Alumni Magazine

THE FAMILY MAN
Why Mike Brophy Wants to Hear Your Life Story

FALL 2011 // VOL. VIII NO. 1
DO YOU REMEMBER back when you were in school and what even a few hundred dollars meant to you for books, commuting, or anything? Would that have made a difference to you? Well it's the same today: Students need help, and if we all give a little or a lot, we change lives.

Growing up in my family, college was always presented to me as the way to become successful in life. Few people in our extended family had gone on to college, so it was a big deal, a privilege and not a given.

Suffolk was the place where I first learned to take chances and face challenges; it was the place that I learned that confidence radiates from being prepared. I now know I would not have made it through college if there were not people out there willing to help me financially. No one makes it truly on their own. Each generation helps the ones that follow. I feel a great sense of pride in carrying on that ideal and doing it for Suffolk—well as they say: Priceless!

When I meet a current Suffolk student like Betina, I think here is this wonderful young person, with her whole life ahead of her, and she is so full of optimism and drive... what can I do to make sure that never changes? I don't want anything to get in her way, I want to know she'll succeed, but I also know that she will need help because things do get in the way, that's just life. I know from my own experience that she is going to need encouragement, that she's going to need advice, and she's going to need some financial support, too. Then I think, 'Hey, I've got those things, I can help a little. I can make a difference in this student's life.'

DARREN J. DONOVAN BS '83
President, College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Board
Leader of the Forensic Group, KPMG New England
GROWING UP, I was always surrounded by educated people. Everyone on both sides of my family attended college. I attended high school in Tampa, Florida, and the guidance counselors created a ‘wall of achievements’ where students could post a star that showed schools they had been accepted to and how much scholarship and financial aid had been offered. So I was determined to have a star on the wall. In Florida you're expected to go on to a state school, but I wanted to return to my hometown of Boston and venture out on my own. Suffolk had everything I wanted: city life, beautiful dorms, and the financial aid package I was offered was the determining factor in my choosing Suffolk. If it wasn't for the financial aid I would have missed all the wonderful opportunities I've received and people I've met. The Trustee scholarships I have received allowed me to continue my education at Suffolk. I'm truly blessed by the opportunity to receive a great education thanks to all the people who give back.

I also feel blessed knowing that a Suffolk graduate such as Darren can relate to students who want to have a successful education. Darren exemplifies a man of good character, and it is wonderful to see an alumnus like him who appreciated his education at Suffolk and is seeking to help future students like me be successful.

BETINA BARON '12
Major: Sociology - Crime and Justice
Minor: Legal Studies

SHAPE THE NEXT SUFFOLK SUCCESS STORY
Features

COVER STORY: The Family Man
For Mike Brophy MBA '96, dead men sometimes do tell tales—and put together the pieces of our ancestry
BY DENISE DOWLING

Your Witness
Lawyer Paul Thomas Rabchenuk BA '62 wants to add a chapter to the history books; for now, he'd settle for one word
BY FRANCIS STORRS

Barrister/Barista
His legal training grounded Jeff Chatlos JD '95 in the coffee industry; his business—and his mission—keep him energized
BY RENÉE GRAHAM

Master Multitasker
Professional perfectionist? For Annie Sarkis BS '05, the real challenge is adapting to the imperfect
BY RENÉE GRAHAM

Champion of Change
When Hadiyah Charles '11 gave up a lucrative career to do "work that was worth my time," it got the attention of President Obama
BY RENÉE GRAHAM

Cover illustration by Stephen Webster
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**BackStory**
Former television producer Matthew Wilder BS ’05 discovers the one ending he couldn’t script
Four funerals, a wedding, and other family affairs

RESEARCHING HIS LINEAGE, Mike Brophy MBA '96 uncovered a family secret. “I’d always been fascinated by history,” the former medical salesperson explains, “and what better history to study than that of your own family?” What began as an avocation evolved into a career as a genealogist, in which he conducts research for everyone from empty nesters seeking to leave their heirs a legacy to celebrities tracing their roots for reality TV. Beginning with Brophy’s story (“The Family Man,” pg. 16) in this issue of Suffolk Alumni Magazine (SAM), overlapping themes of family connections, loss, and renewal begin to emerge.

The seventh of seven children, Jeff Chatlos JD '95 lost his father when he was 11. Though the experience was devastating, his parents' advice to “dream and dream big” and the support of a close extended family enabled Chatlos to pursue his ambition to become a lawyer. He then applied his experience and penchant for serving the greater good to launch a Fair Trade coffee business (“Barrister/Barista,” pg. 30), investing in the promise of one of Boston’s most “underrated” neighborhoods.

For Paul Thomas Rabchenuk BA ’62, the loss of his family and nearly all of their history was a microcosm of a world event so enormous and catastrophic that society has yet to categorize (or even acknowledge) it. Though his “day job” remains lawyer, Rabchenuk has devoted much of his life to educating the public about an unspeakable atrocity (“Your Witness,” pg. 24).

For Robbie Waters '12 and his mother, Barbara, the death of Robbie’s father when he was just 12 required practical decisions at the most vulnerable time imaginable. Their story (“From Shell Shock to Shell-Free,” pg. 53) is a real-life illustration of the aphorism that begins “When the going gets tough....”

When his 80-year-old father was dying earlier this year, Matthew Wilder BS ’05 envisioned “what his final moments would be like, how the funeral would unfold, and how my family would grieve his loss,” (“BackStory,” pg. 64). Instead, the former news producer “found out in good time that there was no way to produce this one.”

The wedding? As a special events manager, Annie Sarkis BS ’05 certainly has orchestrated her share of nuptials, but what inspired the aspiration and the confidence to organize such high-stakes occasions?

“Going into event planning was a no-brainer for me, because I grew up with two people who loved to entertain,” Sarkis recalls. “No matter what was going on in their lives, my parents always had a full house. Every Friday they would invite a ‘small’ gathering of 20 to 30 people over for dinner. After church on Sunday they would invite whoever attended to stop by the house for a quick bite. Amazingly, my mother would effortlessly whip something up, and my father would take on the role of the great host. It was a beautiful thing to see, because it showed how great they worked together as a team and how absolutely generous and loving they were to their family and friends. Our family is also known for being quite the partiers. When we get together, magic happens. Three people grab a pot to use as a drum, someone starts singing and everyone chimes in, another group starts to dance. We live for this stuff. So when asked if my family influenced me professionally, I cannot be surer that they have influenced me completely. I love what I do because it feels like home.” Without spoiling her story (“Master Multitasker,” pg. 36), let’s just say it has a very happy ending, Almambruk, Annie.

Of course, family transcends DNA. The back cover of SAM is graced by the art of Corita Kent (1918-1986). For Bostonians, her most familiar work remains the rainbow arcs she designed for the gas tank off the Southeast Expressway in 1971, which remains as much of an icon as the city’s neon Citgo sign. The serigraph we chose has a simple message that couldn’t be more appropriate to 2011 Suffolk University graduates. The message from your alumni association: welcome to the family.
The most convincing case for planned giving I make to my clients?

That it's how I'm managing my own estate.

I practice law in my own small firm in the areas of estate planning, elder law, real estate, and estate and trust administration. In estate planning with clients, I often raise the option of planned giving so that they can pursue their philanthropic objectives while achieving the greatest possible financial benefits for themselves and their heirs. When I ask people if they want to make charitable bequests in their wills or leave a legacy, I explain how I provided in my estate plan for the organizations and non-profit institutions about which I care. For me, one choice was clear: Suffolk University.

Suffolk enabled me to obtain a law degree without being saddled with student loans upon graduation. Just as we benefited from the generosity of others who went before us, we should give back to Suffolk to benefit those who will come after us. My wife and I have chosen planned giving as a natural extension of our annual charitable giving during our lifetime. Please consider joining me in sharing our good fortune with the next generation of Suffolk alumni.

ATTORNEY JAMES V. AUERMAN JD '75
Wakefield, Rhode Island
A DIFFERENT BREED
Patrea Pabst JD '95
Patrea epitomizes the many highly accomplished students who attend Suffolk Law School's evening program and pursue careers as patent attorneys. Many of these students work as scientists or engineers during the day and then toil away in the evening in the classroom. Others are employed by Boston-area law firms as tech specs, who work for law firms by day under the tutelage of experienced patent attorneys and attend evening law classes. Typically, these law firms pay tech specs both substantial salaries and the entire cost of attending Suffolk. Today, the largest number of patent attorneys working in the Boston area are graduates of Suffolk Law School, which has developed a reputation for providing top-notch members of the patent bar.

Andrew Beckerman-Rodau
Professor of Law & Co-Director IP Law Concentration, Suffolk University Law School

Thank you for the recent well-written feature by Charles Bethea on Patrea Pabst, a breeder of Straight Egyptian Arabian horses. It's always gratifying to read about Arabian Horse Association members who provide such excellent stewardship of their horses and who take such obvious pride in lineages that go back hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

Susan Bavaria
Managing Editor, Modern Arabian Horse magazine

PLAYING HARDBALL
Joe Walsh BS '76
Renée Graham did it again with her illuminating and delightful cover story about Coach Joe Walsh. In fact, Renee's journalism skills throughout the Spring/Summer 2011 edition were evident and outstanding. Of all three stories, I must admit a special fondness for the cover.

In 2004-2006, during his very formative teen years, my son, Matt, had the privilege of attending Coach Walsh's summer baseball camp at Harvard Stadium. Baseball was Matt's passion and Joe Walsh was his inspiration. Although I had just graduated from Suffolk at the time, I had no idea that Joe was an alum. However, I did know one thing: that every summer day I had to drive Matt and his friends to baseball camp was well worth the agony and aggravation of navigating the Big Dig!!

Thank you, Coach Joe, for giving Matt that special privilege of learning firsthand about dedication, leadership, fairness, and team building.

Marylyn Howe MPA '04

Coach Walsh has turned the Harvard program into consistent winners on the field during his 16 years at the school. His teams are known throughout the country as playing the game the "right way" while taking on the best teams in the country. He does face some challenges coaching in the Ivy League without athletic scholarships but continues to overcome them by hard work with his student-athletes.

It is always a pleasure going to see the Crimson program over the years, as they have been able to have multiple MLB draft picks over the years. His
student-athletes respect him while they have some fun playing the game that they love.

Brian Foley
Editor, College Baseball Daily (formerly the College Baseball Blog)

Renee Graham’s wonderful feature on Harvard baseball coach and Suffolk alumnus Joe Walsh’s storied career as a college baseball mentor drives home many great points.

The dedication of such coaching/teaching professionals as Joe Walsh of Suffolk and Harvard does not go unnoticed among the people in the know in college athletics, and hats off to the tremendous job he has done and continues to do in guiding young student-athletes in their baseball and future endeavors.

Bo Carter
Executive Director, National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association; board member, College Baseball Hall of Fame

THE ACCIDENTAL ADVOCATE
Nancy Reddish BSBA ’88

Your story on the journey of Nancy Reddish hit a personal chord with me. A graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and a retail executive for more than 15 years, my life, like Nancy’s, took an unexpected turn when my child was diagnosed with learning disabilities. And, like Reddish, I took a business approach to managing my child's special education services, something much easier said than done! I brought that same approach to my work assisting other families, as well.

Navigating the complex and intimidating world of special education is something no parent seeks and few, if any, enjoy. That’s why the work that Reddish and others take on — to assist parents of students with disabilities — is so incredibly invaluable. Six million children are served by the special education system in U.S. public schools. Many of them do not receive the specialized services they need to be successful in life. Educational advocates can help improve that, not just by working side by side with families, but also by showing parents how to advocate for themselves and their children with disabilities.

We need many more moms-turned-advocates. Reddish serves as a role model for anyone wanting to pursue this type of work. Thanks for sharing her story.

Candace Cortiella
Director, The Advocacy Institute
(AdvocacyInstitute.org)

We read with great pleasure your recent article about Nancy Reddish. Nancy is a wonderful parent advocate who exemplifies the model of parent leadership that the Federation for Children with Special Needs has fostered for almost 40 years. Our parent-to-parent model of providing support, information, and training to families whose children have special needs and special health care needs empowers families to be their own child’s best advocate. Those who go on to take our Parent Consultant training further that empowerment to include assisting other families who need support in finding resources for their child. Nancy has helped numerous families over the years, including many families who struggle due to economic, linguistic, or cultural barriers. When parents have the knowledge and understanding they need to support their child in school and in the community, we know that children are more likely to succeed, and that communities are more likely to be enriched. Those who would like to learn more about parent advocacy at the Federation can visit www.fcsn.org.

Rich Robison
Executive Director
Federation for Children with Special Needs

APPLIED PHILOSOPHY
Nicole Burton BS ’09

This work is exemplary of what we in global health mean when we say “interdisciplinary” involvement and collaboration. Public health is much more than just medicine and nursing. As demonstrated by Ms. Burton, different fields — philosophy, engineering, law, architecture, economics, IT, anthropology, among others — each offer a valuable perspective and set of tools that only in combination can truly develop holistic and sustainable global health programs.

Neda Dowlatshahi
Research Associate, Global Health Council
The Puck Stops Here

For Bruins fan and hockey writer Tim Rosenthal BSJ '09, the Stanley Cup was just the beginning—or was it?

AFTER NEARLY FOUR DECADES of frustration, the Boston Bruins finally hoisted the Stanley Cup again as National Hockey League champions. Tim Rosenthal BSJ '09 is not only a lifelong Bruins fan but a sportswriter who has covered the team in recent seasons for InsideHockey.com as well as Bruins Daily, where he will cover the upcoming 2011-12 campaign. Rosenthal took a few minutes to talk to SAM about all things hockey.

SAM: So after 39 years, the Bruins are finally champs again. Are we looking at a dynasty, or is this championship more of a one-off?

TIM ROSENTHAL: It’s really tough right now after a 39-year drought to consider whether or not this is a potential dynasty or a one-off championship. On one hand the Bruins have the majority of their team from last year coming back, and that should definitely be considered a good thing heading into 2011-12. But on the other hand, hockey in this day [and] age is one of the toughest sports for defending champions to repeat or start a dynasty. With all the wear and tear during the playoffs and a short off-season, I can’t see the Bruins repeating as Cup champs this year, nor do I think given the parity in the league that they can have a “dynasty”; but I can see them getting back to the Cup Finals and even winning it again in the not-too-distant future.

SAM: As a longtime Bruins fan, how do you feel about all the people now on the Bruins’ bandwagon?

ROSENTHAL: I welcome all fans aboard, even those bandwagon fans who jumped on this year during the Cup run. I heard many people compare the Bruins’ popularity this year to that of the 1970s when Bobby Orr and the rest of the Big Bad Bruins took the city by storm, and this team really captured the fans’—diehard or casual—hearts with their toughness and hard work (again similar to the ’70s). It’s a true sign that Boston has really earned the nickname “The Hub of Hockey,” and I think the Bruins’ popularity in this city is only going to rise.
THE SUFFOLK STORY

Think Big
New ad campaign has an aspirational message

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, Suffolk University, in conjunction with national marketing and communications firm Lipman Hearne, has conducted research with alumni, faculty, staff, and students to create a cohesive brand strategy now being implemented across the University and its various schools. This will showcase the University's strengths and emphasize its unique characteristics as a place that connects students to opportunities in Boston and the world and ensures that students leave with the perspective, skills, and knowledge needed to meet real-world challenges. As part of this move, alumni may notice new enrollment advertising springing up on MBTA subway lines across the Boston area, with the slogan, "Where do you see yourself?"

"We operate in a very competitive marketplace, and our future success depends not only on offering a high-quality education but also on assuring that our audiences recognize our distinctiveness," said Barry Brown, Suffolk's acting president and provost.

AT YOUR SERVICE

A Grand Jury Orientation
Massachusetts courts turn to Suffolk producers for instructional video

Massachusetts residents now have another compelling reason (other than performing their civic duty) to report for jury duty—a juror orientation video co-produced by Suffolk University. "Jury Service: Your Right, Your Responsibility" replaces the previous short film that had been shown to prospective jurors in the Commonwealth—more than 240,000 last year alone—for 25 years. Featuring remarks from Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland of the Supreme Judicial Court, the video includes historical perspectives of the trial-by-jury system, information about typical courtroom events, and commentary by judges and actual jurors.

The production team, led by Suffolk's Office of University Communications, shot the video in and around Massachusetts courthouses. Suffolk staff and alumni making cameos in the video include Ellen Shapiro JD '81, Patricia McDermott BS '92, and Cidney Carver BSJ '11.

Since its statewide release on July 5, initial reaction to the new video has been overwhelmingly positive, which Jury Commissioner Pamela Wood credits to the collaboration with Suffolk's team. "We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have been able to partner with such a professional, skilled, and dedicated organization," Wood said. "The court system is very grateful to Suffolk University for its generous and invaluable contribution to the jury system and to the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."
ASK A PRO

Audraphile

Theater/broadcast journalism major Andrew Scheinthal ‘12 connects with Tony Award-winning actress Audra McDonald

Currently starring in an acclaimed Broadway-bound revival of *Porgy and Bess*, Audra McDonald is one of the most versatile stage actresses of her generation. With four Tony Awards for her work in both musicals and plays, two Grammy awards, and a leading role in ABC’s medical drama *Private Practice*, it’s no wonder that she’s a favorite of senior Andrew Scheinthal, a double major in theater and broadcast journalism.

“I remember when I saw her perform ‘Raunchy’ from *110 in the Shade* during the Tony Awards,” says Scheinthal, who grew up in Houston and was just selected as a reporter for *The Morning Show* on New England Cable News. “What made this so special was how real she made the piece. She truly brought it to life. Every time she sings and performs, people have such a strong and emotional connection to her. One can really see the time and effort she puts into all of her work, and the outcome is always amazing.”

Scheinthal’s own interest in theater was sparked after he saw his first play. “I loved the aspect that what I was seeing was real. Unlike television or movies, this was happening right in front of my eyes. I could have a real deep and emotional connection with the actors performing in front of me.” SAM gave Scheinthal an opportunity to connect with McDonald:

*Andrew Scheinthal*: What was it like winning three Tony Awards in only five years?

*Audra McDonald*: It was more than a dream come true. But I was already living my dream come true by having the great fortune to be a part of *Carousel*, *Master Class*, and *Ragtime*.

*AS*: A common fear people have when working on well-known productions, such as *Porgy and Bess*, is that these characters have been seen so many times. How will you take Bess and give new life to her?

*AM*: I’ve read the original book by DuBose Heyward on which the musical work is based as well as books on DuBose Heyward himself, and those have given me quite a lot of insight into Bess’s character. A lot also just comes from my own analysis of the character. I don’t try to base my interpretation off of anyone else’s portrayal, although when I was a student at Juilliard I was obsessed with Cynthia Haymon’s Bess.

*AS*: What do you believe is your greatest moment on the stage?

