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Forward Thinking

ALUMNI MAGAZINES are notorious for being read backward. Graduates often skip to the class notes in the back of the issue first, then work their way forward as an afterthought, if at all.

On the surface, it makes perfect sense. Our own past experience is likely to determine how connected we feel to our alma mater over a lifetime. As we read about a new state-of-the-art campus library with interest, we nostalgically recall the long hours we spent in far less fancy digs. When we hear about students and professors today, we can't help thinking of those who influenced us. It's only natural that the stories we find most compelling are those we were a part of. It's no wonder that a section of the magazine which reflects our personal college experience is considered a "must-read."

So we're gratified that many readers start at the beginning of Suffolk Alumni Magazine. Where else but in RAMblings, the news and events section of SAM (page 8), would you find Suffolk's "millionaire" professor, its new Hall of Fame athletes, and the inventors of a label that prevents the use of expired prescriptions?

We find it especially rewarding to receive your correspondence about the graduates whose stories are front and center in each issue. When 1995 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Jerry Howland JD '76 read about fellow Boston public school teacher Darlene Marcano M.Ed. '03 ("Head of the Class," Winter '09), he congratulated "Suffolk's education and human services graduate program for producing such a distinguished graduate." (Editor's note: it takes one to know one, Mr. Howland).

When you discover why a graduate like Cindy Campbell BS '88 takes her job as a traffic reporter so personally ("Driving Force," page 22), or how Michael Ross JD '07 became the consensus choice for the presidency of the notoriously fractured Boston City Council, it becomes clear why there is so much more to SAM than Class Notes.

Of course, Class Notes are a great way to catch up and keep up with the people who made up your own stories. It would be difficult to read how Jennifer Cook MBA '93 helped to raise more than $85,000 for research on multiple sclerosis after being diagnosed with the disease and not be moved (page 61). Or to learn that another Suffolk couple, Mark Grant BS '96 and Jaime Novack BSBA '96, are engaged (page 58).

Whether a single paragraph or multiple pages—from the cover story about marketing mastermind Toby Stapleton MBA '05 ("The Cran-Bassador," page 34) to the BackStory of reporter Adam Pellerin BS '02 (page 64)—SAM is dedicated to the proposition that every Suffolk graduate has a compelling story to tell.

So read on—just not too far ahead! ☝️
It was during the Depression that my eighth grade teacher recommended I take the college course at Boston English High School. My father said he doubted that I, the eldest of five, would be able to attend college.

After my service in World War II, Suffolk opened its doors to me, and I was so grateful. There was always someone I could talk to, from the registrar to the Dean of the Law School. And early in my career, long before I was appointed to the bench, I learned a great deal from the Suffolk alumni who came before me. Seeing their accomplishments gave me a sense of confidence and pride.

My affinity for Suffolk was shared by my wife of forty-three years, Barbara G. Cameron JD '67. Until her passing in 1993, Barbara was also a strong supporter of our alma mater.

As a trustee and a donor for more than 40 years, I feel very strongly about giving the next generation of Suffolk students a head start on success. An endowed scholarship has helped me assist qualified students who might otherwise not have the opportunity to benefit from the extraordinary education I received.

THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE CAMERON, AA'48, JD'51, DJUR'67
Retired South Boston District Court Judge, and Suffolk Trustee
Benefactor, The Honorable Lawrence L. and Barbara G. Cameron Scholarship

The Campaign for Suffolk University
The Power to Change

We invite you to join us in building a future for Suffolk as astonishing as our past. To learn more about The Power to Change: The Campaign for Suffolk University, visit www.suffolk.edu/giving. Or call the Suffolk University Office of Advancement at 617-573-8443.
I Xetiers to the Editor

ROAD SCHOLAR
Jill O'Bryan B.S.'08

We sincerely hope that your readers were as heartened as we were by Jill O'Bryan's story (Road Scholar, Winter 2009). We were honored to meet Jill and her family while working on the passage of Melanie's Law in 2005 and were impressed by her can-do attitude and spirit even in spite of her painful and debilitating injuries. We were not surprised that Jill was able to meet adversity head-on and overcome so many challenges along the way toward walking across the stage to accept her degree from Suffolk.

Unfortunately, Jill has a perspective on the drunk driving issue that no one, especially someone so young, should have. Even more sadly, her story is not new. Three out of every 10 of us will be involved in a drunk driving crash at some point in our lives. Last year, nearly 13,000 people were killed by drunk drivers, averaging out to one death every 40 minutes, and another half-million people were injured.

Every drunk driving victim and survivor has a story and while MADD has been fortunate to work with so many of those victims, survivors, and their families, we hope that one day there won't be any more stories like Jill's. We invite your readers to contact us and support MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving so that there won't be any more stories like Jill's, and worse.

There should be no leniency for the ticking time bombs who violate drunk driving laws again and again, and I applaud the passage of Melanie's Law. We can not afford to lose the Jill O'Bryans of this world.

Kathleen Rice
Nassau County New York District Attorney

In the article, Jill refers to herself as “lucky.” She was able to graduate college, find a career she enjoys, and has a supportive structure of family and friends around her. Unfortunately, not every victim of drunk driving is as lucky as Jill. Drunk driving destroys lives, and until we as a society are no longer willing to accept it with a wink and a nod, there will continue to be stories like Jill’s, and worse.

I was so pleased to read your article about Darlene Marcano, a teacher at The Engineering School in Boston. There are many ingredients that contribute to Ms. Marcano’s success in the classroom, but perhaps none are as important as her ability to set high, clear expectations, and to demand that all of her students achieve those expectations. Ms. Marcano continuously engages her students and calls for them to think critically and work collaboratively. Those are two crucial 21st century skills that are part of a well-rounded education that will equip her students for success beyond high school. I can only hope that Ms. Marcano’s passion for her craft and commitment to her community are contagious and inspire some of her very own students to one day become teachers themselves.

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

I was thrilled to read Renée Graham’s article on Boston teacher, Darlene Marcano. As a Boston public school educator for thirty-nine years, I can attest that Boston can always use more intelligent and energetic teachers who have high expectations for our district school students.
As a product of Boston's exam school system, Ms. Marcano knows that the students outside of the exam schools also need to be rigorously challenged. It is clear from the article that Ms. Marcano does not just “talk” high expectations but rather, everything she does explicitly and implicitly conveys the message to her students that she believes in them. She knows they can achieve and they know that she will not give up on them. Congratulations to Suffolk’s education and human services graduate program for producing such a distinguished graduate; another reason to be proud as a Suffolk alum.

Jerry Howland, JD '76
Another Course to College
Boston Public Schools

( Editor’s Note: The writer was the 1995 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year)
IFILL TOWERS AT FORUM

GWEN IFILL, moderator and managing editor of PBS's Washington Week and senior correspondent for The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, received the Louis P. and Evelyn Smith First Amendment Award from the Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University.

Joining past recipients, including Rosa Parks, Norman Lear, and Anita Hill, Ifill was cited by Forum president Shelley C. Green for her 30-year journalism career, which has included stints at the Washington Post and New York Times, moderating the 2004 and 2008 vice presidential debates, and writing the recent New York Times bestseller, The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama.

With wit and insight, Ifill spoke about how African-American politicians, including Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, have negotiated the American minefield of race to achieve political success. "Every single one of them had been told it wasn't their time," Ifill said. In particular, she was referring to President Obama, Governor Patrick, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, and Alabama Congressman Arthur Davis, who has announced plans to run for governor in 2010.

"They were told by the black community they were not black enough, and by the white community that they were too black, but that's another discussion." Each, she said, had to find ways to build coalitions outside of their political demographic to broaden their appeal. "They had to close the gap," Ifill said. "They had to make [white voters] realize that they had more in common than in difference." One of those converts was a lifelong Republican Ifill met while covering the campaign who, after throwing his support to Obama, began calling himself a "Barackafeller."

While Ifill admits she wouldn't have predicted Obama's hard-fought ascension to the presidency, she believes this moment in history presents an opportunity for Americans to begin open and honest conversations about race.
As our students map their future, we’ve added Asia to the route.

The new Asian Studies major and minor at Suffolk are interdisciplinary programs that offer courses in the humanities and social sciences with a focus on Asia, a fast-growing, dynamic region that is playing an increasingly important role in economics, politics, and world affairs in the twenty-first century. These programs give students a deep understanding of the history, politics, economics, philosophy, culture, and languages of Asian societies and nations.

Contact: Da Zheng, Director, Asian Studies Program, 41 Temple St, Boston, MA 02114
617.573.8223 • dzheng@suffolk.edu • www.suffolk.edu/asianstudies
SPORTS

Claim to Fame

SIX ATHLETES, a coach, and a baseball team were inducted into Suffolk's Athletic Hall of Fame in May. The honorees are Jack Resnick BA '55, who scored 75 points in a basketball game against Burdett College in 1953 and was also Suffolk's first 1,000-point career scorer; Kathleen Norton BS '01, who excelled in both softball and basketball, was the University's all-time leading women's basketball scorer with 1,516 points, and was the 2002 NCAA National Division III batting champ with a .606 average; Christos Tsiohos BS '77, JD '83, the only basketball player in Suffolk history to record both 1,000 points and rebounds; Brian Gruning '92, Suffolk's second all-time leading hockey scorer with 226 total points; Fred Knox BSBA '62, the leading pitcher from 1958 to 1961; Ernst Cleophat, a coach of women's soccer at Suffolk, who averaged a goal per game during his career on the men's soccer team; Joe Walsh, former head coach of Suffolk's baseball team, which he led to a 218-167-1 record; and the 1992 Rams baseball team, which became the first squad selected for Eastern College Athletic Conference post-season play.

Suffolk University men's basketball senior forward Brian Small was named to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Men's Basketball College Division Second Team, as chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Small, a finance major at Sawyer Business School, finished his college hoops career as Suffolk's ninth all-time scorer with 1,383 points.

KUDOS

Prescription for Innovation

EVER TAKE A PRESCRIPTION medication only to realize it expired five years ago? MBA '09 candidates Marrinder Singh, Karen Lassko, Maria Brown, and Rick Baker have got your back. When affixed to a prescription bottle, their "Time-to-Toss" label gives users a color-coded indication as to whether the medication has expired. The invention, currently still a prototype, won first prize in this year's New Product Innovation Competition, one of Suffolk's most hotly contested events.

The competition was established by Sawyer Business School professor Sushil Bhatia MBA '79, to encourage creative thinking and the development of innovative new products and intellectual capital among Suffolk students and graduates. In 2006, its inaugural year, there were 25 entries. For the most recent competition, 240 new products were submitted for the 24 judges' consideration.

"The quality of products this year was very good, and students' ideas keep improving with each competition," Bhatia said. "I'm an innovator myself, and I started this competition to connect students to the business world."

Second prize was awarded to Raul Artigas, Pelger Charles, and BS '10 candidates Ivan Echeverria and Fabrice Kaborem, for Kronos Healthlink, a monitoring device that gathers basic health information for analysis by the user's diagnostician. BSBA Global Marketing '11 candidate Lauren Berardino won third prize for DigiCook, which helps people with their dining choices.

ROSENBERG ROSTER: Spring 2009 visiting scholars for the Barbara and Richard M. Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies are Yale University Department of History Professor Peter Perdue; Bruce Cumings, Gustavus F. and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago; Mark Ramseyer, Mitsubishi Professor of Japanese Legal Studies; Shang-jin Wei, Professor of Finance and Economics and N.T. Wang Professor of Chinese Business and Economy at Columbia University.
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LOVE + ART + SUPPORT = SUCCESS

After more than a decade as one of the most prolific authors of novels with a largely African-American audience, Omar Tyree has "retired" from urban fiction to share his entrepreneurial ideas in his latest book, *The Equation: Applying the 4 Indisputable Components of Business Success*. A recipient of an NAACP Image Award, Tyree was the guest speaker at Suffolk's Black History Month opening ceremony, where he shared his thoughts on Barack Obama, the economy, and "street lit" versus urban fiction.

**SAM:** On Inauguration Day, television cameras caught a shot of an African-American man standing on the Mall and holding a sign that read, "We Have Overcome." With the euphoria surrounding Barack Obama as president, is it dangerous for people—African-American or otherwise—to believe that all civil rights goals have now been achieved?

Omar Tyree: What you're going to have are people who just accept that blanket statement, and then you'll have the serious professionals who use his historic election as inspiration to keep striving and moving forward. With a black man as president, you're going to see more motivated black people than you've ever seen in your life. We know how to fight in this country, and this progress has made us even hungrier because we now see what can be achieved.

**SAM:** In your book, *The Equation*, you say the components of professional success are love, art, and support to make positive strides in business. But in these difficult economic times, people are more concerned with feeding their families and keeping a roof over their heads than love or art. How does your business plan jibe with today's economic realities?

**Tyree:** We still need innovation, we still need art. A lot of people who've been laid off have been working jobs—not their love, not their passion. Right now, there's an opportunity for people with skills to be forced into using those skills for themselves. If you get fired as a handyman, start your own company as a handyman because there will always be people who need to fix things. You can never stop loving, you can never stop creating. That's what has kept this country going.

**SAM:** You've said that you don't care for the term "street lit" to describe your novels. How do you define "urban adult fiction"?

**Tyree:** When I first started writing books, I noticed that, with African-Americans, many of our books were about slavery. So I wondered why we didn't have books about regular people in New York, Philadelphia, and D.C. I felt like we needed to write some books about "right now." It's contemporary urban fiction.

**SAM:** But given the fact that these books deal with the grittier elements of street life, what's wrong with calling these novels "street lit"?

**Tyree:** Every book I've written pushes education, every book I've written deals with realistic family conditions, every book I have deals with upward mobility—we're not just in the streets. I deal with difficult situations because they have to be dealt with, but there are always options in my books. Some authors will say, "Well, that's what I learned, and that's where I'm from, and I'm just writing about the way things are." Well, you already did that. If you have no balancing message, no solutions or answers, then to me, you become another ailment in the community. I'm not going to call my work "street" just because it takes place in urban situations.

**SAM:** Still, for all your success as an urban fiction author, you've retired from writing those books. Why?

**Tyree:** I have no more to say. I've written about everything you can imagine, and I don't want to be redundant. I don't want to write to just entertain and say the same things in the same way with a different name on it. That's not progress to me.
Banking Crisis Management

When you’ve had your fill of the toxic spill, who you gonna call?

When the bailout, makes you want to shout, who you gonna call?

The current economic crisis is so complex, it’s difficult to imagine an individual who can offer an authoritative perspective. To provide a comprehensive view of its causes and possible solutions, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Kenneth Greenberg called on former Bank of America CEO Richard M. Rosenberg BSJ ’52, DCS ’91, who travelled from his home in San Francisco with his wife Barbara to address PhD. students in the economics program.

Rosenberg gave a no-holds-barred speech, naming “four favorite villains who brought about the crisis” including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and a congressman and senator who he believes enabled them.

The lively Q&A touched on China’s bid to replace the dollar with another world currency, executive bonuses, the call for new regulation, and a wide range of other topics. Among Rosenberg’s thought-provoking observations:

> On toxic assets: “All those assets aren’t as toxic as people think; [some] are artificially toxic.”
> On the stimulus package: “I question whether [it] can contain the unemployment crisis.”
> On the banking industry: “Banks want to make loans. They’re just scared to death.”
> On the Obama administration: There is “not one businessperson in the cabinet.”

Last year, Rosenberg, a noted philanthropist and Horatio Alger Award winner, created the Barbara and Richard M. Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies in partnership with Suffolk University “to bring awareness and academic depth to important cultural, economic, and historical issues involving East Asia.”

“20” Question

HOW MANY SIDES DOES A ICOSAHEDRON HAVE?

Mary Flaherty now knows the geometric shape has 20 faces, even joking, “I’ll put it on my headstone.” Yet when host Meredith Vieira asked Flaherty that question on a February episode of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, the Suffolk University professor was stumped. And so, caught between an icosahedron and a hard place, Flaherty chose to take the money—$16,000—and run.

Flaherty, an associate professor and director of the paralegal studies program, always wanted to be a contestant on the long-running daytime game show, to put what she calls her “headful of useless knowledge” to good use. “I can tell you how long bat sperm lives in the reproductive tract of a bat—135 days,” she offers as proof of her retention of arcane factoids. “I learned that in college.”

With encouragement from her fiancé, Flaherty auditioned for the show last June, after a written exam and interview. A month later, she received an invitation to compete on Millionaire. And she thinks it was more than her mastery of minutiae that earned her a shot on the show. “I’m lively,” Flaherty says with a big laugh. “I’m sure they thought there would be great entertainment value in me.”

To prepare for her appearance, Flaherty took National Geographic’s 10-question online quiz, GeoBee Challenge, every day, because “I’m really bad at geography.” And at her 17-year-old daughter’s insistence, she started paying more attention to American Idol and celebrity gossip.

Flaherty, who taped her segment last September with her daughters and parents in the studio audience, cruised through the early rounds, and admitted she “got really flustered on that last question” about icosahedrons. She called her brother, who said “20” just before the phone cut off, but still wasn’t sure. A correct answer would have bumped her up to $25,000, but a loss would leave Flaherty with only $1,000. She decided to cash out with $16,000.

When the show aired, Flaherty watched it with Suffolk students and colleagues, joking that she “looked like a giant mountain of flesh,” and was “making all these faces I had absolutely no idea I was making.” But Flaherty says the experience was fun, and she called Vieira “a lovely person even when the cameras weren’t rolling.”

As for the money, Flaherty has earmarked some of it for her daughters. “My older daughter has a weird obsession with Finland—don’t ask me why—and she wants to go to Finland, so I told her if I win at least $16,000, I would take her to Finland,” Flaherty says. “The other daughter [who is 10] is happy with a kitten and some Webkinz [popular stuffed animals]. I got off easy with her.”

Mary Flaherty, an attorney and legal studies professor from Gloucester, MA, walked away with a $16,000 in winnings on a recent episode of “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire” (aired February 24, 2009).
Search for tomorrow
Development veteran Christopher Mosher JD '76 looks to the future of his alma mater

Following an extensive recruitment process, Christopher Mosher has been named Suffolk's new Vice President for Advancement.

Formerly vice president for development at Mount Ida College in Newton, Massachusetts, Mosher has worked for two decades to enhance the advancement programs at a number of Boston-area institutions, including major development efforts at Northeastern University. He served as director of development at both Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Quincy Medical Center.

According to Suffolk University Provost Barry Brown, in each position, "he helped develop and achieve institutional philanthropic goals as well as substantially increasing alumni participation." Brown also noted that as a graduate of Suffolk Law School, Mosher "comes with a genuine appreciation for this great University and its potential."

Lights Out
Suffolk participated in “Earth Hour” in March, an initiative of the World Wildlife Fund, by turning off the lights across campus for one hour. It’s part of a worldwide effort to reduce energy consumption.

