



Northeastern University

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Northeastern University Alumni Magazine

Office of Marketing and Communications

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# Northeastern University alumni magazine: volume 32, number 1 (Fall 2006)

Northeastern University - Division of Marketing and Communication

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# Northeastern

ALUMNI MAGAZINE UNIVERSITY

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Fall 2006 • Volume 32, No. 1



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### An Absolute Commitment to Excellence

*In many key ways, say those who know him, new president Joseph Aoun is ideally equipped to shepherd Northeastern's continuing transformation.*

Photos by Jorg Meyer. Text By Karen Feldscher.

The compliments flow easily, one after another. Friends and coworkers describe him as urbane and worldly. Energetic. Warm. Friendly. Forward-thinking. Buoyant. Optimistic. A good listener. Community-oriented. A fundraising whiz.

And another thing: He played a huge role in turning the University of Southern California into a top-ranked school, in much the same way that Northeastern has been remaking itself.

By all accounts, Northeastern's seventh president, fifty-three-year-old Joseph Aoun, is an excellent fit for the university.

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### "An Absolute Commitment to Excellence"

*In many key ways, say those who know him, new president Joseph Aoun is ideally equipped to shepherd Northeastern's continuing transformation.*

By Karen Feldscher

The compliments flow easily, one after another. Friends and coworkers describe him as urbane and worldly. Energetic. Warm. Friendly. Forward-thinking. Buoyant. Optimistic. A good listener. Community-oriented. A fundraising whiz.

And another thing: He played a huge role in turning the University of Southern California into a top-ranked school, in much the same way that Northeastern has been remaking itself.

By all accounts, Northeastern's seventh president, fifty-three-year-old Joseph Aoun, is an excellent fit for the university.

An internationally known linguistics scholar, Aoun served for the past six years as dean of USC's College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, before being chosen to succeed Northeastern's outgoing president, Richard Freeland.

The \$385 million operation he oversaw at USC—Letters, Arts, and Sciences is the largest of nineteen schools, with more than forty-five academic departments and programs, nearly 7,000 undergraduates, and 1,000 graduate students in some forty-four PhD programs—is roughly comparable in size to Northeastern, a \$600 million enterprise with about 15,000 undergraduates and 3,000 graduate students.

There are other striking similarities. Both USC and Northeastern are private urban universities. At USC, Aoun led a \$100 million academic initiative to bring top-notch professors to the university; Northeastern is in the midst of a similar \$75 million initiative to hire a hundred new tenure-track faculty.

Aoun strengthened community ties between USC and its neighbors—a key goal for Northeastern. And Northeastern, as it strives to enter the ranks of the nation's top universities and stay affordable to a wide variety of students amid rising tuition costs, is definitely interested in tapping its new president's acknowledged fundraising skills.

"I think it is a wonderful find for Northeastern, someone whose experience aligns so well with our program," Board of Trustees chair Neal Finnegan told the Boston Globe after Aoun's appointment was announced in June.

"The trustees and selection committee probably saw the transformation of USC over the last twenty years, and saw the profile and the activity between USC and Northeastern are very similar," notes USC history professor Kevin Starr, a former California state



Photos

by Jorg Meyer

librarian.

After spending nearly twenty-five years at USC, Aoun undoubtedly views the eastward move as a bit of an uproot. But, he says, the opportunity to help steer a university on a dramatic upward trajectory was irresistible. At his June 1 address to the university community, many of whom had crammed into the Curry Student Center to get a first look at the president-elect, Aoun called Northeastern "an exciting university that has tremendous, tremendous momentum."

Such momentum, he added, "is a precious commodity that most universities try to have. It involves innovation, risk-taking, and commitment. And that's what attracted me."

#### **A complete package**

The search committee's seventeen members were impressed with Aoun from the start.

George Chamillard, UC'66, MBA'70, chair of the board of directors at Teradyne, led the committee. He recalls Aoun telling them that he considered his job at USC one of the greatest jobs in education, and that if he were to leave, it would have to be for a place that wants change.

"And we put our hands up and said, 'We want change,'" Chamillard says.

"The fact is, Joseph Aoun was absolutely extraordinary in an extraordinary pool of candidates," says Barry Bluestone, the Stearns Trustee Professor of Political Economy, another search-committee member. "We were all incredibly thrilled with the quality of the overall pool. This is a credit to President Freeland's leadership, that Northeastern is at a point where such an incredible array of people would be interested in being its president."

What did the committee see in Joseph Aoun? Quite simply, says Chamillard, he had all the strengths Northeastern was looking for: A first-rate academic. An expert recruiter.

A skillful, experienced manager of a large organization. A proven fundraiser—last year, Aoun brought in \$40 million for USC, part of an initiative to raise \$400 million over five years (close to \$200 million has already been raised). Someone who understands the need for universities to work closely with their surrounding communities.

Says Bluestone, "My last comment, as I smiled at some of my new friends around the [search-committee] table, was, 'My friends, we're not playing in Pawtucket anymore. We're playing at Fenway Park.'"

Picking up on the baseball theme, Peter Kunzel, the search committee's student representative, presented Aoun with a Huskies baseball jersey and cap at the meet-and-greet in June. He was thrilled when the incoming president instantly put them on. "That was great," says the middler majoring in criminal justice.

The crowd in the Student Center thought so, too. As Aoun modeled his new duds, the place rang with applause.

**"Very culturally textured"**

Colleagues call the new president (whose last name is pronounced "Ah-oon") a true citizen of the world. Now an American citizen, he was born in Lebanon, the son of an investment banker, and educated at a Jesuit school, adding fluency in French and English to his native Arabic.

Aoun earned degrees at St. Joseph University in Beirut in 1975 and at the University of Paris in 1977. He came to the United States to do doctoral work in linguistics and philosophy at MIT, studying with linguistics megastars Noam Chomsky and Morris Halle. After receiving his PhD in 1981, he taught briefly at UMassAmherst before beginning his professorial career at USC in 1982.



Elected president of USC's Academic Senate in 1993, Aoun took on several other administrative positions before being named dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences in 2000.

"Joseph is a very elegant man, without being affected," says USC's Starr. "There are many layers to him. There's the Lebanese layer. He was educated by French Jesuits in Lebanon, so there's the Catholic layer. He grew up speaking fluent French, Arabic, and English, then had a period of education in France. Then he got a doctorate at MIT. Then spent twenty-five years in Los Angeles. All these experiences pooled together make for a very culturally textured man, a man of great subtlety and of great personal elegance and vigor."

Aoun calls his experience at MIT pivotal. "Studying with Noam Chomsky was a very exciting opportunity in my life," he says. "MIT was a focal point for linguistics studies. We had visitors from all over the world, so it was a very vibrant place. Chomsky was clearly a towering figure. So was Morris Halle.

"But what's interesting is that, from day one, the students were all treated like colleagues," he says. "It was an atmosphere of peers. We were expected not only to contribute but also to build the theory that was being formulated, and to criticize any weakness we saw, whether it was coming from faculty, a visitor, or a student."

Aoun and his wife, Zeina, who at the time of her husband's NU appointment was working at USC as a senior financial analyst, both underscore how much experiencing various cultures and locales adds to their lives. "My parents stressed from day one the importance of education and culture," says Aoun. "And we find that being steeped in various cultures allows you to appreciate the culture you live in."

According to Starr, Aoun can appear slightly reserved. "There's a strong streak of the European in him," he says. "But he's not a stuffed shirt. He's good-humored and friendly."

Zeina also is "smart and friendly," says Starr, and he calls the Aoun sons, Joseph and Adrian, both born in France, "charming and entrepreneurial." Joseph, twenty-five, is starting his second year of law school at USC. Adrian, twenty-three, just finished a master's in electrical engineering at USC; his mother reports he's already running two companies.

Asked about the move to Boston, Zeina says such a transition "is never easy, but what makes it easier is that we're looking forward to something wonderful and exciting." Having studied political philosophy at the University of Paris and worked in international banking, she isn't sure what her next job might be. "At this point in my life, I only know what I'm doing tomorrow," she says.

Wherever she ends up working, she says she and her husband intend to participate in Boston's cultural life. Over the years in Los Angeles, they've been regular visitors to the opera, the symphony, museums. "We like to keep in touch with the cultural world around us," she says. "We also find time to work out, to manage the stress."

Not surprisingly, the Aouns love traveling to different corners of the globe. "My favorite is the southern part of France," says Zeina. Her husband? "He likes to go everywhere," she says.

When asked about memorable trips, Aoun says he particularly loved China. Visiting there in 1983, he says, "you could see the beginning of enormous change that was about to occur. They were beginning to open the doors of China to the world."

#### **Unerring academic instincts**

Faculty buzz about the new president, both from Northeasterners in the know and USC professors, has been unabashedly positive.

Aoun, says Chamillard, has developed USC's College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences into "an academic powerhouse."

"He's a remarkable man," Starr says. "As dean, he launched a rather amazing initiative to take some \$100 million and recruit top faculty to USC. He recruited people from the Sorbonne, in Paris; from Oxford University; from Princeton; from MIT, Cornell, and Berkeley. He looked for people who were looking for new challenges, and did a very astute job of recruiting. He also brought in newly minted young assistant professors and other distinguished professors. He really transformed the college.

"Before that," Starr continues, "USC was in many ways a confederation of professional schools, with the college not exactly at the center. The professional schools—such as the law school, the medical school, and the school of cinema-television—have very strong identities. Joseph devoted himself to bringing the college up to that point of excellence, and then positioning it into the center of USC. So the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences is now in the best shape it has been in since 1880, when it was founded."

According to a description on the USC website, under Aoun's leadership the college strengthened programs in earth sciences and earthquakes, and launched studies in an entirely new field, geobiology. He also helped boost programs in urban studies, global studies, economics, art history, and the humanities.



Successful recruiting, Aoun says, requires strong involvement from current faculty: "They know the field well, and they can spot the leaders."

He also believes it's crucial to show prospective faculty, who may already hold prestigious positions at other universities, why moving to a new institution would be good for them. "They will come to your institution if they feel you are charting an exciting path with respect to their field and the institution as a whole," Aoun explains.

"If you offer to duplicate what they have, they are not interested, and rightly so," he says. "If you work with them on building new vision, new strategy, that is much more exciting. That is what attracts faculty from outside."

Chaibong Hahm, who directs USC's Korean Studies Institute, says he got sold on the idea of moving to USC, bypassing other good jobs that were beckoning, because Aoun seemed truly to understand how the Korean community in Los Angeles was evolving, and how a USC institute could play a major role in its life.

Carla Kaplan, Northeastern's new Davis Distinguished Professor of American Literature, is a former faculty member at USC, hired there by Aoun. He "really understood," she says, "how central it is to have excellent faculty. He had this wonderful knack for hiring good people and then letting them do their work."

For many years, USC labored in the shadow of its better-known neighbor, UCLA. In fact, USC was occasionally—and cheekily—referred to as the "University of Second Choice." But by 2005, USC had made it to 30 in the U.S. News & World Report ranking of national universities (in comparison, Northeastern was listed at 115 in 2005).

To ensure the growth would continue, Aoun in fall 2005 launched a \$400 million, five-year Letters, Arts, and Sciences fundraising campaign, which has already netted nearly half of its targeted goal.

Last year, Aoun helped raise \$40 million, up from the college's previous annual average of \$18 million. By June 2006, the college had surpassed its 2005 total. In addition, during the six years Aoun was dean, sponsored research jumped by 50 percent.

"Aoun has been really impressive in both getting the

right people and providing them with the resources to carry out their vision," says Hahm.

Dominique Sportiche, a UCLA linguistics professor with whom Aoun studied at MIT and one of his current research partners, calls his colleague "a scholar and administrator of exceptional distinction." Aoun, Sportiche says, has "an outstanding ability for strategic thinking and a very clear sense of priorities. And he's a great listener, with his two feet firmly planted on the ground and an uncanny ability to very quickly zero in on the essentials."

In addition to deftly handling a large academic operation, Aoun simultaneously maintained research and teaching duties, an unusual feat for any busy administrator (even one known to carry not one BlackBerry but two).

He's not just interested in furthering his own research; he's also fascinated by the scholarship of others. Last June, for instance, Aoun was reading Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain, by neurologist Antonio Damasio (who this year became the director of USC's Brain and Creativity Institute); Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed, by Jared Diamond; and Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything, by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner.

The man who promoted Aoun to dean at USC, provost emeritus and university professor of physics Lloyd Armstrong, says, "Very few deans can still keep up to date and, in fact, visible in their academic field. But Joseph recently published a major book in linguistics. He just keeps rolling along."

"I don't sleep much," Aoun admits with a laugh.

In all, he has authored or coauthored seven books and more than forty articles, in addition to lecturing at leading universities in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and editing several major journals.

Aoun's "intellectual powers and talent for research make collaboration exciting and challenging," Sportiche says.

Janet Randall, an associate professor of linguistics at Northeastern, studied alongside Aoun at MIT. She calls him "academically top-drawer."

"I know he's done a lot of fundraising," she says. "But I know him as an intellectual and as a linguistic academician. Linguistics is a really hard field to pursue—it's not easy stuff [see sidebar, page 32]. He's a researcher, a scientist, and he's very good.

"He knows what good research is, and he understands what faculty need."

#### **Reaching out to others**

Aoun has also proved adept at community relations. In addition to establishing the Korean Studies Institute at USC, he created a similar setting for Armenian studies. The pair of institutes aim to forge ties between the university and its neighbors.

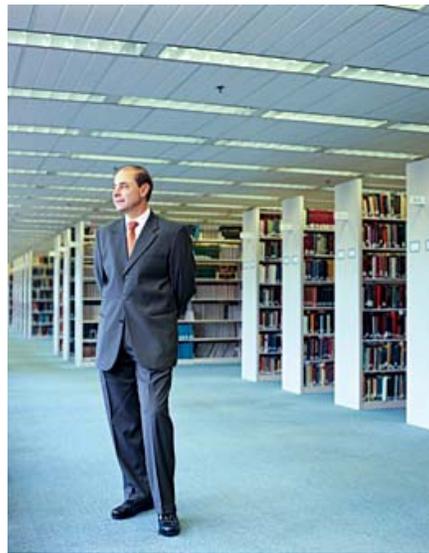
This will help the Korean and Armenian communities assume larger roles in Los Angeles and throughout the nation, Aoun believes. At the time of his departure from USC, he was also working on establishing an African American institute and a Hispanic institute. Key backing for such centers doesn't just come from alums,

he notes. Members of the community can also be very generous with their support.

In other efforts to connect USC with the larger world, Aoun oversaw the creation of partnerships with the Huntington Library, the Getty Research Institute, and the Shoah Foundation, which became part of the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences earlier this year.

"I have tried to build an environment where my institution is viewed as a resource for the community," he explains. "At the same time, I want our institution to view the community as a resource."

Both USC and Northeastern "are committed to the urban dimension and the community," Aoun says. "Northeastern has played a big role in the life of the city, and I hope it will continue."



As he takes the reins at Northeastern, the new president will be stepping into a delicate community-relations situation. Like most urban universities, Northeastern has grappled with issues around student misbehavior and campus expansion into surrounding neighborhoods.

Months of talks among Northeastern representatives, city officials, and neighbors have led to plans, still under discussion, to erect two new high-rise dorms in 2009 and 2011, with the goal of moving more students out of leased apartments and into campus housing. The university hopes these plans will help ease neighborhood concerns.

Aoun is well aware of such issues. Los Angeles officials have also talked to USC about building more dorms. "And when you do that, you want to be cognizant of the needs of the community," he says.

Once he's settled in Boston, Aoun says he'll visit every neighborhood around Northeastern. "I believe that neighbors are very important, so I would like to get to know them," he says, "to get to build trust and a good working relationship."

Aoun also wants to build good relationships with students. In fact, he hopes to involve them closely in university life.

"We have to look at students as a source of innovation and ideas," he said at a June press conference. "I

realized very quickly in my tenure as a dean at USC that students have great ideas. We agreed to launch a dean's prize, focusing on soliciting ideas from students about improving student life. But it's not enough to have great ideas. You have to imagine how you can implement them, too. So, when students submit these proposals, we not only ask for a great idea but whether the idea is feasible."

Aoun hopes to ramp up students' academic involvement as well. "I feel that we have focused in higher education on looking at students as passive learners," he says. "It is not enough. Students are innovators. We need to look at them as knowledge creators, because we need to educate a community of creative citizens."

Finally, Aoun intends to make strong connections with alumni. "I consider them to be ambassadors for Northeastern," he says. "I will work hard to meet with as many as I can."

"Although," he adds with a laugh, "I will not be able to meet with all 160,000 in the first year."

#### **A homegrown vision**

Aoun makes it clear that he appreciates what makes Northeastern special among national universities—its commitment to practice-oriented education.

"Northeastern has the vision to chart its own path, blaze its own trail," he says. "The Northeastern approach to undergraduate education is an approach that marries and blends practice and study. I think this is very bold and very special."

"I have also felt, over the years, that this is something that other universities will copy," the new president says. "As a matter of fact, they are already copying it. And, frankly, Northeastern wrote the book."

It's simple, says Aoun, to pinpoint Northeastern's most important priority over the next five years: "an absolute commitment to excellence."

His first order of business, he says, will be to "absorb the culture" of Northeastern. "I need to be in a listening mode, to understand the aspirations of the stakeholders, whether they're students, alumni, faculty, staff, administration, the Board of Trustees, or the community."

He adds, "Moving the agenda forward is a collective effort that requires all the stakeholders to feel ownership. It is not a one-person situation. The president is only a catalyst and an enabler."

Armstrong, the former USC provost, recognizes Aoun has been a huge booster at USC and admits, "It's a little scary when someone like that leaves." But, he says, USC's loss will be Northeastern's gain.

"He will come to understand the legacy of the university—where it is, how it got there, what its strengths are, what the opportunities are in the region—and he will put it together, I expect, in a wonderful strategic vision."

"I know the university has done remarkably well over the last decade or so," Armstrong says. "And while it's always hard to continue a creative success, I think Aoun is a person who can make that happen."

*Karen Feldscher is a senior writer.*

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### What's in a Word?

You've read that new president Joseph Aoun is an internationally known scholar in linguistics. And some of you are no doubt thinking, Linguistics . . . what is that, exactly?

Well, in a nutshell, it's the scientific study of human language. Linguists examine the structures, sounds, forms, functions, and varieties of specific languages and speech in general.

Aoun himself explains, "Linguistics tries to analyze and describe the knowledge that human beings have in terms of language that other species don't have. It also asks, Where does our knowledge about language come from?"

