

# Bostonia

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY | WINTER-SPRING 2024



**SECRETS OF LIVING TO 100. FINDING A CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S. SIX ALUMS THRIVING IN THEIR SECOND ACTS. TIPS FOR YOUR 20s TO ENJOY YOUR 80s.**

**THE BU CAMPUS REACTS TO THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR**

**ALUM'S BOOK RECOUNTS THE COURAGE OF BLACK NURSES IN THE 20TH-CENTURY FIGHT AGAINST TB**

**CHEF.**

**TIKTOK STAR?**

**AUTHOR.**

**TEACHER.**

# JACQUES PÉPIN,

**88, LONGTIME BU FACULTY MEMBER, HAS A NEW COOKBOOK AND A NEW GENERATION OF FANS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



10 YEARS OF

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## tip sheet

FACTS, FIGURES, AND HUMBLEBRAGS



Ben Stiller

Jeff Kahn

**“This is the conversation I have with my therapist every week.”**

Actor, director, and producer **Ben Stiller, speaking at BU** in October, when asked by a student for his advice on balancing the fears of feedback and criticism from audiences and critics. Stiller was invited to campus by COM lecturer Jeff Kahn, an old friend and a cocreator—with Stiller—of the Emmy-winning sketch comedy show *The Ben Stiller Show* in the 1990s.

# 2000



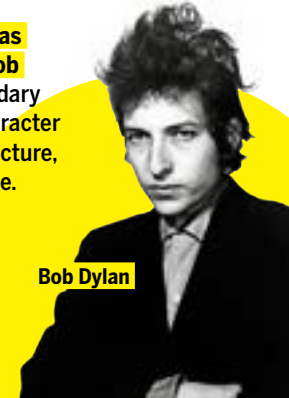
Michelle Wu

Number of Boston residents, civic leaders, and representatives from local nonprofits who gathered at BU's Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground on January 13 for a **Civic Summit organized by Boston Mayor Michelle Wu**. The goal: to help inspire and empower attendees as they work to find solutions to the challenges facing their communities.

# 15

Number of years BU has offered a course on **Bob Dylan**, using the legendary singer-songwriter as a central character to teach students about song structure, artistic intent, and cultural critique.

Back in 2008, the course was a relatively novel proposition, but it was a hit with students and created a wider splash when NPR caught wind. Today, it still fills up with aspiring writers, musicians, and fans.



Bob Dylan



### EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT...ZOMBIES

**Maia Gil'Adi, a CAS assistant professor of English and Latinx literature and a specialist in horror and violence in fiction, is the founder of The Zombie Archive** (thezombearchive.com), where she is building a detailed timeline of zombies on the big screen and, eventually, a one-stop shop of literature, film, art, cultural events, and scholarly sources on the zombie. A few factoids from her site:

**1932's *White Zombie***, starring Bela Lugosi, is considered the first feature-length zombie film.

**1968's *Night of the Living Dead***, a cult classic, was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry as a “culturally, historically or aesthetically significant” film.

**2011's *Juan de los Muertos***, one of Gil'Adi's faves, “is a Cuban homage to *Shaun of the Dead*.”



### PATRIOT LEAGUE CHAMPS!

**The men's soccer team won its first-ever Patriot League title** in November, beating Lafayette 1-0 in the conference championship.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SABRINA HERON (CAS'26), JAKE BELCHER, SARAROOM/ISTOCK.COM, JON RATNER, PICTURELUX / THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

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COVER PHOTO BY ADAM DETOUR

▶ **MILLIE FLASHMAN** (PAL'43, SSW'45), who is 101 years old, participates in BU's New England Centenarian Study. Over three decades, codirector Thomas T. Perls, a BU Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine professor, has studied thousands of superagers and their families to learn the secrets of a long and healthy life. (See page 40.)

+ ON THE WEB

[bu.edu/bostonia](https://bu.edu/bostonia)

A recipe for Jacques Pépin's bread flap-jacks; videos of Pépin cooking with BU students and alums talking about their second acts; and the story of alum artist Robert T. Freeman's painting now hanging in the Massachusetts governor's office.



JACKIE RICCIARDI

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# feedback.



## Words of Welcome for BU's President-Elect

**WHAT A THRILL** to learn of our new President-elect, Melissa Gilliam ("Boston University Names Melissa L. Gilliam 11th President," Fall 2023). Not only is she superlative in each of her accomplishments, but I feel her excellence and affability could qualify as "best friend."