FIFTH ESTATE AND HEAD OF STATE: Ninety Suffolk students traveled to Washington for a 12-day presidential inauguration seminar on "Media and the Presidency." The seminar, sponsored by the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, focused on the 2008 presidential election, the media’s impact on the election process, and the transition to the Obama administration. Accompanying the students were professors Brian Conley, Teri Fair, Erin Cheuvront, Meti Power, and Roberto Domínguez.

SNAP TO ATTENTION: Sophomore Olivia Demeter’s play Snap was chosen for the Kennedy Center/American College Festival regional competition, which brings together promising college theater arts students to attend workshops, brainstorm ideas, and view one another’s work. For nearly 10 years, Suffolk has had a representative selected for the annual regional festivals.
More than 30 years ago, a professor at the New England School of Art—now the New England School of Art & Design at Suffolk University—shared with his class a sobering observation: "This is a very competitive field, and a very small percentage of people who actually finish art school at any school or college will stay in the field," John Roman Graphic Design '74 recalls his professor telling a roomful of budding artists. Roman, then a 21-year-old graphic design student, thought to himself, "Hey, I'm going to be one of them."

Since graduating, Roman has been at the top of his field. An award-winning illustrator, he has created designs and illustrations for such clients as Coca-Cola, TIME magazine, Mercedes Benz, and the National Park Service. Recently, he added his alma mater to that list with a map celebrating and marketing the University as a vital and integral part of downtown Boston.

"Doing the research for the project opened up my eyes to the vastness of the University, and the way Suffolk University is enmeshed into the city," Roman says of creating the colorful, vibrant map he titled Suffolk UniverCity. "I was impressed by the extent of the number of buildings Suffolk owns and the architectural quality and integrity of those buildings."

On the map, Suffolk's urban campus—the Law School, 73 Tremont, and Sawyer Business School—is highlighted among such Boston landmarks as the State House, Faneuil Hall, and the New England Aquarium, showing just how deeply the University is woven into the intricate fabric of the city.

Roman's map has been integrated into the University's interactive virtual tour—www.suffolk.edu/virtualtour—allowing users to move among Suffolk's various buildings downtown.

In addition to Suffolk, Roman has created maps for the University of Houston and University of Connecticut. On average, he spends about a week on each campus photographing every building. "I work from my own ground photos," he says, and he also makes initial sketches during his visits. "Aerial photos, believe it or not, are more of a hindrance, because the trees are in the way and you can't see a lot of the ground detail. In the maps I create for colleges, I actually open up the landscape so you can see behind buildings, so no one building covers another building. Everything is all opened up. The last things I add are the trees and vegetation."

Since he typically juggles a half-dozen projects in various stages, Roman's finely detailed maps can take from six months to a year to complete.

For years, Roman, whose company John Roman Illustration is based in Canton, Massachusetts, was a freelance illustrator specializing in cartooning and architectural illustration—two fields, he admits, that "really don't go together." Around 1989, Roman began experimenting with ways to merge his specialties, while also incorporating his love of maps.

"It's not a true architectural illustration and it's not a true cartoon either," Roman says. "It's a combination of two abilities that have been quite successful for me."

As a boy growing up in Simsbury, Connecticut, Roman says he was always drawing. Once he reached high school, a teacher told Roman he could make a living as an artist. With limited funds, he joined the army "at the peak of the Vietnam War," he says, with the intention of eventually attending art school on the GI Bill. "I had to make it as an artist. There was no other alternative," he jokes.

Now, Roman wants to convince all students of what Suffolk has to offer. "That's the key—Suffolk UniverCity. You're in a city and you have all the benefits of being in a city. It's a dramatic and amazing place to live and go to school."
In their search for a consensus-building leader, the factions of Boston's notoriously splintered city council were in accord on one point: the selection of Michael Ross JD '07 as their new president.

BY MICHAEL BLANDING • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK OSTOW

A near-blizzard swirls outside the windows of Mike's Donuts, turning Tremont Street into a luge run and blurring the spires of Mission Hill Cathedral. But that hasn't stopped half a dozen citizens from lining up to meet with the newly-elected Boston City Council president. Sitting at a corner table in a black wool coat and blue silk tie, Michael Ross JD '07 welcomes all comers at his bimonthly community coffee. Currently, sitting across from Ross in an orange fluorescent vest, Michael Barry describes how he lost his concession to park cars at Fenway games when the property, including the lot and adjacent building, was recently sold to a new owner. "All I'm asking is they keep me on rather than deal with some big parking mogul," he says. "I can do the same job for less."
whom Ross met at the unveiling of the New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston years ago. His father was one of the soldiers who liberated Dachau, the concentration camp where Ross's father was held during World War II. The elder Ross would later immigrate to Boston and become the catalyst for the memorial in front of Faneuil Hall downtown. "My father found a box of old photographs; I want to give them to you," says Barry, who is nervous as he talks to the politician. His hands shake as he opens a manila folder to show a copy of his contract, and he manages to spill his coffee as he pleads for the right to keep his parking concession.

Despite the personal connection, years of balancing competing interests of developers, businessmen, renters, and homeowners in a district that reaches from the brick mansions on Beacon Hill to the triple-deckers of Mission Hill have taught Ross to be cautious. "It sounds reasonable to me, but before I even advocate, I need to know two things. Did [the new owners] have an agreement, and did the community weigh in on this?" Barry assures him that he's only had one complaint in 12 years. "No offense," Ross says gently, "but a lot of people don't like businesses like yours in the neighborhood. People want restaurants, stores, something that can give back to the community. Surface parking lots don't do that." Nevertheless, he sends an assistant down the street to make copies of the agreement and writes Barry's contact info on a yellow legal pad for follow-through.

For the next 15 minutes, Ross talks to a recent college grad looking for an internship on Beacon Hill, developing a strategy for which offices to approach. "Consider me an ally, someone to check in with from time to time," he says. Finally, Maggie Cohn, the former coordinator of Mission Hill Main Streets which promotes revitalization of the neighborhood's commercial district, sits down, and Ross instantly shifts to banter. "What are we doing today, Maggie?" he jokes, before Cohn launches into a spiel about her new organization that is pushing for nutritious food in schools. Boston Public Schools' central kitchen has been closed, and the city is bringing in microwave meals from Philly. Despite the fact that reopening the kitchen will cost money—money the city doesn't have in a financial downturn—Ross becomes genuinely excited as the two of them strategize and he flips through his mental Rolodex to solve the problem. "How do we open it in a way that's healthy and creative?" he asks. "There are a lot of restaurants in town that might like to get in on this." He suggests that Cohn arrange a meeting with the city councilor in charge of the health committee, and then begins ticking off other people who should be invited, including a member of the public health commission and another nonprofit working on hunger relief. "Are there other people trying to do this?" he asks. "Because if there are, we need to bring them in so I don't get a phone call three weeks from now.

For the second-highest ranking elected official in Boston, such close work with constituents may seem less than glamorous, but for Ross, this is at the heart of what he does—forging connections and relationships among stakeholders that make up the diverse city of Boston. "Mike is the perfect blend of new Boston and old Boston," says John Nucci, a former city councilor and vice president for external affairs at Suffolk, where Ross attended law school from 2004 to 2007. "He has an uncanny knack of being able to talk to lifelong residents and new arrivals with equal ease."

Bob Crowe, BA '70, JD '73, member of the board of trustees at Suffolk University and longtime finance chair for U.S. Senator John Kerry, sees Ross as a natural. "He does a good job of listening to his constituents and then going and doing what he thinks is right," he says.

**Style and Substance**

Ross will need to employ all of his skills now that he has assumed the presidency of the Boston City Council during a contentious time. One of his colleagues, Chuck Turner, is under investigation by the FBI for allegedly taking a bribe to fix liquor licenses, and two others are planning to challenge the mayor in this fall's election, all during the worst economic downturn in decades. "But that's when government is needed most," insists Ross later in the week at his new office in the concrete block of city hall. Framed photographs still line one wall waiting to be hung. "Government does things that [the] private [sector] can't do or doesn't want to do, so all the more reason why we should be able to get through challenging times, when you can do different things. You can be more creative. You have more willingness from different constituencies or stakeholders to be more flexible."

If anyone can keep a steady hand on the city's tiller during the downturn, it may be Ross, who has emerged over the past eight years as the council's quiet consensus builder. He was elected unanimously by his colleagues for the top post last year. As chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee from 2003 to 2007, he prided himself on working collaboratively with the mayor, who gave Ross his start as an aide responsible for setting up the city's computer system. In a city with a strong executive form of government that gives the lion's share of power to the mayor, too often the Boston City Council can seem like a rubber stamp or opposition howling in the wilderness.

"I reject that," says Ross, pointing out some of the accomplishments he has made in the neighborhoods. "As I go across the city I see recycling in large apartment buildings, I see dog parks in communities, community centers open late. Those are things that we did. [City council] is where people can come and if they don't like something they can change it. It's the public marketplace of ideas. As city council president, it's my job to foster that." In one of his first announcements as city councilor, Ross committed the council to holding its regular sessions periodically in the neighborhoods rather than city hall, so more constituents could attend, and to computerizing council functions by putting transcripts of hear-
ings and copies of resolutions online. "It's symbolic, but in this case the symbolism is important. It tells our citizens we want to come to you," he says.

At the same time, he has acted quickly to restore order to the council after the contentious showdown with Turner this fall, in which the previous council president, Maureen Feeney, moved for a hearing to expel him. Instead of calling the hearing, Ross set up new rules governing members' fitness to serve, calling for a two-thirds vote to expel a member convicted of a felony, and a vote at the discretion of the president for lesser offenses such as indictment or public scandal. For now, he is reserving his right to vote on Turner's fitness to serve pending the FBI investigation. "If new information comes in, if something else should happen, I will reconsider that," he says.

Making matters more fraught politically is the fact that 2009 is an election year in Boston, and two of his fellow city councilors, Michael Flaherty and Sam Yoon, have declared their candidacies for mayor against Tom Menino, who is running for an unprecedented fifth term. So far, Ross has remained neutral in picking between Menino, who is his former boss, and Flaherty, one of his closest allies on the council. "I really do think we have a mayor who has a very good heart, and I couldn't ask for a better friend on the council than Mike Flaherty. [But] my job is to do what's best for the city, my district, and this council, and in the case of choosing a candidate for mayor at the moment, that means doing nothing."

Already, however, the budget talks are shaping up to be more contentious this time around, as constituencies jockey over increasingly limited funds. Mayor Menino's administration has already announced the layoffs of 40 police cadets, and floated the idea of cutting up to 200 officers. "I would hope that would be the very last thing we would cut," says Ross, who made hiring more cops a priority at Ways and Means. "I do not want to see sworn officers laid off."

In the past, Ross has been grouped with the more fiscally conservative wing of the council, but as he considers cutting city services, he sounds downright progressive. "My philosophy is that government needs to help those who need help most. There are some people who are dependent on frontline services for everything. We have an obligation to help those people." Is that why he holds these community coffee hours? "I am more concerned about those who aren't at the coffee hour," he says.

This past March, he convened a summit to bring together the city's economic and academic leaders to craft a "local stimulus package" to help the economy—considering everything from supporting new direct flights from other countries to changing the city's tax structure. In an ideal world, helping those constituents he doesn't get a chance to meet with personally will involve more creative solutions. As an example, he pulls out a brochure from the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance that shows it costs the city less money to subsidize housing for homeless individuals than to pay for services for the homeless. "When you add the cost of housing and services after housing it's actually less than chasing people around trying to get them into an emergency room," he says. "It's an example of better results with fewer resources." Above all, Ross has his sights set on an environmental initiative to institute green-collar jobs. He is cagey about revealing too many details, however, saying only that "I am
looking at environmental solutions that can save the city a lot of money. It's not the first time in our conversation that he bears resemblance to another president—espousing pragmatic programs with a progressive underpinning and developing relationships to bridge ideological divides.

Ross's leftward tack took place over the course of his time on the city council. He was first elected in 1999 in an upset of political scion Suzanne Janella, whose father was himself city council president; at 27, he was one of the youngest city councilors ever elected, and not incidentally the first Jewish city councilor in decades. At the time, the Irish old guard was slowly fading into the sunset, with the defeat of Albert "Dapper" O'Neil, followed soon by busing-era conservative warhorse Jimmy Kelly. Ross was lumped in with a socially liberal but fiscally conservative contingent of mostly young white men newly elected to the council, including Flaherty, Rob Consalvo, Jerry McDermott, Paul Scappicchio, and John Tobin, who ate together, played basketball and squash together, and supported each other's campaigns. Dubbed the "Young Turks," the coterie often clashed with a more progressive and racially diverse faction that included African-American city councilors Turner and Charles Yancey, Hispanic Felix Arroyo, and white Jamaica Plain progressive Maura Hennigan. Ross cut a dashing figure on the council. Six feet tall with wavy dark hair and a turned-out sartorial style, he was dubbed the "GQ Councilor" and made regular media appearances, posing for a Boston Globe 2006 feature, "25 Most Stylish Bostonians."

"People don't like that stuff—they really don't. They want me to work for them. It can't be about me. I've learned to be a little bit more humble." And he admits now. "People don't like that stuff—they really don't. They want me to work for them. It can't be about me. I've learned to be a little bit more humble." As he gained his footing on the council, he began to break with his fellow Turks on issues such as rent control to take a more progressive tack.

"Niches can be dangerous in politics," he continues. "I am kind of glad I am no longer a 'Young Turk.' I think I've matured a little bit politically. I've learned that everyone's got something to say, and you need to listen and kind of let people in."

Feet to the Fire
The calling to social justice came directly from his father, whose entire family was killed in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Stephan A. Ross immigrated to Boston where he devoted his time to helping poor kids in the projects of South Boston. Often Ross would accompany his father, observing firsthand the power that one person could have—whether it was watching his father changing the lives of kids in the projects or petitioning the mayor for the land to build the Holocaust memorial. "He was very influenced by people who helped people," says Ross. "Now that I am in a position to do good things for people, he's got a flow of people he wants me to help, and they are all poor souls," he laughs. "Any time I want some humble pie, I come right home to my family."
One of his proudest accomplishments, he says, resulted from a drubbing—when one of the heads of the Friends of Boston Common took him to lunch and chastised him for not doing more for the park. Later that year, he led a delegation of 20 Boston officials and civic leaders to New York to investigate management of that city's parks, and spearheaded a 16-page report with recommendations for how the Common could be improved. "It's important you have an ear for those people who aren't at the table," Ross says. One of his biggest disappointments, meanwhile, was his failure to get a new public school on Beacon Hill six years ago when the mayor opposed it. With fellow city councilor Sal LaMattina, he is revisiting that issue this year, more confident that he can forge a compromise. "Every good attorney remembers what it's like to stand in front of court for the first time. Life is all about 'if I knew then what I know now.'" If he succeeds it will be due to the relationships he has forged in the community. "How you do things is as important as what you do, and the relationships you build along the way are essential," he says. "Results matter, but they are not the only things that matter."

The attorney analogy is apt, given the fact that Ross graduated from Suffolk Law School. In part, choosing law was a response to the values of social justice his father instilled in him from an early age—a chance to participate in the system that forged Brown v. Board of Education. In another sense, it was a preparation for life after the council, when new challenges might await. "I know nothing lasts. I know ultimately I will need to do something else," he says, before quickly adding, "I am not there yet, and certainly being city council president gives me an opportunity to explore new levels."

In choosing Suffolk, he was following in the footsteps of his sister, Julie Ross JD '97, a lawyer in the state attorney general's office. "Suffolk has become like the last great school for Boston," he says. "A lot of Boston schools have shed their Boston roots. Boston College is no longer Boston's college, and neither is [Boston] University, but Suffolk still is, and it's really because of the Law School. The network of judges and lawyers who share the degree is impressive." He admits he was frequently late to class while he was serving as city councilor. "I remember one time I had a civil procedure final exam and I was in a meeting getting my ass handed to me about some issue, and I said, 'I have to go. I have a final exam.' I walked in 20 minutes late, and the other students were like, 'Are you out of your mind?' I said, 'Sorry, I had a meeting.' I sat down and did the test and then went back to the meeting. I think I got a B."

Suffolk University Provost and professor of property law Barry Brown says he used to joke that Ross's late arrivals showed both his dedication to property law and to the city. "When he stopped breathing hard, he reflected a remarkable amount of energy and good humor after what I imagine was a very long day. He really focuses on people, and you feel like he is really listening," says Brown.

The fact that Ross was dealing each day with property and zoning issues outside of class influenced the issues he raised in discussions in class—and vice versa. During the time he was taking classes, he pushed through a city ordinance limiting the number of college students who could live in city apartments. Several months later, Ross also spearheaded tenant legislation to allow those living in foreclosed homes to continue to rent their apartments from the banks. "He understands how ordinary homeowners and tenants are being hurt by the foreclosure crisis," says Nadine Cohen JD '77, a tenant's rights attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services. "I think he cares about people on a real level and is willing to come out and try to support legislation that will help people."

Ironically, since Suffolk is in his district, Ross has had to weigh in on the University as it expands. "He pays attention to Suffolk's issues," allows Nucci, "but having said that, he holds Suffolk's feet to the fire just as much. Suffolk might be his alma mater but he works [for] his constituents who live around the University."

One such case was in a recent scuffle over the construction of a new dormitory at 20 Somerset, which some Beacon Hill residents opposed as too dense for the neighborhood. Ross supported them. "It didn't make sense to have a dormitory so close to [a] Beacon Hill neighborhood," he says. "It would have hurt the community badly." Instead, Suffolk implemented a new master planning process. In a series of meetings with a city-appointed task force—many of which Ross attended personally—the University agreed to relocate New England School of Art & Design into the building and curtail construction in residential neighborhoods, in exchange for allowances to increase housing in other areas downtown.

True to character, Ross downplays his role in forging the compromise. "After eight or nine years of experience dealing with other master plans, limitations fall to the side," he says. "You are not the smart guy in the room, but you can ask the right question at the right time and elevate the debate." As for rumors of higher office, Ross replies diplomatically, "I hope to keep growing. And if I can't then I have the greatest career in the world to fall back on—and that's the practice of the law."
Traffic reporter Cindy Campbell BSJ ’88 got a crash course on brain injury. Now she’s an advocate for prevention and for those on the road to recovery.

It’s 3:30 a.m. and a clock radio alarm has just gone off in Cindy Campbell’s Melrose, Massachusetts, home. Moments later, a second alarm sounds, followed by a third from the cell phone in the bathroom. Campbell calls this last one the “job keeper,” a final guarantee that she doesn’t oversleep and disappoint the thousands of viewers who count on her traffic report to get to their job on time.
CAMPBELL JUMPS OUT OF BED AND INTO THE SHOWER, BREWS COFFEE, DRESSES, APPLIES MAKEUP, AND ZIPS DOWN A NEARLY DESERTED 10-MILE STRETCH OF ROUTE 93 NORTH OF BOSTON. HER DESTINATION IS A WARREN OF ROOMS A BLOCK FROM GOVERNMENT CENTER. IT’S THE OPERATIONS CENTER FOR NEARLY EVERY TRAFFIC REPORTER IN THE CITY.