A relatively young area of inquiry, linguistics is acknowledged even by linguists to be rather complex, and is only slowly working its way into popular discourse. As associate linguistics professor Janet Randall points out, the field's best-known book, Steven Pinker's *The Language Instinct*, was published just twelve years ago, in 1994.

One of the more prevalent linguistics theories is the "universal grammar" idea developed by Noam Chomsky (Aoun, Randall, and Pinker all studied under Chomsky at MIT). It holds that children are born with innate knowledge of a basic grammatical structure common to all human languages. The Chomskian view isn't universally accepted, however. Some experts argue that language acquisition falls less under "nature," more under "nurture."

At the broadest level, linguistics study tends to be either theoretical or applied. Theoretical linguistics looks for general frameworks that describe individual languages and universal aspects of language. Applied linguistics seeks answers to practical problems, such as language instruction, speech synthesis and recognition (resulting, say, in a garage door that can open when you tell it to), or speech therapy.

Linguists may also specialize in subfields. For instance, those who study sound may specialize in phonology, the study of patterns in a language's basic sounds (a language that's missing the "f" sound, it turns out, will likely lack the "v" sound as well).

Or they may specialize in morphology, studying the internal structure of words (why the word "untieable" means both "able to be untied" and "not able to be tied") or the formation of compounds (why we say "fax machine toner cartridge" instead of "toner cartridge fax machine").

Semanticists focus on meaning—sentence logic, for example. Psycholinguists study the cognitive processes underlying language use, such as why certain sentences are harder to understand than others (like this grammatical but practically unparseable example: "The bike the guy my sister likes fixed broke again"). Sociolinguists study how language and culture are related and how language is used in different social contexts.

For his part, Aoun is a theoretical linguist specializing in syntax, the so-called skeleton of languages.

"An analogy can be made to physiology," he says. "All human beings are created from the same mold, even though no two are exactly alike. The field of generative grammar, launched by Noam Chomsky, shows that all languages are created from the same mold."

"English differs from French, or Chinese, or Hebrew," says Aoun. "But our job as linguists is to show what is universal. And linguistics studies have implications for learning, teaching, speech therapy, speech recognition, and for language deficiencies and impairments."

Aoun was drawn to the field for two reasons. "It's about the importance of studying something unique to the human species," he says, "while at the same time approaching it with formal rigor."

— *Karen Feldscher*

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### Root, Root, Root, for the Home Team

*What's the best sports town in America? Ask a couple of baseball-loving economists, and the answer becomes clear.*

By John Kwoka

True, economics isn't usually known for its lighter side.

I may be thoroughly absorbed by my research into electricity deregulation, antitrust policy, and drug advertising. But I understand not everyone is equally interested in regional transmission organizations, data envelopment analysis, and advertising/sales ratios.

Occasionally, though, even economists delve into areas that, whatever their importance, offer a bit of pure fun. For instance, this question: What is the best sports town in the United States?

You may think this is an issue best discussed in the company of your friends, a widescreen TV, and your favorite beverage. I can report, however, that economics is able to cast a lot of light on the question, maybe even resolve it—not that any economics answer would ever end the fierce debate.

Pinpointing the top sports town is something that PhD student Kamen Madjarov and I have been working on since 2003, when Northeastern held a conference, organized by law professor Roger Abrams, to honor the hundredth anniversary of the first World Series.

That inaugural Series, which the Boston team won, is of historical significance to Northeastern because Boston's home games were played at the Huntington Avenue Grounds, on land that's now part of campus. The pitcher's mound was located about where the bronze statue of Cy Young stands today, near Churchill Hall's entrance.

To contribute to the World Series conference, I offered to apply some economics to the question of Boston's sports reputation. Then I watched as the project gathered momentum and eventually got a bit out of hand.



Illustrations by Mark Steele



I'll explain all that later. First, a little background.

Everyone talks about what a terrific sports town Boston is, of course, but testing this assertion through the standard economic techniques of modeling and empirical analysis required several steps.

Step one was figuring out what, exactly, constitutes a great sports town. Clearly, it's not just having a good professional team. Many cities have fine pro teams that aren't supported by fans, which sometimes causes these teams to relocate to more hospitable towns.

This suggests the key to what makes a sports town great: loyal fans. Loyal fans come to games even when their team's performance and competitiveness start to falter. Fair-weather fans—who show up when a team is winning but drift off to other interests during the lean times—do not a great sports town make.

If loyal fans are the starting point, step two was translating the notion of team loyalty into a measurable variable that would allow us to compare cities. We looked at baseball for three reasons: Most debates about sports towns involve baseball; it's the sport that has the most data; and, obviously, it was the focus of the 2003 conference.

We measured loyalty by how well home attendance for each of the thirty Major League Baseball teams held up during the second half of the season. This is when more and more teams start to fall behind their division leaders, when making the playoffs may seem more and more unlikely (something long-standing Red Sox fans have become used to). This is also when fair-weather fans start to find other activities.

More technically (we are economists, after all), we estimated the attendance elasticity—the rate of attendance drop-off—during the last half of each team's home season. A low attendance elasticity implies a team's fans are loyal.

For step three, we needed data—lots and lots of data. For the purposes of the conference, we looked at 2002 attendance records for every home game played by every major league team. Since small stadiums like Fenway Park frequently sell out, the data were adjusted to account for stadium capacity.

When we correlated each team's attendance figures at every home game with its numbers of games-behind, we found that, in 2002, Red Sox fans really did seem to show up in greater proportions, even as their team fell farther and farther behind in the standings.

By our loyalty measure, the Red Sox seemed to be playing in the best sports town in America.

We presented this result at the end of the conference, a fitting conclusion to a commemoration of Boston's baseball history.



But our result only whetted Kamen's appetite. He was determined to test our finding further, and so, over the following months, he extended the data set to cover many more years. This allowed us to better capture patterns of fan behavior over time as well as between cities. We ended up with data on every major league game played between 1974 and 2003, a total of 62,336 games.

That's right: 62,336.

As before, the data set for each of these games included the home team's games-behind figure. This time, though, we also measured a variety of other factors that could affect attendance.

For instance, was it a day or a night game? A weekday or a weekend game? A doubleheader? A game against a same-division opponent? An interleague game? We noted the size and age of each stadium and whether the city had an NBA, an NFL, or an NHL franchise.

Finally, Kamen researched the temperature and rainfall recorded by the weather-reporting station nearest a baseball stadium for every one of the 62,336 days when games were played.

I believe it was at this point I realized our modest little exercise had gotten completely out of hand.

The rest of our work was actually pretty straightforward. We statistically estimated a demand function for baseball attendance and examined the separate impact of each of the factors.

We found that, more than any other variable, games-behind matters. It's the factor that most affects attendance. If a team falls too far behind its division leader in the latter part of a season, interest wanes, and attendance declines. All fans in all cities like to see a winner.

Interestingly, a visitor's games-behind also matters, and not the way you might expect. Fans actually prefer a stronger visiting team. They want to watch the home team win, of course, but they also want to think a game is going to be somewhat competitive, not a near-certain victory (games at Fenway Park when the New

York Yankees come to town may be an exception to this rule).

Our results gave us some fascinating insights into other factors. Weekday games have lower attendance—12.3 percent lower, to be specific. Doubleheaders have 6.3 percent greater attendance. Divisional games are associated with slightly lower attendance; interleague play raises attendance by about 4.5 percent.

Every year a ballpark ages reduces attendance by about one third of 1 percent, meaning a ten-year-old venue will attract about 3.4 percent fewer fans. Small wonder new parks are in such vogue—although whether they are worth their cost is an entirely different question.

Kamen's efforts to measure weather conditions were rewarded. The data showed that, other things being equal, fans definitely don't like cool or rainy weather.

A city's alternative sports attractions have a big impact, too. The presence of either an NBA or an NFL franchise lowers baseball attendance by nearly 2 percent. An NHL franchise makes no real difference, probably because, at least until recently, hockey and baseball seasons didn't overlap.

Overall, though, our reams of research proved that games-behind is the factor with the largest impact on attendance.

Now, to the big question: Which major league team has attendance that holds up best when the team does not play well?

Our statistical model answered that question precisely, by calculating the elasticities of each team's home attendance with respect to its games-behind over the entire period of 1974 to 2003. We looked for the team with the smallest elasticity. That's the team with the most loyal fans.

And the answer is—drum roll, please—the Boston Red Sox! For every additional game behind that Boston was, relative to its division leader, 0.2 percent fewer fans showed up. In other words, if the Red Sox were ten games out, they filled 2 percent fewer seats. That's only about seven hundred fewer fans, a pretty small drop-off.

Before you think we cooked this result, I should say we were actually surprised by it. Boston's claim to best sports-town status has always seemed more based in repeated assertion than in hard evidence. We thought we might have arrived at a statistical fluke.

So we checked to see which team our model showed as having the second most loyal fans during this period. Sure enough, just as baseball aficionados would guess, it's the Chicago Cubs. Finding this, we were convinced we were measuring the real thing.

In fact, we are forced to admit that, if you look at just the past ten years, Cubs fans may have been slightly more loyal than Red Sox fans. But Sox fans definitely get the prize if you consider the entire thirty-year period.

So there you have it: Boston really is the best sports town in the United States.

Lots of people already believed this. We're pleased we've been able to "prove" it with economics. I know that won't stop many of you from arguing your opinion with friends at local debating venues. Still others, preferring the fieldwork approach, will go to games at Fenway Park as often as possible.

As an economist and a fan, I personally endorse all these approaches.

*John Kwoka is the Neal F. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Economics. When not dabbling in sports economics, he teaches and does research into industry economics, antitrust, and regulation.*

MAGAZINE HOME

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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# Northeastern

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#### You Talk Back

*The 2006 Northeastern University Alumni Magazine readership-survey results are in. Your satisfaction remains high, but some surprises keep us on our toes.*

By Magdalena Hernandez

Ensuring Northeastern University Alumni Magazine stays fresh and stimulating—in name as well as in content (more on that in a little bit)—is a labor of love.

The accomplishments of 160,000-plus Northeastern graduates supply us with an endless choice of remarkable stories. So do the academic advancements and exciting events happening on campus. But how do we really know whether our readers are, as the kids say, feeling it?

Well, you helped us out there, too.

Last spring, we sent a questionnaire about the magazine to a random sample of our audience. More than four hundred of you replied. Your feedback gave us invaluable guidance on what's working, what we need to improve, and what stories you want us to cover.

What did we learn? Read on. The findings don't just shed light on the magazine. They'll also introduce you to you.

#### You like us . . . you really like us

The magazine continues to earn very high praise from readers. Ninety-five percent of you rate the overall quality of the magazine as either "excellent" or "good," up two percentage points from our last survey, conducted in 2000.

You also give the magazine high ratings for particular areas. The combined "excellent" and "good" ratings for writing and content are 97 percent and 94 percent, respectively. For design/layout and photography, the combined "excellent" and "good" ratings are 93 percent and 92 percent, respectively.

Acclaim for the magazine's illustrations is slightly more muted, yet even here 87 percent of you vote "excellent" or "good."

None of you rates the magazine "poor" in any respect.

Seventy percent of you say you read or looked through each of our last four issues. Twenty-six percent report you typically spend at least one hour reading or looking through every issue.

We asked what subjects you find of greatest interest. The two most popular topics are alumni profiles and

university news (according to 67 and 62 percent of you, respectively), followed by university history (53 percent), faculty profiles (47 percent), first-person accounts by alumni (45 percent), and campus controversies (43 percent).

Your top three sections of the magazine? You voted for Classes/Alumni Update (78 percent), feature stories

(60 percent), and Huskiana (47 percent). Next in line are From the Field and Sports (both at 35 percent), and Alumni Passages and Letters (both at 33 percent).

Holding down the low end of the popularity scale are Books and Crossword, with just 17 and 8 percent, respectively, dubbing them "of greatest interest."

#### **Generation gap**

Tastes change with age—that's no secret. Even so, we were surprised at the extent to which different age groups favored different sections and story kinds.

For instance, From the Field, the magazine's faculty-research column, is "of greatest interest" to 43 percent of you who are under thirty-five. But only 24 percent of those sixty-five and older say the same thing. On the other hand, Letters attracts 51 percent of the sixty-five-plus set and only 18 percent of those under thirty-five.

Fifty-four percent of you who are sixty-five and older are especially interested in first-person accounts written by alums, compared with just 33 percent of the under thirty-fivers. Seventy-two percent of you who are thirty-five to forty-four greatly enjoy alumni profiles, compared with just 54 percent of those age sixty-five and older.

And ties to the current crop of students seem to loosen as you mature. Stories about campus and student life grab the attention of 38 percent of the under thirty-five group, while only 10 percent of those sixty-five and older apply the "of greatest interest" label to these stories.

Of the sections that rank highest in popularity, our feature stories enjoy the most consistent support across all the age groups, young and old.

#### **Husky identification**

The great majority of you— 81 percent—say the magazine helps you stay connected to what's happening at Northeastern (only 4 percent of you disagree with this statement).

Sixty-nine percent say the magazine makes you proud to be associated with your alma mater (something only 2 percent of you disagree with).

Eleven percent say you've attended an alumni event you read about in the magazine. The most mentioned outings were reunion-related activities (including Northeastern Night at the Pops), sporting events, and seminars.

Is the magazine "just another fundraising vehicle" sent to you by your alma mater? Happily, only 11 percent of you agree with this statement.

In the same vein, only 8 percent of you agree with the statement "[the magazine] does not have a lot of

substance," proving you see value and significance in the stories we bring you.

**Pay it forward**

Huskies report they like to share this wealth. Forty percent of you say at least one other member in your household reads or looks at the magazine.

And ever see a copy of the magazine at your gym or your dentist's office? That's because 10 percent of you bring the magazine to a place of business for others to read, and 7 percent share copies with a family member or a friend.

Of course, others prefer to keep a good thing close at hand. Sixty-five percent of you hold on to copies of the magazine at least a week, and one in six (17 percent) says you keep them more than four weeks.

After reading the magazine, almost one in five of you (19 percent) saves it for future reference. Another 17 percent of you keep specific articles.

**The intersection of Huntington and Madison Avenues**

Our large alumni body and their proclivity for sharing the magazine with others create a sizable readership, making the magazine an attractive vehicle for advertisers.

One in ten of you says you've purchased a product or a service you've seen advertised in the magazine.

Even more of you (14 percent) have cut out an advertisement, visited an advertised business or website, or requested more information about an advertised product or service.

**A rose by any other name**

We were kicking around the possibility of a name change, so we asked you about it: Should we switch from Northeastern University Alumni Magazine to Northeastern University Alumni Magazine?

You were almost evenly divided in your responses. Twenty-six percent preferred the old title, 29 percent liked the proposed change, and slightly less than half (45 percent) had no preference either way.

Ultimately, we did decide to add the word "Alumni" to the masthead, beginning with this issue, to broadcast clearly that this magazine is created for you, with your interests in mind.

**Thanks, and stay in touch**

An enormous thank-you to all readers who filled out a questionnaire for us. Your participation helps us plan for the future, with the confidence that we're creating the Northeastern University Alumni Magazine you want.

As we work to bring you an exceptional university magazine, we invite you to keep giving us feedback. Shoot us an e-mail at [s.piland@neu.edu](mailto:s.piland@neu.edu). We're always happy to hear from you.

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

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### Music to His Ears

*Despite the name of his band, he's no queasy stowaway. Frontman for the Motion Sick, assistant audiology professor . . . Michael Epstein, PHD'04, is taking sound to a whole different level.*

By Lewis I. Rice

If you love rock-and-roll concerts, you know the feeling.

You've rushed the stage to get as close to the band as you can. The music coming out of the towering speakers is loud, so loud it seems to invade your body, moving through your chest, up into your throat, up inside your head.

Long after the last guitar lick has faded away, the sound stays with you—and not just in memory. You're left with the fuzzy sensation of cotton balls stuffed deep inside your ears. When you finally put your head on your pillow and try to sleep, a persistent ringing is your early-morning soundtrack.

Michael Epstein, PHD'04, knows the feeling better than most. He experienced it in the 1990s as a young fan of industrial-rock groups like Ministry and Nine Inch Nails. He's even given it to audiences himself, performing in a variety of bands since he was a teenager.

But, unlike most music aficionados, Epstein can explain exactly what happens when ears are exposed to the shock of thunderous concerts. He is one of the few rock musicians who can claim on his list of professional credentials an expertise in "otoacoustic emissions" and "binaural hearing." Not to mention "loudness."

From a lifelong fascination with science and a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering, Epstein has molded an academic career that draws heavily on his love of music. He's an assistant professor in Bouv?'s speech-language pathology and audiology department, and the director of Northeastern's auditory modeling and processing laboratory, which studies the ways people process and perceive sound.

Yet, along with his work in the classroom and the lab, Epstein still pursues his musical passions, too. Recently, his music career picked up a good deal of steam with the debut of his latest and most accessible band, the Motion Sick, which released a critically acclaimed first album late last year.

Epstein is the creative force behind the group. He writes the songs, a distinct blend of quirky lyrics and melodic tunes. He's also the frontman and lead singer.

His life as a musician—besides the Motion Sick, Epstein plays in a harder-edged punk band—takes up at least



Photography by Tanit Sakakini

twenty hours a week, he says. That's on top of his full-time Northeastern day job. He says he doesn't like downtime.

And, though most people who pick up a guitar as a teenager put their music dreams aside as an adult, Epstein says he plans to remain devoted to both his academic and his artistic worlds.

"I've had people tell me, 'You're going to have to give music up or make a decision between the two different things,'" he says. "And I just kept saying no, I don't have to. And I haven't had to yet."

#### **"Every depressing song rings so true"**

There are no "She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah" lyrics on the Motion Sick album, entitled *Her Brilliant Fifteen*.

Epstein's songs aren't quite as easily digestible. Take "God Hates Kansas." What seems on the surface an antireligion polemic in fact springs from Epstein's favorite movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. Watching it one day, he realized the Wicked Witch's hat resembles the pointed hats Jewish people were required to wear centuries ago in Spain, something he remembered seeing in an illustration as a child in Hebrew school.

That's about the most straightforward analysis of his compositions the professor will offer. Epstein understands it's perfectly natural for people who've heard his music to ask what the songs are about. In a perfectly good-natured way, he won't tell them.

"I feel it really takes away from a song if you tell somebody what your intentions were," he says. "Most of the time, if it relates to them or connects with them in some way, then whatever that connection is is going to be more powerful than whatever I tell them my connection is."



*Facing a promising future: The Motion Sick's Matthew Girard, Jane Allard, Patrick Mussari, Epstein, and Travis Richter.*

Even the band's name has multiple layers, Epstein explains. It's Victorian-era slang for stowaways, the kind of esoteric reference he enjoys. Plus, he got motion sickness a lot as a child.

