



Northeastern University

Northeastern University Alumni Magazine

Office of Marketing and Communications

November 01, 2001

Northeastern University alumni magazine: volume 27, number 2 (November 2001)

Northeastern University - Division of Marketing and Communications

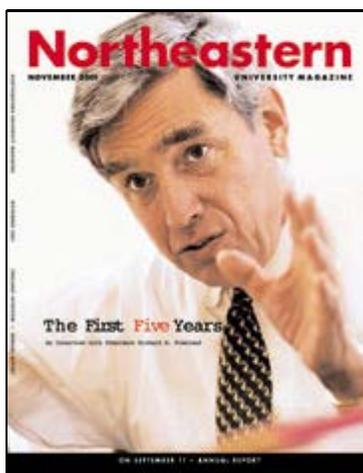
Recommended Citation

Northeastern University - Division of Marketing and Communications, "Northeastern University alumni magazine: volume 27, number 2 (November 2001)" (2001). *Northeastern University Alumni Magazine*. Paper 43. <http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20004094>

This work is available open access, hosted by Northeastern University.

Northeastern

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



FEATURES

- [The First Five Years](#)
- [September 11, 2001](#)
- [President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Letters | Sports |
| E Line | Books |
| Talk of the Gown | Classes |
| From the Field | First-Person |
| | Huskiana |

- Staff
- Awards
- Advertise
- Send Class Note
- Send Letter
- Update Address
- Back Issues
- Links
- Search
- NU Home

716 Columbus Avenue, Suite 598, Boston, MA 02120
Phone 617.373.5442 • Fax 617.373.5430

November 2001

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

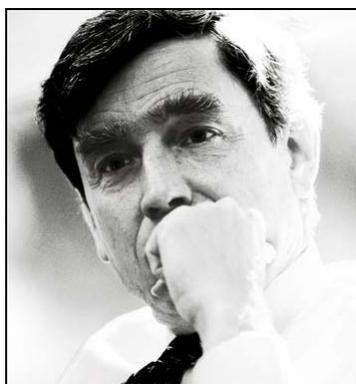
DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

The First Five Years

An interview with President Richard M. Freeland

By Ken Gornstein



Soon after becoming Northeastern's sixth president in 1996, Richard M. Freeland articulated an ambitious new vision for the institution—achieving excellence as a national research university that is student-centered, practice-oriented, and urban. In the five years since, Freeland's policies and programs have dramatically improved student quality, retention and graduation rates, fund-raising levels, and the quality of campus facilities.

To mark his anniversary, Freeland—who last month received a three-year contract extension from the Board of Trustees—sat down with us for a review of his presidency thus far and a look at some of the challenges that remain.

In your inauguration speech, you said this about becoming Northeastern's sixth president: "I'm not only honored by this appointment, I'm exhilarated by it." Now that you've had the benefit of five years of perspective, what are your feelings about the job?

I love the job even more today than I did five years ago.

I love to tell this story: When I saw this position advertised while working down in New York [at City College], I brought the paper home to my wife [Elsa Nuñez, now Lesley University provost]. I said, "You know, this is the best job in higher education. I would love to have this job. Of course, I could never get it, but I would love to have this job." And she said, "Well, you should go for it."

Those feelings have never changed. For me, Northeastern is the best possible place to be president.

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

Without exception, every Northeastern president has served a shorter term than his predecessor. Jack Curry served seven years. How much longer do you plan on doing this?

My goal is to help Northeastern achieve the repositioning that the Board of Trustees charged me to lead. So the first way I think about the duration of my presidency is that I will be ready to step down when Northeastern has accomplished the transition I think it needs to accomplish and is securely established in the top echelon of American universities.

It's difficult to place a precise period of time on that. All I can say is that I firmly intend to reverse that pattern [of presidential service]. And I think there's lots of work still to do before we are where I would hope us to be. So I would say I'm in the middle of the repositioning process and, therefore, in the middle of my presidency.

What's been your greatest source of pride during the first five years?

I'm told through a variety of channels that the Northeastern community—students, faculty, and staff—feel I'm building on the accomplishments of the Jack Curry period, not departing from them. They feel the university is becoming stronger, better, and more recognized consistent with our institutional hopes and dreams.

I also hear that people on the outside sense Northeastern as a place of motion, a place where good things are happening, a place that's getting better and stronger every year. I think the thing that gives me greatest satisfaction is playing a leadership role here at a time when the internal community, as well as the external community, is observing and feeling a kind of motion.

What's your biggest disappointment?

The biggest disappointment is that I would always like things to move faster than they do.

I believe so deeply that what Northeastern is, and can be, merits recognition at the very highest levels among American higher education. I'm completely literal when I say it should be our ambition to be the best university in the world for the kind of education we offer, which I characterize as practice-oriented education—an educational experience that integrates classroom and workplace, and liberal and professional studies.

What's most surprised you about the job?

I've been in this business now for over thirty years, and I've become deeply conscious of all the centrifugal forces at work in academic communities—all the structural tensions between faculty and administrators, and all the wasted energy that goes into backbiting, and conflict, and turf wars in a complex institution like this. One of my greatest surprises has been how little of that there is at Northeastern.

What have you learned from the students you've gotten to know at Northeastern?

The thing I've learned most from the students is the power of the Northeastern form of education. I regard Northeastern students as the most mature, and grounded, and sensible students whom I have ever worked with.

I attribute that to their educational experience here, particularly the combination of classroom study and workplace experience, which enables them to grow up in a way that other students don't.

Has this job had any impact on your personal life?

It has deeply affected my personal life.

I've always been someone who's made a fairly sharp separation between my personal life and my institutional life. I've always treasured private time, and I've always maintained an individual life, a personal life, an emotional and intellectual life separate from my institutional role.

But I've found that in the presidency, those kinds of separations just don't make any sense. One of the ethics, if you will, of becoming president of a major university is that you implicitly accept the reality that for whatever time you're in that role, there is going to be a blurring of your personal and professional life. You owe it to the institution to embrace every aspect of the job.

But I've also found that I've enjoyed that, and my wife has enjoyed that. We love being part of the Northeastern community, with all the social and official functions and duties. It's added a whole rich dimension to my personal life.

You've set the ambitious goal of Northeastern's becoming one of the top 100 universities in the nation by the end of the decade. Given where we stand now, do you think that's attainable?

I've always emphasized that this phrase "top 100" is only partially meant in a literal way. "Top 100," narrowly conceived, refers to the U.S. News and World Report rankings. Of 230 national universities [on last year's list], it says we need to be in the top 100.

The real point underlying this is that Northeastern needs to be recognized as one of the leading universities in the country—a place of high institutional stature, high institutional prestige, and strong academic values.

I am absolutely serious that the basic repositioning process we need to accomplish—for which top-100 status is a symbol—is both necessary and achievable. It's necessary because as a private, high-cost institution, unless we are perceived as one of the leading institutions in the country, we will not ultimately be able to answer the question "Why should I pay Northeastern tuition, and not go to a public institution?"

I think it's achievable because, if you look at the characteristics of the leading universities—their admission standards, their graduation rates, the stature of their faculty, and their overall academic reputation—and then you track Northeastern's progress over the last ten years [in those categories], you see us moving on a trajectory that, if carried forward, gets us into that upper realm.

You've said a key to reaching top-100 status is attaining the resources we need to expand and enhance Northeastern's academic programs. What are your top funding priorities over the next few years?



I don't believe any of our colleges, or college deans, have the full set of resources they need to function at the competitive level to which they aspire, and to which we need them to aspire. By our calculations, we're underspending by about \$2,000 per year, per student, in comparison with the institutions we seek to compete with.

I also want to invest in our centers of academic excellence in a more selective way. My first priority is to restore our schools of engineering and business to their proper place as leaders in their fields. Both of these schools lost some stature as a result of the difficult financial times. The law school is in something of a similar position, and dollars need to be reinvested there as well.

Then we have to take a look at the schools that have historically never had the level of support that business, law, and engineering have had, and begin bringing them into full parity. Bouvé College of Health Sciences is at the top of that list as a place where Northeastern really has an opportunity to make its mark.

You mentioned practice-oriented education earlier, which is a concept you articulated early in your presidency. Has that been a harder or an easier sell than you had imagined?

Internally, I think the readiness of the institutional community to embrace the idea that what is special about Northeastern is the integration of workplace experience and classroom experience is strikingly high.

With the external community, we're faced with a much greater challenge, because the world takes a very conventional and traditional view of higher education. That view is conditioned by the belief that the best form of education is what they do in Ivy League schools, and, therefore, the best institutions are the ones that look as much like Ivy League schools as possible.

An institution [such as Northeastern] that gets its hands dirty in the workplace is butting up against those deep biases and

prejudices. So one of our biggest challenges in repositioning Northeastern is getting the world to understand that what we do is every bit as academic and intellectual as those traditional institutions.

In 1998, you issued a “Call to Action on Cooperative Education,” with the goal of strengthening co-op as an educational and employment experience. What’s been the progress on that front?

I think there’s been excellent progress. One of the things I’m proudest about is the way, over the last five years, we’ve been able to move co-op in the direction I believe it must move for Northeastern to achieve our hopes.

The single most important point about the Call to Action was that students’ workplace experiences through co-op had to be brought into a much more thoughtful and synergistic relationship with their classroom and academic experiences than had previously been the case—that the emphasis of the co-op experience had to be much more on how it enhanced student learning rather than how much money the student earned in a position.

In order to bring that about, it became necessary to ask the co-op faculty to accept some very radical changes in their working conditions, beginning with moving from a central location in Stearns into offices in the colleges. Their organizational structure was affected, as well, in that they now report to the college deans in addition to the co-op vice president.

I’ve been very pleased that, even though the road has been curvy and the way bumpy at times, the co-op coordinators and the colleges have worked very constructively together to accomplish their objectives and their goals.

The focus of your administration over the first five years has clearly been on improving and enhancing Northeastern’s academic reputation. But during that time, the university has experienced an unprecedented building boom. What are the reasons behind that?

The reasons behind that are twofold. One is that Northeastern recognized ten years ago, when we started down this path of creating a smaller, better Northeastern, and a more academically ambitious Northeastern, that transforming the campus from what many alumni affectionately refer to as “the brickyard”—this parking lot studded with white-brick buildings—into an attractive urban campus was absolutely essential to attracting the kind of students and faculty whom we needed to achieve our academic dreams.

The second reason is that it’s been an essential part of our recruiting strategy to attract a greater percentage of students from beyond Massachusetts. To accomplish that, it’s essential to become more and more a residential campus.

What’s your favorite area of campus?

I guess the part of campus I get the most pleasure from is the Snell Quad—it's just being in the middle of this beautiful setting, emerging from one of the many pathways that lead to it, and kind of coming into the center of life on campus.

But a very close second is the emerging West Village complex, where a whole new Northeastern is taking place. One of the things that gives me great joy is seeing that part of campus come to life—to walk over to West Village on a sunny spring day and see kids out there playing softball, playing Frisbee, running around on Centennial Common, and running around in that beautiful new quad around West Village. Five years ago, that area was desolate. Now, it's full of life and energy.

In your address to the Corporation in May, you candidly said that Northeastern is perceived by some as a low-budget university with modest needs, and that Northeastern pales in comparison with some of its competitors in the number of "megagifts" it receives. How could we improve our fund-raising capabilities?

We have tremendous fund-raising potential at Northeastern. We have a large alumni body—140,000, undoubtedly among the larger alumni bodies in the country. We have, for years, been in the business of graduating business leaders and engineers, many of whom have been quite successful. We are in active contact with a significant number of alumni who are quite wealthy and have the means to make significant gifts to Northeastern.

So all the elements of a significant increase in our fund-raising are there. There are two things we need to do to fully realize the potential.

First, we need to persuade those who have been close to Northeastern for years that Northeastern is a different kind of institution now—that we no longer are the low-budget commuter institution we once were. And if we want to achieve our current goals and aspirations, then we need financial support at a level received by those institutions we seek to compete with.

Second, we need to reach out much more widely and effectively to many of our alumni whom we have not stayed in contact with. We want them to feel proud that Northeastern is their alma mater, and we hope they will be willing to help us and support us.

During the course of deciding the fate of the African-American Institute, your commitment to students of color was called into question by a vocal faction of students and community leaders. Was that personally painful for you?

Of course, it was painful. I've spent all my adult life, in one way or another, working to provide greater opportunities for students of color—African-American students, Latino students, Asian students.

I participated in the civil rights movement when I was a student in the sixties. I worked for twenty years in public higher education for an urban institution here in Boston, which was very much concerned with those issues. My first job after graduate school was working with an African-American community, trying to help out with neighborhood renewal. And I've tried to place the issue of diversity very high on the institutional agenda here at Northeastern.

So I've always seen myself as someone who was a champion for equal opportunity and a champion of causes for people of color in this country, and to be questioned about [my commitment to that] is painful.

On the other hand, I understand what it is to be young. I didn't necessarily appreciate the contributions of my elders when I was a student. I was quick to criticize people about whom I knew very little when I was twenty years old. So I'm ready to be the target of some of the criticism I doled out when I was that age.

Northeastern is in the process of creating a strategic marketing plan and launching an ambitious branding campaign. What are you hoping to accomplish?

This is an absolutely essential part of the overall strategy for Northeastern. We need to tell our story much more aggressively than we have. As I go around this city, one of the phrases I hear—that I've gotten very tired of hearing, quite honestly—is that Northeastern is the best-kept secret, educationally, in Boston.

There's no reason for us to be the best-kept secret. We need to tell our story. We need to toot our horn. We need to make people aware of who we are, and what we are, and how good we are.

So there are two challenges here. First, we have a local challenge and a regional challenge among people who think they know Northeastern, but whose image of Northeastern is twenty or thirty years out of date in every way—from what we look like physically to what we're all about academically. We need to transform that thinking.

And in other parts of the country, where Northeastern is not well-known, we need to get on the radar screen. Achieving those two perceptual transformations is important to achieving our long-term institutional goals.

A close friend of Northeastern, Representative Joe Moakley, died earlier this year. Can you say a few words about what he meant to the university?

Joe Moakley was a great supporter of Northeastern, and he was a most unusual political figure. He was a true man of the people, who was, to the day he died, a son of Boston, a son of South Boston, and an authentic representative of that culture.

And so, he recognized that Northeastern, like himself, had its

roots in the community and was a place not caught up with social pretensions, but was committed to trying to do a good job for people of modest means, to help such people achieve greater opportunity.

The Egan building would not be here were it not for the help of Joe Moakley. The Behrakis [health sciences] building is getting great assistance through the interventions of Joe Moakley. He played a role in the Snell Library funding. So we were very pleased that, in the year before he died, he accepted our offer to have a scholarship for city workers named in his honor.

