Following multiple national disasters, Fukushima native Tomo Honda emerges as a leader. Could he be the future face of politics in Japan?
What They Say About Suffolk University’s New President:

“A creative, thoughtful, and talented academic leader... an inspired choice for Suffolk University.”

LAWRENCE S. BACOW President Emeritus, Tufts University
President-in-Residence, Harvard Graduate School of Education

“Efficient, effective, and dynamic... a critical thinker, a creative person, a social scientist, and a humanist. Somehow, [his] genetic DNA brings them all together in one person.”

ROSSLYN BERNSTEIN Professor of Journalism, Baruch College and the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

“An extraordinarily capable leader... firm and confident, yet open to new ideas and to working collaboratively.”

DR. MITCHEL B. WALLERSTEIN President, Baruch College

“I congratulate Suffolk University on a truly excellent appointment.”

WILLIAM G. BOWEN President Emeritus, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and President Emeritus, Princeton University

“Suffolk University has chosen an outstanding leader.”

MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN Chancellor, The City University of New York
What We Say:

“Welcome, Mr. President!”

Our extensive national search that began with a diverse, dedicated presidential search committee and input from a devoted alumni community has concluded with the selection of a universally acclaimed, visionary leader.

Introducing the ninth president of Suffolk University, James McCarthy. Selected from an extraordinary field of candidates, President McCarthy joins Suffolk from Baruch College, one of the 10 units of City College of New York, where he served as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

President McCarthy is an academic with an outstanding record of accomplishment at Columbia University, Trinity College Dublin, and The Johns Hopkins University. He personifies Suffolk's tradition of public service as a board member of organizations such as NH Citizens Health Initiative, the Foundation for Healthy Communities, and the Guttmacher Institute.

To learn more about President McCarthy's exceptional background and his priorities for Suffolk's future, visit www.suffolk.edu.

What He Says:

President McCarthy has a message for you. To read his letter to Suffolk's valued alumni community, please turn to pg. 47.
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Memories of her father inspire Doreen I. Vigue BSJ '87 to grab life by the reins
The expertise Gudmundsson was able to provide his clients and government helped Iceland weather the storm.

The same year, as she was studying in Boston, Burkina Faso native Yassine Idani MS ’09 was thinking back to her undergraduate days in New Orleans during the devastation of Katrina in 2005. The “hurricane was an eye-opener and a mirror in which I could see my own country. Except there was something I felt I could do [in Burkina Faso]” by sharing what she had learned elsewhere. Before she moved back, Idani completed her master’s degree in accounting with a concentration on nonprofit organizations. The following year she returned to her homeland, which has one of the lowest per capita GDP figures in the world. There, Idani began working with the Peace Corps Small Enterprise Development program, where she applied her education “formulating new marketing, bookkeeping systems (sometimes for illiterates), and management systems for small enterprises in rural areas.” Today, she trains, evaluates, and designs curriculum for Peace Corps volunteers so that they “can best assist the communities in their effort of development.”

More than a year after the multiple disasters in Japan, much of Honda’s work in government remains focused on recovery efforts. Less than four years after the economic crisis in Iceland, Gudmundsson worries that history may repeat itself in his country. And this March, tens of thousands of displaced people from Mali sought refuge in neighboring West African countries, including Burkina Faso. Idani, Honda, and Gudmundsson have their work cut out for them, but they remain committed and are among their nations’ greatest natural resources.

Frequently, we in the U.S. are the beneficiaries of the ingenuity, talent, and dedication of our international alumni. Yet like so many Suffolk graduates, they also often use what they have learned to serve their country and make a real difference at home.

As Honda reflected prior to the first anniversary of Japan’s earthquake and tsunami, “I told myself and those who had died that their deaths would not be in vain and I would genuinely try to make the world a better place to live in. That’s my lifetime mission.”

Home Work

Where were you on March 3, 2011?

Tomo Honda BA ’97 was sitting in his office when the floor began moving in waves and bookcases fell off the walls. “It was the biggest, longest earthquake I’d experienced in my life,” he recalls. During a later visit to the coast, the senator from Fukushima, Japan observed the impact of the subsequent tsunami. “I have never been before in a war zone,” Honda says. “But what I saw changed my life. There were dead bodies everywhere. Wherever I looked, I saw what used to be a human being, just like us.” Four days later, following the explosion at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, Honda was checking up on people as his family and two-year-old son waited in line for gasoline. “I now know that we were exposed that day to 275 times the recommended amount of radiation.”

A cosmopolitan 37-year-old who spent more than a decade in Europe and the U.S., speaks four languages, and favors American food and movies, Honda had returned to Fukushima to run for office prior to the disasters in his homeland. Though politics didn’t run in his family and hadn’t been part of his career plans, he was drawn back by the prospect of serving his country.

Five years earlier and more than 5,000 miles away, Snorri Gudmundsson MBA ’98 “began to grow increasingly alarmed at the debt accumulation by Icelandic households and businesses.” By 2007, the domestic currency in his country began to give way. The following year, a few privately held medium-sized import firms contacted Gudmundsson for his counsel. That fall, the financial system collapsed and businesses and households “were virtually bankrupt overnight,” but his clients successfully weathered the storm.

In 2009, Gudmundsson recalls, “My newly formed enterprise [IceStat Marketing Intelligence, where he is CEO/managing director] was called in to serve as macroeconomic data provider assisting the Parliament Special Investigative Commission unravel what led to the financial collapse.”

Gudmundsson believes that “the financial crisis was brought about through marketing” and that marketers “played a significant role executing a flawed strategy that ultimately benefits no one.”
As a child, I was always curious as to how things worked. I remember getting a chemistry set for Christmas one year and I played with that set until all of the components were gone. When I was a freshman (1958), there were not many female students. I was the first in my immediate family to go to college. My parents encouraged me, even though it was a financial burden. Thank goodness for scholarships!

While it is true that I have three advanced degrees (MS in Zoology, PhD in Genetics, and MDiv), none of them would have been possible without the firm foundation and strong academic background I received at Suffolk, and not just in biology.

When I returned to teach, if a student was leaving Suffolk as a biology major, I wanted to be sure that student knew the material. I, too, have a degree from Suffolk as a biology major so I tended to look at students as a representative of my degree.

The "signature" quality that makes the biology department at Suffolk different is the size of the classes. The ratio makes for an intimate setting where the faculty member can work directly with each student. As a student, I got to know the faculty very well, as did all of the students in the department.

My decision to support Suffolk through planned giving was a no-brainer for me. In addition to my annual donation, it felt important to think beyond the now. So when I was doing my estate planning, Suffolk was the first to come to mind after family, so I became a member of the George Frost Society. How can one enjoy success without acknowledging a major reason for the success?

BEA SNOW AB '62
Suffolk Biology Professor 1965-2009

It felt important to think beyond the now.
THE FAMILY MAN  
Mike Brophy MBA ’96  
I greatly enjoyed your recent article on Michael Brophy and the fascinating world of genealogy. There are over 41 million people in this country who claim Irish ancestry and I know that this topic will be of great interest to many of your readers. There are many useful websites for people who are interested in finding out more about their ancestors as well as sites specializing in records of a certain period such as www.ellisland.org.

I was delighted to learn that Michael’s wife and Armenian genocide survivor, I can empathize with Rabchenuk’s struggles. Learning that our families were tortured and murdered leaves an indelible scar on our souls. Our final effort is to ensure our families’ histories will be remembered for the sake of the victims and so we can learn from the mistakes of the past.

One lesson we, the descendents of genocide, know is genocides are only preventable if past atrocities are studied. I commend Rabchenuk’s humane mission. His voice and others like his are needed if we will ever be able to effectively prevent future genocides from occurring.

Sara Cohan  
Education Director  
The Genocide Education Project

There is no doubt that we must not forget the suffering and deaths of millions of “Soviet” peasants during Stalin’s collectivization drive, or the harsh state policies—and human role—that led to this tragedy. Yet several issues preclude one from classifying Soviet collectivization as a “Ukrainian genocide.”

First, the rough and very excessive appropriation of peasant produce, land, and cattle during Stalin’s collectivization led to at least several million peasant deaths in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, not just in Ukraine.

Second, many of the peasants living in southern and eastern Ukraine on the eve of collectivization were descendants of Russian peasants that led to this late 19th and most of the 19th century were being transferred by their noble serf owners to settle the sparsely populated lands. Therefore, a clear national [identity] among the illiterate peasantry of the region did not necessarily exist.

Third, a claim that Stalin needed to break Ukrainian independence and resilience doesn’t mesh with the fact the Bolsheviks had already established a political dictatorship across the former Russian Empire by 1922-23. If in fact there was a noticeable drop-off in the extent of their political, administrative, and economic control [in Ukraine], it was across the city-countryside divide, a problem of which many in the party leadership were keenly aware.

Of course, in the end, such large-scale human tragedy across the USSR demands a distinctive term that is more than simply a “famine.” However, the term “genocide” requires a far more obvious racial, national, or ethnic intent and logic. Until that can be shown, the only clear case of genocide in Ukraine is the Holocaust during the Nazi occupation.

Leon Rozmarin BA ’98  
Adjunct Faculty, Suffolk University  
History Department

Over the past few years, there have been increased calls on Beacon Hill policy makers to strengthen our World History curriculum to include acts of genocide perpetrated on ethnic and religious groups around the globe. Currently, there are efforts to emphasize the genocides against the Ukrainian, Armenian, and Rwandan peoples. I cast my vote, as do an increasing number of my colleagues, in favor of this legislation.

The goal of the architects of these crimes was to erase the memories of millions from our history books; it should be our goal that they will not be forgotten.

Sean F. Curran, JD ’02  
Representative, MA House of Representatives  
(Springfield, 9th Hampden District)  
Education Committee

BARRISTER/BARISTA  
Jeff Chatlos JD ’95  
As a Suffolk alum and lifelong Dorchester resident, it was wonderful to read about a fellow alum, Jeff Chatlos, who is seeing such great success as a business owner in the neighborhood. I am particularly impressed by Jeff’s and his business partners’ commitment to improving the public perception of the Dorchester community.

To run a successful and community-minded small business in the current economic climate is no small feat. Jeff and his team at Flat Black Coffee Company should be very proud of their accomplishment.

James T. Brett MPA ’76  
President & CEO, The New England Council
Thank you for your story about Dorchester resident and small-business owner Jeff Chatlos. Jeff is an urban pioneer helping to revitalize one of the city's most economically diverse neighborhoods. Jeff and partners David and Jennifer House are exactly the type of individuals and business owners we want to attract and support in Dorchester. Flat Black Coffee Company is helping to change the culture of the neighborhood and has proven itself to be a model of success in working to solve some of our city's most challenging problems. It is my sincere hope that others will follow in Jeff Chatlos's footsteps and craft successful strategies for more home-grown small businesses to occupy our advantageous urban neighborhood and exemplify Dorchester as a place that celebrates diversity, promotes strong neighborhoods, and embraces the entrepreneurial spirit.

Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor
District 3, Dorchester and Mattapan

MISTER ACCOUNTABILITY
Francis Flannery MBA '64, DCS '91
The recent article in Suffolk Alumni Magazine on Frank Flannery did more than just lend some insight to the man. It brought back one specific memory of my first encounter with Mr. Flannery, an encounter that literally meant the difference in attending college or dropping out. Being responsible for funding my own education back in 1968, I chose to apply to the less expensive state schools and one private institution—Suffolk University. Although I decided to attend Boston State College by sending in my nonrefundable $25.00 deposit, I received a late acceptance from Suffolk and, based on its reputation, I jumped at the chance to attend.

I never anticipated having to pay $1,200 per year to Suffolk versus the $200-per-year tuition at Boston State. With hat in hand, I got up the nerve to walk into the bursar's office, where I was immediately referred to Mr. Flannery. After politely listening to what was probably his tenth sob story of the day, Mr. Flannery simply asked me if Suffolk [was] where I wanted to be. I immediately answered, "Yes!" At that point he asked me if I was working. I informed him that I did have a job that paid me $2.09 per hour. He then asked me if, after paying my living expenses, could I pay $40.00 per week. This I knew I could and would do. The agreement was sealed by Mr. Flannery extending his arm, shaking my hand, and wishing me the best at Suffolk. No papers were signed; no background check was completed; and no I.O.U.s were issued. It simply came down to this gentleman making a decision that impacted the rest of my life based solely on good faith.

When people ask me why I volunteered in past fundraising campaigns for the school and later served on the Alumni Board of Trustees, the best three-word answer I can offer is Francis X. Flannery.

Thomas A. Cady BA '72
Holliston, MA

BIG CITY, SMALL COMMUNITY
The Furst Family
While I enjoyed reading about Larry and Janet Furst and their sons' tenure at Suffolk ["The Family Picture," Spring/Summer 2011], I have to take issue with their claim that "small-town residential colleges" don't offer a range of opportunities an urban campus would. I spent four years as an undergraduate at such a college, Colby College in central Maine. There is a wealth of opportunities for students while attending Colby. For example, the Maine state capital, Augusta, is nearby and offers a variety of internships. As a student at Colby I worked at then Senator Ed Muskie's Waterville office and later on shadowed a local attorney, which lead me to law school at Suffolk. College is what you make of it, no matter where it is located.

Beth Prlewski Wilson JD '84
Still River, MA
OFF CAMPUS

GLOBAL FEAT

Marathon runner Rebecca Frechette BSBA ’05 reaches every corner of the earth

IN HER RACE to visit every continent in the world, Rebecca Frechette has crossed the finish line – not as a tourist but as a marathon runner. Frechette ran in seven marathons on seven continents in seven months, finishing 2011 with the grueling Antarctic Ice Marathon in Antarctica. “I did a lot of training in the winter [in 2010] so I’m used to running in the cold,” Frechette said days before she left Mansfield, Massachusetts, for a journey from Peru to Chile and to a few hundred miles from the South Pole, where the average wind chill temperature is -20°C. “Of course, it wasn’t as extreme, but I’m used to wearing layers when I run.”

What’s even more remarkable is that, until last April, Frechette had never run a marathon. “Last year at this time all I wanted to do was go to Antarctica. That was my only goal, it was the only continent I hadn’t been to,” says Frechette, who asked her mother for a roundtrip ticket to Australia when she graduated from high school. “So I started looking into trips down there, and saw that while there aren’t many trips to Antarctica, there was one to run a marathon down there. So I signed up thinking I’d have a year to get into shape – I’d never run more than a 5K in my life.” A few weeks later, a friend invited Frechette to run the Boston Marathon. After completing the 26.2-mile course in a respectable four hours and 47 minutes, Frechette was convinced she could do even better in her next marathon. A preplanned trip to Italy became an opportunity for her second marathon less than a month later. She then completed races in Brazil, Mongolia, Zimbabwe, and New Zealand. Frechette, 26, who works in marketing, has self-financed all of her trips and takes side jobs to earn more money. “I work 25 days straight for 15 hours a day; that’s the price I pay so I can go.”

Having traveled to all seven continents and more than 40 countries, Frechette is setting her sights on another goal – climbing the highest peak on each continent. “All I want to do is show people anyone can do it. I’m not rich, I’m just a regular person, I don’t have any magical gifts. I just wanted to show that anyone can do anything.”

SILENCE IS GOLDEN | Suffolk English professor Da Zheng’s book Chiang Yee: The Silent Traveler from the East was named to the Chinese American Librarians Association’s 2010 Best Book list in the adult fiction and non-fiction category. Zheng’s biography tells the story of Chiang Yee, who emigrated from China to England in the 1930s, battled racial discrimination and exile, and became the acclaimed author of more than a dozen books. Yee’s Silent Traveler series features illustrated stories about different countries, including the United States.
KUDOS
A Patent on Intellectual Property Law
SULS #1 in legal specialty

WHEN IT COMES TO ATTORNEYS with an intellectual property concentration, Suffolk University Law School holds a patent of sorts. SULS boasts more alumni practicing in that legal specialty here than any other law school nationwide – more than 120 Suffolk Law-educated partners and associates work in Boston’s top patent firms, according to data on the top 25 patent firms in the city identified by the Avery Index. “Suffolk University Law School alumni now have a significant presence in the top patent law firms that service New England’s software, technology, life sciences, and health care industries,” says Andrew Beckerman-Rodau, a Suffolk professor and codirector of the University’s Intellectual Property Law concentration. Suffolk also boasts the most patent attorneys and technical specialists with PhDs, with 66 alumni in the Boston area.

SOUND BITE
Christopher Durang Explains It All For You
Playwright reflects on a brilliantly absurd career

I n 1979, a young playwright named Christopher Durang burst on the scene with the scathing satire Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You, reflecting his loss of faith in the Catholic Church after his mother’s death from cancer. Protests ensued, but critical praise for Durang drew comparisons to Samuel Beckett, Eugene Ionesco, and Edward Albee, masters of the genre known as Theatre of the Absurd. He went on to develop his signature style with plays such as Beyond Therapy, The Marriage of Bette and Boo, and Laughing Wild.

In October, Durang recalled the evolution of his career with American Repertory Theatre founder and Suffolk University Distinguished Scholar in Residence Robert Brustein. The intimate setting of Boston’s Modern Theatre provided an ideal backdrop for riffing off mutual memories (the two playwrights have a history that began 40 years ago, when Durang entered Yale School of Drama where Brustein was dean). Over the course of the evening, plenty of names were dropped, including collaborators from Meryl Streep and Sigourney Weaver to Carol Burnett and Robin Williams. Durang even revealed the time he was hired to write for The Tracey Ullman Show. (“After an hour, I said I don’t think I can do this,” he recalled. “I quit.”)

Yet most of the audience’s questions were about Sister Mary. Dispelling the perception that it was anti-Catholic, Durang said, “I didn’t have anger at [the Church]. I just didn’t believe it anymore.”

Summing up Durang’s contribution to the absurdist canon, Brustein said, “He makes the frivolous serious and the serious frivolous.”
Ask a Pro

Man of the Year

Anti-dropout organization cofounder Michael Brown inspires ad major Jacqueline Popoloski '12 to consider public service

At first, it seems like a curious choice. You ask a student to select a role model, anyone in the world she would like advice from. She identifies the CEO of a national public service organization. Sure, Michael Brown has an impressive background: starting as a legislative aide to then-Congressman (now U.S. Defense Secretary) Leon Panetta and a clerk for then-federal judge (now Supreme Court Justice) Stephen Breyer; cofounding City Year, the nonprofit organization with a mission of “addressing the nation's high school dropout crisis” and building “democracy through citizen service, civic leadership, and social entrepreneurship”; winning a Reebok Human Rights Award and being named one of America's Best Leaders by *U.S. News and World Report*. But what was the connection for Jacqueline Popoloski '12, an advertising major and graphic design minor?