In 2004, before Epstein formed the Motion Sick, he brought twenty-odd songs he'd crafted over the last several years to Boston producer Jordan Tishler, of Digital Bear Entertainment. Together, they chose eleven songs and recorded an album, emphasizing the songs' melodic elements and adding surprising touches, like a banjo—even turning one into a 1950s-style slow-dance tune.

"The process was one of defining who he is and what

the band would stand for," says Tishler. "I think he's dynamic. I love to watch him perform. For him, this stuff is so fundamentally heartfelt that he puts it all out there and gives it all away. I think they have the potential to be a national act."

Though Epstein wouldn't mind rock stardom, he's not looking to play arenas either. His commitment to Northeastern and his students remains his top priority, he says. Still, that wouldn't preclude his playing a couple of gigs a week and touring in the summer. "Somewhere in the low level of popularity would be my ideal," he says. For now, he's hoping the band gets picked up by a small record label and continues to expand its fan base.

Listeners have compared Her Brilliant Fifteen with the music of several popular bands, including Weezer, Wilco, Violent Femmes, and Arcade Fire. Boston magazine called the album "24-carat radio fodder" with "irrepressible, and indelible, pop choruses." In April, Spin magazine named the Motion Sick its "Band of the Month," praising Epstein's "cheeky literary wordplay."

For all the arrangement tweaking Epstein did in the studio, he was intent on keeping the wordplay intact, often meshing melancholy images with a dance beat. Many of the lyrics mine unfulfilled longing: "Even if I had a satellite, I could never reach your brain." "Let's go for a walk in the moonlight, so I can fail to say what I feel." "I follow the pathways, but they always converge at the same place."

He smiles when he says he's sometimes accused of writing depressing songs.

#### **"That's why I act so out of place"**

Growing up, Epstein lived devoid of hardship in a quiet Long Island neighborhood. He has nothing bad to say about his parents, his three younger sisters, or any aspect of his family life. Early on, though, he found himself chafing against the normalcy and ease of his surroundings.

He adopted a goth look, painting his fingernails black and wearing the most outrageous clothes he could find. As often as he could, he'd go to New York City to haunt West Village record stores and attend concerts. He picked up a guitar and started his first band at age sixteen.

"I really think there's this amazing suburban boredom that leads people to search for something, because it just feels like a horribly mundane existence," he says. "In that setting, it's hard to feel like there is something out there you're driving for. There's no real goal because you're always in this comfortable, flat existence."

His parents didn't say or do anything to try to change him, Epstein says. They figured it was a phase.

They weren't completely right. At twenty-nine, Epstein still stands out from the crowd. His dark hair is parted down the middle, and long sideburns frame his face. He's exceptionally thin, a build that's natural for him, he says. He's followed a vegan diet since college. Animals suffer as humans do, he says, and he can survive just fine without hurting them.

Epstein's fiancée stands out, too, particularly when she's onstage. Sophia Cacciola sings—some might say

screams—in a punk band called Blitzkriegbliss, in which Epstein plays bass. Epstein met her when both were performing at open-mike nights at Club Passim, in Harvard Square. They now share a Somerville, Massachusetts, apartment and plan to marry next year.

Because of her stage persona, Cacciola can initially intimidate people, who imagine she's some unhinged Courtney Love clone offstage. They're surprised she is, in reality, nice, Epstein says. But who you are onstage isn't always who you are everywhere else.

"In music and in the world, there are two different people," he says. "As a performer, the more you're able to separate the two, the better off you are."

**"The ringmaster twirls his mustache and bows to the crowd"**

Behind the stage hangs what appears to be a large painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Next to it: A sign for Miller High Life.

The strange juxtaposition somehow works for O'Brien's, a dive rock bar in Allston. A television in one corner flashes Keno numbers while one near the bar broadcasts a Red Sox game. A moose head mounted on the wall wears a baseball cap.

At nine-thirty, the Motion Sick, the first of three bands to play tonight, are about to begin.

The band members have dressed like it's semicasual day at the office. Epstein wears a red shirt, a black tie, and black pants with white pinstripes. The three other men in the group—Patrick Mussari on guitar, Matthew Girard on bass, and Travis Richter on drums—sport ties and slacks, too. Keyboardist Jane Allard wears a white blouse that would be suitable attire at the software company where she works.

To get ready for moments like this, Epstein sang and played guitar at open mikes for a number of years. Though he never sang in his former bands, he always felt he should be expressing the words he wrote.

So he took voice lessons that, in his estimation, turned a very bad singer into a fairly bad singer. His voice is overly nasal, he says, but he's worked on techniques to temper that. He's also worked on feeling calm about presenting himself and his art to strangers.

"I used to be terrified of public speaking," he says. "When you bring that to music, it's even more terrifying, because you're standing up in front of people and expressing something that's meaningful to you. There's a fear of some backlash and ridicule."



Onstage, Epstein mentions the name of the band for the first of several times. The musicians start with a couple of fast songs to warm up the crowd. A few more audience members trickle in—about forty are here on this cool Thursday night in May.

The group launches into "The Day After," a song with a strong pop hook, and the crowd moves to the beat. Then Epstein throws them a curve. "This is our square-dance song," he says. "So grab a partner, and do-si-do." Most likely no one's ever do-si-do'd in O'Brien's before, and they don't tonight to "The Most Beautiful Dead Girl." But there are some appreciative whoops.

When things simmer down midset, Epstein tries to nudge the audience back to life. "Very quiet out there," he says between songs. "Everybody's really, really appalled or really, really asleep." Coincidentally, he sings about sleep in the next number, with his own twist on the subject: "Now you roll back your eyes and fall asleep like my grandmother did when she died."

Near the end of the forty-minute set, the musicians play one of their favorite songs, Joy Division's "Love Will Tear Us Apart," their only cover of the night. (Later, Epstein sheepishly reveals the other cover the band sometimes plays is the Kelly Clarkson hit "Since U Been Gone." A silly song, he says, but it's got good instrumentation, and people recognize it.) Before he signs off, Epstein thanks the other bands on the bill and O'Brien's for hosting.

The bar's booker, who goes by the name Shred, deejays the local-music program on Boston powerhouse WBCN-FM. He's played the Motion Sick on his show. "I look for something that's going to lure the listener in, and I thought they had a nice indie pop sound," he says.

Shred used to scout bands for major record labels, but he says he still can't predict which bands will make it and which will fall short. Success takes talent, luck, and, especially, a dedication not everyone is willing to muster.

"If you're not willing to give up a certain amount of yourself to go for it," Shred says, "then it's like looking for the golden ticket."

#### **"Stimuli in myelinated nerves"**

Teaching, according to Epstein, is a lot like performing in front of a crowd. You're not exactly entertaining in the classroom, but you are trying to get an audience on your side and open to hearing something new. One difference: If a student heckled him during a lesson on the anatomy of the ear, he says he wouldn't take it as personally.

Epstein's own education in science long predates his musical exploits. When he was three, he asked his parents to take him to the library so he could look at astronomy books. As early as elementary school, he enrolled in precollegiate courses in computer programming, rocketry, and geology at nearby Stony Brook University. "I always knew that math and science were the fields I was better at and interested in," he says.

He also knew he wanted a career in academia. Though his scientific bent would make him prized in the more remunerative for-profit sector, he hates the idea of working in the corporate world.

"I've always been interested in being in an environment where I have the freedom and the resources to pursue what I'm interested in," Epstein says, where "you're free to do research—as long as you're successful—in whatever you want and whatever way you want."

At New York's Binghamton University, Epstein earned a bachelor's in electrical engineering, a major that plugged into his interest in science and music. He came to Northeastern to do doctoral research in sound and signal processing. His thesis examined otoacoustic emissions, the audible vibrations the inner ear gives off in response to sound stimulus. By putting a tiny microphone into subjects' ear canals, he found that people's perception of loudness is connected to how much physical activity occurs in the inner ear.

Epstein's written on otoacoustic emissions and loudness for academic publications, coauthoring several papers with Mary Florentine, PHD'78, the Matthews Distinguished University Professor of Audiology and the director of the communication research laboratory.



"Professor Epstein is an excellent teacher and researcher, and he has a delightful sense of humor and a kind heart," Florentine says. "The word on him is getting around, and he is building a strong international reputation for his research, critical thinking, and his ability to transmit his ideas."

After receiving his doctorate, Epstein began teaching both graduate and undergraduate classes at Northeastern. As much as possible, he tries to integrate music into the classroom, such as demonstrating how music might sound to someone with a hearing loss or a cochlear implant. "People get more excited about those things if you have music as the carrier rather than somebody counting to ten," he says.

He conducts his research in a Forsyth Building lab dominated by something that looks like a large rock-concert soundboard. In Epstein's experiments, a subject in a booth listens through headphones to sounds at different levels and frequencies, sent by a computer. The subject answers specific questions about the noises—which is louder, which has a higher pitch, for instance—using a small terminal connected to the computer.

Epstein regularly takes part in experiments himself, which means his own hearing has been screened many times. He has acute hearing, a better-than-average ability to detect sound. Though that would appear to be a good thing, he says, many people in the field believe such acuity sometimes precedes a degradation in hearing. Now, when he performs, he uses a set of musicians' earplugs, specially molded to fit his ear canals, which helps prevent such hearing damage as tinnitus, the persistent ringing that can be triggered by prolonged exposure to loud noise. Tinnitus happens when a damaged cell falsely relays information that creates the perception of sound, Epstein says.

He never wore any kind of earplug when he was a kid going to concerts. Most people don't take such precautions, he says, because they believe—

incorrectly—that hearing aids correct hearing loss as easily as glasses fix vision problems. Plus, a music-loving teenager just doesn't think much about protecting his hearing, even if he's a young scientist, too.

**"Everyone only remembers your mistakes"**

As Epstein sets up for rehearsal at eight o'clock on a Monday night, he talks to one of his bandmates about scheduling a hearing appointment.

The practice room is about the size of a walk-in closet, a rented space in Watertown where the band converges once or twice a week. A black sheet with a skull and crossbones hangs inside the door next to a lava lamp. Stringed lights flash on the ceiling. A box of disposable earplugs sits on a shelf next to a CD by the beloved Boston band Mission of Burma; its lead singer quit the group because of tinnitus.

After Epstein put together Her Brilliant Fifteen, he auditioned musicians for the band. In the end, he turned to people he already knew, including two he went to college with. They're easygoing with one another, apologizing about making mistakes as they rehearse, with the occasional good-natured expletive thrown in. "We're not usually this bad," Epstein jokes.

There's a lot of discussion about chords and progression and tempo and bridges. Although everyone takes part in the conversation, Epstein is perceptibly the leader, the others turning to him for the final word before they press on. They work on a couple of songs from the album, playing each at least twice, before trying for the first time a new song called "Losing Altitude." "I feel like a pilot who's lost the nerve to fly," Epstein sings.

The song's too long, he acknowledges; some of it has to go. They play it over and over for almost an hour, each time a little differently, following suggestions thrown around the claustrophobic room that's heating up fast.

"What do we do?" Richter, the drummer, asks at one point.

"I don't know," Epstein responds. "That's why we're here. Figuring it out."

Though they don't quite figure it out, by the time they play the song for the last time it sounds much better, everyone agrees. They exit the room around ten-thirty but sit in the hall for an impromptu meeting about future gigs and promotion ideas. Most of the band members are slumped on the floor, exhausted. About fifteen minutes later, everyone starts to leave.

Epstein says he's a bit tired, too, but also energized. When he gets home, he won't go to sleep right away, he says. He'll tend to a few things for his Northeastern job. He does some of his best academic writing at two in the morning.

He's already worked all day and all of the night, as the old Kinks tune goes. But the professor who's been accused of writing depressing songs seems genuinely happy to work some more.

*Lewis I. Rice, MA'96, is a freelance writer living in Arlington, Massachusetts. He profiled Margaret Bad Warrior, L'04, an attorney for the Cheyenne River*

*Sioux tribe, in the Summer issue. To hear the Motion Sick's music, go to the band's website, at [www.themotionsick.com](http://www.themotionsick.com)*

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### **His Brilliant Five: "instant" Karma**

Many great pop recordings, audiology expert and musician Michael Epstein says, pivot on something he calls an "auditory instant," or "a moment that encapsulates the song's power, movement, and emotion, and has the rare quality of being both jarring and beautiful."

Here, Epstein describes five of his favorite such instants (the point at which each begins is indicated in elapsed minutes/seconds).

#### **1. Simon and Garfunkel, "The Boxer" (1:03)**

"Without warning, the subtle, dense arrangement is shattered by an industrial eruption, building a sturdy foundation for the purely phonemic chorus. The reverberant clang has made "lie la lie" an anthem of success through failure for nearly forty years."

#### **2. Spiritualized, "Ladies and Gentlemen, We Are Floating in Space," original arrangement (3:20)**

"When this song was first recorded, the arrangement was structured on Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love," with at least three vocal trails intertwining throughout. Legal issues kept the record from seeing widespread release. The later, more commonly available version is still one of the most beautiful songs ever recorded. But the original's sampled choral rendition of the Elvis song remains the definitive instant."

#### **3. Public Enemy, "By the Time I Get to Arizona," unedited version on Apocalypse 91 . . . The Enemy Strikes Black (2:53)**

"Lyrical content aside, Public Enemy's politics are unapologetically controversial—this song's chorus rests upon pitch-adapted recordings of screams from a Civil Rights protest. When the screams start to carry the main melody, the medium has become the message."

#### **4. Kasey Chambers, "The Captain" (0:27)**

"In the studio, vocalists often lose their voice for a moment. Generally, missed or gasped words are filled in by retakes. However, in this otherwise carefully arranged and engineered alt-country song, Chambers's raspy 'stand my ground' inserts a spike of character into the first verse."

#### **5. The Smiths, "Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me" (1:54)**

"Steven Patrick Morrissey is the master of hyperbolized woe. A lifetime of study of his wordplay couldn't differentiate the sincerity from the tongue-in-cheek irony. 'Last Night' begins with a disjointed, minimalist piano caressing a recording of crowd noises culled from the BBC sound library. Anticipation builds. Suddenly, the song bursts into full instrumentation with the wry opening quip, 'Last night I dreamt that somebody loved me. No hope, no harm, just another false alarm.'"

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• Dan Ross, football standout for Huskies and  
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### Breaking new ground for Northeastern's veterans

*Armed services veterans, family members of vets, and Northeastern officials broke ground in June for a new memorial honoring the university's veterans. The memorial will include the names of three hundred who died in service to their country. Photo by Craig Bailey*

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### Ending the Hurt at Home

*Clinic gives law students experience in restraining domestic violence.*

By Karen Feldscher

When women come to the Dorchester division of the Boston Municipal Court Department to seek a restraining order, many just stare blankly at the form they're handed by the clerk.

Often, they've had no prior dealings with the legal system. Just taking the first steps toward getting the order may feel overwhelming. The paperwork may seem confusing and intimidating. Some of them don't speak English well.

But a dedicated band of Northeastern law students know how to guide these women—and some men—through the legal system's complexities toward help in escaping domestic violence. Every quarter, anywhere from six to ten second- and third-year students volunteer at the Dorchester court as part of the School of Law's Domestic Violence Clinic.

The fifteen-year-old clinic, run by senior clinical specialist Lois Kanter, provides, she says, "a genuine service to both the individual woman and the court, and also really trains students in the basics of domestic violence."

Students prepare for the clinic with two weeks of intensive training, says supervising attorney Kathy Garren.

They learn about the impact of domestic violence on victims, survivors, and children. They're given the particulars of the Massachusetts restraining-order statute and some background in family law. They do role-playing related to interviewing and prepping clients, and participate in mock hearings.

"We try to give them Domestic Violence 101," Garren says.

Then they step right into the real thing.

"Students introduce themselves [to clients] and offer their services, often in the hallways of this very busy trial court," explains Garren. "We've trained them to ask people what brought them to court, to really listen to their story before turning to the complaint."

Also, Garren says, students discuss "whether it really is safe to get a restraining order. That's a huge piece of what we do, because there are many cases where a restraining order actually escalates the violence."

After the interview, students help clients fill out the necessary paperwork and decide what sort of restraining order to request. Students also advise clients on where to find additional help, such as



Lois

Kanter (second from left) with law students Daniel Miller, Martin Magnusson, and Sarah Affel.  
Photo by Tracy Powell

counseling, support groups, women's shelters, and legal services.

Later, students may help clients prepare for restraining-order hearings, check to ensure the police actually serve an order that's been issued, and offer their clients advice or clarification on legal matters in court.

Sydney Hanlon, first justice of the Dorchester court, says the students provide a much-needed service. "Having the students available to spend time with plaintiffs on safety planning and seeing what kind of assistance they need outside the court is extremely valuable."

"I've had many clients who were grateful there was someone there with them, adds Ana Dubrovsky, a second-year law student who participated in the clinic over the summer.

During their brief time with clients, students do what they can to help, says Cliff Eisenhut, a third-year law student who served in the clinic last spring. "It's a matter of trying to put them in the best situation you can, in the week or two that you know them, so they can break the cycle of violence."

*Karen Feldscher is a senior writer.*

MAGAZINE HOME

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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### Knife, Love, Sky

*Aching hearts heal in time.*

By Herbert Hadad

In January, all the tests and consultations came down to this. A dimly lit office in the Westchester Medical Center, in suburban New York. A woman seated across a desk from me and my wife, Evelyn, talking in a detached tone while she points to an illustration of the heart.

Diana is a nurse practitioner, an assistant to a surgeon. The circled sections, she explains, are where my heart has to be fixed. "Let me take your pulse," she says.

I offer my right arm, though I'm still not convinced this is real. "It's not going to be normal," I say. "It's going to shoot up as soon as I look into your beautiful brown eyes."

Her training has not prepared her for this. "Oh, boy. Oh, boy," she says.

The surgeon arrives, dressed for the operating room. We have insisted on seeing him, not a colleague. He has strong hands and forearms. His face reveals no impatience. He smiles slightly. I decide I like him.

He goes over the illustration again. Two arteries require bypass surgery, and a leaking valve may need attention as well.

Dr. Spielvogel isn't just another surgeon. We had researched his credentials thoroughly. My wife called her friends in the Rockefeller family, who consulted Rockefeller University, in Manhattan, which gave Dr. Spielvogel outstanding grades for skills and personality. (We later learned he was one of Bill Clinton's doctors.)

"This is not an emergency," he says. "But I urge you to call my office to make a date in the next week or two."

"What if I don't?" I ask. Though I'm only looking for information, I hear the question floating toward Dr. Spielvogel and Diana with defiance.