I am an alum—CFA'57 (piano performance). My continuing formal studies/teaching of about 70 years have brought many fine students to my keys, some of whom have continued to study at BU, one performing in the big hall at Carnegie! My children are alums, one having distinguished herself as a President's Scholar, graduating summa cum laude with high distinction in

economics and [with] a Master of Laws, the other in liberal arts.

What thrills me most about Dr. Gilliam is her universality. Her background bespeaks a strong connection to the sciences and arts. (I am drawn to the unique approach her late father had to his art.)

Tangentially, I am proud that a current student of mine...is applying to the music education program at CFA. With Dr. Gilliam's outreaching approach, I think it impossible that [he] will not have the privilege of meeting her. As pianists, we cannot cross our fingers, but I am hopeful that will happen.

Welcome, Dr. Gilliam!

**Sylvia Karkus Furash (CFA'57)** | Yarmouth Port, Mass.

JANICE CHECCHIO

**WRITE TO** *Bostonia*, 985 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215

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## A Journalist's Responsibility

**I JUST READ** in the latest issue about the appointment of a misinformation and disinformation expert to teach journalism classes starting this spring ("Joan Donovan, Nationally Recognized Expert in Misinformation and Disinformation, Joins BU Faculty," Fall 2023). With all the social bias in the media today, I hope she can keep "politics" out of her class curriculum and teach that unbiased and factual reporting is the number one responsibility of a "journalist."

**Peter G. Parsons (COM'65)** | Skaneateles, N.Y.

## A Correction

**I LOVED** Howard Zinn as a poli-sci instructor during my time at BU, from 1982 to 1986. He graded us not by tests or regurgitating lectures but through embracing a cause and demonstrating on its behalf.

The opening to Jessica Colarossi's otherwise fine article ("Beyond the Classroom: Marches, Megaphones, Missions," Summer 2023) gave me a memory pause, as she describes Professor Zinn's final day as 1979. Considering I sat in his lecture hall several years later (I was fortunate to have him twice and will remember him for both his passion and gentleness), I suspect the date of his "final day" was much later. I believe he retired in 1988.

**Mitch Morrison (COM'86)** | Passaic, N.J.  
*Editor's Note: Howard Zinn did indeed retire in 1988. The story has been corrected online. We regret the error.*

**This is the Golden Age of Genealogy** / FALL 2023

**"As a fan of *Finding Your Roots* and also an email subscriber to *American Ancestors*, this was a very exciting article for me. I can trace my wife's ancestry back to John Alden of the *Mayflower*, and my own back to Providence Plantation."**

David Miller

### READERS RESPOND ONLINE

**Racism, Sexism, and the Black Women's Health Crisis** / FALL 2023

**"I was so pleased to see this substantive article on Black women's health in *Bostonia*. The issues involved in Black women's health include all socioeconomic levels and women with professional and advanced degrees. It is important for Boston University not to lose its traditional social justice involvement in the Black community."**