“Although Michael Brown is not directly related to my major, I feel that he is still very related,” the Lynnfield, Massachusetts native explains. “I am currently doing PR and design work for two different nonprofits while I am still an undergraduate student, and I enjoy it so much that I would like to try to stay in that area of interest after graduation as well. I love to volunteer and spend a lot of time doing community service, which is what City Year is all about...I actually learned about City Year by volunteering with a friend whose sister was a City Year corps member. I got online and did my research and decided that after school it was something I would like to try to be a part of.” Here, *SAM* gives Popoloski a chance to do some additional firsthand research.

Jacqueline Popoloski: City Year has been in existence for less than half of the lifetime of other organizations like the Peace Corps but still does comparable service work. How did City Year expand so rapidly? How can smaller nonprofit organizations grow and sustain with a struggling economy?

Michael Brown: Two things have driven our growth. The first is the tremendous energy and idealism of the young leaders who serve in our corps. Their idealism is infectious. It inspires me every day. President Clinton often says that his meeting with City Year corps members inspired him to launch AmeriCorps — and today all our corps members are members of AmeriCorps. Second, results matter, especially when resources are tight in a tough economy. City Year corps members serve in high-poverty schools, helping to improve students' attendance, behavior, and course performance, the metrics that research shows can predict which students are at risk of dropping out. I'm proud that we're having a real impact. At one middle school in the South Bronx, for example, City Year corps members reduced the number of students who were chronically absent from 166 to 28 students — that's an 82 percent reduction, and thousands of hours of learning time were recovered. In Philadelphia, City Year corps members are part of a collaboration that has seen the number of students failing math and English cut by 80 percent.

J.P: Are the numbers of applicants increasing each year? If so, how do you plan to gain funds to be able to increase the number of accepted corps members each year?

M.B.: Your generation is answering the call to service in record numbers — and that's so inspiring. Applications to City Year and AmeriCorps have recently tripled — AmeriCorps received 536,000 applications last year alone. That is a huge outpouring of idealism ready to be tapped for public service. Our society needs to say a resounding “Yes!” to everyone who wants to serve. That's why we strongly support the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which calls for growing AmeriCorps from 75,000 members each year to 250,000. Urban school districts around the country are increasingly seeing the tremendous value that City Year corps members are having in helping students in high-poverty schools succeed, and these districts are helping City Year expand.

J.P: As someone who founded City Year right after graduating law school, do you have any suggestions on how to get started for a soon-to-be-graduate who is also interested in working in a career in the public and nonprofit area of business?

M.B.: My advice is to find what you're passionate about, and pursue that passion — ideally, with equally passionate people at your side. It's amazing what a passionate team of people can accomplish. And one of the best ways to discover your passion is to dedicate yourself to a year of serving others. It's been said that with service "you have to lose yourself to find yourself" — giving to others gives so much back to you.
Accolades keep rolling in for Suffolk University's Modern Theatre. The University, which bought and restored the once-dilapidated landmark to its classic elegance, has received a Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for its contribution to Lower Washington Street Theater Revitalization. Suffolk shares recognition with several other recipients that have also been instrumental in downtown Boston’s revival. “The University has been a proud partner in Boston’s efforts to revitalize the Lower Washington Street Theatre District while preserving the historic legacy of landmark buildings and bringing a new sense of life, culture, and activity to the area,” says Suffolk provost and former acting president Barry Brown.

When can a coal miner be considered an “independent contractor”? Not often, if M. Patricia Smith has her way. The U.S. Solicitor of Labor was one of the keynote speakers at the 38th Annual Robert Fuchs Labor Law Conference held last October at Suffolk University Law School.

Smith cited the increasingly “crazy and wacky ways” in which employers change the status of staff positions to independent contractors to achieve cost savings. The practice, known as “misclassification,” has become increasingly common in a wide variety of occupations (including, in one extreme example, coal mining). Interestingly, her office was approached by numerous employers who don’t attempt to re-classify employees and complained that the procedure has put them at a competitive disadvantage. “It is really important to stop the spread of it quickly,” she said, noting that curbing misclassification has become a major initiative of her department. U.S. Department of Labor Regional Solicitor Michael Felsen hailed Smith as a “laborer for the worker.”
ALONE IN THE ZONE
As a gay college football player, Brian Sims had few role models. So he became one.

In 2000, Brian Sims, then a senior defensive lineman and captain of Bloomsburg University's football team, became one of the nation's first NCAA athletes in a team sport to come out as a gay man. His experience received national attention, and Sims went on to become an outspoken advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights. A lawyer and a former president of Equality Pennsylvania, an LGBT rights organization, Sims now is running for a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During a visit to Suffolk sponsored by the University's Office of Diversity Services in observance of National Coming Out Day, Sims spoke to SAM's Renée Graham about homophobic attitudes in sports, why he's running for political office, and why more professional athletes have yet to come out.

RENÉE GRAHAM: You’ve been a LGBT rights advocate for several years. Why have you decided to make the move from activist to political candidate?

BRIAN SIMS: I've spent the last couple of years running a few gay rights nonprofits, including Equality Pennsylvania. I'd been on the board of the Victory Fund, and one of the things we're constantly reminded of is that no state that has ever enacted any type of pro-LGBT relationship recognition did so without first having an openly gay state legislator. And Pennsylvania is the largest state in the country to never have elected an openly gay state legislator. Maryland has eight; Kentucky and Tennessee have openly gay legislators. After spending a bunch of years trying to find, train, and convince people to do it, I sat down with a group of people, and said, “You know I live in the ‘gayest’ district in Pennsylvania [the 182nd district in Philadelphia], it’s the most progressive voting, it’s the second-wealthiest, if it’s ever going to happen, it’s going to happen here,” so I decided to pull the trigger.

SIMS: I always knew that if asked I would be truthful. I've never told anyone in my life that I was straight. I lived a life where people made assumptions and I left them to assume. I know I tailored my behavior in a way so people wouldn't assume I was gay. There were certainly girls early in college that I hung out with - we're gay guys, we're really good with most straight women. I think the guys I was closest to, the guys who would ask me, were my best friends. I was also a 285-pound All-American football player - I wasn't going to get pushed around.

Graham: Offensive, at times homophobic language is pretty commonplace in locker rooms. How did you handle that atmosphere before and after coming out to your teammates?

SIMS: At the time I didn't know it was statistically true - but I do now - that the vast majority of language that you hear young men use that is sexist or homophobic, they usually don't mean. That doesn't make it any better - you're using stupid language and you don't even mean it? But I knew my teammates who would say, "That's so gay" weren't saying I shouldn't be playing football or that I didn't deserve my rights. When I came out to them, most of them were mortified about the language they'd used or the jokes they had told. There were a lot of tears when I came out - not my own. I had to be proactive and say, "Guys, it's OK, I don't hate you for what you've done, but I expect you to tailor your behavior and responses going forward," and they all did.

Graham: When your teammate asked the question, why did you think that was the moment to be truthful, and were you concerned about any possible ramifications?

SIMS: I always knew that if asked I would be truthful. I've never told anyone in my life that I was straight. I lived a life where people made assumptions and I left them to assume. I know I tailored my behavior in a way so people wouldn't assume I was gay. There were certainly girls early in college that I hung out with - we're gay guys, we're really good with most straight women. I think the guys I was closest to, the
out during – not after – his playing career? Given your experience, are you surprised this has yet to happen?

SIMS: I've heard that there are about 3,000 men in the four major sports. And if you take the federal government at its word, the gay population is somewhere between six and eight percent; that means there could be entire teams made up of all gay men. It hasn’t happened because of the fans – I honestly believe that. Yes, there is a level of aggression and machismo among male athletes, but they’re not an unexposed generation. Today’s athletes grew up with Ellen [DeGeneres] being gay. I'm 33, so I'm toward the upper end of where most athletes are in this country. They don’t have the same hang-ups their parents did, they don’t have the same hang-ups the owners of their teams do. Fans are multigenerational, and fans think that being big and strong and aggressive equals dumb and/or closed-minded, and it simply isn’t that way any more. Fans expect the players to be homophobic, but they’re not. I think athletes are like the military – they’re educated and they’ve traveled the world. I do think when a professional athlete comes out, they’ll have a built-in fan base. When a professional athlete comes out, will they have to deal with taunts on the field? Absolutely. But you know what? Every time someone gets divorced, every time there’s a scandal, every time someone says something stupid in the papers, that gets brought up too on the field and the court.

GRAHAM: What advice would you have for a gay or lesbian athlete – in high school, college, or the pros – who is considering coming out?

SIMS: It’s hard with athletes because they can be out to their inner circle but not the world. I know professional football players who are gay and I know professional football players who have been on double dates with straight teammates. But if you’re not out at all, my advice, whether you’re an athlete or not, it’s the same – find one person and start talking to them about what it means to be gay for you. For a lot of LGBT people, the more they can converse about being a gay person, the more it normalizes it. And being gay is incredibly normal. Yeah, we're a small percentage of the population, but we’re in 99.9 percent of counties in the United States. So when you start talking even with one person, it's going to breed a sense of confidence, self-reliance, and a new understanding of the world we live in.

Massachusetts State Representative Harold P. Naughton, Jr. was deployed to a six-month stint in Kandahar, Afghanistan, last fall. Naughton, a U.S. Army Reserve captain and an Iraq War veteran, is serving as a JAG officer with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division out of Ft. Carson, Colorado. “The Army has called for me to serve. I am proud to follow the example of many in our community, including my late dad, who has served in the past. Serving our great country in the military and serving my district as State Representative is truly a dual honor,” Naughton says. “With the help of my dedicated staff, my colleagues, and the House Speaker’s office, my constituents will be well served throughout my deployment. This is something we have done before.” Naughton was previously deployed from September 2005 to May 2006, serving in Kuwait and Baghdad. In the Massachusetts House, Naughton currently serves as the House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. He represents the state’s 12th Worcester District, made up of Northborough, Clinton, Boylston, the second precinct of Sterling, and the second precinct of Lancaster.
WITH its long history of assisting service people past and present, Suffolk University was ground zero for Hire a Veteran Month (November). Working in conjunction with Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the Alumni Association developed “Marketing Your Military Service,” a free career seminar for vets. The day-long program provided practical activities from individual resume reviews to mock interviews. “Suffolk has really been a leader in serving our veterans,” noted Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans’ Services Coleman Nee in his introductory remarks. Two other speakers, both veterans and Suffolk graduates, shared their stories and their expertise.

LAURA PISCOPO BA ’02
(United States Army Reserves)
Director of Alumni Relations
Suffolk University

During high school, Laura Piscopo learned that while her family wanted her to go to college, they expected her to be financially self-reliant. “With that, at age 17, I shocked my peers (and myself a little) and enlisted in the Army Reserves to take advantage of the GI Bill and guaranteed student loans,” she recalled. Her military experience was a positive one, but she had a difficult time transitioning to college life. “After a lackluster and uninspiring few months” at a large rural university, Piscopo found Suffolk with “a rich history of veterans coming to study here with the GI Bill. It was a wonderful environment, full of bootstrap stories and dedicated faculty in a small classroom setting.” Here, she offers fellow vets her counsel on how to get the most from educational opportunities.

Tactical tips for post-military service education

TAKE YOUR TIME. Continuing education, whether academic or trade, can be invaluable. If completing a program takes longer than the traditional two or four years, it’s still an investment in your future.

FIND LIKE MINDS. Don’t assume that you are alone based on your choice to pursue military service. Seek out—or start—a student veterans organization. Reach out to classmates, faculty advisors, and on-campus veterans service providers. The alumni relations office is a valuable resource. They can help you connect with recent veterans and/or alumni working in a particular field of interest.

SPEAK UP. If the studying or course load feels overwhelming, take advantage of tutoring, mentoring, meetings with faculty, and other campus resources. You’ve overcome great challenges in the military. You can do it. Defeat is not an option.
After joining the Army as an armor crewman at 17, Nick Dutter deployed to Iraq in 2003. Upon returning and pursuing an economics degree, he "couldn't relate to students as a combat veteran," and missed out on networking opportunities. But he has "come to see and appreciate higher education as a valuable resource for advancement. I have been truly impressed to see the opportunities for veterans at Suffolk University." And he has become a champion of networking, which he credits for providing "my first big shot in finance." Yet, he says, "After three years as a hedge fund analyst, I left to follow my intuition to work with veterans and I could not be happier." Drawing from his experience, here is some of his advice.

**Career tips: Best bets for vets**

**USE YOUR NETWORK.** You've made contacts. Use them to help your resume rise to the top of the pile.

**APPLY YOUR EDUCATION.** Like the civilian world, the army requires leadership courses or professional schools. Think of your undergraduate program as a Basic NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) Academy and your master's program as the Advanced NCO Academy. Making the dean's list in academia is like maxing your fitness test or qualifying with your weapon.

**SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE.** Civilian hiring managers are curious about your service but may not know how to ask. Be open. Draw the parallel between sitting in a cube and sitting in a foxhole for an eight-hour guard shift.

**CREATE A STRESS-FREE ZONE.** Once you are hired, you need to be comfortable. For example, if having your back to the door causes anxiety, explain your concerns to your boss. You may be able to move your computer, put a rearview mirror in your cube, or find another accommodation to help you do your best work.

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**ON BOARD**

A dozen new trustees add depth and diversity to Suffolk leadership

**THE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVED 12 NEW MEMBERS, INCLUDING FIVE SUFFOLK ALUMNI:**

Roger Berkowitz, president and CEO, Legal Sea Foods

John L. Brooks, III, president and CEO, Joslin Diabetes Center

Jeanette G. Clough MHA ’96, president and CEO, Mount Auburn Hospital

Daniel F. Conley JD ’83, Suffolk County District Attorney

John Fernandez, president and CEO, Massachusetts Eye and Ear

David Hoberman, Hollywood producer and founder of Mandeville Films

Julie Kahn, vice president and general manager, Entercom New England

E. Macey Russell, Esq. JD ’83, partner at Choate Hall & Stewart

Robert K. Sheridan JD ’77, president, Savings Bank Life Insurance Company of Massachusetts

Marshall M. Sloane, chairman and CEO, Century Bank

Mark Sullivan, Esq., general counsel, Bose Corp.

Damian W. Wilmot, Esq, JD ’00, partner at Goodwin Proctor
THE Voice

A cappella aficionado Jeff Numero '13 doesn’t need a TV singing competition—or even music—to express his true passion.

BY RENÉE GRAHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK WILSON
"IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST SING WELL AND HAVE SOMEONE TELL YOU WHAT TO SING. IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING DIFFERENT, YOU'RE JUST A TOOL."

gations, Numero left The Ramifications this semester.

The Ramifications' assistant music director Ryan Breslin '13 sang alongside Numero in the group since their respective freshman years. He says Numero's contribution was versatility, from arranging songs to "being able to put out a note for us when we can't find our note."

When The Ramifications performed in the International Competition of Collegiate a cappella last year, Numero won the award for best beat boxer. Numero also has collaborated with different groups on campus—he performed at the African Diaspora for the Cape Verdean Student Association with his own band, a trio called Lost and Found.

The middle child of three, Numero was raised in a house filled with music. Each Sunday, his mother, a patient care assistant at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, would play music and dance to everything from Caribbean music to Tina Turner. (His mother and stepfather separated when Numero was 16.)

In high school, Numero immersed himself in the classic catalogs of Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane. He was playing piano seriously, and, while confident about his skills, he was also in the midst of other very talented players. "I wasn't as good as everyone, and so many people could play," he says. "But I also knew I could sing, so I concentrated on getting better at that so I could one-up the next person—'Hey, you can play, but I can play and sing.'"

Numero initially considered Berklee College of Music, but his mother wanted him to have another career option to fall back on. Suffolk was the only other school in Boston he considered.

"When you leave high school, everyone tells you, 'This is the start, you have to make a choice,'" he says. "Since I've been at Suffolk, I can see my choices more clearly. Now I see I can still play music and go to grad school." Enrolling at Suffolk, Numero "kept looking at what I could do with music" and began looking into the fields of music psychology and music therapy. "I read some books about it, and I want to incorporate the two. But I won't be mad if I only do music, and I won't be mad if I only do music, because they're two things I really like."

Still, nothing seems to make Numero brighten up like a conversation about music, one he liberally sprinkles with his own hummed bass lines or chords to illustrate a point. Whether it's his admiration of the brilliant neo-soul singer D'Angelo—"He's one of the best musicians, and the live stuff he does just boggles my mind," Numero says—or the joys of playing live and blending his various musical influences from jazz to Caribbean styles like compas and zouk into his trio, Numero's enthusiasm for music is contagious.

"I just love music," Numero says. "I love singing a cappella, just the sound of a group of voices creating their own sound, their own music. It's just so cool."

One place you're unlikely to find him, however, is on TV's infestation of singing shows like The X Factor, The Voice, or American Idol.

"I think about it, but I'm not sure that's my scene. I think everyone can sing, so it becomes about what distinguishes one singer from another," he says. "It's not enough to just sing well and have someone tell you what to sing. If you're not doing anything different, you're just a tool. I feel like the musicians who can really create a song, that's cool. But if you're gonna sing a Beyoncé song just like Beyoncé, what's the point? I mean, if I'm gonna do D'Angelo's 'Lady,' I'm gonna do it my way."
ROWING UP in Boston’s Hyde Park neighborhood, Jeff Numero remembers his summers as “waking up, playing the piano all day, then going to sleep. That’s all I had to do.” He jokingly blames his stepfather, a fan of compas (buoyant Haitian dance music) and jazz, who “forced me to play.”

By the time his family moved to Stoughton, Massachusetts, for high school, Numero says, “I hated the piano.” Yet his school had a strong music program, and Numero found himself drawn to the ivories—this time, by choice. Early on, he didn’t like the piano because he didn’t know anyone else who played it, but finding others who shared his enthusiasm made a difference.