"Good question," the doctor says. "Nothing may happen. You're an active guy, working, swimming. And you have a good strong heart. But, eventually, the faulty arteries are going to make the heart work too hard, and you'll end up with a weakened heart."

He goes on. "Look, we've had a lot of success with these procedures, but I'm also obliged to tell you there's one chance in a hundred you could die on the operating table."

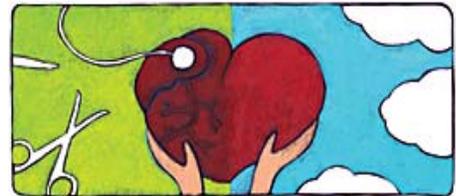


Illustration by Alik Arzoumanian

Now it was real.

The night before the operation, my three children came up from the city, and we had one of my favorite meals, sausage pizza. I washed it down with a vodka martini. It would be the last supper of its kind for a while. The next morning, as is my custom, I went outside and prayed for family and friends, especially for my nephew serving in Iraq, and, for the first time I can remember, for me.

My family and I drove toward the hospital through the raw gloom of dawn. I was determined not to be scared because that would scare them.

I'd always adhered to Woody Allen's line: "I do not believe in an afterlife, although I am bringing a change of underwear." But as I was being wheeled into the operating room, reassuring small talk floating behind my head, I realized I felt liberated. The gravity of the moment had clarified my head and heart on matters that had confounded me all my life. For the first time, I wasn't afraid to die.

The gurney kicked open the operating room doors. I saw large round lights and people in gowns. A woman slid a needle into my right arm.

When I was wheeled out five or six hours later, my family was waiting. They tell me I touched my hand to my heart four times, then directed a kiss to each of them. I'd had a double bypass operation—I would later joke that two was all I could afford—and the doctors had decided to leave my valve alone.

I was moved into a room where the other patient was an obese dentist. He was often in a state of loud misery, assuaging his pain by watching a shopping channel night and day. I felt bad for him, worse for myself.

During my four days in the hospital, though I'm sure my body screamed after the havoc of surgery, I felt nothing beyond mild discomfort. But I did hallucinate. When I looked at Evelyn, I saw three of her. And, up and down the curtain that separated me from the hapless dentist, black rodent-like creatures crawled like crabs. I wasn't spooked. I knew what I was seeing had to be the work of the medicine and the anesthesia. Doctors explained the anesthesia might also affect my memory for up to a year. (I'm still using that excuse to the hilt whenever I forget a name or a word.)

Friends dropped in. The nurses and their helpers changed often but were consistently cheerful as they dispensed medications, brought fresh water, and got me to sit up and move tentatively out of bed.

One morning, a stern new nurse—short, olive-skinned, in her early middle age—appeared. She noticed a wonderful book of poems my daughter had given me: *The Gift*, by Hafiz, a Sufi master from fourteenth-century Persia.

"I am a Persian," she told me. "My name is Mehr." She proceeded to give her patient a thorough once-over, with commentary. "You are not ready to walk to the bathroom," she said at one point with quiet authority, chastising the more-permissive nurses under her breath.

Once she had finished her work and I was back under

the sheets, I reached for *The Gift* and read to her:  
"Even after all this time/The sun never says to the  
earth,/"You owe me."/Look what happens with a love  
like that./It lights the whole sky."

She smiled mildly. On her recent day off, she told me,  
she had cooked her special soup and delivered it to her  
son in Manhattan, who had a cold. When I began to  
suggest she should have spent her day off relaxing,  
she dismissed my opinion as frivolous.

But I knew she liked me. Even on days when I was not  
her patient, she appeared at the door. I began to adore  
her tenderness and strength. Some friends had given  
me a leather-bound diary. One day, I handed it to  
Mehr and asked her to write down her full name and  
address. I didn't want to lose touch with her.

Not long after that, one of Dr. Spielvogel's associates,  
surrounded by other medical personnel making their  
rounds, came to my bedside. "The bottom line is,  
you're a young guy," he said. "You had a good  
operation, and you're going home to a good life."

When Evelyn came to bring me home, I was feeling  
feisty. I made sure I was allowed to walk down the hall  
to the elevator and out of the hospital under my own  
steam. A state trooper grumbled that Evelyn's car was  
in a no-parking zone; she had me in the back seat  
before I was able to pick a pious fight.

The good life started with my walking around the  
house for five minutes at a time. I could manage the  
stairs only twice a day. Well-wishers sent two  
enormous baskets so filled with fruits, cheeses, and  
nuts that we shared them with Dr. Spielvogel's staff  
and the nurses' station at the hospital. I ate very  
carefully and read a lot.

For me, the hardest part of convalescing was not being  
able to drive for five weeks. When I rode in the car, I  
always had to sit in the back seat. Any accident that  
slapped me up against the steering wheel or an air bag  
could have split me in half, since the doctors had  
already split me open once like a Maine lobster.

After I could finally take the wheel of a car again,  
another five weeks passed before I went back to work  
at the office on a half-day basis. By then, I was feeling  
immensely grateful to my family and friends and  
colleagues, and to the hospital that had returned me to  
the real world.

Then I thought of Mehr.

On a Metropolitan Museum of Art card illustrated with  
birds and flowers, I wrote: "Dear Mehr and family, I  
want to thank you again for your skillful and sensitive  
care when I was hospitalized in late January. Please  
use this token sum for a bottle of wine to toast the  
health of your family and mine." I signed it with  
"Loving best wishes" and folded in a twenty-dollar bill.

I waited. My Mehr never replied. I finally realized her  
reply had already been written by Hafiz the Sufi. The  
sun never says to the earth, "You owe me."

Mehr had closed the book on this patient and his  
drama. Now it was time for me to do the same.

*Herbert Hadad, an award-winning writer and*

*Northeastern graduate, grew a beard during his convalescence but shaved it off after a vote of acclamation by his community.*

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### Not in My Neighborhood

*Numbers show Americans still cluster in segregated communities*

By Samantha Friedman

In the United States, where you live is largely tied to the color of your skin and your ethnicity.

Does this surprise you? Did you imagine residential segregation to be a thing of the past in America?

Well, just take a look at the typical metropolitan area, particularly in the Northeast or the Midwest. You'll find whites living in neighborhoods that are mostly white, minorities living in neighborhoods that are mostly minority, and very few neighborhoods that could be called truly integrated.

Boston is no exception. According to Census 2000 data, the Boston metropolitan area is 80 percent non-Hispanic white, 7 percent non-Hispanic black, and 6 percent Hispanic (with the remaining

7 percent comprising all other races). If Boston were completely integrated, each of its neighborhoods would have the same racial/ethnic composition as the overall metropolitan area.

They do not. In fact, 66 percent of blacks and 59 percent of Hispanics would have to move before every neighborhood mirrored Boston's overall racial/ethnic composition. These levels of residential segregation are slightly higher than the national average. Across all U.S. metropolitan areas, 65 percent of blacks and 51 percent of Hispanics would have to move in order to achieve an integrated residential distribution.

Obviously, widespread racial/ethnic separations of any kind tend to exacerbate divisions and misunderstandings among people, and undermine fair treatment. But my research demonstrates that residential segregation leads to another, less-discussed result: It dramatically affects the financial health of minorities, even those fortunate enough to own their own homes.

I'm a quantitative sociologist, which means I examine data, often that collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, for interrelations among quantifiable variables. Currently, I'm looking at the impact Americans' race and ethnicity have on the neighborhood and housing quality they enjoy. The data are adjusted so that differences in resources, like income and level of education, don't affect the results.

Americans routinely misjudge the depth and breadth of racial inequality in the United States. Public-opinion surveys show that over 50 percent of white Americans believe racial equality has already been or is about to

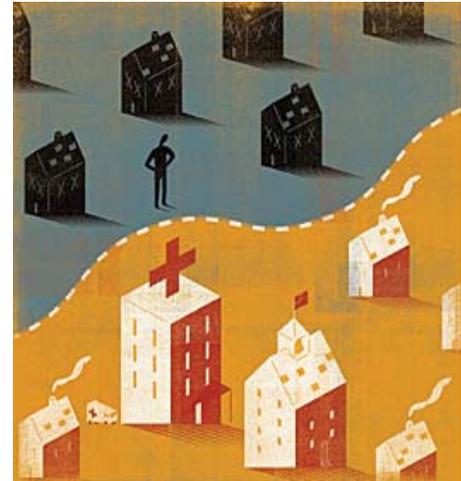


Illustration by Keith Negley

be achieved (something only about 25 percent of black Americans believe). About 40 percent of whites believe blacks earn as much as or more than whites.

The reality is very different. The black poverty rate is actually more than double that of whites, and the black median income hovers around 60 percent of the median income of whites.

My research shows that blacks are more likely than whites to live in less-desirable neighborhoods. This is not just an urban phenomenon. Even in the suburbs, blacks and Hispanics are significantly more likely than whites to report poor neighborhood conditions—the presence of trash, buildings with bars on windows, and abandoned buildings, for instance. Blacks and Hispanics often don't have open spaces within a half block of their housing units. Their low-quality neighborhoods often include greater levels of social disorder.

I've also found that, when it comes to housing, minorities are doubly disadvantaged. First, they are less likely than whites to own their own homes.

Second, if they do become homeowners, they are more likely than white owners to live in low-quality housing—buildings characterized by crowded conditions, for instance, or plagued by structural or maintenance deficiencies, like interior or exterior water leaks, cracks in the walls, or rodent infestations.

These poorer conditions have a big impact on the racial/ethnic disparities that exist in wealth. That's because blacks and Hispanics accrue a larger share of their wealth from their housing than whites do. In 2000, black and Hispanic homeowners held 61.8 and 50.8 percent, respectively, of their net worth in their homes. Non-Hispanic whites held only 32.3 percent of their net worth in their homes.

The effects of this dependence are long-lasting. If most of your wealth is wrapped up in lower-quality—and, as a result, lower-value—housing, you will increasingly lose ground in your quest for financial security. So will the generations that follow you.

The students who take my urban sociology class come in just as skeptical as the general public about the reports of racial/ethnic inequality in America. They always ask me about affluent minorities: Are they as segregated? Are their neighborhoods and homes inferior in quality to those of their white peers?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes. Even affluent minorities who own their own homes in the suburbs tend to live in segregated areas and report poorer neighborhood and housing conditions than affluent whites do.

So, if money can't buy minorities access to equal-quality living environments, what's the barrier? The answer, plain and simple, is discrimination.

In countless research studies, the success of white, black, and Hispanic home buyers has been compared. Often, pairs of buyers are matched on all characteristics, including income, occupation, credit history, and wealth; the only difference is their race or ethnicity.

According to a 2002 national study sponsored by the

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, black home buyers received consistently unfavorable treatment in 17 percent of their inquiries. For Hispanic home buyers, the figure was 19.7 percent. This, sad to say, is nearly forty years after the passage of the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

Is there any hope for progress? I believe there is, though it may be waning. In 1977, Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which prohibits redlining, or the systematic, unfair targeting of lending, home-mortgage lending in particular.

The CRA mandates that bank regulatory agencies—such as the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation—evaluate the effectiveness of lenders in meeting the credit needs of the communities they serve. The regulators take a lender's effectiveness into account when deciding whether to allow it to make a change in its business practices—to purchase or merge with another institution, for instance, or open or close a branch office.

Since its enactment, the CRA has brought \$1.7 trillion in new loans to economically distressed areas. In 1995, its regulations were revised slightly. Now a lender is evaluated on its lending to low- and moderate-income borrowers regardless of where they live, as well as its lending in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Because black and Hispanic households are more likely than white households to occupy the lower end of the income distribution, the revised criteria may help minorities purchase homes in predominantly white neighborhoods, which generally are higher quality and offer more access to social and economic advancement.

Working with data from Census 2000 and the 2000 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, I've found the CRA may, in fact, help to reduce segregation. In metropolitan areas where a relatively greater share of loans is made by CRA-covered institutions, minorities are more likely to purchase homes in predominantly white neighborhoods.

Yet the opportunity for using the CRA to chip away at residential segregation is lessening. The act doesn't cover independent mortgage bankers, brokers, insurers, and financial institutions, all of which are backing more and more mortgage loans.

Residential segregation is a long-standing, complex social problem. Without meaningful and consistent intervention, including the stronger enforcement of existing fair-housing laws, blacks and Hispanics will continue to be unable to access the same neighborhoods and housing as whites, regardless of their income or education level.

And their financial health will suffer as a result.

*Samantha Friedman is an assistant professor of sociology.*

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### The Colonial Revolution

*Husky teams feeling empowered after inaugural year in CAA.*

By Paul Perillo

Even the most ardent supporters of Northeastern's move from America East to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA)—athletic director Dave O'Brien chief among them—never envisioned anything as satisfying as the Huskies' first year in their new conference.

"Our wildest dreams were realized multiple times over," O'Brien said shortly after the 2005-2006 season came to an end. "I feel much better about the decision today than I did when we made it, and I felt pretty strongly in favor of it at the time."

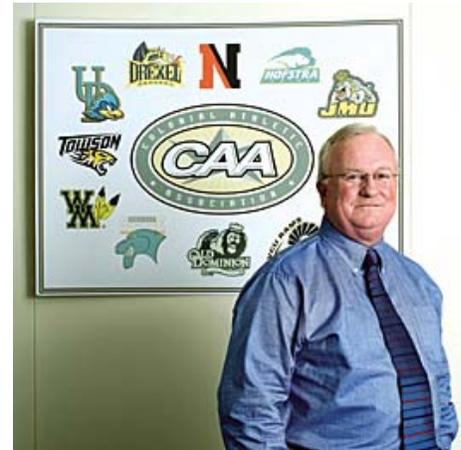
What's not to like? Northeastern fits comfortably in its new home, alongside teams from eleven other universities—Delaware, Drexel, George Mason, Georgia State, Hofstra, James Madison, Old Dominion, Towson, the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Virginia Commonwealth, and William and Mary.

Northeastern athletes found themselves competitive within their new clan and, in several instances, among the creme de la creme. Husky field hockey, baseball, men's basketball, and men's and women's track rose to the conference's upper echelon. Men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's soccer, swimming, and women's basketball enjoyed their moments of success as well.

At the team level, not surprisingly, the move set off the biggest ripples for the sport with the highest profile—men's basketball. Remember, no America East team has ever made it past the NCAA tournament's second round. This year, however, Huskies fans watched with pride as Colonial cousin George Mason shocked the hoops world with its run to the Final Four.

And Northeastern gained much more than pride from George Mason's Cinderella story. The Patriots' late-round success—and UNC-Wilmington's first-round showing—means the Colonial conference will receive roughly \$1 million annually over the next six years. The NCAA awards money to every conference with one or more teams in the tournament; the more tournament games a conference's teams play, the more money the conference gets.

O'Brien says the CAA will allocate its windfall in a variety of ways, both to the central organization and to individual members. "The league will be making decisions on how best to spend the money," he explains, likely on such improvements as "webcasting our games more easily and productively, increasing marketing and promotions to increase teams' fan bases, and [funding] incentive rewards for teams that



Dave O'Brien

Photos by Tracy Powell

compete at a high level."

Northeastern hadn't been slated to join the CAA until 2006-2007, but America East released the university from its commitment a year early. Though the Huskies would likely have earned a piece of the financial pie anyway—they were already official CAA members—competing in the league last season conferred prestige.

Not that Northeastern rode on anyone's coattails. On any given night, the Huskies were one of the league's five best basketball teams, advancing to the conference tournament semifinals before falling to eventual champ UNC-Wilmington.

Out on the field-hockey pitch, Cheryl Murtagh's contingent was similarly unfazed by the step up in competition. Her team finished second to Old Dominion in the regular season before falling to them in the conference title game.

Then there was the baseball squad, which managed a strong third-place showing. During the regular season, junior Adam Ottavino pitched a no-hitter to soon-to-be top seed James Madison, Northeastern's first nine-inning no-hitter since 1985. (In June, Ottavino became a first-round draft pick for the St. Louis Cardinals.)

Competing in the new league has come with a few pitfalls. Rocketing gas prices have upped the travel-costs ante even higher than expected. And after seeing the impressive athletics facilities most of the league's teams enjoy, O'Brien and his coaches know theirs require some upgrades.

"Many of the league members loved coming to Boston and were struck by the beauty of Northeastern," O'Brien says. "But we found that games at places like William and Mary, Old Dominion, and UNC-Wilmington are true events. There was some level of disappointment [on the part of other teams] with the current state of our facilities." He hopes the university will be able to address such issues moving forward.

Buckle in. If year one is any indication, moving forward is exactly what the Huskies plan to do in their higher-octane league.



### Gridders Must Tap Inner Road Warrior

Maybe Rocky Hager's first two Northeastern seasons didn't go as well as he had hoped. Even so, progress was made on the gridiron. And now that another solid recruiting class has filed into the locker room, the coach thinks the planets have aligned for a pronounced upswing.

"We had a very productive spring, where a lot of our young players emerged," Hager says. "We're at a point where we believe we're better prepared to handle injuries and adversity."

But health and prosperity won't come easy to the hopeful Huskies, given the murderous schedule they face. The season, which opens on September 2, kicks off with five straight road games. The first is a monumental encounter against Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg.

In all, seven of the season's eleven games will take place away from the friendly confines of Parsons Field. This makes winning even more of an uphill climb. Consider: Nine of Hager's fifteen losses at NU have fallen short by four points or fewer. Give the Huskies wins in just four of those matches, and Hager's record improves from 7-15 to 11-11. Northeastern has stayed competitive. Now it's time to find ways to win when a game is on the line.

Hager hopes a change in defense philosophy, coupled with a power running game, will translate into success. The Huskies plan to utilize a three-four defense, built around their active and athletic linebackers. It's a scheme that uses a variety of disguised blitzes to confuse opposing offenses. Hager used a similar system during his days of winning Division II national championships at North Dakota State.

"A half-second's worth of indecision by the offense can be worth a sack per game," he says. "If we make those plays consistently enough, that should translate in the win column."

Senior Matt Campopiano and sophomore Jason Vega are moving from defensive end to outside linebacker, a key switch in a successful three-four alignment. Senior Jamil Young, who likes to blitz, will get more opportunities to do just that on the outside. Junior A. J. Lillie rounds out the mix, giving Hager a reliable quartet of outside performers.

Inside, run-stuffer junior Joe Mele will bottle up the middle, along with sophomores Craig Kenney and Cornelius Bunch, and the lightning-quick Alton Bradley, whom Hager calls "one of the fastest linebackers I've ever been around." This group's depth and talent is the main reason the coach decided to make his tactical switch.