You mentioned those federal funds he helped direct Northeastern's way. Are you worried those avenues are going to be cut off to us with his passing, or for other reasons?

I don't think you can have even a mild understanding of politics in this country, and be a resident of New England, without being worried about the flow of political power from the Northeast to the West and the South. There's no question that federal funds flow in patterns that are very much related to seniority in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the chairmanships of key committees.

So as demography moves more robustly to other regions of the country, and as some of the old lions of the Massachusetts political scene, like Joe Moakley, move on, our channels of leverage for federal funding are weakened.

That said, I think Senator [Edward] Kennedy remains a very strong supporter, and has been our friend in the same way that Joe Moakley was. [Senator] John Kerry has been a strong supporter, and Representative [Michael] Capuano is getting to know us. So we're not without resources. But I think the pattern that Moakley's passing represents overall is very worrisome.

In fall 2003, Northeastern will move from a quarter-based to a semester-based academic calendar. What do you see as the major advantages of the new system?

I think there are several advantages. The first, and by far the most important, is it allows a deeper, richer educational experience for students in their classroom work. Most of our faculty members, by overwhelming percentages—and most faculty from around the country—believe the quarter system provides too short a period of time for the kind of in-depth exploration of subject that you want students to have.

The thing that has really kept Northeastern from moving in the direction of a semester system has been the sense that the quarter system worked better with co-op. But what has happened in the recent past is that employers and students have moved in the direction of wanting longer and longer co-ops. So the traditional quarter-length co-op is largely a thing of the past.

Beyond that, the semester system offers a better professional

environment for our faculty because it aligns their work schedules with the work schedules of their colleagues around the country. That makes a difference in coordinating research projects, attending summer institutes, and the like. Semesters also make the life of our students better because there're simply fewer changes, fewer transactions, fewer goings back-and-forth between co-op and classroom. Similarly, it eases the burden on our offices because there are fewer administrative transactions.

All five of the June morning commencement speakers since you've been president have come from the political arena: Max Cleland, Mikhail Gorbachev, Julian Bond, Madeleine Albright, and Bill Richardson. Any chance we'll see an Oprah Winfrey or a Jerry Seinfeld in the future?

I've always taken it as a goal in the selection of our commencement speakers and honorary-degree recipients to honor a variety of achievers.

We recognize achievements in business. We recognize achievements in government and politics. We recognize achievements in service, in culture, and, of course, we recognize achievements of an intellectual nature. We also try to make sure that we have representatives of different ethnic groups, and both men and women.

Above all, we try to select speakers and honorary-degree recipients who stand for values we wish to affirm as an institution. Against that standard, the idea of having entertainers as speakers is appealing, in one sense, because it would be a lot of fun to have Jerry Seinfeld. But I'm not sure that I'd want a graduate's final image of Northeastern to be that of a television comedian, as opposed to someone who's dedicated his or her life to making the world a better place.

I've heard debates between members of the university community about whether you're a Democrat or a Republican. Which is it?

I'm the president of Northeastern. And as the president of Northeastern, I don't practice partisan politics.

I have deep social commitments, and I think of those social commitments as progressive. But it is my duty as an educator to make sure that our students are made aware of all legitimate intellectual and social perspectives and philosophies.

There are those who criticize Northeastern for liberal bias, for having too many speakers who represent the liberal perspective. I always cringe a little when I hear that because I think higher education, in general, does have that tendency.

There's no question that the academic community is more liberal, on average, than the rest of society. And I'm sensitive to that criticism because I think, whatever our personal politics are, our duty as educators is to make students aware of a great range of perspectives.

While some of the lower-profile athletics teams have had success during your five years, the so-called glamour sports—football, men’s hockey, and men’s basketball—have struggled. Is that a concern?



Absolutely, it’s a concern. Every time I speak to our athletes, or our coaches, or our athletic alumni, I say the same thing: In my view, excellence is indivisible. If we want to create a culture of excellence at Northeastern, we need to aspire to excellence in everything and mediocrity in nothing. If we can’t achieve excellence in something, we should get out of the business.

I don’t want our students to see mediocre performances. I want our students to think of themselves as winners, and I want them to see what it takes to win at the high level of competition at which we compete in these sports. So it’s a significant concern of mine that in these sports where we spend a lot of money and where we’re very visible, we’ve had less success than I would have hoped.

That said, I want to make clear that I’m a great fan of our athletic director, Ian McCaw. I think he’s done a wonderful job of professionalizing and strengthening our athletic department. He has had the opportunity in the last couple of years to recruit new coaches for both the [men’s] basketball program and the football program. I’m quite optimistic about both of those [hirings]. I also believe we have excellent leadership for our men’s hockey program.

So if the football team, for example, were to go another few years of 3-8 or 2-9, would you consider folding it?

I meant what I said. I don’t believe we ought to stay in any business where we’re only achieving mediocre results over extended periods of time. In athletics, in particular, there has to be a serious question about competing at the Division I level and spending the amounts of money we’re spending unless we can achieve some real success.

If our goal is simply to give some of our students the opportunity to play intercollegiate football, which is a perfectly legitimate institutional goal, I’m not sure we’d be doing it at the Division IA level, with all the costs associated with that.

I want our students to have a good experience. I want as many of our students to participate in intercollegiate athletics as possible. But if we can’t win at the level at which we’re competing, then I think we need to seriously re-examine the whole program.

How important do you think athletics is to recruitment, retention, and giving?

This is a great conundrum. I have to say—because I'm enough of a scholar in the field to know—that most of the empirical evidence, to the extent that systematic evidence can be put together, suggests that strong athletic programs have very little positive impact over the long haul in areas like fund-raising and recruitment.

On the other hand, I don't know a single college president who really believes all that research. I think most of us think that, given the significance of athletics in this country and the emotional energy that gets generated around major athletic events, it's a significant factor in both admissions and giving.

So there's no question that one of my motives in wanting to achieve a greater level of athletic performance at Northeastern is that it will be good for admissions and good for alumni giving.

But that's just another way of saying it's good for overall institutional morale. Northeastern should aspire to be a winner. It should feel like a winner. And having winning sports teams is part of it.

You're assuredly the most well-traveled president in Northeastern history. What's the greatest benefit of that kind of travel?

First of all, I love travel. There was a period in my life, when I was younger and had more time, that I traveled to every part of the world, and I thought of travel as a terribly important part of my education. I continue to see it that way.

My presidential travel has been much more institutionally instrumental than personally instrumental. My travel today focuses on reaching out to Northeastern constituencies beyond the region and trying to bring those alumni whom we've neglected into the family.

But at a deeper level, I believe the experiences of other countries and other cultures are incredibly important to anyone's education.

I want every young person at Northeastern to have the opportunity to travel. I believe in study abroad. I believe in bringing international students here. I think the kinds of issues we saw so tragically unfold on September 11 are less likely the more we reach out across traditional cultural boundaries.

How often do you sit down and compare notes with other university presidents?

Remarkably little. This is something presidents talk about a lot. We're all so busy, and we all have so many demands on our time, there are relatively few opportunities to really sit down for formal meetings.

However, through organizations like the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, I do have the chance to meet with colleagues at private

institutions. And I maintain a certain degree of social contact with others.

If you had one piece of advice for an incoming president, based on what you've experienced your first five years, what would it be?

Don't bring to the presidency any canned ideas about what's good for an academic institution or what an academic institution should be. But rather, try to understand the potential of that institution in its authentic context against its unique history. And then try to think through what the current and future conditions call upon that institution to become, to maximize its social contributions.

The ultimate task of any college president is to formulate a vision of that institution's future and to formulate directions to get to that future. And it has to be done with a deep understanding of that institution's unique potential, history, traditions, and strengths.

What do you do to relax?

My wife and I try to reserve Friday nights to ourselves whenever we can. We have dinner together, share a bottle of wine, and maybe watch a video of an old movie. That's probably the greatest and most relaxing time of my week.

Have you given any thought to what you want to do when you leave the presidency?

One of the things I look forward to is the opportunity to be a full-time teacher, which I've not done for many, many years. And I have a book I want to write that's been germinating in my mind for the last three or four years.

What's the book?

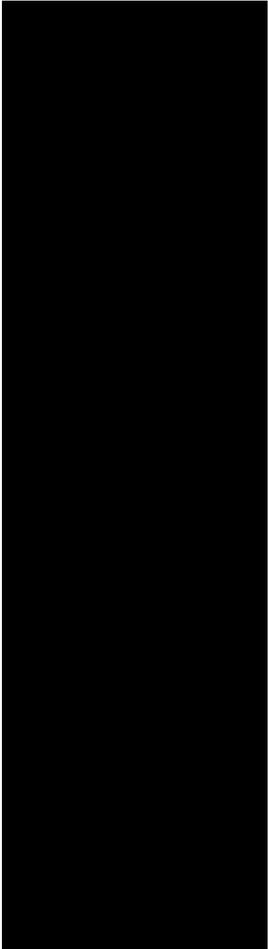
The book is a study of the pursuit of meaning and value in life across three generations of Americans: my father's generation, which is the Depression generation; my own generation; and the generation of our children. [It would seek to] understand how our ethics and values shape what we do with our lives, and how that has changed over time, as the historical experiences of the country have changed.

Last question: What do you want your legacy to be?

I want my legacy to be the twenty-first-century version of Northeastern.

I inherited an institution with a nearly hundred-year history of [being] a locally oriented, service-oriented, commuter, low-cost institution that made it possible for large numbers of youngsters from Boston to get an education. It was an institution that, by the time I arrived on the scene, had recognized it had been overrun by historical circumstances and a new version was needed.

And the great good fortune fell to the president, and he not only recognized the changing context, but he repositioned the



institution—poised it in a way that it was now ready to try to find what that new version would be.

And that is a much more academically ambitious version of itself, which remains committed to our core values: practice-oriented education, and providing opportunities for people of modest backgrounds.

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

November 2001

[The First Five Years](#)[September 11, 2001](#)[President's Annual Report](#)[Letters](#)[Sports](#)[ELine](#)[Books](#)[Talk of the Gown](#)[Classes](#)[From the Field](#)[First-Person](#)[Huskiana](#)

September 11, 2001

On that day and in the week that followed, New Yorkers found their strength in family. Immediate, extended, and accidental families.

By Herbert Hadad

Let me start by telling you about what might be the last blissfully carefree day I'll ever have.

We sat in the right centerfield bleachers—my sons, Edward Salim and Charles Aram; their friend Mark from Providence; and I—on Sunday, September 9, 2001. The Yankees played with aplomb; the Red Sox struggled. It was Mark's first visit to the great stadium, and he looked worried. "I don't expect the Sox to win," he said. "I just hope they don't lose by too much."



We ate buns I'd brought from Chinatown, drank Cokes and bottled water. The late-summer sun baked us red and brown. Three burly young Sox fans who had driven down from Maine sat behind us. They became friendly in a reticent New England kind of way and asked for our ticket stubs as souvenirs. Charles and Mark left after eight innings. "I want to stay," Edward said. "I like it at the end when Frank Sinatra sings 'New York, New York.'"

The final score was 8-2. I thanked Edward for the ticket, and we kissed good-bye on the subway, which took me to Grand Central and the train home. Gazing lazily at the Hudson River as we traveled north, I relished thoughts of how much our boys loved their city, living and working in it. My wife, Evelyn, drove me home from the station. Pleasure lit her face as I described the afternoon and the happiness of our sons. We read the papers, dined, watched the television news, and slept well.

[Staff](#)[Awards](#)[Advertise](#)[Send Class Note](#)[Send Letter](#)[Update Address](#)[Back Issues](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)[Magazine Home](#)[NU Home](#)

Emerging from the Brooklyn Bridge–City Hall station just before 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, from the same No. 4 that had taken us to Yankee Stadium, I joined a large pocket of people, many of whom I knew, staring up at the twin towers of the World Trade Center, five blocks south of my office. Profuse billows of gray smoke, filled with sheets of paper floating like large confetti, blew east toward Brooklyn from one of the towers.

"A small plane must have hit the building," someone said. "Maybe the pilot got lost or had a heart attack." It was a manageable thought. It was what we wanted to believe. I waited in line to buy my usual coffee from the Russian husband and wife in the yellow wagon and turned back to look up.

An enormous orange-red fireball suddenly erupted from the second tower. It took a moment to comprehend that it was real. The blast's horrible tongue seemed to lick the sky in slow motion, and it began to spit smoke and thousands of pieces of paper. A booming roar split the air. I didn't want to believe what else I thought I saw.

"No!" I hollered. "Terrorists!" The brick plaza shook. "Oh, my God!" people screamed. "I don't believe it!" Someone said it looked like a scene from a Hollywood movie. People began to run. Some stood petrified. The hundreds of pigeons that usually occupy the plaza were already gone.

Three years ago, terrorists had bombed two American embassies in East Africa in quick succession. But this was an attack in downtown Manhattan. I feared there could be more.

Harry, my coworker, came rushing up. His face was bright red, his eyes wet, his arms trembling. Harry is a career law-enforcement man, a member of an anti-terrorism team, known for his cool and incisive manner. He had been standing even closer to the World Trade Center. He confirmed what I could not bring myself to utter. "They were jumping. People were falling from seventy stories up," he cried.

I waved my credentials and raced inside my building. I work as a press officer for the U.S. Attorney's Office, an arm of the Department of Justice.

My office had prosecuted the men responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, which took six lives and injured more than a thousand people. And it had prosecuted two dozen defendants for other terrorist crimes linked to the Middle East, most recently the 1998 attacks on the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which left 224 dead. We had also indicted their purported leader, Osama bin Laden.

"I'll hang in," I told the boss. "Go home," she said. I knew it sounded brash, but I tried again: "I'll hang in." She seemed neither pleased nor annoyed. "Go home," she said.

I called Evelyn to say I was unharmed and asked her to reach our sons in Manhattan and our daughter, Sara Jameel, in Syracuse. Security officers were evacuating our nine-story building. I joined one of them. "Get out. Everyone is ordered out!" I shouted, then got out myself.

On the building's front steps, fellow employees stared up at the staggering, nightmarish sight. Behind the blazing 110-story towers, the sky was an iridescent blue.

And the air was charged with fearful expectation. I was standing in the middle of a cluster of government buildings, including the courthouse where the terrorists were tried, the jail where they were kept, and the headquarters of the FBI, which had captured them.

My thoughts now were not to serve, but to survive for my family and myself. (We soon learned from storefront TV sets and blaring radios in parked trucks that a plane had struck the Pentagon, near Washington, and another had plunged into the Pennsylvania countryside.)

One of the people next to me on the steps was Janice, also part of our anti-terrorism unit. She commutes to work from out of state and doesn't know the city. "I have to get to the Port Authority," she said. "I have to get a bus home." From my moments inside the building, I already knew all the tunnels and bridges were sealed, and told her so. "Come with me," I said. "I'm going to start walking. I don't think going into the subway is safe. We'll do the best we can."

