spreading the word

Jeff Carter speaks out for the 1 in 7 Americans who can't read this magazine
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Must Read

"The ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive."

- MALCOLM X

As an elementary school student, self-described "voracious" reader Jeff Carter JD '94 devoured Call of the Wild, Tom Sawyer, and Sherlock Holmes stories "all on my own, not for school." By the time he was 13, Carter finished a book that he says would influence his life, NBA legend Bill Russell's memoir Second Wind. "While I knew what racism was...I had never had a black person explain to me straight out what it felt like on such a personal level until I read that book," he recalls. "I'll still never know what it feels like, but I remember his anger, and how he dealt with it. The best books make you see the world differently and there is no question that Russell's book did that for me at that age."

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

- FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Wiping out illiteracy in the age of Kindles, smartphones, and netbooks may seem as antiquated as eradicating small pox. Yet according to the most recent National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL), 14 percent of adults in the U.S. are considered to be at a "below basic prose literacy level." In our nation's capitol, where Carter serves as executive director of D.C. Literacy Education and Resource Network (D.C. LEARNs), a coalition of community-based literacy programs in Washington, that number is 19 percent. On average, D.C. LEARNs considers this population as "likely to lack the literacy skills that most Americans would view as necessary in order to function effectively in our society."

Nor are the trends encouraging. "My guess is that the problem is growing," says Sheida E. White, PhD, project manager of the NAAL study. White bases her hunch on changing demographics and the fact that "the number of individuals we consider to be English as a Second Language learners has increased significantly in the last 10 years."

We ignore the issue at our own peril. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, "The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure." Over 70 percent of inmates in U.S. prisons "cannot read above a fourth grade level." The U.S. Department of Education found that 43 percent of adults with the lowest level of literacy skills live in poverty compared with 4 percent at the highest. We can't afford not to address illiteracy. Yet as Carter tells SAM from his place in the trenches ("Spreading the Word," page 34), "There aren't enough people talking about this, considering the gravity of the situation."

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!"

- DR. SEUSS

There should be a stigma to illiteracy, not for those who are afflicted by it but for an affluent society that allows the problem to persist on a large scale. Yet here we are, arguably no closer to a solution than we were twenty years ago when Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland told Manley, "You didn't fail, sir. The system failed you."

Those who are committed to replacing the current system with a more effective one would do well to talk with Carter. Though he is candid in acknowledging that "There is no way around the fact that more funding will be required in order to make significant progress on this issue," he adds that "it's also a question of spending the money wisely."

In Carter's view, a more effective system would develop programs that take into account the job and family responsibilities that often limit participation, and provide adult learners with a major role "in shaping and monitoring program operation and governance."

"In short," he says, the state and federal governments would aim to build a system in which every adult "who is willing to commit themselves to the time and effort required to learn is able to locate and enroll in a high-quality program that addresses their educational needs appropriately."

Sounds like a plan. ©
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We all have our stories, some of which you’ve read in these pages. Yet as different as our backgrounds and careers may be, there is one story that inspires us all. It began when Gleason Archer, determined to change a system of higher education that excluded all but a privileged few, turned his Roxbury apartment into what would become Suffolk Law School and, ultimately, Suffolk University. Over a century later, 62,000 graduates like ourselves in law, business, and the arts and sciences, use our education to open doors for others every day.

Please join us in honoring an astonishing legacy and building an extraordinary future by supporting the Campaign for Suffolk University.

To learn more about The Power to Change: The Campaign for Suffolk University, visit www.suffolk.edu/giving.
Or call Christopher S. Mosher, JD ’76, Vice President of Advancement at 617-573-8443.
SEEKING HIS COUNCIL
Michael Ross JD ’07

In my recent capacity as president of the Newbury Street League, and before as a member of the board of directors, I have had many occasions over the years to meet with Mike Ross to discuss many issues of consequence to our members. He has always approached every meeting with an open mind, willing and, indeed, eager to solve any problem, balancing the interests of all constituencies. Many times, he has outlined innovative, creative proposals independently. He is able (probably due to his legal training) to gather all parties around the table and mediate in a congenial manner until everyone is either completely satisfied or is, at least, willing to “go along.” Once decisions are made, he can be counted upon to vigorously pursue conclusions.

In addition, I have always appreciated Mike’s capacity for understanding business—particularly the unique considerations of the small businesses who comprise the majority of the membership of the Newbury Street League. Countless hours have been saved for us by not having to take the time to “educate.”

We are so happy and pleased for Mike as he has risen to the post of president of the (Boston) City Council. In my opinion, serving the citizens of Boston to the very best of his ability has always been Job One for Mike, and he never allows any “ego” to interfere with getting that job done. He makes himself available and is willing and does work long hours.

In sum, on behalf of myself, personally, and the Newbury Street League, we find our city councilor to be the best.

Joyce Hampers
President & CEO
Joymark, Inc. dba Emerge Spa & Salon
G2O Spa & Salon

City Council President Michael Ross has been a great champion for the youth and families of Mission Hill. Councilor Ross has worked with our youth leaders to help implement some major changes in Boston, including strengthening our city ordinance to prevent youth access to tobacco, addressing issues of youth violence in Mission Hill, and supporting our efforts to make Boston and Mission Hill a cleaner community. We look forward to working with Councilor Ross to make positive changes for youth and families of Mission Hill and Boston’s communities.

Dinanyili Paulino-Rodríguez
Associate Director
Sociedad Latina

As a longtime Back Bay community activist, as well as the executive director of the Boston Groundwater Trust for nearly five years, I’ve worked with Mike Ross since he first ran for the city council. Over that time, he has consistently had a very strong commitment to constituent service and has always had a strong staff and given them the ability to work through issues.

Mike has grown substantially in his understanding of issues and has shown a steady desire to learn more. He is far more likely to look for a compromise that will satisfy multiple parties than to dig in on one side of an issue unless it is one which he feels strongly [about]. I think he is clearly a far more effective public official than he was when first elected.

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director, Boston Groundwater Trust

Eighty-three percent of consumers have tasted a cranberry product and 51 percent have purchased a cranberry product in the past 12 months. In addition, there are well over 400 products on the Dutch market that contain cranberries and this number increases every month, a clear indicator of the strong interest in cranberries. We hope to have a chance to show Toby this interest in the near future.

The article states that the Cranberry Marketing Committee (CMC) was established as part of the USDA. However, CMC was established by the industry as a trade organization of growers/handlers. It receives funding for international marketing programs from the Market Access Program, administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service, which is part of the USDA. This program has been instrumental in developing export markets for the U.S. growers and handlers.

Paul Molleman
Cranberry Marketing Committee, the Netherlands

We would like to compliment the article titled “The Cran-bassador” featured in the last issue of Suffolk Alumni Magazine. We read the article with great interest and pride as we are the communications agency appointed by the Cranberry Marketing Committee (CMC), under the direction of Toby Stapleton, that promotes cranberries in Australia. Having worked with the CMC for over three years, we are really looking forward to working more closely with Toby to continue to increase the popularity of cranberries around the world. Toby is definitely the right man for the job given his experience and business acumen, and we will watch with eager anticipation to see where in the world cranberries end up.

Louisa Galligani
Sr. Consultant, Hill & Knowlton-Australia Team

I read your cover article about Toby Stapleton in the Spring/Summer 2009 issue of the Suffolk Alumni Magazine with great interest. As the director of cooperative development for Ocean Spray, I am also a board member of the Cranberry Marketing Committee (CMC) and enjoy working with Toby. His drive and attention benefit the entire cranberry industry.

As your article stated, one of the CMC’s primary roles is to promote the sale and use of cranberries and cranberry products around the world. Their efforts, conducted with a modest budget cobbled from assessments on cranberry crops in the U.S.,
are helping introduce the flavor and benefits of this tiny berry to countries like Japan, Germany, Mexico, parts of Europe, and the Middle East. However, to credit the CMC alone with the resurgence of the cranberry industry is misleading. CMC's efforts would fall on deaf ears without the brands, growers, and processors behind them to spearhead product innovation, supply the ingredients, manufacture the products, advertise, sample, and market to the masses, and make cranberry products available around the world. Your own callouts on page 36 and 37 both highlight my point. CRAN-APPLE™, CRAN-GRAPE®, CRAN-MANGO®, and CRAN-RASPBERRY® are all trademarks of the Ocean Spray brand.

Amn Hiranandani
Director, Cooperative Development
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.

I got to know Toby Stapleton as he was working in New Bedford in the seafood sector. He was very well-respected in the community.

I’m in charge of the Cranberry Marketing Committee [in France]. This year I had the opportunity to see him again as he came to France to lead a press conference and trade meetings. As always, he was listening very carefully to what was said. He didn’t comment on anything but took notes. I’m confident he will be a brilliant asset to the Cranberry Marketing Committee and am looking forward to working with him.

Nelly Masson
In charge of trade for Cranberry Marketing Committee in France

As much as things have changed with traffic reporting, some still remain the same. One accident or breakdown can cause unbelievable tie-ups in many of the surrounding roads. We do have a unique roadway system in Boston.

Congratulations to Cindy for a job well done!

Georgia E. Pappas,
Governor-NE Section
The Ninety-Nines, Inc. International Organization of Women Pilots

Cindy Campbell’s interview brings to light the plight of brain injury survivors and the challenges that they and their families face. Each survivor’s story is unique and every family copes in a different way. It is important that we hear these stories so that all of us can better understand and empathize.

Brain injury is a major public health issue. Brain injury occurs eight times more often than breast cancer and 20 times that of HIV/AIDS.

Education and prevention are essential for reducing the incidence of this tragedy.

Cindy champions the important mission of support, education, advocacy, and prevention at the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts. Only with increased awareness and understanding can we appreciate the impact and consequences of brain injury. Articles such as this one are an important stepping stone.

Shahriar Khaksari, PhD
Professor of Finance, Sawyer School of Business
President, Board of Directors,
Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts

Write to Us

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E-mail letters to:
sam@suffolk.edu

HEAD OF LEGAL
Kathy Jo Cook JD ’95
Kathy Jo Cook’s 2008-2009 tenure as president of the Women’s Bar Association (WBA) was quite remarkable and extremely beneficial to women lawyers across the state. She initiated outreach to WBA members throughout Massachusetts, helping to advance opportunities for women lawyers outside of Boston. Under Ms. Cook’s leadership, the WBA set aside seats on the board of directors for members from central Massachusetts, the Fall River-New Bedford area, and Middlesex County, to ensure statewide representation and diversity. The WBA also began conducting some of its board meetings outside of Boston to accommodate more of its members. Women lawyers in the Commonwealth are certainly better off because Kathy Jo Cook left beauty school management behind for a legal career. Since then, she has been dedicated to advancing women within the legal field and working to achieve gender equality.

Michelle Peirce
President, Women’s Bar Association
GI BILL REDUX
Yellow Ribbon program ties vets to tuition-free education

MORE THAN 60 YEARS AGO, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill of Rights granting, among other things, educational benefits for returning World War II veterans. With its commitment to providing an affordable education to all who are eligible, Suffolk University has long been devoted to helping men and women who have served their country (see page 44).

Now the University is continuing that commitment through the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program.

A provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the Yellow Ribbon Program allows colleges and universities, through an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, to finance tuition expenses for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 50 percent of the nation’s higher education institutions will participate in the program, which went into effect August 1.

Between the University’s contribution—up to $20,000 a year—and the matching federal aid, qualifying veterans who enroll in the College of Arts & Sciences, the Sawyer Business School, or the Law School will essentially receive a “tuition-free education at Suffolk University,” says Michael Barretti EMBA ’82, Suffolk’s director of the Institute for Executive Education, who is helping to implement the University’s participation in the Yellow Ribbon program.

“The folks at Suffolk understand the contributions veterans make to this country and ultimately to our ability as a University to educate people freely, and I think this is a way of recognizing that contribution,” he says. “This is a benefit these veterans have earned.”

“Suffolk University has always welcomed our returning veterans, and we see the GI Bill as a well-deserved recognition for the service they have given our country,” says University President David J. Sargent JD ’54. “The University is pleased to supplement basic GI Bill benefits to expand educational opportunities for men and women returning from duty.”

Barretti stressed that veterans will be held to the same enrollment standards as other potential students, that the program is not a “free pass” to admission, and that participants are subject to meeting certain GI Bill requirements for eligibility.

“It was important for us to be part of this program because we needed to indicate that we support our veterans, we support their educational aspirations, which is our principle role as educators, and we wanted to demonstrate our commitment to them in a tangible way,” Barretti adds. And that commitment, Barretti says, does not restrict the number of post-9/11 veterans who can participate. “The school can limit the number of veterans who are eligible for its Yellow Ribbon contribution; in our case, we said there is no limit,” he explains. “Some schools, for example, limited it to four or five participants, others to 10. We didn’t want to do that.”

Suffolk’s participation is a source of personal pride for Barretti, a Vietnam veteran who spent 22 years on active and reserve duty as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. “I used the GI Bill when I went through Suffolk, and it really helped me with the cost of the education,” says Barretti, who is the academic director of the Executive MBA program he completed at the University. His son, who is a Navy physician on active duty, served a tour in Iraq with the Marines. “I’m very pleased that we’re doing the same thing for this younger generation of veterans and allowing them to have the same advantage as my peers and I have had.”

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OFF CAMPUS

Turning a New Page

Law School students' book drive benefits jailhouse library

SUFFOLK LAW STUDENTS are making their presence felt in the Boston community. Third-year students, participants in the Law School’s Clinical Defenders Program, launched a book drive to restock the shelves at Boston’s Nashua Street Jail. During their orientation visit, students noticed the jail’s library was in dire need of new books. Dennis Toomey JD ’09 and Adam Sansolo JD ’09 started collecting books from Suffolk students and faculty members as well as local attorneys. Nashua Street Jail Librarian Marianne Kimball was so grateful that she sent Toomey and Sansolo a heartfelt letter of thanks. “We have nominated you for superhero status,” Kimball wrote, “for replenishing our very depleted library shelves.”

PERFECT PARTNER: Gail Sergenian, an associate accounting professor, has received the Educational Institution Partner Award from the Boston metropolitan professional chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, in recognition of her work as a faculty advisor. Suffolk was the first university in the Boston area to become an Educational Institution Partner.
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For 30 years, Gerald Peary, a Suffolk professor of communications and journalism, has been one of Boston’s preeminent film critics. Now Peary has made a movie in addition to reviewing them. For much of this year, his documentary, For the Love of Movies: The Story of American Film Criticism, has been a fixture at film festivals around the world. A self-described “movie crazy” since childhood, Peary, a Boston Phoenix film critic, talked to SAM about his favorite films, the vapidity of Hollywood movies, and why he believes newspaper film critics are “under siege.”

SAM: What was your motivation for making For the Love of Movies: The Story of American Film Criticism?

Gerald Peary: I always felt, as most journalists feel, that we're not read enough or appreciated enough. I thought that if they actually heard a film critic speak, saw their images, and put them together with bylines, it would actually encourage the reading of film criticism. That's still the object, but I had no idea the bottom would fall out of journalism. There was no crisis of newspapers when we started. So the movie has changed—it's more of a kind of desperate movie today.

The first thing in the film is a title card that says, “Film criticism is a profession under siege. According to Variety, 24 film critics have lost their jobs in the last several years.” That was already a while ago, so by now there might be 40 or 50 critics who have lost their jobs. Throughout the movie, I have a lot of critics identified by their publications, and where they started off as "critic for so-and-so," we had to go back and say "ex-critic."

SAM: A few months ago, Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen was called the “worst-reviewed movie ever to make $400 million” by the Associated Press, underlining the gulf between critics and audiences. In light of this, are film critics still relevant?

Peary: They're absolutely not relevant for mainstream Hollywood. There's no doubt that every week of this summer there's been a huge hit movie with unbelievably bad reviews. I don't know why people even bother to review those movies. There's no dent made at all. Where film critics are desperately needed is for independent films, foreign language films, and documentaries. The audiences for those films are the readers and thinkers about movies who decide on movies, not because there's a blast of television advertising, but because the movie sounds contextually interesting. The film critic is a bridge for those kinds of people. So yes, we need film critics.

SAM: But has the Internet affected film criticism specifically, and movies in general? These days, there seem to be so many scripts and unfinished films leaked on the Web.

Peary: There's a whole world of people who seem to like all that stuff like finding out what a movie is about ahead of time. There's a whole scoop mentality, to me, for extremely trivial things which I just can't get into. Or, the scoop becomes the fastest review on Earth, which is basically "Twittering" while you are in the movie. On the other hand, the good thing is there are many good, young critics on the Net who probably couldn't get jobs at newspapers because there are hardly any jobs anymore. They've found a place where they can write comfortably.