Now a 20-year-old junior, Numero is surrounded by people who share his passion. A dual major in music and psychology, Numero was also a singer and beat box specialist with The Ramifications, the University’s acclaimed a cappella singers, for three years. He first saw the vocal group during his freshman orientation and immediately knew he wanted to join. He chose as his audition song “Nature Boy,” a 1940s pop and jazz standard made famous by Nat King Cole.

“Jeff has a lot of understanding and knowledge about music...he’s open to being directed by his peers but also [to] offering assistance when people ask for it,” says Kathy Maloney, associate director of Suffolk’s Performing Arts Office. Numero, she says, even helped students in other performing groups. “At a concert with all of our groups, there was a new piano player in Rhythm (Suffolk’s contemporary music group), which is not a group Jeff is a part of, but he was working with that student to help him with parts of the song, to help him get a feel for it.” Due to other obli-
Following multiple national disasters, Fukushima native Tomo Honda BA ’97 emerges as a leader. Could he be the future face of politics in Japan?

BY DANIELLE DEMETRIOU

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALFIE GOODRICH
It is an image worthy of a haiku:

A MISTY GREEN VALLEY CRISSCROSSED WITH RICE PADDIES,  
NEAT ROWS OF CUCUMBERS AND TREES FLECKED WITH ORANGE  
PERSIMMONS, FORESTS UNFOLDING IN THE DISTANCE.

And center stage in this tableau of bucolic Japan? Tomo Honda – complete with three-piece Italian-  
cut pinstripe suit, shiny shoes, wireless mobile phone earpiece, iPad in his hand, and a dazzling smile  
as he steps out of his car. The scenario easily captures the essence of Honda, a 37-year-old Japanese  
politician who is as likely to be found attending high-powered government meetings or shopping in  
an Apple store as traipsing through rice fields. For Honda, a typical day includes an impromptu visit  
to an elderly farmer working in the green fields of his rural constituency in the Fukushima region of  
northeast Japan.

This year, however, has been far from typical. Before last March, Fukushima, a prefecture renowned  
domestically for its mountains and plentiful cows, had scarcely registered on the radar of the inter­  
national community. Today, the name is synonymous globally vifith nuclear disaster. It was within  
these rural confines that the Fukushima Daiiichi Power Plant was severely damaged during Japan's  
March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The atomic meltdowns, reactor explosions, radiation leaks,  
evacuations, and regular comparisons to Chernobyl that ensued in the following days and months are  
well-documented. For Honda, it has been a turbulent, challenging time as a politician at the heart of  
a national crisis – as well as a resident, husband, and father of a two-year-old son.

"Since March 11, I have changed the way I look at life," he says. "What I want to do for people,  
what I want to do for this society: These things are more concrete to me now. My thoughts are more  
concrete than before."

• “the hardest decision of my life”

Honda happily defies Japanese political stereotypes. Unusually, he has no political connections in  
his family and was the youngest politician to be elected to Fukushima Prefectural Assembly six years  
ago, at the age of 31. Even more surprising for the often-insular world of Japanese politics, Honda is  
unashamedly international: he speaks fluent English, French, and German, a legacy of more than a  
decade in the United States and Europe.

Such lack of convention, however, has not deterred Honda from recently winning his third term as  
an elected representative – which he compares to a state senator in the United States - in his home­  
town of Nihonmatsu, Fukushima.

Most of Fukushima's 58 senators are in attendance at today's opening session of the regional as­  
sembly in the modernist 1960s-style government building in the city. Strolling confidently through  
Fukushima's halls of power, Honda appears younger and more contemporary than many of his peers.  
En route to his office, Honda walks past zigzags of transparent tape neatly placed over cracks span­  
ingen concrete corridor walls, a physical reminder of the power of the earthquake.

Honda's life took a circuitous – and international – route to the world of Fukushima politics. He  
was born in rural Nihonmatsu, raised alongside two younger brothers by his father, a physician, and  
his mother, a housewife.

Pondering his oldest son's childhood for clues to his adult path, Takeshi Honda, 74, says: "He was  
our first child, so we took care of him more cautiously than with his other two brothers. We took him
everywhere, and he was always surrounded by adults. So Tomo behaved like an adult while in school and conversed like an adult from an early age. I thought he would be good as a lawyer or university professor as he was so confident speaking in public.

His son adds with a self-deprecating laugh: "I did not consider myself as a nerd at school, but perhaps I was considered a little bit of a nerd by others. At that time, I was interested in comparative public policy, globalization, global economics. I was fascinated by these issues, but not necessarily politics itself."

The fact that Honda did not enroll at a respectable Japanese university and become a lawyer or academic was the first of many surprises his parents were to face. Instead, at 18, he decided (unusually among his peers) to study overseas. While Honda was taking English at Cambridge, a friend's father who was a Suffolk professor recommended the University. In 1993, Honda enrolled here to pursue a history degree. He describes the subsequent four years as the most defining and influential period of his life, a time when his world – and mind – were pried wide open.

"Boston was pretty different from anywhere I'd been before," Honda recalls. "Very multinational, very multicultural. Very diverse in age, ethnicity, very open atmosphere, and very colorful. Basically, very unlike Japan. Studying there was a big inspiration and directly affected my way of thinking and the way I regard the world and society."

He adds: "Keeping up was really tough. But I studied hard, got involved in debating, did lots of reading, and backpacked in Europe in the summer. By the second year, I was having the time of my life."

The impression Honda made on his Suffolk contemporaries was no less memorable, according to longtime friend Hanae Yoshida Zahir, 38, a mother of two based in Swampscott, Massachusetts who describes how he always dressed immaculately in a suit.

"Tomo gave the impression of a very well-mannered and classy person," she says. "He was not afraid of asking any questions...he was curious to know things at a deeper level, not just on the surface. I think Suffolk gave him an opportunity to discover the world."

One of the most influential figures during his time at Suffolk was department of history chair and professor Robert Allison, who recalls with still-lingering surprise how Honda's inquisitive mind once led him to quiz a Turkish student over the Armenian genocide.

"Tomo made a very vivid impression," he says. "He was always engaged and enthusiastic. He is extraordinarily personable, friendly, and very bright. He has a tremendous intellectual curiosity and interest in other people and their ideas." He adds: "Did we know he would become a politician? Not really, but his personality – his ability to talk to people, and to listen to people, and his ability to see through to the heart of a problem – are essential skills to a successful politician. It is a worthy and noble calling. I am sorry he cannot run for office in this country!"

Upon graduation, further studies beckoned in Paris and Switzerland before a career as a corporate planner in the automobile industry took Honda to Germany – at which point the idea of becoming a politician took root. "I had almost zero interest in politics until my mid-20s," says Honda. "The seed was first planted by a conversation with a colleague in the office." Their exchange revolved around Honda's explanation of the current political situation in Japan, which prompted his colleague to state that maybe Honda should become a politician and sort things out himself. Honda replied that he would never be able to become a politician as he is not from a rich political family – and his colleague declared that Japan was therefore not a democracy. The seemingly light-hearted office banter deeply affected Honda: the more he dwelt on it and reflected on his country and his future, the more it dawned on him that politics was his calling.

"Something clicked after that conversation," he says. "I spent six sleepless months wondering what to do. It was the hardest decision of my life. But eventually I decided and moved back home."

"Since March 11, I have changed the way I look at life. What I want to do for people, what I want to do for this society: these things are more concrete to me now."
"my lifetime mission"

And so, at the age of 30, Honda surprised friends and family once again by swapping the glamour of metropolitan Europe for rural Nihonmatsu.

"Going abroad to study was very unusual for Nihonmatsu," recalls Tsuyoshi Sato, 37, a social worker and one of Honda's oldest friends. "I'd never known anyone like that before. And then when I heard he was moving back to Nihonmatsu to become a politician, I was equally surprised. I didn't even know he was interested in politics."

But Honda wasted no time on his political reinvention – and launched himself wholeheartedly into door-to-door canvassing. "I went to see everyone in the area," he said. "My message was that the government is raising taxes and using it for nothing. The system of Japan is not working. We have to aim for a smaller government, more liberal society, with a focus on education and international issues." He adds: "I think people needed new ideas. The community was stagnating, and most politicians were over 60."

Ten months later, in December 2005, in a turn of events Honda describes as "serendipitous," the town's representative resigned and a special election swept Honda to power (10,7720 votes to 9,085). Since then, he has thrown himself into political life: He is involved in around 100 unions, committees, and guilds, while also lecturing monthly in public administration at a community college. His working life could perhaps have fallen neatly into the category of conventional regional politician – were it not for one day that will forever be etched into the memories of all Japanese: March 11, 2011.

"I was sitting in the government offices," he recalls. "It was the biggest, longest earthquake I'd experienced in my life. I watched the floor – a hard, solid floor – move in waves. Bookcases fell off walls."

Honda and his wife immediately cancelled a party at a restaurant for their son Aoi-kun's second birthday, but it took longer for the full impact of the disaster to unfold: first, the tsunami; then, the nuclear crisis.

"The first explosion at Fukushima Daiichi took place at 15:35 [3:35 p.m.] on March 11. There was not so much panic. The next day, the third plant exploded. This time it was a bit different. Recycled plutonium fuel was involved. We started to worry. Then on March 15, I was on my bicycle cycling around Nihonmatsu, checking up on people. My son was outside with family queuing for petrol. I now know that we were exposed that day to 275 times the recommended amount of radiation."

The scale of the tsunami also impacted him. Describing a visit to the coast, he recalls: "I have never been before in a war zone. But what I saw changed my life. There were dead bodies everywhere. Wherever I looked, I saw what used to be a human being, just like us."

"I told myself and those who had died that their deaths would not be in vain and I would genuinely try to make the world a better place to live in. That's my lifetime mission."

Confiding with a wry smile about how he dealt with it as a father, he continues: "Now this is the samurai culture part of the story, possibly difficult for non-Japanese to understand. On March 16, I sat down my wife and said, 'I am a politician, I have to be the last person in Nihonmatsu. You are my wife, if I die here, you die here with me. But we also have a son. If you are worried about him being here, please take him to family in Yokohama.' Straight away, she said no. She said, 'Your son is the politician's son. He would gladly give his life for you. He is staying here with his father.' And that was that."

younger, smarter, and more effective

Back in the office, the assembly opens – an occasion of somber speeches beneath flags in a regal hall – before Honda returns to the most pressing matter. All things nuclear have been top of the agenda for Honda since March 11, not only in his constituency but also as the appointed special councilor for Fukushima Assembly's committee for natural and nuclear disaster control. It's a challenging role, collating information from local municipalities, residents, unions, and businesses in order to monitor and advise the Fukushima government's handling of the situation.

"My expertise in comparative international public policy and disaster control management was regarded as an asset," he explains. "I have been extensively studying the case of New Zealand's 2011 earthquake and its recovery as well as Chernobyl."
A clutch of suited ministry officials arrive for a meeting to discuss the discovery of rice contamination at a Nihonmatsu farm. Afterwards, Honda shifts his focus onto the forthcoming elections.

Regional elections in northeast Japan, which take place every four years, were scheduled for April but postponed until November after the disaster. His manifesto includes pledges for a smaller government without raising taxes, proposing Fukushima as a special policy region with zero tax for enterprise, and — a new addition since March 11 — no more nuclear power.

"Fukushima’s name, like Chernobyl, will be written in the history of mankind," he says. "But even with us, this disaster happens. We can all learn from this lesson, not only in Japan. I think we as humankind do not need nuclear power."

Following Nihonmatsu's merging with three villages a few years ago — common in depopulated rural Japan — the new election involves a population double the size of previous elections (60,000-plus), which means that two seats are up for grabs. It’s a close contest, but Honda comes in second, with 8,032 votes to the frontrunner’s 12,329 — enough to keep his seat. As a result, he will continue to play a crucial role in the region's revitalization over the coming four years.

But challenges remain — as perhaps is inevitable for a young, international politician working in traditional Japan, according to Kanako Kimura, Honda’s secretary and campaign manager.

"I think he can give the wrong impression with his CV," she says. "Educated in the U.S. and Europe with BA and MA degrees, working internationally — all this may give people the feeling that he is elite and inaccessible. But on the contrary, he is very friendly, caring, and kind-hearted. He is also much younger, smarter, and more effective than other politicians."

• a natural leader

His Nihonmatsu constituency is next on the agenda and Honda jumps in the car, slips on some classical music, and sets off for his hometown — a 30-minute journey during which the city gives way to green fields fringed with idyllic mountains.

Nihonmatsu fits into the category of typical Japanese rural community: a historic castle, faded 1950s-style boutiques, and boarded-up businesses. The few residents in the street confirm its ageing population and shrinking birthrate, common problems in rural Japan. Located only 56 kilometers from the damaged nuclear power plant, it’s clear why the population has diminished further in recent months.

Honda makes a sharp turn and follows a winding track into a green valley where farmer Kato Shigeo is at work tending his cucumbers. Shigeo, 61, is sanguine about recent events: "How do I feel about the last few months? It’s difficult to talk about my feelings, but in some ways, we’ve been very lucky. Radiation levels have been lower here than in other areas."

Honda continues on to his own house, a traditional wooden building next door to where he grew up and his parents still live. Shoes are slipped off at the door, and his wife Noriko appears with slippers, soft drinks, and a plate of sliced Japanese nashi pear. Their young son Aoi abandons the iPad he was playing with and greets his father. A glimpse of red string hanging around the toddler’s neck beneath his yellow football T-shirt is the only clue of recent dramas.

"It’s a radiation dosimeter," Noriko explains quietly. "All the children in Fukushima have been given one."

Later, the family heads to their favorite local sushi restaurant for dinner. "It’s funny, Tomo is not really Japanese in some ways," Noriko explains. "He hates wasabi, he loves Western food, and he enjoys American movies. But I think he does whatever he thinks is right, for himself and for people in society. He is very consistent in his policies and with what he is doing. This can be seen as inflexible at times, but consistency comes with being a natural leader."

His wife's words tap into the essence of Honda’s personality. He may be a man of surprises — from leaving home and studying overseas to returning home and becoming a politician. But there is one certainty to Honda's future: his consistent determination to help his nation recover from its worst disasters in decades — no doubt leaving a colorful mark on Japan’s political landscape in the process.
INDOOR PUTTING, INTERACTIVE Wii, THREE-MARTINI LUNCHES: THE CUNNINGLY CRAZY FUNHOUSE OF ANDREW GRAFF MBA ‘93 IS SHAKING UP THE AD GAME

BY RENÉE GRAHAM

The sinewy, hipster soul of “Tighten Up” by the Black Keys fills an airy loft space tucked away on a nondescript thoroughfare just west of Boston. A group of twenty-something men clad in impossibly skinny jeans and low-cut canvas sneakers occasionally nod along to the music as they chat atop chrome stools. Nearby, a young woman, deep in thought and her ear buds dangling, sits cross-legged on a couch, her laptop balanced precariously between her knees. With the tranquil lighting, exposed ductwork and brick walls, concrete floors, and comfy seating, the space could easily pass for a college dorm lounge or a favorite coffee shop. In fact, it looks like almost anything except what it is—the headquarters of one of the nation’s most acclaimed advertising agencies. And that’s exactly the way Andrew Graff, the unconventional chief executive officer of the Watertown, Massachusetts-based ad firm Allen & Gerritsen (or a&g, as the firm is commonly known) likes it. For Graff, designing an untraditional workplace environment to foster creativity has been an integral ingredient in the agency’s success with its award-winning campaigns for a range of clients from the Boston Celtics to Zildjian, the celebrated cymbal maker.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JARROD MCCABE
"I BELIEVE THAT THE MORE PEOPLE LIKE COMING TO WORK, THE BETTER QUALITY WORK THEY'LL PRODUCE," SAYS GRAFF

47, as he relaxes in his spacious office, distinguished by an array of colorful martini glasses adorning a wall. (More on that later.) Others have noticed. Last year, Advertising Age recognized a&g as the "Best Place to Work" in marketing and media nationwide. The magazine cited the agency's relaxed, unconventional workspace, as well as Graff's attention to encouraging input and ideas and promoting a fulfilling work/life balance for his employees.

"People should not only feel like they have all the benefits and perks, but that they also have a place where you can learn and grow, feel valued, and feel like you have opportunities in the company," says Graff, who has been CEO since 2000. "When you compare us to other industries, there's a lot of fun things that can happen in an ad agency."

THE THREE-MARTINI STRATEGY

These days, when most people think of ad agencies, they may conjure images of Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce, the fictional 1960s firm on the AMC cable drama Mad Men, with its amoral ad men in their sharp suits, their hair shellacked to a glossy shine, its advertising campaigns marinated in vodka and Scotch. At a&g, employees are more likely to shoot a game of pool, hit the indoor putting area, or use the interactive Wii gaming system when they want to blow off steam. There's even a tiki bar. Rarely does one see workers sitting at their desks, and every day, with the abundance of sneakers, hoodies, and jeans, looks like casual Friday.

Of course, creating a fun working environment is meaningless unless it inspires employees to produce ads that can attract clients. A&G's diverse roster includes the Boston Globe, Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and Athletes for Hope.

A decade ago, Ninety Nine Restaurants, which has more than 100 locations in seven states, was looking to spruce up its image. Brad Schiff, vice president of marketing for the Woburn, Massachusetts-based chain, said he sought out a&g's services because they were "forward thinking."

"What impressed me was the way they went about their presentations," Schiff says. "They weren't just throwing out an idea; it was presenting an entire program and really showing us, from A to Z, what it was, why we needed it, and how our competitors, unbeknownst to us, were using it."

For clients, Graff says his basic premise is to "take a business plan and turn it into a communications plan and a market strategy. We spend an incredible amount of time on who is the target audience, and trying to understand everything about that target audience for this product. We then look at how this brand needs to be positioned against the competition, why this would be the brand of choice."

Graff and his team then look at present customers to glean what it is they already love about the brand. Finally, they develop the message and determine the best creative platform for delivering it. Graff emphasizes to clients that the Internet has usurped traditional advertising models.

"Advertising for the longest time was this: if a brand had something to say, you just kind of pushed it. Today it's all about engagement and how you engage with the consumer and connect in all different places," Graff says. "That changes how brands need to communicate and advertise their messages."

Since much of that advertising now is featured online, clients seek guidance on such social media sites as Facebook and Twitter. "Most brands were a little scared of it because they were used to pushing their message without having people communicate back," Graff says. "We teach brands how to maintain their image and brand perception in a new environment where everyone has an opinion about the brand, and how to respond, and how to engage with customers."