At 4:30, Campbell flips on the lights, computers, and TV monitors in her remote studio for the “EyeOpener” newscast on WCVB-TV, Boston’s ABC affiliate. This is only the beginning of a workday that will end 12 and a half-hours later and 35 miles away in Westborough, Massachusetts, where she is director of volunteers for the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts.
The combination may seem random, but if Campbell's career were plotted on a map, the connections would become apparent. Stops include various community cable studios, Suffolk University's journalism department, and the intersection of Milk and Congress streets. This last place, Boston's Post Office Square, is where at 8:25 on the morning of Aug. 25, 2000, a truck barreled through an intersection and changed Campbell's career and the rest of her life.

One-Woman Show

Many of us grow up thinking of a traffic reporter as a guy strapped into a helicopter hovering over rush-hour tie-ups. Although Campbell never climbs higher than her second-floor studio—she'd have a tough time folding her nearly six-foot frame into a copter—she does fit the stereotype in one respect: she is a one-woman show.

Campbell does everything from fixing her own hair and makeup to tracking the traffic to assembling the visuals and text of her report. She doesn't have a producer or a camera crew, not even a teleprompter. On one wall, screens display nine live-video feeds from traffic hotspots like the Southeast Expressway and the Leonard Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge. On her desk are three computers which she uses to monitor road and rail reports, prepare maps and other graphics, and follow commercial prompts from Channel 5's studio in the western suburbs of Boston. Meanwhile, she wears an earpiece to listen to the audio from the TV broadcast and instructions from her director.

"I'm very much used to splitting my concentration," says Campbell chatting between segments. As she answers questions, her eyes dart between the traffic and computer monitors and her mind ponders the "headline" of her next report. Abruptly, she bursts out laughing and launches into a conversation with an invisible person. It's her director—"the person in my ear"—telling her the length of her next appearance and the announcer she is to toss to when she winds up.

Campbell, who turns 44 this summer, has been a fixture on the "EyeOpener" newscast and local cut-ins for Good Morning America since October 1995. She's featured a dozen times between 5 and 8:30 a.m. in spots ranging from 15 seconds to a minute. While she considers herself a member of the Channel 5 morning team, her employer is SmartRoute Systems, which monitors traffic in cities nationwide.

As if her juggling act weren't complicated enough, she had to learn a new routine last summer. She went from a simple standup report—speaking over traffic scenes—to a full-scale multimedia presentation, similar to that of weather forecasters. Although she appears to be pointing to a map, she's actually standing in front of a blank green wall. She gets her bearings by sneaking peeks at monitors that show her onscreen image. Campbell spent months mastering the hand-eye coordination to pull this trick off. It involves a special effects technique called chroma key, which uses color filters to merge separate images; suffice it to say, if Campbell wore a green blouse on St. Patrick's Day, her torso might appear as Storrow Drive.

"You have to love live TV," she says.

No other kind of news, not even the weather, changes as fast as traffic. Within the few seconds it takes an anchor to introduce her, Campbell's report could be upended by a car accident.

"I can't begin to tell you how difficult a process it is," says Jeff Larson, the general manager of SmartRoute's Boston office and Campbell's boss (and predecessor as Channel 5 traffic reporter). "You have to completely change your graphic presentation. When it happens to me, you can see it on my face. You can see that something has gone wrong...but [Campbell] just has this way of doing all that work and making it look simple." Larson, the son of longtime Boston sports announcer Tom Larson, has been in the broadcast business for 30 years. "Besides my father," he says, Campbell "is the most professional person I've worked with ever."

Scaling a "Wall of Fear"

Campbell was at SmartRoute's old headquarters in Cambridge that summer morning nine years ago when a report came over the police scanner about a truck hitting a pedestrian in Post Office Square. Since the accident wasn't on a major roadway, no one gave it much thought. Then, about 20 minutes later, Campbell got a call from her oldest sister, Diane.

An 18-wheeler, loaded down with a crane, had tried to make a traffic light just as Lisa Campbell, then 38, was crossing the street on the way to her job in the mailroom at State Street Bank. The impact sent her soaring 30 feet in the air, and when she landed, her head smacked against the asphalt.

"I can still remember what it felt like to have this wall of fear come over me," recalls
Campbell. "It was like, oh my God, how can this be my sister?"

She found Lisa in intensive care at Boston Medical Center, her head covered in bandages. She had suffered a skull fracture and a heart attack but, amazingly, no other broken bones. Lisa was in a coma, and for days her two sisters, brother, and parents sat by her bedside, not knowing whether she would survive. Hoping somehow to reach her, they sang oldies, especially her favorites by Elvis Presley.

When she wasn't at her sister's side, Campbell walked the hospital halls. She called friends who would "offer me a hug over the phone." Occasionally, she was approached by strangers who recognized her from television. They asked about her tears. "I was like, 'Well, let me tell you...."

Each night, Campbell lit a candle at home and gave thanks for the one "little thing that didn't go wrong that day," such as Lisa's heart rate being stable for an hour. "You have to remember the positives."

More Than a "Reader"

Between 5 and 7 a.m., Campbell gives a report every 10 minutes, with a 25-minute break when Channel 5 switches to Good Morning America. She travels down the hall to the operations center, which is dominated by a wall of video screens. From here, cameras miles away can be swiveled about and zoomed in or out at the first sign of a tie-up. Meanwhile, information flows in from police scanners, a copter and two airplanes, MassHighway, and ordinary commuters who dial in on their cell phones. Two traffic managers plug all this information into a database. For many years, Campbell directed the center in addition to doing traffic reports.

The operations center is run by Westwood One, which owns the two big names in Boston traffic, SmartRoute and Metro Networks. But while all reporters draw on the same information, Campbell insists that not all traffic reports are the same. She makes sure she understands the different patterns on the roadway, such as how a breakdown on Route 128 will affect Route 93. To prepare for the job, she spent hours traveling the highways at rush hour. She can tell you where Route 128 goes from four lanes to three and which breakdown lanes are open to traffic during rush hour. "I'm not just a traffic reader, but a traffic reporter," she says.

"Built for Broadcasting"

Campbell had wanted to be a journalist since she was a teenager growing up in Melrose. While her older peers got into the business because of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the Washington Post reporters who broke Watergate, her hero was Mary Richards of The Mary Tyler Moore Show. In high school she worked for a community cable station and while at Suffolk hosted a show on the University's TV station. "She's got the most distinctive voice I have ever heard," says Deborah Geisler, an associate professor in the communications and journalism department. "She has a tonal quality that is just built for broadcasting." Geisler says Campbell possesses the key qualities of a good newscaster: attention to detail, inquisitiveness, and uncompromising ethics.

It was with a journalist's instincts that Campbell responded to her sister's accident. "The reporter in me needed to know," Campbell says. "Literally seeing my sister's life hang in the balance, I just had to calm myself the best I could from knowledge." To assess her sister's progress, Campbell studied the Glasgow coma scale, which scores a patient's response to verbal commands and pain, ability to speak, and eye activity.

Lisa emerged slowly from the coma. "You can be awake and be in a coma," Campbell explains. "Her eyes could open but there was no recognition." Or she might fling her arms and kick her legs, which Campbell learned was a good thing: "She wanted to break out of the situation she was in. And it showed she wouldn't be paralyzed." Just by saying hello, Campbell could send Lisa's monitors into a tizzy. "I'd think, my very presence is irritating to her, but the nurses and doctors would explain she is having an awakening."

After six weeks, Lisa had regained consciousness and was transferred to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston. "She had to relearn every single thing we take for granted," Campbell says. "She didn't know what shoes were. She didn't understand what a hat was for...Swallowing, eating, talking, everything had to be relearned." At first, she didn't recognize her family. For a time, Campbell had to reintroduce herself every day. "I'd walk in and say, 'Hi, Lisa, I'm your younger sister, Cindy.'"

Initially, Lisa spoke gibberish in what seemed to be a French accent. That's not unusual in brain injury patients, whose memories return in patches, Campbell explains. Lisa had taken years of French; it must have stuck. Gradually, she started saying words, though coming up with the right one could be a struggle.

As Campbell sought out every piece of research she could find about her sister's condition, she came across a brochure from the Brain Injury Association. She jumped on the Internet to find out more. "I knew that I wanted to volunteer, to get the word out [through] public speaking."

Not "For Nothing"

Within minutes of finishing her last traffic report at 8:30 a.m., Campbell hops into her beige Honda Civic, pops Bruce Springsteen into her CD player, and heads down the Massachusetts Turnpike for Westborough. She keeps the sedan (her "cutie pie") spotless, washing it by hand inside and out—down to scrubbing the vents with Q-tips. Back home in her garage is her cherished red 1987 Camaro. "It looks like it came out of the showroom. I'm very protective of it," she says.

It's not just a 30-mile stretch of the Pike that links Campbell's two jobs. "My biggest passion is traffic and road safety," she says. "Once you have a brain injury, you're never going to lose it. That's why we focus so much on prevention."

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts is located above a strip of stores in the Westborough Shopping Center. Campbell's space is one of the smaller offices, with barely room for a desk and a couple of chairs. Electronically speaking—compared with her traffic job—she's back in the Dark Ages: just a phone, fax machine, and laptop. She hasn't personalized the office, not even with the landscape photos she loves to take while vacationing on the Vineyard or in New Hampshire. The only exception is the photo of her father she keeps on her desk. "I always have my dad kind of watching over me," she says. A vice president at State Street Bank, Thomas Campbell died in 2003. She always wears two of his rings, just as she
does a necklace she inherited from her grandmother ("Nana, my staunchest supporter"). The necklace has a small cross, which Campbell tucks out of view before going on air. "It's best to be nondenominational for television," she says. "I'm very spiritual in my own way, but I'm pretty private about it."

That spirituality comes out when Campbell talks about her sister's accident and how it spurred her to work with the Brain Injury Association. "This whole experience can't be for nothing. Something had to come out of it that was bigger than me," she insists. Initially, Campbell volunteered for the association, giving speeches and serving on its board of directors. She was hired in May of last year following a volatile spell in her career. She left SmartRoute in October 2007. It was a tough decision: She enjoyed the television work but felt constrained by the management side of her job.

Campbell spent the next half-year as a spokeswoman for a state agency, but lost her post when her boss left. Just as things fell apart for her, they came together again. SmartRoute welcomed her back as traffic reporter, and the Brain Injury Association hired her as volunteer director. "I could keep the part of the [SmartRoute] job that I love more than anything, but also do another part of my career that will allow me to grow," she says.

Campbell's job title doesn't begin to describe all that she does for the association. She presents what she calls "Brain Injury 101" speeches to civic and healthcare groups, covering everything from causes and prevention to treatment and research. She trains police cadets to recognize and handle behavioral problems associated with brain injuries. On Beacon Hill, she champions legislation to promote safety and funding.

"She is very charismatic. If I take her on a trip with me, I know she'll break the ice," says Jennifer Gammon, the association's development officer. Gammon, who is working on a master's degree at Suffolk that combines business and communication, says that Campbell charms people by being down-to-earth—and breaks them up with her jokes. "She's the queen of puns," Gammon says.

It's hard to imagine that this is the same Cindy who as a little girl took stomach medication to ease her jitters about going to school and crawled into a cabinet to hide from a babysitter. ("Thank God I don't do that anymore," she says.) Campbell soon outgrew the cabinet. Grade-school pictures show her as the tallest girl in her class, towering over even many of the boys and compounding her self-consciousness. But as she entered her teens and matured, she fell in with a group that made her feel good about herself. "I met friends who had the exact same personality," Campbell says. "They're all just really funny."

Those friends recall two Cindys: grumpy in the morning, feisty in the afternoon. Patty Brandano encountered Morning Cindy first. "She was scary. I didn't know what to make of her," says Brandano, who is part of a group of pals who bonded at Melrose Junior High and to this day remain close.

“One of the best things for her is to get together with friends and laugh," says Siobhan (Aylward) Gregorio B.S '87, another member of the group. Like others who've known Campbell since childhood, Gregorio marvels at how she's managed to become a fixture of the morning airwaves. "She can do anything," says Gregorio.

**No Limits**

Campbell likes to tell a story about the first time she saw her sister stand after the accident.

"I thought, Wow, it's great that she's walking. But why is she taller than me?"

Lisa's body had lengthened during recuperation, but now she's back to her former height. Still, as Campbell notes, "Talk about not the point."

By Thanksgiving—three months after the accident—the Campbell family had reason to celebrate. Lisa was home. Within six months, her old personality had returned, which is often not the case after brain injuries. She lives with her mother in the Melrose house where she grew up, manages her personal needs, helps with the shopping and chores around the house, and challenges her mind by playing computer games and reading.

Lisa still has memory problems, both short and long term. "When you lose brain cells, you can't regenerate them," Campbell explains. The brain, though, can rewire itself, much like traffic detours around accidents. But while Lisa "has to work much harder to think about things," Campbell says, "I'm a firm believer that you don't put limits on people, because they can continue to grow."

Besides strengthening their mental capacities, Lisa and others with brain injuries face the challenge of rebuilding their social lives. "People sort of fade off, especially when they don't quite understand what somebody is going through," Campbell says. That's why one of Campbell's initiatives is the Pals programs, which will match people like her sister with volunteers of the same age.

**Master Multitasker**

Campbell admits that her long hours eat into her own social life, but she has no plans to cut back. In fact, as director of volunteers, she feels obligated to volunteer, too, such as emceeing charity events and giving career talks at Suffolk. Her workload does take a toll by the end of the week. But despite not getting home some nights until 7:30 and sleeping through much of the weekend, Campbell says she keeps up with friends and even stays awake through dessert on girls' nights out. "It's important for me to always have balance in my life," she says (and, yes, with a straight face). Some day, she adds, she'd like to get married.

Meanwhile, the master of multitaskers watches in awe as her sister masters the simple tasks the rest of us take for granted.

"Lisa taught me what's important in life," Campbell says. "All the things that were so important to me before are so not important when compared to somebody trying to put her life back together from Day 1."
Hairdresser and mother Kathy Jo Cook JD’95 gets her big career makeover as a lawyer.

BY RENÉE GRAHAM  PHOTOGRAHY BY LEAH FASTEN

HEN SHE WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD, Kathy Jo Cook first visited the Illinois law firm where her mother worked as a legal secretary. Cook strolled the halls, peeking into the book-lined offices, and catching snatches of conversations that, even to her young ears, were laden with gravity and authority. Although there were no women attorneys in the firm, Cook found this world so enticing, she knew she wanted to be part of it.
thought, ‘This is great. I would really like to do this,’” Cook says, recalling her days in her mother’s office.

Yet even as she dreamed of law school, her father saw a more traditional role for his daughter—beauty school.

“My parents were never thinking about things like where I would go to college. They were thinking more that I would grow up, get married, have children, and maybe have a little job on the side,” Cook says. “So my father decided I should go to cosmetology school. He decided that would be a good thing to do if I had kids because I could set my own hours.”

So at 18, Cook settled for bouffants and comb-outs over briefs and civil actions, enrolling in cosmetology school. It would be more than a dozen years before she finally attended Suffolk Law School and fulfilled her childhood ambitions.

Now, after building her legal reputation as a fierce advocate in cases involving discrimination, wrongful death, gender equality, civil rights, and consumer protection, Cook is a founding partner at Wagner Cook Freiberger & Washienko in Boston, and recently completed her year-long term as president of the Women’s Bar Association of Massachusetts (WBA).

“I think everybody had this idea a long time ago that, with the civil rights movement and whatnot, once we got women into the pipeline, everything would be okay,” says Cook, whose tenure as WBA president ended in March. “The reality is women graduate in equal numbers, they go to law firms, and at about five or seven years out, they start to encounter work-life balance issues, and it’s just not a very friendly environment for women.

“It’s such a serious problem that women have trying to achieve in the legal profession,” she adds. “It’s been good to be at the forefront of an organization which works to fight that, and I’ll miss it.”

Cook was selected as president by a nominating committee and ratified by the association’s nearly 1,600 members. A WBA member for more than a decade, she established herself as outspoken and diligent, working on various committees and becoming an active board member.

Julia Huston, who preceded Cook as WBA president, noticed her abilities and helped guide Cook through a year as president-elect.

“She and I did almost everything together, like working on initiatives to advance women in law firm settings, where historically they don’t make partner at the rate that men do,” says Huston, who is a partner at
Bromberg & Sunstein in Boston. "We met with the managing partners at 30 law firms. Kathy Jo did that with me and our then executive director. Because she was already so intensively focused on the activities of the WBA, the transition was a smooth one, and I think it contributed to Kathy Jo’s effectiveness as president."

During her tenure, Cook worked to make the WBA, which she describes as "kind of Boston-centric," into a more statewide organization. This year, the association will welcome board members from central Massachusetts, the Fall River-New Bedford area, and Middlesex, the state’s largest county.

"This year, for the first time, we took our show on the road and held three board meetings in places outside of Boston," Cook says. "My thinking is there’s power in numbers, so I felt if we could reach out to these women, we could bring things to them, bring us to them, and show them that we're committed to them."

Cook understands firsthand how distant a woman lawyer outside of Boston can feel from the heart of the WBA. For 13 years, she practiced at Keches & Mallen, (now Keches Law Group) the Taunton, Massachusetts-based firm she had worked for since graduating from law school. Shortly after becoming WBA president, Cook was approached to join the newly formed firm that became Wagner Cook Freiberger & Washienko. She had been considering a move that would allow her to practice law in Boston, but with her new WBA responsibilities, the offer seemed the perfect opportunity at the least opportune time.

"When I got the call asking if I would be interested in doing this, my immediate reaction was, ‘This is ridiculous. I’m barely into my presidency,’" Cook says. "I went home and told my husband [Suffolk Law Professor Tim Wilton] about it, thinking he would say, ‘No, this is ridiculous.’ Instead he [said], ‘Yeah, it’s about time you did that!’ That wasn’t what I was planning on hearing."

"ALWAYS AN ARGUER"

Today, Cook occupies a 33rd floor office in downtown Boston—the view from her windows a breathtaking swath of the city—right across the street from the association’s office. Between her recent WBA duties and her partnership in a Boston law firm, Cook is realizing goals that once seemed maddeningly out of reach when she was growing up near Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, in the 1960s.

She jokes that her desire to practice law came naturally since she was "always an arguer." She would often engage in feisty debates with her father, a pipefitter, whose conservative views clashed with Cook’s liberal leanings.

"I was a product of the 1960s and ‘70s and very concerned about civil rights, women’s rights, etc., and I think being concerned about those things just naturally pulled me in a more liberal direction," Cook says. "And I never changed. I suppose there was some natural opposition to my father’s conservative views just by virtue of the fact that he based much of his thinking on religion. I, on the other hand, was a rebellious teenager who at a very young age thought that church was separate from state, that all people really should be treated equal and have the same rights, that women should have control of their bodies."