**Wilma Peebles-Wilkins,** professor and dean emerita, BU School of Social Work



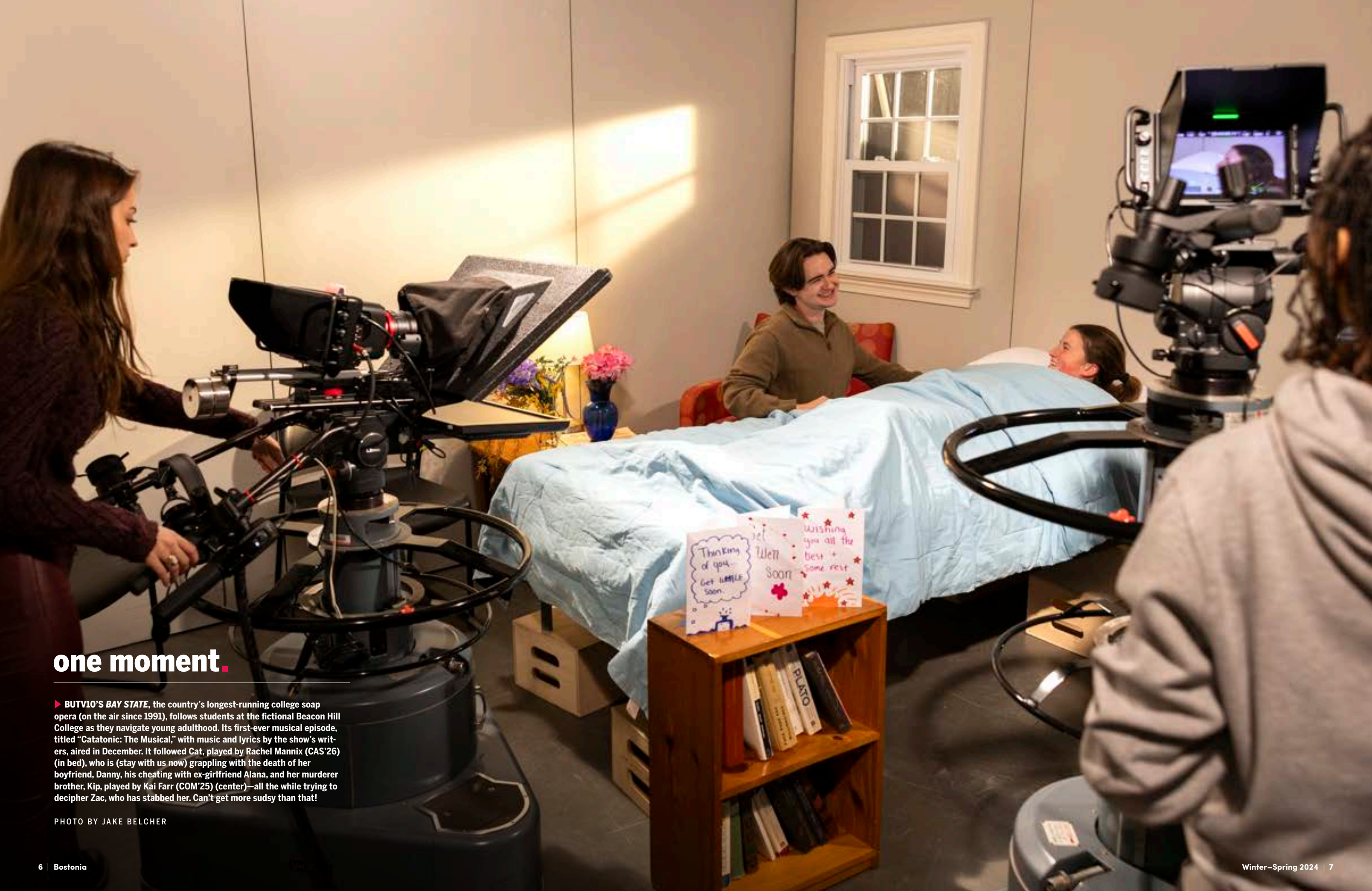
## What Really Divides the US

**I'LL GET RIGHT** to the point. You mislabeled the headline of your last issue of *Bostonia* ("How the AR-15 Divided a Nation," Fall 2023). It should have read, "How Journalism Divides A Nation."

I earned my broadcast journalism degree from BU in 1991. Last year, I returned that degree to the Office of the President. Journalism, as it was taught me at BU, is dead. It's been replaced with a vile, divisive weapon, used not for the truth but for political influence. The last nail in the coffin of journalistic ethics came in 2021, when NPR changed its ethics policy to allow their journalists to engage in their chosen political and social positions while identifying as NPR journalists. That's the complete opposite of what Professor Keith Botsford taught us: that we were to report on the news, not be the news. He told us that to be a good journalist, earning the trust of our readers was as important as earning the trust of the people whose stories we told.

In closing, I'm asking that you do better, not just for your chosen areas of interest, but for everyone. Stop being divisive. End the bias. Rediscover your roots. Perhaps take one of [College of General Studies] Professor Michael Kort's classes and relearn what political media does in oppressive countries like China and Russia, and then compare and contrast. Thank you.

**Damian Siekonic (CGS'89, COM'91)** | Center Valley, Pa.



## one moment.

► **BUTV10'S BAY STATE**, the country's longest-running college soap opera (on the air since 1991), follows students at the fictional Beacon Hill College as they navigate young adulthood. Its first-ever musical episode, titled "Catatonic: The Musical," with music and lyrics by the show's writers, aired in December. It followed Cat, played by Rachel Mannix (CAS'26) (in bed), who is (stay with us now) grappling with the death of her boyfriend, Danny, his cheating with ex-girlfriend Alana, and her murderer brother, Kip, played by Kai Farr (COM'25) (center)—all the while trying to decipher Zac, who has stabbed her. Can't get more sudsy than that!

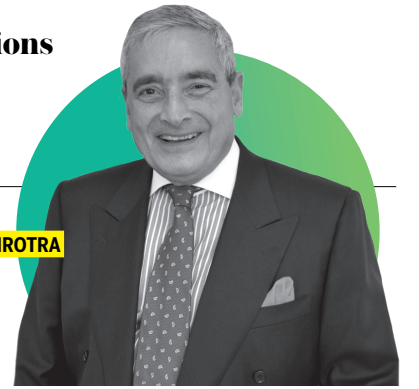
PHOTO BY JAKE BELCHER



BIM/ISTOCK.COM (OPPOSITE), COURTESY OF THE FORESIGHT GROUP



An institute dedicated to exploring the intersections of business, markets, and society plays a pivotal role in bridging gaps in understanding and collaboration between these crucial domains.”