In that instant, we became sister and brother, refugees in our own homeland. Heartbroken, we joined the thousands of grim people streaming north, many covered with ash. Some were numb and silent; some wanted to tell anyone where they had been and what they had seen. Several wanted to pray. Many hugged. Others sat down in the gutter and held their head in their hands.

Sirens wailed everywhere. It didn't look like America. It looked like a newsreel on war-torn Europe or Asia. But no baritone voice-over let you know that you were safe in a movie house, that this was happening to somebody else. "Janice, let's just get out of this and get safe," I told her. "We can do our crying tonight."

On Sixth Avenue in Greenwich Village, hundreds of people began to shriek, "Oh, no!" I spun around to see several cars and trucks suddenly stop. Someone's been hit, I thought. But everyone was staring up.

The second tower began to float down, floor by floor. It folded like a gigantic deck of cards, like it was not a building at all, but the finale of a grotesque magic act. It disappeared from the skyline, replaced by billowing clouds of smoke. Maneuvering through the warren of little streets in SoHo and the Village, we had not realized the first tower was already

gone, was already dust.

We joined an orderly line at a pay phone and made calls. Janice learned she could stay with a cousin on the West Side. She was hungry, and we found a restaurant in the Garment Center whose name on this day swelled with significance. At the New Jerusalem, Janice ate kosher pizza while I sipped coffee.

Manhattan was an island filled with millions of agitated and grief-stricken people. Astonishingly, one of them closest to me walked through the restaurant door. James is another coworker, who, when we discovered how alike our values and senses of humor were, had become as close as a brother.

We hugged. He introduced two women he'd run into. They were fleeing the United Nations and wanted his company and strength. My son Edward left his job at a securities firm and joined us. He wanted to protect me, and I welcomed the protection. He offered his apartment to any in our group trapped in town. Evelyn waited at Grand Central, from which she and I planned to try to escape the city. In the midst of this monstrous catastrophe, people were giving and receiving comfort, even momentary joy, surrounded by their families—immediate, extended, and accidental.

The night and days that followed brought many calls—my brother, Alvin, in California; Evelyn's brother, John, in upstate New York; writing students; an editor; the local cab dispatcher; someone I'd dated briefly almost thirty years ago. Everyone asked the exact same question: "Are you okay?"

By then, we knew that Arab suicide terrorists had carried out the attacks with hijacked planes, that a worldwide manhunt was on for their leaders and accomplices. Like everyone, I fell into mourning for the people lost.

I searched my thoughts for why this had happened. I experienced anger, rage, sorrow, feelings of helplessness. Nightmares came easily; ordinary sleep did not. I imagined the falling bodies, the defenseless victims on the planes, the bewilderment and shock of their families. I was uplifted by revelations of the courage shown by the passengers on the plane that fell in Pennsylvania.

I also felt something I had never felt before. I am an Arab and a Jew, and have tolerated a lifetime of curiosity, affection, and even ridicule for being so. But as an Arab-American, I had never before felt shame. Now, I felt the terrorists had disgraced me and every Arab—Muslim, Christian, and Jewish—everywhere on earth. I was still an Arab, but the terrorists had robbed me of my pride in saying so.

Evelyn fretted that our children might become victims of anti-Arab bias. "Hadad" is a quintessential Arab name, though it is more typically spelled "Haddad." The so-called mastermind of the earlier bombing of the World Trade Center, Ramzi Yousef, had used eleven aliases. One of them was "Naji Haddad." We

ran into a woman we've known for years. She snubbed us.

Evelyn and I drove to a Red Cross center and then a local hospital to donate blood. The center had a waiting period of more than five hours; the hospital said it would call us. The World Trade Center site was being overrun with volunteers. Everyone wanted to try to understand the calamity, to ease their pain, by participating in some way. The crime rate fell to zero.

We went to Evelyn's church. The church is a mile away from my Prayer Tree, in the hills of the Rockefeller family estate. After the suspected embassy bombers had been arraigned in New York, I'd gone to the tree to pray that the government had seized the people truly responsible. It seemed a long and innocent time ago. Now, people were looking over their shoulder, feeling jittery, wondering what might happen next.

I was desperate for a normalcy I knew deep down might not be attainable. I shopped for fresh groceries, changed bed linens, bought new garbage pails, scrubbed sinks. It was a ritual cleansing of the home, as if that might wash away the indelible memories.

Our son Charles, an associate producer, called: "I'm on the street. CNN has been evacuated. Is it on TV?" Evelyn and I wondered how long it might be before he would love his city freely again. He soon let us know.

A few nights later, at 2 a.m., Charles carried an amplifier to his open fourth-story window on Manhattan's East Side, plugged in his guitar, and played an inspired rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Not a cop in New York would have filed a complaint.

The same night, his brother, Edward, happening into the gloom of a tavern near Madison Square Garden, began to sing the same anthem, filling the room, at least for the moment, with pleasure and hope. "You knew all the words?" I asked the next day. "I hummed some," he said.

I'd met Robert Windrem, an investigative producer at NBC News, at a terrorist trial. We'd grown to like each other. He called to say his teenage son had



asked him why the twin towers were destroyed. "Few people in this country know more about terrorism than me," he told his son. "But that still doesn't help me understand it."

Almost 350 firefighters perished following the attack. Danny Kane of Woodside, Queens, is a retired, decorated New York City firefighter who now works with his son Daniel as an ironworker. Danny is another of my brothers in spirit. "This is a condolence call," I said over the phone.

"We've been down there for three days," he said of the World Trade Center site. "Essentially, we're taking big pieces of

metal and making them small enough to haul away on trucks. It's a place I never want to see again."

I asked him why, after days of failure, they continued to search the rubble for survivors.

"The firefighters had no intention of fighting the fire. They went in to rescue people and save lives," Danny said.

"Everyone knows in their heart no one's left alive, but no one wants to admit it."

A letter arrived from Steven Selman, a friend since high school, a Northeastern graduate, and a retired Army colonel:

"I thought it might help if I sent you this note of support in light of the horrible events of the last days. It must not be easy to be a Hadad living and working so close to what used to be the WTC. Hang in there."

I returned to my office. It is a place where people are mostly kind and friendly and very smart. Its conviction rate is over 95 percent. Upon seeing each other, some colleagues wept. Many kissed or embraced. One said he was through mourning—he was angry, and he wanted to get the bastards. That became the universal word on the street to describe the hijackers and their accomplices.

I ran into Harry, who had witnessed the falling bodies, who once told me his retirement dream was running a hotdog stand at the beach. "I'm sorry you had to see what you did," I said in private. "I've thought a lot about you."

"I'm okay," he replied.

It had been seven days since the attacks. Smoke continued to rise from where the skyscrapers once stood. The air was foul. My press office colleague Marvin and I secured breathing masks and headed downtown. Cops, state troopers, and National Guardsmen maintained posts on every corner. The streets were crowded. People took snapshots.

We got as far as the corner of Nassau and Liberty Streets, two blocks from the center of the disaster. The view was mesmerizing. The rising smoke suggested purgatory. It stung your eyes, scratched your throat. Huge sheaths of twisted metal remained vertical, as if hurled with great force into the ground from above. They were the remains of the lower floors.

"I've seen enough," I told my partner. "I know a way back where the smoke won't be as bad."

We zigzagged back through old and cramped streets, and came upon something we hadn't expected. It was a narrow building with a small canopy and a sign that read "Wall St. Synagogue." Such a modest edifice for such an imposing name. Two cops, one a lieutenant, were coming out. We began to reach for our credentials when the lieutenant said, "No, just go in. We were praying, too."

"They looked more Irish than Jewish," Marvin said. I knew he was right.

Inside the small sanctuary, I put my mask on top of my head as a yarmulke, and we sat down in a pew near the pulpit in the center of the room. I thanked God for protecting my family. I told Him of my despair over the loss of the thousands of lives in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, on the four planes. It was the eve of Rosh Hashanah, and I asked for a different kind of New Year, one filled with peace.

Marvin and I emerged back onto the street. Squeezed next door to the temple was a firehouse wide enough for only one truck. A firefighter stood in the doorway. I wanted desperately to talk to him but couldn't find the words. I couldn't say, "Are you okay?" Five firefighters from Engine 6 had sped to the twin towers. He was the only one who'd come back.

A few hours later, my day's work was done, and Evelyn and I relished a diversion from the week's events—the comfort of a brief reunion with close Boston friends. Lise and Myles Striar were in New York to see their daughter Maria perform in an off-Broadway play. They joined us at a sidewalk café on Park Avenue.

It was a beautiful early evening. Passersby seemed calm, or as calm as New Yorkers ever look dashing to their next appointment. There was a blessed absence of cell phones, and Myles marveled that there was almost no horn honking. The drinks were excellent. We toasted each other and our good fortune to be together, and remembered those lost in the attacks. The sun was setting. A bracing hint of chill was folded into the air.

We got comfortable, the conversation became more animated, and we decided to stay together for one more. Myles caught me paying unusual attention to the sidewalk traffic. "What are you doing?" he asked.

"I'm trying to determine who are more stunning, the women walking south or the women walking north," I said. He joined in with me.

Relaxing at a café with three people I love, watching the girls go by, felt good. It felt frivolous. It felt defiant. I was a New Yorker, and I wanted my city back. I was an American, and I wanted my country back.

I needed to believe that the future would once again hold for all of us a blissfully carefree day.

Herbert Hadad, Northeastern graduate, award-winning writer, and teacher, writes this magazine's "Alumni Passages" column.

November 2001

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Letters

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

Coincidental timing, resonances

When I received your [September issue](#) just one week after the terrorist attacks, I was taken aback: I thought the cover photo was a shot of an Afghan rebel. The accompanying article [["Tough Truths, Tough Places"](#)] was excellent.



Had Kevin McKiernan created his documentary during the 1980s, it could conceivably have focused on the Afghans instead of the Kurds. In fact, you could replace the story of the Kurds with the stories of any number of ethnic minorities around the world.

Though I in no way condone the horrors of September 11, I believe our foreign policy is at least partly responsible. As McKiernan so clearly states, "If you're going to have a principled foreign policy, then you have to be against human-rights violations even if it hurts your policy." How many times have we looked the other way while others' most basic rights were violated?

The article also makes an important point about the quality of news programming. The first days after the September attacks, I felt as though I was watching real news. The anchors were shaken but honest and straightforward. Soon, however, it was back to news as entertainment.

McKiernan is right. International news is no longer worth more than the briefest mention on all the major newscasts. Their focus is on the lurid, the tawdry, and the banal. What happened to substance? We're overdue for a sea change, which I believe is coming.

Shelby Clark, MPTW'93
Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania

The PKK in Turkey

I was shocked and outraged to see a picture of an armed terrorist on the cover of the September issue. This is very unfortunate in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. The article "[Tough Truths. Tough Places](#)" tells a one-sided story of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), which is an illegal Marxist terrorist organization.

In a 1999 report, the U.S. State Department identified the PKK as one of the twenty-eight main terrorist organizations in the world, just like Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda. The PKK's terrorist activities have resulted, to date, in the deaths of thousands of people, including women, the elderly, children, and in many instances even infants.

Among other activities, the PKK has attacked entire villages in southeast Anatolia. It has launched attacks on Turkey's official missions abroad as well as the offices of semi-official institutions. It engages in organized crimes, such as drug trafficking and arms smuggling, extortion, human smuggling, and money laundering in an attempt to recruit militants and obtain financial resources.

Within the ranks of the PKK, terror takes place against informants and repentant militants, too. Over the years, PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan has ordered the killing of numerous defectors and potential rivals.

In Turkey, it should be noted, some people of Kurdish descent have taken office in top government positions during the past two decades, including Turgut Ozal and Hikmet Cetin.

And before the Gulf war, when Saddam Hussein was attacking Iraqi Kurds, Turkey opened its southeastern border and provided shelter and food in camps for Kurdish refugees for over a year. In fact, a Kurdish faction in Iraq is cooperating with Turkey to fight the PKK terrorists.

**Nurcan Bac
Snell Engineering Center**

Bac is an associate professor in the chemical engineering department.

Too polarized

I feel compelled to comment on "[Tough Truths. Tough Places.](#)" as it brings an oversimplified explanation of recent history and unfairly polarizes issues in the wrong direction.

Tragically, this is a notorious point in time to point out the terrorism in the PKK's past actions. I find it very difficult to believe that such claims as "Kurds in Turkey were not allowed to speak their language, run their own schools or media, sing traditional songs, wear Kurdish clothes, or give their children Kurdish names" warrant waging a war. Just as the killings that occurred on September 11 are not justifiable by any standard, goal, principle, and measure.

It can be argued that suppression of the ethnic identity of Kurds in Turkey has been a problem. However, the legitimate means to discuss such social injustices should be the use of national and international courts and the media, not bloodshed. The acts of the PKK go well beyond acts to draw international attention to social injustice.

Turkey is an important country to the West. It has been put on a path to westernization by its founding leader, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. It will need more time to find a solution that works in the areas of human rights and distribution of social-economic wealth. There are great efforts under way to reach these goals.

Sinan Müftü
Snell Engineering Center

Müftü is an associate professor in the mechanical, industrial, and manufacturing engineering department.

We welcome your letters and reserve the right to edit them for space and clarity. Send them to:

Letters to the Editor
Northeastern University Alumni Magazine
360 Huntington Avenue, 598CP
Boston, MA 02115.

Fax: 617.373.5430.

World Wide Web: www.numag.neu.edu/magletters.html.

E-mail: sp@ur.neu.edu.

November 2001

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

E Line

Campus reacts to terrorist attacks with lectures, seminars, gatherings

Fall commencement was canceled. A Matthews Arena memorial service drew about 1,500 faculty, staff, and students. Lectures, peace gatherings, and coping seminars were quickly planned. Registration spiked for courses in political science, international affairs, and religion. And some students prepared for the daunting possibility of being pressed into military service.

Such was Northeastern's response to the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., which killed more than 6,000 people.

Fall commencement, which had been scheduled for the evening of the day of the attacks, was canceled outright; the 950 graduates expected at the event were told they could march in the June commencement ceremonies.



An event dubbed "Conversation Peace" draws students from countries around the globe.

A week later, at a program of remembrance in Matthews Arena, the university mourned the more than twenty members of the Northeastern community who died in the attacks. Two students and ten alumni are known to have perished (see page 85). Eleven others with ties to Northeastern also died.

In early October, the campus moved into reflective mode. A forum titled Conversation Peace drew about thirty students from countries around the globe to discuss how to break down barriers of faith, race, and ethnicity. Many of the students shared their personal experiences of living and dealing with terrorism. Future Conversation Peace forums were scheduled.

