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Suffolk University, "Suffolk Alumni Magazine, vol. 5, no. 2, 2010" (2010). *Suffolk University Magazine*. 37.
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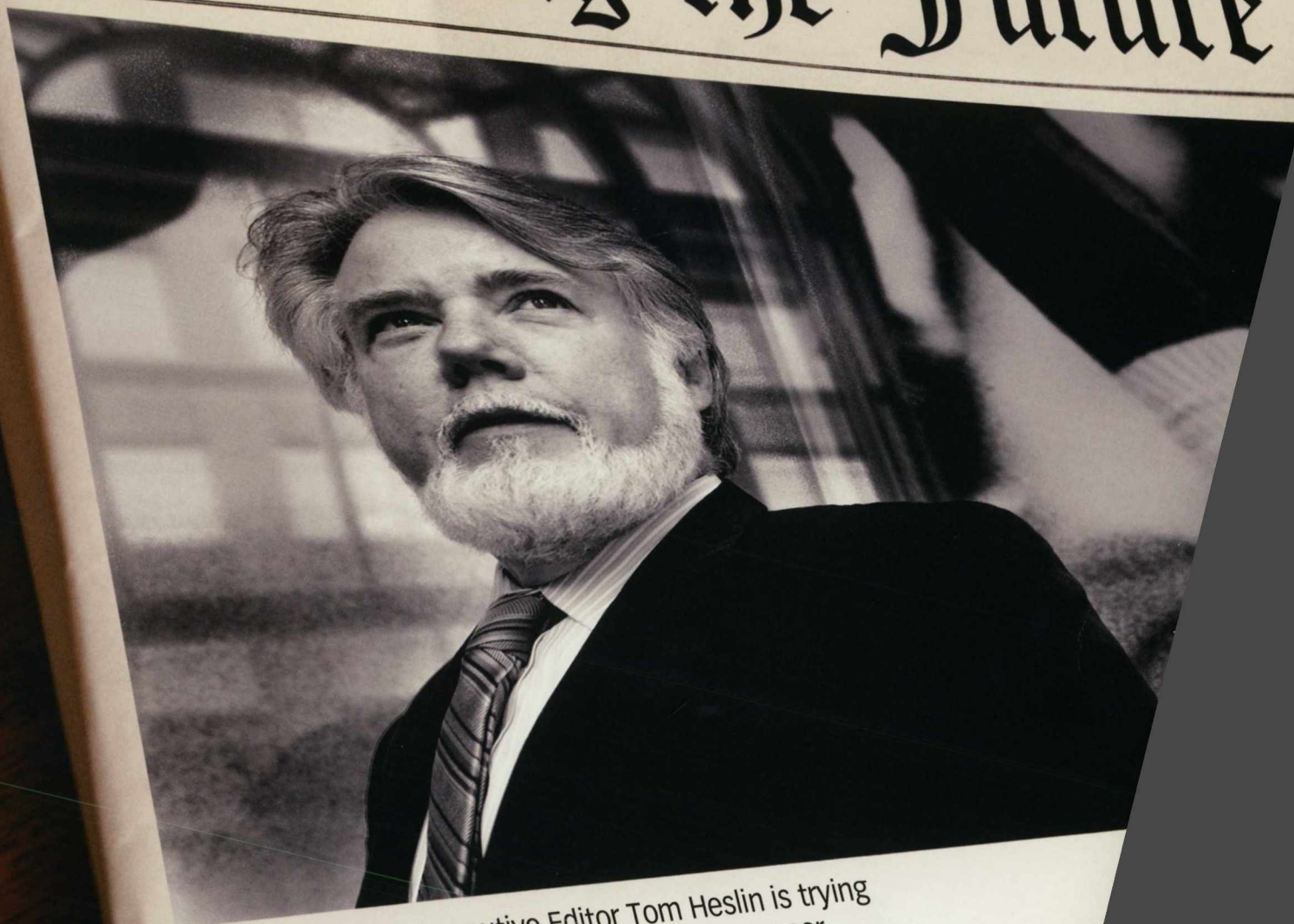
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Sumfolk

Alumni Magazine

WINTER 2010 \$3.95 // VOL. V NO. 2

Re-Writing the Future



Providence Journal Executive Editor Tom Heslin is trying to change the narrative of the American newspaper

sunday



wednesday

thursday

friday

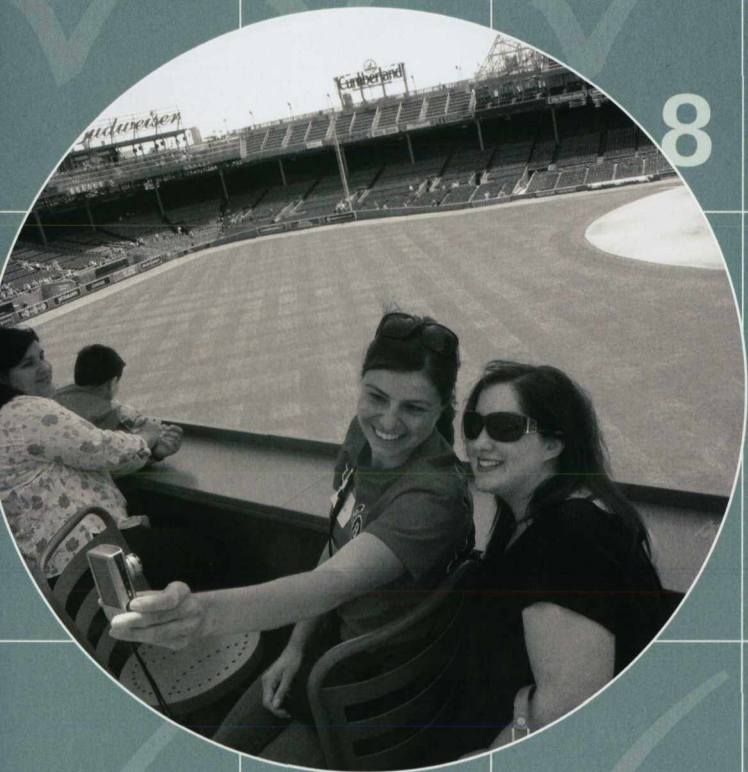
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CALENDAR GETTING CROWDED?

It's a long way from winter to spring, but for three special days this June, it pays to plan ahead.

Suffolk University Alumni Weekend is your time to reunite with former faculty and friends while you re-discover your campus and your favorite city.

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WINTER 2010

Features

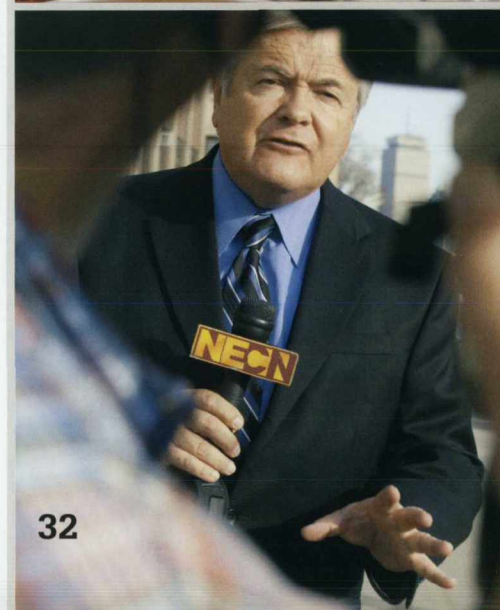
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Can old-fashioned storytelling skills help *Providence Journal* Executive Editor Tom Heslin BSJ '72 save the American newspaper?
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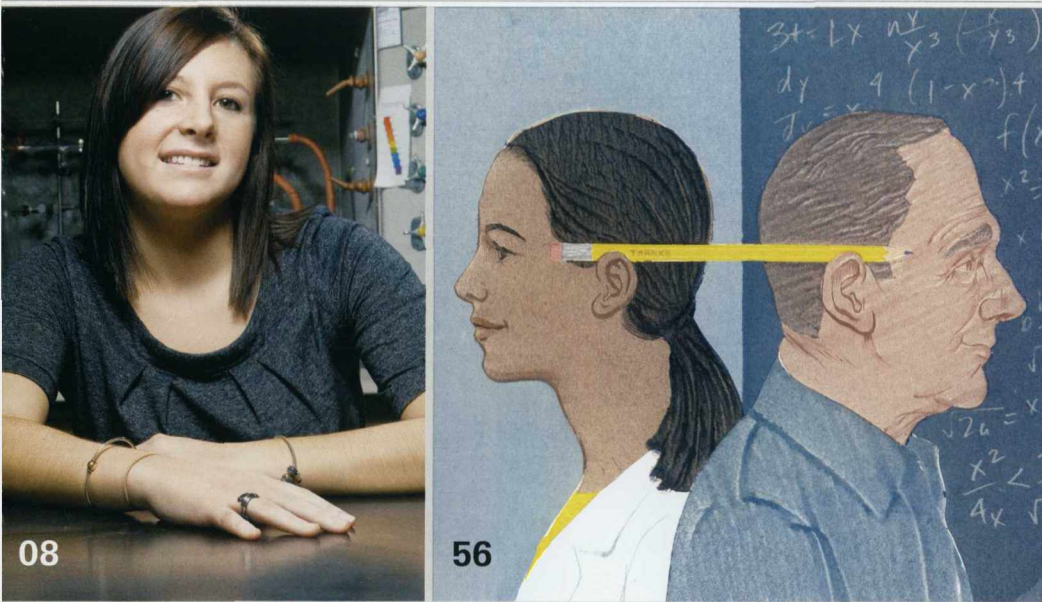
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The Never-Ending Story

WHERE WERE YOU ON October 23, 1989?

If you lived in Boston, you were about to learn the first details of a shocking crime that would inundate the media and haunt the city for years. The story involved a 29-year-old store manager named Charles Stuart and a 30-year-old attorney, Carol DiMaiti Stuart JD '85 (inevitably referred to in the media as "his pregnant wife").

After more than two decades, the stain of the Charles Stuart case has begun to fade, yet Carol DiMaiti Stuart's memory endures through graduates of her alma mater, like Carolyn Francisco JD '94 and LaDawn Dubose BSBA '95. Francisco was a recipient of Suffolk Law School's DiMaiti Scholarship, a testament to the many hours of Carol's all-too-brief legal career that she devoted to pro bono work. Dubose received support from the Carol DiMaiti Stuart Foundation Scholarship (CDSF), which has provided more than \$1.2 million in aid to residents of Mission Hill, the Boston neighborhood turned upside down in a manhunt for a bogus black gunman Stuart concocted to cover for his own crime. Established in 1990, following what was arguably the most contentious period of race relations in Boston since the city's struggles with school desegregation in the 1970s, the CDSF spurred a process of healing.


"The [one] bright spot did come from her family with the development of the scholarship," recalls Associate Professor of History Robert A. Bellinger, who began his career at Suffolk in 1987. "That step they took was not missed by people. They really recognized that."

Likewise, the DiMaitis acknowledged their gratitude for the first scholarship recipients. "They thank us," the family told the *Boston Globe* in 1991. "But we want to thank them for providing a vehicle for our sorrow."

Accomplished graduates like Carolyn Francisco and LaDawn Dubose, profiled

in this issue of *SAM*, provide a "Living Legacy" (p. 20) for Carol DiMaiti Stuart.

Exactly 20 years after that fateful night that changed the course of race relations in Boston, New England Cable News (NECN) reviewed the story for viewers, many of whom were children at the time. Far from the sensationalistic treatment that characterized much of the reporting back then, NECN's coverage was straightforward and sober. The ability of the reporter, Greg Wayland BA '69, to wrap a chapter of history and a sense of perspective into a comprehensive four-minute, 25-second package suggested skill, craftsmanship, and experience. Wayland got his start as a copy boy at the *Boston Globe*, working in print before turning to television ("News Maker," pg. 32). Part of what makes Wayland's story unusual is his staying power, a career of more than three decades in local TV news. The brass ring of network stardom never had much of a lure for this native New Englander, who sees his regional knowledge as a valuable tool. In a field that increasingly favors youth, personality, and style over experience, credibility, and substance, Wayland is a rarity: a reporter's reporter.

What Greg Wayland is to TV news, Thomas Heslin BSJ '72 ("Rewriting the Future," p. 14) is to print. Like Wayland, Heslin, who got his first taste of journalism in 1970 as editor of the *Suffolk Journal*, might be considered old-school in his focus on the fundamentals. So his ascendancy to the position of vice president and executive editor at the *Providence Journal* in 2008 (and subsequent promotion to senior VP), just as the business model for the American newspaper was imploding, was one small, good omen for journalism in the digital age. There's no telling what kind of organization Heslin will be presiding over five years from now, but regardless of the platform, it's clear that he will be prodding the next generation of journalists to follow the story—wherever it leads. 



Former newspaper and magazine editor **Kathy Montgomery** ("Life of Spice," pg. 26) is an Arizona-based freelance journalist. Her work has appeared in *Arizona Highways*, *Phoenix Magazine*, *The Arizona Republic*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and other publications.



Chances are you've seen the work of Chicago-based illustrator **Edward Kinsella III** ("Living Legacy," pg. 20) everywhere from *Rolling Stone* to the *New York Times* and *The Progressive* to *The New Yorker*. The 2006 Illustration Academy and Ringling School of Art and Design graduate enjoys travel, classical music, and impressionism.



Brooklyn-born **Steven Meckler** ("Life of Spice," pg. 26) moved to Tucson in 1982 and established a commercial photography business. His clients have included magazines from *Food Arts* to *Wired* and corporations from IBM to Velcro, USA.



1995 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year and 2007 Shattuck Award winner **Jerry W. Howland JD '76** ("BackStory," pg. 56) has been a hero of Boston Public Schools since 1970.

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The Power to *Change*



A COMMON LANGUAGE Magnolia Contreras EMBA '07

On behalf of the American Cancer Society New England Division, I am writing to applaud the work of Magnolia Contreras. The Society shares her passion for eliminating cancer disparities, and is proud to have had the opportunity to bring one of our patient service programs to the women of the support group. In addition, Magnolia has been an invaluable resource for the Society, providing insight and advice on strategies to reach the Latina community, specifically those newly diagnosed with cancer in the Greater Boston area. Her expertise has assisted efforts to expand our reach to local community health centers with information on cancer and patient support programs, as well as ways to assist our new bilingual patient navigator. We look forward to working with her in the future.

Janet McGrail Spillane
Massachusetts Vice President for Health Initiatives
American Cancer Society

SPIRITUAL WEALTH Charles Carnahan EMBA '00

While I appreciated your feature story, "Spiritual Wealth," and have often thought that the skills gleaned from an executive MBA would greatly enhance my ministry and the overall ministry of my church, I did not appreciate you making references to "the Methodist church" as if it is one monolithic single religious organization. There are, in fact, many "flavors," if you

will, of "Methodism." In the future, please indicate "United Methodist" or "African Methodist Episcopal" or "Christian Methodist Episcopal" or whichever, to be clear. Though we are all Wesleyan in polity, there are nuances that uniquely identify us in our respective denominations.

Rev. V. Gordon Glenn III, BA '94
Pastor
Grant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Kansas City, KS



HEALTHY CHOICE Nakisha Skinner, BS '98, JD '03

Kudos to Nakisha Skinner, general counsel for the Boston Public Health Commission, who successfully defended BPHC's sweeping rule changes restricting the sale of tobacco products—and particularly the "blunt wraps" marketed to inner-city kids with enticing fruit flavors and promotional hip-hop music CDs—in numerous retail establishments in Boston.

The pioneering efforts of BPHC and Skinner have made it possible for other communities, including Needham, Uxbridge, and Newton, to enact bans on the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies, and paved the way for a proposed statewide ban currently pending in the legislature. As a member of Newton's Board of Aldermen, I was lead sponsor of a tobacco control ordinance that strengthened existing regulations prohibiting sales to minors and

banned the sale of tobacco products by healthcare centers, including drugstores, pharmacies, and other retail establishments providing healthcare services. The board passed these restrictions by an overwhelming margin, in no small part thanks to the work of Skinner and the BPHC, which blazed the trail for other communities to follow.

Ted Hess-Mahan, JD '90
Alderman at Large
Newton Board of Aldermen

SPREADING THE WORD Jeff Carter JD '94

Kudos to Jeff Carter!

As someone whose entire career has been devoted to empowering adults through literacy and workforce skills, I am very impressed with the path Jeff Carter has taken and the work he is doing. I applaud his decision to use his talents for D.C. LEARNs when he could have chosen a lucrative law position. His story is fascinating and his insights so true. The connection between people in trouble with the law or already in prison and the lack of skills that could help them get jobs and become productive citizens is receiving more attention all the time. We need all the advocates we can get, and it's great to have Jeff Carter on our side.

Gail Spangenberg
President
Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy

Jeff Carter's dedicated work on behalf of under-educated adults is laudable. Thanks to people like Jeff across the country, who have forsaken higher-paying jobs with better benefits and job security, many communities are able to offer some level of adult literacy and secondary education and English for speakers of other languages. However, only about three percent of adults in need, about three million people, are currently able to access this kind of basic education due to highly inadequate levels of federal and state funding. Our field would benefit greatly from

allies who are informed about the huge gap between the need and the available services, and who are willing to advocate for adult education. Volunteer tutors are wonderful, but this issue cannot be adequately addressed with volunteer services alone. Research tells us that adults need 100 to 150 hours of instruction just to advance one level. In order to improve their employment prospects and economic standing, adults need postsecondary education or training. In order to be college-ready and able to succeed, they need even more preparation and education counseling than what our field is able to provide with current levels of funding.

Silja Kallenbach

Director

U.S. Division, World Education



Since 2003, the Massachusetts Literacy Foundation (MLF) in partnership with Verizon has recognized over 60 individuals throughout the state for their remarkable work in literacy education and advocacy. These Massachusetts Literacy Champions are defined by their boldness, their innovation, and their dedication, but it is their compassion that drives them and that is the true mark of a literacy champion. The story of Jeff Carter and of his early efforts here in Boston on behalf of literacy—a basic human right—and what he has accomplished through D.C. LEARNs, reminds us that there are many

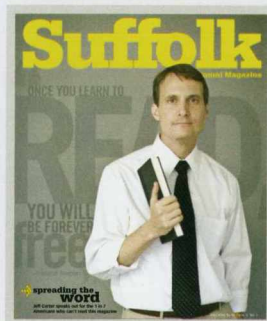
Massachusetts Literacy Champions working globally to strengthen our society.

Carol Anne Conroy

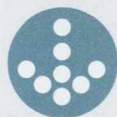
President

Massachusetts Literacy Foundation

Hurray for Jeff Carter's vision for combating illiteracy through D.C. LEARNs. I applaud his efforts and commitment to adult literacy and learners. I encourage him to keep fighting the good fight regarding literacy services and funding.



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The results of the last National Assessment of Adult Literacy (2003) revealed that at least 90 million adults in the U.S. read at or below basic literacy skills (BLS) levels. Additional test results showed that 44 percent of Latinos and 24 percent of African-Americans in this country fall below the BLS level.

America's public libraries are dedicated to serving the same traditionally underserved population and the tutors/teachers working with them. Over 90 percent of America's public libraries provide some kind of literacy services; over 70 percent of them provide literacy programs and services and partner with literacy agencies and organizations in their community.

Even with all these efforts, it is not enough to combat our nation's illiteracy challenge. Support and funding for more literacy programs is essential.

Dr. Camila A. Alire

President

American Library Association

TIME CAPSULE 1970

I was disappointed, but not surprised, to read the [Time Capsule] regarding historical events in 1970 in the Fall 2009 edition of SAM. No mention was made of the student strike that occurred at Suffolk University in May 1970 and throughout the country, following the shooting of 13 students (four killed) at Kent State University by the Ohio National Guard. (One week later 14 students were shot, two killed, at Jackson State University by police.) The students had been protesting the expansion of the war in Vietnam into Cambodia by the Nixon administration. Certainly a photo of Suffolk University students protesting the war and the killings would have been far more appropriate and would have captured the essence of those troubled times better than a photo of an actor from a children's television program!

Dick Conant, BA '68, MEd. '71

RAM

News on Campus and Beyond

blings



OFF CAMPUS

WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT

Freshman Scott Paiva gets down to business with the president



WHEN HE ENTERED A BUSINESS MODEL competition in high school, Suffolk freshman Scott Paiva could never have imagined that his participation would eventually earn him not only a trip to the White House, but a meeting with President Barack Obama.

Paiva, who entered the contest as a senior at New Bedford High School in Massachusetts, placed third out of 24,000 entrants. Now a Sawyer Business School finance major, he was invited to meet the president last October after being named a finalist in the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's (NFTE) business competition.

"We didn't hear about the meeting with the president until the finals of the national competition, right before the top three finalists went on," Paiva says. "The CEO of NFTE was supposed to give a speech. She was talking and then she said, 'I can't hold it in anymore—we just got a call from the White House yesterday saying the top three finalists are invited to meet President Obama in the Oval Office.' Everyone started freaking out; my jaw just dropped."

NFTE, an international organization that fosters business acumen and creativity in young people, sponsored Paiva's high school entrepreneurship class and its term project to create a new business plan. Paiva, whose father runs a tax and financial services business, came up with the idea for a tax preparation service for high school and college students.

"Last tax season, I worked at H&R Block, so I started to get a good feel for how to file tax returns and go through the process," Paiva says. "I thought since high school and college students are the same age as

me, I could make them feel more relaxed and educate them on the tax filing process."

Paiva admits that making his way from a classroom competition to the national levels in New York City was "nerve-wracking because the other students' plans start getting better and it gets more competitive. But I felt confident the whole time."

Accompanied by his father, Paiva flew from Boston to Washington, D.C., the night before meeting the president. The next morning, Paiva and the other finalists enjoyed an exclusive two-hour tour of the White House, which ended near the Oval Office.

"We were in the Roosevelt Room waiting after we got clearance, and you could hear [the president] around the corner saying 'C'mon in, guys,' and that's when it kind of hit me that this was all real. We turned the corner and there he was."


Paiva was immediately impressed that Obama knew their names. With a handshake, they moved into the Oval Office, where everyone was allowed official White House photos—group and individual shots—with the president.

Obama's conversation with Paiva was brief, about five minutes, but the business student remembers every word.

"He basically asked me what school I was from and about my business plan," Paiva says. "He was joking around saying I'm going to have to do some of his cabinet members' taxes."

Before the finalists left, Obama personally gave each of them presidential neckties. "I'm not going to let that go for a while," Paiva says.