Graff understands his clients' initial reticence. Although his iPhone is always within reach, sending a tweet or checking in on social networking site foursquare does not come naturally to him. Launching a&g's reverse mentoring program, Graff sought out a mentor to become more savvy about social media—a&g's youngest employee, Eric Leist, then 22.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: "Trashed" industry trophies serve as a reminder that it's the work, not the awards, that matter; a&g ampersand and gumball-filled "gas tank;" a&g logo; martini glass collection in Graf's office.
Though Leist, an emerging technology strategist, was initially stunned when the company CEO asked him to become his mentor, Leist said he quickly figured out why Graff believed such a move would be "beneficial."

"Knowing him, I wasn't surprised that he was smart enough to know he didn't know everything and could learn from me," says Leist, 23. "Andrew asks me questions about what I think the new office should be like or what I would like to be in the new office. He's not just being polite and wants to make it look like he's taking my recommendations into account," Leist says. "He's actually listening and he really wants the whole Generation Y perspective. He gets that from me and a couple of other people here, too." (Part of that perspective also comes from Graff's two teenage daughters.)

"They weren't just throwing out an idea; it was presenting an entire program and really showing us, from A to Z, what it was, why we needed it, and how our competitors, unbeknownst to us, were using it."

-Brad Schiff, VP of Marketing, Ninety Nine Restaurants

And all the food is served in martini glasses. "If you think about a three-martini lunch, when the booze is flowing, the conversations flow," Graff explains. "That's what I wanted to create."

"It was a huge statement, and it worked. Since we started doing this, a lot of other people have become so open-minded about it, asking younger people to be their mentors."

Graff and Leist meet once a month for what Leist calls a "nice long lunch" out of the building. "We talk about everything he's curious about with new technology. He's fascinated by mobile devices, and what they can and can't do." Graff has also sought Leist's opinions about a major change coming to a&g this year—a move from the Watertown offices it has occupied for 25 years to downtown Boston's Seaport, now called the Innovation District, this fall. Boston Mayor Tom Menino called a&g's move to the heart of the Hub's burgeoning business area "great news for Boston."

People ask him about the decisions he makes, the clients we have, the clients we go after. He's very open, and he tells us what he's thinking," Leist says. "He's accessible. He's a CEO, but can talk to anybody on any level."

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Which brings us back to Graff's unique collection of martini glasses. Given the advertising industry's well-documented history with the three-martini lunch, Graff wanted to revive the spirit of those informal meetings without the spirits themselves. Once a month, he hosts lunches in his office for eight to 10 staffers. Anyone can sign up to attend, and no topic is off limits.

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JUGGLING ACT

The oldest of three, Graff was raised in Peabody, Massachusetts, a suburb north of Boston. His father, who had a background in science, ran global sales and marketing for a life sciences company, while his mother ran the household and stressed the need for her children to be well-rounded. Graff played soccer and baseball and also took piano and art lessons. "You know how kids today are really overscheduled? That's what I was like—which was very unusual then. I always had something going on. But now, as an adult, I can juggle a lot. I know how to do that." His attraction to advertising started early. As a boy, he watched as ad men came over to his house to work on campaigns for his father's company.

"I would watch the progression of an idea as it came to life, and I'd think, 'Hmm, this is kind of interesting.' So when it came time for me to think about going to college, I said I wanted to major in advertising." His father didn't endorse his career plan. "When your father is a scientist, and you say you want to major in advertising, I think what he heard was 'I want to be a starving artist.' He was like, 'No, you need to go to business school.'"
Graff chose the University of Maine, enrolling as a business major with a concentration in marketing and management, but still with his eye on advertising. After graduating, he landed a position as an account manager with the ad agency Arnold Worldwide in Boston and found himself developing "a thirst for all kinds of businesses, how businesses ran and how they made money, how they distributed their product. That's when I decided to go to Suffolk."

With Suffolk, Graff found a university that was able to accommodate his educational needs and, because the campus was close to his office, that allowed him to continue working full-time.

"Suffolk taught me how to take lots of information and lots of feeds and distill it down to what's important," he says. "I had classes with other professionals, most of whom were not in advertising, and I learned a lot about leadership skills, organization dynamics, and it gave me a very well-rounded view of business. It gave me the entrepreneurial bug to say, 'Hey I can run a business.' That's what convinced Graff to leave a well-established ad agency for a&g. "At the time, the agency was 10 years old with 10 people and looking to really grow. I thought I could join this company to help build it. It was like starting my own company without having to start it," says Graff, who joined a&g in 1995 as a senior account manager working with clients on marketing strategy.

"Day to day, my MBA really helps me because I always have to shift gears multiple times during the day. I can be in a finance conversation with my head of finance, then in a client meeting talking about brand strategy and product launches," he says. "Suffolk gave me that foundation."

It's a foundation that has led to a&g's success under Graff's leadership. The agency now has 120 employees and Graff says they will add 50 more in the next few years. "Andrew's unrelenting commitment and discipline to a&g's long-term strategy has been the foundation for what we've built here," says Paul Allen, a&g's chairman and cofounder. "He has created an environment in which everyone here wants to follow his lead and is driven to succeed."

That environment is apparently an important factor in a&g's success. Marketing manager Lauren Steingold says, "Most of my friends at other companies work in drab, boring cubicles. So of course these kind of perks are a good recruitment tool." Yet she also notes, "Lots of agencies have leather couches and pool tables as lures to potential recruits."

For Steingold, the real draw is the overall a&g culture. "It doesn't feel like the typical 9-5 grind, which makes me (whether consciously or subconsciously) more willing to stay longer, do more, etc."

The atmosphere that has become such a pivotal part of a&g's DNA can be seen as Graff's creative contribution to what is on paper a business role. If it's somewhat unusual for a CEO, it is not surprising for this one.

"I find Andrew to have an incredibly sharp business mind, but on the other side, he is also very creative and appreciates a creative solution to a business problem," notes Kathy Kiely, president of The Ad Club, an 8,000-member trade association for which Graff is board chairman.

That Graff is forward-thinking in the way he has set up his own shop is unsurprising to Kiely.

"He's never satisfied with status quo," she adds. "He's always looking down the road to see what's coming next and how to be the first one there."

EMPLOYEES FIRST

It's late afternoon, indie rocker Florence + the Machine's "Dog Days Are Over" is churning out of the speakers, and Graff is focused on the agency's move to downtown Boston. He has met with architects, but he's also having conversations with his employees on what they want from the new space. "One of the things he noticed about me and about a lot of the other younger people here is a lot of times we won't work at our desks. And he's fascinated by that because he's always worked at a desk," Leist says. "Now since we all have laptops, he's trying to see how best to accommodate people's work habits since they don't necessarily want to be tied to a desk."

In some ways, Graff isn't far removed from the boy who saw creative ideas come to fruition while eavesdropping on his father's business meetings. He likes to watch the seed of an idea grow, enjoys the teamwork that goes into making the most interesting concepts come alive. He wants to do what's best for his clients but believes the true key to a&g's ongoing success is being mindful of his employees. For a&g, its greatest advertisement is allowing its people—what Graff calls "a multigenerational, multicultural blend of baby boomers, Gen-Xers, millennials"—to coexist in an "environment that's all about collaboration and creativity."

"I want the people here to feel like they're an important part of our growth and vision," he says. "I love all the things that go into the process of launching a great campaign, and I love working in an environment that encourages people to bring their best ideas and know that they're going to be heard. After all these years, great ideas still fascinate me."
WITH NUTRITION AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA, AMY WINANS BS ’03 HAS A LOT ON HER PLATE

BY RENÉE GRAHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BLAKE FITCH
“How hard is it to make a PB&J?” Winans asks incredulously. “All you have to buy is bread, peanut butter, and jelly—pretty inexpensive—and put them together in three minutes or less. Then you can control the salt content of the peanut butter you’re buying, and with the jam you can make sure it isn’t packed with corn syrup. It gives parents the chance to make better choices for their kids.”

This observation by Winans, a mother of two, is more than the lament of a concerned parent. At the University of New Hampshire (UNH), she oversees the university’s Nutritional Science Field Experience students for the Dover Public School District and is a member of the district’s Wellness Advisory Committee that seeks to improve school meals and enhance the overall health of its 4,200 students. Winans is a de facto foot soldier in a national movement embraced by First Lady Michelle Obama and her “Let’s Move” campaign to reduce childhood obesity and promote healthy eating.

Today, however, Winans, 34, has a lot more on her plate than prefab PB&J. “Wow, that’s a lot of candy,” she says, surveying assorted bags of sugary treats at the Happy Helpers Preschool Center, a private preschool in Dover, New Hampshire, that her children, Annabelle, 5, and Max, 4, attend. She and her husband, Dan, are at the center, helping Annabelle and her classmates construct gingerbread houses. Winans baked the houses, and the candy purchased by other parents, is presumably meant to decorate the houses. For the 10 children, it may conjure visions of Halloween. Yet all Winans sees are empty calories, artificial colors and flavors, and the kind of snacks that, when consumed unchecked, can lead to a host of health problems. She has brought her own homemade snacks for the kids, and she views her visit here as an opportunity to build not only gingerbread houses but also an understanding of healthy food choices. And the lessons start early. When a cherubic-faced boy slowly reaches toward an open bag of Sno-Caps, Winans gently reminds him that the candy is to adorn the gingerbread houses and that, later, she has other snacks to share. The boy pauses, smiles, and says, “OK, Chef Amy,” and skips back to his seat. For the rest of the morning, most of the kids resist the candies even though it’s all within arm’s reach.

After the gingerbread houses are done—and all stray candy has been removed—Winans brings out her treats, to the delight of the children. She has a wreath-shaped loaf, filled with chocolate and dried apricots, as well as hard-boiled eggs and fresh orange slices. “I’m gonna put a little on everyone’s plate,” Winans says. “Now if you don’t like it, that’s OK, but I want everyone to at least try it, OK?” For some of the kids, the hard-boiled eggs are a first, and they get as much fun out of cracking them as they do eating them. Of course, not everyone enjoys the snack, but others relish the moment. “This is the best egg ever!” a boy in a Kung Fu Panda shirt chirps.

“Really, it’s about presenting them with alternatives to junk food, and usually they’ll make the right choice,” Winans says. At UNH, where she is also a lecturer in hospitality management, she supervises college students who intern in the Dover schools’ food services department. Here they analyze food labels and the quality of the food services program, and they connect with local farmers and chefs to help introduce children to fresh, sustainable food sources. Winans helped oversee a school wellness policy designed to limit the amount of unhealthy foods served to schoolchildren, addressing situations like classroom birthday celebrations and teachers’ use of sugary treats as incentives.

“Amy’s been instrumental in offering her expertise about nutrition and creating a balanced lifestyle in regards to nutrition for families. She brings it down to a level that families can understand,” says Claudia Lynch, a nurse at Woodman Park Elementary School in Dover who serves with Winans on the school district’s wellness committee. “But she also tries to educate the committee as well about what ideals can be achieved, like [serving] whole foods and fresh foods, to make school lunches better.”

Adds Dustin Gray, acting chairman of the wellness committee and principal of Garrison Elementary School in Dover, “Amy has really helped to establish our vision because she sees the big picture.”

THE POLITICAL PIECE

Nationally, the picture is daunting: According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, childhood obesity has tripled in the past 30 years. Earlier this year, the federal government announced the first major nutritional overhaul of the nation’s school lunch program in 15 years. Over the next five years, schools will be required to, among other changes, reduce the levels of salt and fat in meals and double the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables served.
"As parents, we try to prepare decent meals, limit how much junk food our kids eat, and ensure they have a reasonably balanced diet," Michelle Obama said in a statement. "And when we're putting in all that effort, the last thing we want is for our hard work to be undone each day in the school cafeteria."

Though Winans supports Mrs. Obama's efforts, she says the First Lady's "Let's Move" initiative isn't enough. "You not only have to teach young children, but you have to educate their parents and the community. If you teach them and help them to see the benefits of making better food choices, it will help change the direction of the food industry." For Winans, politics is often at the core of making healthy food choices. And that begins, she says, with the federal government doing more to ensure the safety of the food its citizens are eating.

"I have issues with government subsidies for large corporations that aren't necessarily doing something that is socially correct but also doing things that harm our environment, like putting genetically modified food on the market that we aren't told about."

And, eating right, she says, isn't just a matter of putting together the best ingredients; it also requires having access to those ingredients in the first place, which aren't always available to millions of Americans. "A lot of people can't afford good food, and they live in food deserts where there might be a little shop [where] they can buy [only] packaged products and there might not even be fresh vegetables, milk, or eggs offered. Or, a lot of families can go to McDonald's and buy food for the whole family for under $10, but they couldn't make a meal for the whole family for that price. That channels back into the political piece."

SMALL CHANGE
The youngest of two, Winans grew up in Castle Rock and Long View, Washington, with a view of Mount Rainier. "I loved food," she says with a smile. Yet as an avid athlete and dancer, she was mindful of what she consumed each day.
In high school, she developed an affinity for science. As she entered her senior year, family members nudged her toward enrolling as a pre-med major at the University of Washington. Winans admits that she “didn’t have a good sense of what I wanted to do” but “was open-minded.” Still, she knew she didn’t want to work in a hospital. “Because my mom was a nurse, I spent a lot of time in the hospital shadowing her, and I really didn’t like it. And the food was horrible!” (Likewise, she worked one summer with her father, a manager at forestry company Weyerhaeuser, in a chemistry lab, but realized that wasn’t her calling either.)

She remained at the university for a year and a half but was always thinking about a culinary career. While in college, she worked part-time at Kaspar’s, an upscale Seattle restaurant owned by Kaspar Donier that has since closed. Winans worked various jobs and calls Donier “a great influence on my view of food, because he was the one who taught me that if you’re going to eat a chicken, you sure as heck should know where that chicken came from.” Donier, who now owns Kaspar’s Special Events and Catering, recalls Winans’ enthusiasm for learning, as well as food and cooking. “Not many culinary students like her came through my kitchen,” Donier says. “She was so dedicated and focused. She was so willing to learn, and nothing was too much for her. She always worked to be the best.”

Winans’ time with Donier also cemented her desire to attend cooking school, and she enrolled in the renowned Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. She met her future husband, Dan, then a fellow student, on her second day, but she wasn’t initially as sure about the curriculum. With her practical experience, she feared the two-year program might be too basic, but after three months, she found it “fabulous.” After earning her associate’s degree, Winans and her then-fiancé moved to Connecticut and began planning their wedding. Winans landed a job work-
I appreciated the beauty—this may sound sick—of seeing a chicken with its head still on because I knew it was fresh,

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See Food
Chef Amy and her students cook up a fisherman’s feast at Suffolk.edu/samonline.

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ing for a wealthy family as a nanny for three boys. She also cooked and catered their parties. Occasionally, Winans worked in her employer's public relations firm, and there she got the idea to pursue a communications degree.

"I really wanted my bachelor's, and it was important to me to find something that wasn't just food related," she says. "I pieced together in my mind the pluses of food and communications and how they could get me to new levels."

She chose Suffolk because "it was affordable, and it had the communications program I wanted with a concentration in public relations. And Suffolk was so amazing to work with." By applying all of her core courses from the University of Washington, she was able to finish her degree in just two years.

For Winans, they were a very busy two years. She was working full-time at the Four Seasons Hotel as an executive assistant to the food services director. During her lunch break and at nights, she would take classes. And, for her required internship, she worked in the PR department of the Boston Ballet. "It was such a growth time for me, and it really showed me that I do enjoy communications," Winans says.

She fondly recalls "Dr. Bob" Rosenthal, associate professor and chairman of Suffolk's communications department. He was "so relaxed, and at that time it was really helpful to have someone who was so approachable to talk to about direction and courses," she says.

With her communications degree from Suffolk, Winans returned to the West Coast and got a job in the marketing department at Liberty Mutual. Just two years later, she and her husband, now with a baby daughter, were on the move again—this time to Italy, where Dan Winans attended a graduate program at the University of Gastronomic Sciences. During her year in Parma, Italy, while her husband was at school, Winans spent her days with her daughter, immersing herself in Italian culture and cuisine. "I appreciated the beauty—this may sound sick—of seeing a chicken with its head still on because I knew it was fresh," she says of going grocery shopping in Italy.

When they returned to the States, Dan Winans accepted a position at UNH, his alma mater, as director of the dual major in ecogastronomy (which concerns the origins, preparation, and sustainability of food) and a lecturer in hospitality management. Amy Winans also joined the staff part-time to run the school's culinary labs, and within a year she was working there full-time. She now teaches four culinary labs with 16 students each, plus she oversees the students in the field experience program in the Dover school district. What she wants for her UNH students is the same thing she wants for the kindergarteners at Happy Helpers—for them to make the connections between what they put in their bodies and how it affects their health and environment. At home, she's already taught her children about composting, and she now also has a composting station for her UNH students. But, like the First Lady, Winans would like to see a more universal awareness of nutrition.

"I wish there was a federal mandate to bring back—and this may sound really cheesy—home economics, but on a better level," she says later at a local coffee shop where (of course) she brings her own cup for coffee. "When I took home economics, it was a joke: it was making cookies. But what if home economics could now teach people about healthy food options?"

Even with the pending federal changes to school meals, to be implemented over the next five years, the conversation about improving the nation's diet, especially among the young, "is ongoing," Winans says. "Maybe it isn't moving as quickly as some of us would like it to, but it's always about letting people know that, in what they eat, they always have a choice," she says. "Even if they make just a small change, it's still a change."
SECOND WIND

FACING STAGNATION FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL 30-YEAR CAREER, JEFF BROWN MBA '85 DISCOVERED A RENEWED SOURCE OF ENERGY.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG STREMEL

BY TRACI ANGEL
IN 2008, JEFF BROWN GOT THE PROVERBIAL OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE.

For 30 years, Brown was caught in a career whirlwind for General Electric (GE) that took him from the East Coast to the Midwest to the South: 13 moves across 10 states. Along the way he served in numerous roles ranging from ground-floor engineer to a general manager charged with a multimillion-dollar annual sales portfolio. During his final days at GE he learned the company was sending leadership overseas and opportunities for advancement would be limited. By this point, Brown and the company had “gone in different directions,” he says.

Describing himself as “a rugged individualistic person at the core” who “probably bristled a bit under the rule of authority,” Brown says that while he could have remained at GE, “it didn’t feel like the right place for me.”