He's also shifted his lieutenants around. Paul Schaffner, who spent last season as assistant head coach/linebackers coach, will now assume defensive-coordinator responsibilities. Wally Dembowski, last year's coordinator, will be the defensive line coach. Schaffner played linebacker for Hager at North Dakota State, under the same system the Huskies are now implementing.

Offensively, Hager hopes to employ a thunder-and-lightning backfield. Powerful junior Maurice Murray will

likely get the bulk of the work, with

5-foot-6 sophomore Alex Broomfield stepping in for a change of pace. Productive in the past, both men enjoyed strong springs. Sophomores Anthony Orio and John Sperrazza will lead the charge at the quarterback position.

"We showed the ability to move the ball last year," Hager says. "With another year of experience for our quarterbacks, we expect that to improve."

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### Heat and Dust

*In the African desert, desire and death reign over all.*

By Magdalena Hernandez

*The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo*, by Peter Orner (Little, Brown; New York; 2006; 320 pages; \$23.95)

Here's a tale teeming with things that can't be seen.

The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo isn't a spooky story per se. Yet history, spirits, longing, and emptiness are its prominent, troubling themes. As one character says of Goas, Namibia, the book's setting, "For a small place, our ghosts are legion."

This first novel by acclaimed short-story writer Peter Orner, L'96, centers around Larry Kaplanski, a new teacher at a remote Catholic boarding school for boys in the early 1990s, not long after Namibia won its independence.

Lonely at first among his fellow instructors, the young American meets and quickly falls in love with a beautiful former freedom fighter. The relationship will teach him a great deal about Namibia's brutal past.

Harsh specters take many forms in this new nation. The war of independence from South Africa haunts Namibia. So do the decades of German colonization. The Herero genocide that began in 1904 left especially deep scars. Thousands of Hereros were driven by German soldiers into the desert, where many dug holes in a desperate search for water, holes that ultimately turned into graves.

The boys' school is situated on an old farm "on a place where the land swooped into a kind of valley, a flat stretch of sand and gravel." Goas, we're told, is no day at the beach: "Its misery is hearty. The lashing wind and the frigid mornings and the eyeball-melting afternoons eventually become what your life was always supposed to amount to."

Kaplanski—the locals compress his name to "Kaplansk"—finds the desert a disillusioning landscape, with "plants [that] looked like they'd rather be dead." The Cincinnati native volunteered to teach at the school. We never learn why. It doesn't seem a particularly good career move. His pedagogical skills are lacking. He fudges his way through grammar lessons and fills time by inviting guest lecturers to class.

Soon, though, a true passion is revealed. Kaplansk, like the other Goas men, is smitten with an enigmatic teacher, Mavala Shikongo. More than just a lovely face, she's also an experienced veteran of Namibia's struggle for freedom.

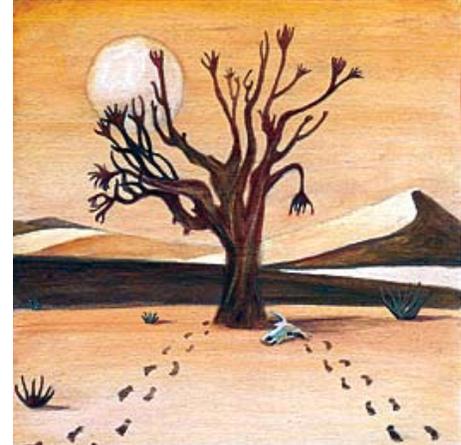


Illustration by Cathy Nichols

Mavala deserts Goas one day, coming back less than a month later with a toddler son in tow. Soon after her return, she initiates a romance with Kaplansk, mostly, it seems, out of boredom. The pairing upends our class expectations. Former guerrilla Mavala is descended from African royalty. Kaplansk is the grandson of a tailor.

We know better than to expect a fairy-tale ending for them. In one of their early scenes together, an omen: "A moth careens into the flame. It tries to fly with a wing on fire before that's the end of it. A sound like a wrinkle and smoke."

Mavala will prove to be as transient as water in the desert. She disappears again, leaving her son, Tomo, behind. He, in turn, will eventually forget his mother. Again and again in this way, the novel underscores the essential loneliness of the human condition. "Every moment is a death," one character says.

Yet, amid the losses, Kaplansk emerges as very good company. He's the book's principal narrator, and his insights lend a fresh perspective to the most quotidian of matters. On soccer, for instance: "If you watch the [players] without the ball it's even better. Their feet. How every move is a beautiful anticipation. The ball is only incidental to the dance."

Several other characters narrate chapters as well, buoying Mavala Shikongo with their particular, equally astute observations. Orner sidesteps the pitfall of objectifying his black characters by granting them an authority available in fiction: The Africans have a voice in this novel.

Orner, who has lived in Namibia, describes sights, sounds, and smells in an exact, imagistic manner. The characters and their veld backdrop are sublimely limned. His descriptions of the land—"the scorched plain, the rocks, the dry tufts bent to the wind"—are especially compelling.

Of course, the brutality of the surroundings serves as a palpable reminder of suffering. Cattle die covered in dust. During an unusually wet period, a boy drowns himself from sadness. Love evaporates.

Nor do the characters get much consolation from their interior lives. Most are filled with such longing and regret they seem like shadows of themselves. A butcher, for example, is so lonesome he forgets to eat, literally starving for love.

The force of the imagery, which in the hands of a lesser writer might overwhelm the story, here springs forth organically from the plot and its characters. Graves of Boer settlers cushion Kaplansk and Mavala during their trysts. In the midst of a drought, a religious woman reads Genesis to the dying cows to give them hope. Past and present, death and life intertwine.

Orner's confident novel is not, in the end, a wade through unrelenting sorrow. His sympathetic and often amused eye for human foible keeps his chronicle, and us, from sinking into helpless despair.

The author's previous book was 2001's *Esther Stories*, a short-story collection that met with admiring reviews. Readers of this magazine may also recall "Meyer and Silla," Orner's fictional tale of an enduring marriage,

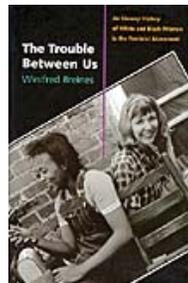
which appeared in the January 2002 issue.

Indeed, Orner's mastery of the short form is evident in *Mavala Shikongo*. Many chapters are so concise and jewel-like they resemble prose poems, a brevity fitting for a book that contemplates transience.

Halfway through the novel, a character quotes Romanian-French philosopher Cioran, who believed books should cure old wounds and inflict new ones. Orner has crafted a work that achieves just that. Rich in history and laden with sparse, stirring imagery, it will haunt the reader long after the last page is turned.

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

## Bookmarks

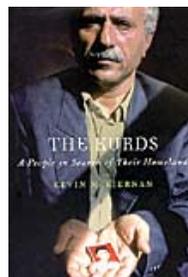


*The Trouble Between Us: An Uneasy History of White and Black Women in the Feminist Movement*, by Winifred Breines; Oxford University Press; 2006

Women's liberation was a cultural movement inspired by the Civil Rights struggle. Yet women's lib alienated many black women, whose experiences were colored by race and class, as well as gender.

Winifred Breines—a professor of sociology and women's studies, and a participant in both struggles for social justice—offers a fresh, insightful analysis of the racial divide. Using documents and oral histories by black women and white women, she finds both parties partly responsible for the failed sisterhood.

Today's feminists, the author finds, may be sidestepping the pitfalls that weakened their forebears' efforts.



*The Kurds: A People in Search of Their Homeland*, by Kevin McKiernan; St. Martin's Press; 2006

War correspondent and documentary filmmaker Kevin McKiernan, L'79, here crafts a compelling history of the Kurds, the world's largest ethnic group without their own state.

Following their saga since 1975, McKiernan paints a portrait of a diverse people beset by genocide, wars, and poverty, detailing the plight of the Kurds in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq with compassion and understanding.

McKiernan, who has covered the Iraq war, illustrates how the Kurds' fate plays a pivotal role in the Middle East dilemma. Intertwined with his personal narrative, this look at a people searching for self-determination emerges as a remarkable piece of journalism.

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### 1950s

James Ron Boucher, E'59, ME'65, and his wife, Barbara (Blanchard), of Reading, Massachusetts, are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary this year. The couple met as Northeastern freshmen when they joined the Square and Folk Dance Society and became partners on the dance-exhibition team. They've been partners, Ron writes, ever since. Barbara left Northeastern after two years, worked at insurance company John Hancock, and then opted to stay at home raising their six children. Ron retired from telecommunications and financial-services company GTE in 1993. He notes his career spanned an era that encompassed vacuum tubes, semiconductors and solid-state circuits, and computer-controlled telecommunications systems. Ron and Barbara both enjoy reading, music, theater, volunteer work, and travel.

Theos Dickson McKinney Jr., E'59, ME'61, died on February 4 at his home in Pomona, New Jersey. The Boston native was an electrical engineer at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for many years and served in the U.S. Army for two years. After learning to fly at New Hampshire's Nashua Aviation, he worked as a charter pilot and a flight instructor. From 1978 to 2001, he was a pilot with the Flight Inspection Field Office in New Jersey and later a flight test pilot at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Technical Center at Atlantic City Airport. McKinney also trained student pilots—including four of his children—and served as a volunteer instructor and director for the Negro Airmen International (now Black Pilots of America) Summer Flight Academy. He was a member of the FAA Flying Club, the American Radio Relay League, and the NAACP. McKinney is survived by his wife, Nancy, and children Theos III, Kenelm, Kyle, Alythea, Karena, and Rebekah.

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### 1960s

George Patsourakos, LA'60, MEd'65, of Billerica, Massachusetts, retired after two decades as an education specialist for the federal government. "Today, I visit Northeastern occasionally to read and relax at Snell Library," he writes. "As I walk on the campus, I feel a sense of Hellenic pride when I see the Behrakis Health Sciences Center and Kariotis Hall. These two buildings are named for George D. Behrakis and George S. Kariotis, Hellenic American philanthropists whose sizable donations to Northeastern have helped make it a great university."

Neal F. Finnegan, BA'61, H'98, of Cohasset, Massachusetts, is a member of the board of directors of the Hanover Insurance Group. The chair of Northeastern's Board of Trustees, Finnegan is a former senior bank executive and chair at Citizens Bank of Massachusetts.

Ron Zeppieri, BA'61, of Darien, Georgia, writes, "I retired from the Old Saybrook, Connecticut, school district in spring 2003. Judy and I had had a forty-four-foot trawler catamaran built for us by Endeavour Catamaran Corporation, in Clearwater, Florida. We sold everything, put what we couldn't fit aboard in storage, and went cruising for three years. We went up and down the East Coast with the seasons, crossed Florida through the Okeechobee Waterway several times, and cruised the southern part of Florida's west coast, the Keys, the Bahamas, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. We had countless beautiful experiences and made many new friends. Our cruising plans were cut short by medical concerns, so we moved back ashore and put our boat, OdySea, up for sale. In March, we settled in the town of Darien, in Georgia's Golden Isles. I'd love to hear from old friends." His e-mail address is [ron\\_zeppieri@juno.com](mailto:ron_zeppieri@juno.com).

John Power, BA'63, of Walpole, Massachusetts, writes, "I thought I was retiring in 2000 to run my financial practice as a CFP-practitioner on a part-time basis. But, as luck would have it, I'm more active than ever. I've been a lead person in the Financial Planning Association of Massachusetts in their pro bono program to provide support to soldiers who have been deployed around the world and their families. I work part-time for a friend's consulting company, Goldense Group, and created a series of quarterly seminars that are now the firm's main source of revenue. I'm also a worldwide officer of the Society of Concurrent Product Development and am project managing the annual conference. There are more professional challenges out there than any person has time to explore."

Joseph Wells, E'63, ME'65, returned to the Northeastern campus (as Dr. Joe "Fargo" Wells) to participate in Mayor of Huntington Avenue Day, on March 22. A member of BGE fraternity, Wells was elected mayor in October 1959. He retired from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory in 2002 and is running

his own technical consulting firm, JMW Associates. He has published papers and presented lectures in Adelaide, Australia; Vancouver, British Columbia; Cocoa Beach, Florida; and Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Ann, live in Mashpee, Massachusetts.

Nelson Wikstrom, LA'63, of Richmond, Virginia, is a professor of political science and public administration in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, at Virginia Commonwealth University. Wikstrom is the coauthor of *American Intergovernmental Relations: A Fragmented Federal Polity*, published by Oxford University Press. He specializes in the areas of state and local government and politics, federalism, and intergovernmental relations.

Gus Capizzo, LA'65, MA'67, of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, reports that eight former Northeastern hockey players were members of the Boston USA Moby Dicks team, which won the gold medal for the over-sixty age group in April's Massachusetts Senior Olympic Hockey Tournament. It was the team's second consecutive gold medal. Along with Capizzo, who acted as goalie, the former Huskies who helped outscore opponents 24-2 in three games were Paul Bloh, BA'67, of Orleans; George Campbell, BA'67, of Boxford; John Leger, BA'68, of Littleton; Ed LeNormand, E'66, ME'71, of Norwell; Joe MacGillivray, BA'67, of Westwood; Tom Moon, LA'66, of East Sandwich; and Bill Seabury, Ed'67, MEd'69, of Stoneham.

Manuel E. Joaquim, E'65, of Lake Saint Louis, Missouri, is president and chief executive officer at Golconda, a company that assists business owners in the development and implementation of growth options. He writes, "My wife, Erika, and I still haven't found another part of the world that beats living on a beautiful lake in the Midwest. We have six children and five grandchildren who live in various parts of the country." Manuel and Erika attended the 1965 class reunion in 2005. He serves on the Alumni Reunion Committee.

Walt Ordway, E'65, of Palos Verdes, California, served from 2002 to 2005 as the chief technology officer at Digital Cinema Initiatives (DCI), where he and his staff created the specifications for digital-format movies in theaters. Their focus was establishing and documenting voluntary specifications for a digital-cinema open architecture to ensure a high level of technical performance, reliability, and quality control. Ordway notes the new technology not only maintains the high-quality image of the original movie, it also replaces more than a century of showing movies on film. Ordway, dubbed the "father of digital cinema," worked for Hughes Aircraft in California for thirty years, retiring in 1997. He took over the digital-format specifications task when DCI was created in March 2002 as a joint venture of Disney, Fox, MGM, Paramount, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Universal, and Warner Brothers Studios. This March, Ordway was presented the Ken Mason Award by the Inter-Society for the Enhancement of Cinema Presentation, in recognition of his service to the organization and the motion picture business. Ordway has twice made digital-cinema presentations to Northeastern engineers. His e-mail address is [waltordway@juno.com](mailto:waltordway@juno.com).

Dorothy Veronica White, LA'65, of Braintree, Massachusetts, holds two posts in her town. She is Braintree's representative on the MBTA advisory board and is also a member of the town's historic district

commission. In addition, she's a town-meeting member, and a member of the East Braintree Civic Association and the Braintree Historical Society. After serving in administrative posts at the state and the federal levels, White began working at the United Nations in 1977. During her twenty-two years there, she served on six peacekeeping missions, including missions to Cambodia, Haiti, and the Balkans.

Terry (Ayers) Kurdzionak, N'67, and Jack Kurdzionak, Ed'67, of Stoneham, Massachusetts, became grandparents for the first time when John F. Kurdzionak Jr. was born on February 18 to parents John and Christine. Terry and Jack work in their family businesses, the Boston Watch Company and Eckcells Company (a spare-parts distribution business that serves watchmakers nationwide). Terry is involved in the local business community and works as a trustee for the Stoneham Savings Bank. Jack is the secretary of the Education, Library, and Museum Charitable Trust of the American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute, of Harrison, Ohio, and the secretary of the institute's industry advisory board.

Lester Lefton, LA'69, formerly of New Orleans, has been named the eleventh president at Kent State University, in Ohio. He was previously the provost at Tulane University.

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### 1970s

Keith Farris, BA'70, MBA'75, of Wrentham, Massachusetts, is the vice president and chief financial officer at broadband technology company Aware, in Bedford. He previously served as chief financial officer at LoJack Corporation, the vehicle-tracking and -recovery company.

Robert L. McCracken, BA'70, of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, is a partner in the law firm Nash, Spindler, Grimstad & McCracken. In April, he was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of Motorists Mutual Insurance Company, in Columbus, Ohio. McCracken is a member of the Civil Trial Counsel of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the Defense Research Institute. In 2005, Milwaukee Magazine named him one of the top hundred lawyers in Wisconsin.

Joseph L. Cipp Jr., BB'71, of Brookhaven, New York, is the head football coach at Bellport High School, in East Patchogue. In June, he was presented the Coach of the Year award by the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Club of Long Island. The award goes to one athletics coach from all of Long Island's high schools. In February, he was named New York's Class AA Coach of the Year.

Robert D. Lovett, BA'71, of Naples, Florida, writes, "I own a wealth management firm in Naples. I also serve as the program director of two certified financial planner—certification education programs. One is offered at Barry University, in Miami, and the other at Florida Gulf Coast University, in Fort Myers. Since obtaining my Northeastern degree, I received a master's degree in taxation at Seton Hall University, in South Orange, New Jersey, and a doctorate in accounting from Nova Southeastern University, in Fort Lauderdale."

Michael J. Soja, PA'71, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, is the vice president of finance and chief financial officer at the Boston office of pSivida, a drug-delivery products company based in Australia.

Anthony Stramondo, LA'71, of Jupiter, Florida, is one of the pioneers of the laser printer industry. After designing laser printers for several companies for fourteen years, he started three laser-printer companies of his own: Office Automation Systems in 1983, Laser's Edge in 1986, and KLE in 1989. He has kept KLE small, with twelve employees. It focuses on color-printer toners.

Howard Weiss, BA'71, of Randolph, Massachusetts, writes, "I became a USA Hockey referee in 1996 and an EMT in 1998. I've been married for more than thirty-three years and have two children. Our son, Ben, BA'99, MBA'06, works at Northeastern's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. Our daughter, Emily, has a

bachelor's degree from Hofstra University and a master's from Emerson College."

Albert E. Smith, E'72, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, is the chairman of engineering at technical-services company Tetra Tech, in Pasadena, California. He is a former executive vice president and officer at defense contractor Lockheed Martin.

Bill Spillman, MS'72, PHD'77, in February received a lifetime achievement award in the field of smart structures and materials from the International Society for Optical Engineering. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Floyd, Virginia, about ten miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway. His e-mail address is [wspillma@yahoo.com](mailto:wspillma@yahoo.com).

James D. Wilcox, PA'72, of Bedford, Massachusetts, is a member of the board of directors for the aircraft manufacturer Mooney Aerospace Group. He is the founder of and principal at Pivotal Strategies, a provider of interim executive-management services.