Arguing about politics was one thing—disagreeing with her parents’ plan for her future proved more difficult. Looking back on her early years, Cook says she never told her parents “in a forceful way” about her desire to study law, and believes they would have been “receptive” if she had broached the topic.

"It was more like, ‘I kind of want to do this, but this isn’t our family and I don’t know if I could do it anyway,” she says. "So I went about my life.”

Cook got married, moved to Texas, and had two daughters. By then, she was a licensed cosmetologist but still yearned to attend college. She enrolled at Alvin Community College in Alvin, Texas, but quickly found that her class load combined with motherhood was “just too much to manage.” Her marriage failed, and she reluctantly left school after a year.

"I went through a divorce, and I had more responsibility with my kids,” Cook says. “But I already had this feeling like ‘I can’t believe I’m not a college graduate.’ It was very bothersome to me, and I knew I had to take care of that at some point.”

So Cook deferred her dream, instead earning a living as a cosmetologist and ultimately managing beauty schools. She became an outspoken advocate on issues of federal funding and the grant system for cosmetology students under the Higher Education Act. Still, Cook knew she wanted to accomplish more.

"I could never shake the feeling that there had to be more than this. I was not going to be happy in that profession,” she says. "Very quickly, the challenges were gone, and I wanted something else. And the only way to get that was to go back to school.”

"STEPPING OFF THE CLIFF"

Four years after dropping out of college, Cook enrolled at the University of Houston, studying humanities with a minor in philosophy. As with her time in community college, Cook found the school-life balance challeng-
ing—she had remarried and had two sons—but refused to again be deterred from her goal of becoming a lawyer. She took a "ridiculous amount of hours" to graduate on time. Shortly before graduating, Cook spoke with her father about her plan to attend law school. Her seven-year second marriage had ended amicably, and she was now a single mother of four contemplating a major life change.

"I said, 'I really don't know how I'm going to do law school,' and he said, 'Well, you just may not be able to do that.' And I thought, 'Uh uh, no, no, no. I'm going to do this,' Cook recalls with a smile. "I think I would have done it anyway, but it was a push to have that challenge a little bit.

"I've always had the ability to make something work," she says. "If I set my mind to something and decide this is what I'm going to do, I figure out a way to do it. For whatever reason, I step off the cliff and have to then figure out how to keep from hitting the bottom."

When it came time to choose a law school, Cook knew she wanted to move to either the East or West Coast. She had been to Boston several times and knew Suffolk Law School had a "good reputation as a school for trial attorneys," and she envisioned herself as a litigator. So she packed up her kids, left Texas, and moved to an apartment in Jamaica Plain.

During the school year, her sons remained in Texas with their father, while her daughters, who were then teenagers, "sort of took care of themselves" with help from Cook's friends, she says.

And while it might have been easier to attend the evening program, Cook felt in order to achieve her goal of becoming a lawyer, she couldn't afford further delays.

"I just had my eye on getting out in three years because I had done this so late," says Cook, who was 32 when she entered the Law School.

To support her family, Cook returned to her old standby—beauty school, in part-time managerial and administrative positions. She would usually work from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and then attend classes at Suffolk. At first, she says, it was brutal.

"I can remember that first year thinking, 'Maybe I shouldn't have done this. Maybe this really is more than I can do,'" Cook says. "It was hard to work, then go to school, then go home and study and deal with my kids. It was really a tough time."
“There’s no question it was a sacrifice for my kids and their lives were harder during those years,” says Cook, whose sons lived in Boston during the summer break, then returned to Texas until she graduated. “But it was also good for them in a lot of ways since it taught them about life and work,” Cook says. “I think only my second daughter has a pretty good sense of how much I had going on.”

That daughter, Jodi Williams, was in the eighth grade when her mother entered law school, and recalls those years as “really difficult.”

“My mother was working, attending law school full-time, and juggling four children,” she says. “I was old enough to understand the importance of this as far as responsibility was concerned, but I don’t think I realized the financial aspect of it all. In looking back, to this day I feel bad. I would have a lot of my friends over to the house and we would eat everything the day after my mom had gone grocery shopping.”

Both Williams and her sister, Jacki Ryan, had after-school jobs to help with their own expenses, and took over the standard household chores. Although Cook’s law studies cut into time spent with her children, Williams said her mother was adamant in establishing one ritual. “Every Sunday, no exceptions, my siblings and I had to be home without our friends for family night,” says Williams, who works as an event planner, mainly for fashion shows, dividing her time between Boston and Paris. “At the time, my sister and I just wanted to be out with our friends for family night,” says Williams, “but in looking back it was a very consistent thing in my life and a really good idea for any family.”

(“None of Cook’s children have followed in her footsteps. Says Williams, “Watching my mother endure law school and take the bar steered me away from ever wanting to become a lawyer.”)

In her second year, Cook adjusted to the hectic pace and “loved law school after that. I got involved with the trial teams and was good at it, and we did well.” Cook was co-chair of the Suffolk Law team that won the national trial competition championship.

One of Cook’s favorite instructors was John E. Fenton, a Distinguished Professor of Law, who was then also dean of the Law School and taught Advanced Evidence.

“Dean Fenton was absolutely wonderful to me. When I started participating in the outside trial competition, he helped me manage his Advanced Evidence course, my trial competition schedule, and the fact that I had a family to take care of,” Cook says. “I think he recognized... that I was older than the average law student, and very serious about what I was doing. Also, I think John Fenton recognized that I was learning just as much about advanced evidence, or more, through trial competitions than I was in class.”

Fenton recalls Cook as a woman with “a tremendous personality and work ethic.

“She was well-respected by members of her class,” said Fenton, who is currently on sabbatical. “I could tell from early on, from her work habits and by talking to her, she was going to be a superstar lawyer.”

THE THRILL OF VICTORY

In her final year of law school, Cook landed a job as a law clerk at Lubin & Meyer. Founding partner Andrew C. Meyer, Jr. JD ’74, LLD ’99, is a member of the Board of Trustees at Suffolk University and serves as a member of the board’s Law School Committee.

After graduation, Cook took a position with Koches & Mallen. It was at that firm where she enjoyed her biggest legal victory yet. In 2005, Cook won the first successful claim in Massachusetts to contend that an insurance company’s meritless appeal of an injured worker’s verdict was a violation of the Consumer Protection Statute. Her husband, who has taught at the Law School since 1984, assisted with the trial.

“In 1986, a construction worker had been injured on a job site. The case was tried, the plaintiff won, and the insurance carrier appealed the case, we felt, without any good reason,” Cook says. “We felt they acted in bad faith to deprive this gentleman of the monies the jury had awarded him.”

That construction worker, Raymond Tallent of Boston, was awarded more than $4 million—double the original damages—after Superior Court Judge S. Jane Haggerty wrote in her 32-page decision that the insurance company “used the appellate process in an attempt to extort the Tallents into a settlement for far less than they were owed.”

Four years after the settlement, Tallent has nothing but praise for Cook.

“She was great. We were novices, and she really fought for us,” he says. “God love her, she’s quite a gal. I love her for what she did for me.”

“It was a great victory in a lot of ways, and it changed the law, and that was really important,” Cook says. “It was the right thing, and you saw justice actually work, which it doesn’t always.”

Thomas M. Elcock JD ’86, a partner at Prince Lobel Glovsky & Tye in Boston, who wrote about the case, says the decision was “distinctive” because it “amplifies” the obligations of insurers to “affect settlement when liability is reasonably clear.”

Such moments reinforce everything Cook loves about being a lawyer. Fighting injustice—whether on behalf of injured workers, patients who have been victimized by malpractice, or women attorneys who suffer gender discrimination—is what first attracted her to the profession so many years ago when she walked through the office where her mother worked. As for her father, who thought cosmetology would be a nice career for his daughter and once worried that her law school ambitions might overwhelm her, Cook says he isn’t the type to crow about her accomplishments.

“He’s never said, ‘This is amazing, you’ve done a wonderful thing, I’m so proud of you’ because that’s just not my dad,” Cook admits. “I don’t remember him really saying anything [when she graduated law school]. He was pretty quiet about the whole thing. But...as time went on, in those situations when he would say, ‘Oh, my daughter, the lawyer in Boston,’ you could see that he’s really proud of me.”

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DIPLOMACY AND MARKETING SAVVY HELP TOBY STAPLETON MBA ’05
SELL THE BENEFITS OF AMERICA’S BERRY TO THE WORLD

By Pamela Reynolds
"I don't know what in the hell's going on with cranberries, but they're getting in all the other juices. Whoever the salesman is for cranberries is doing a great job. He's showing up everywhere. Hey, what do you got? Some apples? Put some cranberries in there. We'll call it cran-apple and go 50-50. What do you got? Grapes? How about cran-grape! What do you got? Mangos? Cran-mango! What do you got? Pork chops? Cran-chops! Why don't you back off, Cranberry Man? Why don't you take your sales trophy and have a vacation?"

-BRIAN REGAN, STAND-UP COMEDIAN

Dear Mr. Regan: "Cranberry Man" has no intention of backing off. In fact, you might say he's just gotten started.

"We want to be sure we're actively looking at different ways cranberries can be used," says Tobias Stapleton ("Toby" to his friends and colleagues). On this day, he's wearing a pin-stripped suit, lending himself more gravitas than his name and youthful face might otherwise confer. "So if it's cran-raspberry today, then maybe it's cran-apple tomorrow. Or maybe it's cranberry and vodka today and something else tomorrow."

At 38, Stapleton has recently become the marketing director of the Cranberry Marketing Committee (CMC), established as part of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1962. Based in Wareham, Massachusetts, the CMC represents growers and processors like Ocean Spray, Cliffstar Inc., and Decas Cranberry Products. The group's specific aim, and Stapleton's goal, is to find new and creative ways to get their berries in supermarket aisles—in juices and pastries, as dried fruit, cranberry tea, cranberry soda, or whatever else the industry can dream up. Another part of his mission is to take those tart little berries to formerly cranberry-bereft populations around the globe. In fact, the work of the CMC in uncovering new international markets has helped save an industry that was on the verge of collapse just a few years ago. After all, how much cranberry sauce, dried cranberries, and cranberry juice blends can the American population consume?

Now, thanks to the CMC, people in the rest of the world are picking up the slack. The Japanese are eating "cranberry roll cakes." Germans
are watching celebrity chefs whip up sugared pancakes adorned with cranberry vodka sherbet. Mexican restaurant chains are peddling cranberry juice smoothies. Australians are reading about the health benefits of the berry (including, of course, its widely noted ability to thwart urinary tract infections). Spanish women are sprinkling “arándanos rojos” into salads and meat dishes. Australians are mixing up cranberry Cosmos. The French are experimenting with cranberry risotto recipes. And in the Middle East, people are munching on dried cranberries in addition to dried dates. Even Byun Jung-Su, the Tyra Banks of South Korea, recently spent an entire 15-minute segment on her Olive talk show chatting up the berry. Last November alone, the cranberry was featured in 79 articles and on two television broadcasts in Europe. The international hoopla totaled up to $133 million in international sales in 2007, not including new markets like Poland and the Czech Republic. Cranberry prices, languishing at an average of $18 per barrel in 2001, jumped to about $65 in 2007. Some growers in 2008 were getting $150 per barrel. With one-third of berry production now being sent overseas, demand far outstrips supply.

Stapleton roams the globe to keep the momentum going. Luckily, according to CMC Executive Director David Farrimond, Stapleton’s got just the right “Type A-minus” personality to suit the job. On the day we catch the Cranberry Man in his nondescript downtown Wareham office, it is the first time in many weeks that he has spent time behind his own desk. The week before, he had traveled to Stevens Point, Wisconsin, to give a presentation at “Cranberry School,” a meeting of 450 growers. Prior to that, he was in San Francisco visiting with the German and South Korean CMC representatives to review promotions in those markets. On the same trip he also visited Seattle.

“I’m looking at the markets that we’re in, but also the markets that we’re not active in,” says Stapleton between runs for coffee. “The industry is moving into India, the Middle East, Malaysia.”

Marked on a calendar in his office is a thick of red lines representing upcoming trips: France, Spain, Austria, Germany, The Czech Republic, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden. Then following that tour, another: Japan, South Korea, China, Australia. They’re all booming markets that had not even heard of the bitter berry, native only to the United States, just a few years back. Any remote corners of the world where “cran” is not recognized today, get ready to meet Cranberry Man.

LIMOS TO LOGOS

As much as Stapleton likes cranberries (he confesses to keeping his West Barnstable, MA home stocked with cranberry cheese at all times), the fruit is only a relatively recent fixture in his career.

Long before cranberries, there were limousines. As a high school student in Rehoboth, MA, Stapleton, the son of a Rhode Island businessman and a professional golfer (his mother, Betty June Bobel, was featured in a 1959 Sports Illustrated article), seriously considered starting a limousine business. It didn’t take long, however, for Stapleton to conclude that there wasn’t much money to be made. Instead, as an undergrad student at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, he turned his attention to selling T-shirts and stickers with logos in partnership with a friend.

“I call it a business, but I think you actually have to make money at it to call it that,” laughs Stapleton. “It failed miserably, but it was a good learning experience. And I bet you that somewhere in Massachusetts there’s a warehouse filled with all of that stuff.”

Always business-minded and increasingly intrigued by international events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall, Stapleton decided to start an import-export business with Eastern Europe and Russia. His major in college was international studies with a concentration on the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. While in school, he got some experience in international trade through an internship with the Rhode Island Department of Economic Development.

“At the end of the [unpaid] internship they offered me a paid part-time position,” recalls Stapleton. “When I graduated six months after that, they offered me a full-time job.”

The position involved trade with mundane Mexico and Canada rather than exotic Eastern Europe. On the other hand, it was the early ’90s, the country was in a recession, and Stapleton was just happy to have a job, even if it paid “the princely sum of $7 an hour” without benefits.

After three years, Stapleton moved on to become a trade counselor with the Massachusetts Export and Small Business Development Center in New Bedford, MA. Three years later, as president and CEO of the International Trade Assistance Center (ITAC) in neighboring Fall River, he helped southeastern Massachusetts businesses sell their wares abroad. For the most part, these were manufacturers of durable goods such as underwater autonomous vehicles, sonar sensors, and industrial control systems. It was a job he loved and that came naturally, given Stapleton’s business acumen and his background in international trade.

“If it’s cran-raspberry today, then maybe it’s cran-apple tomorrow. Or maybe it’s cranberry and vodka today and something else tomorrow.”
"The most interesting thing was that I got to work with a diverse group of companies," recalls Stapleton of his nine-year career at ITAC. "Every day was something new. One day I'd be working with a manufacturer who made products like Caterpillar [construction and mining equipment]...the next moment we would be working with a seafood processor or a seafood company to help them find new markets overseas."

While on the job at ITAC, Stapleton decided to return to school part-time for his MBA. He chose Suffolk because he liked the school's international outlook and the fact that many of the professors were drawn from government. He also liked that woman, Patricia Oliveira BSBA '05, a couple of rows down in his Money and Capital Markets course. They've been married a year now and have two cocker spaniels.

As a student at Suffolk, Stapleton's drive caught the attention of some of his professors, including Richard Torrisi, associate professor of international business. Torrisi, like Stapleton, has spent much of his career consulting with New England businesses seeking to export goods to Western and Central Europe. Given Stapleton's work at ITAC and his long-standing interest in Eastern Europe, it was natural that the two men would forge a connection.

"We had so many interesting conversations out of class," recalls Torrisi. Torrisi says that Stapleton stood out as an MBA student because, although he already had a fair amount of international business experience, he always seemed eager to learn more.

"For me, he was a pleasure because he had this enthusiasm to learn new things," says Torrisi. "You always want that in an MBA student. The second thing about him is by personality and character, he's quite willing to share his knowledge and experience. He's not ego-driven."

In Torrisi's Global Strategy and Competitiveness class, Stapleton was learning to adopt his professor's approach to navigating international markets.

"All the stuff I learned at Suffolk I applied immediately," he says.

Four years after Stapleton graduated, his connection with Torrisi continues. Torrisi has invited Stapleton to speak to his current MBA classes.

"Our relationship has moved from a faculty-student relationship to that of professional colleagues," says Torrisi. By 2008, with an MBA firmly under his belt and many years' experience at ITAC, it dawned on Stapleton that he was ready for something different.

"It was a point in my career that I needed a new challenge," he says. Enter the cranberry.

"BRINGING PEACE TO THE WORLD"

One cold morning in January, we're touring the Decas Cranberry Plant in Carver, MA. We're in a conference room eating dried sweetened cranberries, some infused with pomegranate juice, others with Concord grape juice. Most of the bogs in the surrounding countryside are frozen over, but work inside the plant continues. Berries are pulled out of the freezers by hair-netted workers and readied for processing. As the berries move along a conveyor, they are soaked in juice in a stainless-steel vat for a few hours to sweeten them. Then they are dried and ultimately packed in 25 pound boxes to be sent to the rest of the world. Everything on the plant floor looks efficient and clean. One group of boxes is marked "Kraft";
another has the special seal of Halal, certifying that the berries were prepared in accordance with Muslim dietary law.

Stapleton confers with John Decas, whose family owns the company, along with Jeffrey Carlson, president and CEO, and Doug Klaiber, chief operating officer at Decas. Stapleton seems anxious about a meeting later in the day to discuss how the CMC will handle health claims in France. Much of the cranberry's explosion in popularity there is due to the fact that it is chock-full of beneficial antioxidants and has an anti-adhesion property that prevents bacteria from attaching to mucous membranes. However, European rules about such health claims are set to change in 2010, and France may no longer allow the CMC to tout the health benefits of the berry due to questions about the methodology of scientific studies supporting the claims. That could put a lot of marketing in jeopardy, not only in France but across Europe.

Decas seems less anxious about this turn of events. Even in winter, he's looking tanned and relaxed. He pops in to greet Stapleton before we are led around the processing plant. No matter what happens in France, it's clear that the berry is on a worldwide roll. With all the new research coming out each year underscoring its value in bladder protection, oral hygiene, as well as stomach and heart health, it's a pretty sure bet that cranberries are destined to rise to the top—just as they do when the bogs are flooded during harvesting each fall. The Decas plant, in fact, has seen so much success with dried sweetened cranberries that they have had to expand several times since production began 10 years ago. In Decas's eyes, the future will be "nutraceuticals," or cranberry powder capsules that global citizens will pop every time they feel another urinary tract infection coming on.

Decas recalls that once the French understood what the berry could do for health, sales took off all over Europe.

"Suddenly we started getting a surge in sales from places like Serbia and Kosovo," he says. "These were places we were dropping bombs on a few years ago. And now we're dropping cranberries on them. Cranberries are bringing peace to the world. Clean urinary tracts and peace."

CRAN-TASTIC VISTAS

So far, the health studies have all been great news for Stapleton. The more positive research that comes out, the easier it is to promote his product. Even populations around the globe that might wince at the soursness of the little foreign berries may be willing to try them if they knew they could help stave off periodontal disease or bladder infections.