RAVI K. MEHROTRA

# NEW QUESTROM INSTITUTE TO EXPLORE THE ROLE OF BUSINESS IN SOLVING REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS

► The Ravi K. Mehrotra Institute is being funded in large part by a UK businessman with interest in “exploring the intersections of business, markets, and society” | BY RICH BARLOW

BU’S QUESTROM School of Business will launch an institute to specifically study the role that business plays—both real and ideal—in advancing and solving real-world issues.

The Ravi K. Mehrotra Institute for Business, Markets, and Society (IBMS) “will help others understand and appreciate the role business and markets do, can, and should play in creating lasting prosperity, advancing societal goals, and solving global challenges,” its mission statement reads.

Robert A. Brown, BU president emeritus, and Susan Fournier, dean of Questrom, secured the gift last year that will endow the institute from Ravi Mehrotra, founder and executive chairman of the Foresight Group. Between previously raised donations to the institute and the latest gift from Mehrotra (the largest of the donations), the institute has raised

a total of \$51 million, according to Fournier.

Foresight is a London- and Dubai-based global shipping, drilling, and private equity firm with a commitment to environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG). Its investment arm weighs companies’ comportment with United Nations sustainability goals on climate change and other environmental concerns, in addition to financial considerations. It also runs a foundation to train underprivileged students to work both in merchant marines and on drilling rigs.

Questrom makes the ideal home for the institute, Mehrotra says, due to “the innovative curriculum, distinguished faculty, the diverse and global perspective it offers to students, and, above all, its strategic location in Boston, the world’s most innovative finance, legal, and technology hub.”

Besides helping business and academia, he says, the institute will promote public understanding of market dynamics and economics. “An institute dedicated to exploring the intersections of business, markets, and society plays a pivotal role in bridging gaps in understanding and collaboration between these crucial domains,” Mehrotra says, “fostering a more informed, ethical, and sustainable approach to commerce and economics.”

Fournier, who is also the business school’s Allen Questrom Professor, says the mission of the school aligns strategically with the mission of IBMS. “It deals fundamentally with forces that allow business to be powerful and have an effect and a powerful influence,” she says.

The institute’s activities will be threefold, says Fournier. “There’s an



educational mission; a pedagogical, conversational, dialogue mission; and there's a research mission. It's very broad-sweeping," she says. "People are very quick to equate capitalism and profit as bad, and to put business under a microscope that denies its ability to have an impact on society's problems. Some of what we want to be doing is to have more informed conversations about capitalism, its alternatives, the history of business. This contributes to society as a whole, because people have lost the ability to listen to multiple sides and learn."

Fournier says the initial research at the new institute will touch on hot topics, such as regulatory impact on healthcare innovation, the promise and perils of implementing and measuring ESG, competition and antitrust, and improving the performance of government bodies through business practices.

Nonresearch activities will include a series of public conversations—Can Capitalism Survive?—among academics, businesspeople, and public officials; creation of a business sentiment index (BSI) that will employ technology to gauge how the public feels about business (the institute will regularly report its BSI results, the way the University of Michigan reports its consumer sentiment index results); and a fellowship program drawing scholars from other higher ed institutions and industry leaders to serve as executives in residence.

Mehrotra started his career as an engineer with the Shipping Corporation of India and rose to managing director of its international joint ventures before founding Foresight in 1984. He chairs the Europe India Chamber of Commerce at the European Union in Brussels. The late Queen Elizabeth II named him an Honorary Commander of the British Empire, a chivalric order recognizing contributions to charitable work and public service, in 2006.



PRIANNA SHARAN

REMI CHESTER



## BU STUDENTS LAUNCH POPPLE, AN EVENT AND ACTIVITY AGGREGATOR

**WHAT DO** college students do when they're bored? Sit on their phones? Go for a walk? Wallow in loneliness? If you're Prianna Sharan (CAS'25) and Remi Chester, you get to work.

"We were talking about freshman year and how much more difficult it was [to find things to do] when you're just bored," says Chester (Questrom'25). "We thought, why don't we just create something to solve that issue?"

What they created is Popple (poppleapp.com), an app that aggregates events at BU and around Boston geared toward college students. Users can filter events based on their interests, and they can join a

Popple, a themed group of three to eight people who sign up to attend an event together.