A special seminar series began to assess the causes and

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

consequences of September 11. The first seminar drew an overflow crowd to the Raytheon Amphitheater, where political science chair Denis Sullivan, emeritus criminal justice professor Edith Flynn, associate political science professor Gerald Bursey, and political science lecturer Irm Haleem discussed the new realities facing America.

Said Sullivan of the overwhelming interest in discussing the attacks, "We haven't seen anything like this since the 1960s."

Other seminars were slated to address backlash and intolerance against Arabs, Muslims, and people of color; individuals' and governments' reactions to the attacks; the economic impact; legal aspects; the feminist response to terror; and how to rebuild and remake the world in the wake of the attacks.

Northeastern also saw a surge in interest in political science, international affairs, and related courses, and many professors scrambled to rewrite curricula to encompass the September 11 attacks.

Sullivan's course on Arab-Israeli relations attracted fifteen last-minute enrollees. In all, the number of political science majors jumped by 20 percent, an upswing that drew CNN crews and other media outlets to Northeastern.

Haleem, a native of Pakistan, said enrollments in her international affairs course increased sixfold over last year.

Abdullah Al-Faqih's class on foreign governments drew eighty students, double last year's number.

All three professors said they have altered the content of their courses to focus more on subjects related to the attacks.

Freeland calls for renewed vigor in quest to reach the "top 100"

Raising more money, improving graduation rates, hiring more full-time professors, and raising faculty salaries are all key to propelling Northeastern into the ranks of the nation's top 100 universities, President Freeland and a faculty leader told members of the university community in early October.

In their annual addresses to the university, Freeland and the chair of the Faculty Senate agenda committee, Robert Lowndes, both emphasized the importance of improving Northeastern's academic status.

"As a private, high-tuition university, we need to be included in the group [of upper-echelon institutions]," Freeland told about 1,200 faculty, staff, and students in Blackman Auditorium. "Over the long run, Northeastern will flourish only if the perceived value of our degree is fully commensurate with our price."

While Freeland acknowledged the difficulty of staying focused on the task of improving Northeastern, he noted the university has made important gains since it set out three years ago to crack the second tier of the U.S. News and World Report rankings, widely seen as the most influential barometer of an institution's stature.

Freeland reported that research and development expenditures surpassed \$30 million last year, far outpacing most universities in Northeastern's comparative set. This fall's freshman acceptance rate plummeted 16 percentage points from last year, to an all-time low of 62 percent, while combined SAT scores (1158) and cumulative grade-point averages (3.2) showed impressive gains. Freshman-to-sophomore retention rates (80 percent) and six-year graduation rates (56 percent) continued on an upward trajectory. Dependence on tuition dollars eased (now at about 70 percent) as revenues from government contracts, private gifts, and investment returns increased.

But Freeland stressed the importance of increasing philanthropic giving and boosting graduation rates.

Raising a greater percentage of its revenues through philanthropic giving and endowment income would help Northeastern reduce its dependence on tuition, Freeland said. Toward that end, the Leadership Campaign has already raised more than \$90 million toward its \$200 million goal, and that momentum must continue, he said.

Improving graduation rates is important because it figures prominently in virtually every major national rankings system, including U.S. News and World Report, Freeland added. And it replenishes university coffers to the tune of \$1 million per 1 percentage point gain in the graduation rate.

Lowndes echoed Freeland's emphasis on making it into the top 100, and said doing so will require hiring more full-time professors, raising faculty salaries, and devoting more money to faculty development.

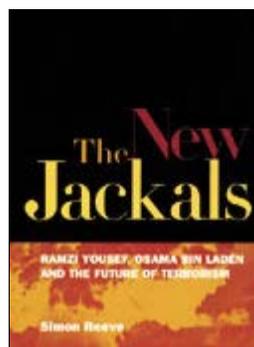
Increasing the size of the full-time professoriate is key to boosting Northeastern's academic reputation, said Lowndes, who served as arts and sciences dean through much of the 1990s. He also called for hiking faculty salaries, saying Northeastern over the past decade has fallen from 91st place to 160th in average salary for full professors.

NU Press book on bin Laden shoots to New York Times bestseller list

A Northeastern University Press book on Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect behind the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, has skyrocketed from relative obscurity to become one of the most-requested books on Amazon.com and claim a place on the New York

Times bestseller list.

Huge demand for *The New Jackals: Ramzi Yousef, Osama bin Laden, and the Future of Terrorism*, by English journalist Simon Reeve, led the Press to order three new printings of the book, totaling 65,000 copies.



Before the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., the book, first published in 1999, had sold just 4,000 copies.

"This is the largest reprint order we've ever seen," said Press director William Frohlich.

The Press also has plans to print the book in paperback next spring, with a new epilogue by the author.

By mid-September, the book had become the third-most-requested book on Amazon.com, staying in the top ten through the second week of October, said Jill Bahcall, associate director of the Press.

As of the week of October 28, the book was number nine on the New York Times bestseller list. No Northeastern University Press book has ever made it to the list before.

Frohlich said a London book agent offered him the manuscript two years ago. Long fascinated with the subject of international terrorism, Frohlich felt the book would fit neatly into the university's criminology offerings and would sell to students and a select general audience.

Now, mainstream retail outlets like Costco are placing their orders, he said.

The book is a double biography, profiling both Yousef, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and bin Laden, head of the shadowy al-Qaeda terrorist network, said Bahcall.

"It discusses how this network of terrorists is so well-financed, how there is a new breed of terrorists who are willing to sacrifice their lives for their cause, which is fueled by their hatred of the U.S. and Israel," Bahcall said.

The book warns of different acts of terrorism, including the hijacking of commercial jets, which are then flown into well-known buildings, a scenario that became horrific reality on September 11.

"From our perspective, the book has become more chilling than when we first published it, because what it warned of has come to pass," Bahcall said.

NU names vice presidents in institutional advancement, co-op

Northeastern named two vice presidents in September, bringing new leadership to institutional advancement and solidifying existing leadership in co-op.

The university also named new deans for its libraries and for Bouvé College's School of Health Professions.

Robert Cunningham, associate vice president at Boston College for the past three years, was named senior vice president for institutional advancement, succeeding Richard Meyer, who held the post of senior vice president for development for six years.

Cunningham, 41, will oversee the staff, budget, and operations of all alumni and development activities at the university and lead Northeastern's \$200 million Leadership Campaign, expected to be publicly launched next spring. With provost David Hall and senior vice president for administration and finance Larry Mucciolo, Cunningham will serve as one of President Freeland's top advisers.

During his three years at Boston College, Cunningham comanaged that institution's \$400 million Ever to Excel campaign and oversaw all development programs, staff, and budget. Before that, he served for nine years in various capacities in the development office at Harvard Law School, and for two years in the alumni relations office at New York University. He also worked at two advertising agencies in New York.

In co-op, Northeastern made permanent the vice presidential appointment of Richard Porter, who had been serving in the post in an acting capacity for three years. Freeland credits Porter with helping spearhead substantial organizational and programmatic changes in co-op as well as the full integration of co-op experiences and classroom studies—key initiatives for Northeastern. Porter joined Northeastern in 1975 as a member of the mathematics faculty and served as chair of the department from 1993 to 1998.

In August, Northeastern named Edward Warro as dean of university libraries. Warro oversees the collections, research services, electronic resources, computer labs, and instructional programs in both Snell Library and the Burlington Campus Library.

Before joining Northeastern, Warro was dean of libraries at Chicago's Loyola University, where he oversaw seven libraries across five campuses and led the way to a more appropriate balance between electronic and print resources in the libraries. He also held other library posts at Loyola, Southwest Texas State University, and Simmons College.

In Bouvé College's School of Health Professions, Mary Watson, who had been serving as interim dean, was appointed to the post full time. A respiratory therapist specializing in health education and counseling psychology, Watson is overseeing the seven departments within the

school.

Take a bow!

Hot Feet, a new musical by award-winning playwright and Northeastern theatre professor **Ed Bullins**, has been optioned for a Broadway production for the upcoming 2002– 2003 season.



Ed Bullins

Hot Feet deals with the life of Leonard Harper, a director-choreographer and innovative showman during the Harlem Renaissance and the big-band era in jazz.

Bullins has received Obie Awards for *In New England Winter*, *The Fabulous Miss Marie*, and *The Taking of Miss Janie*, which also won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. He was recently honored with the Living Legend Award by the National Black Theatre Festival.

Kudos to Northeastern's newest Presidential Scholars. These juniors, who have excelled in their professional studies, liberal learning, and cooperative-education experiences, earned full-tuition scholarships for the remainder of their undergraduate careers. Recipients include **Kelsey Anderson, Rebecca DerGarabedian, Danielle Dieckmann, Carolyn Elliott, Maxim Hendrick, Richard Hillis, Emily Keeler, Julie Leis, Jared McBride, Riddhi Mehta, Chrystal Tam, and Chen Zhang.**

November 2001

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Talk of the Gown



The University Responds

Taking stock, taking action in the wake of the attacks.

By Bill Kirtz

How to think about the unthinkable?

At a Matthews Arena memorial service for victims of September's terror attacks, President Freeland told the university that education and scholarship are the best answers to bias and hatred.

And in prayers and seminars, faculty meetings and e-mails, classrooms and corridor conversations, members of the Northeastern community have responded in myriad ways to the attacks and the subsequent U.S. retaliation. Some made quick adjustments. Northeastern University Press rushed to print more than 60,000 additional copies of *The New Jackals*, a prescient 1999 double portrait of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and Ramzi Yousef, the Kuwaiti-born munitions expert behind the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. By late October, the book was number nine on the New York Times hardcover nonfiction bestseller list.

To accommodate students' travel difficulties, the university extended fall registration deadlines. It also assured those enlisted in the Army Reserve or the National Guard that they wouldn't be penalized academically if their units were called up.

[Staff](#)
[Awards](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Send Class Note](#)
[Send Letter](#)
[Update Address](#)
[Back Issues](#)
[Links](#)
[Search](#)
[Magazine Home](#)
[NU Home](#)

NU's ROTC unit enrolled twenty-four first- and second-year students, compared with twelve a year ago. Northeastern Students Unite for Peace held meetings to "fight to end this and all wars," saying "vengeance is not a solution."

Michael Dukakis, distinguished professor of political science and acting chair of Amtrak's board of governors, worked to address the challenges presented by a dramatically increased demand for rail travel.

Scott Quint, director of the International Student Office, thinks that Northeastern experienced none of the anti-Arab demonstrations seen on some Boston campuses because the university is one of the nation's most geographically diverse, enrolling 2,561 international students from 133 countries (including more than 500 students from Arab countries).

In fact, Quint and his staff had been at Logan Airport until midnight on September 10, welcoming some 600 overseas newcomers to NU. Within hours, his office would be flooded with e-mails from worried parents.

Quint says proposed crackdowns on international student visas would affect every academic institution, but NU would, if necessary, provide additional support to help prospective students determine what academic and visa documents they need to enroll.

The university honored FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service requests for information on a few current and former international students. More than 195 colleges across the country answered similar requests during the weeks that followed the attacks. University spokesperson Ed Klotzbier says NU has "cooperated fully with authorities," and was not, as were some universities, subpoenaed for student data.

Several of Osama bin Laden's Saudi Arabian relatives—who have publicly denounced the terrorist leader and his actions—attended Boston-area universities, including NU. One of his fifty-three siblings earned a bachelor's in engineering at the university in 1975. Another relative received a bachelor's in international business in 1997.

Many at Northeastern are struggling to understand complex religious and cultural issues raised by the attacks. To provide some clarity, Quint, who advises the Islamic Society and the Arab Heritage Club, is hosting regular discussion sessions. "I've never seen so many people asking questions—we need cross-cultural answers," he says.

Islamic Society treasurer Marwa Eid helped plan an interfaith student dialogue to disassociate Islam from terrorism. The junior computer-science major was pressed into leadership when the group's head, senior computer-engineering major Hassan Bishil, had to take a leave of absence from school after flights from Saudi Arabia to Boston were temporarily canceled.

The Lebanese-born Eid, daughter of the head of the New England Islamic Center, says her headscarf has drawn no hostile reaction on campus. "In any society, all over the world, there are good people and bad people. People are really angry, and in Islam anger is one of the worst things. We should try our best to befriend each other," she says.

She thinks some Palestinians celebrated the tragedy because they "consider America to be a sister partner of Israel and therefore they became happy to see that the Americans, in their view, have now had a taste of what they taste every day. I know it's not necessarily right for them to feel this way, but we have to understand it."

Not long after September 11, visiting international affairs lecturer Irm Haleem drove from Arizona to Massachusetts with her husband, an Air Force military intelligence officer. At night, they stayed at Air Force bases—"the safest places to be," she says. Wearing a jacket decorated with intertwined American and Pakistani flags, she says she experienced no negative incidents on the road and is meeting with none in her American politics and international affairs classes. Her message to students: "Don't use the attacks as an excuse for racism."

Denis Sullivan, a Middle East scholar who chairs the political science department at Northeastern, faced the dilemma of "how to make sense out of the senseless. We can't explain it away. Students are reeling, but they're trying to be calm. We must work together to heal and understand."

He arranged a fall-quarter seminar series on the causes and consequences of September 11. Faculty from several disciplines held weekly discussions on such subjects as backlash and intolerance, Arab and Muslim differences, the attacks' impact on the economy and civil liberties, and rebuilding a "chastened world."

Sullivan says enrollments in international affairs and Arab-Israeli conflict classes at NU have swelled. "It shows we all need to know about the background to the tragedies, the impact of the attacks, and, hopefully, the way toward coping and coming to terms with it all," he says.

Outside the classroom, a group called NU Campus Against War and Racism formed quickly after the attacks. Its organizer, sophomore history major Matthew Boucher, says it will hold weekly information sessions to communicate that "military retaliation is not an answer. It only perpetuates the cycle of violence and prompts more terrorist attacks."

Meanwhile, philosophy professor Stephen Nathanson sounded a similar theme, telling colleagues, "We need to raise questions [for students] about our roles as citizens, about not being passive and finding appropriate ways to influence the [political] process."

Provost David Hall told those gathered at the September 20

memorial service that “the attack on humanity transcends all borders. We have a world to redeem and build.” Donnie Perkins, affirmative action and diversity dean and director, believes that building process “could be an opportunity to be bold, to reach across boundaries and learn from each other, to move out of some of our boxes.” This month, he helped do just that through an NU–hosted conference on race relations at New England colleges.

Some instructors agonized over whether and how to discuss the tragedy. Donna Qualters, Center for Effective University Teaching director, says she was flooded with teachers’ queries about the appropriateness of mentioning subjects—however vital—outside their specialty. Her advice: “The first rule of good teaching is to be authentic. If you feel comfortable discussing it, do. If not, don’t.” But, she adds, the “elephant in the room”—the massive impact of September 11—won’t go away if it’s ignored.