Asked whether being a NFTE finalist or meeting Obama was a bigger thrill, Paiva says, "That's a tough call, but I'd probably have to say meeting the president. It's definitely something that everybody at some point in their life dreams about doing...to get that chance at such a young age is pretty amazing."

And no, Paiva didn't vote for Obama—he didn't turn 18 until January 2009, two months after the historic election. 

THEY FILL YOUR CHAIRS.

WILL YOU FILL THEIRS?

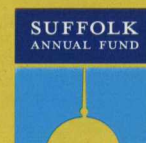


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OFF CAMPUS

A Writer, Not a Fighter

Conscientious objector Professor Fred Marchant finds the poetry in war and peace

IN HIS FIRST BOOK of poetry, 1994's *Tipping Point*, English Professor Fred Marchant began to explore one of the seminal events of his life—his enlistment in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam era. He created a suite of four poems, as “inquiries into violence, responses to it, and how one sometimes shifts away from it very subtly but in a very real sense,” he says.

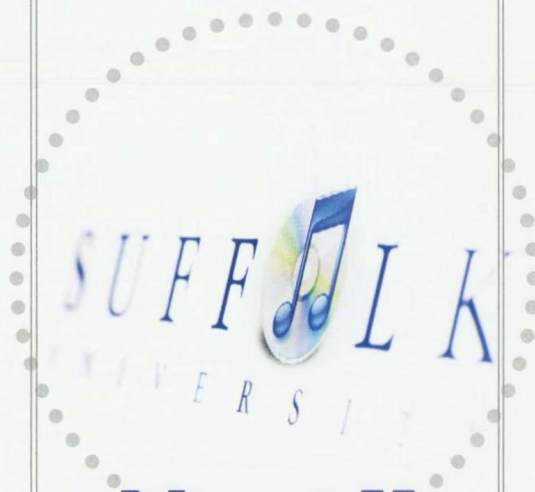
Marchant's own shift was especially notable. In 1970, two years after joining the Marines, he became one of its first officers honorably discharged as a conscientious objector. For his fourth and latest poetry collection, *The Looking House*, Marchant delves even deeper into events that continue to inform his life four decades later. In the poem “Conscientious Objector Discharge,” Marchant writes:

*you will stand in line before a corporal's desk. You will tell them
for the last time that yes you are certain
and no you will not do this anymore.*

“The regulation [for request of conscientious objector status] required that you enlist in good faith and that you weren't just hiding the fact that you were a pacifist at heart,” says Marchant, who is director of creative writing and codirector of Suffolk's Poetry Center. An objection to war “had to be discovered and you had to be persuasive and clear in presenting how you arrived at that point.”

Arriving at that point was a methodical process for Marchant. Like Charlie Sheen's young grunt in the Vietnam War film *Platoon*, Fred Marchant took the bold step of enlisting at the height of the war in 1968. While other draft-age men peered nervously in their mailbox for an induction notice, Marchant says he “didn't want to give my fate over to someone else.” He never made it to Vietnam as a marine, but has since traveled to the nation several times.


“I wanted to be an infantry officer. I wanted to be in the war,” he says. “I was 21 and, if I can be harsh now, kind of callow in my judgment. I've spent the last 40 years having to register the ways I ought not to be reckless with the lives of others.”



More 4 U to View

Suffolk has beefed up its offerings on a new iTunesU site, which features video and audio from all academic units and programs University-wide. The site now includes material from the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies, the Legal Practice Skills Program, and the popular Ford Hall Forum lecture. Accessible through Apple's iTunes site, visitors can download free videos and lectures, attend selected classes, and view student activities throughout the University.

sam@
large

 **CELEBRATING SUFFOLK SHOW BIZ:** From Seriously Bent, the award-winning comedy troupe to the Voices of Zion gospel choir, Suffolk's Performing Arts Office (PAO) has earned the University a national reputation for having talented students. On March 27, PAO will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a bash at Boston's Hard Rock Café. Launched by Chris DeStefano BS '01 and Vice President for Student Affairs Nancy Stoll (then dean of students), PAO began with four student groups. It has since expanded to nearly 20 ensembles, companies, networks, and workshops. The PAO festivities will include performances from current troupes and groups, and PAO alumni are encouraged to participate. If you are interested in attending, please contact Cailin Ahern in the Alumni Association at cahern@suffolk.edu.



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SINGULARLY SUFFOLK

NET GAIN?

Producer/Writer/Reporter William Lancaster BSJ '76 examines the Web's effect on news

After more than three decades in the media industry, William Lancaster BSJ '76 has witnessed firsthand the convulsive revolutions transforming news and how it is delivered to consumers. In his thought-provoking documentary, *That's News to Me: How the Internet Is Changing the Way We See the World*, media heavyweights and bloggers pontificate on an ever-shifting landscape that has an increasing number of people getting their news—and mostly opinion—on the Web instead of through traditional media outlets such as evening broadcasts. Lancaster, who teaches at both Northeastern University and Tufts University, spoke to SAM about the evolving news industry, the validity of citizen journalists, and the proliferation of the blogosphere.

SAM: Your documentary concentrates only on the Internet and television. Are newspapers already so obsolete that they aren't even part of this discussion anymore?

William Lancaster: There's a circle-the-wagons attitude and arrogance to a lot of print people because the nation's news is still generated by newspapers—from the news directors of CNN and the networks to websites, they all begin the day with a cup of coffee and a stack of newspapers in front of them. That said, [newspaper editors] knew a long time ago what was coming, did nothing about it, and the only thing they can do now is reposition themselves on the Web, and the lion's share have already done that. But they can't replicate that traditional advertising model. They're making some money and there's talk of some papers charging for their websites. But for the average consumer, when you have your choice of hundreds of websites with free news, why would someone pay to get sports scores?

SAM: Is all this information readily available on the Internet making us smarter and better informed or is it making us intellectually and ideologically lazy, since many seem to only seek out the opinions they already agree with?

Lancaster: I came across a quote by Ruben Blades [the Panamanian singer and political activist] who said, "I think we risk becoming the best informed society that has ever died of ignorance." I think that's where we're at, and it's really scary.

SAM: Obviously, you have a deep interest in media and trends affecting the industry. What was the genesis of this project?

Lancaster: This started off as a book, and I got some feedback from Oxford Press and some really high-end publishers, but the thing was, as I started talking to different people I realized you have to tell the story of new media in video. I had to show the Web and the news. With the restructuring of the delivery of news and information, I don't think it's an exaggeration to say it's changing daily. Any book would have been a year old by the time it came out. With the documentary, up until the very end, I was able to check what was happening one more time before I went into the studio.

SAM: NBC's Brian Williams is incredibly outspoken, although he comes off a little like the cranky old man in a horse and buggy railing against the automobile. He refers to the term "citizen journalist" as an oxymoron. What's your assessment of the citizen journalist?


Lancaster: I think that the world is a complicated place, and you need very smart people who understand science and politics and healthcare. You need people who understand how a bill works its way through Congress. Whether this is a journalist, a college professor, a grade-school teacher, or a very smart person, you're always going to need people who understand the world and can narrate to others what's happening. Despite the burgeoning of parajournalists,

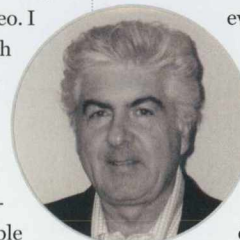
and "I saw the plane crash; here it is on my cell phone," there will always be the need for a journalist who can understand really complicated stories and write them in minutes for millions of people to understand. That's a craft that a lot of laypeople just don't get.

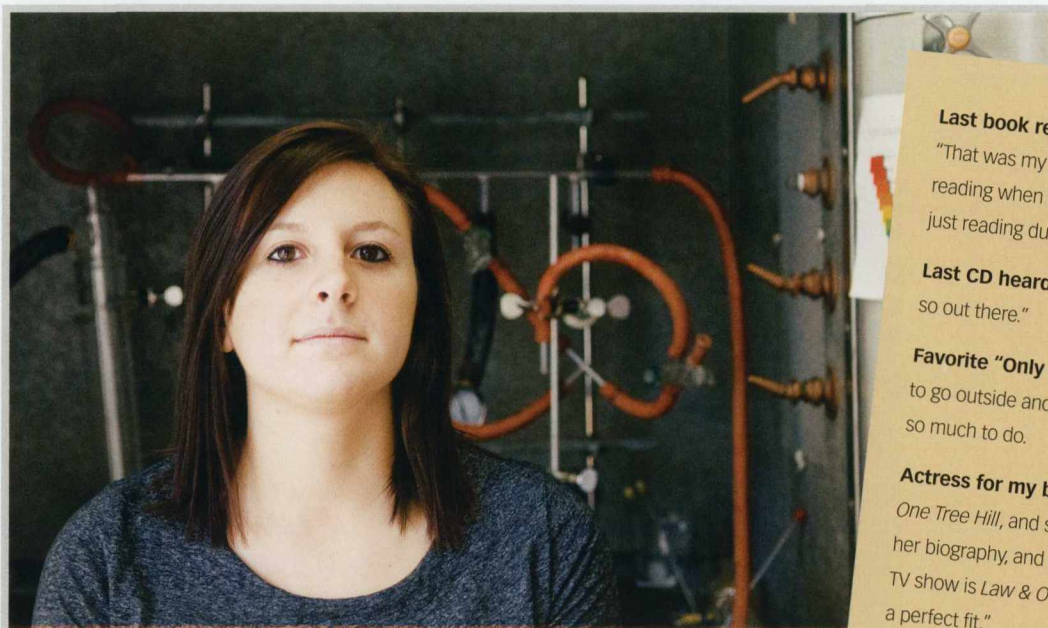
SAM: Let me play devil's advocate here—is the public service of gathering news too important to be left to the public?

Lancaster: I think it is. At the end of the day, the average person doesn't have the skills. How does the average person go out and cover an issue like marine science and some species disappearing from the sea? How do they understand that NASA wants a new navigation system on the shuttle? How do they understand the role insurance company lobbyists are playing in the healthcare debate? They don't—there are even journalists who don't understand these things. That's where I agree with Brian Williams. The notion that these bloggers are sitting around reporting these things is ludicrous. Eighty to 90 percent of what bloggers are doing is not reporting the news, but reacting to mainstream news.

SAM: At this point, aren't mainstream media and the Internet in a marriage of not just convenience but necessity? Can either truly exist without the other?

Lancaster: They are completely interwoven; that's the reason why broadcast news outlets are on the Net, and cable as well. That fusion is where we've been for several years, and it continues to be the direction where we're going. It's the new news reporting model. But if it's not economically sustainable because of the loss of ads, then where does that leave them? Broadcast and cable news, and newspapers are migrating to the Net but they're doing so literally at a loss. How long does that sustain itself, and who takes over? Who become the gatekeepers of news and information? These are extraordinary times for media, for advertisers, and for entertainment. 





STUDENT PROFILE

EVERY STUDENT TELLS A STORY

Real Life CSI

Forensic science major Alexis Manolakis goes straight to the scene of the crime

AS A CHILD, Suffolk senior Alexis Manolakis recalls that she was “the kid at the bus stop playing with the worms,” the curious girl who would show up to school dirty because she’d been rooting around in the soil. When her friends got sick, or cut themselves on the playground, she was always the one eager to help clean up the mess.

Little wonder that Manolakis is now a forensic science major in the College of Arts & Sciences chemistry and biochemistry department.

A *CSI* viewer since age 13, Manolakis remembers watching the long-running CBS drama about the gritty exploits of crime scene investigators, and thinking she wanted to give it a try.

Manolakis, who always excelled in science and math, defines forensics as “the application of science to law. It’s all the basic sciences thrown in to solve crimes.” Suffolk was one of the few universities to offer the West

Springfield, Massachusetts native the complete forensics program she sought.

Last year, Manolakis, 21, had a five-month internship with the Boston Police Crime Laboratory Unit. Her project there was to compile statistics from the 2008 rape and sexual assault cases. “I went through and looked at when the attack happened, how it happened, were drugs or alcohol involved, whether the suspect knew the victim,” she explains. “At the end, I did a whole PowerPoint presentation for state officials with the statistical findings.”

For Manolakis, being a crime scene investigator requires not just an inquisitive nature, but a strong stomach since she worked in the serology department, which handles blood, saliva, and other bodily fluids.

Manolakis wasn’t just confined to the lab. She got to go to a crime scene, a domestic

Last book read: *Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane. “That was my last summer reading. I was never a fan of reading when I was little, but now that I’m older I really enjoy just reading during the summer.”

Last CD heard: *The Fame* by Lady Gaga. “I like that she’s so out there.”

Favorite “Only in Boston” experience: Just being able to go outside and ask, “What should I do?” Because there’s so much to do.

Actress for my biopic: Sophia Bush. “She’s on the show *One Tree Hill*, and she was also in a few movies. I looked up her biography, and she’s also an only child and her favorite TV show is *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, so I guess it’s a perfect fit.”

Wisest words to live by: “Don’t ask questions” is my main motto. In life, just go—don’t look back; don’t ask questions.

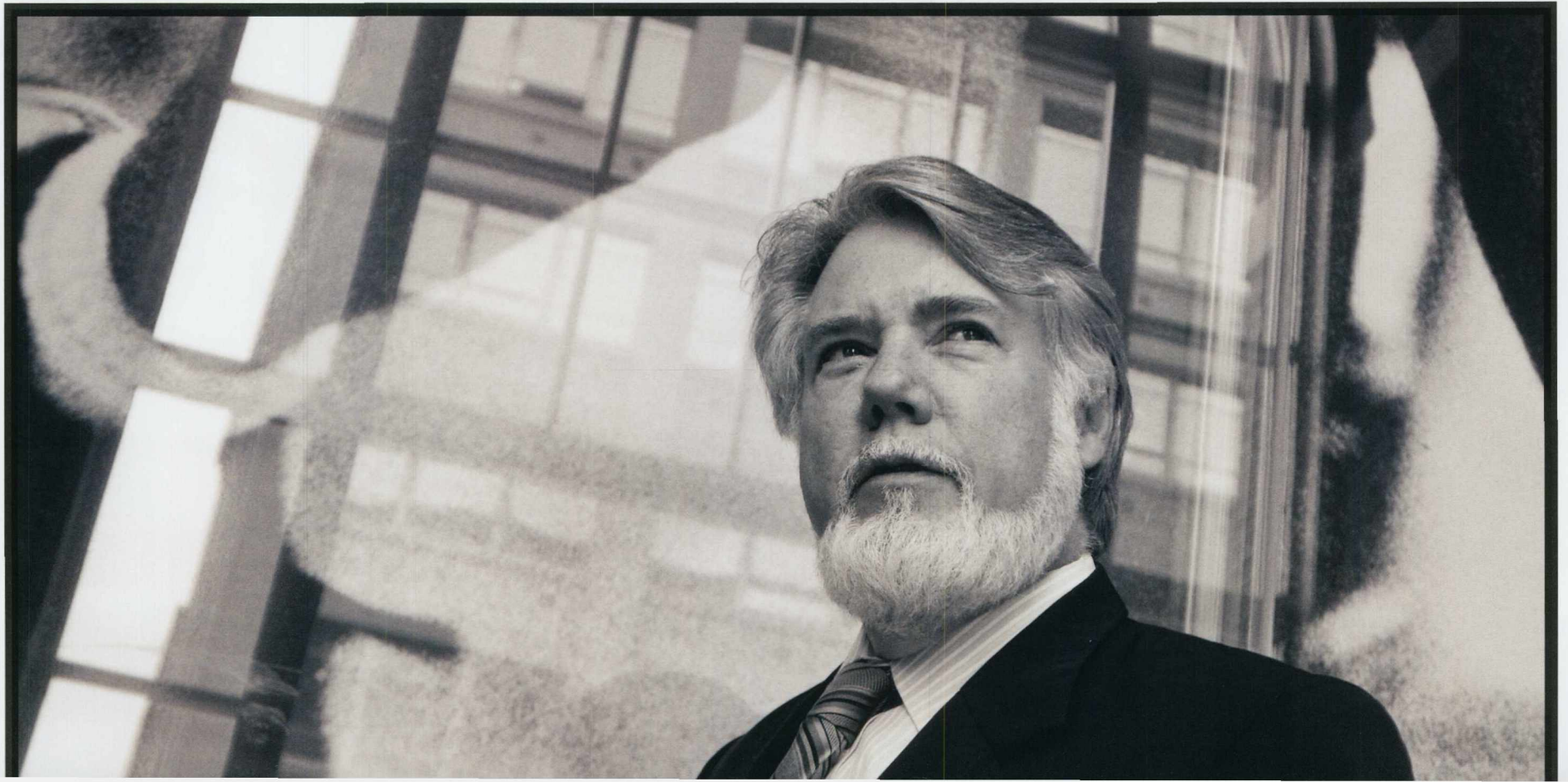
Where would you like to be in 2015: I’d like to be working at a crime lab, hopefully in a serology department.

Who is your role model: Obviously, I look up to my parents. But I also really admire everyone at the crime lab. They were so hard-working, but really helpful with me. A lot of times, students do internships and it’s like, “Oh, get my coffee, organize these files.” But everyone was so helpful. At the crime scene, they wanted me to jump right in. Every day, I was doing something. It’s such a hard field that for them to take the time from their work to go through things for me, I couldn’t have been happier.

violence case in Boston. And she also rode along with the city’s gang unit.

“I thought I would just get to stand and watch, but a detective took my name, gave me gloves and said, ‘Go ahead,’” she says. “I actually found evidence. When I was digging through trash, there was a rat in it. But it was a really great experience because it really made me realize that this was exactly what I want to do. I wasn’t grossed out. I was really excited and really interested.”

RE-WRITING THE --- FUTURE





PHOTOGRAPHY BY ILENE PERLMAN

The Providence Journal
Executive Editor
Tom Heslin BSJ '72 is
trying to change the
narrative of the
American newspaper

BY MICHAEL BLANDING

Tom Heslin's star was rising fast. As a young reporter at the *York County Coast Star* in southern Maine, he had climbed quickly through the ranks to score the important beat covering tony Kennebunk. Then one day his editor handed him a phone message, saying, "I got a call from a farmer in West Kennebunk today who says his hen laid the biggest egg he's ever seen. I want you to check it out."

Heslin inwardly groaned as he crumpled the paper and threw it in the trash. He hadn't gotten into journalism to cover such trivia, he thought, driving up to the small, isolated farmhouse. The farmer who answered the door

led Heslin into the kitchen and carefully unwrapped layers of tissue paper surrounding the egg, which, in truth, was only slightly larger than average. Heslin impatiently snapped a few shots of the egg. Then he drove back to the office and resigned.

"I felt like I was destined to be a big-time reporter, and then I realized I'm at a farm taking a picture of an egg," he says. "I wasn't angry, but I quit."

From there, he went on to increasingly bigger jobs at the *Rutland Herald* in Vermont's second-biggest city and *Foster's Daily Democrat* in southern New Hampshire, eventually joining the *Providence Journal*, where he became top editor last year. It wasn't until years later that he came across the picture of

the egg once again—and was suddenly brought up short.

"I got teary-eyed as I was staring down into this cardboard box," he remembers. "I realized that as a young reporter I was so full of myself. I had spent all my time focusing on the egg, and I forgot to look at the hand." The picture, now sitting on the table in Heslin's office more than 25 years later, shows a perfectly smooth egg sitting lightly on the fingers of a rough hand, ingrained with dirt and lines from years of hard work and weather. "In that hand I had missed asking a great question," says Heslin. "Here was a guy who lived all alone...had he ever had a day off? What was his story?"

Since then, Heslin has never forgotten the importance of asking the right questions to find the story, no matter how trivial—or how overwhelming—surface events may seem. That practice helped initiate an investigation into Rhode Island's credit union crisis in 1991, and later uncovered corruption in the state courts in 1994, for which Heslin and his team won a Pulitzer Prize. Focusing on the story also helped elucidate one of Rhode Island's biggest tragedies, The Station nightclub fire in 2003. Now, however, Heslin is facing his greatest challenge—coming up with a plan to keep the *Providence Journal* relevant and competitive in the Internet age.

Riding the Arc

Editors stream in to the 4 o'clock budget meeting in what might charitably be described as "journalist casual"—jeans, unironed button-up shirts, batik-print dresses, and ponytails. Heslin alone is wearing a tie as he takes his position at the head of the table. With glasses and a reassuring white beard, he seems almost paternal—cracking a few jokes to start the meeting but otherwise saying little as the editors present their choices of stories to appear on the front page. When he interrupts, it's usually to ask a question—is there a data set to accompany the story about lost manufacturing jobs in Rhode Island? Is it fair to say the state treasurer's call for a lawsuit against the state recycling agency is politically motivated? Only when the other editors are deadlocked does he step in to make the final call.

In an interview back in his office, Heslin is soft-spoken to the point of being nearly inaudible, and seems about as comfortable being the subject of the story as one might be before a firing squad. His quiet leadership has transformed *The Journal*, earning him the ready allegiance of staff members. "He makes people want to do well for him," says Jennifer Levitz, a former *Journal* reporter who is now a *Wall Street Journal* staff reporter. "He doesn't have to go around yelling

at people." When she'd bring in stories, she says, sometimes he'd have her read them aloud. "You could tell right away if a story wasn't very good. He'd never say it was awful, but you'd say, all right, enough, I know it's awful." He also led by example, arriving at 7 a.m. and exuding a contagious enthusiasm for the big stories. "He's just a great newspaperman," says Levitz. "He's the kind of person that can always make the trains run on time, but he's also the type who will say, do we even need trains? He stretches your mind and makes you think differently before you even start a story. When you are lost in the weeds, a one-hour conversation with Tom can save you days."

The path to becoming the consummate journalist was not always a linear one. Heslin's father died of a brain aneurysm when he was just three. He was raised by his mother and her extended family of Irish immigrants who grew up together in Brooklyn during the Depression. "She was one of 11," he says. "There were many days when they didn't know where they'd get their next meal. But there was always a newspaper in the house." As Heslin was growing up, his mother continued the tradition with the *New York Post*, the *New York Times*, and big, glossy news magazines always prominently displayed in the living room. Though he was surrounded by the news, Heslin never thought he could be a part of that world.

"Academics were not a priority for me in high school," Heslin says, clearly pained by the admission. "I enjoyed my misspent youth." But as a senior, he joined the yearbook to get close to a girl on staff and something about the work just clicked.

"The guy in charge gave me a pile of photo captions to write, and about 15 minutes into it, there was no doubt what I was going to do. In one moment it all came together. I knew I was going to work in the world of words and information."