"The idea is getting people out of their dorms and at in-person events with a safe space and with a couple of people who they know are going and who have similar interests," Sharan says.

The two have taken part in events at BU and beyond. At the School of Hospitality Administration's Poyiadjis Hospitality Innovation Competition, Popple took home \$15,000 in seed money. They also joined MassChallenge, the biggest start-up accelerator in Massachusetts. —*Sam Thomas (COM'24)*

# Spreading Art Appreciation

► With a \$1 million gift to the humanities faculty, Lisa and Mitchell Green are increasing access to the study of art | BY RACHEL P. FARRELL

LISA GREEN is passionate about art. But she isn't painting landscapes or sculpting figures.

"While I'm not an artist and don't consider myself particularly creative in the traditional sense of the word, I've always loved art and always had an appreciation for it," says Green (CAS'03), chief of staff for a private equity firm in Santa Barbara, Calif.

One of her fundamental beliefs is that "art is for *everyone*," Green says. "And I think it's really important to educate people about art, so they feel knowledgeable, informed, and opinionated about it."

Those values are the impetus behind a generous gift from Green and her husband, Mitchell, to the College of Arts & Sciences. The couple recently pledged \$1 million to create the Lisa and Mitchell Green Endowment for Humanities Faculty, which benefits

humanities faculty, especially those teaching in the Department of History of Art & Architecture. With this gift, the Greens hope to increase access to the study of art at BU.

Lisa Green began her career in the art world—working for Sotheby's after graduating from BU—but later pivoted to entrepreneurship and then to private equity. She and her husband work for Lead Edge Capital, the firm Mitchell founded in 2009.

The couple has been building an art collection in their home for years, and Green makes it a priority to talk to their four daughters about the pieces.

She learned how much art can enrich a person's life while she was a BU student. "My professors have been influential in everything I've done," Green says. "To get to this point—from appreciating art to being able to own art—has been amazing."



Lisa Green (CAS'03), with her husband, Mitchell, says it's important to educate people about art, so they feel knowledgeable and informed.



## WILLIAM FAIRFIELD WARREN SOCIETY INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

**THE WILLIAM FAIRFIELD WARREN SOCIETY**, established in 2015 to honor those who have given \$1 million or more to Boston University, now boasts nearly 260 members, with 21 becoming eligible in 2023. At the most recent Induction of Fellows Ceremony, held December 6 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, medals were presented to Patricia de la Sota (Pardee'79) (from left), Jerry Knorr, Benjamin Clark (Questrom'62), Pamela Avedisian (Hon.'23), Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine Professor Jag Bhawan, Michele von Dambrowski (COM'71), Andrea Zanelli (Questrom'88), Mark Gothberg, and Steven Karbank (CAS'79).



AUSTIN BOYER

REBECCA FARMER (TOP); COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON; JAKE BELCHER FOR BU PHOTOGRAPHY



**DANIELA MELO**  
in the *New Bedford Light's* newsroom.

# Can This BU Political Scientist Help Save Journalism?

► Daniela Melo cofounded and chairs New Bedford's online nonprofit newspaper | BY RICH BARLOW

ONCE UPON A TIME, newspapering was an essential of democracy and a subject for communication schools. Today, an estimated 2,500 papers across the country have become extinct since 2005; on average, two of them fold every week. Now, one-fifth of Americans live in so-called news deserts of desiccated coverage.

In New Bedford, Mass., the Gannett Co.-owned *Standard-Times* has seen its staff cut to the point that the *New York Times* describes it as "taking on the characteristics of a 'ghost' paper." But BU's Daniela Melo is doing her part to save journalism in her city, as cofounder and chair of the *New Bedford Light*, an online nonprofit

newspaper with no paywall or advertising. The two-year-old *Light* is part of a "nonprofit media boom" that's seeing start-ups supplement or replace ailing traditional newspaper advertising with donations: philanthropic, foundation, and corporate. As the *Light's* unpaid volunteer chair, Melo, a College of General

Studies lecturer in social sciences, runs board meetings, attends committee meetings, and has helped with grants-and-bylaws writing and approaching donors.

"Like any student of comparative politics," she says, "I spent a lot of time studying democracy. [But] everything was very abstract to me. This is that in practice. In order to have a healthy democracy, you need to have information [and] accountability of institutions. If you don't have information, you lose trust. If you lose trust, you get to a moment like the one that we're crossing right now, [with] high levels of distrust in political institutions."