So when management offered him the chance to take early retirement, he thought, “Great, now I can do something fun.” At 53, Jeff Brown walked away from it all. But he couldn’t stay away.

“I stayed retired a month before my wife [Kay] suggested [I] do something else,” he recalls. “I have too much energy.”

So Brown began consulting, but that didn’t last long, either. While at GE, Brown had received a call from a recruiter at Nordic Windpower, a manufacturer of turbines for alternative energy. The company was looking for referrals with experience in its sector, and Brown provided a few names. During his brief retirement, a Nordic recruiter approached him again. This time the company’s focus was Brown.

“This was one I could grow from the ground up—from the team to the product to the customer base,” he says. “That’s nirvana for someone with a business background.”

Brown’s hiring at Nordic as chief operations officer in 2008 represented an opportunity to help lead a rising company and assume a role he had not held at GE as a top company executive.

Brown spent his first two years at the company’s Berkeley, California location and its Pocatello, Idaho headquarters. In May 2011, just months after announcing the company was consolidating its operations and relocating its headquarters to Kansas City, Missouri, Nordic Windpower named Jeff Brown as its CEO. It was a natural evolution for Brown, for whom “the pinnacle is the CEO job.”

He got there by being unafraid to challenge authority even in a corporate culture that didn’t always reward such boldness. In the 1990s, Brown worked for GE in Greenville, South Carolina. Steve Bransfield MBA ’79, then general manager of the company’s Lynn, Massachusetts facility, remembers Brown confronting the head of engineering for GE’s energy business. “He was always willing to go and question him and not be afraid to do it,” Bransfield says, “and organizationally, that was not the most appropriate thing to do. He has the confidence to talk with people in a rational way.”

Brown shrugs off such risks. “I should have been afraid, but I wasn’t,” he reflects. “I don’t come by my convictions easily, but when I do I hold on to them.”

The end of a career perpetually in motion with General Electric sparked a new beginning and the prospect of stability at a company that, ironically, is on the move.

THE GOOD, BAD, AND THE UGLY

It is perhaps a fitting metaphor for a company and a business in transition that after consolidating its operations, Nordic will spend the next year occupying an airport hangar about four miles from Kansas City International. The space accommodates the turbines, which measure 300 feet tall. Recruiters had offered the company $5.6 million in incentives to take the 50,000 square-foot space. Nordic, a privately held company, dates back to 1975. It began as a government program in Sweden, where the technology was developed for a two-blade turbine that costs less to manufacture, is lighter weight and more energy efficient, and produces energy at a lower cost than the traditional three-blade version. The company moved to the United States in 2005.

For Brown, compared with GE, the culture at Nordic is “a better fit.” As CEO, he has made his mark on that culture with an emphasis on teamwork. Nordic employees sit at desks in a room without cubicle walls. Office doors are left ajar. “It was set up purposefully to create openness,” says Brown, who wears jeans around the office. “I don’t want anyone to keep secrets. We see the good, bad, and the ugly, and the [employees] who can’t take it you don’t want on your team anyway.”

Brown refers to employees often as the “team,” and the management team members for the company holds meetings several times a week. His style stems from years of watching positive and negative reinforcement and realizing what kind of leader he wanted to be. Of a former manager at GE, he says he “appreciated that in public he always had something good to say to the team and always called out people by name on the team who did particularly well. There were times when he took people behind the woodshed, but he always did that in private.” Brown watched others berate individuals at staff meetings and says, “I have no tolerance for that.”
As an intern at Nordic, Brown's son, Matt, who recently graduated from Kennesaw State University in Georgia, observed his father's interaction with staff. "He might not have agreed with them, but he would never bad-mouth anyone. He is very methodical, and if there was a problem, he would think it through and he had enough trust [in his employees] to take care of anything."

Former Nordic CEO Tom Carbone, Brown's predecessor, praised Brown for his ability to find, train, and retain employees. Brown assembled a competent team in Pocatello, Idaho despite a sparse population with skills directly related to the technology. "He had a group of young people who were new to that industrial environment, and he passed on his vision," Carbone recalls.

Tim Cowden, senior vice president of business development for the Kansas City Area Development Council, worked with Brown for two years while recruiting Nordic to move its headquarters to Kansas City. "People gravitate toward him," Cowden says. "Jeff is all about exploring ways both parties can be satisfied with the solution."

As the company's chief operations officer, Brown supported the CEO's efforts. But it was Brown who, after months of deciphering data and exploring other potential cities, decided Kansas City was the best option and designed the presentation that convinced his bosses.

"I picked up the flag and said, 'Follow me,'" he says.

**A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE**

Brown grew up in a blue-collar household in Somerville, New Jersey. He took the bus to New York to watch the Yankees or the Mets, earned the title of Eagle Scout at 14, and played football throughout high school. His father worked at a utility company and brought home information about nuclear energy. His mother worked in the county probation department. He and his father spent much time together tinkering with machines and building soap box derby cars that took them sailing down High Street in Somerville like daredevils. When it came time to look at colleges, Brown focused on schools offering programs in alternative energy. He later decided to pursue a program in materials science and engineering instead and enrolled at Cornell University.

"About the time it came to select a major, Three Mile Island happened," he recalls. "There were a lot of nuclear engineers out of work."

He had also chosen Cornell so he could continue to play football. He lettered three years playing mostly offensive line, including the team's center his senior year. He earned All-Ivy League honors. The night before Cornell's game against rival Yale University, Brown slept in a recliner. His dislocated ribs made breathing painful and lying down nearly impossible. When he took the field the next day, only a few people knew about the physical discomfort he was enduring. Paul Weimer, the father of Brown's good friend Mike, saw Brown on the sideline and asked him if he was going to play with the injury.

"Just don't tell the nose guard for Yale," Brown told him.

"I can't think of a better example to show [his] tenacity," Weimer says.

During college Brown took an internship at U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and spent the summer in a laboratory. There he discovered a preference for hands-on projects and entered a training program with GE. His work took him from building small motors in Decatur, Indiana, to manufacturing locomotives in Erie, Pennsylvania. As a product quality engineer, he built aircraft engines. As a product manager, he fielded customer complaints and oversaw operations from testing to shipping, all while ensuring the company achieved its sales goals.

"The technology was exciting, but at the end of the day I needed to have the ability to integrate a lot of the pieces—manufacturing, engineering, and quality," he says. "I needed the finance background, and that is why Suffolk was important."

Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School provided the opportunity to pursue an MBA while remaining at work. For four years Brown and classmate Mark O'Malley MBA '85 commuted to Suffolk from their day jobs at GE in the Boston suburb of Lynn. Brown recalls a lecture in one of their classes, a Dunkin' Donuts executive who related a heated argument over whether a franchisee should be required to buy flour from the company. The chair of the board said, "We are a real estate company...they think we make money on doughnuts."
"I realized that businesses don't make money where you think they make money. It gave me a totally different perspective than textbook learning."
Brown emerges from the hatch of a turbine, which is about the size of a bus or larger.

“I realized that businesses don’t make money where you think they make money,” Brown recalls. “It gave me a totally different perspective than textbook learning.”

From another class—on management decision theory—he and O’Malley applied what they learned to calculate their odds on a parking ticket if the commuters parked on the busy street during their several-hours-long class rather than the parking garage. In the long run, they figured they could save money by avoiding a parking garage fee. After the pair did a risk analysis they figured that the probability of getting a ticket was low enough.

“It was the proper managerial decision to park on the street and take a chance,” Brown says.

They kept track of their assessment. In one year Brown received no parking tickets, O’Malley received three.

Brown spent several more years with GE, moving from location to location and building on his business background. His constant through all the job changes was his family—his wife, Kay, and their two children, Matt and his daughter Christine, who is studying at Georgia Tech.

One of Brown’s more prominent career choices didn’t require a move. For his children’s high school years, he and the family made a decision to stay in Atlanta for eight years.

“He could have done a lot more with his career with GE,” Matt Brown says. “He turned down a lot of job offers to focus on the family, and although work was a priority, it always came in second.”

A FEW ADVENTURES LEFT
Today, Nordic is targeting U.S. cities, schools, and some industrial and other small wind farm locations, as well as countries like India and Turkey with burgeoning energy needs for growth.

Tom Wagner, Nordic’s engineering manager, started with the company last January, but he knew Brown at GE. Renewable energy has declined a lot in the last few years, Wagner says, but Nordic is finding a way to build bridges internationally, thanks to Brown’s leadership.

“[Brown’s] strategy is to look globally instead of competing in a highly competitive field,” he says. “We have to be flexible in other markets—and that is what we are doing.”

Despite the push for clean renewable energy, the industry faces challenges. In 2009, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced that the country planned $93 million in stimulus funds to support wind energy development, which has been slower to catch on in the United States than in other countries. While Nordic did not accept federal funding, the entire industry faces a public perception divided by politics and the question of whether government has a role in supporting private businesses at all.

Brown makes the case that wind provides energy independence and says, “Government support should be seen through the goggles of national interest.” He believes that if other countries had not made a commitment to wind, they would be importing a lot of fuel for electricity. “The kind of monies the Chinese have put into manufacturing is going to give those companies huge advantages over everyone else,” he says, adding, “My first goal is to make sure that Nordic survives the rough times.”

Despite the challenges, in retrospect, Brown views his move as a good one. “Here was this chance to create a better world and an opportunity to make a difference. It was an opportunity to join the green movement and attend to something that is growing.”

After trying out retirement, albeit briefly, Brown now lives by the maxim that if you find a job you love, you’ll never have to work a day in your life. As for his own future, Brown thinks of the advice he received from a mentor upon his retirement at GE: stop thinking of life as a career but as a series of adventures.

“You have to give yourself permission to close a chapter and open a new one,” he says. “And I have a few adventures left.”
"One October afternoon in 1985, I was raped by a stranger who crept through the open back door of my apartment while I was taking out the trash," wrote Nancy Venable Raine in the foreword to *After Silence: Rape & My Journey Back*.

"Did anyone make the mistake of reading this late at night?" Professor James Ptacek asks the 17 students—16 women and one man—of today's assigned reading. The book prompts several students to relate their own apprehensions. One says she thinks twice about taking out the trash at night in the student-saturated neighborhood of Allston, Massachusetts. Another carries a corkscrew with her for self-defense after her night shift as a waitress. Soft-spoken but animated, Ptacek, editor of the book *Restorative Justice and Violence Against Women* (2009), constantly solicits participation from his students. After screening a powerful documentary profiling victims of violence, he asks his class to identify examples of trauma terminology in the film. Discussing the need some victims have to return to the scene of the crime, he asks, "What's that about?" Reviewing a public service campaign called "Men Can Stop Rape," he prods them to evaluate its effectiveness.

Prior to the first class, public relations major Heather Yegge '13 recalls trying to "picture what the professor would look like." Since course descriptions list only the first initial and last name of professors, "for all I knew, it could [have been] anyone." Yet given the content, she says, "I had pictured a woman at first." The fact that she turned out to be mistaken, Yegge says, has made "a difference, but a good one...he was able to give us a somewhat better understanding of a male's perspective and also learned from us. The fact that he [is] male almost challenged us, at least female students, to really stand up and express our viewpoints."

That a male who has never been a victim of violence could teach a course about women and crime makes sense given the background of the professor. While there were few academics in his extended family, Ptacek grew up with "extremely loving" parents. "What I did learn from them is that relevant to my research is a sense of morality and gender equality." He also had a number of female friends who had been in abusive relationships.

After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a double major in philosophy and political science, Ptacek worked as a union organizer, then as a counselor with abusive men. He received an MA in sociology from the University of New Hampshire and a doctoral degree from Brandeis University.

"I was greatly affected by the social movements that arose when I was in high school and college—the civil rights movement, protests against the war in Vietnam, feminism, lesbian and gay liberation, and the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa," Ptacek explains. "For me, sociology became a way to study the social problems that gave rise to this activism. More than any other discipline, sociology places injustice and social inequalities at the center of its concerns...Sociology offered me a way to study and teach about problems of social injustice over a lifetime."

After earning his doctorate, Ptacek assumed he would have to leave the Boston area to find an academic position. "But Suffolk was expanding the sociology department to develop a graduate program, which is now called Crime and Justice Studies," he recalls. "My background as a researcher and a batterers' counselor enabled the program to offer a concentration in victim advocacy."

Today, Ptacek feels that the distinguishing feature of Suffolk's sociology department is that it "is not an ivory tower." Faculty members "are actively engaged in community-level work," creating a Center for Women's Health and Human Rights, a Center for Restorative Justice, and a Center for Crime and Justice Policy Research, all "with just 13 people!" And personally speaking, he adds, "My research on men's violence against women seeks to make sense of these crimes, and offers ideas about how best to address this widespread problem."

If Ptacek's students see the advantages of the different perspective a male professor brings, he perceives the benefits of teaching the course as an instructor of his gender. "I think it is good for a man to be outnumbered by women in a class that focuses on gender inequality," he says. "He gets to hear candid discussions among women he wouldn't otherwise have access to."

Says sociology major Lyndsey Kelly '13, "Instead of hearing the traditional feminist standpoint, students got to hear a male perspective...and that is an important aspect in a class which focuses so heavily on gender inequalities." Yet Kelly sees her instructor in an even broader context.

"Professor Ptacek can really enlighten students as to the realities of such issues as crime, gender, and race," she adds. "He doesn't sugarcoat the information, and although some of the subject matter is shocking and some is simply sad, I feel it is important as college-educated students to learn about all of the harsh realities of society, in [the] hope that one day maybe we can make a difference."
Opening Act

Though he would go on to establish himself as a folk legend, for many, Richie Havens will go down in musical history as the first performer at Woodstock. Three years after the iconic festival, Havens played at the Suffolk Theatre.
Dear Suffolk Alumni,

For a week in mid-March, more than 130 Suffolk University students passed up a traditional spring break vacation in favor of serving communities across the country. From Denver, Colorado, to Gulfport, Mississippi, to Passadumkeag, Maine, Suffolk students on Alternative Spring Break rolled up their sleeves, grabbed hammers, nails, drywall, and shovels, and put their physical and creative energies to work for the benefit of others. They built houses with Habitat for Humanity; cleared trails and planted seedlings in state and national parks; worked on issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community in Pennsylvania; and spent the week in inland Maine working on youth programs in the Penobscot Nation while learning about the Penobscot culture from members of the tribe.

That combination of hard work and the desire to give back says a lot about who we are as a University. Whether it's in the woods of Maine or on our Boston campus, the energy and commitment of our students and the great variety of remarkable things that happen at Suffolk continue to amaze me every day. Suffolk students are making exceptional contributions, not only to the life of this University but also in the greater community.

The same is true of Suffolk alumni. As I wrote in my first letter to you last month, I have been inspired by the passion so many of you feel for this University. Your involvement and support make a huge difference in the lives of our students. That's why expanding the role of alumni and fostering deeper ties to the University are two of my highest priorities as president.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from many of you. I also welcome your perspective, ideas, and feedback. Please feel free to contact me at jmccarthy@suffolk.edu.

Sincerely,

JAMES MCCARTHY
President, Suffolk University
Follow the Leaders

From a reception for award-winning "Best of Boston" SULS graduates to a Business Complexity and Leader Conference to the annual Alumni Leadership Day, fall and winter events celebrated Suffolk trailblazers.
Student Elke Perkuhn JD '12, William Troupe JD '72, Dean Camille Nelson, Bernard Mulholland JD '78, and John Hislop JD '77

Patricia Annino JD '81 and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Andrew Meyer JD '74

Kathleen Engel, Associate Dean and Professor, Suffolk Law School

Greta Meszoly, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Business Complexity and Global Leadership

Sushil Bhatia MBA '79, provost Barry Brown, Dean William O'Neill JD '74, Hamid Benbrahim, Fidelity Investments

James Langley, president, James Langley Innovations

Leadership Day session

Sarah Klug BSBA '09, (in focus)

Mary DesBois BSBA '11

Drew O'Brien MSF '08

Dean Kenneth Greenberg and, Lina Rodriguez '13

Stephani Hildebrandt JD '00, Charles Butler BA '67, and Paul Nevins BA '66, JD '82
The Main Events

Your Alumni Association hosted a season of eclectic informational, cultural, social, and philanthropic opportunities. D.C. graduates enjoyed an evening of networking at Rosa Mexicano Restaurant. At a Sunday brunch on campus, scholar Matteo Casini illuminated guests about the unification of Italy upon the 150th anniversary of the nation. And once again this year, the Suffolk Stampede Fun Run & Walk on the Esplanade benefited Boston’s Eliot School.

a > John Tierney JD '76  
b > Bruce Traina MBA '87 and Alan Osterholm MBA '77  
c > Gil Schipani JD '09 and Matteo Casini, PHD, History Department  
d > Donna Madden JD '87, daughter Gillian Madden, Jenna Doherty, and Marisa Conti Doherty JD '87  
e > Thank you note from Eliot School Students  
f > At the starting line of Stampede Fun Run & Walk  
g > John McDonnell BSBA '83
Suffolk Salute to Veterans

In recognition of Hire A Veteran Month (November), the Alumni Association hosted “Marketing Your Military Service,” a free career seminar providing practical information and individual consultations.

Secretary of Veterans' Service Coleman Nee, Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development Joanne Goldstein, provost and former acting president Barry Brown

Kristin Healy BS '07 (panelist and veteran)

Eileen Cannon MBA '94 (resume reviewer)

Suzette Clinton MS '06 (resume reviewer) and Mike Ryan (veteran)

John Schwartz MHA '11 and Paul Nevins BA '66, JD '82 (both resume reviewers and veterans)

Paul Cincotta BS '90 (resume reviewer and veteran)

Michael Barretti MBA '82, instructor, Executive Education/Lifelong Learning (resume reviewer and veteran)
A Dream, Enlarged

For Lina Rodriguez '13 and her family, America promised opportunity; education expanded horizons. But college seemed out of reach, until...

BY FRANCIS STORRS

IN 1999, the promise of a good education for her young children brought Fernanda Canon to Massachusetts from Colombia, a country where even secondary schools are expensive. But living in the United States proved costly, too. "As a single mother with two kids"—Lina Rodriguez, then 9, and Santiago, 3—"I had to work very hard," says Canon, who put in 12-hour-plus days as a clerk at two department stores. Canon hoped her kids would excel in school, but she still didn't make nearly enough money to send them to college.