To this end, new products are always in development. On the horizon: cranberry toothpaste. The berry has been shown to reduce bacteria that cause gum disease. Also, cranberry powder as a meat preservative. Turns out the mighty berry is able to alter E. coli bacteria, rendering them impotent when it comes to giving you gut-wrenching food poisoning.

Like any good marketer, Stapleton is always looking ahead, trying to figure out how to put the CMC's $2.2 million international marketing budget to good use. Cranberry handlers are moving into India, and the CMC is planning to be there as well, with pamphlets and press releases extolling the berry's health benefits.

"We need to find out how to get in front of the Indian consumer," he says fervently. "Is the Indian consumer going on nutrition websites or recipe sites? We need to...find out what is stopping the consumer in that market from purchasing cranberries."

Recently, between his trips for work, Stapleton and his wife took a vacation to Brazil. It was shortly before Brazilian model Mariana Bridi da Costa died of a urinary tract infection. At dinner with a couple of Brazilian doctors, Stapleton discovered that there has been an alarming and unexplained increase in urinary tract infections in Brazil.

Brazil, however, with its population of almost 200 million people, is not yet a market where Stapleton and the CMC have been active. In short, Brazilians are not eating cranberries. They don't know what a cranberry is. There's got to be a gold-plated marketing opportunity in there somewhere.

Has this occurred to Stapleton? He doesn't say so directly, but it's safe to assume that cranberries will likely be appearing on Brazilian store shelves sometime in the future.

For some, a vacation may be a time to relax with a cranberry mojito by the pool. But for Cranberry Man, it's yet another chance to uncover dazzling new vistas for cran-apple, cran-grape, and yes, the cran-chop. Sorry, Mister Regan.
You must remember this...

Gleason Archer, left, with his friend, entertainer Rudy Vallee, outside 20 Derne Street. Vallee, known as a megaphone crooner, had hits with "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," "As Time Goes By," and his theme song, "I'm Just a Vagabond Lover." At Suffolk's College of Journalism, he taught a course in radio advertising and showmanship (the cost of which was $40).
Late spring is a great time to return to Boston and see how Suffolk has grown. The Red Sox are back—it would be great to see our alumni as well. Whether you attend a speaker’s event at the college (including our combined programs with the Boston Athenaeum and the Ford Hall Forum) or at the Law or Business schools, view student artwork at the New England School of Art & Design (NESAD), or take in a show at the C. Walsh or Studio Theatre, you will be amazed and gratified by the breadth of our cultural, creative, and intellectual offerings.

Suffolk now stretches from the top of Beacon Hill down Tremont Street and across the Common and Public Garden to the Arlington Street home of NESAD. With the completion of the Modern Theatre project next year, the University will be home to 1,200 resident students. Our residents wake each morning, attend class, participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities, eat their meals, study, and sleep at the institution whose lifeblood is at the center of this great city.

Not coincidentally, Suffolk's reputation for excellence in education has grown along with our physical expansion. Prospective students and faculty now seek us out from across the country and the world. Increasingly, students immerse themselves in the college and graduate school experience. They seek to live in University facilities and have ready access to a full range of academic and extracurricular activities. Our neighboring institutions have recognized this challenge and are working to offer resources for student centers, athletics, and advanced classrooms along with residences.

We have been moving in the same direction to provide state-of-the-art facilities while remaining true to our mission of offering access and opportunity at a reasonable cost.

Still, our work is far from complete. We continue to search for ways to meet the challenge of finding room to grow in our downtown location. We have been fortunate to acquire 73 Tremont Street in the heart of historic downtown Boston, which has become our signature building and home to the Mildred F. Sawyer Library. Our Modern Theatre dormitory project on Washington Street will house 100 to 150 students while giving the University a new venue for cultural events. And within two years, we hope to have an extraordinary new home for our NESAD building that will light up Somerset Street and add artist studios, classrooms, and gallery space to our urban campus.

Suffolk's advantage lies in the intellectual strength of our faculty, the diligence of our students, and our extraordinarily desirable location. However, we need physical facilities to match our intellectual and creative growth: a student center, laboratories, and athletic facilities. With your help, we will continue our progress and remain competitive with other universities.

Our long-range plan includes doubling our dormitory beds to 2,000 and establishing a student union where commuters and residents can participate in activities and socialize between classes. We hope to boost our athletic program by making playing fields available in the nearby suburbs, and building student exercise and health facilities downtown. And we expect to add more classroom space and science laboratories to meet the increasing demand among students to prepare for science-related fields.

As a Suffolk graduate, you know that university facilities are far more than structures and equipment. They are environments of learning and discovery.

Your support will allow Suffolk University to realize its full potential and help our students realize theirs.

Very Truly Yours,

BARRY BROWN
PROVOST

P.S. One way to help is through planned giving, which offers a secure source of income for you and your family while providing the University and its schools with resources to grow and serve our students. I hope you will consider joining me as a planned giving donor to this great University. For details, please see the following pages.
**planned giving:** 1. *Leaving money to an institution through your will, as in "legacy gift."*

Stock market and other investments underperforming? Maybe it’s time to redefine your financial plan.

Have you ever considered exploring the personal financial benefits of giving back? There are many ways to create a lasting legacy from your estate—gift options that offer you the opportunity to increase your retirement income or to maximize your children’s inheritance. If you’d like to develop a personalized plan that will allow you to do well by doing good, consider Suffolk University as your beneficiary for planned giving.

**GIVING AND RECEIVING**

Concerned about income for your retirement years? A charitable gift annuity pays one or two income beneficiaries a secure cash flow over the course of a lifetime. These annuities can be set up to provide an immediate payment or to provide a future additional secure income stream for donor(s) after retirement.

In general, individuals who establish a gift annuity with Suffolk are interested in supporting the University and enhancing their income with secure and fixed payments. By transferring cash or low-yielding stocks to establish a gift annuity with a higher rate of return, an individual can increase his or her income.

**INCREASE YOUR INCOME**

**How a gift annuity works**

<table>
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<th>DONOR</th>
<th>GIFT ANNUITY</th>
<th>SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>property</td>
<td>Fixed annual income to donor or other designated beneficiary</td>
<td>remainder</td>
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Annuities can be established with minimum gifts of $10,000.

A sampling of current gift annuity rates*:

<table>
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<th>Age</th>
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<tr>
<td>65</td>
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<td>90+</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
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* Effective as of February 1, 2009. Suffolk’s annuity rates are subject to change.
Please contact the Office of Planned Giving for current rates and charitable deductions.

**EXAMPLE:**

John Smith (age 72) provided a gift of $10,000 to Suffolk this year. In exchange for his gift, Suffolk provided him with a 5.9% annuity rate AND a charitable income tax deduction of approximately $3,900. Mr. Smith also considered deferring his income for three years, until he was 75 years old (i.e., he makes the gift this year, yet the income from the annuity begins in three years). This alternative scenario offered him an annuity rate of 7.1% and a charitable income tax deduction of approximately $4,600.
A LEGACY IN THE MAKING
Leaving a bequest to Suffolk University is a thoughtful and flexible way to achieve your charitable and financial goals without making an outright gift today. "Anybody who really wanted to achieve something with their lives, no matter what their means were—if they were committed—they could do it as a student at Suffolk," says Tom Cote BA '72, JD '75, who, along with his wife, Josee, has made a provision for Suffolk University in his will. "Once you've done it, then you can turn around and pay forward so someone else can do the same thing."

Your bequest to Suffolk may reduce your estate taxes as well as giving you the satisfaction of knowing that your future gift will have the maximum impact in supporting your University.

RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS
Retirement plans, when passed on to heirs, can incur as much as 70 percent in taxes, because this asset faces double taxation. Not only is the amount of the plan reduced by estate taxes, but the recipient must also pay income taxes on the plan.

If you plan to make a legacy gift, you may want to consider naming Suffolk University the beneficiary of your 401(k), pension, or other retirement plan and leaving other assets to your family. Naming Suffolk as the primary beneficiary avoids all income and estate taxes on the retirement plan.

To make the designation, advise your plan administrator of your decision. Then complete and sign a change of beneficiary form available from your IRA custodian.

TAX-FREE GIFTS FROM IRA ACCOUNTS
Congress passed legislation that allows individuals to make charitable gifts from their IRA accounts without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. This opportunity is valid throughout the rest of the 2009 tax year. If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you are eligible to make this tax-free gift.

YOUR PLAN IN ACTION
Any planned gift can support the area of Suffolk that is most important to you. Your gift can be designated to the Law School, the College, or the Business School. Your gift can be further directed to support financial aid, the library, faculty research, program development, athletics, facilities, or to wherever the need is greatest.

Redefine your future.
Be a part of the plan.

Let us show you what your personalized plan would look like on paper. For more information, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (617) 573-8441 or plannedgiving@suffolk.edu
Runs in the Family
For the McDonnells (John, Cathy, and John Jr.),
Suffolk ties are generational
BY MARK MURPHY BSJ '78

A

S A CHILD, John McDonnell BSBA '83 remembers assembling signs in the backyard of his family's home in Hyde Park, a working-class Boston neighborhood, for rallies and local elections. When the time came to consider colleges, he was first drawn to Suffolk because of its proximity to the Massachusetts State House. Of course, in the early 1980s, that regal, golden-domed structure shadowed most of the University's campus.

McDonnell became a senate page and "lived at the state house and Suffolk. It was a beautiful thing to walk straight from class up to the state house," he recalls. Most nights, he worked until 8 or 9. At Suffolk, he met Cathy MacDonald BA '84, a Dorchester native who was also a senate page. Before long he was chauffeuring Joseph Timilty during the state senator's third failed bid for mayor of Boston and working in the State House lobby under the supervision of the most powerful politician in the state—Senate President William Bulger. MacDonald served as a representative in the Student Government Association, while McDonnell headed Suffolk's Program Council.

One of McDonnell's first jobs upon graduating from the Business School in 1983 was as a field coordinator for a first-time city council candidate known to folks from the neighborhood as Tommy Menino. But as a sophomore, he decided to change his major from political science to business administration.

"A mentor of mine told me that if I wanted a chance to make money in this world, I'd need a business degree," McDonnell says.

He continued to work on political campaigns, but shortly after graduation, McDonnell joined Seagram & Sons Distillers as a marketing researcher. In 1988, he married Cathy, who went to work as a bank teller and later for the Internal Revenue Service. Working for one of the largest liquor distributors in the world meant overseas opportunities, so the couple spent four years in Taiwan, one in London, and one in Milan.

"Because of [John's] job, we had to relocate 10 times in six years around the U.S., Asia, and Europe," says Cathy.

With two children in tow, the couple had to consider the impact of changing schools and leaving friends. Seeking stability, they opted to return to Boston.

In 2005, after an 18-year career in international sales and marketing at Seagram, McDonnell was named chief operating officer of The Patron Spirits Company. John and Cathy now live in Coral Springs, Florida, where they remain closely connected with their alma mater and their city.

John Jr., the oldest of their children, is now a sophomore majoring in communications at Suffolk's College of Arts & Sciences. He is involved in the Program Council his father once headed.

"Seeing John at Suffolk, hearing his stories, and watching him get involved with the Program Council has brought back so many great memories of our years there," says McDonnell.

The McDonnells' connection with Suffolk remains strong, not only as parents of a current student but as graduates with longtime associations. John cites people like Barbara Fineman, a former director of student activities, as an early source of inspiration, while Cathy credits Ann Harrington, a classmate and fellow Dorchester native, with stoking her interest in the Suffolk community.

The McDonnells are contributors to Suffolk's Annual Fund.

"Suffolk's reputation has grown tremendously, which has allowed the School to attract some very talented and recognized faculty," John says of the satisfaction they draw from continued involvement and contributions.

John helped organize the Class of 1983's reunion last year and is planning a visit to Suffolk to talk with Business School students. Cathy has pitched in to organize the Class of 1984's 25th reunion this year (June 11-14), part of which will be held—where else?—under the golden dome of the state house.
I live in Tokyo. But my connection to Suffolk has never been stronger.

This is how I stay connected to Suffolk from 6,735 miles away.

Your link to Suffolk: www.suffolk.edu/alumni
Join the Suffolk Alumni Online Community and the Career Advisory Network today.
We’ve taken the “work” out of networking.

Whether you have recently graduated or you are celebrating your 35th reunion, the Suffolk Online Community works for you.

Register for your free account today via the Alumni Association Web site: www.suffolk.edu/alumni
Father Figure

Left to care for his younger brothers, Joey Fula found a way to plan for their future and his own  

BY KATE SILVER

JOEY FULA will be the first to tell you he didn't have a typical childhood. His mother had an ongoing substance abuse problem, and his father wasn't in the picture. Fula and his older brother and sister were raised by their grandparents in Wareham, Massachusetts. His grandmother worked 60-plus hours a week to support her disabled husband and their grandchildren.

"It just wasn't a 'normal' childhood, but I made the best of it," Fula says.

Fula decided early on that he wouldn't allow his circumstances to limit him. He worked hard in high school and became the first in his family to graduate. His priorities for college were to get the best education and the most financial assistance. At Suffolk, most of the cost of Fula's education (including 85 percent last semester), was covered by alumni-established scholarships, including the Lillian and Marjorie Anders Memorial Scholarship and the Donald J. Scott Scholarship, along with financial aid. Without this financial support, he would not have been able to afford tuition at a private university.

Fula has shared his good fortune with family members in need, including two younger half-brothers, each from a different father who recently passed away. By ages nine and 13, the boys had spent time in and out of foster care. They needed guidance and family, and Fula was determined to be there for them. Soon after he turned 21, Fula adopted the boys, and now, with his girlfriend, he is raising them, while working 40-plus hours a week in a restaurant bussing tables and attending school at night to study management.

Fula's story struck a chord with Christine Perry, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management and Director of Financial Aid.

"All our students are special to me, but every so often one comes along who just steals my heart and reminds me why I do this difficult work. I feel privileged to know Joe and will miss him terribly now that he is graduating," she says. "He remains an inspiration and a testament to the power of family, love, hard work, and education."

Ask how he manages the competing demands of work, school, and family, and Fula shrugs off the question.

"It's not that hard," he says. "If these kids were punks, if they didn't do well in school and weren't focused, and I guess if I were more lenient, it would be hard. But these are good kids. One of them's going for the junior honor society; the other kids the smartest in the class. They're both active in sports. They understand what their situation is, and it's all working out."

Fula is also quick to point out that he is not alone when it comes to raising his brothers. The boys receive income from the estates of their deceased fathers, and Fula and his girlfriend, Kristin Hussey, have full-time jobs. With their income and the help of Fula's financial aid, their needs are covered. Friends and family also help out, and the boys spend time at the YMCA every day after school.

With his graduation in sight (he expects to complete his degree in December 2009), Fula is thinking about the next step. He will start a part-time accounting internship later this year that has the potential to turn into a full-time job and earn him a higher salary than he ever expected at age 22. Fula is quick to attribute his success to his educational experience and those who made it possible. "I can't say enough about the staff at Suffolk," he says. "They helped me with every aspect of student life and 'making it through.' Some kids can do the four years with their eyes closed, some with the help of their parents, but I did it with the help of the Suffolk community."

Fula doesn't dwell on the hardships he has been through, or his long days of work, school, and child care. Still, Fula is grateful for the help he has received along the way. And he looks forward to doing the same in return.

"Some day I'd like to have a scholarship issued in my name to help someone in the same situation," he says. "Anything I can do to give back."

Fula pauses before adding, "I guess I'm already giving back."
As I WRITE THIS LETTER, the newspaper headlines warn of "dimming recovery hopes" with retail sales dropping and stocks taking yet another tumble. We've all been affected by the economic downturn. The entire Suffolk community, including faculty, alumni, and administrators have responded by developing thoughtful programming which directly addresses the situation (please see page 53). We look forward to continuing programs like these over the summer and in the fall. You can always find a full schedule of alumni programming on our website.

The alumni association is your entree into a world of support and resources. Over the past six months we have seen an increase in inquiries about registration for our online directory. We have had more alumni as well as students access the Alumni Career Advisory Network. Our career offices remain committed to serving you no matter which century you graduated in.

As you read this issue of Suffolk Alumni Magazine, your alumni association will have welcomed over 2,400 members of the class of 2009 into YOUR network. Our advice to them and our reminder to you is to stay connected. This is your alumni association, your network. Whether you received your diploma last year or 50 years ago, we hope your connection to Suffolk will be a life long one.

We look forward to seeing many of you over the summer at our annual events. As we gear up in the fall to welcome our students back, we hope you will join us for an alumni program or networking night.

Of course, you are only a click away from networking by using the alumni on-line community. Just visit the alumni association website.

During these challenging times, as always, we hope you will rely on your alumni association. Now more than ever, we hope we can rely on you. Your gift to your alma mater no matter what the size helps every student every day. When you receive a call or mailing from our annual fund, we hope you'll show your support.

Sincerest thanks and warmest regards,

ELLEN S. SOLOMITA
esolomit@suffolk.edu, suffolk.edu/alumni

Get a leg up in a down economy

ASHBURTON PLACE CAREER SEMINARS HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR CAREER IN THE CURRENT RECESSION

Friday, June 26, 2009  ■ 9:00AM
Suffolk University  ■  Rm. 427/429  ■  Sawyer Building
8 Ashburton Place  ■  Boston, MA
RSVP Eliza Parrish, Director, Alumni Relations
eparrish@suffolk.edu, 617-994-4231

Ashburton Place Career Seminars, a collaboration between Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and Suffolk University, are offered free of charge to all Suffolk alumni.
Alumni News

Alumni Association Events

On the cusp of spring, the Alumni Association offered a full calendar of seasonal events, from fine dining and symphonic sounds of the South to Grapefruit League baseball, AHL hockey, and World Champion Boston Celtics basketball.

Oh, Atlanta: Graduates from the Atlanta chapter including Andrea Spears BA '88, JD '93 (l) and Penny Clarke BS '95, JD '01 at a gathering at Maggiano’s Little Italy. (January)

French Connection: Alumni from the South Shore and Cape Cod chapters shared dinner at Chez Ducrot, the acclaimed restaurant home of Provencal chef Philippe Ducrot in Plymouth, MA. Graduates in the kitchen with Chef Ducrot. (March)

Devil of a Game: Despite being edged out by the Portland Pirates 7-6, the Lowell Devils had a strong cheering section for Alumni VIP Night at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, MA. L to R Christine Mooney, Tom Duffy, Donna Duffy, and Ken Mooney BS '77, MBA '80. (February)

Women from Venus: A performance of Daughter of Venus at Boston Playwrights Theatre by Distinguished Visiting Scholar Howard Zinn included a reception and post-performance conversation with the playwright and Scholar in Residence James Carroll. John Shea BA '59, Kevin Murphy Sr. BA '60, and (inset) Walter Silva Jr. BSBA '65, Alexis Manolakis, BS '10. (January)
**Benediction**
An appreciation of Paul Benedict BA '60, an actor dedicated to “the perfection of his craft”

This spring, the Boston Theater Critics Association recognized the late Paul Benedict for his “indelible presence” in the Boston theater and on the national stage. Al Pacino, a longtime friend who shared the stage with Benedict several times, accepted a special Elliot Norton Award on behalf of Benedict, who died last December. SAM staff writer Renée Graham profiled Benedict for what would sadly turn out to be one of his last interviews.