He spent two years in junior college before arriving at Suffolk in 1970, honing his journalistic style as editor-in-chief of the *Suffolk Journal*. "We sat around and debated world events," recalls Peter Butterfield BSBA '73, who succeeded Heslin as editor of the paper. "Tom always had passion." Even then, he says, Heslin had a clear

vision for the paper, though he allowed individual writers wide freedom in their copy. "Back then, Tom [was] the one person I would say had his mind set—he knew where he wanted to be, and he pursued that."

Working at various papers in northern New England after college, Heslin shifted his focus from writing to editing, eager to coach others in the process of assembling good stories. During a regional Associated Press meeting, he came across another group of writers who were just as passionate about the craft of storytelling. "There was this table of people who were just louder and a little bit more irreverent than everybody else," he says. "It turned out they were from the *Providence Journal*."

He campaigned for a job at the paper, finally winning a position as a lowly copy editor in 1981. Over the next decade, he rose to managing editor. Then one day in 1991, 45 Rhode Island credit unions failed, freezing the accounts of a third of Rhode Island residents. Heslin suggested the paper investigate, and the editor obliged by making him head of investigative coverage. Despite his lack of experience, he assembled a team and developed a strategy. Remembering the lesson of the egg, he looked for an obvious question that no one seemed to be focusing on, and settled on two: "What is a credit union?" and "Why would people put their money into them?"

Those simple questions led to a briar patch of state regulations, private insurers, and complex financial issues. The team focused on telling the stories of those affected most—ordinary citizens who had entrusted their life savings to the institutions. "Stories, narratives, are the glue that holds us together," says Heslin. "It's the key way to convey information in a way that people can grasp. If you can't find the story inside the assignment, then maybe the notion of the story itself isn't valid."

Dan Barry, who worked as a reporter on the credit union story and is now one of Heslin's best friends, sees a parallel between Heslin's upbringing and his love of storytelling. He has observed Heslin's private side on trips to his family's second home in Maine. With no TV or computer, the chief form of entertainment

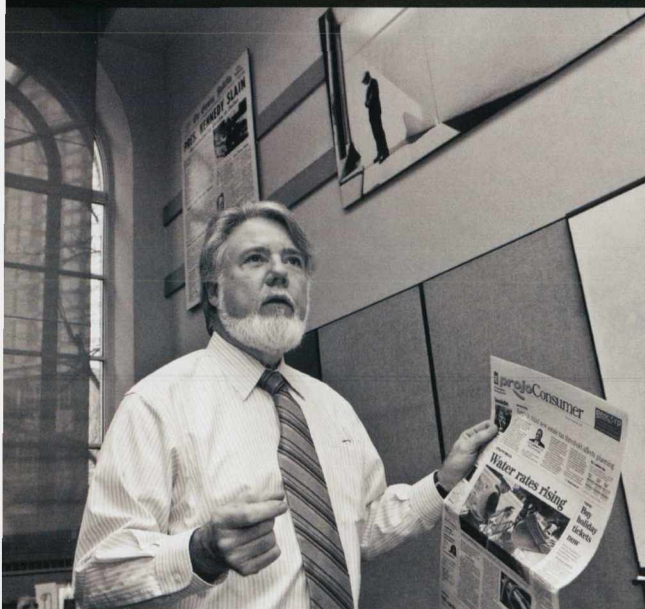
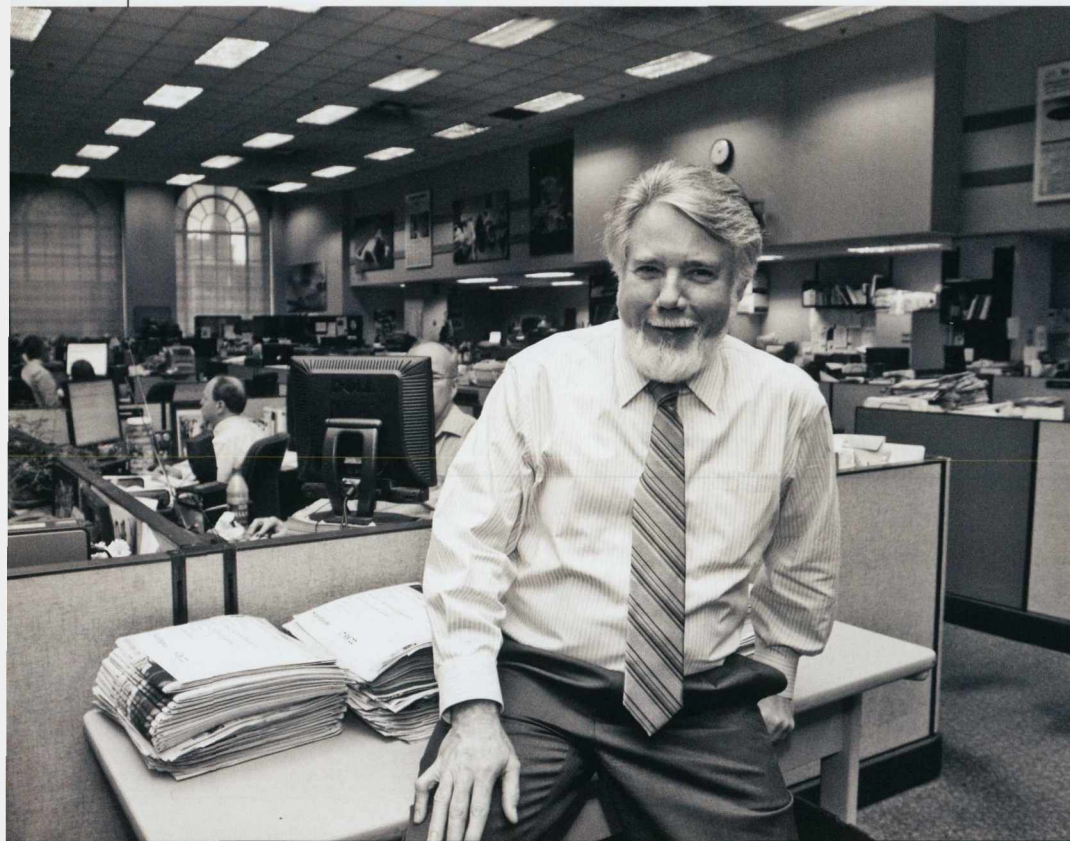
consists of sitting around the dining room table singing Celtic songs with his wife's family, who live nearby, while Heslin plays the guitar. "Because his father died when he was very young, I think he feels a strong connection to that part of his heritage," says Barry. "Most of Irish music is ballads—and those are stories."

Whatever its roots, Heslin's penchant for finding the story in a complicated issue paid off when the paper's two-year credit union investigation won the *Journal* a prestigious George Polk Award. It was followed a year later by the most coveted prize of all—a Pulitzer—for a probe into corruption in the state courts. A tip about a court employee serving despite a criminal record revealed long-standing political patronage, embezzlement, and cover-up by top officials. Eventually, the *Journal's* coverage led to the indictment of a former Supreme Court chief justice and his clerk, as well as major reforms in the system. While admitting the award boosted his career, Heslin says he was "sobered" by the destruction of the lives of several public officials. "That didn't give us great joy," he says.

Those mixed emotions were nothing compared to what he felt covering the tragic fire at The Station nightclub, when pyrotechnics used by the band Great White led to a fire that burned down the club, killing 100 people and devastating the lives of its 362 survivors. "This was no doubt the hardest story I've ever been involved with," says Heslin. "As a journalist, you dream of the big story, but this is the big story no one would ever wish for." From the beginning, Heslin set ground rules that no survivor or family member would be contacted by phone. However difficult it was, reporters were required to do all interviews in person. Soon, family members and survivors were calling the newspaper, which distinguished itself with the only accurate count of everyone present at the fire.

Again, Heslin's team distilled the story down to two questions: "Who was there?" and "How did this happen?" Those questions led to issues involving fire-safety regulations and legal liability, in addition to the difficult emotional dilemmas. The six-person team interviewed more than 200 survivors, constructing a com-

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puter model showing where everyone was at each moment as the fire spread. As reporters talked, Heslin put a wooden fishing boat model on the table, a metaphor that all hands had to pull together if the boat was going to get back to shore. “It was kind of corny, but it did help,” says Levitz. “A couple of times since then, I’ve said, ‘Can I get the boat?’”

The other metaphor Heslin used is preserved on a plain sheet of paper. It’s a drawing of a half circle framed on the wall in his office and signed by all the reporters on the project. Written on it are two words: “Arc. Issues.” Only when you have the former, says Heslin, can you bring in the latter. “The key is to understand where your story ends,” he says. “Once you do, you’ll be able to know how to build toward that. And the issues—fire safety, nightclub overcrowding—can ride on that arc.”

More with Less

Despite the accolades the *Journal* has garnered over the years, its own story features a tenuous arc—with an uncertain ending. Facing the migration of readers—and ad sales—to the Internet, newspapers have been more financially squeezed than ever, leading to layoffs around the country and hand-wringing over the role and even the existence of papers. The *Journal* laid off 74 full- and part-time staff members in March 2009, on top of losing 75 workers the previous year—a total reduction of more than 20 percent of its workforce.

Promoted to executive editor just before the cuts, Heslin has been charged with the unenviable task of retaining readership with even less resources. Here, Heslin’s narrative skills have helped him, says Charlie Baum, a Portland, Oregon-based management consultant who served as advisor to Heslin during a Sulzburger Fellowship at Columbia University in 2007. “Tom is a top-notch storyteller both written and orally, and organizational change often entails the creation of a story about why we need to change and what does success look like,” says Baum. “Having confidence in that, he’s been able to create a series of small-scale successes

[and] is working to create the climate in which more substantial change can happen.”

Heslin started small, focusing initially on sports. Put in charge of the *Journal's* website, Projo.com, in 2005, he tracked traffic to rank what readers wanted—which turned out to be, in order, Red Sox, Patriots, college basketball, high school sports, and, when they got hot, the Celtics. Designers reformulated the page to match those priorities, resulting in a dramatic increase in page views—as much as 300 percent for high school sports coverage.

The challenge was to take something value-neutral like sports and apply it to the news. Instead of trying to compete with the major national newspapers or opinion blogs, Heslin reasoned that the Web gave the *Journal* a unique platform to become a leader in breaking news. Starting with one reporter, he initiated a 9-to-5 breaking news blog on the Projo.com home page. From 2006 to 2007 and again from 2007 to 2009, hits to the site doubled. Coverage expanded from one reporter to three working 12 hours a day.

Breaking news is not only important to readers, it's also a niche that newspapers—with their greater expertise and resources—can fill better than blogs, argues Heslin. “You can't practice breaking news without the ability to understand how the Coast Guard works or how to pull a court record quickly,” he says. His goal has been to identify similar niches while at the same time engaging readers' needs. “I think we have to improve our understanding of what the customers want,” he says. “Newspapers have always done research, but I don't think we really listen enough.”

Of course, the trick is to give readers what they want without descending into the kind of celebrity free-for-all that characterizes some news outlets these days. “The question,” says Heslin, “is how do you take the values we've developed in the 20th century—creating journalism that aspires to be accurate, independent, and present multiple sides—and transform them into things that have value in the 21st century?”

Over the past year, the *Journal* has identified niches that fit these criteria: breaking news, state government, courts and justice issues, commerce and consumer issues, and—Heslin's favorite—a category called “futures,” which explores the education, health, and environmental issues that will determine the state's outlook. The paper has reorganized its staffers under a managing editor for each of these categories, downplaying others. This past October, the *Journal* launched a redesign to emphasize local news and these priorities.

As for the paper's own future, Heslin urges patience. In an editorial last May, he quoted Mark Twain, saying, “Reports of our death have been greatly exaggerated.” While acknowledging times have been tough for newspapers, he points out that the Web is still a new phenomenon. “When you look at the time line, it is still early in the game,” he says. “The business model really can't be developed until the business is developed, and the pace for technological evolution is so rapid.” As pundits debate that new business model—charging online through subscriptions or “micropayments” every time readers click on a story link, or developing Kindle-like devices to download the news each morning—Heslin characteristically reframes the question. If publications develop content with value to the reader, he assures, the money will follow. “There will be market for what we do as journalists. It's a question of chasing not the content but the competency, and then using the technology as it unfolds,” he says.

For all of these complex strategic issues, Heslin hasn't forgotten the importance of telling a good story. This past summer, his office got a call about a couple in South Providence who grew giant tomatoes. “Everyone was laughing, and I said, let's go see what the story is,” says Heslin. Titled “For Love of Tomatoes,” it told the unlikely saga of a Cambodian and an Italian immigrant who met in Rhode Island and bonded over the joy of gardening. “It just proves it's not about the egg, it's about the hand,” he says. “Whether you are covering the banking crisis or The Station fire, it's really about the people.” ☺

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Living Legacy

Carolyn Francisco JD '94 and LaDawn Dubose BSBA '95 never met Carol DiMaiti Stuart JD '85, but their lives were profoundly affected by her death

By Renée Graham

illustration of carol dimaiti stuart by edward kinsella III
photography by kathleen dooher

Y

ou remind me so much of my Carol.”

Carolyn Francisco JD '94 still gets emotional when she recalls those words spoken to her at a Suffolk University Law School reception in 1992. The oldest daughter of working-class Portuguese immigrants, Francisco always had the drive for law school. Money, however, was another matter. To save expenses, she commuted from her home in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, to downtown Boston—a three-hour round-trip bus ride—for classes. She worked a series of part-time jobs. And Francisco applied for every available scholarship to ease her financial load.

NONE MEANT MORE THAN THE ONE SHE RECEIVED DURING HER SECOND YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL: THE CAROL DIMAITI SCHOLARSHIP. And it wasn't just about the money, though Francisco desperately needed it. It was the sentiment expressed by Evelyn DiMaiti, the mother of the woman in whose memory the scholarship was founded, which Francisco still holds dear. "Her mom came up to me at this little reception and said it was a pleasure to meet me. Then she said, 'You remind me so much of my Carol. I really hope you go on to do great things.' I will never forget those words," says Francisco, now a partner at Corwin & Corwin, a Boston law firm. "It was extremely touching and quite an honor. I really thought that she felt that if I would fulfill my dreams, then the loss of Carol wasn't for naught."

Twenty years ago, in a crime that made national headlines, Carol DiMaiti Stuart JD '85 was murdered in Boston. From the shadows of their tragedy, her family and friends established the Carol DiMaiti Scholarship at Suffolk University Law School and the Carol DiMaiti Stuart Foundation (CDSF) college scholarships for residents of Mission Hill, the neighborhood that was unfairly maligned after Carol was slain on its streets.

Back then, even the foundation's officers couldn't have imagined the profound impact those scholarships would have, enabling hundreds of people to attend college or finish law school. From Mission Hill alone, more than 230 students have been awarded \$1.38 million for undergraduate studies at the college or university of their choice.

"It's not uncommon, when someone is lost, to establish a scholarship in their memory," says Carl DiMaiti, Carol's brother and president of the foundation that bears her name. His wife, Mary C. DiMaiti JD '85, is on the selection committee for Suffolk Law's DiMaiti Scholarship. "We thought that when all was said and done, one appropriate place to memorialize Carol would be Mission Hill," he says. "We didn't think it could heal everything that happened, but we thought it could help."

A Profound Act of Magnanimity

Carol DiMaiti Stuart, a 30-year-old lawyer, and her husband, Charles Stuart, a 29-year-old fur salon manager were expecting their first child. On October 23, 1989, after leaving a birthing class at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Charles claimed that an armed, raspy-voiced black man jumped into their Toyota and ordered them to drive to a secluded area in the Mission Hill neighborhood. There, according to Charles, the man robbed and shot them. Charles survived; Carol, who was eight months pregnant, did not. Their baby, a son named Christopher, was delivered by Caesarean section but died 17 days later.

Immediately, the crime was portrayed as an ominous sign of lawlessness overtaking Boston's streets, and law enforcement

officials cast a wide—and, some believed, indiscriminate—net to catch the killer. Working-class Mission Hill, walking distance from Fenway Park, was recklessly branded as a hotbed of violent crime. Because Stuart identified his assailant as black, African-American men were routinely stopped, searched, and questioned by police. In the wake of that still October night, the city became a tinderbox of fear, anger, and racial recriminations.

Though it was revealed three months later that Stuart, with his brother Matthew, concocted the scheme to murder his wife (Stuart committed suicide before police could arrest him), the city's wounds ran deep, and even the truth fell short as a healing salve.

No one would have blamed the DiMaiti family, doubly wounded by Carol's and Christopher's deaths and the devastating fact that Carol's husband was responsible, if they had retreated into silence. They, too, were victims. Instead, in a profound act of magnanimity, they reached out into the community stained by Charles Stuart's lies. "It was such a nice thing to do considering what they'd been through. They didn't have to do it," says LaDawn Dubose BSBA '95, who grew up in Mission Hill and was one of the earliest recipients of a CDSF scholarship. "I didn't get to meet Carl DiMaiti or his parents, but I'm forever grateful to them for what they had done. They had suffered this loss, and they didn't owe the community anything. To step up and offer to do something like that was tremendous."

According to newspaper reports published when the CDSF scholarship was first established, some donations were as modest as a few dollars, while other contributions were sent with heartbreaking messages from people who had lost their own loved ones to violence. Vice President Dan Quayle sent \$150, as did U.S. Representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts, who enclosed a handwritten note: "The word is overused, so I generally avoid it, but you have done a genuinely noble thing. We are all in your debt."

Within its first month, the foundation had garnered more than \$270,000. All these years later, DiMaiti remains awed by how people reacted to his family's loss. "It was extremely gratifying. They felt touched by the story, but helpless to do anything," he says. "This was a tangible way to show their sympathy to the family."

Making it Personal

Born and raised in Mission Hill, "and not ashamed to say it," Dubose, now 36, remembers the police presence that pervaded her neighborhood immediately after the murder. It was a comfort to some—many believed a killer was on the loose—but to others, it seemed an intrusion. Dubose even knew the family of Willie Bennett, whose name had been floated in the media as a

“It wasn’t
about my
resume, my
pedigree, or
my educational
background.
I think it was
about me as
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whether I
represented
the values that
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dear.”

– Carolyn Francisco JD '94



“They had suffered this loss, and they didn’t owe the community anything. To step up and offer to do something like that was tremendous.

– LaDawn Dubose BSBA ’95



prime suspect in the crime, though he was never charged. "It felt really personal," Dubose recalls. "It was really an uneasy time for race relations. It was all so unfortunate. [The police] were just snatching folks up off the streets—grown men, teenagers, everybody. It didn't matter who you were."

At the time, Dubose was a student at Boston Technical High School (now John D. O'Bryant High School), with dreams of becoming the first in her family to attend college. She had the grades—she was a member of the National Honor Society—but worried that she wouldn't have enough money to continue her education. After graduating from high school, she learned of the CDSF scholarship from a flier in the gymnasium of a local community center, and she met the criteria as a college-bound longtime Mission Hill resident without the financial means for higher education.

Annette Goodro, who served as the foundation's administrator from 1993 to 2006, helped guide DuBose through the application process. "Education has a very high value on my list so I was thrilled to do it," she says. "I got help from my family, but I also paid for a good deal of it myself through loans and work and financial aid, so I can understand and empathize with students who need assistance to go to college. To a certain extent, I had been through it myself."

What impressed Dubose was that Goodro not only helped her become a recipient, but stayed in touch throughout her years at Suffolk, where she majored in business management. "She would check in periodically just to talk—'How's it going? How are you doing?'" says Dubose, who works as a senior financial analyst for Parametric Technology Corporation in Needham, Massachusetts. "She was so helpful, and that was very important to me. She was there for me."


Goodro, a legal secretary for the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers and Office of Bar Council, recalls her experiences with the foundation as "very rewarding." To find eligible students, she created an application database of community organization leaders and public school financial aid counselors in all of the public schools, updating them yearly. Students need to live in Mission Hill, but not necessarily attend school there.

Depending on the student's financial needs, scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year, though the amount given to a student can vary from year to year. Without the award, Dubose doubts she could have attended college. "The scholarship filled the gaps," says the divorced mother of two, who also played for Suffolk's women's basketball team. "I got some loans, but I had no money and no one to ask for the money. No one told me when I was going to college that books would cost about \$500 a semester. It was a lot to deal with, and there was even a semester when they gave me a little bit more because I couldn't quite cover it."

Like Dubose, Francisco says her DiMaiti scholarship, awarded to one law student per academic year who has completed their first year, helped get her through law school. "I was one of those kids who applied for every scholarship possible, whether it was \$50 or \$1,000, because it was the only way I could get to school," she says. "I thought I would just throw my name in and see what happens." The DiMaiti scholarship, she says, "bought me my books for the next semester. It was tremendous—\$2,500 is a lot of money to a law student."

Yet Francisco quickly adds the award was never merely about its dollar amount or what it could buy. When the murder occurred in 1989, she was a political science student at Emmanuel College in Boston, not far from Mission Hill. During her freshman year, she had participated in volunteer programs in the neighborhood and was dismayed when its residents were characterized as violent. "After it happened, I heard a lot of 'Don't go out by yourself.' But I remember not ever being fearful, because I knew the area," Francisco says. "My family was fearful, but I was never fearful. It never distanced or isolated me from that community."

Given her own background (her mother made coats in a sweatshop while her father often held down two or three jobs to support the family), Francisco could relate to the neighborhood's working-class heart. That history, she believes, aided her selection as a DiMaiti scholarship recipient. "I didn't have the best grades. I wasn't top of my class. I did well, but I didn't come from Harvard undergrad. I didn't come from a family of means, I did not come from a family that was formally educated. I came from hard-working folks," says Francisco, who is married and lives in Canton, Massachusetts. "It wasn't about my resume, my pedigree, or my educational background. I think it was about me as a person, and whether I represented the values that Carol and her family held dear: hard work, family, work ethic." She adds, "That's what made it so personal. I think Mrs. DiMaiti was sincere—I reminded her of her Carol—and I will never forget how honored I felt when she said that."

All these years later, that honor still resonates with both Dubose and Francisco. "It's still on my resume that I am a Carol DiMaiti Scholarship recipient. I am very proud of it," Francisco says. Both women carry with them the responsibility of living up to the unfulfilled dreams of an ebullient young woman whose life was cruelly cut short. "When I was at Suffolk, I felt like I owed it to this family that believed in me to work hard, do my best, and graduate," Dubose says. "They had done so much for me, it felt like something I could do to show my appreciation." Francisco agrees. The scholarships have such a "personal connection with [DiMaiti's] family, I felt like it was my obligation to take that money, use it wisely, and try to go forward to fulfill my dreams," she says. "Even now, I still think about that. That's what they wanted me to do, because Carol was not able to do so." 