So Lina Rodriguez instead focused on building her career. She began serving meals at a nursing home when she was 13. At 16 and an honors student, she was hired as a hotel housekeeper, then later promoted to the front desk. She knew she could become a manager after graduation. "When we first came here, my family wanted the American dream," Rodriguez says. "I thought, this is awesome. We're doing it."

But Donna Goodliffe, her Westborough High School guidance counselor, told Rodriguez she owed it to herself to dream bigger. Goodliffe couldn't imagine a student with Rodriguez's grades not continuing her education. Her mother, though supportive, was skeptical they could make the numbers work. "[Rodriguez] had the love at home, she just needed someone to step in that knew the [application] process," Goodliffe says. She was right—Rodriguez was accepted to six of the eight schools she applied to.

Of course, getting into college was one thing; paying for it was another. One school offered a grant that meant she'd only be responsible for $6,000 a year, Rodriguez recalls, "but even that—we live paycheck to paycheck, where would we get $6,000?"

Then an offer arrived from Suffolk that changed the direction of Rodriguez's life. At Goodliffe's urging, she had applied to the University's elite Honors Program and was one of 11 students accepted, out of 354 who applied. The program would pay 100% of her tuition for all four years. "Once I got to Suffolk, I thought this is where I'm supposed to be," Rodriguez says. "Without the Honors Program, I wouldn't be here."

Seizing the opportunity to give back, Rodriguez began volunteering for the Suffolk Organization for Uplifting Lives through Service program (S.O.U.L.S) in her freshman year. When most college students were on spring break, she spent April 2010 building houses for Habitat for Humanity. The next year, she was hired as the S.O.U.L.S. alternative spring break scholar, a demanding work-study job that is part mentor, part admissions director, and part travel coordinator for hundreds of Suffolk students.

Rodriguez, named the university's sophomore of the year in 2010, characteristically over-delivered in the job. Asked to plan four trips during her sophomore year, she arranged six, then 10 this year. Next year, her goal is a dozen.

"Lina has this motivation to get things done," says S.O.U.L.S. Assistant Director Tim Albers. "It's exceptional." More impressive still, he adds, S.O.U.L.S. "is only one part of what she does at Suffolk and outside it." She's a senator for the junior class and co-chair of the student government's public relations committee; she's also on the Honors Council and is features editor of the online newspaper, president of Suffolk Bikes, and vice president of the Suffolk Hispanic Association. "It makes you think, 'What was I doing when I was her age?'" Albers says with a laugh.

When asked what drives her, Rodriguez points to her mother's work ethic. "She gave up a lot," she says. "Now my job is showing her it didn't go to waste." The first member of her family to go to college, Rodriguez is also setting an example for her relatives. One older cousin in Colombia saw her accomplishments and was inspired to enroll in college herself.

Rodriguez, a sociology major, hopes to join the Peace Corps after graduation, but for now her concerns are closer to home. When her brother Santiago, a high school freshman, doesn't give his best in school, she tells him how academics can open doors. "My son loves Lina and he follows what she's doing," Canon says. "Lina is a big example for him."

"Santi knows he's going to college," adds Rodriguez, in a way that suggests any resistance on her brother's part would be futile. "I'm making sure he does." ©
A Patent on Generosity
Tony LaConti BA '58 left a legacy of kindness
BY MARY GRAUERHOLZ

SCREENWRITER would have a field day telling Tony LaConti's story. Born to poor Italian immigrants at the Boston Salvation Army Hospital, Anthony Bazilio LaConti was a natural athlete who didn't own a baseball glove until he was grown, and he helped support his family as a teenager by stocking shelves and mucking stables. After attending Suffolk on an athletic scholarship, he earned advanced degrees and enjoyed a high-profile career in chemical engineering, during which he developed fuel cells for the NASA's Apollo and Gemini missions and was awarded 57 patents.

But even with its drama and Dickensian challenges, his story wouldn't have made it to the screen. LaConti, who passed away in September, surely would have declined. While boxes of awards burnished his professional profile, he found his success in his personal life far more meaningful. And anyway, as his wife, Brenda LaConti, says, "No one would have believed it, what Tony went through."

Bob Grasso BS '58 and LaConti were lifelong friends, but until the funeral, most of LaConti's greatest professional accomplishments sailed past Grasso. "I didn't know a lot of what Tony did until his eulogy," says Grasso. "The patents, some of them escaped me until then. He was the nicest friend. He was always humble."

Now, LaConti, who waged an 18-year battle with cancer leaves a lasting legacy through the Anthony B. LaConti Endowed Science Scholarship, which he and his wife established last year, during the final stages of LaConti's illness. "All of us in the family were thinking about a scholarship," Mrs. LaConti recalls. "Tony said that without Suffolk he wouldn't have gotten launched." The scholarship reflects her husband's deepest values, she adds, since he mentored and taught scores of young people as an athletic coach in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. "Everyone who worked for him loved him," Mrs. LaConti says. "The kids he coached, so many of them wrote to me after he died saying, 'He was the best coach I ever had.'"

George Doucet BA '59, MED '62 coached baseball and basketball at Suffolk, racking up wins and colorful one-liners that entertained crowds on and off the field. Before he coached LaConti, the two played both sports together at Revere High School. Doucet describes LaConti as a true scholar-athlete. "He was in science at Suffolk and would set up experiments, leave for practice, and go back to the lab to finish his work," Doucet recalls. "It was unbelievable."

Tony LaConti loved science and its potential to change the world, and he had stacks of awards from NASA, United Technologies, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other organizations. A founder of Giner Electrochemical Systems—a partnership with General Motors that accelerated the development of automotive fuel cells to reduce emissions—he stipulated that the scholarship benefit deserving students in Suffolk's College of Arts & Sciences, with preference to those majoring in chemistry, biochemistry, or biochemistry/forensic science.

In their 52-year marriage, the LaContis had three children, son Chris and daughters Cara and Jennifer, all of whom remember their father as the gentlest, kindest man they knew. "Tony would say to our kids, 'There is no shame in failure, only in quitting,'" Mrs. LaConti says. His spirit lasted to the end. When LaConti's cancer was diagnosed, Mrs. LaConti says, doctors told him he had two years; he lived for another 18.

"He was so damn stubborn," Mrs. LaConti recalls with a chuckle.

Known as "Ga" to his seven grandchildren, LaConti attended their athletic games long past the time of reason. "He would drag himself to the games," Cara recalls. When Cara's son Dominic's team won a baseball playoff series, the 12-year-old gave his trophy to LaConti. That meant more to him, Mrs. LaConti says, than his numerous professional awards, which stayed in boxes in the family's basement. "Tony never wanted to make money," she says. "He just wanted to make things better."
“N”ine out of 10 times, employees are misunderstood, misheard and mismanaged,” writes Beatrix Tambunan. She would know. Born in New York City, Tambunan was raised in Hong Kong in a time when “the classifieds specified a race, gender, and age group,” she says, a practice that "was totally accepted. Because the combination of where I was from and what I saw, it somehow destined me to [do] what I do today. I was especially upset over the Hong Kong employment practices and mistreatment of separated employees. I still remember my late father saying 'Study hard so you can help these people one day.'”

Tambunan decided to pursue human resources. “Getting my MS in HR at Suffolk strengthened my practices in the workforce,” she explains. After working as human resource manager for EDS (Electronic Data Systems, now a division of Hewlett-Packard), Tambunan launched her own company, True Staffing, which specializes in career counseling, coaching, and permanent recruiting. Her book, What Not to Do on an Interview is expected to be published this spring.

“I love trouble-shooting areas where I can help people and organizations become more productive,” Tambunan says. “I wanted to be in HR because of the art and science of managing people. When your employees say ‘thank you,’ you know you are doing your job right.”

Here, she offers an insider’s perspective on a timely human resources topic: the all-important job interview.

1 NEON NO-NO’S
Bright blue, lime green, and florescent yellow may be appropriate colors for the apparel of circus applicants but for interviewers in most professions, they are distractions. You want the focus on what you’re saying, not what you’re wearing. Set a serious tone with softer hues.

2 BE SAFE, DON’T BEJEWELED
You see your dangling earrings as a fashion statement. Your prospective employer sees them as a lawsuit waiting to happen. Particularly if you are interviewing for a position in an environment that requires safety training, don’t leave a visual impression of your ear being snagged by office equipment.

3 OPEN TOES CLOSE MINDS
If the weather really dictated the most appropriate footwear, employees could dress in bathing suits each summer. Sandals and flip-flops make an overly casual impression and also raise red flags about safety.

4 FILE UNDER “NAILED”
Fake nails are not only distracting in an interview, they also suggest an employee may not be ready to roll up her sleeves and get her hands dirty.

5 DON’T OVER-DO
Whether your interview is in person or via Skype, impressions matter. "Wedding hair" or heavily gelled do’s with color scream “high maintenance.” Don’t confuse your interviewer’s big smile with cheerfulness. It is their polite way of laughing inside.
Stay Connected

You can reach your classmates on the following pages through the Suffolk University Alumni Association Online Community.

If you are not currently a member, please e-mail SuffAlum@Suffolk.edu for your user ID number to register. Registration is free and the easiest way to stay in touch with more than 67,000 Suffolk University graduates worldwide. (Due to privacy concerns, we are unable to print or provide individual contact information.)

1953
Joseph Zaitchik (BA) is professor emeritus at University of Massachusetts Lowell. Over the years he has published short stories, articles, book reviews, and college textbooks, and last fall he published his first novel, The Fitting.

1957
James Towslee (Diploma), who lives in Vermont, was treated to a Red Sox game for Father’s Day by his son, a Boston bank manager. Watching from great seats (“I swear I could see the stitches on the players’ uniforms”), James was lucky to catch a Tim Wakefield-led win. As an added bonus, he saw the Boston Bruins celebrate their Stanley Cup win by riding around Fenway Park in duck boats prior to the game.

1961
"After working at City Mart, Raymond’s, and Kennedy’s Men’s Store (art director), I married a law student (Boston College),” writes Sandra (Mapes) Abatielli (Diploma). "After his graduation we moved to his hometown, Rutland, VT. I worked for a while at an ad agency, became pregnant, and retired to raise four beautiful and intelligent children, Ethan, Audra, Helvi, and Deana.” Sandra’s husband of 47 years is now, sadly, in a nursing home, though, as she says, "I’m thankful our children live locally and, between them and eight grandchildren, I’m blessed."

1962
"Wow, can you believe it—June 2012 will be 50 years!” writes Alan Chapman (BS). “Mark June 8-9 on your calendar for the 50th reunion. Let’s show our alma mater what a 50th reunion is all about! We are planning a range of wonderful events.” For more information and to make sure your contact information is up to date, contact Laura Piscopo, director of alumni relations, at lpiscopo@suffolk.edu or 617-573-8457; or classmate Alan Chapman at achapman@alum.suffolk.edu.

1964
Michael Petringa (Diploma) had an exhibition of his abstract and representational paintings at Abby Park restaurant in Milton, MA, from March through May 2011. It was the first time that many of his largest works were exhibited together in one show.

1968
Mel Sudalter (BA) writes, “Nov. 9, 1941, Fort Bragg, NC, 82nd Airborne Division 2/504 parachute infantry. Pvt. Mel Sudalter received his paratrooper wings at a ceremony honoring him as the designated 50,000th graduate of the famed jump school.”

1971
John J. (Jack) Gallagher (BSBA) writes, "I am semiretired from a wonderful career in accounting and finance due to my superior education and training received at Suffolk University."

1972
Ed Mitchell (Diploma) retired from the printing business and then became a policeman for three years before going to work for an appliance business. He is, as he says, “still married to the same wonderful woman, and [we] have seven grandchildren.” He and his wife have left Cape Cod, MA, after six years there and have moved to Franklin, MA, where Ed still “babbles in photography and art” while they decide where they want to live more permanently.

“I am living in Oldsmar, Fl., and work as a manager at Labcorp,” writes Don Archambault (BS). “I have been there for six years. I am married with two grown children and three grandchildren.”

DeeDee (Dolores) Fici (BS) writes, “In September 1972, I began my career as a staff medical technologist at the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston. After 16 years there, I moved ahead with additional specialist certifications. My clinical experience proved to be extremely valuable in the academic and research world as well. So, for the next 18 years I was able to learn more than I could ever teach at the immune Disease Institute in Boston. After participating in many [National Institutes of Health]-funded grant programs, co-authoring many publications, and being a co-inventor on a patent, I began a new adventure in the biotechnology industry at Pulsar Clinical Technologies inc. in Cambridge as laboratory director. My adventure continues today at BioSciences Research Associates Inc., also in Cambridge. In March 2010, I was honored to be a winner in the Sawyer Business School New Product Innovation Competition. With the help of the program’s founder, Dr. Sushil Bhatia, and his excellent team of volunteers, my new product idea for a biological sample and retrieval system—originally called ‘Mag-Cap’ and now ‘Cap-Sure’—has been developed, patented, [and] licensed and is currently in the process of being manufactured. I can still remember Dr. Beatrice Snow driving a small group of us biology majors to Suffolk-affiliated hospitals that offered medical technology internships. Our senior year was spent away from the University, but before we left we honored Dr. Snow with a plaque from the class of 1972 in gratitude. Our return for graduation with the rest of our class was like coming home for the holidays. During the previous four years we were all the recipients of many gifts from our Suffolk family. Over the 40 years that followed, the gifts that I received have been used, shared, enjoyed, and so very much appreciated. My Suffolk education has been the foundation for my career and for my lifetime.”

1974
John Roman (Diploma) had a full-page illustration published in American Cowboy magazine’s Legends of the West issue. The illustration, a map of “Cowboy America,” features favored travel destinations from the cowboy’s perspective (e.g., west of the Mississippi), in a contributor’s profile, he mentions NESADSU.

1976
Charles A. Waehler (BSJ) has co-authored What Do I Say?: The Therapist’s Guide to Answering Client Questions. Psychologist Waehler details the challenges and opportunities inherent in exploring clients’ direct questions, which are often a source of concern to anyone in the helping professions.

1977
Tom Hanley (BS), director of community relations at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital (a member of Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, MI), was elected to the executive committee of the Public Relations Society of America Health Academy and to the board of directors of The First Tee of West Michigan.

1978
"After 32 years in sales management in the automotive industry on Cape Cod, I changed my career to real estate," notes Keith Sexton (BS). "Working for the Osterville, MA, office of William Raives Real Estate has been a rewarding experience and a change for me. Joining a company that is as professional, aggressive, and organized as William Raives has helped me through a smooth transition. Married for 31 years, we currently reside in Cotuit on Cape Cod.
Cod. My wife, Pam, and I have one son, who recently graduated from Wake Forest University and resides and works in Denver, CO.

1979
Michelle Dietch (Diploma) has won yet another award for her design work on behalf of the School Nutrition Association (SNA). SNA was the recipient of the 2011 APEX Award for Publication Excellence for Michelle's work on the 2010 annual conference campaign, in the "Marketing and Public Relations Campaign, Program and Plan" category. The award was based on "excellence in graphic design, editorial content, and the success of the entry in achieving overall communications effectiveness and excellence." Michelle designed the conference logo, preliminary program, postcards, ads, and other collateral pieces.

Richard Krawiec (BSJ) recently published his second book of poems, She Hands Me the Razor. Former North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer calls the book "an edgy and satisfying marriage of tenderness and well-honed attentiveness to the connections, often fraying, among people and the various places in which they find themselves, both physically and emotionally."

1980
After a layoff from a paralegal position following 9/11, Maurine McDermott (BA) earned a master's degree in education with a major in special education from the University of Massachusetts Boston. She was hired by the Boston Public Schools (BPS) to work as a moderate special needs teacher. She also earned certification as an administrator of special education and became licensed as a teacher of English as a second language. "My career as a teacher/administrator has been filled with personal and professional success," Maurine writes. "I have helped many young people with disabilities overcome obstacles to their learning and go on to lead happy and productive lives. I especially enjoyed teaching at the Social Justice Academy at the Hyde Park Education Complex, where the focus was civil rights and tolerance. While it has been many years since I graduated from Suffolk University, I have always carried with me fond memories of my four years as a student there. Had it not been for Suffolk University, I would not be the proud professional that I am today. My experience in law, combined with my career change to the field of education, has been fulfilling, and I owe a debt of gratitude to Suffolk and the professors who continued to help me fulfill my dreams even after graduation, particularly Dr. John Kavanaugh. It is with sincere appreciation that I send to you this long overdue note, and I look forward to being more active in the Alumni Association in the future."

1981
Jon Vincent Gottlieb (BSJ) writes that he is "unemployed due to [a] medical disability but looking to return to the business world."

1983
Suzanne (Meyer) Fitzsimmons (Diploma), who worked in design during the 1980s and 1990s and who later worked in small-business financial management, is now completing her Master of Arts degree in liberal studies/holistic living. Concurrently she is working on a creative nonfiction book on the same subject. She has organized and given talks on the environment and our relationship with nature and plans to teach, coach, write, and speak on related subjects in the future. Suzanne lives in Warwick, NY, with her husband and two children.

1984
Craig Harrison (Diploma) has moved his design practice from New Hampshire to Peacham, VT, and, on Oct. 9, married his fiancée, Anna, who is the director of external relations at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, VT. Besides a wife, Craig has gained a son, Moses, who is four and a half and hails from Ethiopia.

Kate Keough (Diploma) was notified in October that she was the winner of Norwalk Furniture's 2011 sofa design competition. Kate, one of 45 designers who entered the competition, won for a contemporary four-piece sectional that she subsequently named Sofia (after her cat). The five contest finalists were joined by more than 200 other interior designers at the Norwalk showroom to hear television personality Candice Olson talk about her own start as a designer.

1985
In January, Shelly Leighton Clark (BS) released a CD titled Hymn consisting of "traditional hymns with a sprinkle of classical, gospel jazz."

Jeanette Baldwin (Diploma) landed a new job at Owens-Asnes-Kimball (OAK) in Fort Myers, FL. OAK is a large construction and construction management firm with five offices in Florida and Michigan. "Looks like my background of everything under the sun has come in handy," Jeanette writes. "I will be doing graphics (3D if needed) for all their print work and putting together all their presentations for job bidding and whatever else comes along (including CAD
[computer-aided design] work and designs for T-shirts, stickers, or signs for special functions. So far it seems like a nice bunch of people and a really solid company.”