Peary: In my film, I have what is nostalgically a golden age of film criticism, the 1960s and 1970s: the chapter is called "When Film Criticism Mattered." Critics like Pauline Kael [of The New Yorker] and Andrew Sarris [of The Village Voice] were read religiously. The worst thing about the Net is with so many critics out there, no critic seems to have any influence on the most important thing which is, to me, putting behinds in the seats. When that little film comes along, it's really hard to get people to notice one review above the others, and respect and take seriously a particular critic. It's like the more critics there are, the less critics seem to matter in terms of affecting audiences.
SAM: How did you get your start as a film critic?
Peary: When I got to the University of Wisconsin, I was supposed to write my PhD in film, but I was lazy and distracted, so I came up with a way to hang out in Madison: I wrote film reviews for the school's newspaper and eventually became arts editor for the Daily Cardinal.

All my life I've gone to movies. At the age of 15, I began to read movie criticism avidly, so the vocabulary of criticism is something that was ingrained in me. The key movie as a child, which is still my favorite movie, was John Ford's The Searchers. I saw that when I was 11 years old—four days in a row. I was completely obsessed with the story, and years later I went back to it, and I've seen it like 25 times.

When I turned 16, I went with the guys in my neighborhood to see The Guns of Navarone [a 1961 Gregory Peck war yarn]. They loved it, and I was completely bored. We went to see [Michelangelo] Antonioni's L'avventura the next week, and they all walked out in the middle, and I loved all three hours of it. So I knew I was a different breed.

SAM: Given that you loved L'avventura and were bored by The Guns of Navarone, some might contend that the problem with film critics is that they're out of step with films which appeal to the masses. Is there some truth there?
Peary: In my case, there probably is. My beat at the Phoenix has been writing about art movies because I can't stand Hollywood right now. I think it's bad for you, bad for your insides, bad for your psyche.

SAM: What would you like those who see your movie to take away from it?
Peary: I would like people to respect the craft of film criticism, and to know that it's a profession of worth. The title of the film is For the Love of Movies, though many people think film critics are just unhappy curmudgeons, and that being a critic means to criticize. We begin with a passion for cinema, and if we're hard on movies, it's because we love movies so much. It's our love object, and sometimes we get angry if it doesn't come up to what we demand of movies.

POP CULTURE

Shared Smarts

IDIOT'S GUIDE OFFERS CRASH COURSE IN PHILANTHROPY

Aesop, the great Greek fabulist, once wrote, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Elizabeth Ziemba JD '80 agrees, and has written a book designed to help those dedicated to helping others. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Giving Back is her effort to help the average person navigate the sometimes confusing world of philanthropy.

"It seems like this whole world of donating and volunteering has gotten so complicated," says Ziemba, president of Shared Inc., a Brookline, Massachusetts-based nonprofit committed to improving global health for the world's neediest people. "There's just been a proliferation for opportunities to give back. Corporations or for-profit entities have been offering programs for their employees to be involved in or for consumers to buy products attached to some greater good," she adds. "There's the Internet, the access to information, greater transparency, easier communication—those areas have created this enormous boom in the nonprofit sector."

Ziemba's own interest in giving was sparked when she took a sabbatical from practicing law to enroll in a 12-week course in management methods and international health. The class, she says, was a revelation. "It was such an eye-opener for me, and I consider myself a savvy, well-traveled person," Ziemba says. "But I learned so much about international health issues that I not only continued on to get my master's degree [in public health], but what I was learning really made me angry. There are so many people who are sick and dying for the want of cheap, effective, readily available medicines that are just not getting to them. It motivated me to see what we could do about this."

Ziemba also recognizes that where there are charities, there are also scams, and she devotes a chapter to avoiding schemes designed for greed rather than generosity. "For every person who's doing something good, it seems there's someone out there willing to take people's money for their own nefarious, criminal purposes," Ziemba says. "It never ceases to amaze me how creative people are in the ways they try to scam people. People need to understand there are some very basic red flags to look for and some basic questions to ask. If people can't or won't answer questions for you, it's probably an organization you may want to think twice about supporting."
A 1996 SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW article coauthored by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor became a point of contention during her sometimes-heated Senate confirmation hearings. Senator John Cornyn questioned Sotomayor about the article "Returning Majesty to the Law and Politics: A Modern Approach," which states that the law "is uncertain and responds to changing circumstances." Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, told Sotomayor that her statement "appears to be an endorsement of the idea that judges should change the law," but the judge maintained, "They can't change law. We're not lawmakers." She added that judges' views on a law's interpretation can be subject to various factors, such as previously undiscovered facts. The article, coauthored by Nicole A. Gordon, then executive director of the New York City Campaign Finance Board, was adapted from a 1996 Suffolk Law lecture.

NESAD Notable

Connie Fong MAID '09 won first place in the graduate student category of the 2009 International Interior Design Association of New England for her thesis project, "A New Generation Genealogy Library." Fong, who received a $1,000 scholarship prize, was among seven New England School of Art & Design students nominated for this year's awards. She is now a design assistant at Leslie Fine Interiors in Boston. Fong received her master of arts in interior design last May.
IRAMfflEigs 1^  

APPRECIATION

Life Trustee's Big Imprint

James Linnehan JD '56, LLD '99 had a hand in the community at Suffolk and beyond

When Massachusetts Congressman Joe Moakley JD '56, DPA '77 needed sage advice, he often turned to James Linnehan. Friends since their years at Suffolk Law School, Mr. Linnehan and Moakley remained close, and there were few people whose opinions the congressman held in higher esteem. "Jim was Congressman Moakley's closest friend and very much his trusted confidante," said Sean T. Ryan JD '99, who worked for Moakley in the early 1990s. "Jim was the guy Congressman Moakley, and many other political leaders, turned to when they needed advice, guidance, and counsel. He was very much a player in Massachusetts politics for many, many years."

Mr. Linnehan, a life trustee of Suffolk University, died July 20 at his summer home in Seabrook, New Hampshire. He was the first Suffolk alumnus elected to the University's board of trustees in 1976, serving as the board's chairman from 1987 to 1996.

"Jim Linnehan was a cherished member of the Suffolk family," said University President David J. Sargent JD '54. "He was a talented lawyer, an influential and generous member of his community, and a wonderful family man. We worked closely together during his long tenure on the University's board of trustees, and I appreciated his dedication and wealth of ideas."

A native of Lowell, Massachusetts, Mr. Linnehan practiced both law and accounting there, championed the city's virtues whenever possible, and made it his home for most of his 88 years. A World War II veteran, Linnehan received his accounting certificate from Bentley College in 1941. When he returned from his service he earned his bachelor's in business administration from Northeastern University before enrolling at Suffolk Law School.

Mr. Linnehan later served as an assistant attorney general for Massachusetts and maintained a private practice with law offices in Boston and Lowell. He was also vice president of the Boston-based John Joseph Moakley Charitable Foundation, established in memory of the congressman, who died in 2001. The foundation offers educational scholarships and grants to individuals interested in pursuing careers in public service.

"He was instrumental in the formation of the foundation. Particularly at its inception, he lent the foundation enormous credibility and expertise in forming it as a new nonprofit," said Ryan, now a Moakley Foundation board member. "Jim also valued—as evidenced by his history with Suffolk—education above all else, and was deeply committed to do what he could to provide access to education for deserving students."

Jim Linnehan was a cherished member of the Suffolk family. We worked closely together during his long tenure on the University's Board of Trustees, and I appreciated his dedication and wealth of ideas.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
DAVID J. SARGENT JD '54

Ryan recalled Mr. Linnehan's grace and ease in various environments, whether he was attending a White House ceremony or a Red Sox game. "He certainly maintained his presence on the streets of Lowell, but he also traveled in very heady political circles," he says. "He was a key advisor to [former Massachusetts Senate President] Maurice Donahue, and when he ran for governor, Jim was his campaign treasurer."

Mr. Linnehan was also active in his community. He was a member of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce, St. John's Hospital Men's Guild, Lowell Plan Inc., which helps community leaders devise methods and strategies to foster economic development, and the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission. During his tenure on the commission, Mr. Linnehan "kept pushing us forward on every front," said Peter J. Aucella JD '85, Lowell National Historical Park's assistant superintendent for development, who worked on the commission with Mr. Linnehan for nine years.

"His imprint is on all of the work that the commission accomplished."

He is survived by two daughters, Karen L. Crowe of Newport Coast, California, and Susan G. Maloney of Hampton, New Hampshire; four sons, John J. Linnehan, James F. Linnehan Jr. JD '85, Thomas C. Linnehan JD '84 (all of Lowell) and Timothy M. Linnehan JD '86 of Merrimac, Massachusetts; 12 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. His wife of 47 years, Katherine Chadwick Linnehan, died in 1994.

"The University is a better place for his years of loyalty and friendship," said President Sargent, "but I miss him both personally and professionally."

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Whether conversing as a Latina or as a survivor, Magnolia Contreras EMBA '07 knows of what she speaks

BY RENÉE GRAHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS CHURCHILL
"Cómo estás?"

In this nondescript room,
on the second Tuesday morning of each month,
this is how the support group meeting begins.
The question ("How are you?")
is more than a casual inquiry.
Once strangers, these women of varying ages and backgrounds are now
sisters in hardship, linked by a devastating commonality:
CANCER.

Cancer support groups are not uncommon, but
what makes this gathering at the renowned
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston unique
is that it is conducted entirely in Spanish for
Latinas with the disease. And its co-facilitator,
Magnolia Contreras EMBA '07, brings not only
a wealth of knowledge as a public health advo­
cate, but her personal story as well. In 2002,
she was diagnosed with breast cancer (see
"Putting a Face on Cancer," page 20).
"I know the path of what it is to be a can­
cer patient and to be a cancer survivor," says
Contreras, who underwent a lumpectomy and
eight months of chemotherapy and radiation.
She has been in remission for six years.
"We see all cancers in the group, but I can
connect to any one of the women who are going
through, or have gone through, a regimen," she
says. "But there are differences. These women
are not only dealing with cancer, but family is­
issues, socioeconomic issues, severe financial is­
issues, loneliness, and isolation. Dealing with the
healthcare system with a disease like cancer is
not easy, and it's even more difficult if you don't
speak English."

> ONE IN A HUNDRED
Few seem better suited to lead a group for
Latina cancer survivors than Contreras, Dana­
Farber's director of community benefits. Beyond
her status as a bilingual cancer survivor, she
has worked in public health for more than two
decades and has been a longtime advocate for
adequate healthcare services for the poor, immi­
gs, and underserved populations.

Despite her expertise, a few years ago
Contreras decided to attend Sawyer Business
School's Executive MBA program to broaden
her knowledge of these issues as well as their
possible solutions. "I wanted to better un­
derstand the intersection around public and
private partnership. In order for there to be
success in relieving social ills, I am convinced
it has to be a mutual response [between the
public and private sectors]," she says.
"I was comfortable with my knowledge and
experience of the public side, but I knew little
about the private side, the way to think about it,
and to formulate ideas and solutions for some
of these issues," Contreras adds. "What I got out
of business school was a strong sense of know­
ing how to think about and analyze things in a
way that sharpened a lot of the public health
knowledge and background I had."
Last year, El Planeta, Massachusetts's larg­
est Hispanic newspaper, named Contreras, 41,
as one of the 100 people who most influenced
the state's Hispanic community, a list that in­
AIDS Action Committee, East Boston Health

They would always find a way to help their

Workers. (She has a master's in social work

from Simmons College.) But her longest-stand­
ing affiliation has been with Lynn Community

Health Center (LCHC), where she developed

a pediatric AIDS program and remains on the

board of directors.

“She's been a key person at the health center,

and her value to us as a community leader is in­
credible,” says LCHC's Executive Director Lori

Berry. “She's a unique person who has her foot

firmly in the Latino community in Lynn, and

firmly in the professional world of healthcare.

That makes her an incredible resource to us.”

“Like so many people associated with the

health center, she has a very clear vision about

its importance to the Latino community, as well

as other parts of the community that are under­
served,” Berry adds.

It is a community Contreras knows well. She

has lived in Lynn since she was 8 years old,

when her family relocated from the Dominican

Republic. For more than 30 years, her father

has worked in the city's General Electric air­
craft engine plant, and during her childhood,

her mother stayed home to care for Contreras

and her two younger siblings.

While she was certainly cognizant of the

social ills plaguing some of her fellow resi­
dents when she was growing up, Contreras

maintains that her interest in her community is

embedded “in my DNA more than anything

else.”

“I grew up hearing stories about my grand­
mother and grandfather, and how they used to

help out their community,” in the Dominican

Republic, she says. “They didn't have very

much, but they would still find a way to help

poorer families, or families that had a lot of

children and didn't have enough money to eat.

They would always find a way to help their

neighbors. My grandmother had that neigh­
borhood home for those that needed to be fed

or a place to stay. She was like the neighbor­
hood mother.”

Contreras enrolled as a psychology major at

Boston College but continued to live in Lynn,

where she found a job at the city's commu­
nity health center, running a pilot program for

managed care. It didn't take her long to realize

it was more than just a job; she had found her

calling.

“I fell in love with the patients who used

that health center,” she says. “I fell in love with

the concept of community health center care,

which is the safety net for providing healthcare
to people that couldn't afford it and wouldn't

be able to access it for a variety of reasons...At

18 or 19, to wake up every morning and know

that you're going to work in a place where, if it

weren't there, people wouldn't have healthcare,

that moves me now even as I tell the story. I

belonged there.”

She graduated from Boston College in 1990

with three years of professional experience at

the community health center and landed a job

at the East Boston Health Center. Contreras

worked with the emerging Latino commu­
nity and ran the center's obstetrical Latina

women's enrollment clinic. Two years later,

she was wooed back to Lynn Community

Health Center to run its new pediatric AIDS

Clinic.

While working at LCHC, Contreras met

Kevin Norton EMBA '01, who was a counselor

for the Center for Addictive Behaviors (CAB),

a residential recovery program in Lynn. The

two coordinated to bring HIV testing into the

residential program. "Maggie has always been

this incredible professional who consistently

demonstrates a level of empathy for whatever

population she's serving," says Norton, now

president and CEO for CAB Heath & Recovery

Services. “Years later, when I took over as di­
rector for the organization where I started as

counselor, I was always trying to figure out a

way to hire Maggie. It wasn't about a specific

role, but just the fact that this woman adds

value to anything she touches.”

On the advice of a colleague at the AIDS

Action Committee, Contreras was convinced

that business school would add value to her

professional life and experience. She chose

Suffolk because the school's flexible program

allowed her to continue to work, and she ad­
mired the University's diversity.

“I wanted to be much more mainstream.

All my career I worked with women, gay men,

and in the gay community,” she says. “I was the

Grace of Will & Grace. That was my world, that

was my community, and it became my identi­
fication. It was a closed circle. I needed to put

myself in a different situation and Suffolk al­
lowed for that, and it was fantastic. I was with

the best group of people; everyone came from

such diverse life experiences.”

> OLD HAT

Given her own life experiences, Contreras

seems like the natural choice to lead the group

for Latinas with cancer, but originally she

wasn't sure she even wanted to be directly in­
volved with it. “Before the group began, I was

struggling with wondering, ‘Am I a peer? Am I

a clinician? Do I come out of the closet and tell

them I’ve been there?'” she said. “I didn't know

how to manage that fact.”

Initially, she believed her value was in find­ing

the right person to facilitate the group. She had

been out of clinical work for years and didn't

want to do counseling again. Then one day she

said to herself, “You know you’re the one who

has to do this.”

“We needed someone who was bilingual,
bicultural, and clinically trained, but I wasn't

sure I wanted to put my social worker hat back

on,” she says. “But this was a way to provide a

desperately needed service.”

While attending a conference on Latinas and
cancer, Contreras consulted with Carmen Ortiz,

founder and executive director of Circulo de
Vida, a San Francisco-based support group for

Latinas battling the disease. Her organization

grew out of the Cancer Support Community's

Latino Outreach Project, the Bay Area's first

Spanish-language program providing psycho­
logical support, cancer information, and advoc­
cacy services to Latinas diagnosed with cancer.

Ortiz, who is also a breast cancer survivor,
said such groups are necessary because Latinas

face cultural issues that can complicate their

diagnosis. "Sometimes older, less acculturated
Putting a Face on Cancer

Cancer doesn’t hurt.

That’s what Magnolia Contreras EMBA ’07 told herself in 2002 when, after a week of taking Tylenol for arm pain, she discovered a small lump in her breast. Still, cancer was the last thing on her mind. “I went to a colleague [at the AIDS Action Committee, where Contreras was public policy director] and said, ‘Hey, what is it they say about if you feel something in your breast? If it’s cancer, it doesn’t hurt, right?’” Contreras recalls.

Her colleague advised her to see a doctor who, in turn, recommended she consult a specialist. Following a day of tests, Contreras made her first tandem skydive in Northampton, Massachusetts. When she watched the video of her jump, she saw something that didn’t seem quite right. “I remember looking at the video and not seeing myself,” Contreras says. “I don’t know if I was petrified because of the jump, or if there was something else going on, but in this video, it wasn’t me. That face was not my face.”