LIFE *of* SPICE

Connoisseur/entrepreneur
Jennifer Sawyer English BSBA '87, MBA '93
was just one ingredient from fulfillment.
Serendipitously, she found it

BY KATHY MONTGOMERY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN MECKLER



It's 11 a.m. at Flavorbank,

a wholesale and online spice market with a retail shop in Tucson, Arizona. Aside from a construction contractor, Jennifer Sawyer English BSBA '87, MBA '93 has the place to herself. She sits at a flat-screen monitor inside a small, blue room just out of sight of the service counter. Stainless steel racks with clear plastic bins of colorful spices are visible from the production area in a back room. A framed needlepoint reads: "TO LOVE AND BE LOVED IS THE GREATEST JOY ON EARTH."

English stirs vanilla-infused sugar into Starbucks coffee she drinks from a glass. She doesn't even flinch at the sound of a loud crash coming from the shop. "I think it's supposed to sound like that," she says nonchalantly.

Flavorbank is in transition. Pairing up with master sommelier Laura Williamson, English plans to begin selling wine in addition to high-quality spices. She'll also introduce Flavor School, tasting classes she hopes to webcast beginning in 2010. And if there's anything the Food and Wine Radio Network founder and James Beard Foundation Award winner knows, it's that in times of transition, a little mess is inevitable.

Everything, it seems, is in transition: the economy, the spice business, English's life. When President Barack Obama told Americans they need to re-imagine the way they do business, English was listening. Her own business

was changing; the old models of distribution no longer made sense.

Changes in gourmet specialty retailing, the untimely death of Flavorbank's CEO (the sister-in-law of the company's founder), and the end of a lucrative contract with celebrity chef Emeril Legasse had thrown the 40-year-old spice company into bankruptcy in 2005. English put together a plan and a team of investors to bring the business out of insolvency. The who and what of the venerable company needed to remain the same, she believed, but the how had to change.

English thought about her great-grandfather, who made a fortune during the Depression. "I put a picture of his business up, and I thought, 'How can I be inspired? How can I take the words of the president to heart and re-imagine what it is to do business?'"

Frank Sawyer, for whom the Sawyer Business School is named, founded Checker Taxi Company and served as chairman of auto rental giant Avis International. A former taxi driver, Sawyer took cabbies—whose reputation he called lower than a snake's belly—gave them uniforms and hats, and made them “escorts.”

For the past three years, English has been trying to do something similar with Flavorbank. Just as Frank Sawyer offered Checker Taxi customers something extra when he gave them an escort with every taxi, English wants Flavorbank customers to feel enriched beyond their purchases.

“I have this crazy belief that everyone who comes into my shop or tries my spices online will get these and smell them, and think about food differently,” she says. “That’s my hope. And I think if we do that, we can work ourselves out of this economy.”

“I don’t want to say I ripped the idea off from my granddad [referring to Sawyer] and gave it different words, but I think it’s apparent that in a troubling economy you have to imagine more and be inspired. That’s my inspiration.”

SPICE GIRL

In hindsight, it’s tempting to create a narrative in which English’s path seems neatly predestined. She first set foot in the Cambridge Coffee, Tea, and Spice House in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as a girl and became intoxicated. English grew up nearby in Newton with her mother, a real-estate developer and broker, her stepfather, Newton’s city clerk, and her younger sister. Considered a picky eater as a child, testing has since confirmed that English’s palate has the equivalent of perfect pitch in music. She attended American Institute of Wine and Food events from an early age and worked her way through school in food service. The first business plan she wrote, as an undergraduate at Suffolk, was for a company called Mrs. Spices.

But the reality was messier.

English spent two years at Suffolk Law School because her uncle and grandfather, both businessmen, had law degrees. “I thought that the way you got into business was to go to law school,” she says. English eventually realized she was in the wrong place. She transferred into Suffolk’s MBA program and loved it.

“She came from a very wealthy family, but she didn’t act like it,” recalls Sawyer Business School Professor of Management Emeritus (then director of the full-time MBA program) Joel Corman. “I would say she kind of overcame that. She was her own person. What I remember, primarily, is

that she was a very good student. She just sat down and did her work and did it very well. I expected her to do well in whatever she did.”

After earning her MBA, English worked as a marketing consultant in Boston. Then a series of business trips brought her to Tucson.

English had been thinking about radio. It was the late ’90s, and interest in food was mushrooming, yet there was no one doing on radio what the Food Network was doing on TV. “I thought, I could do that,” English says. She shared her dream with Dave Sitton, the voice of the University of Arizona Wildcats. “He said, ‘Well, I know everybody in radio.’”

English reasoned that without broadcasting or culinary credentials, it would be difficult to get on the air in a major market, but a smaller city like Tucson could be more receptive. With Sitton’s help, she pitched her idea to a local radio station, figuring she could expand her reach by building a network of affiliates. The best way to do that, she thought, was to win a prestigious prize, like a James Beard Foundation Award, considered to be one of the most influential honors in the culinary industry. Looking back, English sees herself as naive, but at the time “it sounded so logical to me,” she says.

English produced four shows in 1999 and submitted one. It received a nomination in 2000. She won the James Beard Foundation Award in 2002 for Best Radio Long Format on Food and her weekly show

went national. Before long, she was broadcasting nightly. English felt like she had found what she was supposed to do. Life felt rich and exciting, yet there was something missing.

A SECOND CHANCE

English had three on-air hours to fill each night, and *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* had just come to Tucson for auditions. Interviewing aspiring contestants seemed a fun way to fill airtime. But her interest was not purely practical. Game shows were something of a family tradition. Her uncle Billy was a *Quiz Kids* champion in the 1950s. His daughter Karen competed on *Jeopardy*. Even her mother qualified for the show, though stage fright kept her from appearing.

English drove to the auditions and stood in line with the other contestants. “I was involved in my radio work, which was enriching but not financially lucrative yet,” English recalls. “So they interview me and ask what I would do if I won a million dollars. I said I would adopt a child.”



HAVE THIS CRAZY
BELIEF THAT EVERYONE
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THINK ABOUT FOOD
DIFFERENTLY.”

English appeared on the show and, after two days in the hot seat, won \$8,000. The ultimate prize eluded her, but she hadn't found a partner she would want to raise a child with anyway. What's more, she worried about her health. Her mother died at age 49 and her own health was not robust since she had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

"It was terrifying," she recalls of first hearing her diagnosis. Yet it was good to finally know why she felt the way she did, and in part, English made peace with her illness because she believed it meant she wasn't going to get something else. Then a guest on her show popped that bubble. Richard Cohen, who is *Millionaire* host Meredith Vieira's husband, suffers from debilitating MS. He also had colon cancer—twice. "He said, 'You know, people think if you have MS you don't get other things, but that's not true. Look at me,'" she recalls.

About two years after learning she had MS, English was told she had cancer. "When I got diagnosed with kidney cancer, which is really, really scary, it was a lot harder to say, 'At least it's not something else,'" she recalls. English sweated out two difficult months before doctors determined how bad it was. Hers turned out to be a rare encapsulated form that was unlikely to spread. The treatment was successful, but it cost her more than a kidney.

At the time of her diagnosis, in 2005, English was living at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City. The owners were looking for someone to revive the hotel's legendary roundtable as a radio talk show, and they invited English to host it with guests such as writer Kurt Vonnegut, journalist Linda Ellerbee, and actress Estelle Parsons. "We were doing something incredibly special," English recalls. "That was hard to give up."

Unable to work, she didn't have a choice. Her illness ended her national radio career. English returned to Tucson to rebuild her strength. But she maintained her local show, thanks to a friend and fellow broadcaster who kept her program alive by airing archives.

English felt she had been given a "second chance" and thought long and hard about what to do with it. That's when Flavorbank declared bankruptcy. "They were foundering," remembers Norma Gentry, whose public relations firm, ProVentures, represented the company. "They didn't have any capital left. They were looking for a miracle."

Gentry thought English could help by promoting Flavorbank on the radio, but English saw an opportunity. "We can't let this company die," she told Gentry. "I'm going to figure out how to save it."

Her illnesses made her appreciate how food affects wellness, and because of the health benefits associated with certain spices, Flavorbank seemed a way to do good. It also represented a rare chance to pull her diverse experience into one tidy package.

"She saved it," Gentry says. "Jennifer has a lot of resources. She's really smart; she knows how to sell

stuff. She's one of the most brilliant out-of-the-box thinkers I've ever met...And when you go into the store, she's there. It's a whole education talking to Jennifer."

'EASIEST WAY TO DEAL WITH LIFE'

By late afternoon, a handful of customers have wandered into the shop. A woman in a long white skirt, jeweled belt, and blinking earpiece asks for "some British thing" (which English adeptly deciphers as Brittany sea salt) and smoked paprika for her father's birthday. "He loves this," the woman says. A gray-haired woman in a T-shirt and denim shorts picks up several cups of chipotle chili powder to make dye for a rug. A businessman in a lavender shirt and geometric tie craves smoky sea salt.

"When I was here last week, you were closed," he said. "I went through withdrawal."

"I'm sorry," English answers. "I'll give you a discount."

As English packs up to leave with just enough time for the dash across town to do a cooking segment for the 4 p.m. TV newscast, a customer



comes in to ask if Flavorbank sells more than one kind of smoked paprika. Her daughter is trying to make a dish, and it's not coming out right. After a few skillful questions, English concludes the daughter is not using paprika but a spice blend. English pushes two bottles into the woman's hand.

"Here's one of each," she says. "Let me give them to you. I was just running out the door."

The woman pauses, looking baffled. "How much do I owe you?"

"It's a gift," English says, apologizing that she has to leave.

These kinds of enriching encounters might not be possible in a large business, English muses. "Everything we do is hand-made, and it always has been," she says. "I don't know how big we would ever want to be. So I'm not going to dream about...getting more orders than we can handle. That sounds like a nightmare to me."

Instead, English's strategy for Flavorbank is to differentiate itself by offering education and quality products through specialty markets like Zabar's in New York and, increasingly, directly to consumers.

"You okay here?" English asks the contractor as she locks up. In case someone should come to the door with a jones for spices, English tells him, "Sell anything for \$5 each. That's the easiest way to deal with life. Thanks for a great day."

It may not be the conventional way to run a business, but as English says, "If all you want is a commodity transaction, there's no enrichment."

LEGACY OF AUDACITY

When English was a child, her uncle Billy nicknamed her Serendipity, which now seems prophetic. To English, the word represents the element of chance, the unexpected, the thing you can't put into a business plan. And it has been the guiding principle of her life.

"When I was at Suffolk in business school, nobody ever talked about things like serendipity," English says. "But if the dean of the Business School said, 'We're trying to create a more integrated and holistic approach to business in this new time,' I would propose a course on the recognition of serendipity as an element of success."

"I said I wanted to win a James Beard prize," she continues. "I could just as easily have come up against a brick wall. That's why serendipity is so powerful. I think it makes us audacious."

Ultimately, audacity is how English understands the legacy of her family. It's a legacy she believes every student at the Sawyer Business School shares—and what distinguishes them from graduates of other business schools.

When "We try harder" was the Avis company motto, English was just a girl. She remembers playing with the little red buttons. "I had a whole collection of them in all the different languages," she recalls. "I mean, imagine the subtle messages in that, right?"

"I know that's not the Suffolk motto, but if you look at the Avis motto, there's this message about trying hard, and one of the hardest lessons in life is knowing when to try really hard and be diligent and persevering and dogged and determined, and when to not try so hard."

"If you are doing the thing you are supposed to be doing, I think the universe will reward you and support you, and if you're doing the thing you're not supposed to be doing, it will give you increasingly more understandable messages that you're not doing the right thing."

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you don't need a million dollars to have a kid. Nobody at *Millionaire* told me that though."

On the day her son was born, English borrowed a tradition from her friends Dorothy J. Gaiter and John Brecher, who wrote the wine column for *The Wall Street Journal*. Gathering friends and family for a toast, she touched a drop of champagne to his lips to symbolize her hope for a life full of moments worth celebrating.

English gave a lot of thought to this selection. "I wanted to pick a wine that was evocative of what I wanted for his life," she says. He was a long time coming, and the wine had to be just right. Eventually, she chose a rosé with notes of strawberries and honey. When her son was born with red hair, pink skin, and a sweet disposition, the choice felt as prophetic as her own nickname. "It was like sipping what he tasted like," English says. "It was the most perfect pick I've ever made." ☺

PERFECT PAIRING

Inside the ladies' room at Tucson's NBC affiliate, KVOA, English bends double to brush the underside of her hair. She has traded blue jeans for a simple sleeveless dress and a string of pearls. "You don't have to do this for radio," she says to a guest she has brought along, flipping her hair into place. Rubbing on pink lipstick, she asks, "Can you do anything to make me look less middle aged?"

These days, English keeps life in balance. Her local radio show, now in its 10th year, recently moved to KJLL-AM. She also does a weekly TV segment. But with the Internet, people all over the world can access even local shows.

And life still surprises her. She finally met someone with whom she wanted to share a life. Then last year, she and her partner became parents. "It just shows you, you never know what's in store," she says. "And I've never been happier in my life. It turns out



VETERAN JOURNALIST
Greg Wayland BA '69

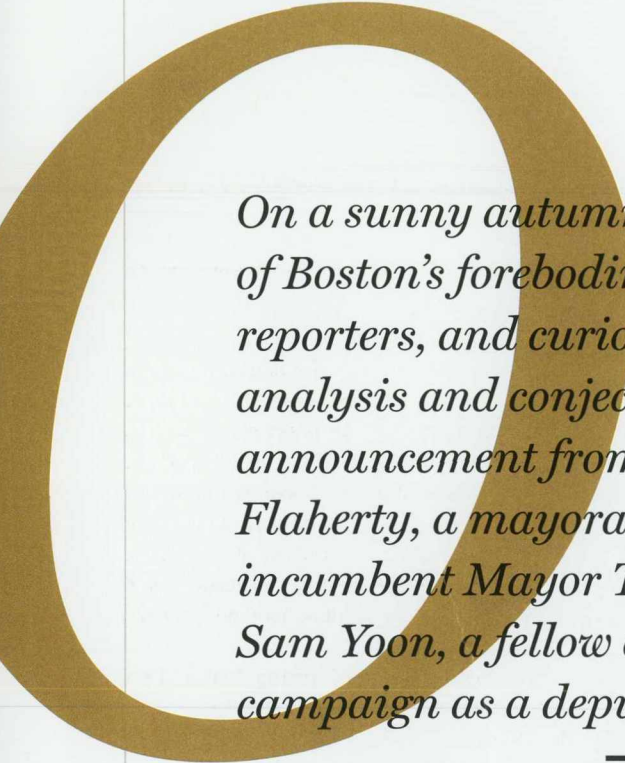
CASTS A
NEW ENGLAND
ANGLE ON
TV NEWS

NEWS MAKER



By Renée Graham

Photography by Mark Ostow



On a sunny autumn morning, the sprawling plaza in front of Boston's foreboding City Hall is teeming with cameramen, reporters, and curious onlookers. An incessant clamor of analysis and conjecture hums among them as they await an announcement from Boston City Councilor-at-Large Michael Flaherty, a mayoral candidate locked in a race against longtime incumbent Mayor Thomas Menino: Flaherty has chosen Sam Yoon, a fellow councilor and former opponent, to join his campaign as a deputy-mayoral candidate.

In a city where politics is often a blood sport, it's an unprecedented twist five weeks before Election Day and is certain to be the biggest news story of the day. Yet while others are waiting for Flaherty's press conference to commence, Greg Wayland is already pondering how to better tell the story for viewers who will watch him live in less than two hours on New England Cable News (NECN), the nation's largest regional cable news network.

"We've got to try and find the mayor and talk to him, but we won't have a lot of time to do that before noon," the veteran newsman tells his photographer Cameron Robbins, though it's clear Wayland will find a way to make it happen. While some might stress out over piecing together the myriad components of a major story on a tight deadline, Wayland's demeanor is one of quiet diligence and professionalism; he has the sort of mein fashioned over decades of covering news stories from the bucolic burghs of Massachusetts to the Vatican in Rome.

He's reported on murders, high-profile trials, and political campaigns. He's covered the funerals of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, his sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics, and Pope John Paul II. Wayland has worked for newspapers and in radio, but it's in television news—a notoriously capricious industry—that he has achieved longevity and respect in a career that began when Jimmy Carter occupied the White House.

UTILITY MAN

Wayland, 63, recently celebrated his 30th anniversary in broadcast journalism, the last 11 years spent at NECN. If his hair is considerably grayer than most of the other reporters crowding the plaza, he is no less energetic about getting the facts. With a notepad in one hand and a BlackBerry in the other, he's constantly thinking of ways to best convey the events of the day.

"With something like this, there's a lot of adrenaline, and it's very exciting," he says. "You've gotta be someplace on a deadline, and you have to be up for the challenge day-in and day-out. What keeps it from becoming a grind in TV is the game—when it's game time and you actually have to go before the camera and talk to people in some coherent way."

Wayland is often working on a different story every day. He's a general assignment reporter, journalism's version of a baseball utility man who can play several positions. The day before Flaherty's press conference, Wayland was in a Boston courtroom for the arraignment of a 19-year-old man accused in the homicide of a pregnant Boston teenager who was shot to death at her own birthday party.

Over time, experienced reporters tend to settle into a particular beat, which is often considered a perk for having paid one's dues covering anything and everything. Given an opportunity, Wayland wouldn't mind covering the arts. But

his strength has always been writing, an important yet often overlooked skill in TV news, and he has twice won regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for writing on NECN.

"He is a magnificent storyteller and, I think, the best writer on television in New England," says NECN News Director Tom Melville, who hired Wayland in 1998. "We pride ourselves at NECN on reporting the news with context, and no one does that better than Greg Wayland."

Wayland credits his early years working at newspapers with honing his skills as a writer. "I don't think I could have done [television] without some ability to write, because I was more of a writer than a reporter," he says. "I've met a lot better reporters than me, but if you can write fairly well and you're interested, you can usually pull things off."

Wayland may underplay his abilities as a reporter, but the respect he commands among peers and interview subjects alike is clear. As the Flaherty/Yoon press conference winds down, Wayland, among the throng of reporters and neighborhood bloggers, fires off the first question. His style is direct but not combative, and he doesn't come off like one of those TV journalists out to prove their cleverness at the expense of their subject.

Having recently completed a Flaherty profile, Wayland believes the candidate was open to his question after the two men made eye contact. But he insists that getting noticed long enough to have your question answered isn't always about skill. "With TV, usually it's like horses out of the gate—I'm surprised there wasn't a cacophony," he says after the press conference. "Sometimes, you just get lucky."

Soon Wayland is on his phone trying to set up an interview with Menino in time for the noontime broadcast. He and Robbins sit in a news van filled with monitors, mixers, and audio machines, reviewing and editing footage from the press conference, as well as separate Q&As with Flaherty and Yoon. Suddenly, a mayoral aide calls to say Menino will grant an interview—now. It's less than 30 minutes before show time.

"He wants to do it here?" Robbins asks.

"He wants us to go to his office," Wayland replies. "I don't think this is a solo job, I think he's talking to everybody."

Equipment in tow, Wayland and Robbins make their way across the plaza to the mayor's fifth-floor office overlooking Faneuil Hall. As Wayland predicted, other reporters are also there, and the avuncular Menino, already standing and ready for their questions, greets them all warmly. Wayland again asks the first question: "Mayor, what are your thoughts about this mayor-deputy mayor arrangement?" Menino's answer to Wayland's question will air



“THERE ARE GUYS WHO’VE SHOT PAST ME IN THE BUSINESS, BUT I’VE ALWAYS THOUGHT *local news* WAS WHERE YOU COULD GET INVESTED IN THE STORY.”

on every Boston news channel that night.

Once the interview is complete, it's back to the van, and in 15 minutes Wayland and Robbins are ready to go for NECN's *New England Midday* program. Wayland straightens his tie, runs a comb through his hair, and reads through his notes several times so his delivery will be seamless when the camera is on. And when the moment comes, he's a study in calm authority.

"He's not a 25-year-old blown-dry reporter arriving here from Las Vegas—not that there's anything wrong with those young folks," Melville says. "But Greg is genuine and pas-

sionate, a man deeply connected to city and his community."

KEEPING A LOCAL PROFILE

The son of a coal and oil salesman and a would-be poet and homemaker (whom he credits for "any writing talents" he possesses), Wayland grew up the youngest of five children in an Irish Catholic family in Boston's Dorchester section. His three brothers were involved in what he calls "various aspects of broadcasting," such as sales, and trade magazines were as common around his childhood home as the morning paper.

Still, with his love of writing, Wayland set his sights on a newspaper career. When he says he talked his way into Suffolk, he's only half-joking. As a high school student, he entered an oratory contest at Suffolk that offered a full four-year scholarship as the grand prize—and he won. "I didn't even think I was that great that day, but the rest is history," he says with a chuckle. "It was all-expenses paid, except for books. I remain very grateful."

Wayland, an English major, made his mark at Suffolk as the founding editor of *Venture*, the University's artistic and literary journal. Its inaugural publication date in 1968 was one of the best days of his Suffolk years. "I recall very well being all alone in the first-floor student publication office facing Derne Street one warm afternoon and receiving the first-ever edition in boxes through the window from a trucker," Wayland says. "Scrawled on the boxes was the word, 'Venture.' Oh, that was a fine—and ultimately historic—moment. I went around depositing copies on tables and window sills and professors' desks, wondering if the magazine would last to another edition, never imagining it would last 40-plus years."

He still playfully cringes over a typo in that first edition, where "personra" was published instead of "persona." By way of explanation, he says, "I was never good at proofreading."

Attending Suffolk also delayed for Wayland a fate faced by many young men in the 1960s: military induction. He expected to get drafted, and shortly after he graduated from Suffolk, he was. "I didn't mind it," he says. "I was up for

the adventure.” When he arrived at Fort Dix in New Jersey, he and his fellow recruits were told that 80 percent of them would eventually be sent to Vietnam. Wayland got lucky; he was stationed in South Korea as a military policeman for two years.

Upon returning home in 1972, a family friend helped Wayland land a job as a copy boy at *The Boston Globe*. His main responsibility was transcribing stories recited by reporters into a recording machine called a Dictaphone.