Toni Wilder, N'72, formerly of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, is the nurse coordinator and case manager for the Good Samaritan Health Clinic at St. Cyprian's Church in St. Augustine, Florida. She worked for a number of years at hospitals in Boston and North Carolina.

Charlie D'Ambrosio, LA'73, of Wayland, Massachusetts, is the chief financial officer at Ember Corporation, a wireless semiconductor company in Boston. Previously, he was vice president and director of finance, administration, and human resources at the IT services company AverStar.

Bernard A. Drew, MA'73, of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, is the author of *The 100 Most Popular Genre Fiction Writers: Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies*, published in 2005 by Libraries Unlimited/Greenwood. The book was included on the New York Public Library's list of best reference books for 2006. His next book, *The 100 Most Popular African American Authors: Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies*, will be published in November.

Tom Korbas, E'73, of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, is the president of the Americas division at Samsonite, the luggage and travel-products company. Korbas's e-mail address is [tom\\_korbas@samsonite.com](mailto:tom_korbas@samsonite.com).

Kenneth Graham, MA'74, of Stratford, Connecticut, is a member of the Krewe of Morpheus Mardi Gras parading club in New Orleans, which has contributed funds to that city's recovery effort. He reports his "day job" is working as a trial referee in the Superior Court of Connecticut.

John Hart, E'74, of Rochester, New York, notes he's reconnected with several swim-team and water-polo friends who live and work in Boston. "As Bill O'Connell recounted, several of the 'over the hill' guys as recently as two years ago were competing with college players at MIT and UMass," Hart writes. He'd like to hear from other swimmers or water-polo players by e-mail at [jhart001@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jhart001@rochester.rr.com).

Chris Hoffman, MEd'74, of Boulder, Colorado, is the author of *Cairns*, his first full-length collection of poetry, in four sections. His previous poetry chapbooks are *Humming to Lizards*, *Listening to Trees*; *Map and Compass Work of the Spirit*; and *Songs from the*

Dream Canyon. He also wrote the nonfiction volume *The Hoop and the Tree: A Compass for Finding a Deeper Relationship with All Life*. He and his wife have a son.

Tom Levesque, LA'74, MS'77, formerly of Lewisville, Texas, is the senior director of global sales at nanotechnology company NanoInk, in Skokie, Illinois. Earlier, he worked in sales and marketing, capital equipment, at SYNOVA.

Dennis L'Heureux, E'74, ME'77, of Rockford, Illinois, was named one of the top hundred IT leaders for 2006 by *Computerworld* magazine. He is the senior vice president for planning and chief information officer at Rockford Health System, a health-care provider.

Rodney Mott, E'74, formerly of Richfield, Ohio, is the chief executive officer at Stelco, a steel company in Hamilton, Ontario. Linda Walker Bynoe, BA'75, of Chicago, is a member of the board of directors at financial-services firm Northern Trust Corporation. She serves as the principal, president, and chief executive officer at Telemat, a project-management and consulting firm.

Christine M. Cournoyer, MA'75, of South Hamilton, Massachusetts, is the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Picis, a health-care IT company in Wakefield. Formerly, she was managing director of Harte-Hanks, a direct- and targeted-marketing company. Cournoyer is also a member of the boards of directors at Stride Rite and GTECH.

Gabriele Crognale, E'75, of Needham Heights, Massachusetts, is the editor of *Environmental Management Strategies: The Twenty-First Century Perspective*. The book, published by Prentice Hall, is a compilation of first-hand accounts and case studies of the effect environmental-management issues have on organizations.

Tom Meehan, CJ'75, and Lisa (Giddings) Meehan, N'76, will celebrate their thirtieth wedding anniversary in October. They live in Duxbury, Massachusetts, and have two children, Tim and Amy. Tom worked for health-care products company Johnson & Johnson for twenty-five years. Today, he is the director of supply-chain management at orthopedics company DePuy Spine, in Raynham. Lisa is an oncology nurse manager at Commonwealth Hematology-Oncology, a South Weymouth-based private practice specializing in cancer care.

Richard Darer, ME'76, of Lexington, Massachusetts, is vice president and chief financial officer at Gomez, a web-application performance-management company in Lexington. Formerly, he was vice president and chief financial officer at Unica Corporation, a marketing-management software company.

Robert Ebersole, CJ'76, of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, is the chief financial officer at Pentucket Medical Associates, in Haverhill. The firm is a member of Partners Community HealthCare, which includes Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Ebersole was previously the chief operating officer at Urban Edge, a community-development corporation in Boston.

Robert Radin, BA'76, of Newton, Massachusetts, writes about a notable reunion with three Northeastern

roommates. Radin, Greg Mulinare, LA'76, of San Mateo, California; Pedro (Mike) Sarmiento Jr., PAH'76, of Fort Washington, Maryland; and Greg Smith, LA'76, of North Reading, Massachusetts, lived together in apartment 3B at 128 Hemenway Street during college. After graduation, the roomies went in different directions. In 1998, at Mulinare's insistence, the quartet came together for a reunion. They've reconnected every summer since. Radin explains, "While the academic part of college was important to what I've done with my life and who I became, it is a far less interesting story than the relationships and bonds I formed at Northeastern. These years were filled with growth and inspiration, mixed with some of life's epiphanies. Looking back, hindsight has a way of offering clarity to life's lessons, and what has become clear thirty years later is that I shared an important part of my personal evolution at a time when the four of us were unscathed by the realities of adult life. We went to class and worked at our co-op jobs with a camaraderie and level of support that I have since learned is rare in life. With thirty years of reflection to guide me today, it seems reasonable that, just as we came together, we would disperse and slowly lose touch with one another as our careers and lives took over. There was periodic contact over the years but nothing more. In summer 1998, we met for a long weekend at a cottage in Maine and picked up immediately where we had left off over two decades before. It was as though no time had passed. Though we looked older, our personalities and connections to one another were unchanged, and we were able to pick up where we left off. For me, reconnecting offered a lesson best said by Abraham Lincoln: 'The better part of one's life consists of his friendships.'" Today, Radin is an adjunct professor of management at Boston College. Mulinare is a network manager at Cisco Systems in San Jose. Sarmiento is a physician at Pediatric Partners of Southern Maryland. And Smith is manager of technical publications at Newbridge Networks, in Andover. This summer, the boys from 3B planned to reconvene in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, for their ninth reunion.

Emilio Rotondi, UC'76, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, used to watch Boston Marathon runners go past his Wellesley beauty salon back in the 1960s. Now he looks back on nearly four full decades of being a participant, not a spectator. At sixty-eight, Rotondi has run in thirty-eight Boston Marathons, completing thirty-seven of them (he exited one marathon when a runner stepped on the back of his foot, causing a hairline fracture). Rotondi is one of only thirty-nine runners to complete twenty-five or more consecutive Boston Marathons. This April, he crossed the finish line with a time of four hours, twenty-eight minutes.

Evelyn Thomson, FD'76, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, has written her third book, the eighth edition of *Essentials of Dental Radiography for Dental Assistants and Hygienists*, published in May by Prentice Hall.

Kathleen Brennan, Ed'77, MEd'81, and Colin Little, E'77, of Westminister, Massachusetts, are celebrating their fifteenth year as owners of the C. W. Little Company, a multimillion-dollar commercial construction company. Their oldest daughter, Mary Little, is enrolled in Northeastern's College of Arts and Sciences.

Frank Christmas, LA'77, of Bristol, Rhode Island, is the head of EditorialAdvantage.com, a company that provides such services as proofreading, copy editing, line editing, and rewriting for clients in a variety of

fields, including medicine and academia. Christmas is married to Rogeria Hosken Portes, formerly of Brazil, who is a children's book illustrator. They live with their daughter, Nicole. Friends can reach Christmas at [fxchristmas@cox.net](mailto:fxchristmas@cox.net).

Mark Coleman, CJ'77, of Medway, Massachusetts, is a twenty-eight-year veteran of the Boston Police Department, where he is a detective. He was named Detective of the Year in 2005.

Lorenzo Pitts Jr., E'77, MBA'83, of Sandy Springs, Georgia, earned a doctorate in education from Clark Atlanta University in 2005.

Lorin J. Randall, MBA'77, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, is a member of the board of directors and the chair of the audit committee at Acorda Therapeutics, a biotechnology company in Hawthorne, New York. He serves as senior vice president and chief financial officer at Eximias Pharmaceutical, in Berwyn, Pennsylvania.

Andrew John Gill, LA'78, writes, "Living in Skippack, Pennsylvania (near Valley Forge), with Margarita and kids Henry, Chelsea, Laura, and Vanessa, as well as my mom, Eleanor. Margarita is originally from Venezuela and was educated in Barbados and Philadelphia." Gill is the director of business development at Northstar Advisers, a project-management company in Ardmore. He previously served as a partner at Keller Williams Real Estate, in Blue Bell.

Gregory A. Lainas, BA'78, of Plantsville, Connecticut, is the 2006–2007 secretary of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA). He has served on several CSCPA boards and committees, and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the past president of the Waterbury chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants. Lainas is division director in the Hartford office of Robert Half Management Resources, a financial-consulting company.

Joseph Marinelli, LC'78, LC'84, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, is the president of Solids Handling Technologies, a waste-treatment consulting firm. He lectures on bulk-materials handling, has written several articles, offers seminars at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and is the featured columnist ("Ask Joe!") on the website . Marinelli is a member of the American Society of Testing Materials, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Tim Moore, CJ'78, GB'84, of Willow Spring, North Carolina, received the Certified Workforce Development Professional credential for his work with the Center for Employment Training in Raleigh. This private, accredited nonprofit organization offers postsecondary vocational-training and job-placement programs. "For the past three years, I have been involved in national and corporate initiatives with the center," he writes.

Edmund Y. Ting, E'78, formerly of Kent, Washington, is the senior vice president of engineering at Pressure BioSciences, a biotechnology company in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. He was previously the chief research officer at Avure Technologies, a high-pressure processing company in Kent.

Anthony Zuena, ME'78, of Andover, Massachusetts, is

the president and chief executive officer at SEA Consultants, a Cambridge-based architectural and civil-and environmental-engineering consulting firm. He has been with the company since 1981.

Morrison Bonpasse, MPA'79, of Newcastle, Maine, is the author of *The Single Global Currency: Common Cents for the World*, available from the Single Global Currency Association, at [www.singleglobalcurrency.org](http://www.singleglobalcurrency.org), and Amazon.com. He writes that it's "the world's only book about the solution to many international financial problems."

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### 1980s

John M. Aflague, N'80, of Smithfield, Rhode Island, has earned tenure and a promotion to associate professor at Rhode Island College. James Crider, CAGS'80, of Cataumet, Massachusetts, received an alumni award for excellence from Ohio's Defiance College this spring. For the second consecutive summer, Oxford University invited Crider to take part in a scholarly discussion of contemporary issues in psychology. He is an adjunct faculty member and consultant at Cape Cod Community College and has a private practice in psychotherapy and couples counseling in Osterville.

Pat DiGiovanni, AS'80, formerly of Kalamazoo, Michigan, is the deputy city manager in San Antonio, Texas. He worked in Kalamazoo's administration for fourteen years, the last eight as city manager. David W. Kelley, AS'80, of Hampton, New Hampshire, is a major in the New Hampshire State Police. He is the commander of the Investigative Services Bureau, overseeing four units: major crime, narcotics investigations, special investigations, and intelligence.

Michael W. Smith, MA'80, PHD'83, L'93, of Malden, Massachusetts, is an associate professor of sociology at St. Anselm College, in Manchester, New Hampshire. He teaches criminology, terrorism and genocide, and race and ethnic relations. He has authored *Convictions Without Justice: From Condemnation to Exoneration*, a book on wrongful convictions that is due to be published in early 2007.

Bruce E. Chadbourne, CJ'81, of Needham, Massachusetts, is the director of the New England field office for Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. "I am responsible for the apprehension, detention, and removal of aliens who have been convicted of serious crimes within the United States," he writes. In June 1979, when he was on co-op, Chadbourne was recruited as a special agent by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Justice.

Michael and Diane Ricci, both PAH'81, live in North Reading, Massachusetts, with their two children. Michael is the director of pharmacy for HealthSouth New England Rehabilitation Hospitals, in Woburn. Diane is a pharmacist at Beverly Hospital. James Neville, LC'82, of Millis, Massachusetts, is the principal mechanical-hardware design engineer at data-storage maker EMC, in Hopkinton. "I have been with EMC for six years in the mechanical-hardware quality-assurance group, responsible for the mechanical design verification and test of the EMC computer data-storage systems," he writes.

Lorraine Atwood, PA'83, of Sharon, Vermont, is the vice president for finance and administration at Vermont Law School. Previously, she had been the school's comptroller since 2001. She is a member of

the strategic planning committee for the American Council on Education's Office of Women in Higher Education, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Vermont Society of Certified Public Accountants. She and her husband, Bradford, have four children.

Howard Greene, MBA'83, of Newton, Massachusetts, works at Sovereign Asset Management in fixed-income management. He is the lead portfolio manager of the active bond strategy and portfolio manager of the investment-grade bond strategy.

Frank Gurley, LC'83, of Brockton, Massachusetts, is the power electronics group's eastern regional sales manager at Magnetek, a digital-power products company based in Chatsworth, California. Earlier, he was the southeast regional sales manager and U.S. sales manager at Martek Biosciences, a nutritional-oil maker based in Columbia, Maryland.

Frank Marangell, E'83, MBA'89, of Manchester, Massachusetts, is the president of EVS-US and ScanMaster Systems, wholly owned subsidiaries of Elbit Vision Systems, which develops automatic optical-inspection and monitoring systems. Marangell previously served as vice president of sales at Orbotech's PCB division in the United States and Europe, selling automated optical-inspection systems for printed circuit boards.

Michael Trudeau, AS'83, of Harwich Port, Massachusetts, in the spring was named Prosecutor of the Year by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association. He serves as first assistant district attorney for the Cape and Islands district.

Patrick Lott, BA'84, of Somerville, New Jersey, writes, "I was back at NU in March for a reunion of the Mayors of Huntington Avenue. It brought back great memories."

Paul O'Toole, E'84, is vice president and general manager at Mediware Information Systems, a developer of patient-care software based in Lenexa, Kansas. He was previously the head of technology company 3M's health-care division.

Patrick A. Plante Jr., CJ'84, of Lynn, Massachusetts, writes, "After twenty-four years of service (twenty-one in the Reserve, three on active duty), I retired from the U.S. Coast Guard. I enjoyed my time serving from three different units: MSO Boston, Chatham, and Point Allerton Search and Rescue. I continue to work at Union Hospital in Lynn as an operating-room nurse."

Thomas Robbins, UC'84, of Merrimac, Massachusetts, retired in the spring as colonel and superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police. In June, he accepted the position of police chief at Boston University.

John J. Sanguinet, AS'84, MPA'93, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, in March was named the assistant town manager and personnel director in Billerica. He had been the assistant town administrator and planner in Truro since October 2002. Previously, he was the town administrator in Abington.

Arthur Riel, CS'85, MS'87, of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, spent the last eight years in investment banking. Now he has started Lighthouse Global Technologies, a technology outsourcing/ products

business in Stamford. He and his wife, Susana, have two children, Alexander and Elena. Riel says he's interested in hearing from classmates and students. His e-mail address is [arthur@riel.com](mailto:arthur@riel.com).

Christine (Lestha) Abbott, N'86, of Charlton, Massachusetts, writes, "I'm still working at Brigham and Women's Hospital. It's been eight years now. I got married in 2002 at our lakeside home. I have an eleven-year-old stepson, Dylan, and a two-year-old son, David. Life is very busy with work and home, but I would love to hear from classmates." Her e-mail address is [clestha@partners.org](mailto:clestha@partners.org). Jordan Adams, AS'86, and his wife, Corinne A. Miller, live in Jupiter and Tampa, Florida. Adams sources products, is an on-air guest for the Home Shopping Network and other television shopping channels, and produces and announces sports programming.

Bill Gaudette, E'86, and Debby Weinberg Gaudette, AS'86, live in Cheshire, Connecticut, with their sons, Cal and Adam. Bill is in technical sales for Precision Twist Drill, a cutting-tool manufacturer based in Crystal Lake, Illinois. He is active in Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts with his sons and plays the trombone with the Cheshire Community Band. His e-mail is [williamgaudette@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williamgaudette@sbcglobal.net). Debby is a customer-service manager for business-transaction processing company ADP, where she has worked for nineteen years. She is the assistant den leader for her younger son's Cub Scout den and teaches Hebrew school in Cheshire.

Robert J. Healey Jr., MA'86, of Barrington, Rhode Island, is running once again for that state's lieutenant governor, as a member of the Cool Moose party. His platform: Rhode Island doesn't need a lieutenant governor. An attorney, liquor wholesaler, and land investor, Healey announced his candidacy in March from a beach in Uruguay, where he has a home. "I have chosen this location because I think it demonstrates that, no matter where you are in the world and no matter what you are doing, you can also be serving as Rhode Island's lieutenant governor," he said in an e-mail sent to news organizations. "I have tried in the past to reason away the office. This campaign, I will try to abolish it through ridicule."

Robert R. Kent Jr., BA'86, of Franklin, Massachusetts, is a senior vice president/relationship manager in corporate banking at Citizens Bank, based in Providence, Rhode Island. He is vice chairman of the Boys & Girls Club of Woonsocket and is on the communications committee of the Franklin Youth Baseball Organization.

Timothy Lutts, UC'86, of Salem, Massachusetts, is the president of Cabot Heritage Corporation, which publishes investment newsletters. He was the featured speaker at the eighteenth annual Money Show conference, held in Las Vegas in May.

Sharon (Quigley) Senna, AS'86, of Southlake, Texas, writes, "I remarried in 2001, and I moved back to the Dallas-Forth Worth area in 2005. Still working for Fidelity Investments and loving it! In addition, I've published my first book, a collection of poetry titled Heart Lines." The online publisher is [Wheatmark.com](http://Wheatmark.com).

Karl Elken, BA'87, of Newtown, Connecticut, is vice president and publisher at eWEEK, a Ziff Davis enterprise newsweekly.

Manual A. Henriquez, BA'87, of Atherton, California, writes, "In February 2004, I cofounded and now serve as the chairman and CEO of Hercules Technology Growth, a specialty finance company targeting private equity" and venture capital"backed technology companies. In June 2005, Hercules Technology Growth Capital completed its IPO on the NASDAQ, with market capitalization in excess of \$100 million."

Frank Prokos, CJ'87, of Sharon, Massachusetts, has opened a law practice in Walpole concentrating on personal-injury litigation. His e-mail address is [fprokos@prokoslaw.com](mailto:fprokos@prokoslaw.com).