*AM*: My favorite moment onstage every night during *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess* is when the glorious women of the cast are singing the “Doctor Jesus” prayer during the “healing” of Bess scene. Even though I am supposed to be unconscious at that moment I still get goosebumps every night. The mixture of their voices and spirituality in that moment is absolutely thrilling.

OUT STANDING IN THE FIELD: There’s a new team on the streets of Boston—seniors Andrew Scheinthal (see “Ask a Pro,” above) and Breana Pitts were selected as the on-air reporters for *Suffolk in the City*, which airs on New England Cable News’ *The Morning Show*. Scheinthal and Pitts will conduct question-of-the-day interviews with random passersby in front of the University’s Tremont Street studio.
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE
Suffolk University Receives Transformative Scholarships

Suffolk University Acting President and Provost Barry Brown has announced a major scholarship gift from one of the world’s largest banks. Beginning this academic year, Suffolk students will be the beneficiaries of a generous gift from Sovereign Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Banco Santander, S.A.

Under a partnership announced Oct. 7, Sovereign will provide Suffolk University with an extraordinary level of support for student scholarships. Each year, the program will fund a minimum of 10 scholarships for Suffolk University students to spend a semester abroad at campuses in international cities. Up to 10 percent of the scholarships will be awarded to low-to-moderate income students.

The initiative is made possible by Santander Universities, a corporate social responsibility program created by Banco Santander to support higher education and academic research to advance the bank’s goal of expanding knowledge and experience globally.

“Through its Santander Universities program, Sovereign Bank is opening doors across the globe for our students,” Brown said. “We are extremely grateful to Sovereign for the confidence that their gift demonstrates in this University, and the impact these scholarships will have in expanding the educational horizons of our students.”

More than 950 colleges and universities in 15 countries receive support through Santander Universities. In 2011, Sovereign will fund 775 scholarships and dozens of special academic programs at 23 colleges and universities in the U.S.

“We believe that the best investment for the future of society is in higher education,” said Jorge Morin, president and chief executive of Sovereign and country head of Santander US. “We are very pleased to have this opportunity to support Suffolk University’s commitment to bring an international perspective to tomorrow’s leaders.”

ON CAMPUS
NEW NORTH NEXUS

Sawyer Business School has moved its North Campus MBA program from North Andover, Massachusetts, to Riverwalk Properties in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The new campus offers year-round programs that give students the flexibility of part-time, full-time, and Saturday schedules. Suffolk has a long history in the Merrimack Valley region, home to more than 16,000 alumni.
banks fail in Greece. An earthquake and tsunami devastate Japan. America’s mortgage crisis dips the nation into recession. The concept of business complexity shows how disparate events like these connect. This fall, Dr. Greta Meszoely, director of Suffolk’s Center for Business Complexity and Global Leadership, hosts the University’s second annual Business Complexity and Global Leader Conference. The agenda is to examine the interconnectedness of our social, economic, and technological systems and its challenges to traditional approaches for understanding business and economics. Meszoely offered SAM “Business Complexity 101.”

**SAM:** In laypersons’ terms, what is business complexity?

**GRETA MESZOELY:** Basically, it’s the idea that our systems have become increasingly complex, so they’re interconnected and interdependent.

**SAM:** What are you referring to when you talk about systems?

**MESZOELY:** Social systems or natural phenomena. The study of complex systems is not new, yet it’s been mostly focused on physical systems. But our social systems and technological systems have become so complex, they are now following similar patterns as natural systems. For example, if you look at the financial system, it defies our traditional tools and understanding of what happens in the markets. Same thing with the size of our organizations—they become so big that they’ve taken on a life of their own. We think we can control things, but you no longer just sit there and say, “This is what I want.” Rather, things emerge, and phenomena emerge.

**SAM:** So is complexity, in essence, the notion that our systems have become as unruly and unpredictable as nature?

**MESZOELY:** Unruly, yes, but they’re much more systematic so they self-organize. We think of them as out of control, but instead they follow some pattern based on the network itself. For example, you influence me, I influence you, [and] as we are influenced together we change how we influence someone else...Things connect and then they create something wholly different than the sum of their parts. Often, we look at complexity as being bad, and it can be if we don’t understand it. But it also offers incredible opportunities for innovation. Innovation is a product of complexity.

**SAM:** So many discussions have been had about our economic situation—from the mortgage crisis to the debt ceiling. What conversation do you think is being overlooked? What conversation should we be having about the economy?

**MESZOELY:** There’s no better time to be a complexity scientist. Only when people are knocked out of their comfort zone do they recognize certain things around them. Before the Internet, things were not as interconnected. Take the earthquake and tsunami and the reverberating effects throughout the financial markets and business systems. Take the Gulf oil crisis. They thought they had so much under control that they could predict. So we have followed traditional patterns, and it’s taken a great deal to recognize those patterns weren’t working. We could not predict them because they were not predictive. We may have been able to predict a small unit within the system, but the systems are interconnected with other systems. There is no way to predict, and our national inclination is to be able to predict. We can start to understand systemic risk—some small bank in Greece fails. Does it have a reverberating effect or is it just a blip in the system? Once we understand and expand that framework from looking at pieces to looking at how those pieces fit into a greater framework, then we can see things coming along and try to influence the system.

**SAM:** So much has changed in the year since your inaugural conference. What can those attending expect from this year’s gathering?

**MESZOELY:** By the nature of what we do in bringing business leaders and academic leaders together, we’re looking at what we understand from both sides and how we can advance theory and process all around. Successful leaders look at things from both sides and expand that dialog. Given that complexity is about complex systems interacting with other complex systems, we’re always different. We have a balance of practitioners in the field, leaders in the field, and scientists, each bringing different dimensions. Our goal is to bring perspective and understanding about what complex systems mean. It’s about changing the framework of how we look at things.
Preservation Presentation

Modern Theatre recognized as "a true standout"

The Boston Preservation Alliance honored Suffolk University's Modern Theatre residence hall development with a Preservation Achievement Award on October 5. The annual Preservation Achievement Awards honor outstanding accomplishments in historic preservation and compatible new construction, as well as individuals and organizations that have contributed significantly to Boston’s historic built environment. The Preservation Alliance called the Modern Theatre project "a true standout in the category of Integration of Preservation and New Construction."

M.V.T. (Most Valuable Trainer)
More honors for Athletic Department's Jeff Stone

Suffolk's head athletic trainer, Jeff Stone, has been named "Athletic Trainer of the Year" by the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) for the 2010-11 season. It's the second time Stone has been so honored, making him the only repeat recipient since the award's inception in 2008. "His professionalism, athletic training, and networking contacts have benefited the Suffolk University student-athletes in a manner that brings pride to our University and great comfort to those to whom he ministers as well as to the parents of our student-athletes," said Suffolk Athletic Director Jim Nelson. "Jeff's mentoring to all of the athletic trainers in the GNAC is recognized and applauded by his peers, so evidenced by their selection of him as the GNAC Athletic Trainer of the Year for the second time."

This is the third honor Stone, who is also medical director for Bay State Games, has received this year. In January, he was inducted into the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts Hall of Fame, and in May, Stone's service to the athletic training profession was honored with a 2011 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer award.
From a neuropsychologist to the entrepreneurs of a mobile coupon service for deal-savvy smartphone users, this year’s Suffolk University Alumni Award recipients represent a sampling of the University’s best and brightest. This year, SAM presented each with the same question: “What aspect of your Suffolk education has been most important in your post-collegiate life and career?”

**The Alumni Achievement Award**

is bestowed upon an alumnus/alumna who has made a significant contribution to society and/or his or her profession, thereby achieving a level of distinction that has brought honor personally and to the University.

**Barbara Anthony JD ’77**
Massachusetts Undersecretary, Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

“Through my time at Suffolk I came to value the principles of fairness and social and economic justice. In my senior year, I took an antitrust course with Professor Crystal Lloyd, and that course, combined with my master’s degree in economics, taught me how important the maintenance of a fair and competitive marketplace is to our national well-being. I also acquired sound reinforcement for my interest in public service and my sense of social and economic justice while I was at Suffolk. The values of equal opportunity and egalitarian treatment, as well as the value of public service, infused the classrooms. People were judged on performance and honest pursuit of intellectual integrity. Many years after graduating I became a member of the adjunct faculty, where I continue to try to apply the same principles I learned as a student.”

**Kenneth Sherman**
BS’ 54, DCS ’79
Director, Narragansett Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

“My mentor was Dr. Robert S. Friedman, professor of biology. Professor Friedman was a perfect role model of educator, researcher, entrepreneur, pragmatist, and visionary, determined to take on the working-class student as a vessel to be filled with facts and an appreciation of how the facts could be applied to improve the human condition. Now 57 years after my Suffolk experience, those factoids of biological science and optimism expressed by Professor Friedman in biology class and laboratory exercises are lessons learned.”

**William A. Dobson, BSBA ’86**
Executive Vice President and CFO, California WOW Xperience

“My Suffolk co-op assignments with an international customs brokerage and freight-forwarding firm opened my eyes to the world of international finance, which sparked my career interest in international corporate finance. My Suffolk education experience changed my priorities in life and taught me how to develop goals [and] discipline and [to] overcome obstacles.”
THE ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD is given to those who have made a significant contribution to the betterment of the University.

Trisha Griffin-Carty, BA '71
President, Griffin-Carty Communications

"During my college career at Suffolk as an English major [and] education minor, I learned how to think critically, write clearly, and present with confidence. These are skills that I have used throughout my career—first as a high school English teacher, then as a consultant in a career management firm, and currently in my role as president of my own consulting firm, Griffin-Carty Communications. Today, as a speaker, communications coach, and workshop facilitator, I work with clients from the corporate, academic, and nonprofit worlds. In each of these roles, it is critical to understand a client's needs and concerns before proposing a solution. While at Suffolk, I learned how to analyze data, form a thesis, and communicate a point of view in a cogent, compelling manner. Although I could not have imagined the path my career would take, my education at Suffolk provided a strong foundation for each new venture."

Richard Scheff, JD '81
Partner and Chairman, Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP

"The value of my Suffolk University Law School education cannot be measured in dollars and cents. In addition to training me to identify, analyze, and solve legal problems, the challenging curriculum prepared me better than many of my peers who attended Ivy League schools to take and pass bar exams in two states. Along with hard work and plenty of luck, Suffolk opened many doors for me that paved the way to a successful career. In reflection after 30 years, I could not be happier with the profession I chose or the law school that chose me."

Michael A. Fruzzetti, BSBA '06
CEO and Founder, Peekaboomobile.com

Benjamin D. Dolgoff, BSBA '08
COO and Founder, Peekaboomobile.com

"Professors at Suffolk University stress the importance of building effective interpersonal communication skills. Whether negotiating contracts, building partnerships, or working on a team-oriented project, we are prepared to bring out the best in ourselves and others. This is an invaluable skill that is best learned and practiced at a highly active university located in the center of a major metropolitan city."

Stephen L. Golden, EMBA '86
President, Humarock Distribution Corporation

"My most memorable experiences from the EMBA program were the hands-on case presentations and interactions with the professor and fellow students. One of my first team presentations in class was the commercialization of a common sink sponge. The 'subjects' seemed boring, but with the encouragement of the professor and the challenge of winning the competition, [my] team and I were driven to present the most creative and engaging marketing plan we could. On class presentation day, our team destroyed the competition with our unlikely category winner, the little green sponge. I believe it was that day and during that course that I gained my personal inspiration to identify new and unique product opportunities and to commercialize them. Today, class presentation day is the day my small company ships a new product that has been awarded from a retail partner or client. To date, I have personally commercialized well over 100 new products in the consumer electronics industry. I suggest without the academic foundation and my experiences in the EMBA program at Suffolk, I would have never had these achievements."

THE YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD is conferred for demonstrated success in one's profession or contributions to society.

Setti Warren, JD '07
Mayor, Newton, Massachusetts

"My time at Suffolk Law School has proven to be invaluable. It gave me the understanding that law and the rule of law and the constitution form the foundation of our great society. It enshrines the opportunities, freedoms and protections that have made this the greatest country in the world and how the law has an especially important role to play in protecting our society's most vulnerable citizens."

Dana W. Moore, MAP '05, PhD '07
Instructor of Neuropsychology, Weill Cornell Medical College

"Psychology is a very broad field, and when I started in Suffolk's PhD program in clinical psychology, I had no idea what I wanted [to] focus [on]. While at Suffolk, I found my niche. The doctoral program exposed me to a broad array of specialties and allowed me to explore. When I decided I had found my calling in neuro-imaging, I was provided with the education and the tools I needed to excel, thanks to Suffolk's strong neuropsychology concentration, wonderful mentorship by Dr. David Gansler, and research opportunities provided by the Brain Image Analysis lab. Thanks to these experiences, I found myself to be very competitive after graduation, and professionally I knew who I was and what I wanted."
Why Mike Brophy Wants to Hear Your Life Story

By Denise Dowling

photography by kathleen dooher
ICHAEL BROPHY MBA '96 is a grave digger in a suit. A professional genealogist, he would agree with William Faulkner’s dictum: “The past isn’t dead. It isn’t even past.” At times, a genealogist must handle biohazard—facts that some clients may prefer to keep contained. “People pay me to find documents,” says Brophy. “If I find something disturbing, I will offer compassion and support, which is how I like to live my life.” When he unearthed newspaper accounts that revealed a client’s grandmother had been killed by a drunk driver, for instance, Brophy offered to investigate what happened to the driver, but the client chose not to pursue it.

The researcher has a similar tragedy in his own family’s past. In the 1930s, Brophy’s great-grandmother was struck and killed by a drunk driver in Boston. The driver, who was wanted in several other places for automobile violations, only served two years in prison. “You think, ‘How the hell did that happen that this guy kills someone and goes to jail for just two years?’” he says. “But those were the times; alcohol awareness and sentencing wasn’t what it is today.”

Brophy even located and interviewed a priest who recalled the event. He also sifted through the driver’s past and learned of his hardscrabble background growing up in a broken home. “I might like to find out when he died and whether he had children or grandchildren, someone I could ask if any of this family lore came down,” he adds. “But the exchange could be awkward.”

The website blacksheepancestors.com catalogs infamous ancestors, which “we all have: You can’t hide the truth,” says Brophy. He found courthouse papers that revealed his own fraternal great-grandparents had divorced in Ireland 90 years ago—scandalous then, and a family secret. “The Irish tend to be close-mouthed about that kind of stuff, so my father didn’t know about the divorce,” he explains. “Reading through the divorce papers, it was pretty clear the husband had screwed up. My dad and I agreed that had we been there at the time, we would have had a few things to say to my great-grandfather.”

“Standing on the Shoulders of Giants”

Before genealogy, Brophy, 46, was in medical sales. “I felt that to gain a broad experience in business, I had to be exposed to different industries.” He ended up in medical sales for six years and made an honest living, but he was still unhappy. “I felt I had to do something different, something that made me feel more than just selling a product.” He didn’t have much of an interest in genealogy, but his uncle and a cousin were both genealogists and had both given him advice on the profession. “My uncle told me that genealogy was a great profession to get into, there was great demand, and it was something I could enjoy.”

“I thought, ‘Wow, that sounds good’,” Brophy says. He eventually decided to return to school for an MBA to help his career transition. “I’m a firm believer in life-long learning. You can never stop learning.”

“I felt that to gain a broad experience in business, I had to be exposed to different industries.”
and bright people” and, in his New Business Creation class, the opportunity to start a company “from the ground up.” Brophy left with “a tool set for starting my own business plan.” But it took a history lesson for him to deploy that vision.

In 2002, after a maternal aunt passed away and her son compiled a historical tribute, Brophy began studying his fraternal ancestors. “I’d always been fascinated by history,” he notes, “and what better history to study than that of your own family?” During spare moments from work, he attended lectures on genealogy research. The Internet offered scant archival resources at the time, so his hunt was old-school: First, he and his father looted the attic for memorabilia. He then dusted off microfilm and trolled census records at repositories. Brophy eventually found his ancestors’ school records, as well as passenger ship logs cataloging their journey from Ireland to New Brunswick, Canada. After the Napoleonic Wars ended in the early 1800s, the Irish were encouraged to go to Canada to clear and farm the land in order to send lumber back for shipbuilding. His ancestors were part of that migration.

Brophy also interviewed local relatives and corresponded with others in New Brunswick. Two years later, after receiving copies of U.S. citizenship naturalization papers for his great-grandfather that revealed the town where he resided in New Brunswick, it was time to cross the border. Brophy and his family set out for Miramichi, “the Irish capital of Canada,” anchored on the east coast of New Brunswick. He found it exhilarating to walk streets named after his ancestors and tread land granted by the English Crown to his great-great-grandfather in 1825. A former family farm, the soil was barren due to a lean economy for farming, but that bittersweet news was countered by a visit to a cousin’s property on Prince Edward Island, where they pulled potatoes from ancestral ground.

Investigating his past deepened Brophy’s appreciation for the present. He illustrates this with a quote from an episode of Who Do You Think You Are?, the NBC celebrity genealogy show for which he has done research.
I'd always been fascinated by history, and what better history to study than that of your own family?

“Someone said, ‘We are absolutely standing on the shoulders of giants.’ You bet your ass we are.” His voice lowers an octave. “We think we got problems? People are worried about their 401k plans going down in the stock market crash? Imagine a few days in the lives of your grandparents and great-grandparents when they first assimilated here, or during the Irish potato famine when 1 million people starved to death. We don’t have any problems.”

Brophy found his identity in a metaphorical sense as well. Shortly after the trip, he shed medical sales and became a professional genealogist. He never looked back, although looking back became his job.

A Preference for the Dead

The New England Historic Genealogical Society is a sanctuary from the rest of Boston’s Newbury Street, where even window shopping feels expensive. The air is genteel at this Back Bay center, with family trees on rich paper and gilt-framed portraits. Founded in 1845 and housed in a former bank, the Society has made cameos on Who Do You Think You Are? Sarah Jessica Parker was filmed on the sixth floor, and Ashley Judd appeared by the first-floor mantel. Though he also works from a home office in Abington, 20 miles southeast of Boston, Brophy can usually be found here (sometimes teasing the librarians with a cornflower-blue-eyed wink) or at the Boston Public Library.

“There’s a misconception that you can do your genealogy on the Internet, but only 10 percent exists there,” he explains. “About 90 percent exists in libraries and government buildings.” His time is split between locating estate heirs and doing ancestral research for various clients, from television producers to a wife who wants to present her husband with ancestral research for his birthday or as an anniversary celebration. The material may be collected into a self-published (hard copy or electronic) book, often with photos. He has also created PowerPoint presentations with history and photos for family reunions.