It didn’t take long for Wayland’s talents and work ethic to attract attention. “When Greg came to the *Globe*, I quickly realized we had a bright, humble, hard-working young man in our midst,” said John C. Burke, then an assistant metro editor and now a consultant to Boston.com, the *Boston Globe*’s online division. “Many of the stories they handled were either from political writers or from foreign correspondents. What impressed me about Greg was that he obviously had done his homework so that he would be familiar with the subjects and, in doing so, probably saved a lot of mistakes.”

His *Globe* job led to a reporting role at the *Daily Transcript* in Dedham, Massachusetts, where he worked for more than three years. While covering a story at the airport, Wayland had an epiphany as he watched a television crew covering the same event. “They came breezing in, sat down, [videotaped] the room, walked out, and were on TV that night,” he says. “It’s like the infantryman in the mud who looks up and sees the airplane. I was thinking, ‘There’s gotta be an easier way to do what I’m doing.’”

To make the transition to television, he enrolled in Boston University’s broadcast journalism graduate program. “I felt like if I didn’t try it, I would [always] wish I had,” says Wayland of his move from print to TV. In the three decades since, he’s worked for nearly every Boston-area station, as well as affiliates in Tampa and Ft. Myers, Florida, and Providence, Rhode Island. He even did a stint in radio in tiny Banner Elk, North Carolina.

Yet nothing has been as rewarding for Wayland, who is unmarried and has an adult son, as working in his hometown. For Robbins, who moved to Boston from California a year

ago, his best introduction to the city has come from spending time with Wayland.

“Forty to 50 percent of this job is driving, so there’s a lot of time when you’re just sitting in a car with somebody,” says Robbins, who has worked at NECN for a year and has teamed up with Wayland on several assignments. “When you sit in a car for any amount of time, being able to talk with your reporter really helps the day go by. When you’ve got somebody like Greg who loves to chat and talk about history, I can ask him, ‘What’s the history behind that building? Who’s that guy? What’s the relationship



between this person and that person?’ He’s like an encyclopedia.”

Shortly before joining NECN, Wayland taught a class in broadcast journalism at Suffolk. Robert (“Doctor Bob”) Rosenthal, chair of the University’s communication and journalism department, says Wayland’s rapport with aspiring journalists has made him a mentor to interns at NECN, some of whom were Suffolk students. “One of the neat things he does is take the time to explain to them what’s happening, and he takes them out on shoots with him,” Rosenthal says. “He’s got a great nose for news, a great sense for reporting, which I think is evident in his stories. On top of that, he’s an ethical, decent human being, so it’s a nice mixture.”

Given Wayland’s credentials, it’s surprising that he’s never been a network correspondent. He’s watched former colleagues like Dan Harris, once a NECN anchor, ascend to high-profile assignments in Afghanistan and Iraq,

as well as the anchor chair on ABC’s *World News Sunday*. While he admires their success, he feels no envy. “There are guys who’ve shot past me in the business, but I’ve always thought local news was where you could get invested in the story,” Wayland says. “Being here, it’s great that I can get all these stories that have a historical context because I’m a native Bostonian.”

THE REST OF THE STORY

The morning’s sunshine has given way to a thatch of threatening late afternoon clouds. Back in the news truck—nicknamed “Voyager”—Wayland and Robbins begin re-editing the day’s interviews for *Newsday Live* at 5 p.m. He tells Robbins, “I want to drive more substance into the last 30 seconds at 5 p.m.,” and he gives Menino, then vying for an unprecedented fifth term as mayor, the last word. After more than a half-hour of knob-twiddling, the hustle and flow of a day’s work is boiled down to three minutes at the top of the evening’s broadcast. Following an impromptu question about the campaign from NECN anchor Leslie Gaydos, the long day is finally done.

“That’s a wrap,” Wayland declares. After returning to the office in Newton, Massachusetts, he will make the commute to his home in Clinton, a rural town about 60 miles west of Boston. To unwind, he listens to books on CD, which have recently included all 18 discs of Herman Melville’s classic tale *Moby Dick*, as well as the works of Cormac McCarthy.

The next day, Wayland will be back in downtown Boston. This time, he’ll be at the State House covering a hearing of a family lobbying to make organ donations in Massachusetts easier; their daughter died before she could receive a liver transplant. From the State House to City Hall, from Boston to the Berkshires, Wayland approaches each day with the same goal that has sustained his career for three decades: to tell a story the best way he can. “I love telling stories and telling stories about people,” Wayland says. “Even after all these years, I still get a charge from going out on a story. I’ve been in TV for 30 years, but I feel like I’ve still got a lot to learn.” ☺

1958



Play it again (for) SAM

We know the year. We know the name (the Jazz Society). What we don't know is the story behind the photo or the student group. If you can help us fill in the notes, please drop us a line. You'll find contact information on page 7. Thanks, and all that jazz.

on campus in '58

- ➔ Ex-paratrooper Wyatt Wendell Coleman plans a skydiving club for Suffolk
- ➔ U.S. Senator (and former New Hampshire Governor) H. Styles Bridges is the speaker at graduation. *Christian Science Monitor* Editor Edwin D. Canham is the speaker for Recognition Day
- ➔ SU Drama club presented *Ten Little Indians*
- ➔ Seven finalists compete for Miss Suffolk crown; Junior and Senior Prom vie with Recognition Day as the venue for her coronation
- ➔ Boston Public School Superintendent Dr. Dennis C. Haley named a Suffolk trustee

off campus in '58

- ➔ U.S. Supreme Court rules Little Rock, Arkansas schools must integrate
- ➔ Nikita Khrushchev named Premier of Soviet Union
- ➔ Bobby Fischer, 14, wins United States Chess Championship
- ➔ World's first International House of Pancakes debuts in Toluca Lake, California
- ➔ Unemployment rate: 4.3%
- ➔ Ricky Nelson charts first No. 1 record on Billboard Hot 100 chart
- ➔ Instant noodles introduced
- ➔ Alvin Ailey launches his American Dance Theatre
- ➔ Elvis Presley inducted into U.S. Army

Advancing Suffolk

Friendraiser-in-Chief

To Christopher S. Mosher JD '76, advancement is just another word for relationship-building

On his eighth day as vice president for advancement at Suffolk University, following a conversation that lasted less than 30 minutes, Christopher Mosher shook hands with an alumnus and walked off with a \$100,000 commitment for an endowed law school scholarship fund. "He was very proud of his education and that his daughter was coming to his alma mater," Mosher recalls. Yet the individual, a major gift donor, had not contributed in about a decade. What made him renew his commitment so decisively and seal the deal enthusiastically with an individual who had been on the job barely a week? "It's about relationships and belief in the mission of the institution," says Mosher.

For Mosher, at the foundation of every act of philanthropy, no matter how large or small, is the relationship between donor and institution that has preceded it. Often the institution is personified by an individual. For this donor, the law professor who inspired him as a student turned out to be the university president with whom he maintained a connection as a graduate. The relationship with Suffolk University and David Sargent were one in the same. It's a bond that Mosher particularly appreciates. He sees his role and that of his staff as being as much about what he calls "friendraising" as it is about fund-raising.

"Friendraising is what we do with the alumni relations programming," he explains. "That's what *SAM* does. It's the business of keeping people close to the institution, keeping them informed and enthused about activities and opportunities they may have."

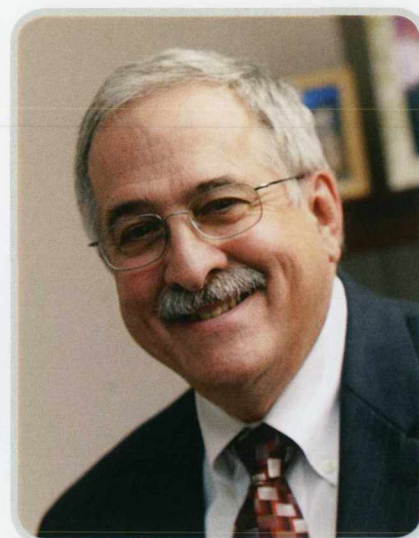
And it's about what Mosher describes as the "credibility factor." As a 1976 graduate of Suffolk Law School, he extols the virtues of his alma mater with a personal passion, just as he did for nearly a decade in fund-raising at Northeastern University, from which he received his undergraduate degree. "As a development professional, you really have to embrace the mission of the organization you're working for," he says. "You can't fake it."

When he approaches alumni to ask for their support, it is not from the remote perspective of a generic fund-raiser but from that of a peer. Before he became a development practitioner, Mosher was a beneficiary. "Philanthropy has touched my life personally as well as professionally," he says, "so it truly resonates with me," as his own story will with many of his fellow graduates.


"I put myself through law school here working professionally, but I also had two or three part-time jobs," he says. "One of them really relied on tips. To this very day, whether it's a chambermaid, a bartender, a waiter, or a cab driver, I make it a point to leave a pretty generous tip." Applying his own experience, Mosher concludes that "if you've ever worked in the service industry, if you've ever relied on tips for an income, more than likely, you're a generous tipper."

So when he asks people of ordinary means to make a contribution, Mosher knows that "we're asking them to do something they can feel in their pocketbook more than a high-net-worth individual" and that "proportionally, these folks are generally very generous."

Mosher is also acutely aware of the impact smaller donors can have en masse. "Look at



the success of the Howard Dean and Barack Obama campaigns," he says, drawing a political parallel. "It was small donors—\$10 donations, \$5 donations—that made a profound difference." The effect in education is intensified by the influence participation rates have on everything from a university's success in attracting corporate and government grants to its place in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings.

The Power to Change: The Campaign for Suffolk University is the most ambitious fund-raising effort in the history of the institution. Mosher acknowledges that the target (\$75 million with an interim goal of \$60 million) is "daunting," yet he says, "We're well on the way to achieving it." And Mosher will continue to reach the goal as he always has—one relationship at a time. 



No Time Like the Present

For Gregory S. Jones BSBA '04, it's never too soon to give back

BY PAMELA REYNOLDS

LIKE MANY PEOPLE, Gregory Jones was unemployed back in October 2008, as financial markets slipped into chaos and the world hurtled toward recession. At the time, economic analysts were on the airwaves night and day, debating whether the “great recession” might actually become a depression. Even the more optimistic prognosticators speculated that the economic slump might drag on for months—perhaps years.

Nevertheless, Jones did something that might seem surprising for an unemployed man during tough economic times: he made his first financial gift to his alma mater. “No matter how small the donation, it still has an impact,” says Jones, who ultimately found a job as program recruiter for The Massachusetts MENTOR Network, a human services agency providing foster care for developmentally disabled adults. “Especially if everyone gets

involved,” he adds. In addition to his financial support, Jones now regularly attends alumni networking events and even served on the 5th year reunion committee for his class.

Jones’s philosophy is that every student, every alumnus, can make a difference, no matter what his or her life circumstances. His donation is his way of giving something back to a university that he says has profoundly shaped his life.

Prior to arriving at Suffolk in 2001, Jones had spent a period of time mulling over his life path. He had attended Drexel University in Philadelphia for a year, but he decided to return to the Boston area, where he grew up, to get a better handle on his goals. While thinking things through, he worked as a clerk in a small Winthrop, Massachusetts mom-and-pop store and as a kindergarten teaching assistant for special needs students

in Manchester, Massachusetts. Those divergent experiences helped Jones realize that he wanted a career involving both business and people.

With renewed clarity, he enrolled in the entrepreneurship concentration at Suffolk, where classes like Interpersonal Effectiveness suggested a path for the future that perfectly melded his two interests. At Suffolk, Jones developed what he calls “the intangible skills like understanding how to really effectively communicate” that have served him well in the jobs he has held since graduating from Suffolk: as a management trainee at Enterprise Rent-A-Car; an account controller at State Street Corporation; and a service manager for Ledge, an employee recruiting agency. Certainly it helps him today in his role as a recruiter of foster parents.

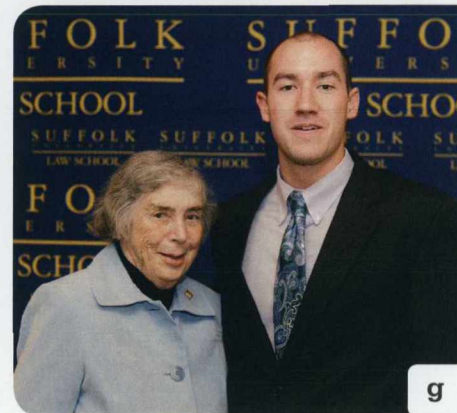
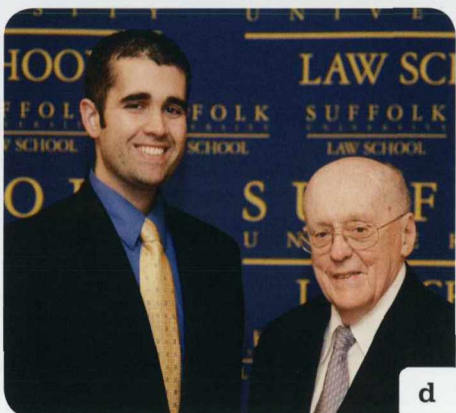
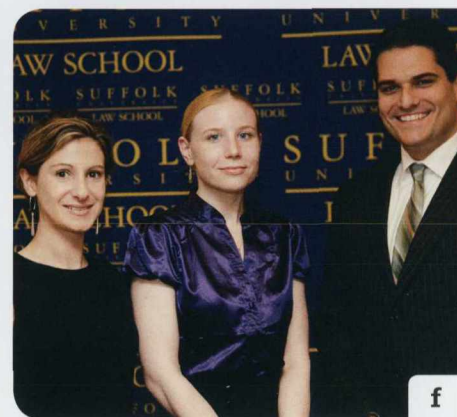
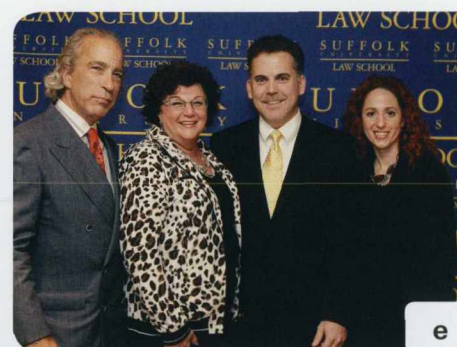
Now 29, living in Melrose, Massachusetts and soon to be wed, Jones says he has been frequently drawn back to Suffolk. In part, his increased activity is a result of a decision to pursue a master’s degree in finance at the University, which he hopes to complete by 2011. Yet his renewed commitment is also a realization of how important Suffolk was during his 2008 job hunt, from assisting with his search to augmenting his contacts through the online alumni network. “I’ve definitely received a lot more in return than the money that I donated,” Jones reflects.

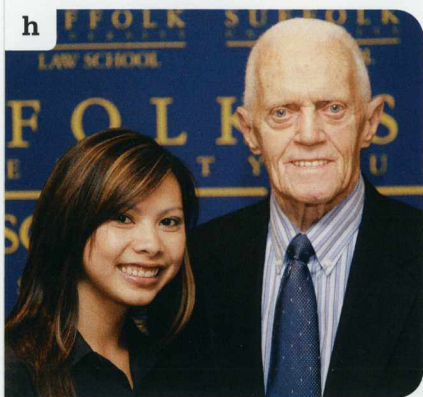
While some young alumni might feel justified in delaying financial gifts until that perfect moment in which they have “arrived,” Jones “can’t wait for the next opportunity.” His sense of urgency comes from knowing that although times are tough for individuals, they are also challenging for an institution committed to “retaining the right staff, the right faculty, and being able to offer more services.”

“I know I will see that money put to good use,” he says. “It’s the understanding that I’ll be helping other people to receive the same experience that I have.” ☺

Law School Scholarship Dinner 2009

It's not always easy to see the effects of one's generosity, which is why the annual Suffolk Law School scholarship dinner is such a unique opportunity. Benefactors meet the students who have received their financial support through a named endowed scholarship. Recipients get a chance to acknowledge those who help to make their education possible. This year's gathering, held on October 22, 2009, provided yet another window on philanthropy in action.





a > Sharone Jona, JD '10, Gerard F. Doherty and Marilyn Doherty Scholarship recipient and Gerard F. Doherty, JD '60, trustee and benefactor

b > Andrew Resmini, Ronald J. Resmini, JD '68, benefactor, Anthony J. Gesualdi, BA '09, JD '13, Resmini/Fenton/O'Brien Scholarship recipient, Adam Resmini

c > Ashley Wirth, JD '11, Judge Harry M. Lack Scholarship recipient

d > Samuel Caccavale, JD '10, Catherine T. Judge Scholarship recipient. Thomas Judge, brother of the late Professor Catherine T. Judge who established the scholarship

e > Jeffrey A. Blum, JD '76, benefactor, Francine Gonnella, benefactor, Russell Bergevine, JD '13, Richard A. Gonnella Memorial Scholarship recipient, Elizabeth Paola, benefactor

f > Nicole M. Zerola, JD '01, benefactor, Victoria M. Horan, JD/MPA '12, Zerola Family Centennial Scholarship recipient, Paul F. Zerola, JD '01

g > Jeanne M. Hession, LLB '56, DJS '74, trustee and benefactor, John Wilusz, JD '12, Jeanne M. and Marguerite E. Hession Centennial Scholarship recipient

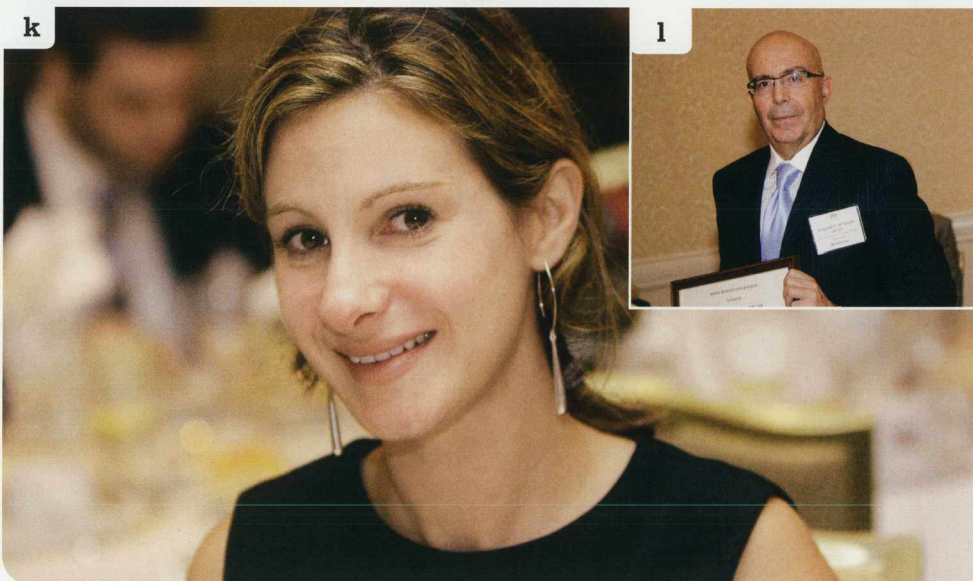
h > Hanh T. Nguyen, JD '10, Gregg J. Wilson, JD '84 Scholarship recipient, John N. Wilson, Jr., benefactor

i > Courtney Houston-Carter, JD '11, Manuel V. McKenney Scholarship recipient speaks with Suffolk University's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Janice Griffith, Esq

j > Guests listen to the student speaker at the 2009 Suffolk Law School Scholarship Dinner

k > Nicole M. Zerola, JD '01, benefactor

l > Armand P. D'Amato, JD '69, benefactor



ALUMNI news

From Your Alumni Association

AS WE START THE COUNTDOWN to spring, we at Suffolk are thinking of you, the dedicated and passionate group of individuals who collectively make up a robust alumni network of 65,000 worldwide. We see firsthand the impact that you have on today's Suffolk students in so many ways.

Just as you are here for them, we are here for you, working to build an alumni association that provides more practical, meaningful resources and more diverse, enjoyable social activities. We're delighted with the positive feedback we've received on our initiatives over the past year and want to remind you of some resources that are at your fingertips:

Suffolk University alumni enjoy access to an array of resources including the online alumni directory, career tools, library privileges, as well as a host of programs and events.

We, in partnership with the Office of Career Service (CAS/SBS) and the Office of Career Development (Law), have recently expanded career "e-tools" offered to alumni. Each of these tools is available to you as a member of the Suffolk University Alumni Association.

CareerSearch provides you access to a powerful networking database of more than 4 million companies nationwide, compiled from the most respected, indus-

try-specific sources. This online database allows you to compile a list of employers of interest in your area. To receive the necessary referral key for accessing the system, please call Career Services at 617-573-8480 or the Career Development Office in the Law School at 617-573-8148.

You can access full-time job postings received by Suffolk University's Office of Career Services through the eRecruiting system at suffolk.experience.com. Once you have registered, you may also access the VAULT Career Library through the eRecruiting system. [To register with eRecruiting, you will need to use this password: Madrid].

The online Alumni community, a directory of all your 65,000 fellow alumni, allows you to find former classmates and to search alumni records by name, college, degree, year of graduation, hometown and employer. The Online Community is one of the best ways to stay in touch, broaden your social and professional network, and update your own record so that it accurately reflects what you're doing today.

Visit the Suffolk University Alumni Website and register for a free account with the Online Community. To sign in as a new user, you will need your SU I.D. number (your number is listed above your name on the back cover).



Utilize valuable resources such as career assessment, company profiles, industry overviews, and a Q&A about career-related topics. Search the job database, post your resume, or seek advice from a mentor. Sign up for a free account with the Online Community and begin using this great resource today.

For a listing of the alumni programs we have planned, please visit suffolk.edu/alumni and click on alumni events.

Warmest regards,

ELLEN S. SOLOMITA

Assistant Vice President
Alumni Relations & Annual Giving
esolomit@suffolk.edu

SAM@work > Are you a franchise player?

The same recession that has claimed many small businesses has actually spawned others. Some victims of corporate downsizing have opted to strike out on their own, pouring savings and severance packages into a start-up business. Are they better off with the structure and relative security of a franchise or the autonomy and entrepreneurial opportunities of independent ownership?

As a former Vice-President of Dunkin' Donuts Corporation and current chairperson and CEO of the Dunkin' Donuts Independent Franchise Owners, attorney Kevin R. McCarthy sees the pros and cons of both arrangements. SAM asked for his sage counsel on the business of franchises.



Cases for franchising and for going it alone as an entrepreneur

by Kevin R. McCarthy, EMBA '88
attorneykevinmccarthy.com

Consider a franchise if...

- ...you're risk averse
- ...you like working as part of a team and take direction well within an organizational structure
- ...you come from a corporate background
- ...you're concerned about obtaining financing. (Banks are generally more receptive to franchisees than independent businesspeople)
- ...your budget lacks resources for promotions. (Franchisees have the advantage of existing brand name recognition)

Consider the independent entrepreneurial route if...

