in Providence, Rhode Island. "I was at a children's bookstore, and I noticed the book Signing with Kids. On a whim, I got it and started to use signs with my three-year-olds."

The result was a resounding success. "Our parents loved it," says Anthony. "We began teaching it to all three- and four-year-olds."

In 1993, while still teaching at Wheeler, Anthony enrolled in Northeastern's part-time ASL certificate program. "NU is one of the best interpreter schools in the country," she says. "If you're serious about sign language, go to NU."

Anthony helped to create Signing Smart in 2001; the program's offerings include classes and workshops all over the world. A book, Signing Smart with Babies and Toddlers: A Parent's Strategy and Activity Guide, which Anthony cowrote with Reyna Lindert, was published in May.

But beware: An infant's language acquisition brings its own set of problems. For instance, in a recent family photo (above), Anthony, her husband, and older daughter Kylie are smiling into the camera. But seven-month-old Maya, in her mother's arms, wants everyone to know she's tired. She's got her right palm on her right cheek. She's signing "bed."

Kids sign the darndest things.

- Katy Kramer, MA'00



Michelle Anthony and family
Photo courtesy Michelle Anthony



Michael DiFranza
Photo Courtesy Michael DiFranza

Playing to a Captive Audience

As a young entrepreneur-to-be in Everett, Massachusetts, Michael DiFranza, E'84, drew inspiration from the businesses on Main Street. "I grew up watching the fruit stand on the corner become the corner store, and then a chain of stores," says DiFranza. "These people didn't realize they weren't supposed to succeed."

So by 1997, with an anyone-can-be-CEO attitude, DiFranza was the general manager and founder of Captivate Network, the first company to bring on-screen advertising and other programming—such as news, entertainment, and stock market reports—into elevators. Now located in such high-end sites as the Sears Tower and the Empire State Building, Captivate's 5,800 screens reach more than 1.7 million people daily in eighteen major markets across the United States and Canada.

DiFranza says a "Eureka" moment led to his high-flying idea. After Northeastern, he'd gone on to amass fifteen years of media and marketing experience, and completed Harvard Business School's program for management development. Attending all those meetings and classes meant he was no stranger to lifts. "I had just come from a strategic meeting in Portland, Oregon, via San Francisco," he says. "I was standing in Waltham's Federal Street Tower elevator in a red-eyed haze. And I thought, "It would be great to have something to look at. Think of the audience you could reach."

Before you could say, "What floor, please?" DiFranza had left his job, lured two friends into his venture, built a prototype, and started raising capital. After nine months of ups and downs, Captivate was treating elevator riders at Boston's Seaport Hotel to something other than Muzak. Last year, DiFranza spearheaded his business's successful acquisition by the Gannett Company.

Though DiFranza's dad and older sister also attended Northeastern, his interest in entrepreneurship is a first-generation thing. "My kids grew up watching the start-up being built. It was part of their bedtime lore," he says.

Do innovators run in the family? "They do now," he quips.

— *Katy Kramer, MA'00*



Joseph Morley

Photo Courtesy Joseph Morley

The Good Food Fight

Joseph Morley, LA'74, has a lot on his plate: He serves upwards of a thousand dinners and as many snacks every week.

Morley is the food service director for Club Cafes, a program within the Boys and Girls Club of Syracuse, New York, which delivers food to three separate locations twice a day. The meals make a world of difference to kids who might otherwise not get enough to eat. Or who might munch goodies much less nutritious than the ones experienced chefs can prepare.

Hired three years ago to create the program, Morley plans the menus, works in conjunction with the Onondaga County Health Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and hires and trains staff. It's his cup of tea, but he doesn't do it single-handedly. "There is one staff member at each site, and the kids set up and clean up," he says. "It works pretty well."

Morley's job also involves hands-on, in-person management. So he spends a lot of time behind the wheel of his large-window van.

How'd an English major end up supervising and planning the kind of courses that have nothing to do with literature? During his Northeastern days, the Hartford, Connecticut, native worked in Brookline at the now-defunct Chez Rainier, assisting with food preparation and doing dishes.

Finding his calling—and a full-time job at Rainier after graduation—was the result. "I just fell into this," says Morley. "The chef was trained in France, and I learned his cooking technique. I enjoyed it right off the bat."

A melange of jobs followed: in Aspen, Colorado, where he worked as a chef and skied; in Michigan, where he learned about catering function-hall meals; and in Syracuse, where he was the chef at Sibley's. His gigs also included stints at SUNY-Cortland and Drumhams Country Club, part of Syracuse University.

Morley's three sons, two of them teenagers, demand culinary skills on the home front, too. Fortunately, his wife is an accomplished cook herself. "We take turns in the kitchen," he says.

Piece of cake.

- Katy Kramer, MA'00

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Check, Please: 1959

Amid the school year's hustle and bustle, there was one thing Eisenhower-era Huskies didn't need to keep track of: their outerwear.

That's because Mrs. Hedrick and Mrs. Raftus (above), and other dedicated attendants at the EII Student Center checkroom were happy to chaperone your coat and tchotchkes while you soaked up the chalk talk.

The service was a symbol of a more gracious era—and a handy alternative to schlepping your letterman's jacket to class. In fact, a stop at this storage shed was a vital part of each student's daily routine, according to an October 2, 1959, Northeastern News article.

What happened if you lost the brass token you'd been given in exchange for your chesterfield? It set you back a quarter. (A good deal, considering the token was actually worth forty cents.)

Of course, even the most perfect safeguard system couldn't save all absent-minded students from themselves. The Lost and Found office in Richards Hall routinely held as many as a dozen pairs of rubber boots.

Working at the checkroom had its excitements. The most exotic items that came in? The luxurious furs worn during frat initiations and football games. And—not surprisingly, given the daily contact—students would often confide their problems to the attendants, and ask for advice.

Sometimes, Mrs. Hedrick and Mrs. Raftus must have learned, keeping a secret under your hat is just as important as storing one.

— Magdalena Hernandez, MBA'02



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