His clientele is often women north of 50: empty nesters who want to pass something on to their children as a legacy. Many started to sleuth online but hit a roadblock once they tried to dig beyond four or five generations. Their incomes span from middle class to owning their own tax bracket, so they can afford to spend an average of $500 to $1,500 for Brophy’s research. Retiree Diane Bennett, who now lives in Canada and considers genealogy a hobby, hired him to trace relatives who emigrated from Ireland and settled in Boston in the 1830s. Brophy even went to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and photographed tombstones of Bennett’s ancestors. Her family was unaware that their ancestors were buried in the old Catholic section—they had even passed by it while burying Bennett’s aunt two years earlier. His findings were helpful when Bennett was invited to speak at a Jesuit institution about the importance of the Jesuit missions in English Canada. She now had the facts to inform her knowledge of the sacrifices that Irish immigrant mothers made to enable their sons to have a Jesuit education.

Brophy’s passion for history was steeped as a boy in Marblehead, a seaside town north of Boston. Unsurprisingly, he prefers finding dead people to finding the living: “The dead are more of a challenge. It’s more intellectually stimulating and historically interesting, plus it requires a wide variety of sources.” His specialty, Irish genealogy, can be especially vexing:
A number of public records turned to ash after Ireland's civil war ended in 1922 and ammunition stored next to a records office exploded.

Seeking That “Eureka Moment”

There has been an uptick in business as Brophy's expertise has grown and more people are seeking their roots. Research that once required travel can be initiated via the Internet, and genealogy has been the focus of recent television series. A recent New York Times article about a show's genesis as a web broadcast illustrates this: In “Analyze This: A Webisode's ID Meets its TV Ego,” Mike Hale writes, “In one new 'Web Therapy' scene Fiona's husband tells her, 'The only thing that makes money on the Internet is sex and genealogy.'"

“I think people are so fascinated with their family tree because it deepens their sense of identity; it's a new perspective on themselves,” says Brophy. He reviewed Gwyneth Paltrow's late father's Jewish ancestry in Boston via local newspaper and court records for Who Do You Think You Are?, but shrugs at the Hollywood connection. “I find common folk just as interesting,” he says. “We all have our story. I don’t think there is any ancestor who is boring; it's the research that makes the difference.”

Brophy is often planted by the microtext on the Society's fourth floor. Or he might scour the historic city directories, checking a sound code above the shelves for phonetic variations on a name (“Brophy” instead of “Brophey,” for example). If he's searching for a Harvard man, he'll scout profiles collected in books of Harvard University alums from 1833-1900. Marriage records are exceptionally reliable because the information came from the horse's mouth; however, death records may be dubious because the informant was usually the son-in-law (who was considered the least emotional person in that situation), who may have been ignorant of his in-laws' birthplaces.

Brophy advises the “fan approach” of examining witnesses, neighbors, and other affiliates because your ancestors will appear in their records: “If you know when someone was born and when he was naturalized, you can find out which county he is from.” When you land on an elusive name, professionals describe that “Eureka moment” with hazy rapture: “Some people spend years and years looking for a source,” says Brophy. “When they come across it in an archive, the rush is absolutely incredible.”

The allure of finding an heir or ancestor can be addictive. “As one genealogist said, ‘We are all cousins of Sherlock,’” notes Brophy. At home and off-duty, however, the computer is silenced so he can spend time with his family. His wife, also an Irish Catholic from Massachusetts, pursued dual Irish citizenship, making their three-year-old daughter eligible for dual citizenship as well. “I do the Irish genealogy work,” Brophy laughs. “Yet I'll be the only person in my household who is not an Irish citizen because I'm ineligible.” (To be eligible, you must be able to prove that a grandparent or parent was born in Ireland.)

Brophy also supports his family with speaking engagements around the country and via Skype. During a festival at the Irish Cultural Centre of
Some people spend years and years looking for a source. When they come across it in an archive, the rush is absolutely incredible.

New England in Canton, Massachusetts, he clicks through a PowerPoint presentation on conducting research this side of the Atlantic, placing it with jokes and anecdotes about his own family. "I think there’s a statistic that more people fear public speaking than fear death," he says. "Suffolk helped me gain confidence in that area because we did a lot of projects that required group presentations."

Lisa Aprea MBA ‘94 collaborated on some of those endeavors. "Mike was an excellent public speaker," she says. "He was very believable in whatever he was attempting to market and always had a good story to spin. I was weak in that area and he built my confidence because he helped people tap into their skills."

Many genealogists are librarians or archivists with irreproachable technical prowess but softer business and customer service skills. Brophy feels that his business degree gives him an advantage, in that being a professional genealogist is much like running a small business. Some professionals will do research before a contract is signed to gauge whether it will be a successful project. Brophy considers this bad business because "undervaluing your services damages the marketplace."

He credits Sawyer Business School Associate Professor of Marketing Meera Venkatraman for her indispensable lessons on market segmentation, or specializing in a certain product or service. "No provider can be all things to all people," says Brophy. "By letting my clients know that, I gain credibility and become more than a supplier to my clients; I become a consultant and a valuable resource."

Brophy’s niche is Irish genealogy of particular time periods; he doesn’t research 16th- and 17th-century genealogy, for example. "There are different nuances related to religious groups, such as Catholics versus Presbyterians," he clarifies further. "I grew up Catholic, so I specialize in Irish Catholics."

The Search for "Negative Evidence"

During his research into the estate of a man who died in 1836, Brophy has culled more than 600 names in his database, with descendants starting from the late 18th century. He’s written to probate courts across the country and subcontracted work to other researchers in his expansive search. In pursuit of one obituary, the 6’1” researcher bounds up the marble stairwell of the Boston Public Library to the microtext department and fires up his laptop to conjure a document that uses Family Treemaker software to track each heir. He asks the librarian for microfilm of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette from 1948 to find an obituary or death notice of the man’s great-granddaughter, who died in a neighboring town in 1948. He scans copies from 10 days after her death and scour other local news before pronouncing it a “negative find” or “negative evidence”: information that does not directly solve the research question.

"But inferences can be drawn from information that is not there when you would expect it to be," says Brophy, who adds that “Failure to find” certificates can be issued in some states for legal purposes. He notes the negative evidence in the database and once home, contacts the woman’s hometown library to ask if a local newspaper existed in the 1940s.

After seven years in the business, Brophy charges a premium hourly rate and keeps current on the past by attending “genealogy boot camp” at the Samford Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Alabama. A course in advanced methodology and evidence analysis might include tax roll strategies in the South, historic weather (how a fire might have affected property), and military research strategies (perhaps a Civil War widow stretched the truth to qualify for a pension).

“Our focus is not just on finding names but on understanding people, records, laws and the social context," says Brophy. "For example, under what land act did someone apply for land, or if many people are dying on the same day or dying young, was there a plague? Historians look at the big picture of events, whereas genealogists look at microcosms of local history. What matters is how we use the details between discoveries."

How a genealogist packages those findings is also critical. Brophy is empathic and circumspect: “I treat a client’s ancestors as my own.” His expression clouds when he alludes to closeted skeletons found on someone’s behalf. Although he never met them, Brophy mourns his great-grandparents’ divorce and his great-grandmother’s death by a man who should have been behind bars instead of a wheel. It is an occupational hazard. While resuscitating the past, he must fight the desire to rewrite it. ©
Lawyer Paul Thomas Rabchenuk BA ’62 wants you to remember a chapter of history you probably never knew
It is the early 1970s and Paul Thomas Rabchenuk BA '62 is standing in his parents' basement preparing their home for sale. His mother had died a few years earlier, and his ailing father would soon be heading into a nursing home.

Rabchenuk comes across a paper shopping bag containing a yellowed stack of letters. They are from his uncle, who had stayed behind in Ukraine when Rabchenuk's father, Nicholas, emigrated to the United States in 1912. Rabchenuk can't decipher the writing, but the unusual postmarks catch his eye. "Look at all these fantastic stamps," he says to his friend, who had come to lend a hand. "I think you can use these." The friend takes the stamps for his collection, and tosses the letters in the trash.

It was, Rabchenuk would later recognize, a grave mistake. Shortly thereafter, his father died and the memories contained in that cache of letters, a chronicle of what it was like to live under Josef Stalin's reign of terror, was gone. With it went almost all of the family record of the years 1932 and 1933, when Stalin starved Ukraine into political submission during a forced famine known as the Holodomor ("death by hunger"). Leaving as many as 10 million people dead, the period stands as one of the largest—yet least known—genocides in world history. "My father told me all the stories," Rabchenuk says today, "but I had to learn them myself."

Nearly four decades later, Rabchenuk still regrets the moment of thoughtlessness. "Sometimes, you're a certain age, you're not that interested in the past," he says, sitting behind a desk in his law office in Salem, Massachusetts, a few minutes' drive from his childhood home. "You're a kid with a future and you're looking forward to the future. But as you mature, you say, wait a minute, I've got a heritage, a culture."

Ever since that realization, Rabchenuk has been making up for lost time. To build awareness of the Ukrainian genocide, he speaks to teachers and the staff of education projects such as Facing History and Ourselves. In the civil rights classes he teaches at Salem State College, he discusses better-known tragedies in places like Darfur and Sudan, but he also always talks about the Holodomor. And each time, he talks about one of his most precious possessions.

In his office, Rabchenuk opens a slim plastic binder and removes the one letter that didn't get thrown away. It is from his uncle, dated July 6, 1933. He has read it so many times he can recite its details from memory:
His uncle Kornelii had been sick but had walked 30 kilometers to get the letter; there wasn’t enough food for everyone; they had taken in a dangerously thin 5-year-old niece. At one point, Kornelii thanks his brother for the $10 he’d enclosed. “I and my wife Sophie kiss the hands that worked for this money,” Rabchenuk reads. “You sent me 10 dollars and so you gave me health and life. I will never forget that.” When he looks up, Rabchenuk’s eyes have clouded behind his glasses. “That always brings a lump to my throat,” he says.

We often define our history by the objects we select as memorials. Across the street from Rabchenuk’s office, amid shops hawking magic wands and wizard hats to tourists, Salem has a bronze statue of Samantha, the perky witch and main character from the sitcom Bewitched. It’s easy to imagine some Chamber of Commerce functionary thinking it was a more palatable monument than the one a few blocks away in recognition of the 20 people put to death in this town for witchcraft three centuries ago.

To memorialize the Holodomor, though, Rabchenuk has only a brief, brittle letter mailed from Ukraine a lifetime ago. Unable to learn what happened to his family overseas, he cherishes it as his sole touchstone to an all-but-forgotten tragedy. But if he has his way, Massachusetts will soon sign into law a bill urging all public schools to cover the Ukrainian genocide. It may seem like a small gesture against the grand sweep of history, but to Paul Rabchenuk, it’s a start.

CHICKEN AND EGG

As a boy growing up in Salem, Rabchenuk and his older brother and sister were raised on politics. In his father’s telling, tales otherwise relegated to dusty history books came alive with heroes staging daring escapes from the Russian Revolution, and people such as Nikita Khrushchev, who betrayed his Ukrainian roots to become a villain. During the day, Rabchenuk’s father attended to several apartments he owned, and his mother worked as a weaver at Salem’s Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company.

All the talk planted in Rabchenuk a fascination with politics. He went to work in a court clerk’s office and began looking for a college where he could attend classes at nights and on weekends. He chose Suffolk because “it was the type of place where a working guy had a chance,” and majored in government. The coursework there provided a larger context in which to fit the stories from his family. “Suffolk broadened my global perspective,” he says. “It showed me that our neighbors aren’t just the people next door, they’re the people in Africa and Southeast Asia—what affects them has an effect on us here.”

Rabchenuk went on to receive a master’s in public affairs from University of Pittsburgh, and a law degree from the New England School of Law. His career path eventually led him to a job as town manager for Saugus, just north of Boston, but it wasn’t until he exchanged the 16-hour

Was the Holodomor Genocide?

One of the challenges facing Holodomor scholars was the former Soviet Union’s stranglehold on information relating to the years 1932 and 1933. For instance, conservative estimates put the Holodomor death toll at about 3 million Ukrainians, which is roughly equivalent to the number of lives lost from the genocides in Armenia, Darfur, and Rwanda combined. But some historians believe more than 10 million people died, a figure in line with the Holocaust.

An even more unsettled question is whether the Holodomor should be called genocide in the first place. As in any murder trial, intent is the toughest thing to prove. “We can call [the Holocaust] genocide because there is a statement from the German government that says, ‘We want to destroy all the Jews,’” says Dr. Taras Hunczak, a former Rutgers University history professor who was born in Ukraine in 1932. “This case is more complex: I have a quarter-million documents [about this period], but there is not one document that says, ‘We mean to destroy the Ukrainians.’”

In 2008, a house of the Russian parliament passed a resolution insisting that the famine was brought on by drought. The dead included not just Ukrainians, the legislators maintained, but “different peoples and nationalities” living in farming areas. (A diplomatic memo recently released by WikiLeaks suggests current Russian president Dimitry Medvedev has threatened Azerbaijan with reprisals if it recognizes the Holodomor.)

But to Hunczak, genocide is the appropriate term. Consider, he says, that Josef Stalin ordered the borders of Ukraine closed in 1933 to stop people from buying food elsewhere—no one would have tried to leave if neighboring areas were starving equally. “[Ukrainians] became hostages,” Hunczak says. “That means there was a purposeful policy to destroy them.”

“The question,” he adds, “is how are we going to educate the younger generation to understand if we don’t tell the truth?”
days of a public servant for the mere 12-hour days of an attorney that he began to feel the strong pull of his family's history. He joined a trade association of Ukrainian lawyers, and began to study the language more earnestly.

For some of Rabchenuk's best mentors, that wasn't enough. One day in 1996, he got a call from a gruff Ukrainian lawyer named Myron Boluch asking why he hadn't been at the recent memorial for Chernobyl. Boluch added that he expected Rabchenuk to be at the next day's anniversary of Ukrainian independence from the Soviet Union. "I'll be looking for you," he warned.

Rabchenuk was smart enough to show up at that event, and just about every one dealing with the Ukrainian community since. Looking back, he is struck by all the factors that came together to catalyze his sense of awareness. "What was the egg that produced the chicken?" he asks. "The egg that produced the chicken was that government department training at Suffolk University, combined with my folks' concern about having a free Eastern Europe, combined with people coming forward and saying to me, 'You have a heritage—let us give you linkage to your heritage.'"

In 2007, Rabchenuk organized a bus trip to New York City, where 2,500 Ukrainians marched to Saint Patrick's Cathedral for a Holodomor requiem mass. The year after that, he immersed himself in study of the genocide and organized the Boston-area commemoration of its 75th anniversary. He designed a series of public events and oversaw the creation of a memorial book now in the Library of Congress.

During that time, Rabchenuk hosted Oleh Shamshur, then the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States, on his first visit to Boston. Shamshur says Rabchenuk shepherded him through days full of discussions and powerful ceremonies, but it is his work today to get schools to teach the Holodomor that really matters. "It's important to erect monuments and have commemoration ceremonies," Shamshur says, "but it's more important to have study of the Holodomor added to the school curriculum."

"You're a kid with a future and you're looking forward to the future. But as you mature, you say, wait a minute, I've got a heritage, a culture."

ONE GLARING OMISSION

This June, Rabchenuk and four fellow Ukrainian-Americans crowded behind a small folding table at the Massachusetts State House. He had assembled them to testify before the state legislature's Joint Committee on Education, which would consider recommending study of the Holodomor to the school system of nearly 1 million students.

One of Rabchenuk's speakers that day was Tamara Gallo Olexy, the national president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The preceding panel had just testified in support of another genocide education bill—one that suggested a half-dozen genocides to cover but didn't mention the Holodomor. When it was Olexy's turn to speak, she explained that her group's toughest challenge has been educating the public. Schoolchildren are taught about many of history's genocides, but the Ukrainian one "remains the one glaring omission from this list."

It is a sadly understandable oversight. For the world to forget a genocide, it first must know about one. In the early 1930s, a New York Times journalist named Walter Duranty began publishing dispatches from the Soviet Union. The United States was then deeply mired in the Great Depression, and Duranty's glowing descriptions of socialism's achievements under Josef Stalin seemed to promise a way to fix this country's broken capitalist system. It sounded good on paper, but it just wasn't true.

In fact, in Ukraine, the breadbasket of Russia, as many as 10 million people were starving to death. After Stalin's policies forced all farmers to surrender their land, livestock, and crops to the government, people resorted to eating pets, garbage, and tree bark. Some reportedly ate each other. And as Duranty was publicizing the Soviet government's official line on the famine—it was due to a drought—Stalin was exporting more than 3.3 million metric tons of Ukrainian wheat. "It was just nasty," Rabchenuk says. "It was like having a cupboard full of food and your children are starving."

With secret KGB archives finally being opened, there's an opportunity to educate people, says Michael Sawkiw Jr., who also testified at
Rabchenuk's hearing. Sawkiw, who leads the Ukrainian Congress Committee's Holodomor recognition efforts, assists Rabchenuk and others who are pushing similar education bills in New York, New Jersey, and elsewhere. Because curricula is largely set by individual school boards, "it is best to have someone who knows the local lay of the land" in each place, Sawkiw says. "As an attorney and as someone involved in politics, Paul understands that, as Tip O'Neill said, all politics is local. That makes him a very good advocate."

At the same time, however, getting schools to teach the Holodomor as a genocide faces difficult challenges. Russia, for its part, continues to maintain that the deaths were due to a natural disaster, not an extermination policy. Even the 14 or so countries that have recognized the genocide, including the United States, tend to tread carefully. "It goes back to the realities of foreign policy," Rabchenuk says. "We don't want to offend Russia." (For more on the debate, see sidebar.)

Indeed, the unsettled status of the Holodomor makes a bill like Rabchenuk's particularly complex, says Massachusetts State Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch JD '79, who co-chairs the Joint Committee on Education. She listened to the panel with interest—she had never heard of the Holodomor—but she points out that every time you want to add something to the curriculum, you have to take something else off. Whether or not the Holodomor was genocide "further complicates this particular piece of legislation," she says. "I don't want to suggest we've made any decision yet, but the committee is considering if it has the skills and the background to make that determination."

**IF AT FIRST...**

Rabchenuk doesn't yet know what will happen to the education bill. Last year's version got lost in the vortex known as legislative committee. If that happens this time, he'll file the bill again next year and, if necessary, the year after that.

While he waits, he does his best to call attention to Ukraine and its history at whatever chance he gets. In August, he stood behind a podium on Boston's City Hall Plaza and led a ceremony to honor the 20th anniversary of the country's independence. He repeated the same words he had shared from a similar podium two decades earlier: "I wish my father, who came to the United States at the age of 17 without knowing any English," he said, "were here to see the liberation of his country."

Back in his Salem office, with his treasured letter on the desk before him, Rabchenuk takes a moment to reflect on what keeps him motivated. "I don't like cliches like 'People who forget history are doomed to repeat it,'" he says. "However, the possibility of Holodomor—of Darfur, Rwanda, the Holocaust—the possibility of any of these happening this easily again, have been diminished because of one thing: Public awareness."