The *New Bedford Light*, Melo says, actively avoids competing with the *Standard-Times*, concentrating on investigative reporting and arts coverage, two perceived holes in the news landscape. The paper's staff and its board include former *Standard-Times* employees as well as other veteran journalists.

Melo, who moved to New Bedford in 2008, brings essential and intimate knowledge of the community. "It's my profound love and admiration for New Bedford, its people, and its history that inspire me to do this work," she says.

JACKIE RICCIARDI



## MET'S ONLINE PROGRAMS CLIMB IN U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

► Three graduate programs listed among the nation's best | BY JOEL BROWN

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE keeps moving up in the *U.S. News & World Report* Best Online Programs rankings. All three of MET's online graduate programs in the 2024 *U.S. News* rankings—in criminal justice, business (non-MBA), and computer information technology—improved their positions from last year's results. MET also maintained a strong showing in programs supporting veterans.

"These are excellent results that underscore the consistency of our online programs," says Tanya Zlateva, dean of MET and a professor of the practice of computer science and education. "Our resilience and improvement in the *U.S. News* rankings are the result of our community's dedication to excellence in our academics and student support systems," along with "an eagle eye on the emerging needs of industry, keen awareness of areas in need of improvement, and deep commitment to our mission."

The rankings are for degree-granting distance education programs and are based on factors that include the academic quality of the faculty and students' ability to interact with them online, out-of-class resources for career guidance and financial aid, and student achievement. The second ranking is for programs that provide financial and other assistance to veterans.

### THE PROGRAMS ARE:

**3<sup>rd</sup>** **Master's in Criminal Justice: Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> of 93 schools**, up from 4<sup>th</sup> last year. Among other veterans-supporting programs in the category, MET's ranked 6<sup>th</sup>, up from 7<sup>th</sup> last year.

**6<sup>th</sup>** **Master's in Business (non-MBA): Ranked 6<sup>th</sup> of 213 schools**, up from 9<sup>th</sup> last year. Among veterans-supporting programs, MET's ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, up from 17<sup>th</sup> last year.

**8<sup>th</sup>** **Master's in Computer Information Technology: Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> of 92 schools**, up from 10<sup>th</sup> last year. Among veterans-supporting programs, MET's ranked 11<sup>th</sup>, the same as last year.

JANICE CHECCHIO

## STH'S WALTER FLUKER HONORED BY ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE

WALTER FLUKER (GRS'88, STH'88), BU's Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Ethical Leadership, received the 2023 Freedom of Worship award from the Roosevelt Institute at a September ceremony held at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y. The honor is one of the Four Freedoms Awards the institute presents annually to those who "exemplify core freedoms that uphold our democracy: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear." Fluker, who previously served as dean of BU's Marsh Chapel and will retire from the University at the end of the 2023–24 academic year, was recognized for his work, from "helping students navigate the ethical questions of today to being a thought leader for Black churches." The other 2023 award recipients were Tracie Hall, executive director of the American Library Association (Freedom of Speech and Expression); the late Ady Barkan, founder and co-executive director of Be A Hero (Freedom from Want); and US Representative Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), chair of the January 6 select committee (Freedom from Fear). US Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), speaker emerita of the House, was awarded the overarching Freedom Medal. —Steve Holt

➤ A video of the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony is at [bu.edu/bostonia](https://bu.edu/bostonia).



# Disinformation Scholar Joins COM

► Maria Elizabeth Grabe, inaugural Dalton Family Professor, is ready to take on the “infodemic” | BY RICH BARLOW

**WORKING FOR** South Africa’s state-controlled TV under apartheid, documentarian Maria Elizabeth Grabe faced unrelenting censorship. One producer would close his eyes while listening for anti-government criticism in her films, so Grabe learned to shoot unflattering views of officials and to use other visual cues that the man would miss during his shut-eyed sessions. She stayed late at the studio, handing in work just before airtime to head off edits.

After police raided her cubicle in search of subversive footage, she quit and

enrolled at Baylor University in Texas, where she earned a master’s in international journalism in 1992 and finally breathed the air of a free press. After receiving a doctorate from Temple, that freedom became a theme of her subsequent career as a leading communication scholar at Indiana University. In January 2024, Grabe joined COM as its inaugural Dalton Family Professor and second-ever director of emerging media studies.

“This position is a match for both the research and teaching I love doing and my accumulated experience



MARIA ELIZABETH GRABE

as an academic and former journalist,” Grabe says. “Academic settings generally do not allow for nimble undertakings in response to pressing social issues. The emerging media program in the College of Communication is a noteworthy exception, and the Dalton professorship exemplifies that BU and its supporters recognize the importance of a university serving the greater good.”