**ENERALLY SPEAKING,** actors can make for difficult interviews. Often, they want to do what they do, whether it’s on stage or screen, without explaining their process or approach to a particular role, perhaps fearing such deconstructions may cheapen the glorious alchemy of a memorable performance. That wasn’t the case when Paul Benedict sat down with me in June 2007.

At the time, Benedict was wrapping up his run as Hirst, an alcoholic writer, in an American Repertory Theatre production of Harold Pinter’s caustic *No Man’s Land.* It was Benedict’s 10th Pinter play, and though he had performed in works by Eugene O’Neill, Edward Albee, and Terrence McNally, he was best known as the loopy British neighbor Harry Bentley on the long-running [continued on page 52]
sitcom *The Jeffersons.* When I interviewed him, it was a few hours before that evening's performance, and Benedict would normally spend that quiet time resting. Instead, he gave me 90 minutes during which he was candid, charming, and compelling.

Benedict spoke easily about his years at Suffolk, and how a film-loving, fresh-out-of-college journalism major wound up with 40 years on stage, TV, and in films. His answers and observations were always thoughtful and impassioned whether he was talking about his beloved Boston Red Sox, the shattering beauty of Billie Holiday's voice, or his various conspiracy theories about the government.

Affable and self-effacing, Benedict seemed the rare actor without ego, a man who cared far more for the perfection of his craft than the empty lure of celebrity.

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**SAM@work > Want to improve your brew I.Q.? Ask Mr. Coffey**

In coffee talk, the titles of "Q-grader" and "cupping judge" are so advanced that fewer than 50 people in the U.S. and 600 worldwide can claim both designations. The fact that one of them is SAM Spring 2008 cover boy Stephen Coffey is a point of pride for his alma mater and for his company. Like its founder, Thousand Hills Coffee was born in Boston. But the beans producing its bracing brew harken from over 6,000 miles away, and its profits help to subsidize the Rwanda Middle School Project. Despite the country's tumultuous history, Coffey sees its cup as half full. As you might expect, Mr. Coffey is passionate about the preparation of his namesake beverage.

1. **THINK FRESH.** For the best brew, look for Arabica beans roasted locally.
2. **THINK "DRINK."** Coffee is about 98% water. Whether yours comes from a tap, filter, or bottle, use water that is good enough to drink.
3. **KNOW YOUR BOILING POINT** One of the most common problems with home brewing is water temperature. Too cold and the coffee will not extract properly. Boiled too long, water will go flat. Ideal temperature is 195 to 200 degrees.
4. **GO BACK TO THE GRIND.** Use the right measurements (1 tablespoon beans = 1 tablespoon ground coffee). Grind fine enough to "dance" with your water; not too fine to penetrate the filter.
5. **BE A MIX MASTER.** The ideal ratio is two tablespoons per six-ounce cup.

*BASICS OF QUALITY HOME BREWING:*
by Stephen Coffey '97, JD'01
 Thousand Hills Coffee

*information: thousandhillscoffee.com*
Recession Relief
Across campus, a wealth of career programs address the economic downturn

SOMEONE ONCE SAID 'a crisis is too valuable an opportunity to not take advantage of,' wrote Laurence J. Stybel, Ed.D., Executive in Residence at the Management and Entrepreneurship Department of Sawyer Business School. "The value in this crisis for me has been to see how cheerfully and easily Suffolk community members want to help."

A prime example: "Managing Your Career in a Crisis Economy", Sawyer Business School’s intensive two-day session for the Suffolk community in February and March at Sargent Hall. A speaker on both dates, Stybel covered topics from conducting a job search to management of association memberships. "This is a difficult time for the extended Suffolk University community—students, parents, spouses, children, alumni, and employees of the University," said Stybel. "I don't know anyone who is not impacted or doesn't know someone who is not impacted."

Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump JD ‘88, who delivered the keynote speech on the second date, noted that "Market research, continuing education, and networking are all elements of a successful re-employment strategy. Suffolk’s programs wove together all these messages and elements to provide its audience with tools and a professional support system. It was great to be a part of the program."

Attendees were equally enthusiastic. "The series content and presentation were excellent and very appropriate for today's economic climate, particularly for those looking for employment,” wrote Mike Donn MSF '07.

For College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Board vice president Cheryl Larsen MED '77, the effects were lasting and tangible. Following the presentation, she and four other women who attended decided to form "The Women's Networking Support Group," which now meets bi-weekly. Larsen also credits one of the speakers with inspiring a personal transformation. Where she used to "take a back seat" in group participation, Stybel's speech convinced her that "you walk away with more" by assuming a leadership role.

"If you can walk away with two or three takeaways and act on those, then it was a very successful event," she said.

Ann-Marie O'Keefe BSBA '76 concluded that "The entire session gave me a few things to take away and think about as I continue my job search."

Suffolk Law School Dean Alfred C. Aman, Jr. addressed the economy in a different way. Aman asked Law School administration and faculty to focus on the employment challenges for young graduates, particularly those in classes from 2004 to 2009. The result is "Suffolk's Own Stimulus Plan," Aman's description for "a multifaceted course designed to provide support and opportunities for our recent graduates."

The Center for Advanced Legal Studies (ALS), the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service, and the Career Development Office will all play a role in the comprehensive plan. For example, as of April, alumni in graduating classes from 2004 to 2008 can attend ALS programs tuition-free, and even course materials from prior programs will be available at no charge.

The Suffolk Law School Stimulus Plan also includes programming. From June 22 to 26, graduating classes of 2004 to 2008 are invited to a free intensive session, Survival Skills for Success. In December, ALS will provide a free intensive program for 2009 graduates, Jumpstarting Your Practice.

Suffolk is committed to making its resources available to graduates who are weathering the current economic storm.

As Stybel said, "This recession will be history. But let's use the spirit that has been generated from Suffolk community members helping Suffolk community members as a springboard for more good things to come for all."
Time Is On His Side

For financial advisor Kashif A. Ahmed MSF '98, every waking hour is an opportunity to give back  

BY PAMELA REYNOLDS

MOST NIGHTS, Kashif Ahmed MSF '98 gets just four hours of rest, and that's just fine with him. "Sleep," he shrugs, "is overrated"—a fortunate sentiment given his schedule.

An elegant man with a somewhat formal demeanor, Ahmed is a financial advisor at First Investors' Boston office. He is also a teacher, a mentor, and an organizer who has focused on the needs of Suffolk's graduate international students and become something of an ambassador for the University's Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program. Ahmed has given talks in the United States and abroad to those considering the degree, and he keeps stacks of applications in his desk drawer for anyone who might be interested.

"I'm always trying to get the University's name out there," he laughs.

Ahmed serves on Suffolk's International Alumni Board, organizing networking opportunities for foreign students and alumni. He has been particularly involved in seminars for international students interested in remaining in the United States once their studies are concluded.

Born in Pakistan, Ahmed grew up in Kuwait but returned home with his parents in 1990 to escape the Iraqi occupation. He got his bachelor's degree and MBA in Pakistan and accepted a position at Citibank after graduation. One fateful day, however, he met John (Jack) Brennan, dean of the Sawyer School of Management at the time, who was visiting Pakistan. Brennan suggested Ahmed consider getting a degree at Suffolk.

"I said I wasn't interested," recalls Ahmed. "I had a fabulous job, a very prestigious position."

But his father, an engineer in Pakistan who put a high value on education and public service, saw things differently.

"He said, 'I don't want to hear anything else—you're going!'"

Although his father passed away years ago, Ahmed remembers well his exhortation to "give back." It explains why Ahmed sponsors workshops for international students, why he has taken on several Suffolk students as interns at First Investors, and even why he has become an adjunct professor at the University, donating his entire teaching income to charity.

In addition to his involvement in charities in both Pakistan and the United States, Ahmed finds time to mentor students like Aruña Chong, a graduate student in finance. Ahmed has helped with her job search and introduced her to other professionals in the field. Chong says the most important lesson she has learned from Ahmed is fortitude.

"He takes action based on what he thinks is right—not based on what other people are doing," she says.

In addition to all the time he gives to Suffolk, Ahmed recently accepted a volunteer position with the Anti-Defamation League. Why add yet another demand to an already crowded schedule?

"It's selfish not to share your knowledge," he says.
WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND, YOU ARE HELPING EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

YOUR GIFT PROVIDES CRITICAL SUPPORT THAT ALLOWS SUFFOLK TO:

- **PROVIDE** students with the curriculum, technology, and internship opportunities that will be the foundation of their growth as leaders in their field.

- **SUPPORT** an outstanding faculty that provide our students with both the theoretical and practical knowledge that distinguishes a Suffolk University education.

- **ENSURE** a vital level of financial aid and resources so that every qualified student is guaranteed the opportunity for success.

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND TODAY

HELP ENSURE THAT THOUSANDS OF EAGER STUDENTS LEARN, ACCOMPLISH, AND COMPETE
1948

After graduating and working as an illustrator for Raytheon and independently, John Dodge (Advertising Design) began to collect prints in his 50s, amassing a collection of more than 50,000. He makes electronic copies of the originals, hand-colors them, and works with interior designers to place them in hotels (notably Boston’s Seaport Hotel and the Waldorf-Astoria in New York), restaurants, and other settings.

John also has one of the largest collections of antique valentines in existence.

1949

William "Bill" Whidden (BSBA) writes, "Hello Old Timers: I enjoyed browsing through the Alumni Directory for old friends long-forgotten, and many long-departed. I enjoy the annual 50-year lunch and sitting with Joe Candura BSBA ’49, Ed Cogliano BSBA ’49, John McCarthy BSBA ’49, and Bernie Tack BSBA ’49. Still looking for my old buddy Harold Perry, who graduated (in 1951). I retired as director of finance for Itek Optical Systems, a division of Litton Industries, at age 62 in 1987. I have not done any networking for fear someone will offer me a job. Now at 84 years, I will be married 60 years in October [to] Beverly, my wife and favorite nurse. I often told her at the beginning I was marrying a nurse so she could take care of me in my old age, and she has certainly done that. I also proved membership entitlement in the Piscataqua Pioneers and have a life membership. While doing this, I volunteered in the New England Historic and Genealogical Society. I recently completed 50 years as a member of Delta Lodge AF&AM as master of the Lodge, treasurer, financial secretary, and trustee of funds. I also served as senior and junior warden at Trinity Episcopal Church in Randolph, MA, for nine years in each position. Who has time to work? The sad news is my night driving is now a no-no. When I offered to resign because I could no longer drive to the Lodge, one of the members volunteered to drive me and I now get door-to-door service."

1957

Jeun "John" Young Park (Advertising Design) sent a package containing his resume, a copy of his NESA diploma (signed by then-President Bertram Hargraves), and several examples of his work dating from his days as a freelance illustrator in Boston from 1957 on. There were renderings of cars (John was a member of AGMA, the Associated Guild of Motoring Artists of London), Interiors of Filiene’s, a portion of Tufts New England Medical Center, and some extraordinary renderings of jewelry. He now lives in Brentwood, TN, and is still making art.

1958

Paul Pulumbo (Advertising Design) recently reconnected with the school, thanks to a friend and fellow alum, Donald Young (Advertising Design 1959). Paul graduated from NESA and went right to work for a small advertising agency in Boston, then moved to Arco in Wilmington, MA, as a technical illustrator and airbrush artist. Later he returned to advertising, joining Walther Associates in Boston, and then freelanced for New England Telephone, doing advertising and illustration for 20 years. New England Telephone became NYNEX and Paul moved in-house and stayed there until his retirement. Now he’s an avid watercolorist and belongs to several art associations on the North Shore.

1962

Alan M. Chapman is presently in his first term on the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board. Alan is actively leading programming in the Central Massachusetts and Metro West Alumni Chapters by volunteering on the Programming/Chapters Committee.

Anthony T. Dileo has had a long-standing record as alumni volunteer at Suffolk through his membership on the College of Arts and Sciences Board since 2004. Tony served as the President of the Board in 2007-2008 and actively worked with the Career Services on joint projects. In previous years, Tony has also served as Vice President of the Board and as a representative of the University Alumni Council.

1966

Ralph Calderwood (Advertising Design) was awarded two prizes at the Foxboro Art Association’s Fall 2008 Members Show. His oil painting of his grandson, Jeremy, titled Moments in Time: 5th Grade Graduation, won Best in Show; he was also awarded first place in the oil painting category for Plein Air Beavertail Lighthouse, a work done on location in Jamestown, RI. The show at the Boyden Library in Foxboro, ran through October. After graduating from NESA, Ralph worked at a number of advertising agencies in the Back Bay for about 30 years. He is now a one-man art department for Rolf C. Hagen Corporation, a manufacturer of pet products in Mansfield, and has been a member of the Foxboro Art Association for the past 20 years.

1968

Barbara Frederick (Advertising Design) has moved from Peoria, AZ, to Phoenix. She is currently working for Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Arizona version of Medicare, on a transformation grant called Health Information Exchange and Electronic Health Record Utility Project. Unfortunately, the project grant funding expired in January, though there is a possibility it will be extended. Until she knows, Barbara is polishing her resume, just in case.

1970

Dennis Walczewski (BS) is newly elected to the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board. Dennis is serving in his first term. In 2008, he was honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award for Service.
Norine (Herr) Bacigalupo (BSJ). APR completed her 20th year as an adjunct professor in the Communication and Journalism department at Suffolk. Outside the classroom, she is an accredited environmental public relations practitioner specializing in the water works and water pollution control fields. The author of three books and several articles about public relations, media relations, and crisis communication, she received the 2003 Environmental Communicator/Educator of the Year Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for her series of crisis communication seminars for public works officials following 9/11 and her media relations work for the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force and other New England agencies during the area's severe drought of 2002. Norine has been a breast cancer survivor since 2002, and organizer of Suffolk's annual Breast Cancer Awareness Program.

1973
Frank Farina Esq., CPA (BSBA) is serving as visiting assistant professor of accounting at Albright College in Reading, PA, for the 2008-09 academic year. He also maintains a private law practice in Pennsylvania.

"It was interesting to see that NESA is now part of Suffolk," writes Neil MacDonald (Graphic Design). "After working in various positions through the '70s, I was able to open my own design studio from 1983 to the end of 2000. After that I got out of art and design altogether and am currently an aircraft mechanic...LOL."

Christopher Smith (BA) writes, "For the past 20 years I have been in the catering and home healthcare businesses. Catering events, receptions, and celebrations for major corporations, heads of state, and prominent Boston families has been not only challenging but rewarding as well. Additionally, I have also been in the private home care field, attending to the needs of the infirm and terminally ill who wish to remain in their homes. From October 2007-November 2008, I was a third-party candidate for President of the United States. I met and debated with seven other dedicated independent candidates in venues all over the country. Regrettably for us, the media was intoxicated with only one candidate and so we were not heard. Nevertheless, it was a terrific experience. My activities include extensive reading, research, and writing as a columnist for a website, Breaking News Journal. I exercise daily, often playing a rigorous game of squash [and] have lost over 100 lbs. in the past five years. At age 64, I look 55, but feel like 35."

1976
Tim Shanahan (BA), founder and CEO of Compass Capital Corporation, has relocated the firm to Braintree, MA, where he counsels individuals and retirement plans.

1977
Francis "Peter" Gugliotta (DIP) writes, "In December of '08 I completed the requirements for a bachelor of science degree in project management at Wentworth Institute of Technology. I am currently employed there as assistant director of the planning and construction department."

1979
Lynee Branche Brown (BS) writes, "After successfully raising four biological children, my husband and I (feeling too young for an empty nest) are now the proud parents of two more children, born in Taiwan and...living with us in Concord, CA (not far from San Francisco). Our newest child, Melinda Hui-Min, born November 2007, joined our family in September 2008. She joins big brother Alex Chien-Lu (born September 2005), who was adopted from the same baby nursery in Tainan, Taiwan, in October 2006, and bigger siblings Kerrin Leigh, Jillian Marie, Daniel Patrick, and Elizabeth Clare."

1980
Christine Lahiff (Interior Design) works in international admissions at Bentley University in Waltham, MA. Her daughter, Devin, currently at the University of Rhode Island, will be transferring to Suffolk in the fall as a junior-year film and communications major.

1981
Elif Cedrone's (General Art) paintings of interior scenes were selected for an exhibition entitled The Great American Figurative Artists, held at the Waterhouse Gallery in Santa Barbara, CA, in November and December 2008. One of the paintings, Amuse Bouche, a 28 x 24-inch oil on linen, is pictured here.

Linda Russo (BSJ) was promoted to senior vice president of marketing at Conservation Services Group (CSG), a national energy services firm located in Westborough, MA. Linda will oversee marketing operations for CSG, including corporate communications, advertising, public relations, digital communications, and market research.

Maria Szmauz (General Art) is applying for a master's program in elementary education at River College in Nashua, NH. Maria is currently the program director for SKIP (School Kids in Peterborough), which she will continue to do while back in school. "It's a fun job," Maria writes. "I get to plan what we do, and play with the kids and the art supplies until I get tired of that, then go into my office and do paperwork. Of course I end up being the last one out and taking the garbage out with me—but it's all good!"

1982
Gary Destramp (General Art) is still with the Union Leader in Manchester, NH, but is having an even better time with his freelance career. "I've been illustrating people's businesses and homes," he says. "Having lots of fun!"

James Kraus (Graphic Design) has launched a new Art Guy Studios blog, containing updates about new work and projects, including iPhone animations, logos, and other work for Fortune and Boston magazines. ("And, of course, plenty of Artguyology," he reports.) You can also find links to his radio program, including a past interview with the internationally renowned designer, Stefan Sagmeister, and can also stream his radio show, Kick Out the Jams, on WZBC 90.3 FM in Newton, MA.

Steve Pascal (Graphic Design) has joined the firm of Access TCA in Whitinsville, MA, where Dean Cerrati (Graphic Design 1990) has also been working for some years. As the director of creative strategy, he is involved in what's become known as "experiential marketing," a field that combines graphic design, interior design, and architecture. Working with ten 3D designers, the team creates large-format exhibits, while Access TCA itself does meeting and event management, mobile marketing, graphic design, promotional products, and much more. Before joining Access TCA, Steve was a principal at Re: Design and spent almost 10 years as creative director for Champagne/Lafayette Communications.

1983
Jackie Abramian (BSJ) owns a Kittery, ME-based gallery and gift shop, Haley Art Gallery, which sells original artworks such as paintings, pottery, and sculptures.