It was the free flow of information that helped bring about the end of the Soviet Union, Rabchenuk says. And it was information that brought atrocities in Sudan, in Libya, to the public eye. "The public isn't tolerating it," he says. "Awareness is going to make it harder and harder for despots to deprive their citizenry of human rights and of civil liberties—they'll still try, but it will be harder."

Looking down, Rabchenuk slides the letter back into its sleeve, and then gently closes its binder. He'll always remember to put it someplace safe. ☃
BARRISTER/BARISTA

HIS LEGAL TRAINING HELPED JEFF CHATLOS JD '95 LAUNCH HIS COFFEE BUSINESS. CAN HE CREATE THE BUZZ TO SUSTAIN IT?

by renee graham

photography by jarrod mccabe
OMETIMES, when Jeff Chatlos JD '95 is working the counter at Flat Black Coffee Company's Ashmont location (one of a trio of specialty coffee shops in Boston he has co-owned for nearly a decade), he'll notice someone sitting on his store's patio sipping from a cup belonging to a national coffee chain that happens to have a franchise across the street. While many business owners would simply ask the person to leave—those tables and chairs are theoretically reserved for his customers—Chatlos sees an opportunity to win over a new customer to Flat Black's coffee and philosophy.

"My store manager, instead of chasing the person away, will say, 'Did you notice we're right here?' And he'll bring them a cup of coffee. They immediately recognize the difference in taste and realize that for a cup of brewed coffee, we're really not that expensive," says Chatlos, Flat Black Coffee's vice president (the name is from an Australian phrase for espresso). "We want to educate people. We have to be genuine, straightforward, and engaging. Go out there and have a conversation: We're local; [the national coffee chain is] not. There are a lot of reasons to choose us over a chain. If we can just get more people to go through that experiment, their own taste buds would tell them that this is what they'd rather drink. They have to be open to it, and our job is helping them remain open to it."

Chatlos was a practicing lawyer before opening Flat Black Coffee's first location in 2002 in the Lower Mills section of Dorchester, Massachusetts, with his partners David and Jennifer House. He knows how to make a compelling argument, whether extolling the virtues of fair-trade coffee, supporting homegrown small businesses, or opening two of his shops in what Chatlos calls one of the Boston's most "underrated" neighborhoods. Company president David House, who has known Chatlos since they were college freshmen, calls Chatlos the "vision guy" when it comes to promoting both their company and the idea that Flat Black is as much a mission as a business.

"I ran a legal services agency for a while, and I'm very committed to public service. Jennifer [now Flat Black's treasurer] was a clinical therapist and social worker and is very committed to public service. David is an artist, and he's always had a sense of decency and ethics and [of] being committed to the community," says Chatlos, who, like the Houses, lives in Dorchester. "It's always been extremely important to us as individuals; it's not like we discovered coffee and said, 'Hey, let's do something with an ethics component.' We were always those people, and we realized that if we were going to step into the coffee industry, we had to be committed to making a change."

The change is reflected in Chatlos's and his partners' effort to address the public perception of Dorchester. What many know of Boston's most populous neighborhood starts and stops with blaring headlines about gangs and gun violence. A newscaster may speak of a shooting in Dorchester, but the neighborhood is subdivided into 18 sections and squares, not all of them overrun with mayhem. Dorchester is also the longtime home of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and the city's largest newspaper, The Boston Globe.

"It's our neighborhood," says Chatlos, who has lived in Dorchester for 15 years. "We live here, and we know there's a lot more in Dorchester than people think."

24/7

On a recent morning, a few bleary-eyed commuters hustle toward the sprawling Ashmont MBTA station. By 6:00 a.m., Chatlos's workday at Flat Black Coffee is already in full swing. Barista Nick Hayes is behind the counter, having arrived moments earlier to open the shop, which sells more than two dozen varieties of coffee from countries such as Rwanda, Costa Rica, and Papua New Guinea. "Mostly, people like to try the different coffees, [and] then after a while they start to know their favorites. That's nice. It means they're really interested and paying attention," says Hayes.

Mike Danton, a house painter who recently relocated to Dorchester from Portland, Maine, likes to try a different coffee each time he visits Flat Black. "I like their selection, and the people there really seem to know what they're talking about," Danton says. "I think it's important to support a local business while they support the community and the farmers who grow the coffee."

At a computer, Chatlos launches the day's playlist of folk and world music, then goes outside to unlock the wrought iron chairs and tables for the shop's small seating area. A few moments later, he begins individually wrapping an assortment of treats from a local bakery. Later, this company VP will work the counter and shuttle between stores for supplies.

When Chatlos first told his mother he wanted to open a coffee shop, she warned him of the never-ending rigors of owning a small business. "My mom said, 'Well, okay, that's fine, and I'll support you if you think this is a good idea. But you know this is going to be seven days a week, 24 hours a day, right?' And I said, 'Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah,' and she said, 'No, really.' She was right, even more than I realized. I'm not afraid to dig in and get my hands dirty. I didn't necessarily think it would be a snap. But when you start to do it day after day, and then year after year and you're still in the trenches, yeah, it's tough."

Chatlos and the Houses often open each store, and they spend time behind the counters to keep payroll costs down. At Flat Black's Lower Mills store, David House also roasts 100 pounds of coffee a day, which supplies all three stores (the third, in Boston's Financial District, opened in 2005). Their days often last 12 hours, and though the shops are closed on Sundays, there's always something—accounting or even plumbing—to be done.
The Ashmont store opened in 2008, a month after the still-lingering financial crash, and Chatlos describes the subsequent economic effect as "really crushing." When money is tight, people are less likely to buy at a coffee shop a product they can, more or less, brew competently at home. It may not be as soul-satisfying as a Tanzania Peaberry, but it will take the edge off a morning coffee jones just the same. "In the last hundred years, we've become accustomed to weak, bad coffee and cheap coffee. What we do [at Flat Black] is the antithesis of that," Chatlos says. "Not only is it high quality, good tasting, and handled with care at each stop, it's also more expensive, and the reasons it's more expensive [don't] translate to dollars in my pocket. We're trying to raise the price of specialty coffee, but the drive for that is so that everyone is treated fairly."

Second to water as the world's most consumed beverage, coffee also trails only petroleum as the most traded commodity in the world. And, as with any industry worth billions, it is rife with exploitation—in this case the farmers and harvesters in the usually remote areas where coffee is grown. This is one of the reasons Flat Black is dedicated to selling single-origin coffee, meaning the coffee is derived from a single farm or geographic region. As Chatlos explains it, being able to trace coffee to its origins is important for environmental sustainability and better financial gain for farmers and growers. For several years, Chatlos and his partners have worked closely with Casa Ruiz, Panama's biggest specialty coffee exporter. Specialty coffees, so named because they're grown in ideal climates and produce the best beans, are the fastest-growing segment of the industry. Their market share has leapt from 1 percent to 20 percent in the past quarter-century, according to a 2007 report in the Tea and Coffee Trade Journal. Family-owned and operated for three generations, the coffee estate is now run by Maria Ruiz.

"[The owners of Flat Black Coffee] visited us in Boquete [Panama], and told us about their interest in being effective partners within the coffee value chain," Ruiz says. "One is impressed by people who are genuinely interested in knowing more about the contribution of everyone in the value chain."

always brewing

As a boy in Fairfield, Connecticut, Chatlos, the seventh of seven children, wasn't thinking about owning a coffee shop. He wanted to be a lawyer. "It was about our family's lawyer who also had seven kids, and we knew the family. He would come for whatever my parents needed," he says. "We were connected; he wasn't just the lawyer. He was also a friend. He was the problem solver, the person you knew you could rely on. It was like The Godfather: he was the consigliere. We didn't have that grandeur, but I saw that role as the problem solver, the go-to person. At that age, I didn't really know what a lawyer did, but I wanted to be that problem solver."

Chatlos, 44, was raised in a family of small business owners, but his mother was a chemist and his father worked for a company that sold Italian food. Both parents encouraged their children to "dream, and dream big." Says Chatlos, "I credit
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BAGS OF BEANS LINE THE SHELVES; CHATLOS SERVES A CUSTOMER; LOOSE-LEAF TEA SELECTION; MENU WITH FRENCH PRESS DU JOUR

SOY .75
ESPRESSO SHOT 1.00
FLAVOR .65
CUP OF ICE .75
FEATURED FRENCH PRESS:
ETHIOPIAN (HARRAR)
NOTES OF BLUEBERRY
my parents for just telling us to go for it so long as we were willing to work for it and put our hearts into it. His father died when Chatlos was 11. Though the loss of his father was devastating, Chatlos says his mother and siblings were buttressed emotionally and financially by a close-knit assortment of relatives, including his grandparents, aunt, uncle, and cousins who all lived on the same neighborhood block.

When he met David House, whose own family also ran small businesses, at Northeastern University in Boston, they discussed co-owning a business someday. After earning his economics degree, Chatlos took a few years off and, along with David and Jennifer House, got a job at a hotel in Boston, where he worked as a doorman and bellman.

“We learned a lot about hospitality and service,” he says. “When you started as a bellman at the Marriott at that time, you had to work the midnight shift and brew coffee at four in the morning and have it out in the lobby by five. So we were becoming acclimated to this. It was a British Airways flight crew contract to have this coffee out. When they ended it, guests still expected their free coffee. So we would stuff the suggestion box: ‘Why don’t you charge $1 a cup?’ and sure enough, after we left, the first coffee cart opened on the second floor, and apparently in its first year it brought in $1 million.” Within a couple of years, it became a Starbucks and, according to Chatlos, “it made $8,000 on the first day, annualized to $2.5 million off the bat. We thought, ‘Really!’

That’s when we started investigating coffee. It was always, so to speak, a British Airways flight crew contract to have this coffee out. We thought, ‘Really!’ That’s when we started investigating coffee as a business, and we started to appreciate the size and impact of coffee. It was always, so to speak, brewing for us.”

the vision guy

Still, Chatlos never lost sight of becoming a lawyer. “Suffolk made sense,” he says about his choice to come to the University. “They seemed to appreciate that scrapper mentality that I subscribe to, and it’s a really good law school.” Chatlos continued to work at the Marriott while attending Suffolk full-time, and he recalls his law school years as “the most challenging academic endeavor I’d ever undertaken. It firmed me up as an individual and as a professional, and I’m more able to face the challenges of life because those years were tough.”

Though he is not currently practicing law, Chatlos says his Suffolk Law training still inspires him. “[It] certainly gives me the confidence to do what I do and the confidence to go out in the world and always feel as though I have nothing to be afraid of. I know how it works. My knowledge of the law is invaluable.”

After law school, Chatlos became a staff attorney at the JRI Health Law Institute in Boston, which helps clients dealing with issues such as HIV/AIDS, mental illness, addiction, and homelessness. As he was still thinking about opening a coffee shop with the Houses, he earned an LLM in banking and finance law from Boston University, and he eventually took a position at Fidelity Investments, where he was director of estate planning and later vice president of sales and private foundation services in the firm’s charitable giving division. During this time, Chatlos also agreed to father a child with a lawyer friend and her partner. They now share a daughter who lives out of state with her mother but spends time in Boston with her father.

Chatlos was still working at Fidelity when the first Flat Black Coffee opened. He would arrive at the shop at 6:00 a.m., briefcase in hand, and wrap pastries while clad in his suit and tie. He would then take the train downtown, and at the end of his office workday, he would return to the shop to mop up. Finally, when that schedule became too much, he left Fidelity, trading his business suits for the shorts and sneakers he wore on a recent day.

Ever the “vision guy,” Chatlos is looking forward to opening a fourth store, if the economy will allow him and his partners to do so. They financed the first three stores themselves, along with the generosity of family and friends; this time, they’re looking for outside financial support. If the three stores have suffered somewhat in the economic downturn, Flat Black Coffee has been buoyed by its burgeoning wholesale business. For the past year, its packaged coffee beans, “Micro-roasted in Boston” as the colorful bags boast, have been available in Milton Marketplace, an upscale grocery store in Milton, Massachusetts, and they’ll soon be sold in Whole Foods’ three Boston locations. “For us, this is huge,” Chatlos says. “We push to grow whenever we can. That we roast in-house and also wholesale has given us some size and strength. We’re still tiny, but it has helped. We’ve been growing, and although individual store numbers haven’t grown as much as we might have hoped during this time, the company overall as a wholesaler is doing well.”

Chatlos always reminds himself of his parents’ advice to “dream big,” and through this he has accomplished so many of his goals, first as a lawyer and now as a small business owner. Despite the challenges, Chatlos says he ends each day pleased that he and his partners have been able to grow Flat Black from “nothing to something, from a concept to a reality.”

“To do this independent of a big corporation is very gratifying,” he says. “To be able to employ people is gratifying. To be able to focus this business on ethics and sustainability and to do real things that benefit people is gratifying. Being able to work with my best friend and his wife is gratifying,” he says. “Who knows what the future holds, but I want to grow and control this brand for as long as possible, and there’s still so much we want to do. I always want to dream in color.” ©
master multitasker

Put down your schedule and dance—Annie Sarkis BS '05 has your big day choreographed from the flambé to the fireworks

Annie Sarkis BS '05 is only half-joking when she says that being a special events manager is like being a firefighter: "You’re constantly putting out fires."

Years ago, when she was an events planner for the venerable State Room in Boston, she found herself dealing with several figurative fires while actual flames smoldered somewhere in the building during a large wedding. In the middle of an elegant ceremony, a blaring fire alarm sounded. At first, the bride and groom, their families, and dozens of guests stared at each other—then they stared at Sarkis. With the smell of smoke clearly present, she quickly had to decide the best course of action.

By Renée Graham
Photography by Chris Churchill
I had hysterical guests, a hysterical bride, a hysterical groom, and a father who was screaming at the top of his lungs at me.

The Loudspeaker is telling me if I hear a certain sound to evacuate, but I haven't heard the sound. I didn't know what to do," Sarkis recalls. "So I explained that if people wanted to leave they could, but I was not telling them to leave. It was a very hard situation for me—I wanted to evacuate. But I stayed there while management evacuated, half my staff evacuated, and half the guests evacuated. And I'm thinking, 'Okay, this is it, this is what I've got to do—I can't just kick off my shoes and run down the stairs.' I had to stay because that is what you've got to do.

After 90 tense minutes, the wedding resumed but without many of its guests who'd had their fill of the day's unexpected drama. "A lot of it was ruined. I had a bride who was crying and a father who was very upset," Sarkis says. "But I did what I had to. I took the heat for it, but I was happy with the decisions I made." For Sarkis, now a special events planner at Rialto, a nationally acclaimed restaurant in Cambridge, Massachusetts, doing her job isn't about perfectionism. It's about having an ability to "react and adapt."

The Whole Perfectionist Thing

"As far as the whole perfectionist thing goes, I know a lot of people in the business [who] really are, but I don't know if it works in your favor to be an absolute perfectionist," Sarkis says. "You can't control people, you can't control traffic, you can't control what happens. You need to be a reactor. You have to know how to react and to be the first person in a situation to jump in." From fainting guests to wedding crashers to family members filled with more raw emotion than common sense, Sarkis encounters an array of unpredictable moments at the dozens of social and corporate events that Rialto hosts each year. When an event is in full swing, Jody Adams, Rialto's award-winning chef and owner, trusts Sarkis to handle whatever challenge comes her way.

"Annie has an unbelievable ability to connect with people," Adams says. "She can listen and interpret what people want in an event, and [she] can recognize that each person has a different way of interacting and has different needs. She's completely in charge."

One key to being a successful events manager is knowing how to juggle various duties at the same time, a skill Sarkis, 28, honed at Suffolk, where she majored in advertising. During her senior year, she balanced two jobs—as a restaurant hostess and an ad agency receptionist—while attending classes at night and commuting from her parents' home in the West Roxbury section of Boston.

"She was a good student, a very hard worker, and I remember she had a lot going on outside of school," says Suffolk mathematics professor Tan VoVan, who taught Sarkis in two of his algebra classes. "I was very impressed by the fact that she was able to manage her schooling, her jobs, and her personal life."

That ability to multitask has proven invaluable at Rialto, where Sarkis has worked for two years. One night this summer, she steps into the role of expeditor, the staffer who checks every order to make sure it is complete before..."
a server delivers it to a customer. It happens to be Boston Restaurant Week, a biannual event when diners can feast on a multicourse meal at a fraction of its usual price. Destination restaurants like Rialto are typically packed. At the same time, Sarkis is overseeing a private function where 150 recent law school graduates are attending a cocktail reception with recruiters from an international law firm. "I love it when it's busy," she says as she pivots between her two roles.

"The challenge is the fun part. If it was easy, I'd be bored."

While Rialto handles slightly more corporate than social events, it's those personal occasions, especially weddings, that provide the greatest challenges. "In the planning stage, I'm dealing with every aspect of an event—the food, the music, the flowers," she says. "I really like to be present at social events. If there are a lot of details or the client needs to see me, I like to be there. For a wedding, I'm right outside the door, but I'll pop in every few minutes. It's really important. At bigger events, you'll see me flipping by and making sure that speeches are happening on time, food is coming out on time. I'm like the liaison between the kitchen and the client, and I don't want the client to feel like, 'We should be ready for cake now.' I don't want a bride or groom thinking about that. It's their party, and they should be having fun. If anyone has a timeline in their head, then I'm not doing my job very well."

The Wedding Crashers

Last May, Deborah Holton of Boston held her wedding reception at Rialto, and she and her now-husband had a very specific vision for their "cozy" gathering of 75 relatives and friends.

"I had concrete thoughts on how I wanted the evening to go—I think most brides do. The twist I threw [at] Annie was this was going to be a late 1950s/early 1960s-themed wedding," Holton, an accountant, says. "We planned the wedding around my dress, which was very period with a petticoat and the whole nine—very 1950s. Our focus was on incredible wine, incredible food, no gifts, no children—in that order. Annie couldn't have been more supportive of the vision we had...we talked about the feel for things, and Annie has a great vision for food, ambiance, and generating an emotion around them. She was very energetic and welcomed our thoughts as I communicated them."

At Holton's request, Sarkis also coordinated security with a firm the couple had hired. Among other things, the guards warded off one of the biggest occupational hazards for event planners—wedding crashers. Sarkis has seen her share of people who see a party and an open bar and invite themselves to partake in the festivities. "Many times I've had the mother of the bride come up and say, 'I don't know these people standing at the bar.' So you have to step in and call security and have them escorted out as discreetly as possible. And I have to be the first person to make contact with them before security barges into the event. Everything has to go through me, and I have to handle it without causing a scene. You get to a point where you can handle every situation. You have to have that fearlessness. You're like a protector—you have to protect your service standards, you have to protect your staff, you have to protect the event."
YOU HAVE TO HAVE THAT FEARLESSNESS. YOU’RE LIKE A PROTECTOR—YOU HAVE TO PROTECT YOUR SERVICE STANDARDS, YOU HAVE TO PROTECT YOUR STAFF, YOU HAVE TO PROTECT THE EVENT.