The Dalton family, including BU trustee Nathan Dalton (LAW’91), endowed the professorship. “Our ability to address both national and global challenges is being impeded by the use of these platforms to manipulate and divide people, rather than bring them together to common understanding of facts and analysis,” says Dalton, the founder of Daybreak Partners, a healthcare and

tech investment firm, and cofounder and CEO of the Sora Union Group, a global company designing and building websites, apps, marketing services, and other products.

Grabe inaugurates the professorship as misinformation and disinformation on social media threaten to flood another US election. “I cannot think of a more acute threat to the democratic way of life than doubt about the integrity of information that flows through media platforms,” Grabe says. “The volume, velocity, and variety of contemporary disinformation makes an infodemic diagnosis a reasonable one.”



MARY C. BEAUDRY

# RENAMED BOSTON ARCHAEOLOGY LAB HONORS LATE BU PROFESSOR

► Mary C. Beaudry Community Archaeology Center preserves artifacts recovered from hundreds of area sites | BY AMY LASKOWSKI

**A NONDESCRIBT** building about 20 minutes from the BU campus holds the remnants of a 19th-century shipwreck, cannonballs from the American Revolution, and Native American arrowheads. These treasures and a million more are meticulously categorized and stored inside the city of Boston’s archaeology lab, which recently reopened to the public after a three-year renovation.

The lab, founded four decades ago and housed in the City of Boston Archival Center in West Roxbury, also has a new name: the Mary C. Beaudry Community Archaeology Center, in honor of a longtime BU faculty member who died in 2020. Mary Beaudry, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of archaeology and of anthropology, was involved in some of the city’s most important archaeological work, including digs and analyses of objects found at the Paul Revere House in the North End, the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, and the Boston Common.

“We’re so thrilled to honor Mary in this way,” said Joe Bagley (CAS’06), city of Boston archaeologist and a former student of Beaudry’s, at the center’s reopening in October. “We hope that the work we do here continues her legacy of celebrating underrepresented peoples and really being the voice of the voiceless.”

Attending the opening were 30 or so of Beaudry’s colleagues, friends, and students. Earlier in the day, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and other

politicians celebrated the reopening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Beaudry taught at BU for 40 years. She helped create the University’s archaeology department, and was described in her obituary as a scholar “committed to revealing unwritten lives,” including those of people of color and women. She mentored and influenced generations of students; many of them are professional archaeologists working at sites across the country and professors teaching at colleges and universities around the world.

Items on display in the Mary C. Beaudry Community Archaeology Center include pottery, Native American tools, and personal items such as combs, buttons, and pipes.



The pup’s main job will be offering up affection to anyone in the BU community who might need a little TLC.

## PAWS-ITIVELY ADORABLE

► BU’s new comfort dog is a golden retriever pup named Bean | BY MOLLY CALLAHAN

**THE NEWEST** member of BU’s campus community is young. And prone to falling asleep in class. But she’s already drawing adoring crowds wherever she goes.

And who can blame those cooing fans? After all, a golden retriever puppy is impossible to resist. This pooch, named Bean, is BU’s new comfort dog, and she’s already excelling at the job.

On a recent Friday afternoon, she paused for selfies and drew double takes from students, faculty, and staff in the George Sherman

Union. Her handler, BU police officer Geovanni Chevere, beamed with pride as he invited passersby to meet their new colleague.

Bean’s main job will be offering up affection to anyone in the BU community who might need a little TLC. Chevere and BUPD Chief Robert Lowe anticipate that she’ll be in high demand during exams, around the holidays, and other stressful times of the year.

“The comfort dog will serve as an additional resource for students experiencing anxiety or stress,”

Lowe says. “She’ll also be another way for us to connect with them and the larger campus community, and I think she’s going to be the most popular member of our police department.”

Chevere has been bringing Bean to regular training sessions. When she’s not at school, she lives with him and his family, and for now, she comes to campus every Friday. By July, she’ll be on campus twice a week. And by fall 2025, once all her training is complete, she’ll be on campus full-time.

“She’s the most lovable little thing,” Chevere says. “She loves getting attention; she loves being around people.”

CYDNEY SCOTT (2)

CYDNEY SCOTT (TOP), CHRIS MCINTOSH

# Your Schools & Colleges

## BY THE BOOK: NEW TITLES BY CAS, SPH, STH FACULTY



**IN HIS NEW BOOK**, Sandro Galea, dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at the School of Public Health, addresses a wide spectrum of issues around the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 50 essays included in *Within Reason: A Liberal Public Health for an Illiberal Time* (University of Chicago Press, 2023), aimed at the public health community, focus on how better communication and better decision-making from the public health community can help science persevere or regain public trust.