1987 REUNION

Raquel Ghinaglia (Diploma), recently moved to Miami after years as a designer in Caracas, Venezuela. After graduation she worked at a graphic design studio, Barry Laughlin & Associates, as head of the production department, followed by a stint as art director in the advertising department of a television station, RCTV. Most recently she started her own studio, Studio Grafico G, while teaching three different courses at Instituto de Diseño de Caracas and freelancing.

1989

Jack Kacian (Diploma) has left The Holbek Group and, with two colleagues, has opened his own exhibition and environmental fabrication company, called 42 DesignFab, in Indian Orchard, MA. The company, which designs and fabricates museum exhibitions, special environments, and unique creations (“from the elegant to the whimsical”) for institutions, businesses, organizations, and private individuals, also just completed an episode of Extreme Makeover Home Edition.

Mark Fisher (Diploma), who’s been writing music and performing for years, is now teaching a course called Introduction to Songwriting at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, MA. The course, which includes in-class workshops, critiques, at-home projects, and guest speakers, covers topics such as starting the songwriting process, writing with no instrument, making a demo, performance tips, and much more. Mark has released five CDs and received two Worcester Music Awards. He has written jingles for commercials, played thousands of dates solo and as a band member, and opened for numerous national acts.

1990

Lisa Mafrici (BA) recently assumed the position of managing development editor with Cengage Learning, Boston.

1993

Erik Bunker (Diploma) wrote about the birth of son Quentin, called “Max,” born Dec. 15. Erik and his wife, Holly, both teach at Weymouth High School, in Weymouth, MA. Holly as a graphic designer and Erik as the head of the art department, where he’s worked for some time. He also began teaching painting this summer at the South Shore Art Center in Cohasset, MA, which he calls “a nice change from the mural work of the past.”

1994

Gustavo Leon (Diploma) has been promoted to managing editor/creative at the Boston Herald, where he’s been since 1995. Starting as a features page designer and working his way to creative director, Gustavo has won 36 design awards since starting with the Herald, while overseeing the redesign of several of the paper’s sister publications. The Herald quoted Editor-in-Chief Joe Sciacca as saying, “Gustavo has a great eye and a unique perspective that will bring a powerful presentation of our content to the readers of the Herald and on bostonherald.com.”

In September 2011, Rev. V. Gordon Glenn III (BA) was reassigned as the pastor of St. John A.M.E. Church in Topeka, KS, for another year. He lives in Topeka with his wife, Rachel, and daughter, Denver, who is now a third-grader.

1995

“From the past 10 years I have been managing Raytheon’s design and Web department, with about 20 designers working for me,” notes Keith Sturdevant (Diploma). “One of my designers went to NESAD. Talia Galasso (BFA ’05). She is great; very creative. This past year I was promoted to manager for the communications department, now managing writers, designers, and OCM [original component manufacturer] folks.”

1997

Christian Cibotti (BS) is working for John Casablancas/Model Talent Management as a booking agent/instructor/promotions director. “I also work for Distill Productions performing in Joxy and Maria’s Comedy Italian Wedding as well as seven other shows,” he adds. “I own my own production company, Reeltime Productions. We just debuted our new show, Cornioke.com. I was just offered the role of an undercover cop in [the film] RIPD, which is shooting in Boston. The film stars Ryan Reynolds and Jeff Bridges.”

1998

Heather (Durocher) Santos (BFA) announced the latest addition to her family, daughter Gabriella, born in April 2010. Gabriella joins brother Jackson, now 3. Heather is an associate interior designer and LEED-accredited professional at TRO JungBrannen in Boston. Heather has worked on a number of large projects in her career, the latest being a new patient bed tower for Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, CT. “I have been working here for 10 years—really enjoy healthcare. I’m doing what I love, and I feel like I’m making a difference too. Can it get any better?”

Dave Faucher (Diploma ’99, BFA ’99) has been having fun at Bose as a associate creative director working on new product campaigns, and he had the privilege to work with David Carson this past year. Carson recently left Bose, “but it was an amazing experience working with one of the most influential graphic designers of our time,” Dave says. At home Dave and his wife, Sofia, have a new son, Blake, born on April 2, 2010, keeping big sister Madeline, now 5, company.

1999

Gayle B. Lee (Paralegal Certificate) is working as a contract paralegal, handling attorney billings, court and arbitration, and on-site client visits.

2001

Brian Hamlon (BFA) returned to Boston last fall from Cork, Ireland, where he had been living since graduation, to play his unique brand of Irish music at the Burren in Davis Square (Somerville, MA). A large and enthusiastic crowd, including NESADSU professor Jen Fuchel, was on hand with a rousing welcome and a siáinte, an Irish toast, to Brian.

2002 REUNION

In November, Jennifer (Mckeeney) Simoneau (BA) joined Boston Community Capital’s SUN Initiative Program as a consultant attorney. SUN works with banks and attorneys to stop the eviction process, purchase foreclosed properties at current market values, and resell those properties to their current occupants at a significant discount off the prior mortgage value.

2003

Heather Daugherty (BFA) celebrated her first anniversary with the Random House Children’s Publishing Group in New York. “I’m designing everything from trade picture books through young adult novels in paperback and hardcover for several award-winning imprints, including Alfred A. Knopf and Delacorte Press. I’m working on lots of middle-grade and teen books right now and finally getting to design out of my own creative mind, instead of designing for a brand or license.” On another note, Heather and her husband, Dave, celebrated their fifth anniversary last year with a trip to London, Amsterdam, and Paris. “It rained [almost] the whole time, it was freezing. I got a severe toothache halfway through the trip, and I broke Dave’s uber-expensive camera by pouring water all over it in my bag... and it was still the best trip of my life!” she writes.

Nicole (Rivera) Goksel (BSBA) has been living in Istanbul, Turkey, for the past two years with her husband of six years. She conducts business in Turkish as the advertising products manager for Mynet.com, the largest online portal in Turkey, reaching 20 million unique visitors each month.

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2003
Kseniya Galper (BFA) sent a message announcing the "birth" of her latest project, a book called Zero. Created for an iPod platform, it combines illustration, animation, and video. The story was written by Jan Egleson, with Kseniya doing the visuals (including artwork and layout). As she notes, "I've been working on this project since I graduated from NESADSL, and I am very excited to see it finally materialize... after so many years."

2004
Sara (Buckley) Knudsen (BFA 2004, Diploma 1995) and her "boat captain husband"—whom she met while working on a commuter boat in Boston Harbor while in school—and daughter, Mia, welcomed a new addition to their family almost two years ago: a son Michael, "whom we all adore," she says. Since then Sara has been working as an art teacher for the Quincy Public Schools, moving around at all levels in the system, and now she is at the new Quincy High School. "Most of my students are non-English-speaking, as Quincy is rapidly becoming more and more culturally diverse. They place many of the new students in my art classes because they figure art is a universal language and students don't feel quite as lost as in their other classes. It's a challenge, but I love it." Sara adds, "Tell Audley [Goldstein] I say hi. I loved my years at NESAD and miss so many people there who had such a positive influence on me."

Mary (Qaqish) Madden (BFA) and Joshua Madden were married on Aug. 28, 2010, at Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate in Waltham, MA. Following a honeymoon in San Francisco and Sonoma, CA, the bride and groom are living in Waltham. Joshua, who received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, currently works for iRobot in Bedford, MA, while Mary is with Loyalty Express, a leading mortgage retailer in Woburn, MA.

Kate McLean (Diploma) has been awarded a Master of Fine Arts with distinction in graphic design from Edinburg (UK) College of Art. She took part in her thesis exhibition in June, with best pals Rita and Morgan Daly in attendance. Rita is the director of the MA program in graphic design at NESADSL, in which Kate teaches during the summer, and a partner at graphic design firm Daly & Daly Inc. in Brookline, MA. She and Morgan are also Kate's hosts in the United States and cheerleaders at her many energetic endeavors, like the Boston Marathon.

2005
"I was founder of the Suffolk University Turkish Society," writes Kaan Erdogan (BSBA), adding, "I don't know if [that] still exists!" Kaan was promoted to professional oral care field manager at Colgate-Palmolive Turkey in June and has been working in Istanbul since 2007. "PS," he adds, "I would be happy to help and advise anyone in Turkey considering studying at Suffolk."

2006
Since graduating, Marissa E. Borst (BFA) started her career in sales and marketing for Allied Domecq Liquors & Jim Beam Brands in the Boston area. She currently spends her days in the metro Washington, D.C. area as a commercial/hospitality interior designer for Architecture + Design Associates Inc. and owner of All's Well That Ends Well Designs (AWTEW), which specializes in miscellaneous art and graphic design. Marissa is a member of Cambridge Who's Who and Filipino Young Professionals D.C., and she will be the 2012 director of programming for the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality. AWTEW Designs is teaming up to develop and execute an art program with FACETS Care, a nonprofit organization that assists those in need of emergency shelter, food, and medical needs. In Marissa's "spare time," she teaches weekly piano lessons and choreographs competition dances. When work is not consuming her time, she enjoys taking yoga and dance classes and spending time with her 3-year-old daughter, Eve Autumn.

Ken Fonzi (BA) is now associate director of online development information systems and services at the Children's Hospital Foundation in Washington, D.C. Prior to this, Ken had been living in Providence, RI, and working for the Rhode Island School of Design. He volunteers his services as a Web administrator for Options, Rhode Island's oldest LGBT publication, and he is proud to serve on Suffolk's Alumni Board for the College of Arts & Sciences. "Man," he writes, "I sound so BUSY!"

2007
Since graduating, Nathan Ryan (BS) has moved to Seattle and increased his family size with three additional children: Flannery, 4; Waylon, 2; and Harper, 5 months (Clementine, 5, was born between fall/spring semester of '05-'06). Nathan is currently the worship and arts director at All Souls Church Seattle, a church located in West Seattle, and he has released three albums with his band Knathan Ryan & the Silent Ks.

Bob Finneran (BFA) went to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts for its postbaccalaureate program in painting. He completed the diploma program in May 2010, concentrating on the human form and using oils almost exclusively.

Nelia Braga (BFA) has left Educators Publishing Service (EPS) for a full-time job teaching graphic design at Somerville High School, while finishing up a master's degree in advertising and public relations at Suffolk (along with setting up her own freelance business). She has been working since May to professionalize the program, updating software, adding Adobe Illustrator and InDesign, introducing typography and art history segments, implementing a more business-like environment in the studio, and generally making her students aware of all the options available to them. In the process, she writes, "The kids are showing great promise, and [I] see an immense difference in their thought processes since I first met them."

Shauna Wymyczak (BFA) has relocated to the Buffalo, NY, area, where she is enrolled in the Master of Architecture program at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Before that she was an interior designer at ADD Inc. in Cambridge.

Courtney Sprague (BA) reports, "For the past year I have served as the conference co-chair for the 2011 Annual Fall Conference for the Middle Atlantic Career Counselor Association (MACCA)." This conference took place in Lancaster, PA, in December. This is Courtney's second year on MACCA's executive board.

Anthony Bababekov (BSBA) recently competed in Suffolk's Fifth Annual New Product Innovation Competition. A finalist during last year's competition (2009-2010), Anthony was awarded first place for his "Still Grips" innovation this year (2010-2011). "Still Grips" is an environmentally friendly adhesive that sticks onto the soles of shoes. He writes, "The New Product Innovation Competition is a great avenue to showcase your ideas. Innovate, inspire...and THINK BIG." Anthony also created, composed, and recorded an official New Product Innovation rap for the competition.

2008
"I am a senior accountant at Liberty Mutual," writes Azra Dipa (BS). "In the past few years I have gone to visit London and Istanbul. I also spend a good amount of time in New Hampshire."

After leaving the interior design firm of Meichi Peng, Amanda Hark (BFA) has started Hark + Osborne interior Design with a former co-worker. They have a studio in Boston's South End. Amanda and her husband, Michael, have two children, Sophia and Mason. "I am so glad to see the new Interior Architecture program," Amanda says. "Who knows, maybe I will be a NESAD student again!"
2009

"I am currently enjoying an exciting career in luxury real estate in San Diego, CA," writes Louis Ray Brignac (BS). "I look forward to hearing from any alumni visiting or relocating to the greater San Diego area."

Dan Vidal (BSBA) writes, "My startup, ArtVenue, has had lots of recent news. For starters, ArtVenue was a $50,000 winner in this year’s Mass Challenge competition. We have also had lots of recent press coverage, including the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, WCVB-TV’s Chronicle, the Weekly Dig, and more. We will be participating in the South By Southwest Interactive Festival in March. We are also part of the Dogpatch Labs startup community and are looking for college interns to join our team for the spring 2012 semester."

Jess Huckins (BA) recently got engaged. "Does SAM run alumni engagement announcements?" she asks. "I still feel very close to the Suffolk community, and I'd like to get the word out if possible." Done.

Christina Watka (BFA) landed her "dream job" as a display coordinator at Anthropologie. Also, she writes, "I just finished my first solo art show at Voltage Coffee and Art in Kendall Square [Cambridge, MA]."

Barclay Douglas (BFA) worked for Edelman Digital in New York before taking a long-term freelance position with publisher Condé Nast as a Web designer. In September the company brought him on full-time. Since he’s been at Condé Nast, Barclay has co-designed the new Vanity Fair site and has worked on iPad, iPhone, Nook, and Web designs for Epicurious.com and Style.com, among other Condé Nast brands. He is now the lead designer of the new Condé Nast Traveler website.

Maria Galante (BFA) notes that four members of the Tewksbury Community of Artists (TCA) are alumni of NESADSU: "Myself, Richie Sarno (Diploma ’76), Jodi [DeFranza] Callahan (Diploma ’85), and Jeannette [Ingalls] Waugh (Diploma ’94). We are three women who are members and part of the (volunteer) board for TCA. Richie is one of TCA’s most esteemed judges for our annual art festival in the fall. Funny how this just happened and we talk about how much we still love our school."

Caitlin Thompson (BFA) is living in Westbrook, ME, next to Portland, and working as the marketing director at Bailey Sign Inc. She recently redesigned and launched the company’s website, is finishing a logo design for My Preferred Wines (website to launch soon), and is doing fabric design in hopes of creating an interior furnishings line for boats ("People put just as much time and energy into their boats up here as they do their homes," she writes.) In addition to all of that, Caitlin has a two-month-old daughter, Avery Jade, who’s "really been my inspiration to push myself creatively."

Emily Ferguson (BFA) has followed a long line of NESADSU alumni and has landed a job as a junior designer at Hill Holliday Connors Cosmopolis in Boston. She started work on May 16 ("So excited!").

Andrew Luk (BFA) and Isaac Mitchell (BFA ’11) are backpacking and blogging their way through Southeast Asia, presumably until such time as they either run out of money or can no longer absorb the myriad sensations of Asian culture. They met in Bangkok, Andrew having arrived from Boston via Hong Kong, and Isaac from Boston via England and Istanbul.

2010

Lauren DeFranza (BFA) has landed a new job as a junior designer at AGAIN Interactive, an interactive/Web design studio in New Jersey. AGAIN Interactive specializes in developing "smart, successful client campaigns by leveraging emerging technologies and marketing channels."

1965

Paul Kearney (BS ‘62, MA ’65) retired in 1998 after a 34-year career as a Massachusetts public school principal. He and his wife of 50 years have three children and nine grandchildren. They retired to The Villages of Florida, where he is the president emeritus of the Glenbrook Club, and they maintain a summer home in Plymouth, MA. Paul resides in Pembroke, MA, throughout his working career, served on the Pembroke School Committee, and was a scout leader for his sons’ troop. "Golf, bicycling, reading, and social functions fill the days," he says. "Looking forward with much anticipation to the 50th class reunion celebration in June."

1971

Maureen T. (O’Leary) O’Rourke (MED), formerly of South Boston and now of West Roxbury, MA, is in her 27th year as director of guidance at Mount Alvernia High School, an all-girls Franciscan day school in Newton, MA. She has three daughters: Megan (JD ’05), Kerry, and Cristin.

1973

James R. Gambardella (MED) writes, "Our son Daniel J. Gambardella (BS ’01) — a graduate of Suffolk in addition to myself and my wife, Maureen E. (Riley) Gambardella (BA ’72) — is getting married to Monica Ferriera of Swansea, MA. The wedding is planned for June 9."

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1975

Walter Correa (MED) — tax consultant, insurance broker, Quincy College Plymouth adjunct faculty member, and great-grandfather of nine — is an organist for the Freemasons, among other volunteer activities.

1981

"I came to Suffolk in 1947 right after WWII as one of seven women and 500 men," recalls Elaine Schivek (BA '53, MED '81). "I started the first women's group in 1947, and we met in the ladies room. I was the secretary. I married at 19 while a junior, and my daughter, Helene, was born in 1950 while I attended Suffolk. I was the first pregnant female student at Suffolk. I won four scholarships for need and academic achievement and made the Dean's List all the way through. In 1953, I started to substitute teach in the Boston School Department and then taught there for many years. I attended grad school and won a fellowship through Dr. Joseph McCarthy, a wonderful professor. I have three children, Helene Demeo (BS '74), Alan, who graduated [from] Northeastern University, and Howard, who graduated [from] Hofstra University in New York. I have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. I still teach school part-time and am an active alumna. I owe a lot to Suffolk, all my professors, and Dorothy McNamara, the bursar."

Delphine Lynetta Vasser (MPA) recently celebrated 31 years in ministry and 23 in the pastoral ministry. She serves as pastor of the St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in Mexia, TX.

Al Bonfatti (MBA) works on infrastructure projects at Harding and Smith in Walpole (MA).

"I love you all and I need to know how you are doing," writes Michael Galiouby (MBA) to the classes of 1980 and 1981.

1982

Paula Scott Dehetre (MPA) of Mechanicsville, VA, traveled to Cape Cod, MA, in July for a Sullivan family reunion with more than 100 of her maternal cousins from across the country. Joining her was cousin Ellen McGarth Koldewey (JD '82) from Santa Ana, CA. In photo: Paula, son Jake, husband David, and daughter Jeanne.

1992

Arthur Makar (MED) has been appointed executive director of Fight For Sight, a 65-year-old national nonprofit organization based in New York City that supports and inspires eye and vision research by funding promising scientists early in their careers. Arthur is also an adjunct instructor at the Heyman Center for Philanthropy and Fundraising at New York University.