Sarkis enjoys the scale of events she plans at Rialto, which can accommodate about 200 people, compared to the State Room, which can host 850 guests. “We did an 800-person wedding with fireworks on the Charles [River] cued to when the best man would say [to the couple], ‘Your love is like fireworks.’ It was that type of thing,” Sarkis says with a laugh. “You go to the State Room, you want big, and bigger pockets put a lot more pressure on you. If a family is spending $150,000 on a wedding, it better be good.”

After a few years at the State Room, Sarkis began to feel burned out—not by event planning but by a breakneck schedule that sometimes had her handling two mega-weddings in a single day. When she heard of an opening at Rialto, it sounded like the perfect fit, as Sarkis had always admired Adams and her restaurant—which is exactly what Sarkis told Adams when she interviewed for the position. “She pretty much told me I had to hire her,” Adams, a James Beard award winner, recalls of her first conversation with Sarkis. “She came in and was very persuasive and said, ‘This is where I’m supposed to be, I’m supposed to work with you, I promise you I’ll do everything you want me to do, and I’ll be with you forever.’”

At Suffolk, Sarkis says, “My [freshmen] orientation was brilliant. There was the overnight stay, and I met all of my friends at my orientation. We built this beautiful group of friends, and we stayed together. You aren’t building cliques there; you’re making friends, and that made me feel like I was at home. And that extends to the faculty and everyone who works there. There’s a sense of family, and there are all these people there to help you.

You can set yourself up to succeed. I felt like I was very balanced. Suffolk gave me a sense of balance; I never felt lost. There was always someone there to help me get to the next step, and Suffolk allowed me to take the right steps for my life. I’m not sure any other school would have given me that freedom or confidence.”

That same confidence also landed Sarkis a job at Hill Holliday, one of Boston’s biggest advertising agencies, when she was a student at Suffolk. At the time, Sarkis was working as a hostess at Abe & Louie’s, an upscale steakhouse in the city’s Back Bay neighborhood, where she received her first taste of event planning. Amy Sarkis, daughter of owner Charlie Sarkis (no relation to Annie), was the restaurant’s event planner. Sarkis would shadow Amy and occasionally help out. It was also at Abe & Louie’s where Sarkis met Karen Kaplan, president of Hill Holliday.

“She used to come in with her family, and I thought she was spectacular,” Sarkis says. “I introduced myself and said, ‘I’m in advertising and would love to work for Hill Holliday one day.’ And she said, ‘Great, here’s my card,’ and I harassed her for the next year. Every week, I was like, ‘Hi! Remember me?’” Her tenacity paid off: Hill Holliday hired her as a receptionist, and she soon moved into the agency’s Cultural Affairs department, handling such
tasks as welcome baskets for new hires and gifts for clients. "It was like being a concierge. People who needed to book reservations would call me; all the events and meetings I would handle. I used to help Jack Connors [Hill Holliday's co-founder and former CEO] as an assistant. I kind of jumped into this hospitality thing. I realized I liked it."

Julie Joyce, Connors's personal assistant, recalls Sarkis's "smiling face and positive attitude," as "the greeter, the face of Hill Holliday," since she was usually the first person visitors to the office encountered. "It's not easy to sit out there and remain engaged at all times, but she was. She quickly made friends with everyone in the agency, knew everyone's name; [she] just has a very effervescent personality. There was no job too big or too small; whatever you asked of her, she was more than happy to do it."

Connors was so impressed by Sarkis that when Adams, a longtime friend, called him to get his opinion of Sarkis for the Rialto position, he said, "You should hire her. She's a hot ticket," Adams recalls. After hiring Sarkis, Adams quickly learned why she was so valued at Hill Holliday.

"I remember one wedding in particular where the bride was very agitated about the timing, and Annie was able to give her a hug and say, 'I'm going to make sure this is exactly the way you want it to be. Don't worry about it,'" she says. "Afterwards, the thank you letters just came and came. She's seen this happen so many times, and she knows what's going to work and what's not going to work, and she knows how to make someone feel they can put their confidence in her."

Happy Ending

Back at Rialto, the long night is almost done. Sarkis has been working extra days for coworkers who did the same for her while she enjoyed a three-week vacation in Lebanon. Last summer, Sarkis visited her parents' homeland for the first time and fell in love not only with the country but also with a young man who plays for Lebanon's national soccer team. After dating long-distance for a year (and countless texts and conversations on Skype), Sarkis got engaged on her recent trip to Lebanon and will marry there next summer.

"My parents are thrilled; they couldn't have written the story any better," says Sarkis, who speaks fluent Arabic. Her fiancé is the best friend of her cousin's husband. "I go for my first trip, I meet this guy, and he feels like home."

One might imagine that, having planned hundreds of weddings, Sarkis is scrutinizing every last detail and pouring everything she's learned and experienced into her own nuptials. She isn't.

"I told [my fiancé] I didn't want a big wedding, but he said his mother would be devastated. So I just said, 'Do what your mom would want.' So now there's 250 people on my side, 250 people on his side, and then you just invite the whole village. We're trying to keep [it] to around 400 people," she says with a laugh. "His mother and sister are planning it, and what's fun about my wedding is that I have zero part in it. I'm just going to show up in my gorgeous dress and let everyone else worry about the details for a change."
Last book read: Unbought and Unbossed by Shirley Chisholm.

Last CD/MP3 heard: How I Got Over by The Roots.

Favorite "Only in Boston" experience: I love the Charles River. To be able to get up in the morning and just go there makes me feel grounded. It's a tranquil place for me.

Where she would like to be in 2015: One of the reasons I read Unbought and Unbossed is because I've been looking into electoral politics. I feel like I might want to position myself where I can be an ally to the issues affecting our communities. So in five years I'd like to be running for elected office, because we need women in those areas so we can get legislation about women's health issues passed.

Wisest words to live by: "The world is your playground. Create the world you want to live, work, and play in." That comes from my father—nothing stops him.

Role model: My mother, because she has a sense of selflessness, and her level of understanding for people amazes me; [and] my father, [because] even though he had a fifth-grade education, he never felt like he was less than anyone else, and he has a good, strong work ethic.
FOUR YEARS AGO, Hadiyah Charles was living in New York and working as a financial manager, when an article in The New York Times's Health section about the escalating rates of HIV among African-Americans caught her attention—and changed her professional path.

"I remember specifically sitting at a park in Brooklyn, Prospect Park, eating my lunch and just choking on the numbers. In my mind I was thinking, 'This is outrageous. Why is this happening?'" Charles recalls. "I had a degree in accounting, but I had no sociology background or background in public health, so, to me, the numbers just didn't make sense.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American women between ages 25–34. And HIV infection rates among African-American men are six times those of white men and nearly triple the numbers for Hispanic/Latino men. Such statistics gnawed at Charles until she finally decided to volunteer for a nonprofit law firm fighting for the rights of those with HIV and AIDS.

"It opened me up to a whole other world," she says. "They had advocacy training to teach HIV-positive women the skills to advocate for their benefits, even with their doctors. Eventually a community organizer position opened. I really loved working with the women and learning all I could. The salary they were offering was nothing compared to the money I was making as a financial manager. But when I saw the position, I started thinking I needed to do work that was worth my time."

Earlier this year, Charles was invited to the White House as a "Champion of Change," in recognition of her advocacy work on behalf of women living with HIV and AIDS. Established by the Obama administration, the program honors "ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things in their communities." It was Charles's second trip to the White House related to her community work with women with HIV and AIDS.

"It was an incredible experience," says Charles, who is pursuing a master of arts in women's health at Suffolk. "I left accounting to do HIV work, and suddenly this big thing comes. I feel like my opinion matters and my ideas count."

Though Charles and her fellow honorees did not meet President Obama during their visit, the Champions of Change are scheduled to have dinner with him and the First Lady at year's end.

Twenty years ago, AIDS was front-page news. With medical advances that slow the disease's progression, HIV and AIDS are less visible.

"We react to what we can see," she says. "And right now, if they don't see someone who looks sick, people aren't necessarily thinking about it."

Born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Charles received her accounting degree from the University of the Virgin Islands, where her mother first worked as an administrative assistant and retired 30 years later as an adjunct professor. Her father was a carpenter and contractor. Charles wanted to be an accountant like her grandfather and moved to New York days after graduating, "psyched about doing accounting and finance work." But no numbers ever affected her as deeply as those concerning HIV rates among African-Americans.

Charles, who lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, also serves on the advisory board of the Center of HIV Law and Policy (CHLP) in New York. After several years of community organizing work with CHLP, Charles began thinking about graduate school to get a formal education in health. She saw an e-mail about Suffolk's master's in women's health and was intrigued by the program's approach.

"I saw that it would offer a sociological approach to health, and I felt that I needed that foundation in the field," Charles says. "Going through the women's health program has given me the information to understand how black people ended up being disproportionately affected by all health issues. What I especially liked about the program was that it combined advocacy and academia. I learned all of the issues that make women, especially black women, sick. And some of the classes helped teach us what we could do to change it." By the time Charles began at Suffolk, she had been out of school for a decade, and the transition back into the role of student was sometimes difficult. She credits Dr. Amy Agigian, a Suffolk associate professor of sociology and founding director of Suffolk's Master of Arts in Women's Health program, with helping her adjust.

"Dr. Agigian took the time with me and essentially gave me the 411 on how to conduct myself in academia," Charles says.

"Hadiyah is a very self-directed person and student," Agigian says. "She doesn't sit around passively waiting for someone to tell her what to do. She's a powerhouse; she's got a contribution to make, and she's determined to make it."

Her master's program, Charles says, has "opened my mind to other health issues," although she says HIV will always be her focus. "Thirty years into the epidemic, it's great that we have medications that people can use to manage their disease and have a decent quality of life," she says. "On the other hand, this new generation isn't growing up with people dying everywhere, and they aren't taking it as seriously. That's killing us. We don't see it, we don't think it exists; if it doesn't exist, it's not going to happen to me. It's not seen as a public health issue anymore, and it still really is."
The Play's the Thing

Prior to 1982, Suffolk had a drama club. *Bertha the Beautiful Typewriter Girl: An Old-time Mellerdrammer in Four Acts*, a comedy by Charles George, was one of the productions on campus. The names of the actors were not included with this photo. If you recognize a classmate, contact SAM and we'll print her or his name in the next Time Capsule. If you have a photo of your own that represents a year in the life on campus—any year—please consider sharing it with us (sam@suffolk.edu).

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The comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles M. Schulz debuts

Korean War begins

January 17, the Brinks Robbery in Boston

1950 babies: Victoria Principal, Natalie Cole, Morgan Fairchild, Mark Spitz, John Hughes
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Dear fellow alumni and alumnae:

ON BEHALF of the Presidential Search Committee, I want to thank the Suffolk community—alumni, students, faculty, administrators, and employees alike—for your thoughtful response to our request for guidance and perspective regarding our search. As we begin to vet candidates in preparation for formal interviews, I want to let you know what we've learned from you.

Hundreds of you have taken the time to share your thoughts, opinions, and beliefs about both the most significant challenges facing the University at this time of transition and the skill sets and experience our next president should have to meet those challenges and lead the University into the future. You have communicated with us in "town halls" and student and alumni board committee sessions, and you have responded to the questionnaire sent to alumni, faculty, students, and staff. We have listened and learned from each encounter, and we are most grateful.

As to the significant challenges facing the University, you most often cite:
- the high cost of education and the significant degree to which Suffolk is tuition-dependent;
- the need to improve the University's academic reputation;
- the need to increase alumni participation in and support of the University;
- the need to break down perceived silos and create a true "university," leveraging the strengths of our three schools;
- the need to improve and expand upon University facilities, including science laboratories, dormitories, a student center, and athletic facilities; and
- the need to be faithful to the University's mission of inclusion and opportunity while becoming more selective, improving retention, and enhancing our reputation.

With respect to the experience, qualities, and skill sets you think our next president must have to meet these challenges (and take advantage of corresponding opportunities), you suggest we look for:
- a leader with outstanding academic credentials and a demonstrated record of success in higher education;
- a charismatic, innovative visionary;
- a proven and dedicated fund-raiser;
- a skilled communicator;
- a collaborator to help build a more integrated, cross-disciplinary institution;
- someone who can excite and engage our outstanding alumni group;
- someone who can operate in a complex, urban environment;
- someone who will take an active leadership role in maintaining and celebrating a diverse community; and
- someone who will be visible, accessible, and fully engaged with the Suffolk community.

Your feedback has been enormously helpful not only to the Search Committee but also to Acting President Brown and the Board of Trustees. We all appreciate your thoughts and insights. We also recognize and are very thankful for your passion for Suffolk.

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Your feedback has been enormously helpful not only to the Search Committee but also to Acting President Brown and the Board of Trustees. We all appreciate your thoughts and insights. We also recognize and are very thankful for your passion for Suffolk.

Please understand that we are fully aware of the critical importance of the task before us. We must be successful, and we will be. We are encouraged by the significant interest in leading Suffolk and by the extraordinary records of accomplishment of our applicant pool.

Please also know that as we conduct our search for the right person to lead Suffolk, we are mindful and respectful of our history. Most important, we are also very confident in our present leadership. Acting President Brown has taken on the challenges of interim president and change agent with talent, skill, and determination that very few anywhere could match. Under his stewardship, Suffolk is moving forward purposefully and strategically. He has us well positioned and poised for great success in the future.

With my regards and gratitude,

Dennis M. Duggan Jr., JD '78
Chair, Presidential Search Committee
An Extraordinary Gift

Major donation of Maine property yields academic opportunities, demonstrates confidence in University's future

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY has received as a gift 86 acres of farmland, fields, and riverfront along Maine's pastoral Penobscot River that will be the future home of scientific research, study, and other academic endeavors. Located in Passadumkeag, Maine, about 30 miles north of Bangor, the expansive property, which includes existing buildings and structures, will provide the University with its second academic location in the state.

"This is an extraordinary gift that will serve to measurably enhance our science programs," said Barry Brown, the University's acting president and provost. "The facility will provide our students and faculty with untold opportunities for scientific research as well as workshops, retreats, seminars, and intensive study in the humanities and arts, as well as a location for programs for our professional schools. As an urban institution serving students of promise, we must afford our learning community opportunities to expand their horizons in the broadest range of educational, research, and creative settings. We are very grateful for this gift and the confidence that it demonstrates in our future."

The University envisions the property as home to a range of study. With more than 80 acres of pasture, forest, field, and river frontage, the opportunities for environmental monitoring, wildlife exploration, and biological study are vast. Its location is also ideal for research into wind, solar, water, and geothermal energy. Developed for $3.5 million in 2004, the existing facility can serve the University in countless ways, including student and faculty retreats, workshops, and summer projects in such areas as writing, theater, communication, law, business, and fine and applied arts.

"When we add this property to our already thriving coastal science facility in Maine, we are now in a position to offer our community the best of both worlds: everything that a great urban institution can provide, supplemented by a rich rural environment for special programs in the sciences, the humanities, the social sciences, and the arts," said Kenneth Greenberg, dean of Suffolk's College of Arts and Sciences.

For more than 30 years, the University's other Maine property, the R.S. Friedman Field Station, has provided Suffolk students with a living laboratory for observing and studying marine life in a pristine coastal environment dominated by the dramatic tides of Cobscook Bay.
Mister Accountability

Following a lifelong career as its treasurer, Francis X. Flannery MBA '64, DCS '91 finds a new way to make the numbers add up for Suffolk

YEARS AGO, when Frank Flannery was commuting to his job as treasurer of Suffolk University, he used to ride the Green Line into Boston with his fellow Brookline resident, Governor Michael Dukakis. One morning, as the two parted company, the governor making his way up Beacon Hill, a woman stopped Flannery and spoke as if she'd just had a revelation. "I know who you are," she said. "You're Dukakis's bodyguard."

At 78, Flannery could still play the part—he's tall and fit, with close-cropped hair and a no-nonsense demeanor. Telling this story on a recent afternoon in his summer cottage in Marshfield, Massachusetts, Flannery's bemusement shows, as does his serious side: He follows the anecdote by reflecting that it probably wasn't the most efficient use of the governor's time to commute by train. Those who know Flannery understand that a deadpan sense of humor lurks under his serious exterior, just as a spirit of generosity coexists with an ethic of frugality. He's a child of the Depression who has never forgotten how helpful it was to get a $100 scholarship at a time when his annual undergraduate tuition at Boston College was $400.

When Flannery MBA '64, DCS '91 retired from Suffolk in May after more than four decades as treasurer, his close friends and colleagues knew what kind of tribute he would appreciate most. Many of them made contributions to a scholarship fund he set up in his wife's name after she died of cancer in 1990. In recent years, Flannery has been adding $10,000 annually to the fund. Supplemented by contributions from family members and friends, as of June 30, the market value of the Mary Frances Flannery Memorial Scholarship was more than $430,000. The plan is to begin awarding scholarships for the first time shortly, with $5,000 grants to juniors majoring in finance, accounting, and marketing.

Flannery attended evening classes in an era when the University consisted of just one building. The day after receiving his degree, he accepted a job offer to become assistant treasurer at Suffolk. In 1970, he became treasurer and was made a trustee. He continues to serve on the Suffolk board, and is the longest-serving trustee.

In the oceanview living room, Flannery recalls his upbringing and his career. Born in 1933 to parents who immigrated from Ireland, he was one of five children in a two-family house in the working-class Boston neighborhood of Brighton. He began working around age 14 and took half-time employment while earning his undergraduate degree.

Flannery got his start as an accountant at Ernst & Ernst in Boston in 1956. He signed on at Suffolk at a time when board members wanted more professional management of its finances—a step that was crucial to its coming growth phase. Though Flannery eventually supervised a multimillion-dollar university budget involving major bond issues to finance new buildings, his personal style remains one of unusual thriftiness and abhorrence of debt. He's always bought used cars and paid cash, he says, pointing to his 2003 Toyota in the driveway. "I never paid a penny of interest on a credit card in my life."

Suffolk Vice President and General Counsel Paul Lyons JD '68, a longtime friend of Flannery, says the treasurer took pride in producing consistently balanced budgets. "He never squandered any money," Lyons says. But, he adds, "he was not afraid to spend it—as long as he thought it was being spent properly."

Maureen Stewart, who is now director of budget and risk management, worked with Flannery for 35 years. "He hated wasteful spending," she says. "Every penny you waste is on the backs of the students." That ethic carried over to the workplace, too. "You weren't late for Frank's meetings," she says. "But you couldn't get there early, either— because then you were wasting time."