Tim McCurtain, a junior communications major, says he’s more comfortable talking through his feelings with friends and family than with professors. Still, he says, the tragedy came home to him when he learned his seminar leader, co-op coordinator Jacqueline Sweeney, had a sister-in-law aboard one of the hijacked planes. “She shared [her emotions] with us in a really respectful way,” he says.

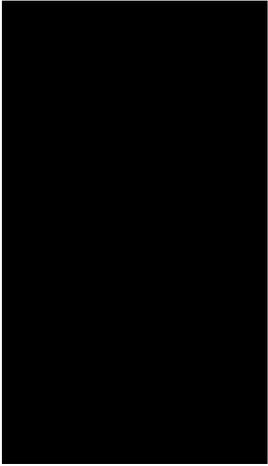
April Field, a junior international affairs major, says the tragedy wasn’t discussed in her American ideology or modern China classes—only in her modern English novel class, where her teacher pronounced the death of irony. Kerryn Donahoe, a senior management information systems major, says her professors mentioned the events only at the start of the quarter. Given the amount of time that had passed by then, she says, this was the right tack to take: “Emotionally, most students had gotten past it.”

Michael Woodnick, director of spiritual life, doesn’t want to get past it. At the memorial service, noting that he lost a close friend in the tragedy, he called on God “to help us understand the distinction between justice and revenge.” This month, he sponsored a lecture by a Thai monk on the topic “If Buddha were alive today,” and he’s invited faculty and staff to help develop programs exploring the spiritual question “why?”

Also drawing spiritual lessons from the tragedy is Nadia Peeva, who came to Northeastern from Bulgaria three years ago to earn a master’s in business administration. Now, she handles strategic client counseling at Deloitte & Touche.

On the morning of September 11, she got to her office in a building across the street from the World Trade Center around 7:30, then went down to the second-floor gym for a workout.

She was in the locker room when she felt the tremor of the second plane hitting. “We stood there for a little bit,” she says. “People started moving, and we just followed them. We started walking uptown. People were gathered around



radios, and we heard a rumor there were four more planes coming down. We panicked, we saw the buildings collapse, and we kept on going north about fifty blocks.”

She thinks the terror attacks “should make us band together. This is an opportunity to heal. People can look into themselves more and contemplate spirituality—and build a higher level of tolerance, compassion, and forgiveness.”

Bill Kirtz is an associate professor in the School of Journalism.

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

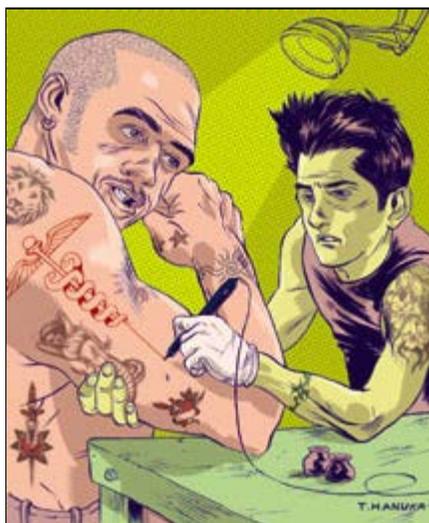
November 2001

From the Field

Nursing's Hippest Mod Squad**Witnessed any risky behaviors lately? Call for backup****By Margaret Christensen**

Need reliable information about body piercing? Tattooing? Gambling? Internet addiction? Substance abuse? Rest easy. Northeastern's Vice Squad has studied it all.

This self-named group of nursing professors is currently made up of three members: assistant professor Margaret Christensen, adjunct faculty member Lynn Babington, and former associate professor Carol Patsdaughter. Former assistant professor Kathleen Miller was previously on the squad as well.



Each of us has research interests in various types of addiction. We had discovered that nurses often find themselves ill-equipped to deal with patients whose "vices" cause them health problems. And so, over the past several years, working singly and together, we have produced about ten papers and given a dozen or so talks, to help health practitioners better understand and suggest treatments for potentially dangerous behaviors.

One of our first articles, which Christensen, Patsdaughter, and Miller wrote in 1998, dealt with heroin addiction. We realized that, although substance abuse had historically been treated within the realm of psychiatric nursing, healthcare providers in all settings needed to be knowledgeable about it.

So, responding to the rise in heroin use in the late 1990s, we wrote a paper discussing heroin addiction—in particular,

[Staff](#)[Awards](#)[Advertise](#)[Send Class Note](#)[Send Letter](#)[Update Address](#)[Back Issues](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)[Magazine Home](#)[NU Home](#)

overdoses and treatment—that was aimed at nurses working in hospitals, emergency rooms, and clinics.

We discussed the signs of overdose, such as low blood pressure, pinpoint pupils, drowsiness, slow breathing, and symptoms that might be construed as shock. (All overdose symptoms, in fact, might easily be mistaken for something else—trauma resulting from a car accident, for instance.) We reminded nurses to check for needle tracks. We also discussed a medication called Narcan, which blocks the action of heroin in the body yet doesn't cause any adverse effects if there turns out to be no heroin in the patient's system.

And we described withdrawal symptoms—sweatiness, chills, anxiousness—and listed medications that can help treat them, such as methadone and a new drug called LAAM.

We have also studied body piercing and tattooing, both by examining popular literature and by visiting piercing and tattooing shops in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Christensen, Patsdaughter, and Miller coauthored a 1999 paper on these phenomena.

In 1998, when we first started studying body piercing and tattooing, they were unregulated. Since then, many states have improved health guidelines associated with these practices, regarding the certification of artists and sterilization equipment, for instance. Massachusetts legalized tattooing in February (body piercing has always been legal in the state), allowing the commonwealth's Department of Public Health to begin regulating its practice.

Even with these improvements in regulation, however, nurses as well as the general public need to know about health problems that could result from piercing and tattooing, such as hepatitis, HIV, infection, and scarring.

During our research, we examined the literature, largely written by the piercers or tattoo artists themselves, which provided historical information as well as some insights into why people get piercings or tattoos.

We also spent time in a number of piercing and tattooing shops. We found the shop owners—who often sported shaved heads, full-body tattooing, and lots of piercings—to be extremely open and helpful. They let us watch their techniques (which were sterile) and said they thought our efforts to promote knowledge about piercing and tattooing were a good idea.

In our paper, we recommended how someone considering body art might decide which piercer or tattoo artist to use. We talked about complications that could result from piercing and tattooing, and gave tips on good aftercare. And we stressed how important it is for nurses—especially those who work with adolescents—to be knowledgeable about these subjects.

Gambling was another issue tackled by Christensen, Patsdaughter, and Babington in the late 1990s. At the time, gambling was increasingly being discussed as a potentially addictive behavior. News programs featured stories about

people whose lives had been ruined by excessive gambling. There was evidence that pathological gamblers suffered withdrawal symptoms when they couldn't practice the behavior.

We interviewed nurses, physicians, and social workers to determine their awareness of the issue. We found that while most knew about problem gambling, few screened for it in their practices. Their information about gambling addiction came largely from popular literature or the news. (Even today, problem gambling is seldom covered in college courses, even within the psychology and health fields.) We decided to study gambling within older-adult and minority populations, because these two groups were underrepresented in the existing research.

Many problem gamblers, at some point, have a big win, which they spend a lot of time trying to repeat. Some start gambling when they're young; others don't begin until they're much older. Some gambling addicts have had another family member who gambled.

However a gambling problem starts, it tends to escalate. Obsessive gamblers may lose a lot of money, borrow from others, ignore their health, or sink into hopelessness.

Yet they keep gambling. At this point, the obsession is no longer about winning; it's about playing the game. People in this phase describe feeling a sense of euphoria when they gamble. In fact, some research indicates that the act of gambling lights up pleasure zones in the brain, much like other addictions do.

Still, we are approaching our study of gambling with an open mind, because for some—particularly the elderly—gambling may actually improve one's health by serving as a beneficial social outlet.

We suggest that when nurses discover stress-related symptoms in patients, they ask those patients whether they gamble, how often, and with what amounts of money. If nurses don't ask, patients tend not to tell. We also remind nurses of the resources available to help problem gamblers, such as Gamblers Anonymous or the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling.

Finally, we have studied compulsive computer use, also known as Internet addiction disorder (IAD), pathological computer-use disorder, or just plain old computer addiction. Those displaying this behavior have been called "netaholics" or "webaholics."

IAD can cause a variety of physical and psychological problems, such as lack of sleep, poor eating habits, physical inactivity, poor social relationships, even the "shakes" when the computer can't be used.

Few research studies have been conducted on this form of addiction. Nor have the health effects of being online for hours or days at a time been thoroughly addressed. We decided to write about clinical experiences in this area and—even more important—about treatment.

We met several times with Dr. Maressa Hecht Orzack at McLean Hospital to discuss the case studies of IAD patients she had treated. Eventually, we decided to coauthor a paper with Dr. Orzack, which outlines the cases of several IAD patients, including an adolescent, a graduate student, a middle-aged man, and a middle-aged woman.

The 15-year-old boy used the computer as a substitute for socialization; his computer addiction began in elementary school with video games and progressed to quest games on the Internet. The graduate student spent more time chatting in chat rooms than writing his dissertation, to the point where his wife was ready to divorce him.

Both the 52-year-old male executive and the 42-year-old woman were involved in cyber affairs, putting their marriages in jeopardy. The executive went as far as arranging to meet his cyber girlfriend.

With Internet fixation, as with other addictions, health practitioners should look for particular symptoms. Patients may report severe fatigue, muscle pain in the shoulders or back, and general stress. Some may mention they spend a lot of time on the computer, which should be regarded as a strong clue.

Though the treatment of addiction sometimes requires abstinence, new approaches are beginning to recognize that, for some obsessions, decreasing the addictive behavior is often a more effective course.

With computer addiction in particular, it's unrealistic to expect patients to avoid using computers altogether. So IAD treatment focuses instead on limiting the amount of time spent online and improving other areas in patients' lives that may be driving the addictive behavior.

An addicted person's readiness for change is key to a successful treatment. Individual or group therapy can be extremely helpful. Still, treating any type of addiction is a lifetime pursuit, and staying in recovery sometimes takes as much effort as kicking the habit.

Clearly, contemporary health issues change with the times. While there is much work to be done in the areas we have pursued, we want our research to underscore the fact that social trends have a significant impact on public health. The Vice Squad will continue to help health practitioners recognize and treat many different potentially dangerous behaviors.

Margaret Christensen is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. In addition to her research on addictive behaviors, she studies behavior analysis and change in adults with chronic diseases.

November 2001

[The First Five Years](#)[Letters](#)[Sports](#)[September 11, 2001](#)[E Line](#)[Books](#)[President's Annual Report](#)[Talk of the Gown](#)[Classes](#)[From the Field](#)[First-Person](#)[Huskiana](#)

Sports

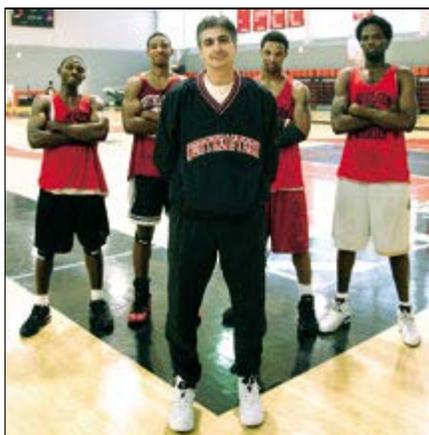
Making Reservations, On and Off the Court

Ron Everhart has a basketball team to jazz up.

By Paul Perillo

Ron Everhart's Cabot Center office is a work in progress, much like the program he took over in April when he became the new men's basketball coach at Northeastern.

With the exception of a few books, trophies, and memorabilia, there isn't much to distinguish the room right now. But Everhart doesn't expect it to stay undistinguished for long—just as he doesn't intend for his team to remain in the bottom half of the America East standings, where it's consistently resided since 1995.



Soon, he hopes to fill the walls with photos recording the accomplishments of his Husky teams—most notably, he hopes, their NCAA Tournament appearances.

"It's our intention to be in the finals every year," Everhart says. "In the end, you have to prepare for February, because the only way you're going to go to the [NCAA] Tournament is to win the conference tournament."

First and foremost, Everhart wants a program that's respected, on and off the court. He plans to implement an exciting brand of basketball that emphasizes running, trapping, pressing, and three-point shooting. He believes he has a roster with enough depth to play the frenetic style.

"What you want is to establish your identity as a program,"

[Staff](#)[Awards](#)[Advertise](#)[Send Class Note](#)[Send Letter](#)[Update Address](#)[Back Issues](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)[Magazine Home](#)[NU Home](#)

Everhart says. "I want to make sure that when we walk off the floor, win or lose, our opponents respect us. Even if we're outclassed, people will still say, 'Man, those guys really play hard.'

"I'm someone who believes in representing our program appropriately," he says. "We represent an institution of higher learning, and I expect our players to represent themselves accordingly. We don't allow crazy haircuts, braids, jewelry. And the guys have responded well to that.

"On the court, we create chaos," Everhart continues. "On offense, we play what we call 'intelligent aggressiveness.' We're not just going to run and pitch up shots. We're going to be intelligent while being as aggressive as possible."

Everhart arrived at Northeastern with a wealth of basketball knowledge at his disposal. The 39-year-old father of twins grew up in rural West Virginia and enjoyed a successful basketball career at Virginia Tech, where he captained the team his senior year. After graduating in 1985, he spent the next year at Georgia Tech as a graduate assistant under Bobby Cremins, then spent two seasons at Virginia Military Institute as recruiting coordinator.

From there, Everhart's coaching career began to take flight. He moved to Tulane in 1988, helping to lead a basketball revival for the Green Wave. He first met NU athletic director Ian McCaw at Tulane, forging a friendship that would later help pave Everhart's way to Boston.

After six successful seasons with Tulane, Everhart got his first job as head coach, at McNeese State in Lake Charles, Louisiana. During seven seasons as the Cowboys' head man, he compiled a 92-104 record. Last season, he guided McNeese to a 22-9 record and a berth in the NIT. In recognition, Everhart was named District 8 Coach of the Year and became one of fifteen finalists for the National Coach of the Year award.

His decision to leave McNeese State was not an easy one, but it's one he's still excited about. "The biggest factor was that Northeastern is such a quality academic institution," Everhart explains. "I've been affiliated my whole life with very good schools. It's the type of environment I enjoy and the type of young men I like to work with. We've always put a premium on academics and character, so I decided Northeastern was a good fit for me."

Everhart also says NU's strong leadership—from President Freeland to McCaw—affected his decision to come to Boston. "This is an environment that is full of potential," he says. "We have the ability to really grow athletically. It's my goal to build the basketball program into the national prominence our academic areas have right now."