- ...you would describe yourself as "highly creative" and "innovative"
- ...you are willing to assume more risk in exchange for potentially greater reward
- ...you rebel against a strong managerial structure and take satisfaction in solving your own problems, and doing things your own way
- ...your goal is not just to earn a good living but to hit the jackpot
- ...you want to be captain of your own destiny

AN INSPIRED Career

Sessions are held at the Suffolk Club at the Downtown Harvard Club. Each is complimentary and begins at 5:30pm. Networking reception follows at 7pm. Light hors d'oeuvres will be available along with a cash bar.

February 2, 2010 > **Working the Room: The Art of Building Alliances**

March 2, 2010 > **The Memorable Interview**

April 6, 2010 > **Talking About Money and Negotiating the Deal**

**STRATEGIES
FOR CAREER
SUCCESS
2009 / 2010
SERIES**

The Inspired Career is co-sponsored by the offices of Alumni Relations and Career Services. For more information or to RSVP please call 617.573.8456



www.suffolk.edu/alumni

Surviving the downturn by day, opportunities for networking by night...

Once again this season, your Alumni Association offered a wide variety of programs, from the practical (career seminars and faculty lectures) to the festive (honors for distinguished alumni and professors)





a > Bea Snow, AB '62, Joanne Johnson, BS '75, Professor Stacie Bumgarner and guest Ben Voight

b > DC Chapter faculty lecture: Krystle Ongaco, BS '04 and Engin Topor

c > George Kokoros, BA '85, EMBA '04 and Taso Papatsoris, BA '86 at the Government Alumni Reception

d > Government Alumni Networking Reception: Professor Agnes Bain and Ernst Guerrier, BS '91, JD '94. Inset: Guest Speaker: Arthur Bernard BA '80, Chief of Staff for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick

e > Central Mass. Chapter Event: Arthur Giacomarra, JD '84, Mary Bassett, JD '81 and Darlene Daniele, JD '84

f > Larry Stybel, Executive in Residence at the Ashburton Place Career Seminar

g > Maria Van Parys, MS '96, Carol Zulauf Sharicz, BS '90 and Gail Lyons, MSCRT '09 at Leading Organizational Change Conference

h > Pamela Smith, JD '82 at the Ashburton Career Seminar

i > Professional resume advice from Mark Cohen, EMBA '86, at Ashburton Place Career Seminar

j > RI Chapter Reception: Thomas Madonna, JD '80, Justice Paul Suttell, JD '76, and Interim Dean Bernard Keenan

Follow the Leaders

Highlights from Suffolk's annual autumn weekend meeting of the minds

At college campuses everywhere, September means students moving in, classes starting up, and other seasonal rituals. At Suffolk, there is one more tradition associated with the month. At Leadership Weekend, we call upon the strength of the University's past in order to plan a course for our future. This year's gathering of alumni from the Law School, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Sawyer Business School opened on Friday, September 25th with keynote speaker Bill Littlefield, host of National Public Radio's weekly sports magazine *Only a Game*. Littlefield welcomed participants to the Suffolk Club at the Downtown Harvard Club of Boston with an insightful, good-humored introduction to the weekend focusing on leadership skills.

University Alumni Council President Bill Popeleski, Jr. MBA '87 and Provost Barry Brown set the tone for Saturday's jam-packed schedule, followed by "A Conversation with the Deans" (Bernard V. Keenan, interim dean of the Law School, Kenneth S. Greenberg from the College of Arts & Sciences, and William J. O'Neill, Jr. of Sawyer Business School), moderated by Vice President for Academic Affairs Janice Griffith.

The afternoon began with a perennial participant favorite, the Faculty and Student Panel, followed by the newest member of Suffolk University's leadership team, Vice President for Advancement Christopher S. Mosher JD '76, laying out his agenda for advancing Suffolk. Mosher also moderated a leadership conference luncheon with the intriguing title, "How the Stars Align: A Peek

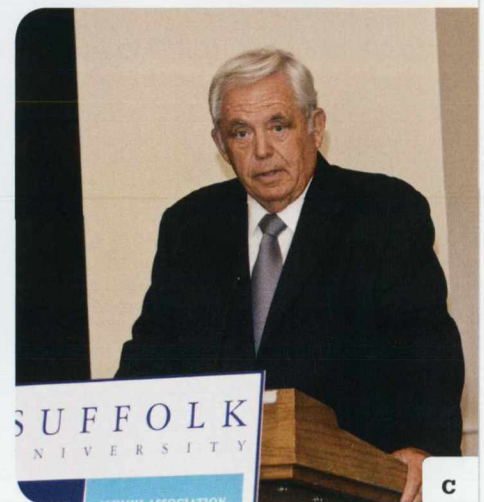
at how the Wealthy Plan (and you can too)." Panelists Patricia Annino JD '81, Eric Hayes JD '80, and Carol Tully, CPA, JD '81 used the final plans of historical figures and celebrities from Babe Ruth to Jacqueline Onassis as case studies for personal planning.



a



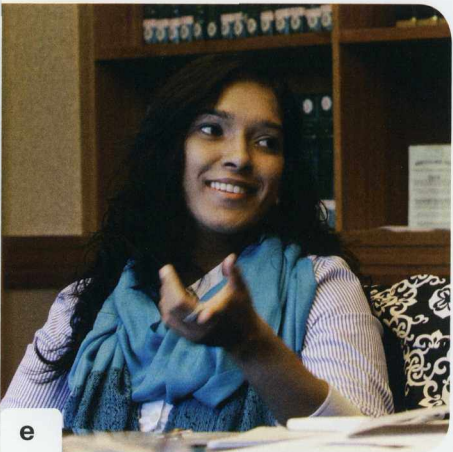
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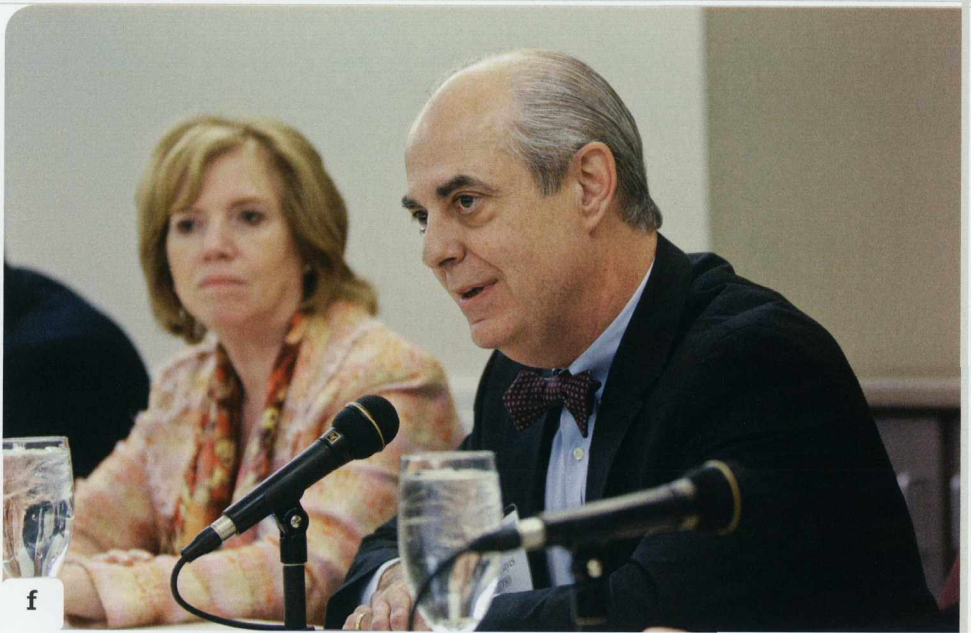
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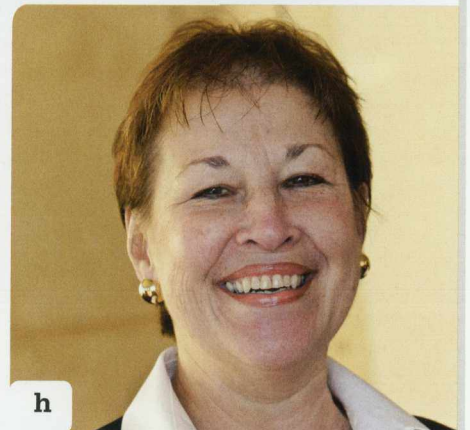
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f



g



h

a > Elizabeth Hinds-Ferrick, BA '86, MS '90, John Nucci, MPA '79, VP, External Affairs, and Cheryl Larsen, MED '77

b > Donna Tritman, EMBA '81 and Steven Tritman

c > President David Sargent JD '54 addresses alumni at Leadership Dinner

d > Bernardo Aurmond, MSF '08

e > Nadira Dookharan BS '04

f > Patricia Annino, JD '81 and Eric Hayes, JD '80 luncheon panel: "How the Stars Align: A Peek at how the Wealthy Plan (and you can too)"

g > Victor Carlevale, EMBA '08

h > Christine Troski, BSBA '85

i > Posing with trophy for 100% board participation left to right: Tom Maddona JD '80, president Law Alumni Board; Aidan McAvinchey, EMBA '08 president Business School Alumni Board, Bill Popeleski, MBA '87, president, University Alumni Council, and Dennis Walczewski, BS '70, president College Alumni Board



i



Missionary Man

Jack Hamm BS '07 is out to spread the good word about science at Suffolk **BY PAMELA REYNOLDS**

ALTHOUGH HIS MOTHER, Patricia Hogan, is an associate professor of environmental engineering at Suffolk, Jack Hamm never thought of science for himself as a career. Hamm pictured a free and easy life on the water, having worked for several years as a mate with Boston Harbor Cruises and Massachusetts Bay Lines. "I had actually really thought I was going to end up at one of the maritime academies working on boats," he recalls.

But life is filled with unexpected twists. Hamm wound up majoring in physics at Suffolk, where he spent his days huddled in fluorescent-lit labs, engaged in the kind of hearty discourse encouraged by small classes of four or five students. ("If it's you and the professor and he asks you a question, there's no one to turn to," says Hamm. "It keeps you honest!")

Hamm had the chance to present posters at four scientific conferences—a rare opportunity for an undergrad. By his senior year, he and his classmates were working at close to a graduate student level. "Material-wise, we were far ahead of most institutions," he recalls. "That's something I directly attribute to the ability of the faculty to work with the students."

The science departments, he recalls, were "home-like" and caring. It is where he met his wife, Michelle Costante-Hamm BS '06, a biochemistry major. And it is where Hamm, who today is a network operations engineer at Akamai Technologies in Cambridge, continues to derive support. "Dr. Walter Johnson [professor of physics] still checks up on me to see how I'm doing," marvels Hamm. "I have friends who went to larger schools who never spoke to their advisor, let alone have a


continuing relationship with the head of the department! The fact that we even got real professors is stunning, because at large institutions you don't actually see the professors. You get teaching assistants."

Hamm believes that he stumbled upon a hidden gem in Suffolk's science departments, and he's become a science program missionary, converting more students to his cause. Although he works full time and is a graduate student in applied physics at University of Massachusetts Boston, he still finds time to guest lecture at Suffolk, which he says he uses as "my shameless plug about going into the sciences there, because I feel strongly about people doing that."

"When people ask me where I think they should go for the sciences I point out Suffolk," he says. "Since they don't have a graduate program, the undergrads do the work, which gives them a unique opportunity that doesn't exist at any of the larger, traditional institutions."

He's been invited to speak in various sections of "The Built World: How Humans Engineer Environments," taught by Adjunct Professors Angela Buffone and Scott Lussier. Both Buffone and Lussier say that Hamm's quick-witted repartee entrances the students. "You need to be a big personality with an engaging edge and Jack has that," says Buffone. "He brings a vast amount of information with him, all of which is ready to spill off the [tip] of his tongue."

Hamm, it turns out, is a bit of a ham, and his sense of humor serves him well in the classroom. "A lot of universities have turned into businesses," reflects Hamm. "But that's really against the idea of the academy, which is a place where people come together and learn and share meaningful experiences. At Suffolk, I didn't feel like I was at a business, buying my education. I feel like I was part of an actual program that was trying to put out useful things. So for me, I don't feel like Suffolk ended when I graduated. I always had this real strong feeling of going back and imparting what it taught me, giving that back to Suffolk students."

And now he is. Jack Hamm may have missed the boat but he discovered a whole new world in the laboratory. 

ClassNotes



UNDERGRADUATE

1949

"Am I the only 60-year graduate still left?" writes **William (Bill) Whidden (BSBA)**. "I was, to my great surprise, introduced at the last annual dinner held at the State House as the longest graduate there. I came out of WWII eager to be the first in my family to attend a four-year college. I located Suffolk and 20 Derne St. and they took me in. I received a fabulous accounting education and, after various assignments and positions, retired as director of finance of Itek Optical System. I enjoyed many years at Itek and being part of the highly classified development of the first orbiting satellite camera, which did much to secure our safety in the '60s and '70s and beyond. I truly credit Suffolk for my success and am proud of the gigantic growth which has taken place. May it continue to expand and grow."

1954

"Does anybody really want to know about a 1954 graduate approaching 80?" asks **Tom Moccia (BSBA)**. "I don't." (Editor's note: we do.)

1962

Salem, MA, Attorney **Paul Rabchenuk (BA)** put his government department training to work as he headed the Greater Boston Committee to Commemorate the Holodomor, the Stalin-made famine-genocide that killed millions in 1933-34. As committee chair, he organized a group to march from New York's Lower East Side to St. Patrick's Cathedral, and coordinated educational exhibits and lectures at the Boston State House, the Moakley Federal Courthouse, Community College of Rhode Island, Boston's Paulist Center, and other locales. He hosted the Boston visit of the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Ihor Shamshur, who was given a personally autographed copy of *The Boston Massacre* by author and Suffolk History Professor Robert J. Allison.

1969

Ralph Parker (BSBA) received the Art of Living Foundation Sri Sri Shankar Heroes of Humanity award in Norcross, GA, for his 12 years of service working with newly arrived refugee families in Atlanta. "I visit families weekly and have served on the Georgia Advisory Council on Refugee Resettlement and am also the recipient of the AIG Community Service Award," he notes. "I have worked as a mentor to families from Afghanistan, Burma, Bhutan, Eritrea, Kurdistan, and Russia. I am presently a spokesperson and advise for the 2,000-plus Bhutanese refugee community now settled in Atlanta after 18 years in Nepali refugee camps."

1971

After graduation, **Maria Lomazzo (Interior Design)** worked for a premier kitchen and bath center, becoming manager and ultimately spending 21 years there. She then became an accounts manager for a custom cabinet company and, after 10 years, left to join Atlantic Design Center in York, ME, where she is now the manager of a team of designers and staff.

1974

Leo Archambault (BSG) writes, "Recent updates on my life as an alumnus circa 1974 include: professor at Mount Ida College; earning a DBA from Nova Southeastern University in 2008; presenting a paper at an international conference EDUCOM 2008 in Khon Kaen, Thailand; [and] presenting a paper at the Atlantic Marketing Association Conference in Salem, MA, topic: What Do Generation Y Millennial Students Want?"

1976

Tim Shanahan (BA) is the chief investment strategist at Compass Capital Corporation in Braintree, MA, and is producing a video presentation, *Market Volatility and How Economic Headwinds Affect Our Clients*.

Bill Lancaster (BSJ) completed *That's News to Me*, a documentary featuring NBC anchor Brian Williams and Don Hewitt, the late creator of "60 Minutes." A former newspaper reporter, Bill moved to television in the 1980s, where he produced programming for The Travel Channel, The Food Network, USA Network, MTV, CNBC, CBS News, and Bloomberg Business News. In 2002, he added teaching to his accomplishments, and in 2006,

he founded Video Blender, a Boston-based production company. Bill and his wife have two children: Aidan (14) and Tess (11).

Michael J. Reilly (BSJ) reports that his public relations and marketing consulting firm Reilly Communications was honored



with a 2009 Bell Ringer Award by the Publicity Club of New England. The award, given in the business-to-business category, recognized the national media relations campaign produced for the Freelon Group of Research Triangle Park, NC.

1977

"I was promoted to Social Worker D at the Weymouth office of the Department of Children and Families (formerly DSS) in March 2008 after the results of an arbitration settlement of a civil service promotional test I took in 1990," writes **Eileen McLellan de Velez (BSJ)**. "This is a case-carrying social worker position." Eileen celebrated 32 years at DCF in December.

1978

Tom McFadd (BA) has been a supply chain manager for more than 20 years, working in high technology and biotech. He received a master's degree in professional studies from Pennsylvania State University in August 2009.

1979

Richard Krawiec (BSJ) won the Excellence in Teaching Award from UNC Chapel Hill for 2009 for the Beginning and Intermediate Fiction Writing classes he designed and teaches through Carolina Courses Online. He also was a finalist for the 2009 Indy Awards in Poetry for his book *Breakdown: A Father's Story*. He continues to teach writing to women in prison, children in the public schools, and elsewhere.

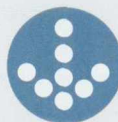


1980

Joseph D. Giurleo (BA) is president of Bay State Wiring Company Inc. The company will celebrate 50 years in business in 2010 and recently completed work on a \$5 million electrical construction contract at the New Land Port of Entry and Border Station in Calais, ME. The project is part of the U.S. General Services Administration Design Excellence Program, which is intended to create facilities that ultimately become respected landmarks.

"Dear Alums," writes **Susan Peterson (BA)**. "I split right after graduation and worked on daily newspapers as an art critic, film critic, feature writer, crime reporter, and settled in later to do health/medicine and science reporting. I liked the research and content but hated working on computers. In 1994, I decided to go back to school and switched to massage therapy. I've run a couple of hotel day spas and worked as an edu-

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cator and trainer. My nirvana is private practice, helping those with migraines, neck pain, and all kinds of problems—mostly started or aggravated by working on computers.”

Joe Farnham (General Art) writes, “I am currently working as an artist for Trader Joe’s. My position is similar to that of an art director in an in-house marketing department and allows me to bring many of the skills (conceptual, drawing, painting, writing) I’ve developed while working as an art director (Hill Holiday, Continental Cablevision) and as a freelance illustrator. My primary responsibility now is creating large-scale murals depicting North Shore themes. Also, I have been teaching (including a summer illustration class at NESADSU a few years ago).”

Rosemary Rotondi (BSJ) has been a regarded archival film researcher for 24 years.

“I work in the mayor’s office at Braintree Town Hall,” writes **Therese Donovan-Jarrett (BS)**. “My position of services coordinator involves various duties but mainly, troubleshooting issues of town residents and serving as liaison to the Council on Aging and the Braintree AARP chapter.” Therese is widowed and living in Braintree with her teenage daughters.

1981

Patricia (Horgan) Shaw (Fashion Illustration) is still working in the fashion illustration field, “mostly doing illustrations for layout, mainly for direct mail retail catalogs. I have also done finished fashion illustration. Currently I am drawing jewelry, equestrian-themed products, and home décor items, all for layout. I can pretty much draw it all—pen or pencil, loose and comprehensive styles.” Trisha is married with two children of her own, one at Bryant University and one just starting at UMass Dartmouth, and two of her husband’s.

1982

James Kraus (General Art) has recently been hired “to work part time in a mentor/leadership role under the auspices of the Boston 100K ArtScience Innovation Prize. I will work with select high school teens from around the city of Boston, giving them opportunities to ‘learn through passionate development of breakthrough ideas in the arts and design, at the frontier of scientific knowledge.’ I am very excited to begin working with this ‘first in the nation’ international program. I look forward to inspiring both the teens and myself. My thanks to Joanne Kaliontzis [NESADSU adjunct faculty member] for making me aware of this great opportunity.” In July, James chaperoned and co-led a group of volunteers as they gleaned the potato fields in Belle Haven, VA. Four teens from the program in Boston where James volunteers joined 14 others, and together they picked over 20,000 pounds of potatoes to feed the hungry. On another day they helped at various community service programs in the area, all the time learning about hunger and the plight of the world’s poor.

1983

“I currently live in Lexington, KY, with my husband, Chris, who is employed by Toyota Motor Sales (we will be married 20 years this year),” reports **Patti Davis (BSBA)**. “I am employed by the American Red Cross as an accountant. Our daughter, Lauren, is a freshman at Boston University, and our son, Alex, is a sophomore in high school who is considering Suffolk as a possible college choice.”

John McDonnell (BSBA) was recently elected to serve on the Sawyer Business School Alumni Board.

1985

“Has it been 25 years?” asks **Richard Grealish (BS Political Science)**. “As a graduate who recently returned to the University as director of the Suffolk University Office of Neighborhood Response, I can say that the School has achieved tremendous heights since we all graduated, yet it has managed to retain the sense of being the ‘hometown university.’ Now, it’s time to come see how our friends, classmates, favorite professors, and faculty are doing.” Richard notes that a series of events for the class began in January 2010 with a networking evening at the Red Hat, “where one or two of us from the class of ‘85 may have scrawled a name on the brick wall downstairs back in the day.” The culmination will be a reunion reception hosted by the University faculty at the Massachusetts State House on June 12. An open forum can be found by searching “Suffolk University Class of 1985 reunion” on Facebook.

1986

William Dobson (BSBA) is the executive vice president, chief financial officer, and company secretary for California WOW Xperience Public Company Limited, a Bangkok, Thailand-based operator of large-scale fitness and yoga centers in Asia. Bill has lived and worked in Asia for the past 20 years.

Richard Agbortoko (BSBA) writes, “I would like friends and classmates to know that the lone Cameroonian who graduated at Suffolk has been making lots of progress while in the USA and now in Cameroon (his country). While at Suffolk, I was pursuing a master’s in general management and administration at the Cambridge College, Cambridge, MA. In 1986, I had served in an accounting position at Shawmut Bank and the Bank of New England, Malden, prior to returning to Cameroon in 1987.”

“I’d like to let the alumni community know that I recently completed the Maine Track Club 50-mile race on Oct. 18, 2009,” writes **Gina Fiandaca (BSBA)**. “I won the women’s division with a time of 9:11:18. I’ve completed 21 marathons, including 11 consecutive Boston marathons, as well as five ultra marathons [a race longer than marathon distance of 26.2 miles].”

“On July 3, 1999, I married Sara C. Folta,” reports **Vincent Maganzini (BA)**. “On Nov. 3, 2005, Emma Folta Maganzini was born. Currently I am the VP of finance for General Services Inc. in Medford, MA.”