A few days later, her doctor asked Contreras to come to his office “right away.” Contreras, sensing it was bad news, demanded that her doctor share the information over the phone. He told her, “You have breast cancer.”

Accompanied by her sister, Contreras admits she was so disbelieving of the diagnosis, a “midsized tumor with lymph node involvement,” that she was “belligerent” and “awful” toward her doctor. Beyond that, there’s little Contreras remembers about the conversation. “Some survivors can tell you all the details and all the drama. I chose not to remember,” she says. “I was focused on what I needed to do. I just needed to get in and get out.” Contreras had a lumpectomy on a Friday, and the following Monday she returned to work.

Surgery was one thing, but “the cancer piece,” Contreras says, didn’t hit her until she discussed chemotherapy with an oncologist who told her she was going to lose her hair. “She said, ‘You’re old enough to know Kojak, right?’” Contreras recalls the doctor saying, a reference to the 1970s TV crime drama police lieutenant character played by the famously bald actor Telly Savalas. “‘That’s what you’re going to look like.’”

At that point, her plight hit home. “I made the mistake of going to that appointment by myself, and I had a breakdown right outside the hospital, sitting on the ground crying, because I now recognized that I had breast cancer,” Contreras says. “I sat there in the middle of the sidewalk, bawling my eyes out and talking to my parents [on the phone], because I had to have chemotherapy. That’s when it really hit me.”

Contreras received chemo treatments every three weeks for six months. She began to lose her hair less than two weeks after her first session; she went to a hairdresser to shave it off. A friend of a friend taught her to wear scarves after an attempt to find a wig wound up as “the most hilarious thing,” she says. “I looked like one of the Supremes. All of my friends were like, ‘No, girl, you can’t go out looking like that.’”

And ultimately, that was fine with Contreras. “I wanted to feel centered,” she says. “To me—and this was entirely a personal decision—a wig would have made me feel like I was showing something else publicly, and then when I got home, I would take it off and see who I really was. That didn’t work for me. For me, it seemed like a disconnect.”

Contreras experienced some nausea, also a side effect of chemotherapy. Toward the end of her treatment, Contreras suffered some fainting spells, including once on the train while heading to work. And she got a severe fever, which kept her out of work for about four days. After chemotherapy, she received daily radiation for eight weeks.

She has been “cancer-free” since 2003 and sees her oncologist every four months. And though Contreras is grateful, she understands that her life has been forever altered. “Being a cancer survivor for me means, unfortunately, on a daily basis I recognize that my life is shortened,” she says. “At any moment, we can all die. But I live with the reality that at any doctor visit, I could hear the fact that the cancer has come back.”
Latinas feel that asking questions of the doctor is being disrespectful, so we try to stress the importance of asking questions and understanding everything that is going on," she says. "Another issue is a lot of doctors use family members as translators, which they shouldn't necessarily do," Ortiz adds. "Sometimes the relative who is translating doesn't understand the medical terminology, and it's difficult for them to translate. Other times they censor the information to lessen the impact to their loved one, so in that respect [the patient] is not receiving all the information they need. They want to protect them from bad news."

That wasn't the issue for Luzmin Fernandez when her mother was first diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia five years ago. Still, she worried that her mother would be facing more than a potentially deadly bone marrow cancer when she came to Boston for treatment, including a stem-cell transplant, at Dana-Farber. Throughout the process, Fernandez spoke with a social worker in hopes of finding a Spanish-speaking support group for her mother.

Soon she heard about the Latinas with cancer group. "Those meetings meant a lot to my mother because, for that hour and a half, she could relate to other people, and it meant a lot that she could do it in her own language," says Fernandez, whose mother attended four meetings before returning to Puerto Rico. "That was very, very important to her."

Fernandez accompanied her mother for her first meeting, but quickly decided she would no longer attend the sessions. "I think my presence there inhibited everybody else from really opening up and sharing their thoughts," she says. "It's a place where you can say what you feel about the illness, but it's also a place where you can express your fears, and if you feel a certain way, you can say it. I felt by being there, maybe my mom would be inhibited in saying something about her situation."

Although Contreras and her colleague Rachel Allende facilitate the gatherings, Contreras says it's the members themselves who run the meetings. They talk about their treatments, their medical problems, and how their diagnosis has impacted their families. Some meetings can become very emotional, but Contreras says there is also a surprising amount of laughter.

"Our job is to make sure each member has an opportunity to share, and that we seize on learning opportunities such as how to manage certain medical issues," she says. "We don't have an agenda; it really rises from the group, and it evolves from there. We don't even need to be in the room for them to do their work."

"When the group started, there was a woman who used to cry every time it was her turn to do her check-in—just absolute sadness every time," Contreras says. "Seven months later, she's become one of the people serving as a support person for the newcomers."

All of the women know that Contreras is a cancer survivor, and that fact makes her participation "very, very important," according to Fernandez. "I think it makes the group more intimate," she says. "It gives the group more validity and relevance. When she says she understands, you know she isn't just giving you lip service. She knows what it's like because she's been through it."

The support group has 11 members, though Contreras is still trying to get all of them to the same meeting at the same time. Some of the women are the sole wage earners for their families and can't take time off to attend the meetings. And with their various health issues, not all the women are physically capable of making it to each gathering.

Contreras says both she and Dana Farber are committed to the support group whether one member attends—which has happened—or there are so many participants that she requires a larger room. All that matters, she says, is that these women, these sisters of hardship, make it as often as they can, to find comfort and offer solace through what, for most, is the greatest challenge of their lives. And she realizes that her own participation is beneficial to the group and to herself.

"I think it gives the women some degree of comfort to be with someone who understands on some level what they're going through and how their lives have changed," Contreras said. "And the inspiration I receive from these amazing women is immeasurable."
SAVIOR OF SOULS AND BUSINESSES
CHARLES CARNAHAN EMBA '00
RECONCILES FAITH WITH FINANCE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS CHURCHILL
BY CHRISTINE VAN DUSEN
ILLUSTRATION BY EDEL RODRIGUEZ
If cleanliness really is next to godliness, Charles Carnahan could be a saint.

On any given day you may find him strolling the vast grounds of General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, picking up bits of litter or fallen branches. Then you'll see him in the prayer garden, scanning the ground for stray leaves or a bench that needs straightening. Only when you see him behind his desk, with his ear to the phone and his eyes scrutinizing budgetary paperwork, do you realize that he is the chief administrative officer and treasurer of the 36-year-old, $35 million, 170-person organization that helps connect leaders in the Methodist church with resources, training, consulting, and networking.

Servant. Leader. The combination seems incongruous until you recognize the two distinctive sides of Carnahan. The first could be seen in the 1950s in a tiny rural town off Highway 175 outside Shreveport, Louisiana, in the boy who was always the manager when he played store, who kept stats for the Pelican High School basketball team, who worked in retail throughout college, who later yearned for Wall Street's six-figure salaries, who became a business-world Mr. Fix-It and occasional hatchet man.

The second side of Carnahan was easily seen in the intensive care unit of Dallas' Parkland Hospital in 1983, as he sat at a patient's bedside, praying with him and holding his hand. The patient began to cry. Carnahan asked why. "You're the first person to touch me without gloves on in the last 10 days," the patient said. In those days even the nurses wore masks, gowns, and gloves, because AIDS was still a mysterious and polarizing disease. But Carnahan, serving as a clinical pastor, didn't. He believed it didn't matter what disease the patient had; he would still be welcomed into the kingdom of Heaven.

A compassionate, spiritual side that goes on faith and a practical, business-minded side that believes only in numeric truth may seem incompatible. But for Carnahan, these contrasting qualities melded perfectly together, allowing him to heed the call of God while bringing his business acumen to bear. The rightness of this combination is most obvious today, as Carnahan sits in his spare office, poring over a pile of budget reports as a small statue of a smiling Jesus looks on.

Since 2008, Carnahan has fulfilled the role of overseeing human resources, strategic systems, Web strategy, and IT work. This is the culmination of a varied career that has taken Carnahan from the backwoods to Boston, to divinity school at Southern Methodist University, to the Executive MBA program at Suffolk University.

At each turn, Carnahan has moved further into ministering for his faith, or deeper into the business world, always questioning his path and struggling to strike the right balance between the two. "Now I'm doing the kind of..."
work I should be doing. And at the same time, I'm heeding the call,” he says.
The cell phone affixed to his hip rings as if on cue. “Excuse me. I have to get that…”

LOSING HIS RELIGION

The Methodist church is Carnahan’s home and workplace now, but he wasn’t raised in the faith. He grew up in a Southern Baptist household, the younger of two brothers, raised by a father who worked as a self-employed car mechanic and a mother who served as a school secretary. Doubt about religion was never discussed. But Carnahan was a questioner, a skeptic. He had always identified most with Thomas the Apostle, the disciple who needed to feel Jesus’s comforts and status his peers enjoyed.

Yet Carnahan continued to feel the familiar tug of spiritual life. In searching for a church that would embrace his analytical mind and skeptical nature, he attended a Methodist service in Ruston, Louisiana, with a friend. There he found “a place where it was okay to be a questioner” and that offered him “the freedom to work out my faith.”

He began volunteering at the church, and soon he responded to a personal calling to become a minister. In 1981, Carnahan enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Southern Methodist University near Dallas. At the start of his studies he assumed he was preparing to become the pastor of a local church, up in the pulpit every Sunday. He felt comfortable tending to small groups, and by 1986, he was spending a great deal of his time ministering to families dealing with HIV and AIDS. Their need for his help became abundantly clear looking out into a congregation one Sunday, seeing parents whose child had died from AIDS and knowing that they couldn’t grieve as openly as a couple seated next to them who had also lost a child. “I knew they all deserved the love of God,” Carnahan says.

All of this filled his heart with purpose, but his mind missed the precision of mathematics, the adrenaline rush of a problem solved. “I realized that my business proclivities could serve the church well,” he says. “So I began to find ways to live that out in the church itself.”

MR. FIX-IT

As a seller and installer of software for Burroughs in Shreveport and later Dallas, part of Carnahan’s job was to repair broken programs, troubleshoot, and make up for the overblown claims made by other salesmen. He became known as “Mr. Fix-It.” In 1988, he took his ability to repair and revamp to the world of nonprofits, joining the AIDS Interfaith Network in Texas as executive director. At the time, it was a loose organization of clergy. Within four years, it became a major enterprise honored by President George H.W. Bush.

Carnahan “came in with a corporate perspective and analyzed it like a start-up,” says Lee Taft, who worked at the network and now runs Taft Solutions in Dallas, a consultancy with a mission to avoid litigation through reconciliation. “He helped turn it into something great. He was able to couple two different disciplines in a really thoughtful way that made perfect sense.”

Carnahan stayed with the network until 1992, when he was hired to serve as executive secretary for the community-based primary health and institutional relief division of the General Board of Global Ministries for the United Methodist Church in New York City. For this job, Carnahan had the opportunity to travel around the world to observe how other nations addressed healthcare.

On his first trip to New Delhi, India, the crowds and abject poverty made Carnahan uneasy. He felt no kinship with the beggars on the street. After his first night there, he awoke very early and stood on the balcony of his hotel room. In the streets below he could see the people who the day before had seemed like intimidating vagrants. They were bathing in water from communal tanks that had been set up for the impoverished. It dawned on him that they were starting their day just as any person might: by getting clean, starting fresh. “I realized they were just as human as I was,” he says. “For all the dissimilarities, there’s so much that’s the same.”

In 1997, he left his job in New York to direct AIDS Project Worcester, a Massachusetts organization that as he learned later, “was probably six to seven months from closing its doors. I didn’t know that when I took the job. But I quickly discovered we were running out of funding.”

Carnahan took the group through organizational changes, financial restructuring, and revenue growth, and was able to expand its work and increase its budget. “What he did then was use his turnaround skills to get it going and make it stable,” Taft says.

Though he had experienced success in rescuing financially vulnerable nonprofits, Carnahan wanted to know more about the strategies used in corporate America. He had never liked standardized tests but reluctantly took the GMAT
HE ALWAYS KNEW IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT THE MONEY AND FINANCE BEING ENDS TO THEMSELVES. THEY EXIST IN ORDER THAT SOMETHING MORE WILL HAPPEN, AND THAT'S A HUGE THING.

-JIM MCPHEE, Asst. to Bishop, N.E. Conference & Director of Connectional Ministries

and considered business schools. Carnahan chose Suffolk University’s Executive MBA program for its reputation, its convenience (including Saturday classes), and perhaps most importantly, what the school had always stood for.

During a talk on campus, Carnahan heard the magic words: this was a place that offered education to people who couldn’t afford to go to the schools across the river,” he recalled hearing early on. “This seemed right for me.”

The 15-month program filled in the gaps in Carnahan’s lifelong business education. Pierre DuJardin, associate professor of management and coordinator of the Sawyer Business School Interdisciplinary Programs, says his former student was “intelligent, had a sense of humor, and was old Mr. Reliable.”

At graduation in 2000, Carnahan once again felt the pull of the secular world, one where he could earn six figures, maybe launch a dot com. That’s what his fellow students were doing, and keeping up with them seemed important. “There are times when I get caught up in the culture of purchase and keeping up with the Joneses,” he confesses.

So Carnahan accepted the position of chief operating officer for CAB Health and Recovery Services in Danvers, Massachusetts, a substance abuse agency with outpatient, inpatient, and residential sites. As a result, he was able to afford all the luxuries he’d desired. “That, as much as anything, was why I took that job,” he says. “And while it was a good experience, I didn’t have the passion for it. I kept being called back to the church.”

SEEING THE LIGHT

In 2003, Carnahan once again heeded the call as treasurer and director of administrative services for the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

“For a sort of business and money guy, Charles has a heart for the mission. That kind of combination is really quite unusual for us, and it’s a great combination,” says Jim McPhee, assistant to the bishop of the New England Conference and director of Connectional Ministries. “He always knew it wasn’t just about the money and finance being ends to themselves. They exist in order that something more will happen, and that’s a huge thing.”

When Carnahan came on board, the organization was having some financial problems. “He was very take-charge, very competent, and he had a creative streak,” McPhee says. “He’s always looking for different answers or different ways to proceed through a problem.”

Turnaround would not be an easy task. Carnahan quickly realized that in order to revive the organization, it would be necessary to downsize the program staff by 50 percent. He agonized over this dilemma, lying awake at night worrying and praying. He knew his role was to protect the financial strength of the New England Conference, but he felt morally opposed to firing people who needed their jobs and had families to support. He went back and forth, comparing the business cost to the human cost.

“I had to recognize that it’s just part of the work that needs to be done for the health of an organization, and that humans are fairly resilient. Folks tend to be able to bounce back,” he says. “We also made sure to offer generous severance and benefits, so no one was just left out in the cold.”

This difficult decision helped put the Conference on strong financial footing for the days ahead. McPhee credits Carnahan for the stability of the Conference in the current economic downturn.

Last year, Carnahan took the position at GBOD and moved to Nashville, but he periodically continues to travel back to Boston to volunteer in DuJardin’s classroom at Suffolk, as he has since he graduated. Though the two men have become friendly over the years, DuJardin only recently learned that Carnahan is a minister. “I didn’t know,” he says, pausing before adding that, in a way, “it doesn’t surprise me. He has this attitude, in everything he does, of ministering to people.”

Carnahan’s current job at GBOD melds that spiritual side with his business side. On a typical day, you’ll find him at the organization’s labyrinthine, multibuilding headquarters, striding through the halls on his way from one meeting to another. His desk is covered with scattered piles of paper that he says work fine as his filing system. (“I do know where everything is,” he asserts.) His office suite looks like the kind you’d find in any corporation, save for the Bible in the lobby, today opened randomly to Proverbs 14-15: “The simple man has faith in every word, but the man of good sense gives thought to his footsteps.”

It’s a passage that would resonate with a man like Carnahan, who understands the importance of both faith and good sense.

“I know what I can offer,” he says. “I’ve seen the light.”

©
Healthy CHOICE

From trans fat to swine flu, Nakisha Skinner BS '98, JD '03, is laying down the law as Boston’s new public health defender

By Pamela Reynolds | Photography by Kathleen Dooher
Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. But if Nakisha Skinner is right (and the Massachusetts Superior Court says she is), a tobacco wrap is about far more than just tobacco. Rolling papers known as "blunt wraps" come in enticing flavors like strawberry, blueberry, even peanut butter and chocolate chip cookie dough. They are sold alongside hip-hop CDs featuring nuanced song titles like "I Get High." They only cost about a dollar, so they don't cut too deeply into a weekly allowance. And, yes, they happen to be the perfect apparatus for rolling and smoking pot. In short, according to Skinner, general counsel for the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), a blunt wrap is not just for rolling tobacco; it is actually thinly disguised drug paraphernalia marketed specifically to inner-city kids. "Studies showed that blunt wraps were a more convenient way for youth consumers to smoke marijuana," says Skinner. "Before blunt wraps, studies showed that youth were hollowing out blunt cigars, refilling them with marijuana, and re-rolling them to smoke."