While Flannery reminisces at the Marshfield cottage, one of his young granddaughters suddenly appears in the living room. "Allie, you all right?" Flannery asks. "Yeah, I'm just getting a deck of cards," she says. "Don't lose any money," her grandfather replies. She grins, as if she has heard that advice before.
Alumni Weekend 2011

From June 9-11, alumni returned to Suffolk for this annual tradition—a festive and renewing weekend of social and mindfully engaging activities.
a > Dean William O'Neill, Michael Smith BSBA '61
b > Dean Camille Nelson, Sybille Gray MBA '10
c > Alayna VanTassel, BS '01, TJ Eastman BA '01
d > Margaret Fulton BA '93, JD '99, Dana Casali JD '99, Jessica Massey JD '03, and Stephani Hildebrandt JD '00
e > (1st row, left to right) Robert Roetger, Director of Development, CAS, Peg Murray, Vincent Murray BS '54. (2nd row left to right) Richard Glugeth AA '48, Gloria Clark BA '53, Madelyne Glugeth
f > Lauren Bevilacqua BFA '08 and Dave Canty
g > Eva Furmanska JD '11, Darcy Smith JD '11, Tracy Burke JD '11, Caitlin Hicks JD '11
h > Kaliyan Chap BSBA '01, Yorzanos Tilahun Jordan
i > Robert Nelson BSBA '61, Norman White BSBA '51
j > Stephen Golden EMBA '86, Michael Fruzzetti BSBA '06, Benjamin Dolgoff BSBA '08, William Dobson BSBA '86
k > Trisha Griffin-Carty BA '71, Kenneth Sherman BS '54, DSC '79, Dana W. Moore MAP '05, PhD '07
Summa Annual Commencement Dinner

On May 21, 280 guests gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston to honor the achievements of our graduating students and distinguished honorary degree candidates. In addition, we celebrated our most loyal and generous donors whose extraordinary support is so important to the vitality and future of Suffolk University. Members of Summa (the leadership giving society) have donated $1,000 or more to any Suffolk fund within the past fiscal year.

a > Peggy Nucci, Acting President and Provost Barry Brown, trustee Dennis Duggan JD ’78, Mary Duggan, and VP for External Affairs John Nucci MPA ’79
b > Raymond Mannos BSBA ’59 and Karen Barnett
c > SBS Executive in Residence Sushil Bhatia MBA ’79, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Ken Greenberg, and Joaquin Almunia, HDEC ’11
d > Maryellen Pease JD ’92, Frank Flannery MBA ’64, Joan Golden
e > Kathleen Ramirez, Trustee George Ramirez JD ’99
Commencement 2011

On May 22, 465 Law students, 640 College of Arts & Sciences students, and 564 Sawyer Business School students joined the community of 67,000 Suffolk graduates.

a > Acting President and Provost Barry Brown, Class Marshal Richard Howe JD '86, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Andrew C. Meyer, Jr. JD '74, H.L.D '99
b > Jeanette G. Clough MHA '96 receiving honorary degree
c > Aliya Khalidi, Law School student speaker
d > The new generation of Suffolk alumni
e > Christopher West, Sawyer Business School student speaker
f > Undergraduate commencement speaker Jeff Glor, CBS's The Early Show news anchor and honorary degree recipient
g > Acting President and Provost, Barry Brown, Class Marshal Richard Balio, BSJ '86
Everyone has a blog these days, but what makes yours different?” asks Jessica Sutton BFA '04. “If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around, does it make a sound? Similar to that lonely tree, your blog needs to be heard.”

If anyone can help you cut through the online clutter, it is Sutton. After majoring in graphic design at New England School of Art & Design (NESAD), she juggled a day job as an in-house designer with freelance work before launching Jessica Sutton Graphic Design (JSGD) in 2008. “Typically, I work with small business owners that are either just starting out or looking to revamp their brand,” she explains. “I hold their hands through the entire creative process, building a strong brand identity with not only a solid logo, collateral, and website but in strategizing their online presence.”

Along with her studio, Sutton developed “a big side project.” Scheduled to launch this Fall, “Directory B will give readers the ability to search for blogs by both location and category, as well as offer resources, tips and host events for blog owners all over.”

Here, Sutton shares with SAM some important considerations for anyone thinking of launching (or improving) a blog:

1. **DON'T DUPLICATE—DIFFERENTIATE**
   Everyone has a blog these days, but what makes yours different? Having a clear and unique concept – even if it's simply your take on the best places for dumplings in the city – will help you find your niche and set you apart.

2. **START WITH A STRONG FOUNDATION**
   With so many options, finding the right platform can seem overwhelming. Think which fits best with your concept. Keeping it simple? Perhaps an easy-to-use Tumblr account. More extensive? Try a well-organized WordPress site.

3. **DEFINE BY DESIGN**
   Even if you aren't working with a Web designer, every platform provides options for customizing your blog's look. Small details like a custom header or some distinctive colors will set your blog apart.

4. **HAVE YOUR SAY**
   You’ve got your blog set up and a concept in mind but are staring at a blank post – now what? Your voice is what makes your blog unique, so use it. Don’t overthink it – write like you would an e-mail to your best friend. This is your place to be yourself.

5. **SPREAD THE WORD**
   After sending your link to friends and family, find other blogs and leave them a comment with your link if a post moves you. They’ll be curious and will check you out, too – voila, new readers! Take advantage of all the social media at your fingertips to tell the world your shiny new blog exists.
From Shell Shock to Shell-Free
Following a devastating loss for Robbie Waters '12 and his mom Barbara, a reemergence  BY PIPPIN ROSS

Senior Robbie Waters logs off his Facebook page and bursts into one of his perpetual, big-blue-eyed smiles. "I'm resting and regrouping for the deluge," he explains.

What he won't acknowledge is that he just cleaned out an infamous "catch-all" closet in Suffolk's Donahue building. Waters's work-study colleague, Cindy Miller, nods appreciatively from across the cramped office. "As usual, Robbie did an incredibly worthwhile job no one wanted to do."

In mid-August, when many of their fellow classmates are holding down a beach blanket or interning on Wall Street, Waters and Graduate Fellow Jackie Perry are manning the headquarters of The Journey, a program based out of the Student Leadership and Involvement Office that helps Suffolk students figure out their passions and how to develop the skills and connections they need.

Waters's own evolution is a case in point. Raised in Fryeburg, Maine, a town of 2,000, he had a tough beginning. When Waters was 12, his dad died from a combination of skin and lung cancer within about three weeks of being diagnosed. "The irony," Waters suggests, "is that I'd asked him to stop smoking, and he did." He explains that suddenly becoming the "man of the house" with his struggling mother Barbara trumped his own grieving. "Then, four, five years later, smack, it hit me!" Pressed further, he says with a smile: "I danced."

While in high school, Waters went to dances, but he didn't talk and he didn't dance. "When my father's death finally hit me, I got on the floor and danced. Not only did it make me feel good, it was the moment when I finally jumped out of my shell."

He views his connection to both Suffolk and ultimately The Journey as an important part of his transition. "It all arrived when I was ready to make a shift from comfort zone to finding the value of privilege and opportunity that comes from creating community."

Unlike her only-child son, Barbara grew up as one of six siblings. "In the late '60's, four of us were in college. My parents weren't rich, but they were smart. They got us all through by saving and investing every step of the way. Robbie's dad and I did too, but unfortunately, his cancer followed by the stock market [decline] took it all away."

As a librarian at a small North Conway, New Hampshire library, Waters knew that she couldn't offer her son "the free ride my parents pulled off" and that "without help in the form of Trustees and Dean Grants, President Incentives, and work-study...no way would he be there."

A year ago, when her son launched Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Suffolk's first and only fraternity, Waters was "mortified," afraid he'd lost sight of his goals. "He went to college with the idea of making an impact, not creating a buddy crowd," she recalls.

She needn't have worried. "I got this urge with a couple of friends to create a fraternity that wasn't about partying and hazing, one that is about community," explains Robbie Waters, his polo shirt emblazoned with a Suffolk University Greek Council insignia. Sigma Alpha Epsilon doesn't have an actual frat house, but the fledgling frat-without-walls has already made an impact. On one recent Saturday morning, 30 tousled-haired "brothers" roamed Beacon Hill with trash bags, creating not only instant community but a cleaner city. Asked how he pulled off such a coup of getting that many college guys out of bed and in location by 8:00 a.m., Waters grins, looks skyward, and recites Sigma Alpha Epsilon's tongue-in-cheek mission statement: "Rather than chug, plug, and whine—be engaged."

Dave DeAngelis, director of the the Student Leadership and Involvement Office, recalls a Journey trip last year to Florida. "We all swam with manatees as an exercise in developing ways to make difficult, shy people do what Robbie did—come out of their shells."

DeAngelis has seen great changes in a lot of students during his tenure at Suffolk but says, "Robbie is the dream example of...the journey. He shifted from being completely uninvolved to realizing that being able to find community in anything you do is the best possible way to find out what it is you're good at."
APPREHENSIVE might be a good description. Though a seasoned clinical psychologist who had been a member of the Suffolk faculty since 2005, Lisa Coyne had never taught this class.

"I did have reservations," she acknowledged, about teaching a summer section of the Human Sexuality course. "Talking about sex in the classroom wasn't something I'd done before. What was an appropriate thing to say? What wasn't? What if I offended someone? What if I looked uncomfortable and made the students so? How would I balance the diversity of views—what if some individuals were very conservative and others very open?"

So Coyne approached a colleague, Psychology Professor David Pantalone, who suggested a communication exercise as an icebreaker. "The first day of class, we looked at slides that had vocabulary words naming body parts as well as sex acts...you can imagine. As slides popped up, we all, as a class, shouted the words as loud as we could...it's hard to feel shy talking about sex in an academic setting after doing an exercise like that!"

Apparently, the ice was shattered. "Matter-of-fact" would describe the tone of one mid-semester class, as students are candid and display none of the usual awkwardness about terminology or sensitive topics.

Coyne has structured each class to begin with a student group presentation based on the assigned textbook chapter and topic for the day. After consulting with Coyne, the presenters must convey the material creatively and generate conversation. For today's discussion on alcohol, drugs, and sexuality, the three student facilitators begin by screening a humorous YouTube ad about tequila. Coyne interjects questions ("Do you know how alcohol works in terms of brain function?") and facts ("As you get more drunk, it actually interferes with arousal").

The diversity of the class, a nearly even gender split with students from all over the world, lends a particularly interesting perspective. One international student observes that, here in the United States, drinking is more connected to sex. Another student says that alcohol is not seen as a "forbidden fruit" in her country. "I never go out with that goal of getting wasted," she adds.

Despite some initial trepidation, Coyne now says, "I am really enjoying teaching this course—in part because the students are so diverse, so engaged, and so willing to speak their minds and in part because I get to teach them about issues so important to where they are in their lives."

The issues were a departure for Coyne, whose classes usually revolve around child psychology. Prior to Suffolk, while working on a postdoctoral degree at Brown (now Warren Alpert) Medical School, she specialized in pediatric psychology and child anxiety.

"From the beginning, I always wanted to engage in all three pursuits that I see as central to being a clinical psychologist—
research, practice, and teaching," Coyne explains. Growing up in suburban New Jersey "surrounded by teachers" (her mother, maternal grandmother, and grandfather), she came to believe that "teachers, at least good ones, are and should always be interested in human behavior and how people learn."

At a professional conference, Suffolk Psychology Professor Sue Orsillo told her of a faculty opening in her area.

"Suffolk sounded like a great place to work, because it was interested in increasing its research productivity but still had a great quality of life. It had the very important characteristic of caring deeply about its undergraduates and yet wanted to build a rigorous, research-based clinical psychology doctoral program. To me, it sounded like the best of all worlds," Coyne says.

Though she might not have expected to be teaching human sexuality when she began, Coyne clearly sees the class as an opportunity.

And psychology major Ewelina Grygus '12 sees her professor as possessing "an amazing gift of passing on information to her students, even the most uncomfortable ones."

This isn't surprising, since Coyne could identify with their apprehensions. Yet, she says, "Hopefully [they] will leave class and talk with their friends and partners about what they have learned. Wouldn't it be something if that contributed in some, perhaps very small, very indirect way to the health of our students?"

Third Annual Athletic Hall of Fame

Six athletes, one administrator, and one team were inducted into the Suffolk Athletic Hall of Fame on May 7. Their legacy, said Director of Athletics Jim Nelson, "will live on forever."

a > George Silva, Coach Jim Nelson, Dennis Franczak, John Natale
b > Patti Ann Stanziani (Cooper) BS '84, Ron Cinelli BSBA '72, Patricia I. Brown BA '55, JD '65, MBA '70, Evan Crockett BSBA '92, Ucai McKenzie's wife - Suzanne McKenzie BS '00 and brother - Grey McKenzie, Noreen M. (McBride) Keenan BSBA '96, Lou Connelly's daughter- Jennifer P. Gentile BS '96

b > The 1996 Women's Softball Team
Top row (left to right) Kelly Carr, Ana C. Rabines BSBA '97, Leonardo Carrilho Firmin BSBA '96, Christine M. Conway MED '02, Michelle K. Connelly BS '97, Simonne M. Ryder BS '97, Stacey Savage BS '98, Tammy L. Sprague BS '99
Bottom row (left to right) Noreen M. (McBride) Keenan BSBA '96, (also inducted individually) Janet M. Flaherty BS '97, Jennifer P. Gentile BS '96, Erica Peterson BS '98, Nancy M. Walsh BS '97, Sheryl L. Shire BS '97

c > Ron Cinelli BSBA '72, George W. Doucet BA '59, MED '62, Larry E. Smith BSBA '65
1953
“Hi, SAM,” writes Gordon Little (BSBA). “Prior to attending Suffolk, I served in the U.S. Army [during] WWI in the Pacific. Came home and married my high school sweetheart—she a cheerleader and I a football player. She became a professional figure skater and was Nancy Kerrigan’s first teacher. We were married 60 wonderful, fairytale years. She is now deceased. After graduation, I wanted to become an airline pilot, get my license, and then spend the balance of my career in the automobile industry. (I am now) retired from General Motors and also from Mazda Motors of America. Both corporate-level positions required travel to the Orient frequently and Europe occasionally. Thanks to the GI Bill, Suffolk University was the foundation of my life. The academic background and teaching was the basis of any success I achieved. For the lessons taught, I am and always will be grateful. How could I ever forget Professors Carlson, Berkley, and Floyd? I remember Professor Carlson once asked me, ‘Would you rather have an impressive business card or a financially secure position?’ My reply was both. How often do I live up to the lessons taught, I am and always will be grateful. For any success I achieved, I will always remember my days at Suffolk University: the café, the elevator, the classrooms, and Miss Mac. Also the 3:00 and 4:00 a.m. hockey practices. Thank you, Suffolk, for what you gave us—truly a wonderful life.”

1958
Ralph Bush (Graphic Design) was the subject of a lengthy and very interesting article in the Lincoln County News (Damariscotta, ME) last fall, on the occasion of the New England Watercolor Society’s exhibition held in Plymouth, MA. He then followed that exhibition with another in July at River Arts Gallery II in Damariscotta, called Skimming the Surface. Ralph, who has been painting most of his life, had a long career as a graphic designer for Raytheon before retiring 20 years ago. Now he paints nearly every day (“I paint when I want to”), usually the sea and the working New England coast, and he sells much of what he produces. Ralph doesn’t have e-mail, but if you’d like to get in touch with him, e-mail Sara Chadwick at NESAD (schadwick@suffolk.edu) and she will connect you.

1959
Jerry Devlin (BA) is a retired Maryland District Court judge but still sits part time in courts across the state. Active in veteran’s groups, he completed his term in June as commander of the Department of Maryland’s Disabled American Veterans. He was named as Maryland’s “Marine of the Year 2011” by the Department of Maryland’s Marine Corps League at its state convention. He is the acting chairman of the Prince George’s County Veterans Commission.

Donald T. Young (Advertising Design) reports that “Paul F. Palumbo, a 1958 graduate of the New England School of Art, passed away on June 2 at the age of 79 following a lengthy battle with cancer. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Paul was an accomplished watercolorist and art director for various firms, as well as an illustrator for Yellow Pages Directory for over 30 years. His watercolor scenes and portraits won numerous awards and recognition throughout the North Shore of Massachusetts. Donations in Paul’s name can be made to Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice, Malden, MA.”

1962
Paula (Brown) Doress-Worters (BA), coauthor of Our Bodies, Ourselves and cofounder of the organization with the same name, wrote about the “Our Bodies, Our Future: Advancing Health and Human Rights for Women and Girls” symposium, which celebrated the 40th anniversary of the organization with founder/co-authors, colleagues, staff, and global partners. The event was held on October 1, 2010 at Boston University’s Tsai Performance Center.

1968
Rose Brenner (BA) (formerly Geraldine “Jerry” Rose Fisher) writes, “I have dear memories from my undergraduate years, and, due to becoming a widow quite suddenly in 1988, my financial circumstances have been extremely limited. My love and prayers always go out to Suffolk. I am always available for anyone at Suffolk, students or faculty, to share my experience, strength, and hope with whomever would like to contact me.”

1969
Classmates Andy Gala (BSBA) and Richard Duchesneau (BSBA) and their spouses recently toured the island of Sicily. They enjoyed this 10-day tour filled with opportunities to experience delicious Sicilian cuisine, take photos, and partake in a culture that dates back more than 2,000 years. They were even lucky enough to score tickets to an Andrea Bocelli benefit concert held in a 2,500-year-old Greek theater in Siracusa.

1973
Richard Goulet (BSBA) writes that he has been “active in the real estate appraisal business for 31 years and has witnessed firsthand all aspects, good and bad, of Greater Boston’s changing residential real estate markets.”

1976
Michael Reilly (BS) was appointed to serve a two-year term on the board of trustees of the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) Foundation. Based in Alexandria, VA, the foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established by the SMPS to promote research and education. Michael is principal consultant and president of Reilly Communications, a Boston-based public relations and marketing firm.

1977
“The United States is in a record deficit economy; however, education is priceless, and your degree from Suffolk University will count in your future,” writes Sheila Larkin (BS). “You are enriched intellectually as a person, and the contributions you can make to your chosen field will be of significance and impact. Education is timeless and important in the long trend of your life.”

Ed Collupy (BA) continues his professional and personal spirit of volunteerism. He recently was named vice chairperson of the Petroleum Convenience Alliance for Technology Standards and will be the chair of NACSTech 2012, the National Association of Convenience Stores’ annual technology conference. On a personal note, Ed was named president of Share the Blessings Inc., a nonprofit that has funded the building of wells and supported children’s tuition and education needs in Uganda. It was great for him to recently join others from the Suffolk community to celebrate Dr. Judy Dushku’s accomplishments with experiential learning and to chat with her about her nonprofit plans to support efforts in Uganda as well.