1988

After graduating from NESAD, **Vivian Lustig (Graphic Design)** moved to Rome to study holistic health practices, and she now works as a “natural therapist.” While in Rome, Vivian married but decided she wanted their children, now 10 (Daphne) and 5 (Francesca), born in Brazil, so returned to Sao Paulo with her family.

1989

Mark Fisher (General Art) continues to be involved in the central Massachusetts music scene, appearing in June at Jumpin’ Juice & Java in Gardner. With friend and bassist Kris Lucander, Mark plays guitar in a “wonderful blend of Celtic, New Age, Country and Folk” (Metronome Magazine). In July, he and Kris, joined by Donna Fisher-Russo, Mark’s sister and longtime musical partner, appeared as the Mark Fisher Trio at Destare, a café and martini bar in Fitchburg, MA. Kris has sung with Mark on each of his five CDs to date. In addition to his music, Mark will now be very involved with his new granddaughter, Amira, who was born on July 26, 2009.



1995

Chris Fabbri (Fine Arts) recently completed a commissioned set of portraits for the Abbey of New Clairvaux in Vina, CA. The Abbey’s 800-year-old chapter house was transported to California from a Cistercian monastery in Spain and recently reconstructed in this small town in the Sacramento Valley. The Sacred Stones were originally brought to San Francisco in 1931 by William Randolph Hearst and were first seen by Father Thomas X. Davis in 1994, who vowed to bring them to Vina. Chris’s portrait of Father Davis (now Abbot) is one of three now hanging in the historic church. “This is most likely my biggest accomplishment of my painting career,” Chris says. “I know these three paintings will be handed down for generations to come, exhibited in this blessed space.”

1996

Charles Panagopoulos (BS) writes, “Seven months ago, I started my new position as comptroller/fiscal policy director for the town of Natick [MA]. Also, around the same time I bought a house and now live in Natick.”

1999

Although **Henry M. Zunino (BS)** graduated from Suffolk University in 1999 with a BS in biology, the call to be a sculptor was too strong and he soon went on to open his own art studio. His bronze sculptures can be found in various places in and around Boston, including Logan International Airport. However, his passion for science and nature called to him and he often found himself working on projects that put his Suffolk University education to good use. Soon he found himself not only being hired to create designs for novel candy products but being consulted on how to formulate confections and design industry tools. He decided to open his own green confectionery and tea company called Strawberry Hill Confectionery and Tea.

Dana (Beeney) Taylor (Graphic Design) has a new job as a graphic designer in the admissions and recruiting office at the University of Texas at Austin. She was married in April 2004 in Grapevine, TX, to Matt Taylor. They moved to Austin in 2007 and, on May 5, 2009, had their first child, a daughter named Morgan Josephine.

Lesley Peters (BSBA) has been promoted to accounting supervisor at the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority.

2000

Brian S. Savlick BSBA (2000) writes, "I am married with one child, a son, Alexander, who is 2 years old. Since graduation I have held sales positions with various companies. It just wasn't what I was looking for. It was then talking with my father-in-law that we both [realized that we] shared the same dream of being an entrepreneur. We have opened a family-owned business called Pollito Chicken, based in Springfield [MA]. We specialize in Venezuelan cuisine."

Brian Phillips & Maria Panaggio-Phillips (BSBA) write, "We have had another successful year in business together. After being named 'Best of Boston' for Wedding Photography in 2008 by Boston Magazine, we followed up this year with being named 'Boston's Best' (2009) by the *Improper Bostonian* magazine, also for wedding photography. We had our first national wedding feature in *The Knot* magazine this summer as well. We are also married (2003) and are expecting a baby this coming March."



2001

Brandy Barney (BA) and Gerrit Kelly were married on Aug. 1, 2009, in Cannon Beach, OR. The couple had guests from all over the country in Oregon to see their new home. Amongst the guests were **Holly Dinham ('01)**, bridesmaid and former classmate and softball teammate at Suffolk of the bride.

Amy (Margeson) Roche (Graphic Design) and Adam Roche were married on Valentine's Day 2009. ("It was a small, intimate, and romantic gathering with just family and close friends. I was very excited to utilize my graphic design skills to create my invitations and all the coordinating printed pieces.") The couple also bought their first house, with a great corner lot for their dog, Billie, and for gardening. Amy is still working in the beauty business at Paul Kenneth Salon in Woburn, where she has been for seven years. She's a senior designer and master make-up artist and travels all over the U.S. doing photo shoots and fashion shows. Her real passion, though, is wedding services, and she did five or six weddings this summer alone.

Alayna Van Tassel (BS '01) married Andrew Anderson on Sept. 19, 2009, at the Albanian Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Natick, MA. Bridesmaids included fellow Suffolk alumni **Sarah (Ingemi) Ferrara (BA '02, MPA '06)** and **Carla Beaudoin ('02)**. Alayna works in the Massachusetts Senate as the budget and policy director for Senator Patricia

Jehlen (D-Somerville). Alayna and Andrew honeymooned in Hawaii and reside in Newton, MA.

2004

Sara Dziadik (Fine Arts) recently got in touch with Fine Arts Program Director Audrey Goldstein with some questions about teacher training. Sara completed her master's degree at Wimbledon School of Art in London in 2006 ("and ended up staying in the U.K."). She met her husband, Ben, a video artist and sculptor, during a sculpture course, and they were married in December 2006. They moved from London ("too expensive!") last year and now live in North Wales, though they are contemplating moving to the U.S., perhaps to teach at the college level.

Larry Kwong (Graphic Design) started a new job in April at Core Concepts in Franklin, MA, where he heads the graphics department. Core Concepts does environmental design, engineering, and architecture, primarily for the food service industry. Larry and his wife, Jessie, have also started a skateboard company called Minutia, for which they design and sell skateboards and T-shirts via their own e-commerce store and through skate shops. On top of all that they're also the new owners of a puggle (half-pug, half-beagle) called Yum Yum ("super smart").

Jennifer Kern is a realtor in and around Boston specializing in residential and commercial sales.

Estelle Mitsopoulos (DIP '84, BFA '04) writes, "For the past 25 years I have been a commercial interior designer in the Boston area working for large architectural firms. My work has focused on law firms, financial institutions, higher education, and hospitality. My recent work that I have completed in the past year was for the Fairmont Battery Wharf in Boston, the Cottages in Machrihanish Dunes, Scotland, and I am now completing the Renaissance Golf Club in Haverhill, MA. My firm name is EDM Interior Design Studio. I have been married for the past 20 years to Anthony Iacovino, an architect at Symmes Maini and McKee, and we have two wonderful children, Zoe and John."

2005

"I am currently working as a travel agent for Marathon Tours and Travel," writes **Inna Podshivalova (BSBA)**. "We organize running trips for marathon runners all over the world—London, Paris, Iceland, Kenya, Antarctica, Costa Rica, Australia, etc. I just got back from Costa Rica's Tamarindo Beach Marathon. I was a leader for a group of 30 marathon runners. I am going to New Zealand to check out Auckland Marathon that we are planning to add to our list of running trips for 2010. I also have a dance company on the side, Moves & Vibes, and we teach the Brazilian dances Samba and Forro. We are starting a new series of classes at the Boston Center for Adult Education."

Matt Wilder (BS) writes, "In July, I left WCVB-TV (Boston's ABC affiliate) where I had worked for six years as a news producer. I am now working for the Boston Public Schools as the director of media relations."

Priscilla Franco (Electronic Graphic Design), who earned a BSBA in business administration before receiving a certificate in electronic graphic design from NESADSU, has branched out once again, this time into abstract painting. Priscilla lives in Guatemala, but will soon be moving to Florida.

Eileen Reistra (Graphic Design) thanks her instructors, particularly Laura Golly, Rita Daly, and Wallace Marosek, for the education in graphic design she received at NESADSU. "After working in the creative department for advertising firms here in Puerto Rico with well-known clients like Starbucks, BMW, Mini-Cooper, Procter & Gamble, and Walgreens, I decided to start my own design firm on the island," she writes. "I had my freelance clients already and I found that what I had learned at NESADSU of conceptual design was something that not many of my colleagues had, so I risked it. I started with a small office in 2007 and started running as a corporation in 2008. Today I finally have employees, a design studio, and I am growing little by little."

2006

Rebecca Frechette (BSBA) spent seven weeks in Africa, including three weeks volunteering and four weeks traveling.

2008

Austin Bousley (Graphic Design) recently e-mailed [Associate Professor of Graphic Design] Jen Fuchel to tell her that, thanks in part to his having taken her motion graphics class, he has landed a job as a junior art director with Brand Content, a Boston advertising agency. "The work I had from your class definitely got me in."

Richard DiTomassi (Graphic Design) can't seem to leave the neighborhood; he's still working at Bedford/St. Martin's, the publishing company in the same building as NESADSU. The real news, however, is that *Richard* is engaged to be married in November 2009 to Kristina Pompeo, a student in Suffolk's Master of Science program in Taxation.

Emily Eichhorn (Interior Design) has moved to sunny La Jolla, CA, where she is working part time for Cedo Interior Design and tending bar "to pay the bills."

Mike Farley (Fine Arts) was one of 16 graduates to take part in an alumni exhibition at Bunker Hill Community College in July 2009. In August his pen on paper "Bonsai" was chosen, from 189 entries, to be included in the Jamaica Plain Open Studios group show Artists in the Arboretum at the Arnold Arboretum on Sept. 26 and 27, 2009.



Alex Kelly (BA) is the marketing and public relations specialist at MaidPro, a franchisor of residential cleaning services located in North Station (Boston).

Joseph Ferraro (BS) writes, "I'm currently working as the assistant director of admissions for the New England Institute of Art in Brookline."

Lauralyn Smith (BSBA) will be the senior associate for member development at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice around the world. "In this position," she notes, "I will manage a national volunteer network to financially support, advocate, and act on issues for economic rights, environmental justice, civil liberties, and response to humanitarian crises."

2009

Terri Ladd (BSBA) is now an independent fashion blogger.

GRADUATE

1964

"I have been married to Elizabeth for 51 years," writes **Ovide Flannery (BSBA '61, MBA '64)**, who retired from the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a senior auditor in 1986. "We have three children: two girls and a son, who is currently president and general manager of a minor league baseball franchise, the Hagerstown (MD) Suns, who are affiliated with the Washington Nationals. I keep busy with veterans organizations. My hobby is ham radio."

1966

Samuel Chesler (MBA) is professor emeritus in accounting at the University of Massachusetts.

1972

Carl J. Schneider (BA '68, MED '72) writes, "I am happy to report that my partner and I are making good progress in shifting our work to consulting to the corporate world from our work as psychotherapists and career coaches. Also, I am starting a support and training group for job hunters. I have enjoyed and learned a lot and met some nice alumni through my attendance at recent alumni association workshops, the most recent two involving [Suffolk Executive in Residence] Larry Stybel."

1973

Paul Bombara, PhD (MED) of Lexington, MA, is president of Lexington Psychological Services, specializing in individual and group therapies and various psychological and educational evaluations. In addition, Dr. Bombara is the program coordinator of the Lexington Institute's parent education program, which is initiated by the Probate and Family Court in Boston.

1975

"I recently became the assistant director of special education in Somerville schools," writes **Mary DiGuardia (BA '74, MED '75, CAG '85)**. "I am married to Bob DiGuardia and am the mother of two grad students: David DiGuardia, who will get his MED soon, and Christopher DiGuardia, who got a BS in communications in 2000 from Suffolk and will soon complete a grad degree there. Chris works at MIT."

1977

Michael (Mike) L. Backer (EMBA, first graduating class) has been re-elected to a second two-year term as president

of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association. Mike completed his first term on June 30, 2009. Previously he served as secretary of the association for two years. He and his wife, Anita, have been married for 39 years and have three grown sons and two grandchildren.

1979

Tony Marino, PhD (EMBA) recently received his PhD in organization and management with a specialty in leadership from Capella University.

1981

Michael Jacob Galiouby (MBA) is "single, living in California, and working as a tax accountant during the tax season" while volunteering for the rest of the year.

1983

Howard Freedman (EMBA) is president of Financial Aid Consulting. His firm specializes in helping families through the financial aid process to make college more affordable.

From **Bev Flaxington (BSBA '83, MBA '84)**: "I published and released a book called *Understanding Other People: The Five Secrets to Human Behavior*. I also published and released *The 7 Steps to Effective Business Building for Financial Advisors*, which was picked up by the Financial Planning Association and is being made available to all of their members."

"I have recently accepted a position as executive director of People Plus in Brunswick, ME," writes **Susan E. Cole (MPA)**. "It is a center for all ages, providing programs and services for teens, adults, and older adults in the greater Brunswick community."

1985

"Last spring was the first time I had ever attended a Suffolk alumni event, since graduating from the Sawyer School with an MBA," reports **Jim Barnes (MBA)**. "Part of the reason is that I live in San Francisco and there just weren't many events to attend. Another reason was that I didn't expect to get much out of attending such an event. Well, last spring's event in San Francisco, held in the old boardroom of the Bank of America Building, was a treat. The food, wine, and view [were] spectacular. The event was inspiring and made me proud to be an alum. The biggest surprise was meeting a fellow MBA alum who graduated some years after I did. I found her very interesting—being both a practicing artist and CFO—and wanted to see her again. After a month went by, she responded to me and we met privately for the first time. We had a lot more in common than our choice for MBA school and wound up having a true California "summer of love." Over 20 years ago, when I toiled away in my quest for an MBA, I never thought the benefits would include such an exciting and wonderfully loving relationship. Thank you, Suffolk University."

Gail Hinte (MPA) is the new president of the North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance Inc. (NCHICA), a nonprofit consortium dedicated to improv-

ing health and care in North Carolina by accelerating the adoption of information technology and enabling policies. She was elected by the NCHICA board of directors at their annual meeting. Gail is a partner with HIMformatics, a health care IT consulting firm in Raleigh, NC.

1987

Girard Healy (MBA) recently led the Boston Ronald McDonald House's strategic planning committee in devising a plan that will enhance services for families of children with cancer who come to Boston seeking treatment.

1991

Kurt Hespeler (EMBA) is employed by Raytheon Company as supplier quality manager.

1995

"I'm currently working in a Dutch bank, Credit Europe Bank N.V., as the director of project and structured finance," writes **Murat Ucar (MSF)**. "I would love to hear from fellow classmates."

1999

Robert D. Cabral and **Arlene A. Cabral**, both **MBA**, welcomed their daughter, Kayla Gabrielle, in July 2009.

2001

Stephen Rubino (MBA) is vice president of client services at Financial Engines in Boston.

Since graduating, **Tara Sullivan Esfahanian (MSPS)** has been fundraising for various statewide and national Republican candidates. "Most recently, I have been working for Senator [Bob] Bennett (R-Utah) and Charlie Baker, who is running for governor of Massachusetts," she writes. "I am living in Melrose [MA] with my husband and two boys: Eric, age 6, and Ryan, age 3. I hope to connect with my former classmates at an upcoming event."

2002

Having received her PhD from Northeastern University, **Serap Kantarci Sanlikol (MSPS)** teaches in the government department at Suffolk, helping students find legal-political internship positions at the State House and in various political campaigns. "It is a wonderful feeling to teach in the same classroom where I was sitting as a student," Serap observes. "Besides teaching at Suffolk, as an alumni I am trying to recruit students for Suffolk from Turkey. I attended Educatürk Fair in Istanbul/Ankara/Izmir in Turkey this October and introduced [attendees] to Suffolk University. I hope we will have more Turkish students at Suffolk."

2003

Genella (Barton) McDonald (MA in Interior Design) left Bartlett Design in 2004 and worked for Stibler Design Associates, a space planning and interior design firm in Manchester, NH, until her first daughter was born in 2006. "I'm mostly a stay-at-home mom for the moment," she reports. "I have two girls, ages 3 and 1. I've just completed a term as president of the New England chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers

and also teach interior design at the New Hampshire Institute of Art. I have also been acting as a thesis advisor for students, most recently at the BAC [Boston Architectural College]."

Dana L. Christensen (EMBA) and Frank J. Huemmer were united in marriage on April 25, 2009, at St. Cecilia Church in Boston, followed by a reception at the Taj Hotel.

Tonya Clawson Urquizo (MPA) writes, "I currently live in Andover, MA, with my husband and two children. For a while I worked as director of operations for a private company in the health care industry. Now, I am at home with my children and work part time with a nonprofit agency. I am in the process of completing my project management certificate, which will compliment my MPA degree."

Lisa A. Clark (MBA) is an EIC (electronic insurance claims) analyst for Cape Cod Healthcare. "As I continue to move up the corporate ladder in health care, my degree from Suffolk becomes more valuable," she writes.

2004

Sorin Codreanu (MSF '04, MSIE '02) and **Simona Codreanu (MSA '05)** just had their second baby, Antonio Codreanu.

Dorothy Savarese (MBA), the first woman president of the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, completed her degree at Suffolk University Cape Cod. She has just been named as one of the 25 top women in banking, and serves on the board of directors of the Geraldine F. Lavin Memorial Scholarship Fund, at Suffolk. Her assistant is **Linde MacLeod**, now a vice president at the bank, a Sawyer Cape Cod BSBA and MBA. Branch manager **Jeremy Gingras BSBA '05** is also a Suffolk graduate, as is **Andrea Ponte MBA '08**, who began to work for Linde at the beginning of October. Both Linde and Andrea worked for Professor Mike Lavin, director of the Suffolk Cape Cod MPA program and recent chair of the Public Management Department, while completing their degrees.

2006

"I have been remiss in thanking Suffolk for encouraging me to return for my master's degree and the MHA program," writes **Maureen P. McCarthy (MHA)**. "As I read some of the stories and successes of the younger graduates, I recall my visit to Suffolk in 2002. Thinking about returning to school and keeping up with recent college graduates seemed overwhelming, having been away from the academic world for more than 30 years. I recall sitting with [Director of the Center for Public Management at Sawyer] Sandy Matava as we discussed my application to the CAPS program—the beginning of a long-awaited journey. I recall her encouragement and commitment to the program. My career in the substance abuse field has opened my eyes to the tremendous problems existing in this area, but it has also helped me foster a commitment to contribute to finding solutions. I believe education helps each of us reach goals that might otherwise be unattainable and find solutions to problems that seem insurmountable. My children are grown,

my grandchildren are growing, and my personal goal of a master's degree in health administration has been achieved. It is never too late to return to school. Thank you, Suffolk, for encouraging me and providing programs for older learners. It's a gift I am grateful for receiving."

2007

William Conroy (BSBA '99, MSF '07) recently accepted a position with the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development as the director of trust funds and accounts payable.

Jessie Koff (MA in Interior Design) is a project manager for E.R. Butler & Co. in Boston, a manufacturer of high-end architectural hardware. Working with Jessie at Butler on the retail side is **Lisa Buyuk (MA in Interior Design '05)**.

Erica Mattison, who coordinates environmental programs at Suffolk within Facilities Planning, started as a student this fall in the Evening Division at Suffolk University Law School. She is committed to working with fellow law students to raise environmental consciousness and foster positive change on campus. Erica is interested in pursuing a career in environmental protection law, with a focus on mediation as an approach for addressing environmental issues.

2008

Danielle Towne (MPA) was married to Nathaniel Oaks-Lee on Sept. 5, 2009, in East Greenwich, RI.

Melissa Ferris (MBA) became the director of operations for Odaiko New England (ONE) in April 2009. ONE is a premier Japanese taiko drumming group on the East Coast based out of Woburn, MA. While Melissa does not play taiko, she aids the growing nonprofit in expanding its performance and class programs to share the heritage of this energizing and enriching performance art.

Jeff Atwater (MS) notes, "I am getting ready to run my first half marathon. I will be running the Seacoast Half Marathon on Nov. 8, 2009. Thanks for doing a great job with the alumni magazine."

Heather Martin (MA in Interior Design) and **Jessie Koff (MA in Interior Design '07)** took part in the Boston Society of Architects KidsBuild! event at the Institute of Contemporary Art in May 2009. Acting as "building inspectors," they handed out permits and inspected the finished buildings before giving out "occupancy permits."

Sarah Shorey (MA) writes, "I am newly married and my husband, Marc, and I just bought our first home in Abington, MA. I work full time as director of sales and marketing at the Nielsen Eye Center and am getting LASIK eye surgery this November so I will be glasses and contacts free!"

Melissa Sullivan (MSHR) became certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) by the HR Certification Institute in June 2009. In addition, she welcomed her second



child, Bridget Rose, on Oct. 14, 2009. Bridget joins big sister Emma Caelyn, 16 months. Melissa is an HR business partner at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. (Pictured: Melissa, Bridget Rose, and Patrick Sullivan).

2009

After seven years working at Suffolk University in the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education, **Gabriella Priest (BS '06, MSCJ '09)** has accepted a position as the quality assurance manager for Community Resources for Justice.

Lars Christian Fischer (EMBA) launched Redfish Product Development LLC in June 2009. Redfish focuses on delivering product design and development as a strategic value-added partnering resource to companies in various industries, including medical, consumer, sporting goods, toy, juvenile, laboratory, and telecommunications. "We just moved into our new office right next to Suffolk Law," he writes. My business partner, James Read, and I are also full-time professors at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. My motivation comes from my wife, Linda, and three amazing children, Madison (8), Zachary (7), and Chloe (4)."

Keith Zive (MBA) and **Elaine Logue (MBA '08)** were married Aug. 7, 2009, in West Roxbury, MA. Keith and Elaine met in Stephen McDonald's MBA 620 class during the fall 2006 semester. Keith is an operations analyst at Mercer Global Investments, and Elaine is the manager of BWH and McLean Research Core Facilities for Partners HealthCare.

LAW

1972

"In retirement, best of both worlds," writes **Norman and Lois Morse '72**. "Summers at Cape Cod and winters in Florida. Norman golfs, Lois attends classes, and both of us volunteer periodically. We look forward to seeing Suffolk representatives at least annually so we can keep up with the growth of our alma mater."

1974

"My first job after graduating from Suffolk Law was with the Nature Conservancy, and 34 years later I am moving on," reports **Michael Dennis (JD)**. "I am one of many that had the opportunity to use a Suffolk law degree to make the world a better place."

Bob Parrillo (JD) writes, "I am in the process of retiring. My practice has been trying civil cases for plaintiffs, mostly medical negligence matters, as well as mediating all manner of civil disputes. I have become a film actor, mostly independent films. My experience as a trial lawyer translates easily to being in front of a camera. And, there are often roles available to men of a certain age, e.g., doctors, lawyers, businessmen, politicians, judges, fathers, grandfathers, *Men in*

Class Notes

Black-type agents, mob bosses. The later being my favorite role. My wife, Alice B. Gibney, has recently been elevated to be the presiding justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court."