Blunt wraps eliminated all the muss and fuss, making it easier than ever for kids to smoke dope. Since last February, however, wrap sales have been banned in Boston, thanks in part to Skinner's work.

At the age of 34, Skinner has become the top dog in the BPHC's legal office, overseeing seven staff attorneys and acting as the go-to woman for all legal aspects of thorny public health matters, from the ban on tobacco sales at colleges and pharmacies to the elimination of trans fats in bakeries and restaurants to how to deal with a possible widespread outbreak of H1N1 (swine flu). As the controversy intensifies over the possibility of a new biosafety level 4 infectious disease lab at Boston University, it's Skinner who will inevitably wade through the legal thicket of figuring out how such a lab can exist—safely—in close proximity to city-dwellers.

Skinner assumed the role of general counsel for the commission just last year, after four years as a paralegal and five years as assistant general counsel at BPHC handling ambulance accident cases and labor disputes, and prosecuting violators of the state's lead paint laws. Yet after only a few months on the job, she had already won two cases.

BPHC Executive Director Barbara Ferrer, who elevated Skinner from assistant to general counsel, acknowledges that there were many qualified candidates but calls Skinner "uniquely qualified for the job."
difference, Ferrer says, is that Skinner has the ability “to understand the broad picture, but really focus on the details.”

While it’s not Skinner’s role to decide actual health policy, it is her responsibility to see how health policies the commission has decided on can be implemented legally. And should a policy be challenged in court, it’s up to Skinner to defend it, using rhetorical skills polished by a lifetime of questioning.

Paying Her Way

It’s a cool spring afternoon in her native Boston, and Skinner is in her sunny office overlooking the industrial landscape of Dorchester’s South Bay. Her workspace feels like it belongs to someone too busy to worry about houseplants and decor; the walls are bare and her surroundings are free from personal effects. Wearing a pale summer suit and business-like bob, Skinner exudes a sense of calm competence. She laughs as she tells a story that has become symbolic of her approach to the world.

“My mom had taken me to work one day,” she says. “I had followed her around work and she tells me I was asking question after question after question. She got so fed up she was at wit’s end. She was like, ‘Nakisha, please, please, please!’ And then I looked up at her and said, ‘Mommy, please, please, please, what?’” In her family, Skinner is known to be inquisitive and responsible, almost to an extreme.

As a teen, she paid $50 a week in rent to her mother, who required all of her three children to contribute to the housing expenses. She began working at age 13, first at a drugstore, then in high school at the Purity Supreme Supermarket. While most kids her age were out buying designer jeans with their parents’ credit cards, Skinner was at home monitoring her own credit card statements, to make sure she was getting the promised interest rate. It’s not just that she felt she had to do it. This was her idea of fun.

Her father, Earl King, remembers Skinner as a studious, gifted child who always had a book in her hand, and who would do her brother’s homework with ease—even though he was two years older than she was.

“When she was a kid and you told her to do something, you always had to have a good explanation,” says King. “She’d always ask why, but if you explained why, she went along with it.”

As Skinner went on to high school and college, any family member with a problem would come to her to solve it. When her aunt’s extended warranty on a car didn’t cover a particularly costly repair bill, she called on her young niece to come up with a resolution and make the calls.

By age 18, Skinner was renting her own apartment in Quincy, Massachusetts. When it was time for college, Skinner—ever the pragmatist—chose Suffolk because it was close to home. As an undergraduate, Skinner worked full time in the registrar’s office while taking night sociology classes. Within a couple of months of graduation, Skinner (then King) married her high school sweetheart, Robert Skinner, and together they bought their own home.

While at Suffolk University Law School, Skinner became a research assistant for Professor Renée Landers, who would serve not only as an important role model, but also as an augur, forecasting the turn of her own career. “She was inspirational because she was a black woman,” Skinner reflects. “She was always so busy. I remember her saying how overwhelmed she was, how difficult it was to juggle marriage, parenthood, and a professional career. That’s when I got a real look at what it’s like to juggle all those things. And I saw that it can be done, and done well.”

Landers, faculty director of the health and biomedical law concentration at the Law School, remembers Skinner as enthusiastic and willing to learn. “She was ambitious about wanting to make a meaningful contribution to society as a lawyer,” says Landers. “I am very proud that a Suffolk alumnus is in the influential position of general counsel to the Boston Public Health Commission. This commission is at the front line of doing hard thinking and hard work.”

The attention to detail and sense of self-discipline Skinner displayed growing up and later as a law student at Suffolk were influenced by her sometimes rocky family history. “I believe it had everything to do with the relationship between my mother and father, which was not a very cohesive one, to say the least,” Skinner says, choosing her words carefully. “I grew up in an abusive household. My father was physically abusive to my mom. And I would always say in the back of my mind, and I may have even voiced it a few times, that no one was going to treat me that way—ever. Whether it be a family member or whether it be a stranger or just anybody. I wanted to always remain in control of my outcome.”

The violence began as early as Skinner can remember. It continued until she was about 10 years old, when her parents finally divorced. The Boston Police Department was repeatedly summoned to the family’s home in the city’s Mattapan neighborhood to intervene in domestic disputes—an experience that is seared into Skinner’s memory.

“Oftentimes they would just send my father out of the house to sober up or to clear his head, or whatever is the term they used,” says Skinner. “It was pretty much a slap on the wrist. They never arrested him. They never recommended any other resource for my mom to get help.” (Ironically,
today the Boston Public Health Commission sponsors programs to assist victims of domestic violence.)

Skinner's mom, Linda King-Rice, now an early-childhood educator, also believes that this turbulent relationship convinced her daughter of the need to be self-sufficient and to make her own way in the world. "She has a will of steel," says King-Rice. "Once she sets her mind to something, she has tunnel vision."

Skinner believes her childhood experiences influenced her career choice "because I thought I could find my voice in the law to speak on behalf of other people who can't speak for themselves, like my mom—to serve as a mouthpiece for those who may not be as determined or strong."

Bluntly Speaking

In addition to managing a moderately large legal operation, Skinner is a wife and mother of two young children: a four-year-old daughter, Raiah, and an eight-year-old son, Robert. On a Wednesday afternoon, Skinner is with her kids at Draper Field in the West Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. It's a warm day—almost summer—and Skinner, wearing a business suit from work, has changed into casual sandals. Robert plays for the Expos, a Little League team sponsored by the Lawler Funeral Home. Appropriately, all the team shirts are black.

Skinner savors moments such as these. Her schedule doesn't permit much family time. On a typical workday, she's up and out of her Roslindale home by 6:00 a.m. to get to a spinning class. After the gym, she takes the kids to school. She won't see them again until evening.

Sitting on the sidelines in a fold-up camp chair, Skinner offers periodic encouragement to her son. "Good job, Robbie!" she shouts, between sips of an iced coffee. Her pigtailed daughter bounces at her side. "Mommy, I'm thirsty!"

Skinner's dad is also there. Skinner was estranged from her father for many years, but she reconciled with him recently when he quit drinking. Her mother, who later remarried, has also made peace with Skinner's dad.

Things have settled down a bit in Skinner's tightly scheduled life. At the moment, there is time for Little League games. That's in contrast to a few months back when the blunt wrap case—the first big case of Skinner's fledgling general counsel career—fell into her lap.

Last February, three blunt wrap manufacturers, along with the trade group RYO Cigar Association, sued the commission for prohibiting sales of rolling papers in the city of Boston. The prohibition was part of sweeping rule changes that restricted the sale of tobacco products in numerous settings around Boston.

"Imagine my sheer fright when I was promoted and we get hit with this lawsuit," says Skinner. She speaks now with some amusement, although she wasn't laughing back then.

Skinner had been at the general counsel job for four months. She was simply trying to grasp the fundamentals of her new role, like managing staff and figuring out where her office was. Out of the blue, on a Friday, the commission got word that the blunt manufacturers were suing. A hearing to provide a temporary stay against the law was to be held on the following Tuesday.

"I was in a panic," recalls Skinner. "I didn't know how to run a legal office because I had never done it before. There were constitutional law issues, it wasn't just run-of-the-mill stuff that I was used to defending on a regular basis. I had never put my constitutional law skills to work."

Luckily for Skinner, the blunt makers did not win their effort to delay the ban at the Tuesday preliminary hearing. Unluckily for Skinner, Suffolk Superior Court Judge Raymond Brassard ruled that he would fast-track the actual trial, which would be held 30 days later.

The next month for Skinner was, in her own words, "crazy." Because she had not been involved in drafting the rule that spawned the suit, she had little knowledge of the data used to support the ban.

"Bar exam was a piece of cake compared to what I went through with this case!" she says. "And I had even more weight on my shoulders because I was new at this position...I saw this as my first test and I gave it my all."

It was Skinner's second bench trial. The first had been a motor vehicle accident more than a year earlier. Skinner spent two days before the judge along with BPHC staff attorney Tim Harrington. They argued that a ban on blunt sales was warranted given the fact that most of the products end up in the hands—and mouths—of adolescents.

"We realized early on that it would never be enough to simply rebut their allegations," says Skinner. Instead, she says, she recognized that she would have to emphasize the health department's necessarily activist role in regulating matters that negatively affect public health. She introduced a number of commission staff members as witnesses who testified that blunt wraps were being targeted specifically at inner-city youth. It was not a difficult case given the wraps' fruity flavors and the marketing of a "blunt wrap CD" featuring rappers Snoop Dogg and 50 Cent.

Hearing the testimony, and agreeing that Massachusetts laws allow local public health boards to institute "reasonable" health regulations, the court sided with Skinner. The ban was ruled reasonable and not a violation of the constitutional rights of the plaintiffs.

Arguing her first big case as general counsel was scary, but exhilarating. "I love being in the courtroom," says Skinner. "One of the first thoughts [I had] when I got the job as general counsel was, I'm not going to be able to go to court anymore and try a case. Boy, was I wrong."

If Skinner's drive and determination mean anything at all, there are likely to be more than just a few victories ahead for the commission. Meanwhile, Boston youth may find it just a little bit tougher to roll a joint. ☣
JEFF CARTER JD '94 SPEAKS OUT FOR THE 1 IN 7 AMERICANS WHO CAN'T READ THIS MAGAZINE

by renée graham

photography by kathleen dooher
Crowding into the dilapidated confines of the old Dorchester District Court in Boston, the accused arrived early for their arraignments. Often facing misdemeanor drug charges, most were barely out of their teens, though too old for the juvenile courts where some had been reluctant, regular visitors.

Each week, Jeff Carter, then a third-year Suffolk Law student in the Clinical Legal Defenders Program, would make the hour-long subway ride from his Cambridge apartment to the courthouse to represent these defendants, some just a few years younger than himself.

"God willing, a lot of these people got their lives turned around," says Carter, now 45. "But I usually found that with the people I was representing, by the time they got to me, I was too late."

Carter was also struck by an even more sobering realization. "I did eventually experience an incident when a client gave me back a paper I handed to him and asked me to read it, and that's when a light bulb kind of went off in my head as to why many of those folks were asking me to read documents to them," he recalls. "The majority of the people I represented in court could not read the documents I was giving them."

Making the connection between poor education and crime, Carter decided to use his legal training to help people develop the skills to keep themselves out of trouble. Today, he is the executive director of D.C. Literacy Education and Resource Network (D.C. LEARNs), a nonprofit coalition of more than 60 community-based literacy programs in Washington, D.C.

"I thought, I'll do this for a little while, and then I'll go back to the law," says Carter, whose first job after law school was as project manager for World Education, a Boston-based organization that, among other things, works to strengthen literacy and adult basic education programs across the nation.

"But once you get into something you feel so passionate about, years go by and you forget about everything else," he adds. "Going to law school led me there, even if it was indirectly, because it gave me that experience during my third year, allowing me to understand these issues on the ground and how I would best fit into that."

In addition to a greater understanding of the issues, Carter's legal education gave him another invaluable tool.

"Whatever skills I picked up as a law student for being an advocate are critical. And thank God I have that background, because it prepares me for what is a very, very tough job."

**connecting the dots**

Founded in 1996, D.C. LEARNs serves as a professional association for those in the adult education field. The organization itself does not provide direct instruction but instead works with literacy programs serving more than 34,000 men, women, and children.

Sitting in a bright conference room near his small office on the bustling K Street corridor in Washington D.C., Carter speaks about his field with equal parts exhilaration and exasperation. Every day, he sees lives transformed by basic literacy skills that others may take for granted. Yet he feels he and other adult literacy advocates spend too much of their time battling for attention and funding, which was curtailed during the Bush administration, Carter says.

In a political climate in which issues like education are emphasized, one might expect literacy to be a priority. Yet Carter laments what he sees as an inability by elected officials—and the public—to connect the dots.

"With public health, we have to get information out to people about various issues," he explains. "If you get the information out and people can't read, what good is it? There aren't enough people talking about this, considering the gravity of the situation."

Unlike the homeless, those suffering from illiteracy are "the most invisible," Carter says, which makes public awareness and response to their dilemma much slower. "When people are homeless or hungry, we immediately see what their problem is and we address it in a rather immediate fashion. Part of the problem is this country doesn't have a lot of patience, and education is something that takes a lot of investment in both money and time," he contends. "It's not a problem we can turn around by opening up a few more shelters. It's something where we really have to invest in people."

In this equation, Carter includes President Barack Obama, whose candidacy he supported. In his budget, Obama eliminated the National Institute for Literacy, folding it into the Department of Education—a move, Carter says, he understands "on paper," since the agency's troubles date back to the Bush administration.

"When I hear people talk like that—'We can more efficiently do this work by folding it into this other gigantic agency'—what that tells me is that it's going to get buried. It's going to get lost, and it's not going to be a priority," he says. "I haven't heard the new secretary of education [Arne Duncan] talk about this issue, and the only time I heard the President talk about this [was] when he was talking about
BACK TO SCHOOL

FOR YEARS, Katherine Anderson marveled at her children’s diplomas and degrees hanging over her fireplace, but as proud as she was of their accomplishments, she knew something was missing: a diploma of her own.

“I dropped out of school when I was 17 because I got pregnant,” Anderson says. “I didn’t have a choice. My mother had to work, my father had to work, my sisters and brothers were in school, and I had nobody to take care of my baby.”

That was more than 50 years ago, but Anderson never gave up her dream of improving her literacy skills and completing high school. Last summer, at age 70, she walked across the stage of Ballou Stay High School in Washington, D.C., and received her diploma through a D.C. LEARNs affiliate program.

D.C. LEARNs Executive Director Jeff Carter called Anderson’s willingness to address her educational deficiencies “really inspiring.”

“In adult literacy, it’s particularly challenging because the constituents of these programs are often invisible. This is a problem nationally and locally. They are often in adult education because of a skills deficiency they find embarrassing and don’t want people to know about. When someone is willing to talk about it, for us it’s a big deal.”

Ever since she left high school, Anderson felt incomplete. Several times, she tried to get her diploma, but family issues—she would ultimately have four children—often delayed her goal.

“I was just going in and dropping out, going in and dropping out,” says Anderson, who eventually worked as a nursing assistant at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., where she took classes in medicine aid and patient care.

“But I never lost the will to go back to school,” she adds. “Even when I had to deal with other things in my life, I was always thinking about getting my GED.”

In the meantime, Anderson took sewing and music classes at Friendship Elementary School in Washington, D.C., where she heard about D.C. LEARNs. She called and was told by Cesar Watts, the organization’s hotline coordinator, about various options. One was the External Diploma Program, which allows adults to earn their high school diploma through their accumulated life experiences as well as demonstrated abilities in reading, writing, mathematics, and critical thinking.

“This was my time,” Anderson says of the years she spent earning her high school equivalency. “What kept me going was I wanted my diploma and I wanted to walk across that stage.”

And after three years, Anderson, who was retired but helped to raise her grandchildren, did exactly that. She was a featured speaker at D.C. LEARNs’ 12th Annual Recognition Awards dinner.

“She didn’t even win an award, but we invited her to speak. She was one of these people who was born to be a caregiver but had never really taken time out for herself,” Carter says of Anderson. “But she wanted her high school diploma, and she has been an inspiration for a lot of people.”

Recently, Anderson received her child development credential, which allows her to volunteer as a parent partner at Leckie Elementary School in Washington D.C., assisting teachers and students. Everywhere she goes, regardless of whom she meets, Anderson stresses the need for education at any age.

“You have to encourage your children and instill different things in them to help them along the way. You have to set examples for young people,” says Anderson, a grandmother of five and a great-grandmother of six. “If you want to be educated, you can always go back to school. Education is the key.”
eliminating the National Institute for Literacy. That's not exactly what we need right now."

the extra mile

Exacerbating what seems to be a lack of awareness about the issue is the absence of a public face for adult literacy and education, someone comparable to actor Michael J. Fox and his admirable work on behalf of Parkinson's disease. It's been 20 years since Dexter Manley, then a fearsome All-Pro defensive end for the Washington Redskins, admitted that despite graduating from high school and being accepted at Oklahoma State University, he hadn't learned to read until he was almost 30. Manley, who had an undiagnosed learning disability, testified at a Senate hearing about being called "stupid" and "big dummy" by his classmates in elementary school.