John Furrier, CS'88, of Palo Alto, California, is the founder of PodTech.Network, which he started in May 2005. Based in Menlo Park, PodTech is a media company dedicated to podcasting.

Tom Murphy, ME'89, of Franklin, Massachusetts, is the chief marketing officer at security-software company Bit9, in Cambridge. Previously, he was vice president of marketing at Symantec, an online-security firm.

Thomas Spencer, MBA'89, of Franklin, Massachusetts, is vice president of finance at VidSys, a Boston company that produces video management and solutions for security and surveillance. He was formerly vice president of finance and operations at Aether Systems, a wireless-communications company.

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### 1990s

Jeffrey J. Barclay, E'90, ME'94, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is an associate in the patent prosecution and strategic-counseling group of the Boston law firm Fish & Richardson, a leading patent-litigation firm. Previously, Barclay was an associate at law firms in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Michael Lipson, BA'90, of Pinecrest, Florida, and his wife, Michele, celebrated the birth of their second child, Joshua Scott, on February 1 in Miami.

Paula Rosenblum, MBA'90, formerly of Miami, is executive director at Retail Systems Alert Group, a research and events company in Newton, Massachusetts. She was previously vice president at Boston research company Aberdeen Group's retail practice. She is a member of the American Apparel and Footwear Association's Supply Chain Leadership Council.

Daniel Springer, MA'90, of Harwich, Massachusetts, had his first solo exhibition of Cape Cod landscapes at the Brewster Ladies' Library in May. He has led art and humanities classes for eighteen years. He teaches studio art, printmaking, advanced-placement art, and advertising classes at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, as well as classes in college portfolio preparation at the Cape Cod Museum of Art. Springer has presented workshops at the last two National Art Education Association's annual conventions, in Boston and Chicago.

Charles Thorne III, L'90, and Susanna Walsh were married on September 23, 2005, at the North Woolwich Methodist Church, in Woolwich, Maine. They are in the process of moving to Monticello, in northern Maine.

Liz (Alves) Bernaiche, AS'91, GB'93, and Michel Bernaiche, BA'96, of Lakeville, Massachusetts, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, on March 28 at St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford. The baby's older sister is Julia, and her older brother is Christian.

Jay Hargis, GB'91, of Boston, is the associate director of learning and development at Digitas, an advertising and consulting firm.

Ari Porth, AS'91, of Coral Springs, Florida, is a prosecutor in the state attorney's office for Broward County in Fort Lauderdale, and a member of the House of Representatives in the Florida legislature. He's also past president of the Broward County B'nai B'rith Justice Unit, a local chapter of the service organization B'nai B'rith International; its members are Jewish attorneys and judges in Broward.

Pamela Berard, AS'92, of Somerset, Massachusetts, is

working as an editorial-page and business editor in Fall River. She'd like to hear from classmates, at [pamberard@aol.com](mailto:pamberard@aol.com).

Elaine (Trant) Brown, AS'92, of Stoneham, Massachusetts, and Shawn Brown celebrated the birth of their second child, Colin Henry, on January 13. Erin is Colin Henry's older sister.

Diane (Rita) O'Connell, PAH'92, and Kevin W. O'Donnell welcomed their fourth child, Weylan Joseph, on November 1, 2005. The baby has an older sister, Megan, and two older brothers, Logan and Quinlan. The family lives in Franklin, Massachusetts. Diane is co-president of the Franklin-South MOMS Club. Kevin is a partner at accounting and consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Kerry (Connor) Grenier, AS'93, of Pembroke, Massachusetts, and Phil Grenier celebrated the birth of their son, Tyler James, on January 13 in South Shore Hospital, in Weymouth.

Rich Kaufman, BA'93, of Howell, New Jersey, reports the birth of sons Eric Michael and Matthew Evan in March. Kaufman is a middle-school teacher and the owner of Rich Kaufman Productions Entertainment.

Colin M. Korzec, BA'93, of Whitman, Massachusetts, is the head of U.S. Trust's New England region estate-settlement department. He is a senior vice president in the Boston office of the New York City-based wealth-management company. Previously, he was trust counsel at State Street Bank and Trust, a Boston-based financial services company. He and his wife, Michele, live with their two children.

Douglas Luffborough, BA'93, of Chula Vista, California, is one of the founders of Turning the Hearts Center, an organization that provides mentoring, teaches leadership, and encourages community service for at-risk youth in the San Diego area. "What makes us unique is that we are aggressively going after young people to encourage them to be leaders. If you're not excited about what you do, no one else will be," says Luffborough, who was homeless during his senior year of high school in Worcester, Massachusetts. He went on to earn a master's degree at Harvard. Approximately 5,000 youths have been involved in Turning the Hearts activities since the center was opened in 2001. Its website is at [www.turningtheheartscenr.org](http://www.turningtheheartscenr.org).

Mark T. Munroe, AS'93, of Mansfield, Massachusetts, is the vice president of business development at Somnia, which provides outpatient surgical services. He was previously a vice president at iLIANT, a Tampa-based technology and business-services provider to the health-care industry.

David C. Whitney, MBA'93, of Pittsburgh, is the director of U.S. lending for Mellon Global Securities Lending, part of Mellon Financial. Whitney joined Mellon in 1993 from State Street Bank and Trust, a Boston-based financial services company.

Kenneth Williams, AS'93, of Winchester, California, writes, "I serve as activities director for the middle school where I teach. One of my many tasks is to bring in speakers for the student body. I arranged for Doug Luffborough, BA'93, to speak to my kids about following their dreams and having college as a vision.

Thanks to Doug and his nonprofit organization, Turning the Hearts Center, for inspiring the youth in my community."

Jim Casey, L'94, formerly of Rockport, Massachusetts, is the global head of investor relations at GlobeOp Financial Services in New York City. He was previously the director of product management and development for alternative investment administration at financial-services company Investors Bank and Trust.

Jo Anne (Spreen) Frazier, AS'94, and Matthew Frazier, of Billerica, Massachusetts, welcomed their third daughter, Keira Brooke, on March 18 in Boston. Her sisters are Cameron and Morgan.

Scott Geller, BA'94, and Elisha (Grant) Geller, BB'96, of Roswell, Georgia, celebrated the birth of their second son, Owen Reggie, on February 8. His older brother is Reece. Scott is a senior consultant in the decision sciences department at Intercontinental Hotels and teaches statistics at Georgia State University. Elisha has practiced pediatric physical therapy at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta for eight years.

Robert Hood, AS'94, of Portland, Oregon, writes, "Attention, Oregon NU alumni! I would like to get a group of Huskies together in the Portland area. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming part of the group." E-mail him at [robinhoodjr@comcast.net](mailto:robinhoodjr@comcast.net).

Ed Lavalette, E'94, of Milford, Massachusetts, is the manager of support services at software developer Kubotek USA, which makes KeyCreator. "I am also in training for my first marathon, the LaSalle Chicago Marathon, which will be held October 22," he writes. "If all goes well there, then it will be on to the Boston Marathon in April 2007."

Jordan Malik, AS'94, of Boston, is the vice president of marketing and sales at Nextworth, a community-focused consignment brokerage headquartered in Needham. Previously, he launched marketing divisions at telecommunications-services provider RNK Telecom, broadband-services provider WinStar Communications, and cable company RCN. From 2001 to 2004, he was a union leader at the Providence Journal, in Rhode Island. His e-mail address is [jordanmalik@hotmail.com](mailto:jordanmalik@hotmail.com).

Gwendolyn Pough, MA'94, of Syracuse, is an associate professor of women's studies, writing, and rhetoric at Syracuse University. She's also the author (using the pen name Gwyneth Bolton) of three novels, I'm Gonna Make You Love Me, Sweet Sensation, and If Only You Knew, published by Genesis Press. Pough wrote the volume Check It While I Wreck It: Black Womanhood, Hip-Hop Culture, and the Public Sphere, which was published by Northeastern University Press.

David Barry, E'95, and Gitanjali Barry, of Livermore, California, celebrated the birth of a son, Ian Clifton, born on May 4 in Mountain View. Write Barry at [davidbarry68@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbarry68@yahoo.com).

Schon Hubeny, BA'95, and his wife, Colleen, celebrated the first birthday of their daughter, Kaki, on April 14. Their second child is due in late September. The family lives in Potomac, Maryland. Hubeny is vice president and part-owner of Keane Business Risk Management Solutions, a software company in Baltimore. His e-mail address is [shubeny@his.com](mailto:shubeny@his.com).

Wanchai Phlaphongphanich, BA'95, MBA'99, of Bangkok, is the chief executive of Tsutaya, a home-entertainment rental chain. He says his main job is watching movies and visiting cinemas about fifteen times a month.

Allison Price, MJ'95, of Winchester, Massachusetts, welcomed her fourth child, Annemarie, in July 2005. Price, who has two older daughters and a son, expects to graduate from nursing school in May 2007.

Gina M. Rossetti, MA'95, of River Forest, Illinois, is an assistant professor of English at Xavier University, in Chicago. She is the author of *Imagining the Primitive in Naturalist and Modernist Literature*, published by the University of Missouri Press. The book, which focuses on works by Eugene O'Neill, Willa Cather, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and Nella Larsen, argues that primitive literary characters reveal a culture's social or racial assumptions.

Adam Schauer, MBA'95, of Marblehead, Massachusetts, is vice president of finance/controller at Etnus, which makes a multiprocess debugger on Linux, UNIX, and Mac OS X. He has been a controller at a number of software companies, including Amicas, Applix, Servicesoft, Internet Business Advantages, Broadbase, and Kana Software.

Catherine Tucker, MJ'95, of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, was named to the newly created position of insurance fraud prosecutor for the state of New Hampshire in February. Formerly, Tucker was an assistant district attorney for Suffolk County in Massachusetts and the assistant director of the Massachusetts Judicial Nominating Council.

Jonathan Yalowchuk, BPH'95, is a chiropractor at Release Chiropractic in Weymouth, Massachusetts, where he lives.

David Mairs, UC'96, of Narragansett, Rhode Island, is a vice president and senior purchasing manager in strategic sourcing at Citizens Bank in Providence. He joined the bank in 2004 as an assistant vice president. Mairs is a coach for Young American Bowling Alliance in Wakefield.

Lisa (Mazzotta) Morris, CJ'96, and Scott Morris, of Middletown, Connecticut, celebrated the birth of their son, Dylan, on September 17, 2002.

Noel Texeira, CJ'96, of Foxborough, Massachusetts, has been promoted to principal global manager of strategic accounts at data-storage maker EMC, in Hopkinton. He is celebrating his tenth anniversary at EMC.

James Walsh, BA'96, of Boston, is a franchise partner at 1-800-GOT-JUNK? a junk-removal service. His service loads and removes all types of nonhazardous materials, recycling items whenever possible.

Thomas Landry, MJ'97, of Washington, D.C., is a member of the presidential protective division of the U.S. Secret Service. He completed prior assignments with the Detroit field office and the dignitary protective division.

Jodi (Bornstein) Rubin, AS'97, and Ken Rubin, of Stoughton, Massachusetts, celebrated the birth of daughter Stephanie Fay on April 22. "I'd love to hear

from old friends," writes Rubin. Her e-mail address is [jrubin11@hotmail.com](mailto:jrubin11@hotmail.com).

Marc Todd, ME'97, of Foxborough, Massachusetts, is the president and chief executive officer of IneoQuest Technologies, a supplier of video-over-IP analysis solutions. Todd helped found the company in 2001. He presented a paper titled "Monitoring IPTV/IP Networks for Video over IP Quality" in March at the TelecomNEXT Conference in Las Vegas.

Amanda Zuretti, L'98, of Ashland, Massachusetts, is the title counsel in the Wellesley office of CATIC, the largest domestic title underwriter in New England.

Shanna Coakley, BPH'99, of Salem, Connecticut, is engaged to Rhett Behrje. The wedding is scheduled for October 2007 in Connecticut. "Rhett and I met while working for a high-school hockey league in Kalamazoo, Michigan," writes Coakley. "After five years of dating, Rhett proposed while we were on vacation in Palm Springs."

Alan Harrison, E'99, writes, "Just a quick note from Colchester, Connecticut, where I live with my wife, Lisa; daughter, Kay; and dog and two cats. I have just completed both my first year of law school at the University of Connecticut and my last day of active service as a naval officer. Also, just passed the patent bar exam, so I will now be a registered patent agent. All you Husky entrepreneurs, keep me in mind to help protect your novel designs."

Kristine Herman, L'99, formerly of Brooklyn, New York, is a gender/human rights liaison at the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative in Baku, Azerbaijan. ABA/CEELI is a program that assists local bar organizations with legal education and training. "A lingering desire to break into the international arena and continue to do domestic-violence and sexual-offense work has led me to temporarily change career paths," she writes.

Danah Hussein and Amer Hayat, both BA'99, of Kuwait, celebrated the birth of their son, Yousef Amer, on May 15, 2005.

Dovie Yoana King, L'99, of Pasadena, California, married Ricardo Ochoa in a private ceremony on October 9, 2005, in Mendocino. King is a staff attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Los Angeles.

Ges Selmont, L'99, of Middle Haddam, Connecticut, produced, directed, and costars in *Wait  til This Year*, the story of the 2004 Red Sox World Series championship season as viewed through the eyes of a fan, his wife, Monika Lahiri. The result is a ninety-minute DVD that includes Monika and Ges ("Jes" in the piece), interviews with former Red Sox players Jim Rice, Carl Yastrzemski, and Dwight Evans, and two fictional fans (one for the Red Sox, the other for the Yankees) driving across New England who pick up a hitchhiker, former Red Sox pitcher Bill Lee. The DVD was released by New England Sports Network in November 2005. Ges has performed in the off-Broadway comedy troupe Chicago City Limits. He and Monika have two sons.

Peter E. Smith, CJ'99, of Lowell, Massachusetts, has opened a solo law practice in Methuen. He is licensed to practice in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The

business's website is [www.petersmithlaw.com](http://www.petersmithlaw.com).

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### 2000s

Bill Burke, GB'00, of Middleborough, Massachusetts, is the administrative director of cardiology at South Shore Hospital, in Weymouth. He notes that the hospital, in conjunction with Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, opened the first comprehensive cardiovascular center south of Boston last summer.

Giuseppe Olivadoti, E'00, of Braintree, Massachusetts, is a field engineer at microchip maker Analog Devices. He is the coauthor of an article titled "Real-Time Debugging 101," which appeared in the May issue of Embedded Systems Design magazine.

Nicole Chagnon, AS'01, writes, "After eight years in Boston, I moved to the West Coast in July 2003 and have settled in San Anselmo, in Marin County. I do media relations for Macy's West and am in the process of submitting an application for graduate studies in communications at San Francisco State University. I would love to hear from classmates who remember me, particularly from Organization Communication and fellow Stetson Westers."

Timothy Faraldi, BA'01, of Hyattsville, Maryland, earned an MBA in May from Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. He is a principal financial analyst in the financial leadership development program at power company Constellation Energy. He says he's excited to start his new career with his fiancée, Sarah Kaye.

Sharon Levine, AS'01, of Brooklyn, is the founder of Concrete Safaris: Work Out Your Adventure. She writes, "After five years in the music industry, I decided I wanted to do something different with my life. I trekked Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, and returned home to New York City to start an adventure fitness company. My dream is to reduce the obesity rate through adventure fitness. In October 2005, I began phoning gyms to see if any personal trainers might donate their time for private training and mentoring sessions with at-risk youth. The response was overwhelmingly positive. In December, Keen Footwear made me the female/urban spokesperson for their national marketing campaign, HybridLife, which appears in Jane, Shape, and ReadyMade magazines from April through October. You can learn more about what I do at [www.concretesafaris.com](http://www.concretesafaris.com)."

Shawn MacDonald, CJ'01, and Allyson Cicchese, N'02, were married on September 9, 2005, in Boston. They live in Rockville, Maryland. Allyson is a nurse at the National Naval Medical Center. Shawn has a job with the CIA and is working toward a master's in business.

Mimoza Meholfi, AS'01, formerly of Boston, graduated in May from the collaborative Ben-Gurion University-Columbia University Medical School for

International Health, which trains doctors in global health. She spent her first three years in classes at Ben-Gurion University's Negev Faculty of Health Sciences Medical School for International Health, in Beer-Sheva, Israel, and in clinical electives at Columbia's affiliated hospitals in New York. Last winter, she served a two-month clerkship in India. Meholli's health-care background includes volunteer work in the emergency department at Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston. During medical school, she also volunteered in Kenya for Operation Crossroads Africa.

Andrew Bayliss, BA'02, of Allston, Massachusetts, and Kimberly Kokot, N'06, of Rochester, New York, are engaged. Bayliss works in the retirement- services division of mutual fund company DWS Scudder. Kokot is preparing to take the NCLEX exams for registered and practical nurses.

Diane Berry, BA'02, and John Hrenko, BHS'97, of Brockton, Massachusetts, were married on April 29. "We were fortunate enough to have several of our Northeastern friends attend," writes the bride. They included Elizabeth (Fernandes) Lozano, BA'01; Laurie Constant, BA'02; Becky (Goldstein) Hayes, BA'02; Chris Britton, BA'03; Deborah Burns, AS'03; Mike Mosny, BHS'03; Laura Gazzilli, BHS'04; Krista Marcigliano, BHS'04; Rod Marriott, BHS'04; Lori Wise, BHS'04; Brian Fournier, BHS'05; Amanda Hannon, BHS'05; and Jaclyn Gossett, BHS'06.

Lisa Gramp, L'02, of Portland, Oregon, is an assistant general counsel with the Portland Development Commission, the state's largest urban-renewal agency. She was formerly an adjunct professor of architecture at the University of Oregon.

Dan Klotz, MA'02, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, teaches sociology at Bryant College, in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and online at Skidmore College's University Without Walls. He was the president of the New England Sociological Association from 2004 to 2005. He has been a member of the board of directors of the Center for Cape Verdean American Community Development in Pawtucket since 2004. He and his wife, Nadia, have three daughters. His e-mail address is [klotz\\_dan@hotmail.com](mailto:klotz_dan@hotmail.com).

Leslie (Kappauf) Marchio, AS'02, and Scott Marchio celebrated the birth of their daughter, Genevieve Rose, on April 21. They live in Somerset, New Jersey. Marchio is an architectural designer for a firm in Wayne. She earned a master's degree in architecture from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Angela B. Martin, L'02, of Henniker, New Hampshire, is serving the first year of a three-year term on the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Manchester. An associate with the law firm Devine Millimet, she practices general corporate law, specializing in mergers and acquisitions. Martin is a member of the Manchester Rotary, and the New Hampshire Bar and Women's Bar Associations. She writes and lectures on legal and business topics.