1997

Barbara Townsend (EMBA) is currently working for Baylor Health Care System in Dallas, TX. She is responsible for metrics and measurements, portfolio management training, and project management. She was a recipient of the President's Service Excellence Award from the company in June. Barbara also went on a pilgrimage this year to Ireland, Scotland, and England.

1999

Melisa Berryman (MPA) just published her first book, "People Training for Good Dogs: What Breeders Don't Tell You and Trainers Don't Teach." After investigating numerous dog bite injury incidents and mediating many vicious dog complaints, I found that dog owners needed to widen their thinking from a dog/owner relationship to include community as well," Melisa explains. "I began teaching dog handling skills, as opposed to dog training, to area residents while an animal control officer, focusing on safety and liability protection to help owners avoid common legal problems that go along with dog ownership. While at Suffolk I devised a dog owner course similar to defensive driving, which is the basis of the book. I currently own and operate People Training for Good Dogs, specializing in dog care and dog owner services." Melisa lives on Cape Cod with her husband, Mark.

2000

Larry Jonas (MBA) is the director of background investigations for Iron Mountain in Boston.

2001

"We joyfully announce the birth of our daughter, Amelia Marie, born May 17, 2011," writes Elizabeth Krol (MBA). "She was 8 lbs, 2 oz., and 20.25 inches long. Big brother Michael (10) and big sister Lily (7) are delighted with their new baby sister."

2003

Michael J. Randall (MED) was appointed major gifts officer at Salem State University. He recently served as the associate director for development at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA, where he was responsible for the cultivation and solicitation of the school's largest supporters. Michael was previously employed at Merrimack College as manager of the annual fund. Prior to his development career, Michael's involvement in higher education was as director of student activities at two Massachusetts colleges. He resides in Danvers, MA, with his wife and two young children.

"I love to travel, and I love to manage manufacturing organizations," explains Joseph Bazzinotti (MBA), who started running his first company at 26 years old. "I got a job in 1998 at Invensys Corp. as director of manufacturing and was responsible for several factories located in China, France, Germany, Mexico, California, and Massachusetts. My career stalled and I needed to continue my edu-
tion past the bachelor's level. After getting my MBA, I was promoted to vice president at Inversys Corp. My degree has opened many doors for me that would have otherwise been closed. At 48 years old, I am now president and CEO of American Dryer Corp. Being CEO for a midsize manufacturing company in Massachusetts is a dream come true, and I look forward to coming to work every day. Thank you Suffolk University, I could never have done it without you."

2004

Anita Hamalainen (MA) announced the arrival of twins, who joined her son, Jamie. Her twins were born in September, "a long eight and a half hours apart." Leo (the one on the bottom) was born naturally on the 4th at 6 lbs., 12 oz. "Happily everyone is healthy and doing quite well," she says.

2005

TD Bank has promoted Stephanie A. (Ottariano) Mon­son (MSF) to commercial portfolio loan officer III in com­mercial lending in Dover, NH. She is responsible for moni­toring a portfolio of commercial loans, including assisting lenders in managing loan relationships, serving clients throughout the region. Stephanie joined TD Bank in 2007 and has six years of experience in banking and lending. She previously has served as a credit analyst.

"My second child, Samuel Vollert Bradshaw, was born on Oct. 15, 2011," reports Robert Bradshaw (EMBA) "Very excited."

2007

In July 2011, Kathleen M. Beriau (MHA) was appointed director of finance at Speare Memorial Hospital in Plym­outh, NH. Mark Cho (MSF) was promoted from investment analyst to assistant vice president, investment analyst at Fred Al­ger & Co. Inc. in New York City. He passed CFA [Chartered Financial Analyst] Level I in June 2011.

2008

Melanie Pellegrini (MA) recently was promoted to asso­ciate at CBT Architects in Boston. She has been an interior designer at the firm since 2007 and has been working on commercial interior renovation and hospitality projects for clients in and around Boston.

Leah West (MPA) was recently promoted to the position of director of administration for Boston Health Centers at Harbor Health Services Inc. based in Dorchester, MA. Leah has been with Harbor Health for the past eight years and started out at the Mid-Upper Cape Community Health Center in Hyannis, MA. She has since been promoted to director of administration at Neponset Health Center in Dorchester and now is responsible for the administrative departments at Geiger Gibson Community Health Center (the first community health center in the country) at Col­umbia Point as well. Leah lives on Cape Cod with her three children: Katie, 14; Hannah Jane, 13; and Matthew, 10.

Victor Carlevala (EMBA) officially launched Victor Car­levala Realty in November 2011—a real estate company located in Whitman, MA—after his wife, Paola, passed the real estate salesperson exam and joined the company as a Realtor.

Daniel O’Driscoll (MED) writes, "My wife, Kristen, and I had a baby boy, Ryan Patrick O’Driscoll, on Nov. 23, 2011."

2009

Cheryl Bowes (BA '06, MA '09) writes, "After teach­ing English for a year at the KinderGarten s.r.o. in Prague, Czech Republic, I’m now teaching English in a public mid­dle school in Wonju-Si, South Korea."

"After dating for six years, I am recently engaged to Aleah Rubin," writes Adam Knoll (MSCJ). "We are going to be married on Sept. 22, 2012, in North Falmouth, MA. Aleah is a compliance officer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Brookline, MA, and I am a user experience/usability business analyst at ConnectEDU in Boston."

Shannon Gardner McHale (MBA) is a commercial under­writer at Safety Insurance in Boston and a CPCU [Char­tered Property Casualty Underwriter] candidate.

2010

TD Bank has promoted Derek P. Davoli (MBA) to portfolio manager in commercial lending in Beverly, MA. An assistant vice president, he will manage a portfolio of 37 exist­ing commercial customers with an aggregate outstanding loan balance of approximately $106 million. He joined TD Bank in 2004 as a retail management trainee, served as a customer sales and service manager in Newburyport, MA, and most recently as a regional credit analyst based in Beverly. A resident of Haverhill, MA, Derek is a member of the board of directors, serves as co-treasurer, and volunteers as a coach for Riverside Bradford Baseball in Haverhill.

Krista Lannoni (MA) has accepted a position as an inte­rior designer in the Boston office of Bergmeyer, an archi­tecture and interior design firm specializing in academic, workplace, retail, and food-service design, as well as com­mercial and residential developments. She is also prepar­ing for the NCIDQ [National Council for Interior Design Qualification] exam and hopes to receive that certification in spring.

2011

Elena N. Khoury (JD/MBA) writes, "After receiving my diploma in January, I remained in the Boston area and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in June. Since then I have been searching for full-time work and have done some traveling. In July, I volunteered my time in Albania for two weeks."

LAW

1971

"I am now a retired Federal Trade Commission attorney liv­ing in San Francisco, CA," writes Ralph E. Stone (JD). "My wife and I enjoy traveling. Our latest trip was to central Europe (Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava, and Prague). I volunteer at a domestic violence clinic helping battered women obtain restraining orders against their batterers. I also assist people with their consumer prob­lems on a consumer hotline at ABC-TV Channel 7 in San Francisco, and online with Consumer Action. Finally, I write a weekly article for four different websites."
"I have been meaning to tell a bit of my family story," writes Bob Parrillo (JD). "My family emigrated from Italy in 1890. My ancestors were stone carvers, and I have taken up stone carving. I have obtained my Italian citizenship, so now I have dual citizenship. I have retired from a law practice I loved, I have gone on to the next chapter, producing feature-length films and doing some film acting. When I was practicing I would create a Thanksgiving card each year, I did the artwork, layout, and text. I always look forward to hearing the things for which others are thankful."

John Bonee (JD) is enjoying practicing at his new location in West Hartford Center (CT) as BoneeWeintrub LLC. The five-lawyer firm focuses on personal injury, estate and trusts, will contests, general civil litigation, business/commercial law, and real estate, depending on the partner's preference. "With a 10-year-old son, John Alexander, to raise and educate, retirement is not even a whimsical consideration," he explains. "I frequently delight in trading litigation war stories with classmates Jim Szerejko (JD '74) and Bill Sweeney (JD '74) at Connecticut Bar Association functions. Also, my wife, Jeanette, administers continuing legal education for the Hartford County Bar Association."

William J. Heaphy, III (JD) was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Westerville, OH, Historical Society.

Hon. Marianne Bowler (JD) writes, "As part of my role as a member of the Committee on International Judicial Relations of the Judicial Conference of the United States, I lectured for two days in March in Sharjah and Dubai to 50 Emirati judges on trademark and copyright law. In July, I hosted five Ukrainian judges for a week in Boston as part of a judicial exchange. The judges enjoyed a tour of the Law School and a luncheon hosted by Dean Christopher Gibson."

Martin J. Alperen's (JD) textbook, Foundations of Homeland Security: Law and Policy, was published this past April. Martin now teaches several master's-level courses at several universities, and he works as a homeland security consultant.

"Just wanted to let you know that we have another new addition to our family," notes Kimberly Kozemchak Paster (JD). "Jake was born on Aug. 17, 2011, and his sisters, Caroline (8 years old) and Katherine (4 years old), are so excited to finally have a brother! My husband, Bradley, and I still live in Westwood, MA, and I am still working part-time with Holland & Knight LLP in Boston."

"My husband, our 5-year-old son, Jacob, and I welcomed twin boys, Cole and Gage, on May 6, 2011," writes Kristin Barkett Pettey (JD). "I continue to be a shareholder at [the
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2004

Seth and Jennifer Barnett (JD ’04) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Kendall Shaye on March 29, 2011. She joined big brother Max Allston.

Dana (Iannacone) Flynn (JD) and her husband, Sean Flynn, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Connor Sean Flynn. Connor was born on March 29, 2011, at 12:29 a.m., weighing 9 lbs., 6 oz.

2006

On Oct. 6, 2011, James (JD ’07) and Sonya (Roncovich) Murphy (JD ’07) welcomed their first child, Aedan James, who weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and was 19 inches long. Sonya works in-house as corporate counsel at PerkinElmer in Waltham, MA. James is a trust administrator at Choate, Hall & Stewart in Boston. The Murphys reside in Winthrop, MA.

2007

Melissa (Thuma) Rion (JD) writes, “My husband, David, and I moved to Sonoma County, CA, in the summer of 2010, where I am working for a boutique commercial bank, drafting loan documentation. We welcomed our first son, Kalen Fenway Rion, into the world on Oct. 11, 2011.”

2008

On Oct. 29, 2011, Benjamin Sturgell (JD) married Andrea Berg. “I am currently an in-house attorney with Kaplan Inc.,” he writes, “and my new wife is an elementary art teacher at Highland Elementary, both in Florida.”

2010

Sivananda Reddy (JD) joined the litigation group in the Boston office of Fish & Richardson P.C. after graduation. He is admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. Sivananda has three years of experience as a technology specialist with Fish’s patent group. He focuses his practice on the areas of intellectual property and white-collar litigation. He and his wife, Emily Pellini, live in Boston.

John Allegretti, JD ’39 (9/24/11)
Stephen John Allen, BA ’71 (12/9/11)
Richard J. Barry, MAE ’77 (1/15/12)
Arthur G. Baxter, Jr., MBA ’79 (12/22/11)
Peter K. Binder, JD ’73 (9/19/11)
John L. Brennan, JD ’35 (12/14/11)
Charles Brovelli, MBA ’71 (9/7/11)
Joseph V. Candura, BSBA ’49 (2/4/11)
Frank C. Chrisafides, MA ’66, BA ’40 (11/11/11)
George J. Coletti, MBA ’89 (11/16/11)
Arthur M. Connelly, JD ’73 (10/4/11)
Thomas L. Day, Staff (11/4/11)
John L. Denninger, JD ’76 (9/8/11)
William J. Dignan, JD ’65, BS ’52 (11/26/11)
Martin W. Donahue, JD ’77, MA ’55, BSBA ’54 (10/11/11)
Kenneth G. Dorrance, MED ’79, BS ’75 (9/19/11)
Robert J. Durante, MBA ’81 (1/17/12)
Sandra J. Dusko, BSBA ’87 (10/13/11)
Michael W.C. Emerson, JD ’83 (1/3/12)
Sarah J. Flower, JD ’00 (9/26/11)
Francis J. Fortunato, LLB ’36 (9/18/11)
Joseph Friedman, JD ’78 (11/7/11)
Lawrence P. Gilligan, JD ’61 (12/14/11)
Mark S. Greene, JD ’77 (11/28/11)
Curtis W. Haley, BA ’65 (10/13/11)
Joanne Hanley, BA ’72 (11/11/12)
Barbara Carnevale Harvey, JD ’03, BA ’00 (1/16/12)
James L. Henry, JD ’73 (9/7/11)
Robert L. Hermann, JD ’53, AA ’49 (12/11/11)
Douglas B. Jamieson, MBA ’74 (10/12/11)
Philip Jones, JD ’53 (1/5/12)
Philippe L. Joyal, BSBA ’51 (11/7/11)
David L. Kalib, BA ’63 (9/13/11)
William P. Keating, JD ’75 (1/13/12)
June M. Kelly, MSB ’88 (11/12/11)
Peter W. Kipp, BSBA ’56 (11/24/11)
Stephen Krisko, JD ’74 (12/24/11)
Anthony B. Laconti, BA ’58 (9/5/11)
David J. Lessard BA ’78 (6/28/11)
Stephen F. LoPiano, Jr., JD ’43 (12/5/11)
John R. McDonald, CRT ’98 (10/4/11)
Lynne G. Masters, JD ’83 (12/22/11)
John D. McElhiney, JD ’79, BA ’77 (9/13/11)
Mark J. McGagg, JD ’71 (9/17/11)
Mark M. McKenna, MBA ’73 (10/21/11)
Natalie M. McKenna, MED ’77 (10/23/11)
John D. O’Brien, MA ’54, BA ’50 (11/8/11)
Guy K. Paris, MBA ’86, MPA ’80 (10/21/11)
William F. Patten, JD ’77 (9/14/11)
David A. Pimenta, JD ’76, BA ’73 (9/10/11)
Eileen C. Porter, MED ’74 (11/29/11)
Mary Jo K. Riley, MPA ’78 (10/29/11)
William F. Ryan, Jr., JD ’74 (10/27/11)
Edward R. Sachs, LL.M ’37, JD ’35 (10/21/11)
Samuel L. Salafia, BSBA ’59 (1/17/12)
Alan H. Sheehan, JD ’78, BS ’74 (12/16/11)
William P. Sullivan, BA ’59 (11/30/11)
Francis J. Thornton, JD ’37 (9/13/11)
Michael J. Valair, MPA ’04 (12/25/11)
Joseph M. Wagner, BSBA ’51 (9/6/11)
Kayla N. Walsh, BS ’12 (12/20/11)
David A. Webster, BSBA ’86 (12/4/11)
Hyman Wong, BA ’59 (11/28/11)
MY FATHER’S LIFE before I knew him captivated me. Here’s the Sunday supper table synopsis of his story, made more vivid by a glass or two of Fortissimo: He left home at age 14 and 4 feet 11 — 90 pounds soaking wet — for the racetrack. He slept in the stalls he mucked at Suffolk Downs in his hometown of East Boston. He hot-walked horses, washed them, talked to them, studied them, understood what it took to make them want to win. Eventually, he made his way to the Midwest, where he rode his first mounts for real money. A tried-and-true jockey now, he had the scars, an agent, and a membership in the Jockeys’ Guild to prove it. He met and charmed my mother, and they eloped. Together, they giddily drove from one dusty racetrack to the next searching for the thrills and riches that could be reaped in the sport of kings in America in the 1950s. If you were lucky...

And so it went. We ate. He talked. His stories were the background music to our lives and I was rapt, awestruck, really, by how fearless he was and how totally foreign that world was to me, a city kid who thought horses were only ridden by those nice policemen on Boston Common.

Copious bowls of pasta and a wide-eyed audience (my brother and sister and me) helped him reminisce with the clear intention of taking his children to a place and time they would never know, to envision their father — the oldest son of struggling immigrants with a dream and a drive born of thin air — as a scrappy, determined rebel who tasted fast — and fleeting — fame and fortune. The re-tellings were full of newsreel drama: He was set to ride in the Kentucky Derby, but the horse came up lame right before. Heartbreak! Eddie Arcaro and Willie Shoemaker were his jockeys’ room pals. Hall of Fame legends! One year, he made the king’s ransom sum of $250,000. He lit his cigars with $100 bills! Yes, he got lucky...

And then it was over.

He was summoned back to Boston before I was born, when my grandfather was dying. And his riding career died, too. He was saddled here now with the obligations of family, like it or not, unable to travel from track to track and unwilling to be confined to the sameness of Suffolk Downs. He got a job in field maintenance at Logan Airport and became, well, a snowplow jockey of sorts, a job he loved for 33 years.

But the memories — the thrills — of his old life never fully faded, his animated stories acting as a gauzy elixir for the sadness of it all ending too soon. It would be decades before he’d settle foot on a racetrack again, in the strange role of spectator. He kept his jockey gear locked up tight in a leather trunk at the back of the attic. But there were no regrets. He spent every dime he made and lived life on his terms, he told us proudly, burning up the track and not giving the future beyond the next winner’s circle much thought at all. He wouldn’t do anything differently. The full arc of the experience made him who he was, after all.

And it has made me who I am, too. He’ll be gone 10 years in April and my interest in horse racing has intensified with each of those years. I brag shamelessly. I proudly display his saddle, riding crop, and boots in my home and have framed black-and-white pictures of him whizzing across finish lines atop thundering thoroughbreds from Wheeling Downs, West Virginia, to Fairmount Park, St. Louis, Missouri. Horse racing books are stacked by my bedside, and I never miss a Triple Crown race. My husband and I go to Saratoga every year where I am a shameless jockey groupie ("Ohhh, myyyy! It’s Calvin Borell!"), and I wear a diamond horseshoe for luck, and for the reassurance of that connection to my dad, every single day.

I used to wish I could have known that part of his life firsthand. But now I realize that the stories delivered from his mouth to my ears, while I was chewing and he was sipping, and we were all hanging onto the reins with him, mud on our goggles, headed for glory, were his greatest gifts to me. They not only made feel special and incredibly proud, but they truly did inspire my own regret-free life of adventure and risk. If I have questions about his career, my mother fills in the blanks. But, honestly. I’ve stopped asking. I know all I need to know. That I am lucky.
You just don’t know it because we don’t know how to tell you.

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