1979
Rick Sala (BSJ) has been named editor of the Worcester Business Journal.
train about a year in advance," he explains. "I started organizing my team [early]—guys I've done other high mountain climbing with," he says, including his brother David. While his friends suggested other places to go, Michael was adamant about going to Bhutan for reasons he did not disclose to the group until they landed in the small South Asian country. The story begins in 1992 when Michael and his girlfriend were traveling in India and went into Nepal. They got visas into China and were interested in going to Tibet, a "pretty newly opened border [at the time]," he says, where Westerners weren’t especially welcome. During his flight, Michael struck up a conversation with "an interesting looking man" who turned out to be an exiled Bhutanese military who had taken up residency in Nepal. The man, Colonel Penjor Ongdi, had been part of a group that removed a mistress and an illegitimate child of Bhutan's King IV from the country to Nepal to protect the monarchy. King IV exiled all those involved, according to Michael. When the plane landed at Lhasa Airport in Tibet, he and his girlfriend were arrested. Michael explained that this was common at the time because Americans typically had items that were very valuable on the black market. They were transported to a Chinese detention center, where they were held for 32 hours until a man negotiated for their freedom—"1,000 deutsche marks for our lives and our belongings," he says. That man turned out to be Ongdi, who feared that the two wayward Americans would be killed if he didn't step in. Michael asked Ongdi how, besides monetary compensation, he could ever repay him. Ongdi said that the best way to repay him would be to someday go to his beloved homeland. "That's why you're here," Michael told his fellow travelers after they arrived, "I made a promise that I would someday visit his country." After Michael had met him, Ongdi had been let back into Bhutan after King IV took the throne. "He looked at me and in an instant he hugged me. He remembered the story," says Michael. Ongdi was the man who once saved Michael's life, but "for him, I was just some wayward, wandering trekker." Michael told him, "I came to make good on a promise I made to you 20 years ago," capping off the trip of a lifetime.

Chris Sabatino (General Art) has followed the publication of last year's very popular Pocket Doodles for Boys with another variation, called Monster Doodles for Kids. Based on advance sales, Chris has already been asked to create two more books in the series. "While I was attending NESAD on Newbury Street, I spent waaaay too much time hanging out at Newbury Comics down the street when I was supposed to be in class," Chris recalls. "According to my wife, I still spend waaaay too much time hanging out in there. I took a chance and sent a copy of my new book to the main buyer of Newbury Comics. I got a great voice mail saying he loved the books and [that] Monster Doodles will soon be on the shelves of Newbury Comics everywhere. That made my day! Maybe current NESAD students will be flipping through the pages when they're supposed to be in class.”

1983

Suffolk Trustee Michael George (BS) decided to celebrate his 50th birthday in a big way—by climbing 16,000 feet up a mountain in the Himalayas. Michael was on Mt. Chomolhari, the second largest peak in Bhutan, trekking a total of 80 miles over the course of nine days. He, five of his friends, and a tour guide faced high altitude, snow, and extreme temperature changes—below zero at night and up to 50 degrees during the day. When Michael reached the summit, he proudly hoisted a Suffolk flag that he had been carrying with him the whole time. Reaching the top was "a very satisfying experience," says Michael, who did not take any high-altitude medication or oxygen assistance to help alleviate the pounding headaches and sickness that come from being so high up. "It is a very emotional experience, very physical, very spiritual, and very cultural," says Michael, who has been on many trips like this before. "You have to train about a year in advance," he explains. "I started organizing my team [early]—guys I've done other high mountain treks with," he says, including his brother David. While his friends suggested other places to go, Michael was adamant about going to Bhutan for reasons he did not disclose to the group until they landed in the small South Asian country. The story begins in 1992 when Michael and his girlfriend were traveling in India and went into Nepal. They got visas into China and were interested in going to Tibet, a "pretty newly opened border [at the time]," he says, where Westerners weren’t especially welcome. During his flight, Michael struck up a conversation with "an interesting looking man" who turned out to be an exiled Bhutanese military who had taken up residency in Nepal. The man, Colonel Penjor Ongdi, had been part of a group that removed a mistress and an illegitimate child of Bhutan's King IV from the country to Nepal to protect the monarchy. King IV exiled all those involved, according to Michael. When the plane landed at Lhasa Airport in Tibet, he and his girlfriend were arrested. Michael explained that this was common at the time because Americans typically had items that were very valuable on the black market. They were transported to a Chinese detention center, where they were held for 32 hours until a man negotiated for their freedom—"1,000 deutsche marks for our lives and our belongings," he says. That man turned out to be Ongdi, who feared that the two wayward Americans would be killed if he didn't step in. Michael asked Ongdi how, besides monetary compensation, he could ever repay him. Ongdi said that the best way to repay him would be to someday go to his beloved homeland. "That's why you're here," Michael told his fellow travelers after they arrived. "I made a promise that I would someday visit his country." After Michael had met him, Ongdi had been let back into Bhutan after King V took the throne. "He looked at me and in an instant he hugged me. He remembered the story," says Michael. Ongdi was the man who once saved Michael's life, but "for him, I was just some wayward, wandering trekker." Michael told him, "I came to make good on a promise I made to you 20 years ago," capping off the trip of a lifetime.

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1996

"For the trip of a lifetime, grab the eldest and youngest members of your family and go on an eight-week road trip to Alaska in a motor home," suggests Beth (Oxner) Bawell (BA). "As we made our plans early this summer I received mixed responses. Some wanted to join us on this amazing adventure while others thought I was certifiably insane. I thought it was a bit crazy too; however, how could I possibly pass up such an opportunity? Thankfully my husband, Shawn, supported me and joined us for 10 days in Alaska. Our five-year-old daughter, Ava, three-year-old daughter, Brooke, and my 83-year-young grandfather, Jack, started traveling in India and went into Nepal. They got visas into China and were interested in going to Tibet, a "pretty newly opened border [at the time]," he says, where Westerners weren’t especially welcome. During his flight, Michael struck up a conversation with "an interesting looking man" who turned out to be an exiled Bhutanese military who had taken up residency in Nepal. The man, Colonel Penjor Ongdi, had been part of a group that removed a mistress and an illegitimate child of Bhutan's King IV from the country to Nepal to protect the monarchy. King IV exiled all those involved, according to Michael. When the plane landed at Lhasa Airport in Tibet, he and his girlfriend were arrested. Michael explained that this was common at the time because Americans typically had items that were very valuable on the black market. They were transported to a Chinese detention center, where they were held for 32 hours until a man negotiated for their freedom—"1,000 deutsche marks for our lives and our belongings," he says. That man turned out to be Ongdi, who feared that the two wayward Americans would be killed if he didn't step in. Michael asked Ongdi how, besides monetary compensation, he could ever repay him. Ongdi said that the best way to repay him would be to someday go to his beloved homeland. "That's why you're here," Michael told his fellow travelers after they arrived. "I made a promise that I would someday visit his country." After Michael had met him, Ongdi had been let back into Bhutan after King V took the throne. "He looked at me and in an instant he hugged me. He remembered the story," says Michael. Ongdi was the man who once saved Michael's life, but "for him, I was just some wayward, wandering trekker." Michael told him, "I came to make good on a promise I made to you 20 years ago," capping off the trip of a lifetime.

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our thrilling adventure on June 7. After an emotional goodbye to my husband, we drove to Montreal and started west on the Trans-Canada Highway. Each night we arrived at a new campground, made new friends, and experienced life in a new way. The girls settled in nicely. Their only concern was if the campground had a play area, pool, lake, or river, and, naturally, when we would get there. Driving about 400 miles a day, we reached Alaska in 12 days, also known as 'an eternity' to a five-year-old. For the most part we were winging it—with two kids in tow it's much less stressful that way. They may not be able to fathom how truly incredible the past eight weeks have been. We could never have done this trip without my grandfather, his RVing experience, incredible energy, and determination. Thankfully, he encouraged us to keep a trip blog. Every night I wrote and posted pictures—about 1,400 of them in all. I hope in a few years the blog will spur [my daughters'] memories as they read about their 12,787-mile journey. We were amazed at the changes in the landscape as we drove through mountains and valleys, hundreds of miles of nothing but trees, dry deserts and steep canyons, lush rain forests, and built-up cities. The highlights of our trip seem countless...the majestic peaks of the Canadian Rockies and blue-green lakes in Banff National Park, British Columbia, Canada; seeing wildlife, including a wolf chase a caribou; and her calf in Denali National Park, AK; visiting the charming town of Talkeetna, AK; volcanos and glaciers, mountains and rivers on the Kenai Peninsula, AK; Ava enthusiastically singing karaoke in front of a crowd in Tok, AK; watching whales breach on the Inside Passage ferry ride from Haines, AK; to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada; visiting with Jack's sister Midge and her family in Tacoma, WA; driving into the endless big skies of Montana; the geysers, bubbling hot springs, bison, and bears in Yellowstone; traveling up to 10,947 feet on the Beartooth Highway; and Ava's tearful cries of "Daddy!" when we made our final turn toward home, we stopped at our toes. She loves the water and really enjoyed our trip to the beach this summer, in South Carolina, to visit my parents. For the past six years I have been working at General Dynamics in Fairfax, VA, as a graphic designer. I dabble in Web design on the side and was able to set up a website for a school in Kenya, as well as my own site for fun. I tried my hand at gardening this summer and pretty much failed, We've gotten one tomato so far, and I see a few small cucumbers that may make it. I guess I should stick to art.

2000
Serena M. Agusto-Cox (BA) reports, "My husband and I recently added to our family a baby girl, Katerina, on March 8. She was nearly 8 pounds and was a tall 21.75 inches. Today, she's learning to talk and roll over on her own and having a great time exploring the world."

2001
"My blessing is my family," writes Rebecca (Shortsleeve) Myers (BA). "Evie [my daughter] had her first birthday in April. She is a pure joy and keeps my husband, Randall, and I on our toes. She loves the water and really enjoyed our trip to the beach in South Carolina, to visit my parents. For the past six years I have been working at General Dynamics in Fairfax, VA, as a graphic designer. I dabble

Life is too short to let it pass you by. Take a leap and go for it...even if it's a short trip to visit family or friends. Broaden your horizons, do something crazy, and make memories that will last a lifetime. The photo was taken the morning we left Alaska (Jack, Midge, Beth, Ava, and Brooke)."

John (Presti) Prestigiovanni, Jr. (BSBA) has been promoted to Director of Lubricant Sales and Customer Service at Dennis K. Burke, Inc. He has had over 19 years of experience in the athletic footwear, material handling, and lubricants industry.

2002
"I usually don't submit class notes, but this is an achievement I am very proud of," writes Ryan Winters (BA). "I was recently hired by the San Diego Police Department. I [began] the 89th Regional Police Academy [in] August and will graduate from the academy in January 2012...I hope to make Suffolk proud."

2003
Lisa (Peate) Coriito (Graphic Design) was married in June 2009 in New Hampshire, and she and her husband, Chris, who is a senior streaming media producer at Thomson Reuters in Boston, bought a house in Weymouth last November. Lisa is an art director at Talbots. She works exclusively on the catalogue with, as she says, "a great team of people. It's both challenging and fun."

2007
Ryan Fattman (BS) was elected the youngest Republican member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in November 2010. Ryan first won elected office in his junior year at Suffolk, when he ran for Selectman in his hometown of Sutton, MA. He was inaugurated into the House of Representatives on January 5, and he serves as the ranking Republican on the Public Service Committee, as well as serving on the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and the Municipal Government Committee. Running for state office interrupted Ryan's graduate studies at Tufts University, where he has resumed finishing up his master's degree in public policy.
2009
A letter written by Kelly Powers (BA) was published in the Collector Edition of The Oprah Magazine. Oprah had asked for fans to tell her what show affected their lives. They printed a small portion of Kelly's letter in the magazine with her picture. She also has volunteered as a rape counselor for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center for the past three years.

GRADUATE

1974
Stephen A. Karon (BS '70, MED '74) writes, "I am the executive director of the Sci-Tech Center of Northern New York, a small science museum in Watertown, NY. This summer I also spent a lot of time in animal husbandry—that is, breeding butterflies. Our summertime exhibition is BUGS LOVE! and that means that throughout the summer I mated butterflies, separated caterpillars, hung chrysalises, fed spiders, farmed ants, spooned out pond muck and much more."

1976
In May 2011, President Barack Obama appointed James T. Brett (MPA) as the chair of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID). James is the president and CEO of the New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business organization. As PCPID chair, he will lead a group of disabilities advocates from the department and personal staff to the secretary, working along with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He will be taking a one year sabbatical to help care for his two-year-old grandson and new granddaughter. He will be looking forward to rejoining the ranks of scholars and academics thereafter.

1977
Rear Admiral Arthur J. Lawrence (MBA) recently retired as assistant surgeon general of the United States.

Arthur, who was educated as a pharmacist and psychoneuropharmacologist, served more than 37 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. After receiving an MBA, he went on to earn a PhD in management science and applied economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. During his distinguished career, he held several clinical, management, and policy positions. Between the time that he earned his MBA and his PhD, Arthur served in important regional program management and development positions with the National Health Service Corps and Community Health Centers programs. Soon after receiving his PhD, he was transferred to the headquarters of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where he directed HIV/AIDS programs for the U.S. Public Health Service and also served in the Executive Office of the President as the deputy national AIDS policy coordinator. He served as the acting assistant secretary for health during the 9/11 terrorist attacks and subsequent anthrax attacks, directing the National Disaster Medical System. Arthur has served as the personal adviser to several HHS secretaries, deputy secretaries, and surgeons general. For the last five years of his career, he was the chief of medical intelligence and national security for the department and personal staff to the secretary, working along with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He will be taking a one year sabbatical to help care for his two-year-old grandson and new granddaughter. He will be looking forward to rejoining the ranks of scholars and academics thereafter.

1981
Michael Jacob Gallouby (MBA) writes, "I now work full time helping cancer patients since I lost my wife nine years ago from cancer. I spend time reading the Bible and praying with patients. May I add that I refused a $200K per year job as [an] Arabic/English translator with the CIA in Iraq in 2004. I preferred to stay in the USA serving cancer patients for free—better than $200K in Iraq."

Anita P. Turner (EMBA) is one of the first six graduates to receive a certificate in botanical art and illustration from the Wellesley College Friends of Horticulture Program. She is shown here on June 6 with part of her final project—edible flowers. But this is not the whole story. Since 2005, Anita has been conducting watercolor and craft workshops as a freelance contractor for children and adults for nonprofit agencies, the City of Boston, and individuals. This is her seventh year of summer fun with the ParkArts Program of the City of Boston.

1996
Jessica (Chrabaszcz) Leale (MBA), president and founder of are you?™, has made green gift-giving simple with the launch of a stylish and eco-friendly gift line offering messages that are motivational, inspirational, and thought-provoking. A mother of three, Jessica had a desire to become more aware of the Earth and how we interact with it, as she was concerned about what we will leave to our children and future generations. She wanted to do something to inspire goodness, positive drive, encouragement, and love. She combined her concern for the environment and her hope to be a catalyst for positive change when setting out to start her business. The idea for are you?™ came at 3:30 a.m. on December 8, 2008. Jessica woke in the middle of the night with an idea for her own company. In the dark of the night she jotted down her ideas on the bedside table. A little over two years later, after hours of endless research, planning, experimenting, making mistakes, and enjoying life, Jessica launched areyoudesigns.com.

1998
John R. Lundborn (MPA) was recently promoted to chief of police for the Truro Police Department on Cape Cod, MA. John has been with the department since 1989 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2011. "John represents the best of Truro's police department," said Selectman Curtis Hartman. "Besides being well trained and exceptionally professional, he has a fierce commitment to the town, a commitment that will turn Truro's community-based policing into a model for the entire Cape." John is also helping Suffolk Professor Mike Lavin PhD assemble a public safety leadership program for Cape Cod and Southeastern Massachusetts. John lives in Truro with his wife, Oana, and their new son, Justin.
2002 REUNION

In addition to working on a memoir based on her successful sales career, Dianne L. Grattan (MBA) recently launched a new business, Introductions by Diana. This new social club brings together professional singles ages 45+ for "progressive dating over dinner" parties featuring full gender parity. These parties are carefully organized and completely facilitated. The objective is to reduce anxiety and trepidation for those who are returning to the dating scene. The mixers are held at one-of-a-kind local restaurants that have historical significance, longstanding Boston reputations, spectacular views, or some other uniqueness. There are plans to expand this idea beyond New England.

2004

Devcon Security recently hired Eric Jackson (MBA) as the general manager for its Memphis branch. He currently lives in Cordova, TN.

TD Bank has promoted Jennifer E. H. Sirois (MBA) to vice president-portfolio manager in commercial real estate in Portland, ME. She will continue to administer and monitor a portfolio of large, complex commercial real estate loans and assist the relationship manager in management of the portfolio. Jennifer has 13 years of experience in banking and commercial real estate. She joined TD Bank in 1998 as a teller in Biddeford and York, Maine, and also has served as a private banking portfolio specialist and commercial credit analyst. Jennifer joined the bank's Commercial Real Estate Division in 2008 and most recently served as an assistant vice president. She serves on the board of the Risk Management Association (RMA). A Saco, Maine, resident and native, Jennifer volunteers on the board of Junior Achievement of Northern York County.

I joined Sanford Brown College (the old Katharine Gibbs College) on Newbury Street this winter as an adjunct instructor," writes Karmie L. Conrad (MHA). "My field of concentration is the Medical Assistant Associate Degree program. I cover the lecture and clinical classes for this program. I also co-manage the Clinical Externship program. I am thoroughly enjoying my new adventure.

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 SAMaple:

"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.

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 Tony Clawson, JD ’85 whose name was chosen in a random drawing from the scores of alumni who submitted their class notes for the Fall issue of SAM.

Tony received a retail gift card.

To enter the drawing for the Winter 2012 issue of SAM, submit your news via web or e-mail. From new (non-repeated) class notes submitted electronically by December 2, 2011 one name will be selected randomly to receive an alumni prize pack including a Suffolk University sweatshirt, mug, and baseball cap from the Suffolk University Bookstore, on campus and online at www.suffolk.bkstr.com.

2005

Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC announced the appointment of Bruce H. Tobey (EMBA) as Of Counsel to the firm’s Municipal Infrastructure Team. Bruce is the former mayor of Gloucester, MA (1993 through 2002), and has been a city councilor for the City of Gloucester since 2006.

Allison (Bourque) Lahey (MBA) joined Sovereign Bank in Santander in June as a small business specialist in the downtown Hyannis (Cape Cod, MA) office. She works with local small business owners to assist them with their financial needs. Prior to this position, Allison sold supplemental employee benefits for Aflac and a local insurance agency.

Bianca Moruzzi (MED) married Matthew George on July 1. They had a beautiful ceremony on Sandy Beach in Cohasset, MA, followed by a reception at the Atlantic Restaurant.