1984
George Connelly (General Art) writes short stories and has a novel under his belt. He and his wife, Terri, live in Medford, MA, with their two children, Kyra (11) and Liam (8), and he is still, after 21 years, with the City of Medford public works department as a senior engineer/aide/street opening permit officer. George and classmate Paul Cornacchini (Graphic Design 1984), both of whom attended the Build Boston alumni event, have been recruited to work on Suffolk's 25th reunion committee.
Andrew Morris (Graphic Design) is living in Newburyport, MA. Andy worked in the graphic design field until 1998, mostly for Fidelity. In 1994 he met—and in 1996 married—his wife, Janet, with whom he has twin 9-year-old daughters, Kaitlin and Liliana. While Janet teaches elementary school, Andy is a "stay-at-home-dad," though he also runs a handyman service called, appropriately, Handy Andy.

Michael E. Walsh, Esq., (BS, JD '87) has been a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board since 2003. He was Vice President of CAS Board in 2007-2008 and currently is a University Alumni Council Representative. He has volunteered on the Annual Race Committee and will be serving on the Class of '84 Reunion Committee.

1987
To celebrate Women's History Month and the 20th anniversary of the Boston Women's Heritage Trail, Michelle Lamarre Jenney (BS) conducted a tour of the Boston Public Library in March that focused on art that relates to women.

Susan Kwasnick (Interior Design) had a show of her paintings at Lincoln Studios in Waltham, MA, last May. In addition to her three years at NESAD and subsequent career as the principal of Interior Visions in Brookline, Susan has a degree from Philadelphia College of Art in illustration and painting. Susan is still doing a few interiors projects "but decided that, if ever I was going to work at being a painter, now is the time...So I have consultants but no employees now. It's a whole new phase and I love it!"

1988
Meg (King) McFarland (Graphic Design) wrote to say that she has been getting "the BEAUTIFUL alumni magazine you send out and every time I look through it, it seems surreal that I attended NESAD." Meg lives in Utah with her husband, one dog, and four cats. She oversees the Team in Training program for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Utah. With TNT she has also completed four marathons, one triathlon, and two century (100-mile) bike rides, raising over $15,000 for the fight against blood cancer.

Dante Santone (BS), D.C. serves on Board of Alumni Directors. He has served as Past President of University Alumni Council and is a current representative. He is also active in supporting and volunteering through the Biology Department.

1990
Leanne Chase (BSJ) writes, "Experts say not to make major changes after the loss of a loved one. If you know me, you would not be surprised to learn that I chose not to take that advice. Instead I left my job [and] started a blog and a business in 2008. Three years ago, I took my first 9-to-5 job. I was starting a family and was unsure how that would impact my career life, so I took a job—one I was overqualified for but would provide me the flexibility I would need. I worked out a four-day work week which allowed me to also work from home....Most recently, I used my time at home to occasionally be with my father during his chemotherapy treatments and take some of that burden off my mother's shoulders. I also liked the fact that heading to the office three days a week allowed me to cut back on my carbon footprint....In 2002, I took a contract position to produce the television coverage of the opening and closing ceremonies for the Salt Lake Winter Olympics. The last month of that 10-month gig was pretty grueling. But after it was over, I was unencumbered and able to take a year off to ski in Utah, travel the world with my husband, and work on the Sundance Film Festival....When I went looking for a 32-hour-a-week flexible job and couldn't find one through traditional job boards, I saw an opportunity. The more I talked to people about my idea, the more I believed there was a real need in the marketplace for a new website for people who want more flexibility in their work life."

1992
Steinunn Jonsdottir (Interior Design) has been spending a great deal of time and energy shepherding the Baer Art Center through its second season, which has been "extremely successful and very rewarding, with participation from great and talented artists and architects from all over the world." She also ran a marathon in May in Edinburgh, in "symbolic celebration" of her 40th birthday. Steinunn's three children, Nanna Katrin (14), Jon Bragi (11), and Baldur (2), also keep her very busy, as they're involved in the same activities and interests that American kids have, namely soccer, choir, breakdancing, and sharks.

Lori Sartre (Graphic Design) and her husband, Scott Jeffrey, welcomed their second child on Oct. 22, 2008. Named Caden Paxton Jeffrey, he joins brother Walker, now 5 years old.

James Schenck (Graphic Design) recently worked on the National Park Service's exhibition about the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the Grand Canyon. Titled Saving the Boys: The CCC at Grand Canyon 1933-1942, the exhibition, which closed in October 2008, celebrated the Depression-era program that was often credited with saving the lives of the men who took part in CCC programs across the country.

1993
Akinola Ogungbadejo (BSBA) has been appointed director of provider relations at Network Health in Medford, MA. Akinola will establish and maintain a high-quality, cost-effective provider network that supports Network Health's strategic and operational initiatives, and fosters strong provider partnerships and provider community presence to positively influence member services and access to care.

1996
David D'Arcangelo (BS) is running for city councilor at-large in his hometown of Malden, MA. David is using his many years of experience in state and local government to run an active grassroots campaign.

(Catherine) Winn Gateway (BS) is serving as Secretary of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board. During her first term on the board she has been an active volunteer on the Annual Road Race Committee.

Mark Grant (BS) and Jaime Novack (BSBA '99) are pleased to announce their engagement. They met through a mutual friend at Suffolk University and will be having a destination wedding in Scotland on Sept. 22, 2010.

1997
"I'm still at the Christian Science Publishing Society," writes Sal Giliberto (Graphic Design). "I work for the Journal and general publications. Basically, I'm in charge of manufacturing print products (mainly books) that are on sale in the Christian Science Reading Rooms and online. I cover the material that wasn't written by Mary Baker Eddy [the founder of the Christian Science movement]."

1998
Cynthia R. Davis (BA) is a member of the CAS Alumni Board since 2005 and has served as Student Liaison Committee Chair. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University, and is due to graduate in May.
1999

Yuiliya Akselrod (BSBA) is now a manager of market analytics for Holcim U.S., the Waltham, MA office of the Swiss-based cement producer.

Cressida Lerman (Fine Arts) has relocated to San Diego (as have her friends Irene Reyes [Graphic Design 2002], Stephanie Langlais [Graphic Design 2007] and Wes Green [Graphic Design 2008]. She's job-hunting in the animal shelter/hospital field, but she says that she's "also hoping I can help out various organizations with Web and graphic design." Cressida is "still making hand-bound books/journals and I'm going to start painting again as soon as I organize my art supplies."

Allan Caggiano (BA) is serving in his first term as a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board. He is Chair of the Career Services/Student Liaison Committee and the Class of 1999 Reunion Committee.

2000

Atsu (Ishikawa) Gunther (Interior Design) recently relocated to New York City, where she is working as a senior interior designer for Bogdow Partners, a firm that specializes in residential, retail, hotel, and restaurant design. The remarkable aspect of her move is that she found herself an apartment in Long Island City, coincidentally in the same building where Matt Ohnemus (Graphic Design 1995) and his wife, Phyllis, live.

Barbara (Nye) Holmes (Fine Arts) and her husband, Brennan, celebrated the arrival of their first child in 2008. Born on May 22 andchristened Olaf "Olle" Rupert, he arrived in time to move into his new home in Derry, NH. Last January, Barbara finished a two-year certificate program in digital photography and started her own business, Barbara Holmes Photography, specializing in portraits, weddings, and events.

Stephen Rowe (Graphic Design) is senior designer in creative services at First Act, a manufacturer of musical instruments. Stephen manages packaging and collateral for three brands. He is also a teacher's assistant for Somerville's evening adult woodworking classes, employing his years of experience as a furniture designer and builder.

Jason Williams (Graphic Design) is currently a design manager at Euro-Pro LLC, a leading designer, marketer, and distributor of branded small household appliances in the floor care, garment, and kitchen categories.

Brian Phillips and Maria Panaggio-Phillips met at Suffolk while getting their BSBA. The Boston-based wedding photography team were honored to win a "Best of Boston 2008" award.

2001

Angelique Donovan (Graphic Design) was married on Oct. 26, 2008 to Kevin Harvey, Angelique is now the marketing, graphics, and communications specialist for Office Environments of New England, a firm that provides furniture, audio-visual, and architectural systems for office environments.

Joel Gendron (Graphic Design 2000) forwarded a link to a YouTube video of Brian Hanlon (Graphic Design) playing with his band in Ireland.

Stephanie Rossi (Interior Design) was one of five interior designers featured in a Boston Globe Magazine article on Nov. 2, 2008, titled "The New School," profiling young designers and architects who are "quickly rising to the head of the class." The article also cites the clothing store she owns, Maggie Taylor, in Concord, MA. Stephanie sometimes uses fashion as a starting point for her interior design work, employing materials that might suggest the runway. Stephanie says the latest project she's been given is for "the type of people who I could probably show an Armani dress and say, 'I want your dining room to look like this,' and they would get it immediately."

Justin Maia (BA) writes, "My wife, Nicole (an honorary 150 Tremont Street resident), and I will be married nine years this August. She is still a full-time mom to Julie, who will be 5 in June, and Olivia, who turned 2 on March 29. She is also a breastfeeding peer-counselor for the local WIC office. Meanwhile, I am halfway through my fourth year teaching world religions and social justice at St. Joseph Central High School in Pittsfield. This year, I have also begun designing and leading 'consciousness-development' retreats for the students. I hope everyone else circa 'the Class of 2001' is having as much fun as I am!"

Lori A. Atkins, Esq. (BS, JD '04) is the current President of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board. She has served as a member of the Board for the past 3 years as the Chair of the Admissions Committee and a member of a representative to the University Alumni Council.

2002

Irene Reyes (Graphic Design) is the new office manager for Wounded Marine Career Foundation in San Diego. Pictured at right: Irene's hand carved pumpkin.

Lance A. Morganelli (BA) is currently serving in his first term as member of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board, and is a charter member of the Suffolk Young Alumni Advisory Group.

2003

Christopher Michon (Graphic Design) got engaged to Melanie Brown, his girlfriend of four years, on May 16, 2008. The couple is currently living in Essex, MA, and Chris is still with Didax, an educational resource supplier in Rowley, MA. No word yet on the wedding date.

Laurie Jackson Cormier (BA) currently serves as Development Chair for the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board, a representative of the University Alumni Council, and an ambassador to the Department of Undergraduate Admissions. In November, Laurie married Brian Cormier II in Andover and currently resides in Quincy.

2004

Fatmata Bintu Koroma (BSBA) writes, "After graduation in 2004, I worked as a substitute teaching assistant at the International School of Dakar and became permanent assistant teacher two years later. Being an elementary teaching assistant is interesting...as one has to manage the classroom in a very tight schedule and watch the young ones grow gradually. In March 2008, I got married traditionally to Saidu Samuel Turay. I finally left Senegal in June 2008 to join my husband in my home country, Sierra Leone. I was pregnant by then and I gave birth to a bouncing baby boy on the 25th of September 2008. We named him Felix Manso Turay. On the 5th of January 2009, I started work at Guaranty Trust Bank Sierra Leone as an executive trainee at the Customer Care Unit."

2005

Peter Ferreira (Graphic Design) is working on a master of science degree in Internet marketing, an online program out of Winter Park, FL. "Cross my fingers it works out as well as my experience at Suffolk did....And, yes, I'm still at Cox [Communications in West Warwick, RI]. Made it past two small layoffs, thank goodness. I'm just pushing forward and hoping for the best."

Jessie Schloss (Fine Arts), who is currently the administrative assistant in Suffolk's Office of Facilities Planning and Management, has had 10 pieces of her artwork placed in the University's new LEED Gold-accredited residence hall at 10 West Street. These color prints, most of which are 24 x 36 inches, have been placed in the lobby, on the staircase leading to the mezzanine level, on the mezzanine level itself, and in several study rooms, in order to add punch of color to the already modern architecture. The selection process was spearheaded by Vice President of Student Affairs Nancy
Stoll and Director of Residence Life Maureen Wark. Jessie's large "Neocycle" installation is also on display in the dean of students' conference room on the 12th floor of 73 Tremont Street. In addition to her artwork and her work in the facilities department, Jessie has started an MBA program in entrepreneurship at Suffolk. If that weren't enough, she has also started producing a line of catnip-filled cat toys, felt constructions in the shapes of garden vegetables, fruit, and sushi. Production will ramp up this winter.

"I have some news!" writes Allison Stendardi (BA). "In August, I moved from Boston to Southern California. I am living in Studio City and working in L.A. as a managing editor for a trade publication. Gotta say, I miss North End cannolis, but the weather out here beats Boston any day!"

Jessica Sutton (Graphic Design) has left Fresh after four years as a senior Web designer to start her own firm with a studio in Boston's South End. "With a strong focus on Web design and company branding, I have some great local and international clients and it's been super busy so far!"

Emily Burgess (Interior Design) has moved back to Boston from Washington, D.C., and is working as an interior designer at Baker Design Group near the Design Center.

Anna Dockery (Interior Design) has left Kate Maloney Interiors for a position with Visnick & Caufield in Boston.

Elizabeth Gomes (BSBA) is an analyst at State Street Corporation in Boston. She is also pursuing an MBA degree.

2006

2007

Jason Baughman (BA) has been working for the New England Health Care Employees Union, 1199/SEIU in Hartford, CT, as a union organizer. He also recently worked (via the union) on the Obama campaign in New Hampshire, as part of his work assignment.

Stephanie Langlais (Graphic Design) and James "Wes" Green (Graphic Design 2008) are living together in Pacific Beach, just north of San Diego, and both are working in the design field. Wes has left Aesthetics inc. for Studio 31B, a firm that does advertising design, direct mail, and corporate identity. "Their claim to fame is last year's ad campaign for the Oscars," Wes reports. "It is also a little more in my comfort zone than environmental design. Aesthetics was a great place to start and learn though. It helped with attention to detail and type for sure." Stephanie is a graphic designer with Mind Body Partnerships, a firm that does marketing for holistic health and massage practitioners, day spas, and hair salons throughout the San Diego area.

2008

Ben Berte (Graphic Design) has been working as a design associate in the K-12 division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in Boston—not in a law firm as reported in the Winter 2009 issue of SAM. He's also working on his own and several other websites, with an eye toward starting a master's program in Web and technology. Ben is living with fellow NESADSU alum Andrea Morin (Graphic Design 2007), who also works at Houghton.

Mitsutoshi Toda (Fine Arts), who is currently working at MassMoCA in North Adams, MA, had a visit in January from graphic design program faculty member Rita Daly, who sent along this photo. As a preparator, Mitsu assists in siting artwork for exhibition. Because MassMoCA is a venue for contemporary art, he also works directly with the artists in constructing their work on-site. Mitsu had an internship at MassMoCA while he was a NESADSU student, and his work was so impressive that he was asked to stay on after graduation as a full-time employee. Because of his professionalism, he also often works directly for these artists in preparing their work for exhibition in other venues besides the museum.

2009

Faith Hughes (MED) will be traveling in Jordan when you read these notes. She loves retirement!

1977

Cheryl Larsen (MED) is serving as the Vice President of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board and member of the Nominating Committee. As an active member of the Board since 2004, Cheryl has served as the Clerk, Member of Board of Visitors, representative to the University Alumni Council and on the Career Services Committee.

1978

Paula Scott Dehetre (MPA) is the manager of workforce services at the Virginia Community College System headquarters in Richmond. The Dehertres adopted their two children, Jake and Jeanne, from Siberia in 1999. This year they are in fourth grade.

1981

Robert Faherty (MPA) retired from the Boston Police Department in 2000 after serving as an officer for 40 years. Since retirement, he has been active in Cops for Kids with Cancer, which supports pediatric cancer wards at Massachusetts General Hospital and New England Medical Center. The organization also helps the families of children.

1982

Joe Kaplan (MPA) writes, "I want my Suffolk family to know that I am a justice of the peace and am available to officiate at weddings. I would be honored to connect with my Suffolk community by being a part of their special day."

1990

Roberta "Bobby" Morgenstern (EMBA) works for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Wellesley, MA. She and her family have become involved with Community Servings and enjoy the hands-on activities of making dinners for those with serious medical conditions. Bobby looks forward to reconnecting with classmates.

1992

Karen Cohen (MPA) serves as the Director of Operations and Administration for the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board.
1993

After being diagnosed with Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 1997, Jennifer Cook (MBA) chose to fight MS, one step at a time. With the help of her husband, David, Jen founded a "friends and family" team and became part of the National MS Society's annual six-mile fundraising event in her hometown of Plymouth, MA. Over the years, the dedicated walkers and sponsors of Jen's team have contributed more than $85,000 to support research for a cure and fund important local programs for the 14,000 people in Central New England living with this unpredictable disease. Jen participated in her 12th Walk MS team in April.

Craig Hall (MPA) was one of 40 state-government officials named a national Henry Toll Fellow by the Council of State Governments in 2008. Craig was a John Thompson Fellow in 2007. He continues to work for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is also an associate faculty member for the University of Phoenix.

Ed Weisman (MED) is the northeast sales representative with Smarthinking Online Tutoring, a Washington, D.C.-based higher education academic support company. Ed and his wife, Simona, a social worker and pastry chef, have three children and live in Northampton, MA. Ed would welcome contact from former classmates in the higher education program from 1992 and 1993.

1996

Steven Kostos has been appointed director of contracting at Network Health in Medford, MA. Steven will lead Network Health’s efforts to expand and enhance network relationships to ensure member access to care. He will also oversee provider contracting efforts with all hospitals, physicians, community health centers, behavioral health providers, and ancillary providers.

Annunziata (Nancy) Varela (MA, BA’94), a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board since 1998, is serving a second term. Nancy also holds a position as president for the Communication & Journalism Alumni Association since 1996 and volunteers on the Annual Road Race.

1997

Christopher Gonzalez (MPA) writes, "Since graduation I have worked for the State of MA, Division of Medical Assistance; Value Options Healthcare (Medicaid contract); the FL Department of Children and Families; and currently, Community Based Care of Brevard in Melbourne, Florida. My work with the Medicaid population and children in foster care has been extremely rewarding—so much so that I adopted twin boys out of the foster care system in 2000. I look forward to future opportunities to be involved with Suffolk University alumni."

Heather Hodgdon DePaola (EMBA) writes, "I continue to run Unpacking Solutions as a family business since graduating from Suffolk...my daughter, McKinley, will be 2 in March, and is keeping us very busy! My husband and I are getting more involved with leading trips for the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). We just returned from a weekend in Franconia, NH, and are planning to co-lead a nine-day trip to the Canadian Rockies (Banff and Lake Louise) this July/August geared toward families who want to get their children out and about in the great outdoors."

1999

Robert Scott Heaslet (MSP) and his wife, Daniela, welcomed their son Logan Dimitri Heaslet on March 6 in Skopje, Macedonia, where Robert is program director for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

"I work for Outward Insights, a strategic consulting firm, in Burlington, MA," writes Karen Rothwell (MBA), "I live in MetroWest with my husband and 5-year-old daughter. I teach Zumba (Latin dance fitness) on the side." Karen also spent time gearing up to run the Boston Marathon in April.