"If I hadn't had [football], I don't know what would have happened to me," Manley said. "People like me are either dead, in jail, or insane, because when you can't read you have no knowledge of anything. So what do you do? You're frustrated and the next thing you know you turn to drinking and drugging and stealing and robbing."

But such public testimonials are rare. We're accustomed to famous faces talking about their battles with substance abuse or mental illness. Yet those unable to read are often silenced by their shame, fearing they'll be shunned and ridiculed, Carter says.

"You hear this all the time—people who got through school or dropped out of school and are low-literate will often say, 'Well, there's something wrong with me and I just can't be taught. I'm not smart; I'm stupid.' A lot of them have undiagnosed learning disabilities or other issues, right down to going to bad schools," Carter maintains. "That's the stigma—they think they're stupid. Even those who are successful in other ways may feel that revealing this weakness might cause everything else to come crashing down."

With the city experiencing budget problems, funding for literacy programs is also an incessant issue. But D.C. LEARNs recently received a boost when City Councilor Michael A. Brown recommended a $2 million increase in local adult education funding—four times what Carter requested.

"When I described how much we'd lost over the last couple of years, Councilor Brown said, 'Let's get us back to where we were.'"

One in five adults in Washington, D.C., has "below basic" or "extremely marginal literacy skills"—what most call "functionally illiterate," Carter says. Those numbers, according to Kilin Broadman-Schroyer, Brown's legislative director, skyrocket to 50 percent in the city's most economically depressed neighborhoods. Given such harsh statistics, Washington, D.C., is fortunate to have an advocate like Carter, Broadman-Schroyer says. "His organizing ability and experience have been very helpful. And, certainly, there's his passion. This is something he cares very deeply about, and he clearly brings that to his work. Not to sound cheesy, but he sees this very much as a calling, and not just a job where he puts in 9-to-5. This is something he's willing to go the extra mile for."

a cross section of urban life

It certainly wasn't what Carter thought he would do with his life when he was growing up in Needham, Massachusetts, an affluent suburb west of Boston where academic achievement was considered the norm. His mother was a homemaker, taking care of Carter and his younger sister and brother, while his father worked for Harvard Community Health Plan (now Harvard Pilgrim).

During high school, Carter worked for a printing shop and for a time entertained thoughts of becoming a printer.

"It was the connection with reading combined with my interest in mechanical things and working with my hands, which I miss sometimes—how things worked, so to speak," he says. "I think I liked the blue collar nature of the work and the white collar nature of the product."

"If I'd grown up somewhere else, I probably wouldn't have gone to college, because I really loved printing," he adds.

Instead, he attended Providence College, majoring in general social studies. Following graduation in 1986, Carter didn't have a plan for the future but needed a job. A week after school ended, he hopped on a bus to downtown Boston, where he noticed a "Help Wanted" sign at Clarendon Wine, a Copley Square liquor store. Carter walked in, and walked out with a job.

Carter, who worked as a cashier and stock boy, loved the job—especially Saturday nights: A driver would buy a $500 bottle of cognac for a client behind a limousine's tinted windows; Carter would take a $2,000 order for an oil sheik hosting an exclusive party at a tony hotel; and then, before
the long night was done, there would be a homeless guy who had collected enough change for some Slim Jims and an 80-proof quarter-pint.

Viewing such a cross-section of urban life got Carter thinking about law school, he says. "I started romanticizing the idea of being an attorney and maybe helping some of these people I had met. I thought that would be a cool lifestyle. I was young, I didn't have a very good plan, but I thought I could find something I liked to do by working with different people and hearing their stories."

Shortly before leaving Clarendon Wine, Carter got a job doing paste-up and layout at Cahners Publishing Group in Newton, Massachusetts. There Carter met a colleague who was a tutor at Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts (LVM). Always an avid reader and eager to do something constructive with his free time, Carter became an LVM tutor.

"I don't know that I knew much about [adult literacy]," Carter says, "but I was fascinated by the fact that people could be adults and not read."

"He was very generous with his time and always willing to try something new. There was nothing I could bring to him where he would say, 'Oh, that's ridiculous.'"

Carter continued his volunteer work, even as he was applying to law school. He chose Suffolk because he wanted to stay in Boston, "knew a lot of the kids who went there were city kids," and welcomed that diversity. Law school, he says, "is good training for how to think through issues," and he especially enjoyed his class on alternative dispute resolution, which taught him about mediating, problem-solving, and helping people with differing viewpoints to find solutions. His legal background is also vital when he appears before the D.C. City Council.

"You present written testimony which is like your brief. Then you get three minutes to make your case—you're not going to get to read the whole argument," Carter says. "You have to figure out what point you want to hit, and then you have to be ready when, in the middle of what you're saying, a council member wants to talk about something else. I actually enjoy that."

For all the frustrations Carter occasionally feels in trying to promote the cause of adult literacy and education, it's a field that still surprises and compels him. It isn't always easy: lack of funding, government indifference, and public apathy make the job far more complicated than necessary.

A longtime Red Sox fan—his office is adorned with a framed poster of Fenway's Green Monster—Carter understands well the difficulties encountered in pursuit of an ultimate goal. (His Boston friends joke that the Sox didn't break their 86-year World Series drought until Carter left the city, he says.)

So, even on the most trying days, when funding is tight and public officials seem preoccupied with other issues, he finds incentive in the belief that D.C. LEARNs can help those struggling for a better life. "It's the people—people who in just some small way make a difference in helping someone support themselves and their families," he says. "When you hear about those stories, even if you only hear about them every now and then, it gives you the energy to keep going."

Even now, he still thinks of his former clients in Dorchester District Court who, if they had been guided toward the proper educational programs, might have turned their lives around.

"Having invested so much of my life in [adult literacy], I want to be there when we start to make real progress. My fear is if I bail out now, I'll miss it," Carter says with a laugh. ©

Roberta Soolman, LVM's executive director, says Carter caught on instantly as a volunteer literacy tutor. When she found out about his background in printing and publishing, he was soon working on the organization's annual student journal, and later became an advisory board member for Project Literacy, which Soolman started in Watertown, Massachusetts.
"Say kids, what time is it?" 

It was Howdy Doody time as the Social Activities Association presented children’s television icon “Buffalo Bob” Smith. Radio DJ and event MC Bud Baloo told The Suffolk Journal, “Suffolk’s got a lot of guts” for being able to sell out New England Life Hall where the event was held.
Toward the end of the summer, I took a walk with the deans through the classrooms in Donahue, Sawyer, Sargent Hall, and NESAD. It was early August, a time of anticipation as we approach the start of the fall semester after the summer break. In a few short weeks, freshmen and graduate students would arrive on campus and become engaged in our classes and programs for the first time. So, although we operate twelve months a year, 24/7, the traditional start of the school year is a time of excitement and new beginnings.

Standing in those classrooms in silence on a hot summer day—with the seats empty, no sound of chairs moving with nervous students, no conversation or questions flying back and forth from teacher to student—is a strange and humbling experience. I wondered, how many students have filled these rooms? How many future writers, lawyers, business entrepreneurs, scientists, financiers, teachers, and social workers will reach their intellectual and professional maturity within these walls? Nothing imposes a sense of responsibility on an educator more than a classroom soon to be filled with creative, thoughtful, and demanding young minds.

The contents of these classrooms and lecture halls speak to our overriding responsibility to properly educate the women and men who grace our campus in an age of rapidly changing technology and a highly competitive world economy: cameras and wireless microphones for distance learning, interactive teaching stations with touchpad controls and whiteboards that send information directly to students laptops. These are all extensions of the professors and students who need these tools to connect with and explore the world outside the classroom.

Yet, as each of you who spent your college or graduate years in these halls and classrooms knows, the essence of Suffolk remains the same: it's the extraordinary character of our teachers and students. Until the hour comes that these classrooms are occupied, they are just blank spaces—all anticipation, but soon to produce the great women and men who have made Suffolk a proud and remarkable place.

For each of you whose world opened up in these classrooms, we ask your support on behalf of those who now fill your chairs. Please help us provide them with the same opportunity you had for a better life. There are now 62,000 of you out there who, through yearly contributions to the Annual Fund, could provide a direct and immediate benefit to each student today.

Your contribution, small or large, provides lights, whiteboards, computers and other educational technology and, most importantly, financial aid and support for the almost 10,000 students of this great University. Each seeks the same things you did and for each, we feel an overarching responsibility. In these challenging times, please help, so that we can say with pride that 62,000 alumni stand behind and are committed to every student, every day.

My thanks to you all.

Very Truly Yours,

BARRY BROWN
PROVOST
**Annual Fund:** Any organized effort by a nonprofit institution or program to secure gifts on an annual basis which support yearly budgets or general operations.

**What are unrestricted dollars, and why are they important?**
"Unrestricted" funds are donations that can be used right away, and for any purpose. These funds are crucial and have a tremendous impact: $5,000 in gifts to the Annual Fund equals the income we receive annually from a gift of more than $100,000 to the endowment. Your participation truly matters.

**What are matching gifts, and will my employer match my gift?**
Many companies match the charitable contributions of their employees. To see if your company participates in a matching gift program, visit www.matchinggifts.com/suffolk. The impact of your gift to Suffolk could be doubled, even tripled, so it is definitely worth considering.

**Can I designate how I want my gift to be used?**
Annual Fund gifts made without restriction give us the flexibility to use the money where it is needed most. However, you may certainly designate your gift to the school you attended at Suffolk. The College of Arts and Sciences, Sawyer Business School, and the Law School have their own funds set up.

**I can afford a small gift. Will that really help?**
Absolutely. In fact, many foundations and grant-making institutions look at the number of alumni that give to the Annual Fund when awarding grant requests. Your gift, viewed as a vote of confidence in the institution, could help us secure many more dollars in external funding. The Annual Fund needs your participation, no matter the amount.

**What if I have more questions?**
Cailin Ahern will be glad to answer them. Contact Cailin at (617) 305-1911.

**TOP 5 REASONS TO GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND**

1. **Access** Your Annual Fund gift will help Suffolk keep tuition increases to a minimum, and will provide critically needed financial aid support to deserving students—preserving Suffolk’s mission of remaining accessible to all who are qualified to study here.

2. **Competition** (for faculty, staff, and foundation support.) Your support will position Suffolk to attract and retain top-notch faculty and staff in an increasingly competitive market. Your gift will better position Suffolk to receive significant funding from foundations which evaluate the annual fund participation rate of alumni, faculty, staff, and trustees when considering grant proposals.

3. **Prestige** Your gift will increase the value of your own degree by increasing our alumni participation rate, which directly impacts how publications like *U.S. News & World Report*, and grant-making institutions rank Suffolk.

4. **Pride** Your gift represents a vote of confidence in Suffolk University and demonstrates your appreciation for the transforming power of the Suffolk experience.

5. **Impact** This is the best part! It doesn’t take a huge donation to have a big impact. When taken together, gifts to the Suffolk Annual Fund, whether $25 or $25,000, comprise one of the University’s most significant sources of support. Because they are unrestricted, gifts to the Annual Fund can be directed to areas with the greatest need, and therefore, these gifts have the greatest potential for impact.
Transformers
The events that changed the world of Carl Hoyer JD '60
BY MICHAEL BLANDING

There were two formative experiences in Carl Hoyer's life. The first was on November 1, 1952—the date the U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb. A naval officer at the time, Hoyer was one of the few people who witnessed the explosion on a remote atoll in the Pacific. "It was like the whole world lit up," he recalls of the blast. "As I speak to you now I still get goose bumps."

The second was attending Suffolk University Law School when he returned home from war. Even while he worked full time and raised four children, he commuted three nights a week into Boston from his home in Ashland, west of the city. "If it wasn't for the evening program at Suffolk, I probably never would have gotten my degree," he says. And he directly credits his degree with giving him a leg up on a series of promotions leading to a long, successful career.

Ironically, he never would have had either of these experiences had it not been for personal tragedy. When he was a senior in high school, his father died during surgery. Hoyer had been set to go to Brown University, but was forced instead to stay in Boston, attending Boston University as a commuter and joining the reserves for extra income. The experience was symbolic of much of Hoyer's life: He has always found a way, through hard work and education, to turn personal or financial difficulties into opportunities.

Returning to Boston after the war, Hoyer began working as a claims adjuster for the insurance company Amica. When a lawyer he was talking to suggested law school, Hoyer used the GI Bill to fund his education through Suffolk Law's evening program.

After law school, however, Hoyer realized that he couldn't afford to work for the meager wages large law firms paid to new associates, so he remained at Amica for 41 years, eventually becoming a vice president in charge of claims. He hardly considers his law degree wasted, however, since the courses he took, particularly the ones on torts (injuries resulting in civil claims), taught him to delve more deeply into the automobile claims he dealt with on a day-to-day basis. "Undergraduate [school] teaches you to think, but law school teaches you to be analytical," he says.

The value of the education Hoyer received at Suffolk is not lost on him. "Suffolk gave me the opportunity to learn and I am grateful for that opportunity," he says. "Now it is my turn to give back." Hoyer returns the favor through Suffolk's Annual Fund drive, taking advantage of the matching gifts from his company, which contributes $1.50 for every dollar. More recently, he has also joined Suffolk's charitable gift annuity program, whereby a donor contributes a minimum gift of $10,000 and is paid an annuity every year for his or her lifetime. Suffolk receives the balance of the principal when the donor passes away; meanwhile, the donor receives a tax deduction, a situation Hoyer describes as a "win-win-win." For his generosity, Hoyer has been admitted into the Frost Society, a group of select Suffolk benefactors who go the extra mile to make Suffolk a greater part of their lives by honoring the University in a will, naming it as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy, or making a life income arrangement such as the annuity program.

Hoyer has come a long way from having to worry about financial difficulties; now retired from his successful career in insurance, he lives a comfortable life in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. "I have everything I need, so I say, 'Hey, why not share the wealth?,'" he says. Even so, he has not given up his tradition of hard work and sacrifice. Since leaving Amica in 1995, he has been president of his town council and volunteers for the juvenile hearing board, planning commission of the fire district, a Colonial militia group, and the Military Officers of America. He also finds time to enjoy his four children and 11 grandchildren and will soon welcome a great grandchild.

As busy as he is, it's all part of keeping up the tradition of learning that started with the Navy and Suffolk. "I really believe go, go, go, go, go, and it helps to keep your mind alert," says Hoyer, now 79 and preparing to celebrate his fiftieth reunion from the Law School in June. "My body is not what it once was, but my mind is still active."
Commencement Dinner 2009

On May 16, Suffolk honored graduating students, honorary degree recipients, and the University's most generous benefactors—Summa and Frost Society members—at its annual Commencement Dinner. The evening's capstone was a tribute to David Sargent JD '54 for his 20 years of service as the University's president.

a > Rosalie K. Stahl, trustee, Suffolk University President David J. Sargent, JD '54, Angela Diaz, M.D., DSC '09
b > Nicholas Macaronis, JD '54, LLD '00, Chairman, Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Vicki Mucci, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Massachusetts House Speaker Robert DeLeo, JD '76, LLD '09, Suffolk University trustee Martin Meehan, MPA '81, JD '86, LLD '97
c > Suffolk University trustee Michael G. George, BS '83, Ernst Gurrier, BS '91, JD '94; inset: Jacqueline and Eric Bedard, EMBA '02
d > Edward I. Masterman, JD '50, LLD '90 and Sydell A. Masterman
e > Suffolk University Provost Barry Brown, David Hoberman, DHL '09
Commencement 2009

For 1,904 undergraduates, 273 graduate students, and 412 Law School students, May 16th and 17th were days to remember. Each of the ceremonies reflected its individual graduating class and the University-wide spirit of celebration for this significant milestone.
From Your Alumni Association

Once again, the streets of Beacon, Temple, and Tremont are teeming with Suffolk University and Suffolk University Law School sweatshirts. As we welcome our students back to campus, the energy is palpable.

This is also the time when fall programming and activities of your Alumni Association begin, and an opportunity to acknowledge the changes in our alumni leadership.

This summer Richard Scheff, JD '81 passed the University Alumni Council (UAC) mantle to Bill Popeleski MBA '87. Richard will continue to remain an active volunteer and advocate for Suffolk's alumni. I extend to Richard my sincerest thanks on behalf of our alumni community for his time, talent, and dedication to Suffolk University. Richard's imprint on the UAC and alumni association is immeasurable and we will forever be grateful for his leadership during this past year. Over the years you have come to know Bill through the pages of SAM. Bill's tireless energy and commitment to Suffolk will serve the alumni association well.