Michael O'Connor, CJ'02, and Cristine (Zappone) O'Connor, celebrated the birth of their son, Owen Michael, on April 16. The family lives in Highland, New York.

Jason Oliver, CJ'02, of Arlington, Virginia, works for the U.S. Secret Service in Washington, D.C. He is engaged to Johanna Liparini, an attorney from Maryland.

Michael E. Pikiel Jr., L'02, of New York City, is an associate in the public- finance group at international law firm Fulbright & Jaworski. He was previously an associate at Bowditch & Dewey in Boston. Craig Standish, BA'02, of Dover, New Hampshire, earned a law degree from Syracuse University with a certificate in global law and practice. He was a three-year Dean's Scholar, the managing editor of the Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce, and a student attorney in the college's Low-Income Tax Payer Clinic. Standish spent his first summer clerking for Judge Paul J. Barbadoro of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire and his second summer at McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton in Manchester. After taking the bar exam, he will work at McLane as an associate in the tax department.

Jonathan E. Bachand, E'03, of Los Angeles, earned a law degree from Gould School of Law of Southern California. He is practicing law with the firm Knobbe, Martens, Olson, and Bear in Irvine.

David Ilnicki, CJ'03, of Quincy, Massachusetts, is a financial representative at the Boston Group, an office of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. The Boston Group sells and distributes financial and insurance products. Ilnicki was a corporate security representative with mutual fund company Fidelity Investments, in Boston.

Elizabeth (Coulter) Medeiros, E'03, and Kevin Medeiros, BA'03, of Raynham, Massachusetts, celebrated the birth of their son, Coulter Joseph, on January 8. "He is growing fast and looking forward to his first visit to NU," writes Elizabeth.

Vadim Radunsky, MBA'03, of Framingham, Massachusetts, is the president of Hypertronics Corporation, a Hudson-based manufacturer of specialty connectors and connector solutions for the electronics industry. He had been the company's vice president of engineering and new-business development since 2001.

Matthew and Peter Slutsky, both AS'03, of Merion Station, Pennsylvania, are twin brothers and the founders (along with Josh Skaroff) of DoubleSpeak, a politically progressive online radio show. Its URL is . Kurt Bertram, BHS'04, of Boston, writes, "After doing clinical ophthalmology research for two years at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, I will be moving to Long Island for medical school at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. Boston has been my home for seven years, and I will deeply miss it. I hope to survive these next four years."

John C. Burke, CJ'04, is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marines currently stationed in Iraq. Angela Flintoff, BHS'04, of Winthrop, Massachusetts, in May received a master of science degree in communication sciences and disorders from Emerson College. She works in the speech language and hearing department at Massachusetts General Hospital Health Centers.

Jillian Goldfarb, E'04, of Providence, is engaged to Douglas Kriner. She notes they met through a friend ("Thanks, Jesi Marshall, AS'04," she writes). Goldfarb is working toward a doctorate in chemical engineering at Brown University. Kriner received a doctorate in political science in June from Harvard University and is an assistant professor at Boston University.

April Luna, L'04, of Somerville, Massachusetts, is an

associate in the litigation department at the Boston office of law firm Adler Pollock & Sheehan. She focuses on litigation, including products liability, toxic tort, and insurance defense. She joined the law firm in 2005 as a legal assistant and then worked as a paralegal. She also served as a contract attorney at Goodwin Procter, in Boston. Luna is active in several community programs against domestic violence.

Monica Vantoch, L'04, of Santa Cruz, California, writes, "For my website supporters (you know who you are), here is my new website: the Mediation and Law Office of Monica Vantoch, [www.santacruzmediation.com](http://www.santacruzmediation.com)."

Kristy (Clem) Durgin, AS'05, and Dan Durgin were married on April 29 in Lynn, Massachusetts. They live in Englewood, Florida.

Courtney Tamulevich, BA'05, traveled from California to attend the wedding. Robert C. Dwelly, MBA'05, of Barre, Massachusetts, is a tax and estate-planning manager at Ojerholm Associates, an accounting company in Worcester.

Megan McGregor, AS'05, of Santa Monica, California, is an assistant to the vice president and the director of retail marketing in the licensing and merchandising division of film studio 20th Century Fox, in Los Angeles. She previously worked for Assistance in Marketing, recruiting for market-research studies in West Los Angeles, with clients that included General Motors, Pepsi, and Cingular. "In this new position, I will be responsible for overseeing the licensing of various Fox properties—such as The Simpsons, Family Guy, 24, Ice Age 2, and Napoleon Dynamite—to create promotional programs that you find at major retailers such as Target, Wal-Mart, and Kohl's," she writes. McGregor can be reached at [megan.mcgregor@fox.com](mailto:megan.mcgregor@fox.com).

Sara Pic-Harrison, L'05, and Lisa Pic-Harrison were married on September 4, 2005, in Boston. They live in Roslindale. "Thanks to my wonderful, supportive, Beautiful School of Law family who helped me celebrate my wedding to Lisa," writes Sara.

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## Alumni Deaths

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#### 1920s

Ruth M. Dolliver, BB'28, August 15, 2005

#### 1930s

Max Coffman, CF'31, June 27, 2005

Robin Lederman, L'34, January 17

### Departments

E Line

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Huskiana

Sam H. Gorman, B'35, December 19, 2004

Theodore J. Bunke, BA'36, March 2

Harold Rich, E'36, May 6, 2005

Morris Shapiro, E'36, March 16

Thomas J. Bongiorno, L'39, April 11

Harry Miller, E'39, January 7

Carlton E. Molineux, LA'39, March 23, 2005

Stanley C. Shaw, BA'39, March 17

#### 1940s

William H. England, E'40, March 15

Sigmund W. Stawicki, E'40, October 29, 2005

Elizabeth G. Zielinski, L'40, December 31, 2005

Leonard K. Adams, BA'41, September 1, 2005

Nicholas P. Hollis, L'41, February 6, 2005

Albert K. Schmieder, E'41, March 24

Maurice Zallen, E'41, March 4

Patricia P. Dayton, BB'42, February 22

Louise C. Kennedy, L'42, February 27

Roger C. Wilder, BA'42, March 1

Milton S. Barth, E'43, July 22, 2005

Richard M. Burbank, E'43, April 2

George W. Walsh, E'43, February 1

Saul A. Fine, E'44, October 27, 2004

Theodore T. Pettingell, E'44, July 13, 2005

Ralph G. Atwell, E'46, March 2, 2005

John J. Doherty, E'46, March 23, 2005

Alfred W. Vasel, E'47, May 6

Robert F. Coughlin, E'48, April 14

#### **1950s**

George B. Foster, E'50, October 5, 2004

Ben Sakalay, E'50, August 1, 2005

Robert L. Donlan, LA'51, May 17, 2005

Robert H. Fish, B'51, July 27, 2005

Philip W. Freeman, E'51, August 9, 2005

Kay K. Krekorian, E'51, February 15

Jack E. Leard, E'51, April 10, 2005

Floyd F. Manning, LI'51, B'53, December 2, 2004

Stephen M. McGrail, LA'51, November 15, 2005

Leonard A. Miniutti, LC'51, B'53, March 18

Edward H. Hartley, LI'52, B'53, MBA'68, March 3, 2005

Norman E. Leathers, B'52, March 12

Ronald H. Tracy, BA'52, March 6

George T. Barrett, E'53, October 19, 2005

John G. Campbell, B'53, April 27

Herbert E. Hodgdon, E'53, March 19

Viktoras Kubilius, LC'53, B'56, March 23

Murray W. Lovit, BA'53, January 19

Allan R. Lowry, B'53, February 5

Joseph L. Miller, E'53, March 28, 2004

Edward T. Rush, LC'53, B'57, August 27, 2005

James L. Brady, P'54, February 12

Joseph L. Murphy, B'54, March 11

Ivan R. Small, BB'54, February 5

Eugene F. Fallon, BA'55, January 2

Wilhelm J. Nelson, LA'55, MEd'60, March 22  
Carol A. O'Leary, BB'55, February 24, 2005  
Charles L. Adams, B'56, February 13  
Joyce Olson Marolt, LA'56, April 18, 2005  
Richard H. Burt, BA'57, June 27, 2005  
Nicholas A. Delvecchio, LI'57, B'60, December 4, 2004  
Bernard P. Fitzgerald, P'57, January 31  
John P. Hickey, E'57, April 27  
Robert L. Krulee, MS'57, March 20  
William J. McCarthy, LC'57, UC'61, August 30, 2005  
Edward J. Comeau, E'58, January 27  
John J. Driscoll, MBA'58, August 5, 2005  
Richard C. Evans, BA'58, November 15, 2005  
Peter M. Moloney, E'58, February 6  
Mary R. Ferzoco, P'59, February 12  
Theos D. McKinney, E'59, ME'61, February 4  
Warren W. Orcutt, BA'59, June 3, 2005

**1960s**

Albert K. Chase, MEd'61, February 21  
George M. Cowen, LI'61, UC'68, October 26, 2004  
Richard H. Flinn, UC'61, November 18, 2005  
Matthew B. Galvin, BA'61, January 6  
Hubert O. Schultz, BA'61, February 14  
Robert R. Ahlstrom, E'62, ME'70, April 21  
Lawrence W. Kirby, LC'62, UC'68, February 12, 2005  
Merle F. Tibbetts, LC'62, LC'63, November 10, 2005  
Richard A. Tracy, E'62, April 9  
Donald D. Fagan, BA'63, April 21  
Donald W. Pigeon, BA'63, December 31, 2005  
Muriel M. Wallace, UC'64, UC'67, May 15, 2005  
Michael J. Cicoria, BA'65, January 13  
Richard P. Hellige, E'66, March 21  
Daniel P. Leggo, LA'66, April 10

Carl L. Eidam, LA'67, September 4, 2004

Robert F. Metcalf, ME'67, March 9

Paul R. Duval, MEd'68, December 2, 2005

Isaiah S. Berger, UC'69, December 31, 2004

#### **1970s**

Homer R. Cilley, LA'70, June 27, 2005

Alan H. Deems, LC'70, November 26, 2004

Fred A. Derosa, LC'70, UC'73, November 12, 2005

Philip A. Hoyt, MS'70, February 22

Dawn M. Brine, MEd'71, September 26, 2004

Robert M. Phelps, BB'71, February 11, 2005

Chester W. Stanhope, ME'71, October 30, 2004

Peter Gage, LC'72, LC'76, February 14

Robert N. Giffin, BA'72, November 18, 2004

Paul C. McLaughlin, BA'72, April 10

John E. Mudd, MBA'72, July 10, 2005

Bradley K. Delano, UC'73, January 28

Ralph M. Moore, UC'73, February 5

Jon M. Davis, BA'74, December 2, 2005

Richard S. Donohue, CJ'74, November 24, 2005

Thomas H. Morris, BA'74, January 30

Michael H. Green, MBA'75, July 25, 2005

Thomas J. Murphy, BA'75, December 14, 2004

Louis B. Roberts, UC'75, April 19

Winifred O. Williams, UC'75, UC'82, October 11, 2005

Michael J. Gallant, LA'76, March 5, 2005

Ann L. Bishoff, P'77, September 27, 2005

Robert S. Vaughan, UC'78, UC'80, November 25, 2005

Lilla G. Frederick, UC'79, UC'82, January 28, 2005

Russell A. Reed, UC'79, March 6

Paula K. Schuck, BB'79, September 12, 2005

#### **1980s**

Pauline B. Agard, UC'81, March 30

Daniel R. Ross, CJ'82, May 16

Barbara B. Bartley, N'84, February 24

Frederick A. Hersey, BA'87, June 21, 2005

**1990s**

Connie R. Harris, E'92, October 29, 2005

Christina D. Kasinger, BB'98, GB'99, March 8, 2005

**00s**

Barbara Kolenski, MBA'01, February 19

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## Husky Tracks

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### Tote My Wife . . . Please!

"I'm interested in sports off the beaten path," says John Lund, AS'99.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is an understatement. That's because Lund is a U.S. wife-carrying champion. Yes, wife carrying. And, yes, it's a real sport, one inspired by the exploits of a nineteenth-century Finnish robber who used to goad men into carrying off spouses from neighboring villages.

Luckily, modern wife carrying tests strength and speed, not stealing. Competitors hoist onto their backs a "wife"—she doesn't have to be a true spouse; girlfriends, friends, or sisters are also legit—then dash through a 278-yard obstacle course. "It's kind of like a steeplechase," says Lund. "There are hurdles, a water trench, sawdust."

Partners may be carried any number of ways, including piggyback or fireman-style. But, as with most things, a good fit is key. Lund explains: "She has to be able to form her body to mine—a tight connection—so she's not bouncing around. And be strong and flexible."

When Lund entered the American wife-carrying nationals at Sunday River, in Bethel, Maine, in 2001 and 2004, he asked athletic coworkers to compete with him. In the latter race, he came in second to a Canadian, allowing him to claim the American title.

Last year, he competed in Finland. In fact, he now makes his home near Sonkaj?rvi, Finland, home to the annual wife-carrying world championships. The Wenham, Massachusetts, native, who earned an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology, is working as an international sales and marketing manager for Visy, a developer of area- and access-control systems for border crossings and ports.

Lund first stumbled onto wife carrying during a co-op in the Czech Republic. His running and rowing experience—he rowed crew at Northeastern—prepared him to be a strong competitor. (He's still rowing today, as a member of a club crew that in June clinched Finland's open eight national championships.)

Wife carrying can be a messy business, though. Some race days, it rains. If you drop your wife, you receive a fifteen-second penalty. It helps if your wife is petite. Her wit is just as important, too—having fun, says Lund, "is in the rules."

And in the winning. Victors are often awarded their wife's weight in beer.

—Katy Kramer, MA'00



Photo courtesy John Lund



*Photo courtesy Jay Bowen*

### **Animal Instincts**

At college, Jay Bowen, LA'73, learned to look at the big issues. In 1969—his freshman year—Northeastern students were galvanized by protests over the Vietnam War. "We were confused and unsettled," says Bowen.

He decided to major in political science. It was a fortuitous choice. "The poly-sci professors helped us get through a very difficult period," Bowen remembers. "We had long conversations with them. They invested a lot of time in the wee hours of the night and, just by being there, provided moral support."

This lesson in altruism and discourse likely helped groom Bowen for his December 2005 appointment as president of the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARLB).

After graduating from Northeastern, Bowen earned a master's in educational administration from Boston University in 1977, then worked in academic administration at Endicott College. Stints as associate dean at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and vice president for resource development at Emerson College followed.

In 1994, Bowen made a leap over to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, joining the organization as its vice president for development and external affairs. It was a natural move for him. This Belmont, Massachusetts, native—who currently shares his digs with a much-loved cat, Fresco—says he grew up with a series of mixed-breed dogs, all from shelters, in a family of five kids "raised to look at how we can make the world a better place. My father was committed to shelter animals. He taught us by example."

Now Bowen is leading the ARLB, which finds homes for abused and neglected animals, and rescues creatures in emergencies. During last spring's flooding in the Northeast, for instance, a farmer called the ARLB to ask them to help save her whole menagerie: horses, dogs, cats, and a bird.

Society's treatment of animals is really a canary in a coal mine, says Bowen. "The Rescue League is an important link to civilization. If you teach children to be kind to animals, you'll increase the likelihood they'll be kind to humans."

—Katy Kramer, MA'00



*Photo courtesy Gretchen Smelter*

### **"I Do" Design**

"We don't photograph something just because it's beautiful," says Gretchen Smelter, AS'93, the design director of Brides magazine.

Sure, this glossy periodical features women draped in tulle, silk shantung, and organza. But, Smelter says, "we also have a strong editorial mission," which includes relaying useful information about bridal etiquette and beauty, for instance. And, issue after issue, Smelter pursues a specific design goal that's much harder than it sounds: "making a woman in a white dress look visually interesting."

Small wonder Brides is the big-day bible that graces the nightstands of most brides-to-be. "We're the go-to guide," Smelter acknowledges.

Over the course of her career, Smelter has influenced design at many high-profile publications, catching a bouquet of accolades for her creativity. She won a 2005 Society of Publication Designers (SPD) award for her overall redesign of Brides, a reprise of the honor she won three years earlier for her redesign of Scientific American. In 2003, she was nominated for an SPD national magazine general-excellence award for her work on Real Simple. As the icing on the cake, the Bristol, Connecticut, native was recently elected to the fifteen-person SPD board of directors.

She's not married to a specific look. Quite the opposite—each magazine is designed according to its own needs. Plus, she says, "it's fun to see your vision evolve every couple of months."

Smelter stepped into her line of work in right-place, right-time style. "I was flying down to Florida on spring break to visit my grandparents," she says, "and the man next to me was reading a book on typography." Turns out he was Ronn Campisi, who owned his own graphic-design firm on Boston's Newbury Street.

She freelanced for Campisi while she was still a student majoring in visual arts, then became his associate art director. Kudos followed when she joined the Fast Company magazine launch team in 1998. After she landed in New York City in 1999, Smelter served as art director for SmartMoney and senior art director for Martha Stewart Living.

Today, though, those gigs seem a little like a dress rehearsal. "This," says Smelter, "has always been my goal, to be a design director at a fashion magazine."

And now I am, and I love it."

Call it a match made in heaven.

—Katy Kramer, MA'00

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### Smooth Operators: 1970

Today's NASCAR craze? It's only the latest chapter in America's love affair with the automobile.

In the prosperous years following World War II, Detroit responded to suburban spread by churning out a staggering variety of fashionable autos. And to satisfy the appetites of young people driven buggy by buggies—Model Ts to Lincoln Continentals—car clubs formed at many colleges.

Northeastern's Auto Club got its start in 1954 with more than eighty members. During the club's infancy, it was one of the few campus groups encouraging Huskies to pursue a purely recreational hobby.

Sponsored diversions included lectures by race drivers, films on auto assembly and drag races, and field trips to local car museums and auto plants, such as Somerville's Ford Motor Works. An annual rally allowed students to flaunt their steering skills.

Members' engines were revved by more practical matters, too. The auto aficionados above, for instance, had just spent the afternoon at a Skid School run by Liberty Mutual Insurance, where they practiced controlling their wheels and watched movies on safe driving.

Small wonder the Auto Club ignited Huskies' imaginations. For starters, Northeastern once boasted its own automobile school, established in 1903. Plus, in the university's early decades, large numbers of commuting students often climbed into cars to get to campus.

Nothing, they knew, puts you in the driver's seat like a degree.

— Magdalena Hernandez, MBA'02



Photo from University Libraries Archives and Special Collections Department