Everhart will introduce a host of new names to the hoop fans who come out to Solomon Court this season. He's

excited about a recruiting class that includes a pair of impressive junior-college transfers: 6-foot-7 Sylbrin Robinson and 6-foot-6 Cornelius Wright. Also expected to make an impact are two players who sat out last season: Lonzaya Nlandu (with a broken wrist) and Quilninius Randall (as a transfer).

With the Everhart era officially beginning November 16—at the Pepsi Shootout at Marist College, in Poughkeepsie, New York—optimism around the program is as high as it's been in years. The office walls may be empty for now, but don't be surprised if the decor changes in a hurry.

A Wideout's Roundabout Route to the Goal

It's not exactly how he expected his college football career to unfold.

In 1997, when Kito Delgado left Bishop Gibbons High School for Boston University, the Schenectady, New York, native had no idea how much his plans would change. Just eight games into his career with the Terriers, BU decided to drop its football program, allowing all players with eligibility remaining to transfer. So Delgado trekked across town to Northeastern.

"I'd made a lot of friends during my time [at BU], and I really didn't want to relocate," Delgado, now a 22-year-old senior, says. "I already knew a lot about the co-op program, and that was something I was interested in—so my decision to come was really pretty easy."

He arrived with a world of potential. The 6-foot-3, 212-pound wide receiver possesses many skills that simply cannot be taught. He has great hands. He runs a sub-4.5 40-yard dash. And, for a wideout, he has tremendous size.

But Delgado failed to make the immediate impact both former coach Barry Gallup and current coach Don Brown expected. After red-shirting his first season at NU, he caught just one pass in 1999. Last year, in the Huskies' first ten games, he had only fifteen catches for 230 yards and one touchdown.

That's when Coach Brown decided he'd had enough of his talented but underachieving wideout. "I kind of challenged him a bit," Brown says. "I told him if he didn't put it together soon he could enjoy his last few weeks here."

Though many players don't respond well to such a blunt challenge, Delgado wasn't afraid to look directly into the mirror. "Coach definitely lit a fire under my butt," he says. "I called my brother [Antonio]. He said, 'You know what your capabilities are on the field. Stay calm, and stay positive.' I used that as motivation to prove myself to everyone."

Did the motivation work? Try these numbers on for size. In the three games that followed Brown's challenge, Delgado

caught twenty-one passes for 335 yards and three touchdowns. In the Huskies' season-ending win over James Madison, he grabbed a 34-yard touchdown pass with less than two minutes left, giving NU the lead.

And he opened the 2001 campaign right where he left off. He set a career high with eleven catches for 117 yards in the opener at Hofstra and added five for 100 yards at Villanova the next week. He also scored touchdowns in both games.

"What he did against James Madison was the type of performance I feel he's capable of every week," Brown says. "Usually receivers show their ability right away, but Kito's been a little later than most. Now, he's proving why I have NFL scouts around here asking me questions about him."

Receivers with Delgado's size, speed, and catching ability do indeed draw attention from NFL scouts. By the end of last month, the Huskies had racked up a 3-4 record, which included a 7-0 shutout against Richmond (Northeastern's first shutout in 111 games), in which Delgado hauled in a 41-yarder. Against St. Mary's, he caught four passes for 117 yards, including a 27-yard touchdown grab. Still, he knows, whatever happens, next year will be a win-win situation.

"I hope to at least get a shot at the NFL," Delgado says. "Even if I don't, I'm majoring in marketing, and I'll finish this spring. I have a great education.

"Everything happens for a reason. Leaving BU and coming here has been a blessing for me."

November 2001

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Books

Fighting for Full Freedom

After World War I, blacks combat the color line on America's shores.

By Charles Coe

"We Return Fighting: The Civil Rights Movement in the Jazz Age by Mark Robert Schneider (Northeastern University Press; Boston; 2001; 472 pages; \$35)



We return.

We return from fighting.

We return fighting.

Make way for democracy! We saved it in France, and by the Great Jehovah, we will save it in the United States of America, or know the reason why.

So wrote W. E. B. Du Bois in the May 1919 issue of Crisis, the legendary house organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Great War was over, and black soldiers had so distinguished themselves in combat in the trenches of Europe that three Negro battalions were decorated for bravery by the French military.

Now these heroes were returning to an America where they were denied the freedoms they'd risked their lives to help secure for others.

In We Return Fighting, an exhaustively researched volume that will be published next month, Mark Robert Schneider,

[Staff](#)[Awards](#)[Advertise](#)[Send Class Note](#)[Send Letter](#)[Update Address](#)[Back Issues](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)[Magazine Home](#)[NU Home](#)

adjunct instructor in American history at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, offers a tribute to the Jazz Age activists who struggled against tremendous opposition to advance the cause of civil rights.

In some ways, the racial caste system in postwar America seemed worse than ever before. In 1921, three years after the end of World War I, a horrific series of events made it abundantly clear that African Americans needed to “stand their ground and fight.”

In Jasper County, Georgia, a white farmer named John S. Williams murdered eleven black workers he had bailed out of jail and kept as virtual prisoners—beating and ultimately killing them after they rebelled against him.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a group of armed blacks repulsed a white mob attempting to lynch a young black man jailed for “assaulting” a white woman. (Apparently, he had stumbled against her after being jostled by the movement of the elevator in which they were riding.)

Within the day, whites had “put [the young man] to the torch, burning churches, lodge buildings, and everything in their path,” killing up to 200 blacks in all and doing more than \$1.5 million in property damage.

In Schneider’s view, the central role in the struggle for civil rights during that turbulent period was played by the NAACP, which had been created in 1909 in response to a growing dissatisfaction with the views of Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee University.

Washington, the most prominent black political leader of his time, urged African Americans to forgo a demand for civil rights in the short term, arguing that the Negro’s best strategy was to gradually earn the trust and respect of whites by being a good citizen. But as white supremacists gained ground in the early 1900s, Washington’s philosophy began to lose appeal among African Americans.

To an extent unmatched by any other group, the NAACP organized voting drives, staged public demonstrations and conferences, and posed numerous legal challenges to discrimination. As its membership and influence grew, it would fight—with mixed success—for equal access to education and housing, and lay the groundwork for a legal challenge to lynching.

Schneider attempts to dispel two common beliefs about the NAACP. First, that it was essentially an elitist, middle-class organization lacking mass appeal. Schneider points out that “the rank and file who signed the branch charters listed their occupations time and again as laborers, janitors, porters, laundresses, and domestic helpers.” Furthermore, the organization focused its energies on “the defense of sharecroppers, workers, students, soldiers, and, most of all, victims of white violence.”

Schneider also challenges the idea that whites controlled

the NAACP, and points out that “the ascension of James Weldon Johnson and Walter White to the secretariat of the association in 1919 marked the first time in American history that African Americans ran a nationally organized civil rights group.” He asserts that, thanks to the efforts of NAACP founder Du Bois and his colleagues, a strong leadership core lent the organization “internal stability and authority within African America.”

Of course, no history of the civil rights movement in the 1920s would be complete without a discussion of Marcus Garvey, whose style and message stood in sharp contrast to that of the NAACP. A flamboyant and charismatic figure, Garvey led the “Back to Africa” movement, which, in calling for the creation of a black-governed state in Africa, sparked the dreams of disenfranchised blacks all across America.

Schneider, who devotes a chapter to the “Emperor of Harlem,” acknowledges that Garvey “masterfully synthesized diverse elements of African-American and diaspora yearnings” and that Garvey’s message of Black Nationalism and economic self-reliance “struck deep chords of longing among millions of people who felt themselves to be a lost tribe among strangers.”

Still, Schneider concludes Garvey’s impact on the civil rights movement was ultimately mostly symbolic. The activist’s intolerance of independent thinkers in his inner circle, his financial mismanagement of his Black Star Line steamship company, and his defense of the Ku Klux Klan (which he described as “pro-white, not anti-black”) contributed to his downfall.

Schneider suggests that a fundamental difference existed between Garvey’s United Negro Improvement Association and the NAACP. The former was based on a cult of personality and collapsed in the absence of its founder, whereas the latter focused on building a strong organizational infrastructure that could—and did—survive changes in leadership.

We Return Fighting illuminates a period that has too long stood in shadow and serves as an overdue homage to civil rights activists who risked their lives to awaken the conscience of a nation. This book deserves a place on the shelf of anyone who wants to understand more clearly the complex and troubled history of race relations in America.

The NAACP activists of the 1920s didn’t win every battle they fought. (The defeat of the Dyer bill, the proposed federal antilynching law, was a particularly bitter setback.) But the organization “continued the fight when victory was not on the horizon,” laying the foundation for the victories of later generations. People everywhere who carry on the struggle for human rights are forever in their debt.

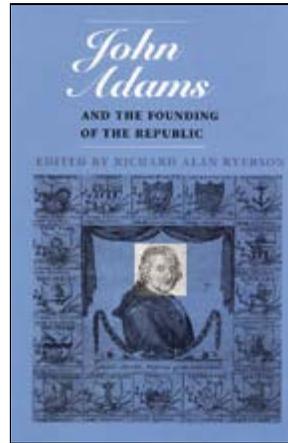
Charles Coe is a program officer with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a published poet, and a former writer and editor in the University

Publications office.

**John Adams and the Founding of the Republic;
Richard Alan Ryerson, editor; Northeastern University
Press; 2001**

Arguably, Adams-mania reached fever pitch earlier this year when George W. Bush added David McCullough's best-selling John Adams to the presidential summer reading list.

If you're daunted by that 700-plus-page tome, however, this collection of essays serves as a fine window onto the first vice president and second president of the United States.



Written by leading scholars, the essays on the life and times of Adams stand on their own as valuable contributions to our understanding of the Revolutionary leader. Richard Alan Ryerson, editor in chief of the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society, edited the volume, which is based on papers presented at a 1996 conference.

The recent surge in interest in Adams stems largely from a new appreciation for the critical role he played in America's political origins. This book delves deeply into the varied accomplishments—and complex character—of the preeminent political theorist and public official. From an account of his pre-Revolutionary career to examinations of his political thought, it thoroughly explores Adams's profound legacy.

Many topics are covered, including Adams's aggressive diplomacy in Europe, his frustrating experience as vice president, the complexities of the 1796 election, his views on free speech, and the contributions of his wife and trusted adviser, Abigail.

With an extensive introduction to Adams's life and career by Ryerson, *John Adams and the Founding of the Republic* emerges as an essential aid to developing a better grasp of Adams's importance in American history. It might just spread Adams fever to your corner of the republic.

Department

November 2001

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Classes

1920s

Nick Corsano, E'26, is reunion chair for the classes of 1925 and 1926. He attended his seventy-fifth reunion and hosted a reunion lunch on September 22 in South Hingham, Massachusetts.

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[ELine](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

November 2001

Classes

1940s

Phil Savage, LA'40, L'46, and his wife, Alyce, of Newton, Massachusetts, attended the annual reunion of the 465th Bomb Group, in Phoenix, Arizona. The group served in Italy during World War II. Savage reports that, in addition to sightseeing, he and his wife had their first meeting with their youngest daughter's in-laws—"a very special happening." He also says he is "still keeping busy." He was among those representing West Suburban Elderly Services at the statewide meeting of home-care organizations in Milford, Massachusetts. In June, Savage attended Northeastern Golden Graduates Day, along with 1940 classmates Ed Harraghy, Arnold Kaufman, and Danny Miles.

[Staff](#)[Awards](#)[Advertise](#)[Send Class Note](#)[Send Letter](#)[Update Address](#)[Back Issues](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)[Magazine Home](#)[NU Home](#)

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[ELine](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Classes

1950s

George Terrell, LA'51, of Foxboro, Massachusetts, was the subject of a feature story in the Attleboro (Massachusetts) Sun Chronicle. The story noted how Terrell, as a twenty-year-old Marine returning from World War II, found nine plays by Eugene O'Neill to read on the thirty-day transport back across the Pacific Ocean. At Northeastern, Terrell received degrees in mathematics and physics, and—inspired by O'Neill—minored in English. His career was in technological and scientific fields, but he also has penned five plays. At age 60, he entered a writing program. Terrell has since written three novels, which are available at www.universe.com.

Robert E. Simon, LC'53, BA'57, of Centerville, Massachusetts, writes that he "would like to receive e-mail at robdon831128@msn.com from fellow business and engineering graduates. I live on Cape Cod and have been active in civil engineering design for many years. Retired after forty years in the business, then volunteered teaching math and science in the local middle school. Wow, what an experience, but loved it."

At the twelfth annual World Association for Cooperative Education Conference in July at Suranaree University of Technology in Thailand, **John O. Francis Sr.**, MBA'55, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, presented a paper on using cooperative education in middle and high schools to counteract workforce deficiencies in developing countries and communities.

Anthony Napolitano, LA'55, of Somerville, Massachusetts, volunteers as an interpreter for the Human Body Connection at Boston's Museum of Science. He is retired from the United States Postal Service.

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Classes

1960s

Edward Crosby, E'60, MBA'69, and his wife, Nancy, "have traded snow shoveling for 'excessive' lawn maintenance" by moving to The Woodlands, Texas, near Houston. Crosby retired from the phone company after thirty-seven years, half of which were spent as an engineering trainer. Crosby has worked several seasons as an H&R Block tax preparer and, along with Nancy, teaches business courses at two local community colleges. They are avid travelers and birders.

Warren A. Manning, E'61, MBA'74, UC'76, of Burlington, Massachusetts, and his wife, Mary, vacationed in France this year and took a trip to Poitiers, the town Warren was stationed in during the Berlin mobilization, from 1962 to 1964. He and Mary stayed in the room where he lived during his tour of duty. Members of the classes of 1961 and 1962 who also served in France and who are interested in arranging a similar visit should e-mail him at <wmanning@mediaone.net>. Warren, a graduate of the Army War College, retired from the Army Reserve in 1991 with the rank of colonel. He's now completing his thirty-fifth year at Raytheon.

Robert E. Maurer, E'62, ME'64, PHD'68, of North Andover, Massachusetts, is the coauthor of a text entitled Experimental Design with Applications in Management, Engineering, and the Sciences. He has been teaching at Boston University since retiring from Bell Labs. His e-mail address is <remaurer@bu.edu>.

Janice Campbell Lindsay, LA'65, of Marlborough, Massachusetts, was presented the Communicator of the Year Award by the Society of Professional Communicators in Worcester. She is the president of Janice Lindsay Communications, writing for corporate executives, management consultants, and marketing and public relations firms. She also writes fiction and nonfiction under her own name and is the author of The Milly Stories, a children's novel.

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Classes

1970s

Dave Lamore, PAH'70, of Framingham, Massachusetts, is a retired pharmacist who works as a consumer advocate for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. He's a member of a six-person team chosen to receive the Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance.