I'd also like to introduce three new alumni board presidents: Tom Madonna JD '80, law school alumni board, Dennis Walczewski, BS '70, college alumni board, and Aidan McAvinchey, EMBA '08, business school alumni board.

I would be remiss if I didn't pause to thank the retiring board members for their commitment and their years of service. Our alumni association stands stronger today because of their dedication and commitment to Suffolk.

We look forward to working in partnership with the UAC and alumni boards as we continue to build a vibrant alumni association -- now 62,000 alumni strong.

As our students return to our classrooms we hope you, too, will be prompted to take a moment to reconnect with a former classmate or faculty member and to reconnect with the University. Remember, your association with Suffolk is a lifelong one.

Warmest regards,
Alumni Weekend 2009

Highlights from this year’s dynamic and diverse schedule include a special Suffolk Night at the Pops commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, and tours of Fenway Park and historic Boston. But that’s not all...
A History Tour around "the Hub of the Universe" with Professor Bob Allison.

Richard Wilson, BS '59 and Sean Ryan, JD '99, celebrating their 50th and 10th reunions at the welcome reception held at Symphony Hall.

William Whidden, BSBA '49, recognized during State House dinner for his 60-year milestone (since business school graduation).

Roberta and 50th reunion class member Robert, BS '59, Baboian enjoying the Pops concert.

Members of the college and the business school Class of '04 at State House reception to commemorate their 5th Reunion.

Checking out the view from the 19th floor of Miller Hall during Saturday's campus tour conducted by student ambassador Nick Dizoglio.

Former classmates Lisa Mancini, BS '99 and Beth Razinsky, BS '99 capture a shot at Fenway.

Christina Potter, JD '94 with husband Terry at the Law School Dinner.

College and Business School alumni celebrate their 10th Reunion at the Bell in Hand.

Members of the Law School Class of 1974 celebrating their 35th Reunion.
Remember their name

7 outstanding individuals, 1 ‘torrid’ team join Suffolk University Athletic Hall of Fame

"A wonderful mosaic of eras and sports" is the way Director of Athletics James Nelson described this year’s additions to the Suffolk University Athletic Hall of Fame announced on May 7th. The diversity of this group is reflected in selections from a dominant men’s soccer team captain turned women’s soccer coach to a women’s basketball and softball star. "These athletes," Nelson said, "have all stamped their imprimatur on the University and Suffolk University Athletics."
Members of the history-making 1984 baseball team, the first Suffolk squad to make it to the postseason in Eastern College Athletic Conference play.

Men's Soccer team captain Ernst Cleophat (1988-90). One of Suffolk's all-time leading scorers, Cleophat was also the school's Most Valuable Player and Most Outstanding Player.

"Ironman" Fred Knox, BSBA '62, nicknamed for his back-to-back pitching performances on the baseball team.

Basketball greats Jack Resnick, BA '55 known for his 1953 history-making 75-point game and Christos Tsiotos, BS '77, JD '83, the only Suffolk player to score 1,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds.

Women's basketball and softball star Katie Norton, BS '01 with Ed Leyden, coach of women's basketball. Norton is the all-time leading scorer in Suffolk women's basketball history and notched a remarkable .606 batting average in her 2000 season.


Coach Joe Walsh, BS '76 who turned around the fortunes of Suffolk baseball from 1982 to 1995.

Presiding over the induction, men's basketball captain Paul Vaccaro, BSJ '86, MBA '92 introducing the 1984 Baseball Team.
Do your workplace traits make you invaluable or expendable?

When Bob Kelleher asked human resources executives how often they fired an accountant because s/he couldn’t add, few hands went up. When he asked if they ever fired an accountant because of a behavior such as chronic lateness or an attitude (“I’m not being paid to do that”) heads nodded in recognition.

After three decades in H.R. (Chief Human Capital Officer, AECOM, a Fortune 500 corporation) and operations (COO, ENSR, a global environmental services company), Kelleher found that “too much emphasis is placed on education and skills and not nearly enough is placed on behaviors and traits.”

While education and skills “are similar to having jacks or better-you need them just to stay in the game,” it is behaviors that often torpedo or accelerate careers.

Kelleher founded The Employee Engagement Group to drive business results by helping companies maximize their employees’ potential.

### Highs and Lows of Workplace Behaviors

**HIGH**

- An enthusiastic, solution-oriented approach
- Seeking opportunities for growth *(open to new tasks and jobs)*
- Shares credit, accepts responsibility
- Willing to go above and beyond

**LOW**

- A negative, pessimistic attitude *(The perpetual devil’s advocate)*
- Stuck in one’s comfort zone
- Takes credit, assigns blame
- A “not my table” approach

**WHAT’S Ours IS Yours**

**Your City >** Use our dynamic downtown location as your base to explore Boston.

**Your University >** If you haven’t been back in a while, you’ll be surprised to see how we’ve grown!

**Your Weekend >** Join fellow alumni for back-to-the-classroom sessions and events, catch up with friends, and make new connections. This is your time to come home to Suffolk.

**SUFFOLK ALUMNI WEEKEND**

June 10–12, 2010
Summer 2009: Wish You Were Here

Alumni Night at the Pops, major and minor league baseball, a riverboat cruise, alumni gatherings from coast to coast...if you weren’t there, you missed a fun summer with your alumni association and we missed you. But look on the bright side: after all, there’s always fall...

> A warm reception for San Francisco alumni and friends like Barbara Rosenberg and Christine Garvey, JD ’72.
> Darlene Allen, BSBA ’83, student Senofer Mendoza, Christine Troski, BSBA ’85 at Design Connections, an annual networking event celebrating the Interior Design Industry.
> Diane Door, MSF ’01, JDF ’01, Anne Connelly, JD ’01, and Ching-Yi Lin, MSF ’03 enjoy an evening by the sea in Newport at the Castle Hill Inn.
> Richard Rosenberg, BSI ’52, DCS ’91 host of a San Francisco gathering for alumni.
> Howard Olsher, BSBA ’72 with daughter Molly at the "Who's on First" pre-game gathering for Red Sox/Athletics game.
> An 8-1 loss to Williamsport didn’t stop alumni like ’84 NESAD graduate George Connelly (pictured with his family) from enjoying Lowell Spinners baseball.
> Tom Maddona, JD ’81, Colleen Janes, JD ’91, The Hon. Haigavanash Bedrosian, JD ’71, Christopher Mosher JD ’76, VP for Advancement, and Marc Perlin, Assoc Dean, Law School at Newport, RI reception.
Where Credit Is Due

Awards honor alumni achievement and service

A lawyer who challenges her peers to follow her lead and accept one new pro bono case each week. A public servant who rose through the ranks of higher education and government to become a senior advisor to the governor. A recent graduate who already considers his role and his peers to be "an ambassador and stakeholder of the University." These were among the recipients of the annual Alumni Achievement and Alumni Service Awards which celebrate the spirit of volunteerism at Suffolk and provides the University an opportunity to thank its alumni for their continued commitment.

The 2009 awards were held at the State House (for the College of Arts and Sciences and Sawyer Business School) and The Langham Hotel (for the Law School) on June 13th during Alumni Weekend. A Special Recognition Award honored Francis X. Sullivan BSJ '83. Twenty-five years after a violent attack left him legally blind and partially deaf, Sullivan physically intervened to prevent another man from a similar fate. He was celebrated for "his courageous and selfless acts."

LAW SCHOOL:
Alumni Achievement Award
Patricia Annino, JD '81
Partner, Prince Lobel Glovsky & Tye, LLP

Alumni Service Award
John Boyle, JD '78
Lawrence Boyle, JD '78

Young Alumni Award
Rebecca Brodie, JD '04

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:
Alumni Achievement Award
Arthur Bernard, Esq., BA '80
Cabinet Affairs Secretary,
The Executive Office of the Governor

Alumni Service Award
Steven Skiffington, BA '83

Young Alumni Award
Leonard Adjetey, BS '04, MSPS '07

SAWYER BUSINESS SCHOOL:
Alumni Achievement Award
Paulette Renault-Caragianes, MPA '05
Health Director, City of Somerville

Alumni Service Award
Raymond J. Ciccolo, BSBA '59

Young Alumni Award
Ivette R. Argueta-Medina, BSBA '07

Special Honor
Frances X. Sullivan BSJ '83

Top: Lori Atkins, BS '01, JD '04, presents Arthur Bernard BA '80 with the CAS alumni achievement award
Center: Ray Ciccolo BSBA '59 joyfully accepting his alumni service award from the business school
Bottom: Hal Leibowitz, JD '85 with Patricia Annino, JD '81 who was acknowledged for her illustrious career
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
John and Cile (Bellefleur) Burbidge (Fashion Design) are pictured at Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum in Lenox, MA, where John's Les Petites Dames De Mode exhibit of scale model mannequins of the Victorian and Edwardian eras is on display for an indefinite period. In the background is one of Cile's amazing wedding cakes. More of Cile's work is on display at the Johnson & Wales Culinary Museum in Providence, RI. The J&W Culinary Museum will also house Cile's workroom when (or should we say if) she retires. Not to be outdone, John is working on a second book about Les Dames, or, as he refers to them, his "other women."

1959
Jerry Devlin (BA), a retired Maryland district court judge, has been elected senior vice commander of the Department of Maryland Disabled American Veterans at the recent state convention in Ocean City, MD.

1960 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010
Bob Vincent (BS) is returning to his news reporting roots after a 45-year hiatus. He worked for the old Boston Record-American during his high school and undergraduate college years. After graduate school, he went on to a career as an intelligence officer for the CIA. He retired from the government in '96, private industry in '99, spent many years volunteering at a number of venues without "the inconvenience of a paycheck," and earlier this year signed on as a news reporter for WSCA-FM in Braintree, MA, and have three children and eight grandchildren. Terry says he is "very grateful for the terrific education (BSBA). Jerry (Daly) CPA (BSBA). Terry and his wife of 43 years, Linda, live in Braintree, MA, and have three children and eight grandchildren. Terry says he is "very grateful for the terrific education I was the only one in my family of seven to graduate from college) and knowing such professors as Harold Stone and Ben Diamond. Many thanks and God bless a great university. Without Suffolk, many of us would never have received an education and all that meant for our careers and lives."

1966
"Terrific memories of Suffolk, especially my fraternity brothers and classmates," recalls Terry Daley CPA (BSBA). Terry and his wife of 43 years, Linda, live in Braintree, MA, and have three children and eight grandchildren. Terry says he is "very grateful for the terrific education I was the only one in [my] family of seven to graduate from college) and knowing such professors as Harold Stone and Ben Diamond. Many thanks and God bless a great university. Without Suffolk, many of us would never have received an education and all that meant for our careers and lives."

1968
"Before moving to New Hampshire, I lived for 13 years in New York City," recalls Pat (Yurchenko) Robin (Advertising Design). "I worked for Women's Day magazine for a while and then for Reader's Digest. I love NYC (!) and try to get back as often as I can. When I first moved up to New Hampshire, I was advertising manager for a family-owned furniture store for a few years. There were three stores throughout the state, and I did the advertising for all of them. That included TV and radio as well as print. Right now I am on the board for a local organization called Friends of the Arts. We sponsor workshops in songwriting, Shakespeare, sculpture, etc. in middle and high schools. We also have summer theater for children K-3 and sponsor a juried high school art exhibit every year. We bring performances in from Boston, New York, etc. for local residents to enjoy—everything from [jazz to folk, opera]. Right now we are in the middle of trying to form an art center. We are partnering with two local artists' co-ops to rent space in downtown Plymouth [NH] where local artists will have gallery space to display their work. There will also be studio space for artists to rent and art classes will be offered. So even though I have not picked up a paintbrush in years, I am involved with the arts. Who knows? Maybe it will inspire me!"

1970 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010
Doug McDermod (BSBA in Accounting) was recently appointed vice president and director of management services for American Management Services Inc. of Orlando, FL. Doug and his wife, Gerry, reside in Middleton, MA, and expect the arrival of their fifth grandchild in September.

1971
Margaret (Chapman) Launer (Interior Design) writes, "After graduation I worked at an architectural firm in Boston, then Hodes Advertising in New York City. I also taught watercolor and drawing at a senior center. After six years with Ethan Allen, I am now manager. I have been honored by having my artwork shown at the Institute of History and Art in Albany, N.Y. I have both advertising and interior design portfolios and have won awards [in both] fields. I also play ice hockey. I'm the oldest on my team—with the most penalty minutes, I must add." Margaret reflected that "the education I received at NESA has supported me throughout my many career opportunities as well as enriched my life. When I was attending NESA, a professor said to our drawing class, 'I want you to see what you are looking at.' That simple yet powerful statement has been my philosophy of life through art. Art is not a 9-to-5 job; art is your life. If you don't think I'm right, try another profession because you will not succeed as an artist. My career has been a symphony of reinventions. . .Thank you, NESA, for teaching me skills that have paved the way for my future and the future to come."

1972
Linda A. (Dewey) Moskal (BA) was installed as president of the Quakertown Business and Professional Women's Club in June. Linda lives in Quakertown, PA, with her husband, Joe, and their two cats, Natasha and Allene. Linda has been in advertising sales at WNPV Radio (1440 AM) in Lansdale, PA, for 31 years.

1977
Richard Krawiec (BS) has received the 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award from UNC-Chapel Hill for writing and teaching online fiction courses. His poetry book, Breakdown: A Father's Journey, was a finalist for the 2009 indie Book Awards for Poetry. Richard has published two novels, a short story collection, four plays, and two young adult biographies, and he has edited several anthologies of poetry and prose.
"I do have an idyllic life—for me," writes Carolyn Letvin (Graphic Design). "I'm doing what I want to do now—paint, sing, and volunteer in the arts. (Carolyn is on the board of the Concord Art Association in Concord, MA.) I have only one active design client, so I can really indulge my desires. I think we girls deserve it! I just won an honorable mention for my monotype book, Counting Sheep, at the Monotype Guild of New England juried show called Endless Possibilities: The Unique Print." The show was at LynnArts Inc. in Lynn, MA. 

1978

After 30 years in the public and private sectors, and nearly 13 years at the Massachusetts Hospital Association (including a stint in 2007 as interim president and CEO), Bob Gibbons (BS) is stepping down from his senior vice president position at the MHA to start his own political consulting firm, Airt Strategies. "Airt (Gaelic for 'points of the compass') will provide strategic advice to corporations and not-for-profit institutions on how to navigate the political world," Bob explains. Concentrations will be in the areas of lobbying, personal coaching, public policy analysis, political assessments, and targeted communications.

"I have a terrific job with the government, and I have never been happier in my life," writes Carolyn Burke (BS).

1979

Michelle Dietch (Graphic Design) is living in the Washington, D.C., area and, "Yes, I'm still 'doing art.' I'm the graphic designer/art director for a nonprofit association, the School Nutrition Association (SNA)." The SNA's mission is to advance good nutrition for all children through healthful school meals and nutrition education. "I've worked for them for 12 years designing logos, promotional material, and collateral for most of their meetings and conferences; the annual reports; develop slogans, marketing, and program themes; help with signage and booth design at our large annual conference."

Michelle explains. "I've also won a few awards while with SNA, if you don't mind my bragging: 2000 PIVA (Printing Industry of Virginia) "Best in Print": first place for the SNA 1999-2000 Annual Report; 2000 Center for Association Leadership "Ten Cool Annual Reports": for the SNA 2000-2001 Annual Report; 2001 ASAE (American Society of Association Executives) "Honorable Mention"; 2007 APEX (Awards for Publication Excellence) Award: "One-of-a-Kind Print Publication" for a Little Big Fact Book. Laurie (Dovale) (Graphic Design '79) commented that she was impressed that I was still winning awards 'at my age'!"

Barry Leftin (BS) and his wife, Gail, have three sons. Josh is a graduate of The George Washington University with a master's from Georgetown and works in D.C. Kenny is a graduate of U Maryland (GO TERPS!), and works at Google in Mountainview, CA. Matt is a sophomore at U Delaware. "And yes," Barry adds, "my dad was a longtime professor at Wellesley in Washington, D.C., area and, "Yes, I'm still 'doing art.' I'm the graphic designer/art director for a nonprofit association, the School Nutrition Association (SNA)." The SNA's mission is to advance good nutrition for all children through healthful school meals and nutrition education. "I've worked for them for 12 years designing logos, promotional material, and collateral for most of their meetings and conferences; the annual reports; develop slogans, marketing, and program themes; help with signage and booth design at our large annual conference." Michelle explains. "I've also

1983

Therese Hanlon (BS) and Mike McAllister (JD '86) send "Greetings from Maryland! We are delighted our daughter, Deirdre McAllister, attends Suffolk and will be graduating next year. She works in the theatre office, directs the a cappella group, which has a CD coming out in the fall, and she just returned from the school's campus in Spain! We are thrilled with all the opportunities that Suffolk offers her. She loves living in Boston and has made lifelong friends there. A big thank you to all those who planned and coordinated the 25th reunion last year for the Class of '83. It was a wonderful time and great to see so many friends."