1975

Linda J. Heller (JD) writes, "I'm living in a small suburban community just outside of Philadelphia and working as a special education advocate helping parents of children with various exceptionalities ensure that their children receive the appropriate services and support that they require to be educationally successful in school. I'm married and have two boys in their mid-twenties. One is an investment banker in NYC. The other is in Davie, FL, working and taking classes at Broward College part time toward a liberal arts degree. My mom, sister, and brother still live in Massachusetts, so I go back fairly often to visit, although I haven't been back to Suffolk for a long time. I do participate in Suffolk alumni activities in the Philly area occasionally. We went to a Celtics game last year! It was great!"

1977

"I was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to serve as under-secretary of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR) on May 11, 2009," writes **Barbara Anthony (JD)**. "At OCABR, we are committed to protecting consumers through consumer advocacy and education. We also work to ensure that the businesses our agencies regulate treat all Massachusetts consumers fairly. I came to OCABR from Health Law Advocates, a Boston-based nonprofit health law firm, where I was executive director since 2007. I am very proud that for the past 10 years I have served on the adjunct faculty at Suffolk Law School, where I am also a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee and a member of the advisory committee for the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy."

Bruce Miller (JD) writes, "In February 2009, I joined the firm of Pierce Atwood LLP as a partner in their real estate department in their Boston office. My daughter, Andrea, will be graduating from law school this May and will join the firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf, and my son, Jonathan, is a freshman at Brandeis University."

1979

Milton (MA) elder law specialist **Philip D. Murphy (JD)** organized a panel, "After the Documents: Next Steps in Health Care Decision Making and End of Life Planning," for the February 2009 breakfast meeting of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (MA chapter).

"Hi, SAM," writes **Tony Pelusi Jr. (JD)**. "I want to report that I live in Reading, MA, with my wife, Kathy, two adult children, Antea and Anthony, and our granddaughter, Olivia. After spearheading the plaintiff's legal team in the 12-year DeMoulas [legal case], I transitioned from the practice of law and became a certified professional coach. I still direct my attention to helping people resolve issues that hinder their progress, only now from the perspective of collaboration, support, coaching, accountability, and inspiration, instead of doing so in an adversarial system."

1980

From **Cecilia ("Ceecee") Baldwin Paizs**: "I currently reside in Ellicott City, MD, with my husband, Peter. I have a mediation practice through which I mediate in all areas of the law and provide training in the field for various groups. I also have a solo practice with a focus on family law. Our daughters are both out of school and on their own, with Samantha looking to start a massage therapy practice in Morristown, NJ, and Amanda teaching second grade in Jacksonville, FL, through Teach for America."

Share Your News

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

SAM prefers class notes in your own words.

Here's a SAMPLE:

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

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

Via Web:

www.suffolk.edu/alumni

Via E-mail:

classnotes@suffolk.edu

Via Post:

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

Congratulations to **Therese Donovan-Jarrett BS '80** whose name was chosen in a random drawing from the scores of alumni who submitted their class notes for the Winter 2010 issue of SAM.
Therese will receive a Borders gift certificate.

To enter the drawing for the Spring 2010 issue of SAM, submit your news via web or e-mail. From new (non-repeated) class notes submitted electronically by March 26, 2010, one name will be selected randomly. The winner will receive a Borders gift card.

1981

Leeann McGonagle (JD) is happy to announce her marriage in May to Brian Alberts. The couple resides in Falls Church, VA. Leeann is working at Enterprise Information Services Inc. in Vienna, VA. Her "spare time" of late has been performing with the Vienna Choral Society; she was scheduled to perform with VCS at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in December 2009 and at Lincoln Center in New York City in January 2010.

1982

"I was appointed as associate justice of the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court in December of 2006 to serve in Essex County," writes **John D. Casey**. "After 18 months, I was transferred to Norfolk County, which is much closer to my home in North Attleboro, MA, where I live with my wife, Sue, a middle school art teacher, and daughters Sarah (19) and Erin (17)."

Kevin M. Fitzgerald (JD) is a partner in the global law firm of Nixon Peabody LLP and serves on its policy committee, the firm's governance body. He is a senior member of the litigation department and, in addition to his firm-wide roles, is the managing partner in Nixon Peabody's Manchester, NH, office. Kevin and his wife, Marie, reside in Bedford, NH, and are the proud parents of triplet college freshmen, Kaitlin, Kellen, and Patrick.

Ed Wallack (JD) notes that Sapers & Wallack was recently named a finalist for the 2009 Massachusetts Family Business of the Year Award for the small business category. The finalists were recognized on Oct. 15 at the annual awards dinner. Ed's wife, Margo, having put her law degree in mothballs, continues her career as a reading specialist in the Newton Public Schools. Their son, Zachary, an '09 Syracuse grad, is working for Sapers & Wallack and hopes to attend law school ("Suffolk anyone?") in fall 2010. Daughter Courtney, a junior at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, is spending a semester in New Zealand, and Ed and Margo plan to visit and tour the country with her when she finishes in December.

1985

Michael Callahan (BS '82, JD '85) was recently named to the editorial board of the Massachusetts Law Review, a scholarly publication of the Massachusetts Bar Association. In 2007, Michael was appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners. He resides in Marblehead, MA, with his wife, **Kathy (JD '89)** and four children, Meaghan, Michael Jr., Taylor, and Garrett.

Andrew Palmer has retired from the practice of law to take a job with Romance Games Corp. Andrew writes from Carson City, NV, "My wife of 23 years started this company a couple of years ago. Sales have been so good and so profitable that when Joan needed additional staff, she volunteered me!"

"We are a Medford [MA] family," writes **Brian G. Callahan (BS '82, JD '85)**. "My wife **Ann Marie (JD '85)**, brother **Dennis (BS '85)**, and I ran the Dublin Marathon on Oct. 27, 2008, to raise funds to cure juvenile diabetes. My 17-year-old daughter,

Brenna, ran half the Dublin Marathon (13.1)." The Callahans were "grief stricken" when, in 2004, Brian's 8-year-old daughter, Gracie, was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes and rushed to Boston's Children's Hospital where she spent four days in intensive care. Brian's mother and four siblings had juvenile diabetes, so they knew what they were up against. They read about the groundbreaking research of Dr. Denise Faustman, met with her, and offered to support her research. Brian, Dennis, and **Ray Derosas (MBA '94)** raised nearly \$20,000 through their run in the New York Marathon. To date, the family has delivered more than \$34,000 in various fundraisers.

1986

"I continue to sit as an associate judge on the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court," notes **Janette Bertness (JD)**. "I recently completed a Master of Judicial Studies degree in December 2009 from the University of Nevada/National Judicial College. I am presently enrolled in their PhD program in judicial studies. My thesis on nurse practitioners is published in Roger Williams University Law Review. I continue to lecture on workers' compensation and medical/legal issues."

1988

"In November 2009, my jazz and bossa nova CD, *Ondine Darcyl*, was released by Top2 Music in China, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia," writes **Ondine Darcyl (JD)**.



1995

Ara J. Balikian (JD) married Taline Farra Balikian, O.D., M.Sc., F.A.A.O. "I have my own law practice in Lexington, MA, where I specialize in civil litigation, wage & hours claims, and real estate," he writes. "Taline is director of admissions at the New England College of Optometry. We live in Boston."

Eric Schutzbank (JD) writes, "My wife, Jennifer Creem Schutzbank, gave birth to our second son, James Andrew Schutzbank, on Aug. 28, 2009. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 11 ounces. His older brother, Henry (2 years old), is adjusting well to having a baby brother, and their 7-year-old step-brother, Tommy, also loves having another little brother. I am still a partner at my firm Berid & Schutzbank LLC in Lowell (MA)."

1996

In February 2009, **Abu Toppin (JD '96)** and **Leah Constantine Toppin (JD '99)** welcomed Jayden Joseph Toppin into their family. Jayden weighed 7lbs., 15oz.

CORRECTION: In the fall 2009 issue of SAM, **John Timbo (JD)** was listed under 1986. He is a 1996 graduate.

1997

"I have relocated with my husband, **Michael DelTergo (JD '97)**, and our daughter Isabelle (6 years) to Westfield, NJ, (from Philadelphia) as of September 2008," writes **Beth Krewson (JD)**. "In April 2009, we had our second daughter,

Nicole Hope. Our family is doing well. While I have enjoyed my family leave, I am back to work full time in Celgene Corp.'s legal department in mid-September. We have been to visit Suffolk's law school periodically over the years and are looking forward to introducing both our girls to the school!"

Jodi Zeramby writes, "I became a Massachusetts attorney and English teacher. I taught for about a decade while practicing law part-time, then turned my attention to practicing law full time. I also was the founding chairperson for a regional Massachusetts charter school called Phoenix Charter Academy. About four years ago, I uprooted and moved to sunny Tucson, AZ. Since that time, I have worked as an escrow officer and taught various law-related courses. I just had my first book published! It is called *Castles Built on Clouds*."

1999

Paul Healy has been an assistant district attorney for the Worcester District Attorney's Office for 10 years, prosecuting cases throughout the county. He was an MVP on the office softball team the past two years and a member of the office bowling team. He lives with his wife of seven years, Tricia, in Shrewsbury, MA.

2000

Robert M. Crawford and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed their twin boys, Colby and Dylan, on September 22, 2009.

2001

"Currently, I am an attorney with Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security in Houston, and have been working for the federal government for about seven and a half years," notes **Diane Galiano Kelly (JD)**. "I got married to Jason Kelly in March 2008 in New Orleans and have one 7-year-old stepson, Craig. We live in Sugar Land, TX."

2002

"This year I will be receiving my first award as an attorney," writes **Tami M. Dristiliaris (JD)**. "I was selected to receive the Woman of Justice award, which I am very proud of as I believe pro bono work is a very important and meaningful part of my legal career. I am getting close to being done with the college expenses as the last of our four children, who plans to attend law school, has one more year at Endicott College. I would be happy to connect with my classmates."

2003

Julie (Warshafsky) Fraser (JD) and her husband, Kevin, live in Stamford, CT, and are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Joseph Martin Fraser, on August 22, 2009.

Sema Dursun-Carver (JD) just moved to Moscow, Russia, for the next three years.

Kyla McSweeney (JD) reports the newest addition to the family, Quinn Jameson Burton, arrived on Oct. 24, 2009.

Patrick Tracey (JD) writes, "This past year I changed law firms and I now work as an attorney for Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in Boston. I was also selected as co-chair of the insurance law committee for the Boston Bar Association and included as a Massachusetts 2009 Rising Star by New England Super Lawyers magazine. I was married to Sarah Leonard on Kiawah Island, SC, this past June, and we now reside in Boston."

2004

Bridgette (Morrissey) Kelly (JD) and her husband, Patrick, welcomed daughter Maeve Brigid Kelly on their four-year wedding anniversary, May 14, 2009. Maeve weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz. and was 21 inches long.



2005

Kathleen M. Kearney (JD) recently joined Lenahan Law in Dallas and continues to represent severely injured individuals. She is president-elect of the Texas Chapter of the American Association of Nurse Attorneys and won Outstanding Litigation Section Member at the national conference in October 2009. Kathleen is also on the adjunct faculty at Texas University Health Science Center and teaches legal and ethical issues for RNs.

Tamara LaTorre (JD) was scheduled to run PF Chang's Rock 'N Roll Marathon (Phoenix) as a member of Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training in January 2010.

2007

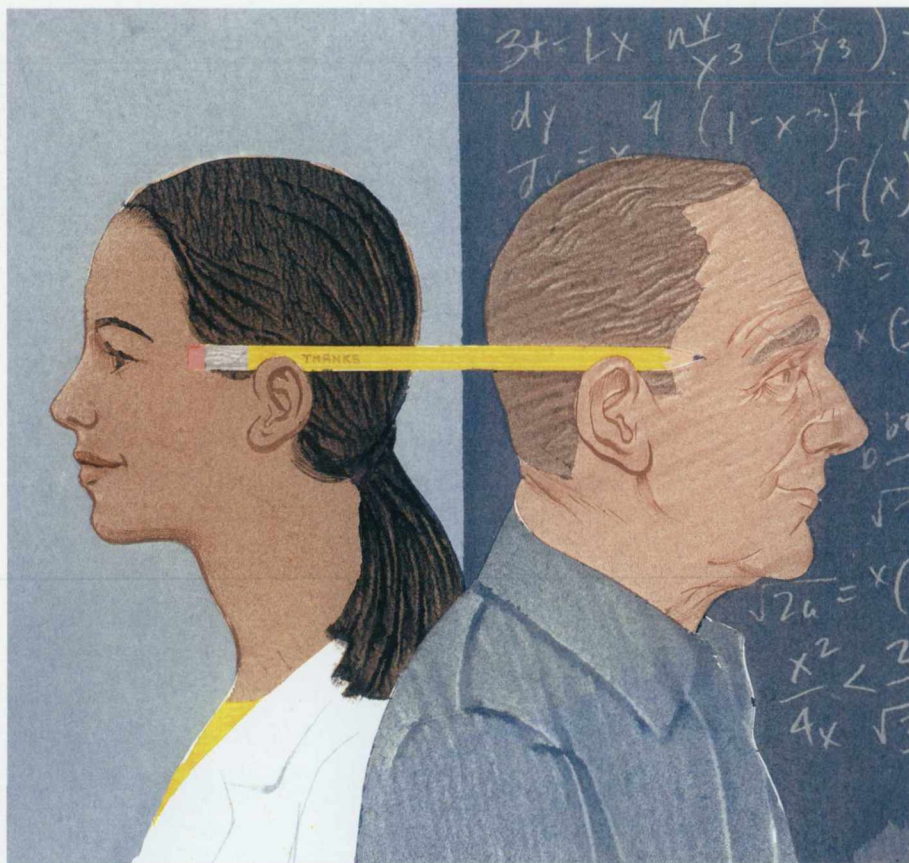
Dara Lynn Sheehan (JD) and **Kevin Freytag (JD '06)** were married on June 28, 2008. The couple met while playing coed flag football on Boston Common with friends during their first



and second years of law school. Dara Lynn and Kevin were married at Our Lady of Victories Church in Boston, and the ceremony was followed by a reception at the Four Seasons Hotel. The couple honeymooned in St. Kitts and Nevis. Dara Lynn is an associate

at a Weston, MA, law firm, where her focus is estate planning, estate administration, and taxation. Kevin is an assistant district attorney in Norfolk County. They reside in Pembroke, MA.

Kenneth A.D. Filarski, Esq. (JD) tried his first case as an attorney in Rhode Island Superior Court, beginning in December 2008. "As a solo practitioner, I represented an architect who sought damages against a Rhode Island municipality for breach of contract on a multimillion-dollar school construction project," Kenneth reports. "After 14 days of methodically presenting only a part of my client's case, I procured a six-figure settlement offer from the defense. My first trial ended in great success when the case was officially settled in June 2009. My summer was further highlighted by the birth of my second nephew, Isaiah, in August!"



If you can thank a teacher, read this

HE WAS TWO WEEKS into his 40th year teaching in the Boston Public Schools when something made him think about a visit nearly 20 years before from a former student who had emigrated from the Dominican Republic for her senior year of high school. She had returned from college to tell him that she wanted her sister to enroll in his class. When he began to tell her the classes he was teaching, she quickly cut him off, saying, "I don't care what you are teaching. I want her to take your class."

Occasionally he had had flashbacks of this memorable conversation, but he had not heard from or of her in at least 15 years. Within two or three days of that memory, however, he received the following e-mail, titled: "From a

former student."

Dear Mr. Howland:

I am hoping that you will remember me. My name is Yukmila. It has been years since I sat in your office at Boston English High School during my senior year. It was 1989, and I have never forgotten all the help you gave me during that crucial year at English High - a time when I could hardly speak English and was not formally registered in any of your classes.

You may be pleased to learn that because of all your help with SAT prep and proofreading, even re-typing the essay that got me into Boston College, I have been able to pursue my career goals. After graduating from BC, I worked in clinical research. In 2004, I graduated from

Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, followed by residency in primary care at Columbia University. Now I work in the Bronx, where I take care of patients and help train medical students and residents.

I was overjoyed to find your e-mail address after a few Google searches. I'm not surprised to see that you are still changing young people's lives and pushing them along to strive for a better future. There are a few articles on the Internet about your school, Another Course to College. The success is both impressive and inspiring.

It would be great to hear from you. I hope that you and your family are doing well.

*With great respect and appreciation,
Yukmila S.*

This "thank you" e-mail made him think deeply about receiving and giving thanks. It was very gratifying to receive such a wonderful note for a personal time commitment 20 years ago that might have added up to a grand total of 10 to 20 hours of volunteer work.

On the other hand, it also made him feel guilty for never taking the time to thank deserving educators in his life. If he had been as thoughtful as Yukmila, he would have written Mr. Howard, his fifth and sixth grade teacher, who, during his free time, pulled him out of class to teach him advanced concepts in math. He also should have tracked down Mr. Paige, his eighth grade math teacher at Boston Latin, who was so inspiring as a teacher and as a person that it was no coincidence that his first real job after college was as an eighth grade math teacher.

He had never made the direct connection before this, but those acts of kindness and direction by Mr. Howard and Mr. Paige were what inspired him to do the same for Yukmila. He knew he could get in touch with Mr. Paige because he had just retired, but how do you get in touch with a teacher you had in the 1950s?

Easier than he first thought. He called the Boston Retirement Board and learned that Mr. Howard is still alive at 89, and a Yukmila-inspired Google search resulted in his address in Puerto Rico.

He was not yet sure exactly what he would write, but he knew how to begin.

Dear Mr. Howard:

I am hoping that you will remember me...

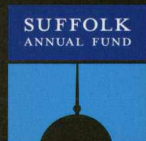
“Where would I be without you?”

My mother and father only were able to go as far as high school, but that certainly did not stop them from preparing me to get the best education I possibly could. They did their best to make sure that I attended a great high school [Boston Latin] so that I could be prepared for the next step in the educational process. My parents sincerely wanted me to have the things they were not able to and find a good job in the workforce. Yet I was very aware and concerned that money could get in the way of my being able to attend college.

Scholarships allowed me to attend Suffolk University, where I have gained great educational knowledge and met an amazing group of friends that will remain my companions for life. I know just how much of my life has been positively affected because of the financial support of graduates like you, and I am forever grateful to you for allowing me to attend such a prestigious school and have the potential to graduate with a college degree.

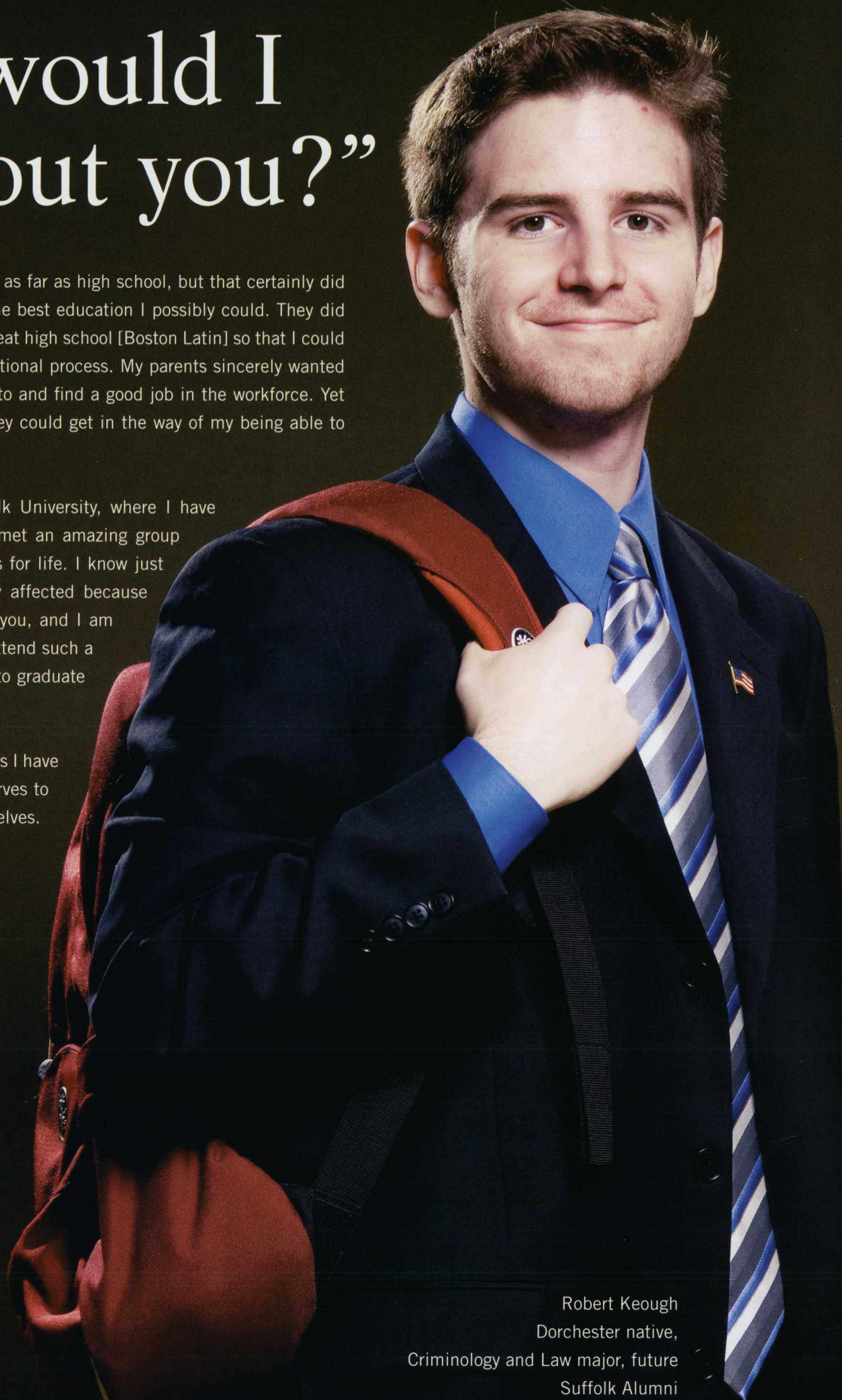
I hope that others can be just as impacted as I have been, because everyone in this world deserves to have the chance to make the best of themselves.

**Sincerest thanks
from me and from
every student,
every day.**



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Robert Keough
Dorchester native,
Criminology and Law major, future
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