Jane D. Hylander, N'71, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, writes to tell her classmates and friends that she's still "alive and well and kicking," despite the inclusion of her name in last issue's alumni deaths listing.

Jeffrey Garside and **Cheryl Grenier Garside**, both LA'72, of Fair Haven, New Jersey, became grandparents with the birth of Ashley in May 2000. Jeff is in his thirtieth year with the Rumson Country Day School in Rumson, New Jersey. He has served in several capacities at the school and now teaches science.

Bill Hayes, BA'72, MBA'75, is the president and chief executive officer for VistaSource, Inc., a software company in Westborough, Massachusetts. Bill and his wife, Jan, have returned to New England after ten years in Houston, Texas.

Jack Madden, E'73, of Glenmont, New York, is a civil engineer 2 with the Freight and Economic Development Division of the New York State Department of Transportation. He notes he'd like to hear from other Northeastern ROTC and Scabbard & Blade alumni in 2001 to celebrate the fiftieth year of ROTC at NU. His e-mail address is <jvmadden@aol.com>.

Barbara Ferri, AS'74, of Maynard, Massachusetts, is in her second year of teaching sixth grade in Sudbury. She earned a master's degree from Fitchburg State College in the spring.

Peter Zona, BA'75, is the chief financial officer at Tedeschi Realty Corporation in Rockland, Massachusetts. He joined the company as controller in 1987 and had been vice president of financial management since 1992. An avid sports fisherman, Peter, and his wife, Ann, live in Scituate, Massachusetts, with their three teenage children.

November 2001

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

William F. O'Brien, MBA'76, is the chief marketing officer for ADC, a supplier of fiber optics, network equipment, software, and integration services in Minneapolis, Minnesota. O'Brien also has served as a faculty member of the marketing department at Northeastern.

Theresa "Terri" Orr, MEd'76, of Waltham, Massachusetts, made a presentation entitled "Non-Academic Variables in Admissions" at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges NorthEast Group on Student Affairs in Toronto, Canada. She is the associate dean for admissions and student services at Harvard Medical School.

Steve Cody, BA'77, of Lincroft, New Jersey, is the managing partner and cofounder of PepperCom, a New York City public relations company. He is responsible for new business development, agency marketing, and overall account management. He and Edward Moed founded the firm in 1995. This year, they were regional finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Steve and his wife, Angie, have two children, Christopher and Catharine.

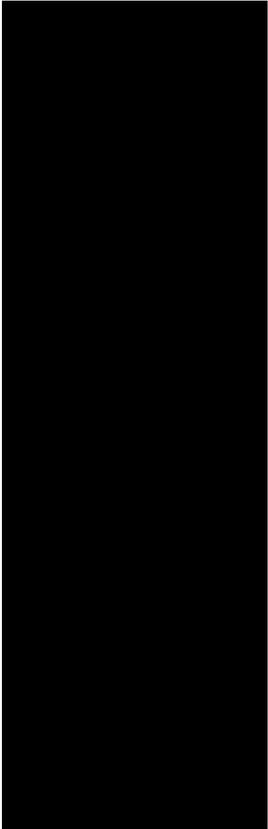
Gordon Wagner, BA'77, of Tucson, Arizona, is the vice president of a commercial real estate development and brokerage firm.

Paul Ware, ME'77, and his wife, Carol, have lived in Stoughton, Massachusetts, for nearly thirty years and have two grown children, Erik and Jennifer. Erik is married and living in Florida, and Jennifer is a research scientist in Beverly, Massachusetts. Ware worked in the quality profession for thirty years, most recently as vice president of quality for Safety 1st and The First Years. He now has his own business, PW Resources, which specializes in quality assurance, regulatory compliance, and new-product development. The company's website is <www.pwresources.com>. E-mail him at <pware@worldnet.att.net>.

Alan L. Clapp, E'78, is a senior associate with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., an engineering, planning, and applied sciences company in Providence, Rhode Island. He joined VHB in 1984 and is the managing director of land development. He and his wife, Kathy, and their three children, Meghan, Stephen, and Jessica, live in Mansfield, Massachusetts.

Ernest Hackett, BB'78, writes, "I have returned to the Boston area and opened a chiropractic and physical therapy clinic in town and another in Dedham. The name of the clinic is Patient First Chiropractic and Physical Therapy, PC. Please call or stop in if you are in the area. Our reunion is soon, and we should begin to plan the party. Please e-mail and let's get started." His e-mail address is <edochackett@cs.com>.

Desmond Pieri, MBA'78, writes, "Fulfilling a long-term goal to live overseas, Jules, the boys, and I have moved to Ireland. The boys started school on September 3, and we moved into a 200-year-old Georgian-style home in the center of Dublin on the 8th. The only thing we lack is jobs! But both Jules and I can work anywhere in the European Union: I was granted an Irish passport, as my grandmother was born in Ireland. And if you



know of anyone who may be able to help us in our job searches in Ireland, I would appreciate hearing from you." Their new mailing address is 21 Mountpleasant Square, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Ireland. E-mail them at <desmondpieri@hotmail.com> or <julespieri@hotmail.com>.

Michael Gill, E'79, of Berkeley, California, ran his first Boston Marathon this past April in what he describes as "a respectable old-guy time" of three hours, fifteen minutes. He met a group of Northeastern friends and classmates from the 1977 through 1980 classes for dinner after the race. "We all had a great time reminiscing about NU," he writes. The group included Charles Hale, Ann (O'Connor) Geary, Joe Geary, Heidi (Patton) Moore, Andrew Wheeler, Maureen (McSweeney) Quill, and James Michael Quill.

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Classes

1980s

Elizabeth Gaudet Nolan, N'80, is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve and the chief nurse of the 4209th U.S. Army Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. An honors graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, she has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. Her e-mail address is <bgn80@hotmail.com>.

The Lt. Steven Demo Cops with Cancer Fund is named to honor **Steven Demo**, CJ'81, who died after a three-year battle with the disease. "Steve had a passion for football," writes his sister, Linda. "He played for the Huskies during his years at Northeastern, wearing number 66. At the age of 40, he had to compete in a different type of game, while fighting the strongest contender he'd encounter." Demo became an officer with the Portsmouth (New Hampshire) Police Department soon after graduation. He also worked for the Attorney General's Office, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Drug Task Force in New Hampshire. He began the fund for police officers and their families, naming it the Cops with Cancer Fund. It's now renamed in his memory.

Michael J. Mandracchia, MA'82, of Trenton, New Jersey, was presented with the Hazardous Materials Manager of the Year Award in August by the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers. At the same conference in Chicago, Illinois, he also was presented with a Champion of Excellence award.

Cheryl P. Santee, AS'83, of Dedham, Massachusetts, is an assistant vice president and banking center manager for Cambridge Savings Bank.

Kavian Soudbakhsh, E'83, of Los Angeles, California, is cofounder and director of operations at Image Square, Inc., a digital imaging and printing company in Santa Monica. For seventeen years, he was a commercialization manager at Eastman Kodak Company in upstate New York. Soudbakhsh says he'd like to hear from electrical engineering friends by e-mail at <kavian@imagesquare.com>.

Mike Webster, CJ'83, of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, earned an

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

MS in human resources development and is the director of campus safety at Western Maryland College. He also volunteers as a paramedic. Webster has been married for six years and is the father of two daughters and a son.

Maria Tedesco, MBA'84, of Canton, Massachusetts, is the director of in-store banking in New England for Citizens Bank. She has held several positions since joining the bank in 1995.

Tim Whitney, BA'88, of Whately, Massachusetts, writes, "After a brief ten-year vacation in Florida, I am back living in western Massachusetts." E-mail <timcwhitney@yahoo.com>.

John Henwood, BA'89, perished in the September 11 attacks. He was a member and past president of Phi Gamma Pi fraternity in Brookline. He held a senior-level trading position at Cantor Fitzgerald. He is survived by his wife, Concha Munoz Garcia, and two children, Alejandro, 5, and Claudia, 2. He also leaves behind his parents, Mary and David, and siblings, David, Mary, Catherine, and Tara. Send contributions to the Henwood Munoz Children's Trust, c/o Kevin Honan, 138 Fuller Street, Brookline, MA 02446.

David Inselberg, BA'89, and his wife, **Joan (Ross) Inselberg**, AS'92, live in Long Beach, New York, with their children, Ross Harrison (born August 10, 1997) and Samantha Erin (born June 21, 2000).

The work of **Taru Kinnunen**, MA'89, PHD'92, and others at Northeastern was noted in the July issue of Scientific American in an article entitled "The Truth and the Hype of Hypnosis." She and her colleagues have exposed fakers by using lie-detector tests. She is an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. Kinnunen's husband, Ramon Venegas, is the director of Enterprise Application Services at Northeastern. They live in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[ELine](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Classes

1990s

Wendy M. Balester, CJ'90, MJ'91, would love to hear from classmates and friends. E-mail her at <nebhson1@prodigy.net>.

Jeff Barclay, E'90, ME'94, was awarded a JD from the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire, on May 19. He now is a patent attorney at the Boston law firm Fish & Richardson, P.C.

Tony Trigilio, MA'90, PHD'97, of Chicago, Illinois, had his book *Strange Prophecies Anew* published this year by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. His poem "The Party Turns Fifty" was published in *The Beloit Poetry Journal* and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. He is an assistant professor of English in the poetry program at Columbia College in Chicago.

Michael Picard, ME'91, of Dover, Massachusetts, is the vice president of solutions at BIT Group, Inc., in Boston. He oversees the services-delivery team—including web application and website development—supervises the engineering team, and serves on the management team.

David M. Vivilecchia, BA'91, of Melrose, Massachusetts, serves as an associate with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., in Watertown. He joined VHB in 1994 and is a regional finance manager.

Dawn (Sager) Newton, BA'92, and her husband, Rob, celebrated the birth of their first child, Sean Robert, in June. Dawn is a buyer for Ames corporate offices in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. The family lives in Colchester.

Thomas F. Noto, BA'92, and **Gwendolyn Field Noto**, L'96, welcomed the birth of premature twins, Thomas Francis III and Nicholas Charles, on November 8, 2000. Both boys are doing well. Gwen left her law practice to stay home with their sons. Tom has been with General Electric for nine years and is a vice president of sales and marketing with GE Capital in Norwalk, Connecticut. They live in Fairfield, just two blocks from the beach, and note that "life with twins is a thrill." E-mail <tom.noto@gecapital.com> or <gnoto@optonline.net>.

November 2001

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

Arnaldo H. Austria, BA'93, of New York City, sends congratulations to friends **Jen Kline**, AS'94, and **Rich Reamer**, BA'93, "on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Brooke Sydney. From one new parent to another: Sleep is highly overrated!"

William R. Barrett, BA'93, writes, "Where do I start? I graduated and sold food in New Jersey, then moved to Vegas to become a craps dealer. I moved back to Boston in 1995 to work at a recruiting firm, then left to start my own high-tech sales and marketing recruiting firm (www.goldenhire.com) in my hometown of Buffalo, New York. I sit on the mayor's IT council, on the Economic Development Committee in Buffalo, and I love what I do. I married my high school sweetheart in 1997 and now am the father of Jack Kudu and Emma Impala, both named after African antelopes (went to Africa for a late honeymoon). I plan on hiring Northeastern co-ops in the spring of '02."

Ed Jost, AS'93, of Maywood, New Jersey, received a master's in education from Centenary College and teaches history at Tenafly High School, where he was named head football coach for this season. E-mail him at <edljost@yahoo.com>.

Ken Williams, AS'93, of Groveland, Massachusetts, is a sixth-grade teacher in Lawrence. Friends may contact him at <kennywilliams@kennywilliams.com>.

Chris Hogan, AS'94, and Susan Hurley were married on June 23 in Branford, Connecticut. "It was a wonderful day filled with family and friends, including several NU alumni," writes Chris. He and Susan honeymooned in the British Virgin Islands and Maine. Chris is a financial manager with the American Petroleum Institute, and Susan is a financial associate at the Discovery Channel.

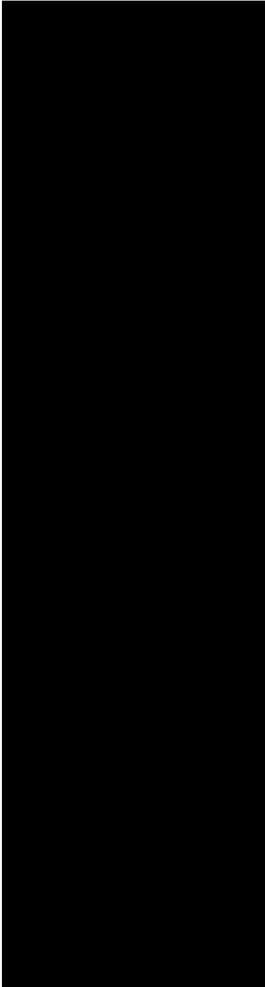
Christine Tetherly-Lewis, AS'96, writes, "I can't believe it's been five years already. I just got married this past April and am still living in Boston. My sorority sister, **Heather (Kaplan) Margulis**, BPH'96, MS'97, was an attendant in my wedding party, as was a good college friend, **Gina (Malavenda) Reardon**, BA'96."

Noel Texeira, CJ'96, of Foxborough, Massachusetts, responded to the September 11 tragedy with these words: "For all those affected by the recent tragic events, please accept my deepest sympathies and prayers. Americans will come together in unity and human compassion to rebuild what was lost. God bless the United States of America."

Philip R. Iantosca, AS'97, of Norwood, Massachusetts, sends this update: "I got engaged to Nicole M. Bowes of North Attleboro in June 2000; we are getting married in August 2002. I was named communications director for Norfolk County in July 2001." E-mail him at <piantosca@norfolkcounty.org>.

Michelle Maher, AS'98, of Wakefield, Massachusetts, is a copywriter at Sullivan Creative, an advertising agency in Watertown.

Angela Scerra, AS'98, of Lincoln Park, New Jersey, is engaged



to Jeremiah Hawk, and the wedding is set for September 21, 2002, in Palmer, Massachusetts. The marriage will make Scerra and **Jennifer (Hawk) Godin**, AS'98, sisters-in-law. Friends since middle year, they were roommates as seniors at Northeastern.

Mary Vigin, UC'99, of Randolph, Massachusetts, writes of reaching a career crossroads in insurance that led her to NU. "It was required that I write teaching and professional materials for the field underwriters. With only a high school diploma, I needed more, so I attended University College and graduated with a degree in English. But, in 2000, I was out of work as a result of a changing and shrinking industry. I saw an ad for someone with an insurance background and writing skills. I'm now an assistant editor for Standard Publishing Corp. and write a monthly newsletter for insurance personnel. So I was able to start a second career. A job, by the way, I love because I am able to be creative."