1984

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Spring/Summer 2009 issue of SAM, a photo of George Connelly and Paul Cornacchini was inadvertently placed under 1982. They are both 1984 graduates.

1985 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010

Maria Clara Montejo (Interior Design) is living in Bogotá, Colombia. Maria has been married ("to a Colombian guy") for 20 years and has two sons, Santiago (17) and Pablo (12). Though she stopped work as an interior designer when the boys were young, she is back at it, doing both residential and commercial work "remodeling apartments and some offices. I just finished a Mediterranean restaurant called Frago's and a dermatological store in a mall."

1987

Susan Kwasnick (Interior Design) had an exhibition of her recent paintings and photographs at Lincoln Studios in Waltham, MA in May. Over 200 people attended the event, including her son Ben, pictured at right with Sue, and NESAD alums Anne Le­nox (Interior Design '87) and Robert Wrubel (Interior Design '88). Sue's work combines representational images with an interest and focus on abstract forms. Her paintings range from landscapes to figurative subjects, while the photography includes objects on reflective surfaces and still life compositions made from shells and objects from the sea.

Doreen Judica Vigue (BSJ) was recently promoted to vice president of public relations for Comcast Cable Greater Boston Region. Doreen, who has been a reporter for the Boston Herald, the Boston Globe, and was a radio talk show host at WRKO in Boston, was most recently Vice President, communications for New England Cable News (NECN). She was instrumental in forging the partnership between Suffolk University's Studio 73 and the NECN newsroom. Doreen has also taught journalism courses at Suffolk and received an Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in 2008 from the University. She lives in Franklin, MA, with her husband, Peter, and has three step-children and one step-granddaughter.

1989

Patricio Calderon (Graphic Design) recently let us know he has moved from Los Angeles to Ecuador ("where the cost of living is much lower"), though he gets back to the States every three months or so. "I am so sad to leave the USA now, especially in the time of Obama. It is so exciting... and I feel so proud yet humble to have him as the President," Patricio wrote. "It's been hard as an artist for the last two years, but somehow I managed, doing lots of interior design and paint-
ings, also murals." Some months later, Patricio wrote, "I am in Los Angeles preparing a presentation for investors. I have designed a hotel (eco-construction) for Isabella Island in the Galapagos, where I will be living for the next three months. I'm also developing a second hotel as well, also eco-construction. The main purpose is to be able to generate revenue to preserve Isabella, which is a beautiful island, as it is."

Having left 2K Games, a developer, marketer, distributor, and publisher of interactive entertainment software games (for whom she did ESPN games), Amber Long (Graphic Design) is now with Toys for Bob, a small animation studio in Novato, CA. She "recently bought a nice home near the office, so I can walk to work."

1992

Lianne (Cortese) and Paul Stoddard (Graphic Design) are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Chloe Paige Stoddard, on April 15. Weighing 9 pounds 5 ounces and 21 inches, Chloe is the little sister of Gryffin, who is 4.

1994

Dolores "Loli" (Colichon) Volum (Fine Arts) considers her first child, Victoria, "my masterpiece...As soon as she grows more, I will take her to Boston on a trip to show her where I studied art, to the Museum of Fine Arts, and to see the whales and much more." Victoria was born in Miami on June 13, 2008. Loli is trying to find time to paint as well and is showing her work in galleries throughout the Miami area.

Jeannette (Ingalls) Waugh (Graphic Design) has been working as an illustrator/graphic designer for Nancy Sales Co. (Nanco) in Chelsea, MA, along with NESAD student Henry Tan and, from 1996 to 1999, fellow alumna Betsy (Tate) Shipman (Graphic Design '94). Nanco is a souvenir and giftware company, and Jeannette started there as a designer of key chains, mugs, and plates. More recently she moved to another division that produces hang tags for licensed plush toys, as well as trade show signs and industry advertising. Jeannette is the mother of three young children.

1998

Joe Fiorello (Interior Design) has had two books on AutoCAD published, with another, on retail design, to come. The first of the trio, CAD for Interiors: Basics, came out in November 2008, and the second, CAD for Interiors: Beyond the Basics, in June. Both are meant for working interior designers. The third, One Size Fits All – Not! An Introduction to Retail Design, targeted for college-level students, is projected for June 2010. Joe is the principal of Fiorello Affiliated Design Studios (FAD Studios) in Wolfeboro, MA, a full-service interior design firm with such clients as New England Baptist Hospital, Wrentham Town Hall, Atlas Travel corporate offices, the geological showroom in the Boston Design Center, various residential projects, and much more. In addition, Joe teaches at Wentworth Institute of Technology and Newbury College.

Scott MacGillivray (Fine Arts) and his family have moved from Florida to Ohio to be closer to family while Scott trains for a new career in the United States Navy. Having completed boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois in April, he is now at his "A" school "learning electronics and such to become a fire controlman." Great Lakes is the central processing location for Naval recruits and, as such, approximately 50,000 recruits pass through annually.

2000 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010

"Since graduation, I have worked for local access television as an on-air TV news reporter, which was an amazing experience," writes Mary A. Mourad Chamoun (BS Advertising). "I chose not to relocate to further pursue the news business. So I became involved with numerous advertising, public relations campaigns and promotions. For several years, I also worked in the real estate industry, which made me realize that the corporate world wasn't for me. So I [landed] a position as a beauty advisor, selling high-quality European skin care products and cosmetics. After building beauty advising experience, I received a Senior Motives Makeup Artist & Skin Care Consulting Certification in 2007 and recently started my own sub-business, Customized Motives Cosmetics. I have my own studio in Dedham, MA. I represent the line of Motives. Motives has been featured on E! News, in Style, Allure, Glamour, Elie.com, Every Day with Rachael Ray, and Latina magazine, while also being sponsored by the Jennifer Lopez Foundation and Eva Longoria Parker. I also am an online retail distributor. I have personally been featured in a Cambridge Who's Who article, and will be featured in another publication entitled Motivations. I honor my Suffolk University education. My communications degree helped me advance in the broadcasting industry, advertising/marketing/PR, and most recently, cosmetic and online retail entrepreneurship. My knowledge and skills that I learned at Suffolk University helped me become the person I am today. I am proud to be a Suffolk alumna."

Rachel Stone (Fine Arts) has been teaching art at Pembroke (MA) High School for the past two years. "I am fortunate to have some very talented students in my studio art classes...who have recently been awarded quite a few gold and silver keys at the 2009 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards. Our high school offers an advanced level studio art course, Portfolio Prep/Art Major, for students who are planning and preparing to apply to art and design college after graduation...I would be very happy to introduce our students to the excellent programs offered at NESAD-SU." She also thanked us for sending the NESADSU alumni magazine ("it's always exciting to find out what has been happening at NESAD.")

2001

Angelique (Donovan) Harvey (Graphic Design) was married on Oct. 26, 2008, to Kevin Harvey; the couple lives in Boston. While Kevin is with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Angelique works at Office Environments of New England as the marketing, graphics, and communications specialist. "I'm currently working on a variety of corporate branding initiatives, a series of direct e-campaigns, social networking campaigns, and corporate events program, as well as day-to-day marketing activities and all in-house graphic design. It's busy! When possible, I still do what I can to support Community Servings [a Massachusetts organization that provides meals to homebound people]. My company hosts an annual fundraiser, a wreath/ menorah/stocking auction, which I am very involved with (we often have entries from NESADSU). In addition to that event, I help CS with their annual "Meals 4 Moms" Mother's..."
writes. "Always looking for new creative projects in design, illustration, or photography."

**Alison (Fantozzi) Trujillo (Fine Arts)** was married in May 2008 "and we were happy to welcome a beautiful little girl, Lillian Beatrice, Oct. 29, 2008. My husband, Gabriel, and I met through friends. Surprisingly, he is also a graphic designer, who just moved back to Chicago and just started his own design company, Up All Day. I still work at a life insurance company as their in-house designer, but we are actually moving back to New England this June. Although my husband and I have LOVED living in Chicago, we are very much looking forward to being back on the East Coast and being closer to family. He is originally from Las Vegas and I'm from New Hampshire, so we have no family here for support or to see our little one grow."

"I just recently had one of my plush creations called 'Mr. Beardsley' featured with Conan O'Brien in the June 8th issue of People magazine," says **Laura Granlund (BFA '01).** "It was a custom Mr. Beardsley that I made for him during the writer's strike when he grew his beard out."

**2002**

**Gillian (Donovan) Teixeira (BS '02)** and **Andrew Teixeira (BS '00, MCS '02).** Gillian works at Williams Lea in Boston as the New England Regional Office/floater pool manager. Andrew is in his eighth year working for Suffolk's math and computer science department. In October 2008 Andrew and Gillian bought their first home in Winthrop, MA. Their son, Wyatt, just turned 2 and is growing bigger every day. He wears his Suffolk shirt proudly, and his parents hope he will join them in being a Suffolk alum one day.

**2003**

**Kseniya Galper (Graphic Design)** left Arbella insurance and is a senior graphic and Web designer with S&P Financial Communications, a division of McGraw-Hill. "I also continue doing freelance on the side," Kseniya writes. "Always looking for new creative projects in design, illustration, or photography."

**Amy (Vermette) Sampson (Fine Arts)**, who has been living in San Diego, has moved back to the Boston area. She writes, "I miss my NESAD days so much. Make sure to tell everyone I said hello. I am married and have three little boys, ages 3, almost 2, and almost 5 months. My husband is just out of the Marines. I have taken some much-needed time off to just be a mom, but am thinking now I might like to go back to school...not sure what I want to do yet. I have started painting again, making sure to set some time aside for my artwork."

**Jonathan Caliri (BS '03)** recently won two awards from the Alliance for Community Media's Hometown Video Festival for This Is Taiwan, a documentary he co-produced. Jonathan took home first place in the Cultural Perspectives category and an honorable mention in the Documentary Profile category. In August 2008, Jonathan spent eight days in Taiwan producing the documentary. Jonathan will marry Theresa Sabina in October.

**2004**

**Jessica Merenda (BS '04)** writes, "Upon graduating, I interned in the Office of Public Affairs at Suffolk and shortly after was hired as the office assistant. It was such a great experience for me and really a perfect fit as I was a public relations major as an undergrad. I was able to work with some truly talented people during such an important time in the University's history—its centennial celebration. I met my mentor, Ms. Rosemarie Sansone, during this time as she was the director of public affairs and chair of the centennial celebration. It was then that I realized that I wanted to pursue a career in event planning and public relations. After three fantastic years working at Suffolk, I moved on to a temporary position at Harvard University and shortly after that, began working for Macy's in their special events office. At Macy's, I was responsible for planning and executing over a hundred events in the New England region. Due to the recent economic times, Macy's reorganized and I transferred with the company to sunny Florida. I am now the special events manager for the Atlanta East region of Macy's and am based in Miami. I love warm weather and the beach, so Florida is a great fit for me. In addition, my boyfriend is in the yachting industry, so South Florida has now become his home base too. Of course, I miss Boston but am so happy to begin this new chapter in my life. I know I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for my experience as both a student and employee at Suffolk University." Jessica adds that she "would love to connect with alumni in the South Florida region."

**2005 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010**

**Stacia A. Russell** writes that she got engaged to her boyfriend of seven years, Christopher, at her favorite childhood place: Salem Willows in Salem, MA. "Wedding plans are on hold for now, possibly until 2011, as we are in the process of looking to buy a house here in Waltham, MA. I also received a promotion in October from receptionist to corporate human resources assistant here at Simpson Gumpertz & Heger in Waltham, where I am so happy!"

**2006**

**Nicole Dunville (BS) will marry Andrew Burgess (WPI grad, BS '06 in Mechanical Engineering) on June 26, 2010, in Plymouth, MA.**

**2007**

At 23, **Anthony Guardia (BS)** is, he guesses, "one of the youngest, if not the youngest, chairman of a school committee in Massachusetts' history." This spring, Anthony was re-elected to the Wakefield School Committee and unanimously chosen as their chairman.

**2008**

"While completing my degree, I had the good fortune of serving in several capacities for State Senator Richard T. Moore (D-Uxbridge), most notably as communications director and then as legislative and budget director," writes **Shawn Collins (BS).** "This past April, I was promoted to the position of chief of staff. And at the age of 22, I am the youngest to serve in such a capacity in the State House."
Class Notes

1973
"I am now working for Suffolk University as a staff assistant in the Residence Life Office," writes Carol (Kaplan) Levine (BA ’71, MED ’73). "This is quite a change from when I went to Suffolk. It was just a commuter school then. Also, I just became a grandmother for the first time. Alyssa Marie Hill was born on Oct. 11, 2008. She is just adorable and the joy of my life."

1976
James Brett (MPA), president and CEO of the New England Council, was appointed chairman of the Governor’s Commission on Mental Retardation by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. The New England Council is the oldest regional business organization in the nation.

1979
"I am enjoying my summer after another hectic year of teaching high school foreign language," writes Eleanora (Squires) McClelland (MED). "Have been teaching since I left Suffolk and have five years to retirement!"

1981
Lynda Michaud Cutrell (BSBA ’80, MBA ’81) has been elected to the National Board of Directors for the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Washington, D.C., a 200,000 member organization that supports education and advocacy for individuals with mental illness.

1982
“My career has been all over the map,” writes Matt O’Neil (MBA). “Chief of staff to a Mass. congressman, chief of staff at the Boston Redevelopment Authority, minority partner in a investment/development firm, partner in a consulting business, to name a few. Recently started my own consulting business providing the following services: campaign strategy, grassroots organizing, lobbying (fed and state), communications and PR, real estate development/land planning and permitting.” Matt and his wife have three young daughters.

1983
Last year, Michael Andrew (MBA) published a business and leadership book entitled How to Think Like a CEO and Act Like a Leader. The book was translated into Korean.

1985 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010
"I am presently the vice president of human resources for Crittenton Women’s Union in Boston,” writes Cynthia King (BS ’74, MPA ’85). "Prior to coming to CWU I was with the City of Peabody, MA and Parkland Medical Center as the director of human resources. I am the proud aunt of Todd King, Matthew King, Colleen King Way, Elizabeth King Flood, and Ryan King."

1987
When not running The Berkshire Company, Mark Fallon (BA ’85, MPA ’87) enjoys running long distances. He completed his latest marathon last May in Minneapolis with a time of three hours, 30 minutes and 13 seconds, which qualifies him to run the Boston Marathon next April. It was Mark’s fifth marathon in five states.

1989
John M. Vetere (MBA) is president and CEO of Strategic DesignWorks, a Reading, MA, design consultancy specializing in architecture, interior design, and project management primarily for commercial clients in financial services and other industries. Prior to Strategic DesignWorks, John owned two businesses, including Strategic Management Services Inc., a consulting firm specializing in strategic planning, leadership development, and executive coaching. With his new venture, John finds his career coming full circle as he draws on his engineering roots, his MBA education, and his consulting and business ownership experiences. John credits his Suffolk MBA with fueling a career that has been a great ride, and isn’t over yet. John’s most enjoyable moments have been coming back to Suffolk as an adjunct faculty member to teach a variety of courses over the years, including entrepreneurship, strategic management, and others. John is married and with his wonderful wife, Mariann, has four children, one in college, two in high school, and one in middle school.

1990 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010
After a recent stint as CEO of Ground Travel Technology Team (GT3) in New Jersey, Bill Gemmell (EMBA) has returned to New England and lives in southern Maine. Along with business partner Russ Cooke, he founded TCI Worldwide Services LLC early this year. TCI Worldwide provides ground transportation in the Boston area and beyond.

1995 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010
Paul Fahey (MPA) has been named executive director of the 9-1-1 Industry Alliance (9A), a national trade association for emergency communications companies. He was most recently director of external affairs at PlantCML, an EADS North America company, and is the former executive director of the Massachusetts State 9-1-1 Department. Paul is also completing his Doctor of Business Administration degree at Golden Gate University.

1996
Patrick Beaton (MSPS) has recently launched a new craft beer called Frosty Knuckle Ale. Earlier this year, Patrick teamed up with his brother, Michael, to form Frosty Knuckle Brewing Co. The two started the company after Michael parted ways with another brewing company he founded seven years ago. The brothers wanted to create a flavorful beer that they could build around a story of survival from the Cape Ann community where they live. The beer was recently given a very favorable review by the industry magazine Beer Advocate. Patrick lives in Rockport, MA, with his wife, Jonelle, and their three sons. Patrick is also in the real estate business and is an attorney.

1997
Eric A. Kinsherf (MBA) started his own public accounting practice based in Sagamore Beach, MA in September 2008. Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA is a practice that specializes in municipal auditing and consulting. In addition, Eric provides small business advisory and tax preparation services to his clients. Eric has served as the finance director in the Town of Braintree, MA, treasurer/collector in the Town of Dennis, MA, assistant treasurer/collector in the City of Brockton, MA as well as manager of auditing and consulting at the CPA firm of Malloy, Lynch, Bienvenue LLP. Eric was appointed as the town auditor for the Town of Braintree by the Town Council effective Jan. 1.
1999

Rick Coiro (MBA) is working for Horizons For Homeless Children in Boston as director of administration.