2000

In December 2008, Ruth Hegarty (BA '98, MS) began proceedings to adopt her first child. In January, she became the host of The Art of Joyful Living radio show on BlogTalk Radio. In February, she became the official "spokescoach" (as opposed to "spokesperson") of the Effortless Success for Women Entrepreneurs community.

2001

Jesus Lopez (MSF) was promoted to manager of financial analysis at the Boston Options Exchange.

David Brouch (EMBA), his wife, Gretchen, and their daughters Madelyn (8), Isabel (6), and Allison (3) have relocated from Hershey, PA, to Chicago, where David works in national account sales for the foodservice division of the Hershey Company. He is responsible for the company’s quick-service restaurant dessert business.

2002

Marcia Diamond (MPA) had an eventful 2008. She received a management promotion and the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center's Voice for Change award for her work at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She also received the Unsung Heroine award from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women for her volunteer work as board president of the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing. Her most exciting role these days is practicing and performing circus arts with her daughter.

2003

Susan Marino (MPA) and her husband, Paul, welcomed a baby girl, Molly Joy, on Sept. 29, 2008. Molly joins her big sister, Mia, who is 3. Susan is now back to work at Spectrum Youth and Family Services in Burlington, VT.

Jennifer Flint Fisher (MS) writes, "I am currently working for the State of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services at the Julian F. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center in Black Mountain. I provide substance-abuse treatment for adults in the westernmost counties of North Carolina. The population I work with are co-occurring, both chemically dependent and with a psychiatric diagnosis. I also married E. Thomas Fisher III on June 23, 2007, in Asheville, NC, where we reside with our cat and St. Bernard puppy."

2004

Jason Jacobson (MED) lives and works in the twin cities of Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN. He is the assistant director in the Center for Academic Services at Hamline University. His office serves as a resource for undergraduate students and faculty across the university. Professionally, he is interested in issues related to academic probation, retention, and curriculum development. Personally, he is interested in his pups, gay rights issues, landlord/tenant rights issues, and perhaps one day finding a warmer place to live!

George C. Kokoros (BA ’85, EMBA) writes, "I believe that my great education has prepared me for this challenge. As I have tried to weather this tough economic storm, I realized that many small-business owners face a larger struggle. My goal is to provide high-quality and affordable services to the small-business community. I hope to use the resources of past alumni and friends, and current Sawyer School students, and faculty to assist me in this journey. I’m proud to be part of Suffolk University’s long history of success."

Sara Wingerath (MPA) writes, "I am living in Rockland County, NY, working as the director of mentoring for Tuesday’s Children, a for-profit family service organization supporting the families directly affected by the tragedy of 9/11. Also this year, colleagues and I created an organization to help keep animals out of shelters called Companion Animal Advocates."

2005

Don Aviv (MSCJ) writes, "In addition to my day job as the COO of Interfor Inc., I have recently begun teaching homeland security courses at the University of Maryland University College (UMUC)."

Sheri (Rogers) Fitzgerald (MBA) writes, "Since graduation, I got married and had twin girls (Kayla Faith and Alexander Hope). They were born on Oct. 24, 2008. I currently work as a product director at DePuy Spine, a Johnson & Johnson company, where I manage a product used for vertebral
body augmentation. In 2007, I also started a handbag company where I design and sell handmade handbags. The company name is MisFitz Creations LLC.”

Paulette Renault-Caragianes (MPA) was recently appointed the City of Somerville’s Health Department director. She previously held positions at UMass Medical School’s Commonwealth Medicine division, Lowell Community Health Center, and the City of Lowell.

Matthew Grondin (MSPS) was elected to the College of Arts and Sciences Board last year. Matt has been an active volunteer during his first term. He serves on the Career Services/Student Liaison. He also participates on the Government Alumni Advisory Committee.

2006
Karen Dzendoleto (MA), who relocated to the Amherst, MA, area after graduation, started her own company, kdzdesigns LLC, and is doing consulting work in interior design. She is currently “working with a client on an Arts and Crafts residential renovation project. The house was built in 1915 and the client asked me to find and work with a builder and their architect on the complete interior renovation. The builder, architect, and I worked together on the interior structural changes; we are working with a kitchen designer on creating a new kitchen as well, and have pulled in other professionals to work with, including a lighting designer, Nancy Goldstein, one of the NESAD instructors...it’s a great project and I very much enjoy the project management work in addition to the design work.”

Wes Lyman (MA) has moved to New York and is working in the in-house design department of a nonprofit called FEGS Health & Human Services System, the largest and most diversified private...health-related and human-service organization in the United States.” As a senior graphic designer, Wes works “on a whole range of projects, from multipage document layouts to annual reports to branding annual events. I also work on the new website in color-correcting images that will be displayed. New projects come up every day so I am constantly multitasking all day, it really makes the day fly by. Working in New York City is a dream come true.”

“Suffolk gave me a masters and a husband,” reports Maria Ortiz Perez (MPA). “I got married in October to someone that I met at the Global MBA graduation party in December 2006! I now work for the Pioneer Institute in Greater Boston, where I manage an initiative that promotes transparency and efficiency in municipal governments in Massachusetts.”

2008
Victor Carlevalle (EMBA) was accepted into Walden University’s PhD program, which will begin in the fall. Nicole Dagle (MA) married Gregory Morse, a senior computer consultant, on Sept. 20, 2008, at the Webster Barn in Hyde Park, VT. They are currently living in their newly purchased home in Metlife. Several NESADSU students and alumni, including Rania Makkas (MA, Interior Design), Sarah Hewins (MA ’06, Interior Design) and Mai Nguyen (MA, Interior Design), attended the ceremony. Nicole, Sarah, and Mai are all interior designers at Bergmeyer in Boston. Rania is at CBT.

Laura Druan (MA) and Brooke Richard (MA) have joined forces as Orange Street Design Studio, located in Brookline, MA.

Sarah Shorey (MA) writes, “I am currently director of sales and marketing at The Nielsen Eye Center, a full-service opthalmic practice and surgical center in Quincy, MA. We specialize in LASIK and other refractive surgery, as well as routine care and treatment for diseases of the eye. My job consists of business development, community relations, public relations, and the coordination of all advertising and media. I also manage the marketing team. I am getting married in September to Marc Adams. We currently reside in the Wollaston section of Quincy. We have a fish named Henry.”

Courtney Stern (MA) and Emma Nishimoto (Interior Design) have both taken positions with Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott (SBRA), joining Sue Ellen (Swinnen) Donahoe (Interior Design 1998), who has been there for some years. SBRA specializes in healthcare and educational facilities.

1971
Ralph Stone (JD) entered Suffolk Law School after six and a half years as an officer in the U.S. Army. After graduation, he joined the San Francisco regional office of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), retiring from the FTC as a senior trial attorney in 1997. “My wife, Judi, and I have thoroughly enjoyed retirement,” Ralph reports. “We have traveled the world. Our most recent trips were to Venezuela, India, the British Isles, and Mexico. We both volunteer. I volunteer at San Francisco’s Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic, assisting battered women obtain restraining orders against their batterers. I also help with consumer problems on ABC-TV7’s consumer hotline and online with Consumer Action, and volunteer at the many film festivals in the Bay Area. Seems there is a film festival just about every month here in the Bay Area. That way, my wife and I get to see lots of films. My wife is a California-licensed clinical social worker. She volunteers at the Homeless Advocacy Project, assisting with housing issues. Life is good.”

1976
Marshall Gallop (JD) has been serving as general counsel for Nash Health Care Systems since 2005 and has an active private practice as a mediator and arbitrator. He and his wife, Martha, became grandparents of Jaxon Davis Gallop (born to son Charlie and wife Jayme) on July 28, 2007, and became grandparents of Sarah Marshall Gallop (born to son Ben and wife Elizabeth) on Aug. 7, 2008.

1978
Ellen Mayoue (JD) resides on St. Simons Island in Georgia. She recently married and is now known as Ellen Baker.

1979
Karen Alterman Salver (JD) writes, “I live in Weston, Broward County, Florida, where I practice law with my husband, Paul Salver, CPA. We have three daughters. One is an attorney, one is an artist, and one is still in college. I am active in the community in many different organizations, most recently having been a poll watcher through the Democrat Lawyers Council, making sure every vote counted in the November elections.”

1983
Lisa Levy (JD) enjoyed reuniting with fellow classmates Ellen Crane (JD) and Karen Greenberg (JD). Last May, Lisa is an attorney with Greater Hartford Legal Aid Inc., where she practices employment law, representing low-income individuals with legal matters involving disability, sex and race discrimination, the Family and Medical Leave Act, licensed occupation issues, and wrongful termination.

1986
Anthony Lepore (JD) is preparing for the departure of both his children to college. His daughter Franklin is completing her freshman year at Suffolk, and son Zachary graduated from high school in May. September will mark his 25th wedding anniversary to Mara. He abbreviated his post-wedding celebrations to attend President (then Dean) Sargent’s class the day after the wedding. He and Mara are planning a trip to Italy to mark the occasion.

1987
Pamela Lindmark (JD) has two wonderful teens, Elizabeth (16) and Brendan (13).

1988
Corey Smith (JD) married Jan Gibson (JD) on April 9, 1994. Corey writes, “We have two children, Ian (13) and Shaylyn (10). I have been with Justice the last 18 years holding the following positions: assistant chief, Tax Division; terrorism financing advisory counsel; staff attorney. I have also taught criminal tax litigation at George Washington University for the last three years. I am a member of the Washington Bar Association and the District of Columbia Bar Association. I have been a long-time volunteer at the Neighborhood Legal Services Association.”

1996
Corey Smith (JD) married Jan Gibson (JD) on April 9, 1994. Corey writes, “We have two children, Ian (13) and Shaylyn (10). I have been with Justice the last 18 years holding the following positions: assistant chief, Tax Division; terrorism financing advisory counsel; staff attorney. I have also taught criminal tax litigation at George Washington University for the last three years. Ian retired from the practice of law in 1996 and now volunteers at church and school, and plays competitive tennis. My older son, age 24 (prior to Jan) is a sergeant in
the army. [He] has served two tours in Afghanistan in Special Forces, has been married for six years, and has two children, ages 5 and 1."

1989
Patrice “Legg” Gay (JD) writes that her husband, Rocky, whom she met while serving in the JAG Corps, recently retired from the army after 26 years. “I left active duty to raise and homeschool children and have been busy ever since,” Patrice reports. “Our youngest is 2 years old so it will be a while before I jump back into law, but I’m admitted to practice in Texas and will find some child/women’s advocacy work to be involved in soon.”

1991
Double Out and Back, the debut novel by Lisa Lipkind Leibow (JD), will be released this year. Her first short story appears in the Pisgah Review. Lisa lives in northern Virginia with her husband, three children, dog, and a pair of red-eared slider turtles.

1995
“You all would laugh,” writes Heather Allison Stiers-Dorn (JD), “I am taking my fourth state bar exam. We moved to Boulder, CO, about a year-and-a-half ago and are loving it. The reason we moved was that my husband’s magazine, Backpacker, was sold [by] Rodale Press to Active Interest Media, who wanted us here in CO—so much for me passing the bars in MA, CT, and PA. My two ‘tweenagers’ have adjusted well to the move and are having fun quizzing me on contracts, real property, and criminal law. (Joc, memories of you asking about [a] monkey committing burglary are coming back to me!) My kids are total CSI and Law and Order fans. What a hoot.”

1998
Kristin Dell Knopf (JD) gave birth to her second child, Hunter William Knopf, on Nov. 3, 2008.

Victoria Crawshaw Scanlon (JD) writes, “In January 2008, James J. Scanlon and I married and we moved to Scranton, PA. I am an attorney in the Scranton office of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, where I continue to focus my practice on the defense of medical malpractice and products liability matters.”

2000
Denise Morgan (JD) writes, “I graduated from SUNY Brockport in 1981 with a BS in English Literature. In 1996, I attained my lifelong dream of going to law school and entered Suffolk University. I attended evenings while continuing to work for a bank full-time as a compliance officer. I also had a 4-year-old son at the time. In 2001, I was admitted to the bar in New York. I started a private practice when I moved back to upstate New York. In 2004, I was hired by the Oneida County Department of Social Services (my dream job), where I continue to work as an attorney.”

2001
Alanna “Caffrey” Rosenberg (JD) and husband, Jasper, are delighted to announce the birth of their second child, Miles Caffrey Rosenberg, on Sept. 2, 2008. He joins sister Molly, age 3.

Meredith Freed’s (JD) son, Ryan Hayes Freed, was born April 20, 2008. She has been an associate of Thomas A. Mullen PC in Wakefield, MA, for three years.

2004
In May, Lise Hansen (JD) was hired as the assistant director of estate administration for Tufts University. In this role, Lise works in the gift planning office and oversees all gifts and distributions that come to Tufts through trusts and estates. She also assists with other “complicated gifts” that come to the university. Lise lives in Salem, MA, with her fiancé and their two labradoodle puppies.

2005
Kathleen Kearney RN, MSN (JD) lives in Dallas, TX.

2006
Leonardo Angiulo (JD) left the Worcester County DA’s office for a position with the general practice firm of Glickman, Sugarman, Kneeland & Gribouiski in Worcester, MA. He focuses on criminal defense and civil litigation.

2007
Sonya Roncevich (JD) and James Murphy (JD ’04) were married on Aug. 29, 2008. The couple met while completing the final year of their undergraduate degrees. Sonya and James were married at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, and the ceremony was followed by a reception at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Sonya and James honeymooned in the South Pacific, on the islands of Moorea and Bora Bora. Sonya is a staff attorney for a national distribution and supply chain, where her focus is contracts and compliance. James is an associate at a Downtown Boston law firm, where his focus is estate planning, trusts, and taxation. They currently reside in Boston.

2008
Juliana Pape (JD) moved to Washington, D.C., after passing the New York Bar.

Garrett Scheck (JD) writes, “I passed the NY and MA Bar exams and, after a rough Fall (which, nonetheless, included a two-week trip to the Hungarian countryside with my wife, Lisa), found work as the publication attorney at the Massachusetts Bar Association. I still visit the Law School fairly regularly, and use the Law Library extensively. I thank all my professors, especially Marc A. Rodwin, and give respect to all of the reference librarians, who are uniformly excellent. Hope my classmates are doing well, and always look forward to running into them.”

Share Your News

Class notes are a great way to let your fellow alumni know what is happening in your post-college life, from career changes to family news. And now, with Suffolk Alumni Magazine’s expanded class notes section, connecting (or reconnecting) with your classmates is simpler than ever.

SAM prefers class notes in your own words.
Here’s a SAMple:
“Hi, SAM: My name is John Doe (BSBA in Finance, 2002), and I’ve been very busy since graduation. I’m now working at Smith & Brown Financial Services in Providence, RI, where I have relocated with my family. My wife Sarah and I recently adopted our first child, Scarlet Rose, a beautiful toddler from South Africa. We just returned from a family vacation in Disneyland. The West coast was nice, but we’d never leave our New England roots!”

SAM class notes can run from a line to a paragraph. Longer submissions may be edited for space and content. We welcome photographs. Electronic submissions should be high resolution (300 dpi minimum).

Via Web:
www.suffolk.edu/alumni

Via E-mail:
classnotes@suffolk.edu

Via Post:
Attn: Class Notes
Suffolk Alumni Magazine
8 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Congratulations to Garrett Scheck JD ’08 whose name was chosen in a random drawing from the scores of alumni who submitted their class notes for the Spring/Summer 2009 issue of SAM. Garrett will receive a gift card from Amazon.

To enter the drawing for the Fall 2009 issue of SAM, submit your news via web or e-mail. From class notes submitted electronically by July 13, 2009, one name will be selected randomly. The winner will receive an Amazon gift card.
School of Hard Knocks

They are not going to talk to us. Look at how many cars are in the driveway.

This is my first reaction as my photographer and I arrive at a home just outside of Worcester, Massachusetts. Our assignment is to interview a family that has just lost their 22-year-old son the night before in a snowboarding accident in Denver. We were able to obtain the family’s home address, but their phone number was unlisted. I know that the last people they want to see at a time like this are members of the media.

“Go do a door knock,” says our executive producer, industry lingo for those unsolicited home visits following some moment of crisis. You probably see reporters shoving microphones at confused family members and other survivors and think “ambush.” As a viewer, so did I. As a journalist, it is among the most angst-filled responsibilities of my work. Yet as a reporter, it’s my job to get the most information possible, no matter how difficult it may be. In my work for FOX 25 News in Boston, I’ve had plenty of curse words thrown in my direction from families who are appalled that we would show up on their doorstep after losing a loved one, and understandably so.

As I walk by the line of cars that runs from the driveway to the street, I can see the light from the front window illuminating the people inside. Most are clutching tissues, some blotting tears. I wonder if ringing the doorbell will be less intrusive than knocking on the door and decide it doesn’t make a difference. A man in jeans and a sweater answers the door. We stand eye to eye.

“Can I help you?” he asks in a cracked voice.

“My name is Adam Pellerin. I’m a reporter with FOX 25. I’m so sorry for your loss.”

That’s when the feeling in the pit of my stomach arrives. I feel terribly for the victim’s father, and the family and friends whom I can hear in the background. Despite his pain, he lets me finish my introduction.

“I was hoping you would like to share a few memories of your son with us, to help keep his memory alive.”

To my surprise, he invites me in and introduces me to his family and friends. Inside, there are about 20 people, including the victim’s teenage brothers and twentysomething best friend, who witnessed the accident. He tells me that he tried to save his friend, who lost control and veered off the slope into a tree well.

“I got out of my skis, ran to him, and started digging and pulling,” he recalls, looking down at his sneakers as if he is trying to erase the image from his mind. “That was all I could do,” he explains. “I can’t believe he’s gone.”

The victim’s two brothers cry and tell me how he was everything to them. I listen, nodding my head, occasionally glancing down at a notepad with scribbled words, using it to gather myself before asking each question.

Not all families allow me into their lives at a time of tragedy. Some view the media as intrusive. I certainly respect their feelings and their limits. Yet I now realize that some people want to share their stories. For them, the chance to recall the tragedy is a way to help process it, and the opportunity to tell the world about their loved one is another way of memorializing them.

The snowboarder’s parents give us a few pictures and thank us for coming. Since then, whenever a door is slammed in my face, I try to remember that others will be opened.

Upon graduation, four-year Suffolk baseball starter Adam Pellerin BS ’02 went to work as a news writer at FOX 25 in Boston. Today, he is a general assignment reporter there.
Suffolk's reach stretches farther than you can see from the top of Beacon Hill on a clear afternoon. Our community extends back in time and all over the world, from alumni who graduated a half century ago to students from halfway around the globe.

What binds this remarkable family together? A commitment to access and excellence. A passion for service. A legacy of hard work and giving back that has fostered generation after generation of success in law, business, and the arts and sciences. Suffolk graduates take hold of opportunity with both hands and don’t let go—unless it is to offer a helping hand to someone else.

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