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Classes

2000s

Amy Black and **Christopher Wright**, both BA'00, were married on June 10. They are building a house in Wayne, New Jersey. Amy is a consultant at Deloitte Consulting, and Chris is an analyst at PricewaterhouseCoopers. They can be e-mailed at <amyrebeccablack@aol.com> or <chrisgwright@aol.com>.

Heather Couture, CJ'00, MJ'01, is a first-year doctoral student at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Peter Pizzi Jr., E'00, is a program manager in the New Product Introduction Group of Power-One. He and his wife, Amy, bought a house in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. Peter earned a master's in engineering management from Tufts. "Northeastern was a major part of my recent success and built a solid foundation for my engineering future," he writes.

Heidi Block, PHD'01, of Franklin, Massachusetts, is an assistant professor of criminal justice and law enforcement at Metropolitan State University's School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

November 2001

Classes

[Staff](#)[Awards](#)[Advertise](#)[Send Class Note](#)[Send Letter](#)[Update Address](#)[Back Issues](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)[Magazine Home](#)[NU Home](#)**Alumni Deaths****1930s**

H. Elizabeth Prentice, BB'31, December 20, 1999

Gilbert G. Lawrence, E'34, June 11

Frederick M. Magee, E'34, January 9

Walter J. Pothier, E'34

Gordonne E. McGowan, LC'37, January 26

M. Louise Dumas, L'39, July 31

1940s

James J. Connolly, LA'40, April 24

Wilmot H. Decker, E'40

John M. Corcoran, L'41, June

Sydney M. Davis, L'41, July 11

John T. Grover, E'42, March 1

Charles F. Tapsell, B'42, October 11

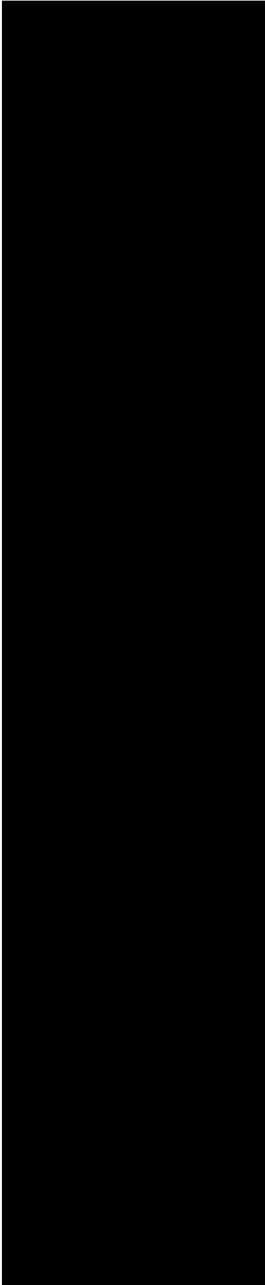
Irving H. Kagan, LA'46

1950s

William H. Fairfield, LC'51, B'52, February 16

William N. Hartwell, B'51

Zigmas Gavelis, LC'54



Joseph F. Madden, L'54, October 2000

1960s

William C. O'Donnell, UC'61, May 27

Peter Sarmanian, BA'61, July 11

1970s

George J. Gallivan, LC'70, UC'74, August 7

Wesley W. Nichols Jr., MEd'72, August 10

John V. Murphy, ME'78, October 2000

1980s

Eric A. Shaeffer, BA'87, December 11, 2000

1990s

Barry W. Applebaum, UC'97, May 19

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

November 2001

First-Person

Paul E. Doyle

MJ'97

My wife pulled into a lighted area and stopped the car. We quickly discussed some last-minute changes to our family's schedule, then kissed good-bye.

On the Westwood, Massachusetts, train station platform, the departure conversations were unusually hushed and low. As the high-speed Acela Express approached, people seemed to tense up, to increase the tempo of their actions.

Over thirty years ago, I had experienced similar good-byes. Then, thousands of young soldiers were going to Vietnam, to risk death for reasons none of us understood. I'd left for Southeast Asia shortly after my first cousin Henry, a paratrooper, came home in a box. I was a paratrooper, too.

This evening, though, I was headed to New York City. It was Sunday, September 16. Five days earlier, thousands of innocent men, women, and children had been killed by a group of fanatics from places most of us couldn't find on a map.

Why was I going? Was it altruism? Loyalty? A call to arms? The only thing I was sure of, whatever moved me came from the deep recesses of my heart.

On the train, Kevin was waiting for me in the food car. He and I had met years ago as volunteers with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. He's a crew-cut Malden police sergeant. I'm a retired special agent from the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"Have a beah! Have sumpthin'. You guys deserve it," the man behind the counter told us in a thick Boston accent. "Um payin'."

When we got to New York, the train stopped for a moment on the Hell's Gate Bridge. The engineer opened the door at the end of the car to show Kevin and me a hellish scene. We looked at the location that had been the World Trade Center. Powerful lights illuminated the devastation. Smoke and dust rose from the ashes.

Staff

Awards

Advertise

Send Class Note

Send Letter

Update Address

Back Issues

Links

Search

Magazine Home

NU Home

We stood silently. After a while, I looked away and shook my head.

Early the next morning, Kevin and I went to the Javits Center, the command post where volunteers were given their assignments. Ironworkers, laborers, policemen, firemen from all over the country bustled about, trying to get on a work detail. Determination showed on everyone's face, and a feeling of raw energy pervaded the scene.

Somehow, Kevin and I were chosen to work at Ground Zero. An environmental police officer drove us, lights flashing and siren sounding, down the West Side Highway, which was closed to the public. After passing through three roadblocks, we received our authorization pass, hard hat, respirator, and work gloves, and got assigned to a team. An NYPD van took us as close to the site as possible; we walked the rest of the way.

We stood nervously at the edge of the pile of rubble, near the Millennium Hilton and a Brooks Brothers store newly labeled with a hastily painted sign: "Temporary Morgue."

"Water!" someone yelled from within the pile. We hoisted cases of bottled water over to the rubble and watched as they disappeared down into it, passed from hand to hand by a chain of men. "Body bags!" voices shouted somewhere down below. A chill ran up my spine.

"I'll take the guys from Boston with me," a rugged-looking young redhead announced loudly. He and the rest of his squad were NYPD officers. "I'm Sergeant McCormick." He looked at me. "Name?"

"Doyle," I said.

"Cell phone?" He explained, "In case we lose you. There are seven stories below us."

I told him my phone number, as the reality of the situation began to sink in.

We moved cautiously up the embankment that encircled the wreckage. On our right was a seven- or eight-story burned-out building that seemed to lean dangerously in our direction. Twisted steel beams hung over our heads. Out of nowhere, a ragged group of men resembling battle-hardened soldiers, faces blackened by smoke and ash, appeared.

One of them, the group leader, told us, "We don't know how many people there are in this building, but we know there are many. We think there are about fifty police officers in there. It's your job to find 'em and get 'em out. If you find firefighters, call in the firemen. If they find police, they'll call for you. Good luck, and be safe."

I thought of all the innocent people who had died where we were standing. I remembered the unparalleled bravery of the firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical people who had rushed into danger to save others. And I could feel an unimaginable strength surge through my body.

Our squad followed one another up over the mound of debris and down into the rubble. One hand reached out to touch the shoulder of the man in front, the other extended out to maintain balance. We climbed over steel beams, avoiding the curlicues of rebar that jutted up randomly.

Deeper and deeper we went into the abyss, searching for sure footing in the maze of crumpled sheet metal, twisted steel, wire, and broken glass. I struggled to breathe through the cumbersome respirator.

The line stopped moving. Up front, several EMS workers in yellow suits began digging with small shovels. No one spoke. I looked up at the sun shining brilliantly in the pure blue sky. A shank of shattered steel, plucked from the pile of ruins by a giant crane, sailed overhead. Around us was a cacophony of men shouting, trucks hauling, tractors beeping. Suddenly, the shovels stopped.

"We need a dog!" one of the yellow suits said, a message that traveled to the back of the line. Moments later, a handler and his dog were struggling to maneuver around us without falling. Once they got to the front, the German shepherd began barking and dancing about nervously. Then he stopped, stretched out his front paws as if to mark a spot, and scratched frantically. The handler moved the dog away, and the EMS workers began to dig again.

The shoveling stopped. The workers straightened up but continued staring down. Their body language told the story before they spoke.

"Body parts!" one of the workers yelled, frustration in his voice. Once again, the words passed back through the line.

A hulking figure appeared in silhouette behind us. He pulled his respirator from his face. "Mark 'em!" he shouted. "Mark 'em, and move on! Another team will retrieve the parts. We're lookin' for people. We need to get 'em outta there," he said with urgency.

In chain reaction, each of us began to move forward again. We stopped when the dog began to bark and the workers began to dig. The man behind me handed me a stack of five-gallon plastic pails, which I passed to the man in front. After we did this for several minutes, the pails began to come back full of debris.

Bucket after bucket, we removed the debris methodically, almost monotonously, from the front of the line, which was working to uncover anything that would lead to a pocket where survivors were hidden. We fought against the discouraging conclusion that no one could have survived this horror.

"Body parts!" the voice from up ahead called out again.

"Mark 'em! Keep movin'!" The same routine continued hour after hour, interrupted only by shouts. "Saw blades! Water! Body bags!"

"Break!" We stopped what we were doing and straightened up in place. It was a little after noon. Without a word, we turned and started moving up and out of the rubble as somber-looking firefighters wearing helmets and long, heavy coats filed in to take our position. We reached out automatically to help one another go slowly along in different directions, exchanging momentary glances and gloved hand clasps.

We reached the even surface of Chapel Street, then turned sideways to squeeze through a small gate in a chain-link fence. National Guardsmen in full combat gear—steel helmets, camouflage fatigues, paratrooper boots—scrutinized our passes at the innermost checkpoint to and from Ground Zero. Security was the tightest here: Ground Zero was still designated a crime scene. If reporters, photographers, souvenir seekers, or looters attempted to gain entrance, they were arrested on the spot.

We walked along Liberty Street between high buildings eerily shrouded with ash, went through another National Guard checkpoint, then stepped out onto Broadway. I pulled my goggles over my head, unhooked my respirator, and enjoyed the coolness as the perspiration evaporated from my face and head.

Up and down Broadway, there were makeshift stands covered with sandwiches, soda, and other kinds of food and refreshments, stretching as far as I could see. I walked along and inspected the offerings.

"What would you like?" an old man behind a stand asked with a smile. I took a small box of pizza. "Good choice. We just put them out," he said. Then, with sadness: "It must be pretty bad in there."

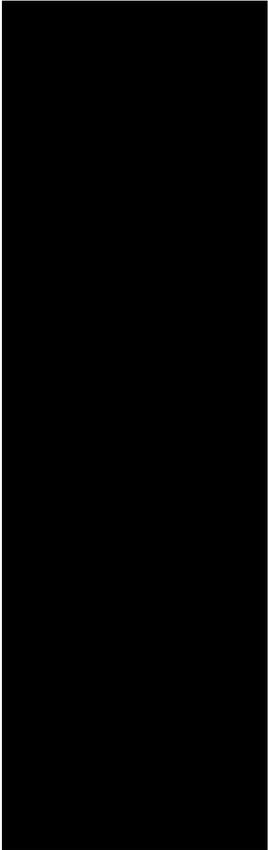
"It is," I said simply, not really knowing what to say. There was kindness in his eyes. I knew he wasn't prying, wasn't looking for horrific details. I managed a slight smile as I walked away, and he acknowledged me in kind.

Everyone wanted to help in some meaningful way. Ordinary citizens of all ages, of all races, from all walks of life, were volunteering their time and money in record amounts. Had our patriotism been there all along, under the surface? Would it continue?

Back at Ground Zero, Sergeant McCormick told us we'd be searching in another sector for the rest of the afternoon. The squad worked side by side, and late in the day I could see the tiredness in everyone's eyes. The realization that we were probably not going to find any survivors today was registering on everyone's expression.

Lowered voices drew my attention to the line of firefighters working next to us. They'd found a firefighter's helmet. His body was uncovered several feet away. We kept working, but the news spread quickly, and a hush came over the entire sector.

Six firefighters, walking tall, with tears in their eyes, carried the



fallen firefighter down the line and out of the rubble. I will never forget that sight. Everyone stopped what they were doing and saluted in silence. A short time later, the shoveling resumed, and the buckets started coming. We worked robotically, without a word.

Later, after word came that we were done for the night, Kevin and I walked back with our squad to the Stuyvesant High School staging area.

"Hey, Boston!" a voice called from behind. Sergeant McCormick was holding out his hand. "We really appreciate you guys comin' down and workin' with us. You evah come to the city, look me up."

"It was an honor," Kevin said.

He was right. It was an honor for us to work alongside all these outstanding people. I was proud to be in their company. Their efforts reminded me of something I always tell my daughters: "The smallest light will overcome the greatest darkness."

Paul E. Doyle is currently the secretary of the New England chapter of the Association of Former Federal Narcotics Agents. Paul and his wife, Pam, the parents of four daughters, live in the Boston area. He spent four days working at the World Trade Center site.

November 2001

FEATURES

[The First Five Years](#)
[September 11, 2001](#)
[President's Annual Report](#)

DEPARTMENTS

[Letters](#) [Sports](#)
[E Line](#) [Books](#)
[Talk of the Gown](#) [Classes](#)
[From the Field](#) [First-Person](#)
[Huskiana](#)

Huskiana

[Staff](#)[Awards](#)[Advertise](#)[Send Class Note](#)[Send Letter](#)[Update Address](#)[Back Issues](#)[Links](#)[Search](#)[Magazine Home](#)[NU Home](#)

A Moveable Feast: 1958

After immortalizing a class on the printed page, what becomes a yearbook staff most? A budget-busting clambake.

The class of 1958 didn't want for campus events their senior year. President Ell announced his retirement, the graduate school was established, and a record number of graduates emerged from NU's hallowed halls. The latter fact no doubt meant an especially hectic year for the crack Cauldron staff. Organizing 900 senior portraits and data sheets would test anyone's mettle.

So the Cauldron team broke bread—and shellfish—to give thanks for putting a fine annual to bed. A departure from the formal banquet traditionally savored at year's end, the clambake took place at a Duxbury beach house. Lensman Joe Murray, LA'58, MBA'75 (third from right), manages a smile for the shutterbug wannabe who's turned the tables to capture this Kodak moment. Everyone luxuriates in a feast way beyond the \$1 Durgin Park burger typically gobbled down while burning the midnight oil.

Of course, senior snapshots weren't the only development at the Cauldron. Associate editor in chief Carol Greene (right) and editor in chief Norm Pierce (far left), both LA'58, married the following year.

Call it a picture-perfect ending.