"I have been quite busy since I was last on Suffolk’s campus,” reports Laura Phaneuf Bertozzani (MSCJ). “Since 2005, my husband, Matthew, and I have welcomed two children—Lillian in 2008 and Jameson this past March. We built a home in Southborough, MA, as well. I am working as the assistant dean of students at Regis College, where I oversee the Community Life programs and the college’s judicial process.”

"I gave birth to my first child, my daughter Eva Lucia Gonzales, on March 9,” writes Susan Gonzales (MED).

2006

Johnna DeChristoforo (MA) of Revere, MA, married Bruce Wallace of Londonderry, NH, on July 9 in Jensen Beach, FL. The couple resides in Port St. Lucie, FL.

2007 REUNION

Melanie R. Salome (MA) is now teaching students online for DeVry University. Melanie is teaching both technical and professional writing to undergraduate students. She is also president of the New Mexico Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication. She enjoys living in New Mexico with her partner in life, Dr. Eric S. Kushner, her Boston terrier named Fenway, and tabby cat named Tabitha.

Tryan L. McMickens (MED) was appointed visiting assistant professor and one of the core faculty in the Master of Education in Administration of Higher Education program at Suffolk University. In addition to his master’s degree, Tryan holds a baccalaureate degree from Tuskegee University and an educational doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Carson Converse (MA Interior Design) is working in New York for Krause + Sawyer inc., an interior design firm specializing in hospitality interiors. While a graduate student at NESAD, Carson took up quilting and, based on her developing interest, designed a quilt museum as her thesis project.

Class Notes
Karen Urosevich (MA Interior Design), who landed an exciting new job last fall at Jeffrey Beers International (JBI) in New York, writes, "The first few months, I was learning the ropes here and helping in production where anyone needed me. I got a lot of experience in design development for projects like Virgil's in the Bahamas (a 250-seat restaurant at the Atlantis [hotel]); Philly Live (a bar/restaurant in Philadelphia near the stadiums); and Gloria Palace (the renovation of a historic hotel and the construction of two new buildings in Rio for owner and Brazilian billionaire Eike Batista). Since February, I've been deeply involved in two Todd English restaurants and am becoming more active in project management for these. The first is a 4,000-square-foot expansion of the existing Food Hall by Todd English at the Plaza Hotel in New York. The other, Todd English Food Hall (10,500 square feet), is located in Chicago. Although the concept of the two restaurants is similar, the designs differ. The New York space is meant to feel like a classic Parisian brasserie, while Chicago presents a more contemporary interpretation of the flagship restaurant. I'm in a similar position for this project as well in terms of managing the project. The owners of each project differ as well, so learning to work with a whole new team of consultants and clients has been enriching. And of course working with Chef Todd is exhilarating as well. His ideas about both spaces are quite dramatic and fun, and translating that has really been challenging and rewarding. Overall, the whole experience here at JBI is turning out just the way I had hoped. I got great experience while in Boston, but I knew the big players in hospitality were here in New York. Luckily, I landed at JBI, and I couldn't ask for more. Mr. Beers is a great visionary, and the designers here are so brilliant and hardworking. (I've never worked this hard before—except maybe during thesis at NESAD!)

Danielle (Towne) Oaks (MPA) writes, "I'd like to share information about a recurring volunteer mission trip my husband, Nate Oaks, and I take part in each summer. This is the fourth year we have traveled down to Santiago, Dominican Republic. Through an organization called O.G. Ministries, we have developed a partnership with two villages, Hato del Yaque and La Mosca. Our team of 23 will spend (time) helping with construction projects, camp activities for kids, and running a free medical clinic with doctors, nurses, and resources we bring from Boston. We also have a partnership with Pastor Luis Vargas and his family, who work in LaMosca and have enjoyed seeing the struggling village of La Mosca (which is at the foot of the Santiago city dump) grow in health and hope over the last few years."

2008

Kristina Sarkisyan (BS '06, MPA '08) wrote a book, A Dark Mystery in the White Mountains: The Unforgettable Story of an Online Encounter, which was released in April. Explains Kristina: "This book is based on a shocking true story. My friend met an interesting man on one of the dating websites. She thought that she [had] found her true love. My friend and that man talked to each other online and on the phone for several months. My friend fell in love with that man, who promised to make her life like a beautiful fairy tale. Unfortunately, they were not able to meet in real life for several months. When they finally met in real life, my friend discovered the shocking truth, which destroyed her perfect little world forever. What that man did to my friend was above and beyond human comprehension, and I do not want this tragedy to happen to anybody else. I believe that my book can help many people, and it may save somebody's life. That man was never punished for what he did, and he continues to do the same thing to other girls and women. Through the shocking story of my friend, I intend to help others."

Nicole (Dagle) Morse (MA Interior Design) announced that she and her husband had their first child, named Gemma Evangeline Morse, born on August 28, 2010. Weighing 7 lbs., 10 oz., Gemma was 25 inches long and, as you can see from the photograph, perfect.

Beatrix Tambunan (MSHR) expects her new book, What Not to Do on an Interview; to be released by the end of this year. She recently published An Eagle Named Canary, a children's book highlighting themes of empowerment, diversity, and anti-bullying. "I'm also working on Moon Girl, which is a story about self-value," Beatrix writes. "The current economic climate has also given me the opportunity to do independent HR consulting and career counseling."
old twins and Sam with a 10-, a 12-, and a 16-year-old), the two friends have shared their lifelong love of reading with their children (at least the ones who can presently read) and have set a great example for them to achieve any goal at any point in their lives.

2010
Krista Iannoni (MA Interior Design) is working as an interior designer at Silverman Trykowski Associates, a Boston architecture and interior design firm specializing in building design, corporate interiors, daycares, retail, and restaurant design, and healthcare facilities. She is also preparing for the National Council for Interior Design Qualification exam and hopes to receive that certification in Spring 2012.

2011
David Henchy (EMBA) and Ed Struzziere have launched a new venture to deliver community-supported agriculture to homes in the eastern Massachusetts region. David and Ed developed the new channel and concept of Harvest Delivery Inc. as students in the executive MBA program in 2010. The company has met with immediate success and boasts a large customer list just months into operations. "The response from the customers has been so amazing," says David. The company also has introduced a local line of fresh fish from the Cape Cod Hook Association in Chatham on Cape Cod, MA. The first fish share sold out in one day and a pasture to raise beef cattle, bison, and free-range poultry is in the works.

Jamie Reichle (MSHR), senior human resources business partner for Shire Pharmaceuticals, has received the company’s annual employee recognition award. Jamie is one of eight individuals honored by the company, which has 4,100 staff members worldwide.

Gary Gaudet (BSBA ’10, MSA ’11) worked as the finance intern at St. John’s Preparatory School in Danvers, MA, his alma mater, for the summer while he studied and sat for the CPA exam. This fall, he will start at Ernst & Young in Boston as a staff auditor.

1951
"Although I have been retired for many years, I now dabble in real estate in Jupiter, FL," writes Albert "Al" Cohen (JD). "As a realtor, my memories of Suffolk Law School are rekindled whenever I see Lawrence O'Donnell (on MSNBc). I'm reminded of his father, the late Lawrence 'Larry' O'Donnell, who was a classmate of mine."

1972
Kathleen Hunt Blackburn (JD) writes, "I have been living in Naples, FL, since 1993. Over the years my personal life has taken me to Bogotá, Colombia, where I lived part time for two years, then aboard a boat in Holland, and then to Geneva, Switzerland. I am now back in the States full time, single again, and starting a new business. I am not practicing law at this time, but I am certified as a divorce financial analyst. I would enjoy hearing from my friends and classmates."

1976
"I've just published Porter’s Secret with Peter E. Randall Publishers," reports Wayne Soini (JD). "My third nonfiction book, it tells about Fitz John Porter, a Civil War general who was court-martialed but later exonerated. I’m retired from the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office now, but I still find research and writing fun. I wouldn’t be happy without books! Kind regards to all my classmates!"

1977
Alan Weisblatt (JD) was recently elected president of Temple Sholom in Bridgewater, NJ, a conservative congregation of 450 families. "I am in my 13th year as a senior staff counsel at the Hertz Corporation, Park Ridge, NJ, concentrating in the area of commercial real estate," he writes.

1981
James Burke (JD) and his wife, Nancy, recently completed a 7,615-mile, coast-to-coast-to-coast ride on their 2011 Harley-Davidson. "The three-week trip took us to many cities and national forests and parks," James writes, "including the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Arches [National Park], [the] Painted Desert, [the] Petrified Forest, Bryce Canyon, Zion [National Park], a trip up Route 1 in California to the Hearst Castle, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, [NM], Des Moines, IA, Springfield, MO, St. Louis and the Gateway Arch, Moab, UT, and Amaarillo, TX. We visited with many friends and family along the way. Another item off our bucket list!"

1983
Lisa Levy (JD) continues to enjoy her employment practice with low-income workers at Greater Hartford Legal Aid Inc. in Hartford, CT. She represents the working poor in a variety of employment matters, including discrimination, state licensing statutes, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and unemployment compensation appeals, along with policy and lobbying activities. She resides in the Hartford area with her husband, Jim, an attorney at Shipman and Goodwin. Jim and Lisa have three children ages 16, 19, and 23. Their 23-year-old is a paralegal in Washington, D.C. She would enjoy hearing from Suffolk alums in the area.

1985
Tony C. Clawson (JD) is manager of client relations at DALCO Reporting Inc. in White Plains, NY, and had the pleasure of dancing with his daughter Megan at her recent wedding in Groton, MA.

Martin J. Alperen (JD) writes, "I just started a new career as a homeland security consultant." He has written Foundations of Homeland Security, Law and Policy about homeland security in Europe, China, and Japan.

1987 REUNION
James Steiner (JD) is "enjoying civil and family litigation with my own law firm in Concord, NH, Steiner Law Office, PLLC. The last 18 months have been extremely rewarding." The main office now has branches and two other associates in Milford, NH, and Gilford, NH, in order to "better serve the needs of clients all over the state of New Hampshire," he writes. "I am now a grandfather, twice over, to a lovely two-year-old angel named Avery and her dashing 4-month-old brother, Ben. The grandchildren reside in Tampa, FL, so we are headed there when possible. Still serving with the Boy Scouts and was elected as vice president of the Boy Scouts Council that covers New Hampshire. Awarded a fellowship in the Litigation Counsel of America. One of the first two fellows appointed in New Hampshire."

1989
Michael W. (Wes) Macleod-Ball (JD) is chief of staff and first amendment counsel for the national government relations office of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, D.C. He recently spoke at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Bar Association on the aggregation of executive branch power as a legacy of 9/11, appeared at the law schools at the University of Chicago and George Washington University to discuss the legislative response to the WikiLeaks disclosures, and published "Student Speech Online: Too Young to Exercise the Right to Free Speech?" in the winter 2011 edition of /S: A Journal of Law and Policy for the Information Society — published by the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University."
1990

Jose Alonso (JD) got married and has a solo law practice in Jacksonville, FL. "Much has changed over the years," he writes, "but my love for Boston and the cherished memories of my experiences there remain constant."

1994

"I oversee human resources for the Boston Bruins and TD Garden," writes Joe Lawlor (JD). "I've been with the organization for five and a half years. My responsibilities include evaluating the business needs and setting the strategic direction for the HR function while providing direct strategic support to the Boston Bruins' ownership and front office as well as the senior leadership team of TD Garden. I had the unbelievable good fortune to be a part of the Bruins' senior management team when the Boston Bruins won their sixth Stanley Cup championship on June 15, the first one in 39 years. To have been a part of this has been an amazing experience, and, being a lifelong Bostonian, one that I will never forget."

1996

John Timbo (JD) is happy to announce the birth of his third child, Sabrina, last October, who joins brothers Jack and Ryan. John continues practicing civil rights defense litigation throughout Illinois, and he is a regular speaker on risk management issues for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

"My husband, David, and I are happy to announce the birth of our second child, a son, Sean Richard Reardon," reports Jeannine R. Reardon, Esq. (BS ’93, JD ’96) & David M. Reardon, Esq. (BS ’93, JD ’99). "He was born in Boston on May 13 at 10:34 a.m., weighing 6 lbs., 10 oz. and measuring 19 1/2 inches long. He is welcomed by his big sister, Ashley, age 6 1/2."

1997

Esther Bixler Piszczek (JD) moved to Gladstone, MI, with her husband, Paul, in April. She writes, "I am starting a small business, which will include editing/proofreading, creating decorative paper-mache art, and teaching movement classes in Ageless Grace™, Classic Nia, and Nia 5 Stages."

B. Stephanie Siegmann (JD) was recognized as the 2011 top prosecutor in the area of national security from the Women in Federal Law Enforcement Foundation. Since 2003, Stephanie, who has been working as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Massachusetts U.S. Attorney's Office and is assigned to the Anti-Terrorism and National Security Unit, has been investigating and prosecuting matters involving international terrorism, domestic terrorism, export violations, espionage, and misuse of classified information. Stephanie also chairs the Massachusetts Counter-Proliferation Working Group. In fall 2011, Stephanie will join the adjunct faculty of Suffolk University Law School and will teach terrorism law. Stephanie, her husband Dan, and their two children (Ashley, 7, and Tommy, 4) live in Ashland, MA.

"Just a quick update that I've completed my second term on the [Suffolk] Law School Alumni Board," writes Joyce Anagnos (JD). "I was honored to work with many talented and dedicated alumni and administrators from my home base of Toledo, OH. I'm looking forward to my 15-year reunion in 2012."

1998

Suffolk Director of Internship Programs John D. McCoy (JD/MPA) is also a children's television producer. His PBS Sprout series Noodle and Doodle has already received a Parents' Choice Award in its first season.

2000

Andy Gelinas (JD) met recently in Doha, Qatar, with His Excellency Sheikh Jassim Bin Abdulaziz Al Thani (BS '03), the minister of business and trade of the state of Qatar. Sheikh Jassim was interested to hear about developments at the University, and the two also discussed the growth of Qatar's capital markets.

In Memoriam

Kenneth W. Anderson JD '76 (6/10/11)
Richard F. Boehler, III MBA '81 (7/3/11)
Edward V. Cogliano Sr., BSBA '49 (9/14/10)
Sarah E. Crane MED '04 (8/25/11)
Alfred J. DiSciullo Jr., JD '67 (6/8/11)
Henry F. Epstein MA '57 (2/22/11)
Richard F. Boehler, III MBA '81 (7/3/11)
John D. McCoy (JD/MPA)

2005

Mia and David Friedman (both JD) are happy to report that they welcomed their son Ben into the world on January 11. Mia is the director of public interest and pro bono programs at the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service at SULS, while David practices family law at Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster.

"Life has been exciting!" writes Jason Wiener (JD) from sunny Boulder, CO. "I recently got engaged to a fantastic girl and my best friend, Meghan Edwards—we're getting married in Boulder in September 2012. We live in North Boulder with our two dogs, Dhurma and Sienna. I wake up every day excited by the positive challenge my role brings as general counsel of Namaste Solar. I was recently elected to the board of directors of the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association. I am also playing a leading role in a business coalition that is helping to guide a landmark effort to municipalize Boulder's electricity service from the incumbent owner-invested utility."

2006

On August 11, 2010, Jonathan (JD/MBA) and Alysha (McSherry) Glazier (JD '05) welcomed Hannah Grace. Alysha is the assistant director of human resources for the City of Boston. Jonathan works as senior director of corporate compliance and privacy officer for Fresenius Medical Care North America. The Glaziers reside in Charlestown, MA.

2008

Joshua Gordon (JD) is now a faculty member at the University of Oregon School of Law's Appropriate Dispute Resolution program and director of Competition Not Conflict, a program focused on sports conflict at the NCAA and professional levels.

Phil Bye and Catherine (Boult) Bye (both JD) welcomed their son, Jackson Raymond Bye, on May 4.

2009

Michael Davalla (JD) was recently named associate counsel in the investor Services division of Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. He and his wife, Lauren, are living in Boston.

2010

"In January, I was hired as a policy adviser to Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman," writes Dick Clark (JD). "My assigned issue areas include government operations concerns like elections, government audits, risk management, and state technology issues, as well as labor and employment topics like workers' compensation, unemployment, and collective bargaining. I report to the governor's general counsel and director of the Governor's Policy Research Office. [During] my second week on the job I got a chance to see my new home state of Nebraska from the air with Governor Heineman as my tour guide."
Final Act (Unscripted Version)

I KNEW MY DAD was going to die, but that was the extent of what I could be sure about. Everything else, I learned as it happened. For more than a year my dad lived knowing lung cancer would kill him. At 80 years old, his death was looming. As much as I attempted to stay positive, think of the good times, and live each day as it came, I was often haunted by dark thoughts of what was about to occur.

I sadly admit that for the better part of the year I would often think of what his final moments would be like, how the funeral would unfold, and how my family would grieve his loss. Perhaps as a former television news producer I was simply fulfilling a subconscious need to plan and execute a vision with precise accuracy. I found out in good time that there was no way to produce this one. Those were the very words a former TV colleague offered as I stood in a receiving line at a funeral home, feet from my father’s casket. In the months leading up to this moment, my father gave no indication he was having the same thoughts as his youngest son. His spirits never dipped below the general state of happiness he was known for. He continued to work until the day he died. As a self-employed accountant, my dad had the great luxury of becoming friends with his clients. His work was more than just numbers and ledgers; it was a way for him to connect with the people for whom he truly cared.

As a family we thought we could be prepared for the end and that it would occur at home, but there were unanticipated complications—the only real choice was to go to the hospital. After a nearly 24-hour bedside vigil, the entire family was drained. We all said our final goodbyes as my father lay peacefully, unaware of what was unfolding. He looked so calm and content as he slept. The only indication that his life was nearing its end was the unavoidable sound that could be heard every time he took a breath. Doctors call it the death rattle. There is no question why.

As a family we decided to begin taking shifts with my dad. It would do no good to stay at the hospital for days without sleep or a shower. We knew there was a chance he would pass while we were gone, but knowing we had said our final farewells, it was accepted. Two of my parent’s dearest friends took the first shift. My older brother and his wife were going to take the second shift less than three hours later. My father had a different plan. Less than an hour after we left his bedside, he opened his eyes for a fleeting moment, saw his old pals, and passed. I don’t believe it to be a coincidence that he died just minutes after his children and my mother, his companion of 39 years, left the room. I believe he had no intention of letting us bear witness to that moment. It was his secret plan that I never considered. There were clearly some things I hadn’t thought through.

From the day my father learned his diagnosis he never went to the dark place I often found myself. He lived each day as he had the day before, loving people and laughing. Little did I know I wasn’t the only one who was thinking about how the final moments would unfold.

Matthew Wilder is Director of Media Relations for Boston Public Schools and a former news producer for WCVB, Channel 5 Boston. His father, Lawrence, passed away March 5, 2011.
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