Carole (Smith) Hosey (MED) got married in June 2008 to Richard Hosey. Carole moved to Detroit where she works as a school counselor for Hamadeh Education.

"One of the courses I was fortunate enough to have taken in the Suffolk MBA program was called Marketing on the Internet," recalls Ron Massa Jr. (MBA). "This was easily the most influential and important from the standpoint of how its teachings and ideas were adapted and ultimately helped to shape my own company successfully over the long term.” Ron's company, RMA Electronics Inc., distributes industrial video and video security products to clients such as the U.S. Border Patrol and crash testing companies for automobile manufacturers. The company sells over 1,300 products to a few thousand active customers around the world.

2000 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010

Susan Luongo (MBA) has been appointed to the Boston Women’s Network Organization as membership director. BWN has been committed to helping women executives, professionals, and business owners grow both personally and professionally for over 30 years. They are one of the local networking chapters of the National Association of Female Executives.

2001

John McAuley (MBA) passed the February Massachusetts Bar exam and has opened his own firm, McAuley Law Offices, in Methuen, MA.

2002

"This year I worked with Dean Hallberg in placing Global MBA students on their internship requirement,” writes Mariano Bautista Lihán (MBA). "A pleasure to collaborate with Suffolk again.”

2004

Sara Wingerath (MPA) serves as director of mentoring for Tuesday’s Children, a not-for-profit organization supporting the families directly affected by 9/11 and providing resources for children around the world who have lost a loved one to terrorism. In 2008, Sara and several colleagues began Companion Animal Advocates, a not-for-profit volunteer organization with a mission to support the bond between companion animals and families. As a board member, Sara runs the volunteer program and home-to-home adoption program, and writes the newsletter. Sara is also working on her Certificate in Volunteer Administration and lives in Rockland County, NY.

Kathleen Cali D’Amico (BA '01, MED '04) and her husband, Mark, welcomed the birth of their first child on Nov. 19, 2008. Thomas Mark D’Amico was born at Beth Israel Hospital, and the D’Amico family lives in Watertown, MA. Kathleen is a guidance counselor at Winthrop High School.

"My husband, Michael, and I just welcomed triplets!” writes Kristen (Meehan) Sauter (MBA). Born June 11, 2009, Liam Martin, Madeleine Marie, and Harrison Edward Sauter are all happy and healthy.

2005 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010

Rick Doucette (MBA) is the marketing director of Hydrocephalus at DePuy-Codman, a Johnson & Johnson company. "While my responsibilities reach globally and my products positively affect thousands of patients around the world, my passion is for a campaign I run nationwide,” Rick writes. "This campaign is designed to bring awareness of NPH (Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus) to patients and their families. NPH is a rare but treatable neurological condition most often misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease. With the right diagnosis and treatment, these patients can go on to live healthy and productive lives. Last year, my campaign reached 70 million people. It was featured on Fox, ABC, NBC, and CBS, including a special on Good Morning America. This year it is slated to reach well over 100 million people and has already been featured in the Tuesday Science section of the New York Times.”

Kathleen Cali D’Amico (BA ’01, MED ’04) and her husband, Mark, welcomed the birth of their first child on Nov. 19, 2008. Thomas Mark D’Amico was born at Beth Israel Hospital, and the D’Amico family lives in Watertown, MA. Kathleen is a guidance counselor at Winthrop High School.

2007

Tryan McMickens (MED) united in holy matrimony with the former Courtney Lockhart at the Tuskegee University Chapel in Tuskegee, AL, on June 13. A graduate of Tuskegee University and Suffolk University, the groom is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. The bride (also an alumna of Tuskegee University) is pursuing a dual degree in public health and medicine at Harvard University. The honeymoon was in Cancun, Mexico, and they will reside in Brookline, MA.

2008

Victor Carlevale (EMBA) continues to diversify his business offerings by opening Victor Carlevale Realty, an owner/broker real estate sales and property management company in Whitman, MA. Victor’s daughter Nadia will marry in Italy on June 26, 2010.

Grant Norman (MSF) and his wife, Lacey, welcomed their first child, William McClane Norman, on May 11.
2009

Jeffrey A. Newman (MBA) is working on a new website called FutureBrink, which launched in August. The site features the major developments in prognostications and predictions in the areas of machine learning, predictive analytics, and trend analysis, as well as listing job openings and announcing conferences and seminars. His blog of the same name will also be featured.

“I have been actively volunteering at WGBH Boston,” writes Natalia Musatova (MA), “I am now a trained GBH docent and will soon be giving public tours around WGBH radio and television studios in Brighton. To this end, I have played ‘Arthur’, the main character of [the] kids’ television series Arthur, at GBH children’s event. I have also been involved with WGBH’s annual auction, live performances, and various other events. I genuinely enjoy volunteering and am happy I now have the time to give back to my community. I hope to begin a doctorate program in spring 2010. I am ready to get back to my community. I hope to begin a doctorate program in spring 2010. I am ready to get back to [the] books. I married the man of my dreams, Suren Ravee, on March 23. We live in Brighton and have two adopted cats named Iska and Batman.”

Following internships at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and O’Neill and Associates, Krista Robinson (MSPS) joined the firm as account coordinator and receptionist.

LAW

1971

Brian McManus (JD) is still working for Westwood Management, an investment management firm in Dallas. He enjoys golf and tennis.

1980 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010

After she graduated from the Law School, Ellen “Lynn” Snowber-Marini (JD) moved to South Carolina to take a job with legal services. “I can’t believe it, but I am still here almost 29 years later!” Ellen writes. “After a variety of jobs, including as an attorney for DSS and setting up a guardian ad litem program in our judicial circuit, I went back to where my passion is, being an advocate for the low-income client community at South Carolina Legal Services. I have a 24-year-old son, Ryan, a recent college graduate, and a daughter, Kate, a rising high school senior. I am sad to report that my husband, Michael, passed away last September. He knew many of my classmates, as we got married during my first year (after moot court briefs were due and just as spring break began). I still get up to Boston to visit my mother (we lost my dad six months before Michael).”

1985 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010

Amy Holmes Hahn (JD) has worked for the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office in Portland, OR, for 22 years and is the senior deputy DA of the Domestic Violence Unit. She recently celebrated 27 years of marriage to Paul Hahn and has two daughters, Cleo, age 18, and Iris, age 15.

1986

John J. Timbo (JD) celebrated his first year as partner at James Sotos & Associates in Itasca, IL, on Aug. 1. John practices in the area of civil rights defense litigation. He and his wife, Kristie, have two sons, ages 8 and 5, and reside in suburban Chicago. He welcomes any classmates to look him up if they find themselves in Chicago.

1987

“Unbelievably, 22 years have passed since I received the well-earned JD,” writes Javier Damien. “I have been practicing criminal defense consistently all of these years in Manhattan. I started at the Legal Aid Society in September 1987 and remained there until 1990. Shortly thereafter I started my practice as a sole practitioner. I have a new office in downtown Manhattan. Despite the everyday competition for new clients, economical challenges, and life’s difficulties, I can honestly say that I have been blessed with an exciting and rewarding legal career. Personally, I have been married for [over] eight years to Robyn, a determined and successful executive saleswoman for Abbott Laboratories. We have no children but a great Westie (dog), who is a ball of fun. Recently, we lost Snowie, a 17 1/2 year old Westie. She traveled to Boston with me a couple of times in the early 1990s when I attended Suffolk alumni events. I am still a dedicated snow skier and passionate marathon runner. Thankfully, Robyn and I have time to travel, ski, and run around the country. I will be running my 20th marathon here in NYC in November. (The Boston Marathon is one of my favorites)”

1988

Nancy Kaplan (JD) is a partner specializing in environmental law at the Boston firm of Keegan Werlin LLC. On behalf of the Town of Brookline, MA, she has the privilege of being Special Environmental Counsel and working on the closure and redevelopment of two former municipal landfills. The front landfill has been completely transformed into Skyline Park and recently won the American Public Works Association 2008 Project of the Year Award. Nancy lives in Newburyport, MA, with her husband, Jim Corbett, and their three children.

1989

Sheldon C. Toplitt, Esq. (JD) writes The Unruly of Law blog. His company, The Write Lawyer, provides writing and editing services and handles legal drafting for law firms and companies. He is a lecturer in media law and journalism.

“I accepted a position as an assistant professor of sport law and business law in the Business School at Western New England College in Springfield, MA,” writes Jim Masterelexis (JD). “I live in Amherst, MA, with my wife, Lisa, a 1990 Suffolk Law graduate, a department head and a professor in the Sport Management Department at UMass/Amherst in the Isenberg School of Business. We have three children, Nathan, 9, and Taylor and Justin, 6-year-old twins.”

1991

Robbie Fisher (JD) received the Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award from the Mission First Legal Aid Office presented at the Mississippi Bar’s Annual Meeting in Destin, FL, on July 16.

Elizabeth Puopolo (JD) rode in her third Pan-Mass Challenge on behalf of The Jimmy Fund in August. “My family is growing up,” writes Elizabeth. “A milestone year...husband Paul turned 50, son Mark turns 25, son Michael turned 20, and bringing up the rear, son Anthony turned 10 on Aug. 9. We all are running in the Falmouth Road Race to celebrate.

On the job front, tough times, exploring all options, thinking of going from a self-employed part-time practice to full time. Hope everyone in the class of ’91 is okay, and although I haven’t been to a reunion, I will plan on 2011!”
1996
Dan Surprenant (JD) is a partner at Surprenant & Benski PC, an estate planning firm, focusing on elder law and special needs planning. He and his wife, Kate, recently had their third child, John Daniel Surprenant.

Jeannine R. (McNaught) Reardon (BS '93, JD '96) is scheduled to participate in the Baltimore Book Festival this fall signing copies of her legal thriller, Confidential Communications.

1998
Michael P. Roche (JD) has joined Boston law firm Murphy & Riley PC, where he practices commercial insurance coverage litigation. Michael and his wife, Laurie (Nice) Roche (JD '98), live in Marshfield, MA, with their two boys, ages 7 and 4.

Brian L. Kinsley (JD) reports that after five years living and practicing in Washington D.C., he is moving to Winston-Salem, NC with his wife Melissa, and daughters, Bridget (7) and Charlotte (3). "I am continuing my personal injury practice with Crumley Roberts in Asheboro and Burlington, NC," Brian writes. "So far we all love living in our new adopted state."

1999
"Where was everyone for our reunion?" asks Lisa M. Bialargeon (JD). "Kathleen Joyce and I had a blast. Married to Carmine lacuone; two sons, Silvio, age 6, and Sebastian, age 3. Entertaining myself while on the 'mommy track' by designing semi-precious jewelry."

2002
"I am happy to announce that my husband of 30 years, George N. Dristiliaris, has joined my law practice established in 2003," writes Tami M. Drislillaris, Esq. (JD). "Our civil law practice now includes mediation, bankruptcy, immigration, and worker's compensation thanks to George, as well as domestic relations, all probate matters, civil defense, personal injury-plaintiff and estate planning. I would love to hear from anyone from Suffolk Law's Class of 2002."

2003
Renee Caggiano Berman (JD) is pleased to announce the release of her book, The Ultimate Guide to Solo and Small Firm Success (LawFirst Publishing).

2005 > Reunion June 10-12, 2010
"I wish all my classmates well and welcome a call if you find yourself in Colorado," writes Jason Wiener (JD), who recently relocated to Boulder to become the general counsel for Namaste Solar, which promotes the responsible use of solar energy.

2007
"Believe it or not, my wife and I both miss the Boston winters," writes Vivek Tandon (JD). "My wife and I closed on our first home on July 9th in Carson, CA. I continue to work as a parent's attorney in dependency court. I hope to visit Boston this fall to catch up with friends and Suffolk professors and Jose at the computer lab."

"The day after being sworn in to the Massachusetts Bar, I officially started a solo law practice in downtown Boston," reports Travis J. Jacobs (JD). "My practice focuses on legal issues faced by small- and medium-sized business, such as drafting business/transaction contracts, incorporation and dissolution, corporate policies, employee contracts, and related litigation. After numerous months of barely making it, business started to pick up in the spring of this year. I still do a broad range of legal work to pay the bills, but my practice is now going well and making progress in the right direction each day. I plan to move into a new office space next to SULS." Travis also mentions a surprise birthday party for Kenneth A.D. Filarski (JD '07) at Legion Bowl & Billiards in Cranston, RI. "Alumni in attendance were John Babcock (JD '07), Steve Dimirsky (MSF '08, JDF '08), Christina Corda (JD '07), Colin Du Mee (JD '08), and Beth Keeley (JD '07), as well as Ken's hometown friends, family, and other loved ones," Travis notes. "Ken was in complete and total shock to see everyone paled into the Legion! It was great to gather everyone up for a fun, relaxing day and celebration."

2008
Brian O'Connell (MPA '97, JD '08) passed the July 2008 Bar Exam. In January, he was appointed as an ombudsman at the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, where he has previously been an asset manager. Brian writes, "On May 9th, I married Katharine Howard at the Omni Parker House in Boston. Three members of my wedding party were also Suffolk Law grads."
A Heartfelt Verdict

The letter came across my desk on a cold December morning, like so many others. Just another complaint from another violator. That’s what we call people who receive parking tickets. There are thousands of tickets issued every day, and each person who disputes a ticket ends up at my door. Most of these disputes are the standard type: “I just double-parked to pick up my sick mother at the hospital for two seconds and my lights were flashing.” Or: “There was no street cleaning sign when I parked there.” Or: “The meter maid made a mistake.” They are easily classified and either dismissed or denied without a second thought. After all, the law is the law and my job is to enforce it, without prejudice. Policies and procedures need to be upheld, and impartiality is the foundation of our system. The more clearly defined the policies and procedures, the better. Less room for judgment equals less opportunity for error. This is paramount in an environment where even the perception of favoritism undermines integrity. A parking clerk’s office needs to be the equalizer, providing everyone with a fair opportunity to dispute a ticket, confident that everyone gets the same answer to the same question, no matter who asks the question.

But every now and then, I’m fortunate to be reminded of why I am in public service: the chance to connect to people at a truly grassroots level and bring a sense of humanity to an otherwise impersonal bureaucracy. In this case, the defendant lacked the evidence to dismiss outright, and a hearing would have required a trip back to Boston that would have been far more costly than the ticket. But reading her letter, I was reminded that I didn’t go into public service to be just another “rules are rules” bureaucrat.

On the surface, a woman was simply disputing her ticket, like so many others. She was visiting Boston from out of town and, being unfamiliar with our regulations, misinterpreted the parking sign. She anticipated that her appeal would be denied and even enclosed a check to pay the ticket. She went on, though, to tell me why she was visiting Boston: it was on her “bucket list.” She had degenerative heart failure and, although she was on a transplant list, she was told by her doctors to get her affairs in order. She enclosed her medical records just in case I wanted proof that this 48-year-old woman would soon die without a new heart.

As someone who has been in public service for many years, sometimes I think I’ve heard it all. People come up with the most outlandish stories to get their tickets dismissed—everything from being abducted by aliens to claiming, “God told me to park there.” But I simply could not dismiss this woman as just another violator. After some creative thinking and research into signage and ticket data, I found the hook I needed to hang my hat on and dismissed her ticket.

I sent a letter off to her, giving her the good news and returning her check. The bureaucrat in me, though, was wondering if I had just gotten taken by one very creative story. The public servant in me said, if that’s the case, so be it. I’d rather err on the side of believing in the inherent goodness in humanity. Imagine my surprise, then, when another letter came in some weeks later thanking me for dismissing this ticket. This time, the letter wished me a Happy New Year, adding, “I will always treasure the day I spent in your beautiful city. If I am lucky enough to get a heart transplant, maybe one day I can come back. We’ll pay very close attention to where we park.”

Gina Fiandaca is Director for the City of Boston Office of the Parking Clerk
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.

AT SUFFOLK, WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR STRENGTH IS OUR STRENGTH. THIS IS YOUR UNIVERSITY. MAKE IT YOUR HOME, FOR LIFE.
Looking for financial stability?

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A gift annuity provides you with a secure income for your lifetime.

Benefits of a $10,000 single life charitable gift annuity:

| Age | Rate*% | Annual Income | Approximate Charitable Deduction*%
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<td>5.7%</td>
<td>$570.00</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$630.00</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>$710.00</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>$810.00</td>
<td>$5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>$950.00</td>
<td>$6,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rates and deduction amounts are subject to change.

To receive a confidential outline showing the benefits of a planned gift based on your particular situation, or to learn more, please contact Suffolk’s Office of Planned Giving.
plannedgiving@suffolk.edu
(617) 573-8441