**LAURENCE KOTLIKOFF**, a BU William Fairfield Warren Professor and College of Arts & Sciences professor of economics, and syndicated financial columnist Terry Savage launched their new book, *Social Security Horror Stories: Protect Yourself from the System & Avoid Clawbacks* (K&S Productions, 2023), in November with an appearance on CBS' *60 Minutes*. The book is an exposé of efforts by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to claw back a fortune in supposed overpayments from roughly a million Americans every year. The SSA wants them to pay the money back—often within 30 days—even though Social Security made the errors in the first place.



**IN EDUCATION FOR ALL?** *Literature, Culture and Education Development in Britain and Denmark* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), Cathie Jo Martin, a CAS professor of political science, suggests that fiction writers and essayists from the Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution eras hold the secret to their countries' paths to national education—with enduring effects still felt today. *Education for All?* mixes literary and computational analysis to explore the cultural roots of two distinct education systems and their impacts on low-skill youth. Why did Denmark develop mass education for all in 1814, Martin asks, while Britain created a public school system only in 1870 that underserved the working class?



**WESLEY WILDMAN** has written a number of scholarly books, none that would be considered light reading. Now, the School of Theology professor of philosophy, theology, and ethics and chair of faculty affairs for the Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences has a novel in his writing portfolio. *The Winding Way Home* (Wildhouse Publishing, 2023) tackles the problem of suffering through the lens of a fictional family that is enduring a traumatic event.



### QUESTROM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

## STUDENTS WIN \$50K FOR HELPING L.L.BEAN BECOME MORE ECO-FRIENDLY

**INEXPENSIVE CLOTHES** sold by retailers like Amazon and Shein have made it easy to stay on top of trends. But they're often tossed in the donation pile after several wears or thrown away. Ultimately, 11.3 million articles of clothing end up in landfills every year in the United States alone.

In November, a Questrom School of Business contest attempted to find solutions to the problem, with a \$50,000 prize offered to student entrepreneurs as enticement. The second annual Questrom \$50K Sustainability Case Competition challenged students to think of eco-friendly improvements for the event's two sponsors, clothing and accessory outfitters Rewilder and L.L.Bean. Among the 71 undergraduate and graduate teams from 24 schools across the East Coast that took part, four BU undergrads working together nabbed the top prize of \$50,000 and professional advice on how to implement their ideas.

The team (pictured here) dreamed up an online resale platform for L.L.Bean products, which they called "ReBean": Mikhail Gurevich (ENG'07, Questrom'12) (from left), who donated the \$50,000 prize; winners Illiana Arroyo (CAS'25), Suraj Nellore (Questrom'26, COM'26), Jason Wexler (Questrom'25, COM'25), and Devin Hirsch (Questrom'25); and Brian O'Connor, L.L.Bean director of sustainability and global compliance. —Amy Laskowski

### COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

## ADLAB MARKS A MILESTONE

**THIS YEAR**, AdLab, the College of Communication's student-run ad agency, celebrates 50 years. The program was founded in 1974 by advertising professors Walter Lubars and Bob Montgomery, who wanted to create an opportunity for students to work with real clients, build their portfolios, and gain agency experience. Since then, AdLab students have helped hundreds of nonprofits, government agencies, and businesses large and small. "The program was envisioned as a true professional training experience, mimicking the environment—and the

COURTESY OF QUESTROM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (TOP RIGHT), KELLY DAVIDSON (INSET LEFT), JACKIE RICCIARDI (3), CYDNEY SCOTT



### COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

## SIX-STRING HARMONIC CONVERGENCE AT CFA

**THE GUITAR HAS** raised its profile at the College of Fine Arts School of Music lately, thanks to five recent arrivals in the musicology and ethnomusicology department.

Nathaniel Braddock (CFA'25) (back left), Lance Morrison (CFA'25) (far right), Kumera Zekarias (CFA'26) (center), and Brian Barone (CFA'24) (seated far left)—all PhD students—arrived separately during the last few years. They all play guitar professionally, and the instrument is woven into their research. Erik Broess (in back), a CFA visiting assistant professor of musicology, arrived in September. Their research interests range from guitar in the African diaspora to the inner workings of the Fender Musical Instruments Corporation to the Boston hardcore punk scene in the 1980s.

"They're uniquely well-rounded," says Victor Coelho, a CFA professor of music, director of the Center for Early Music Studies, and chair of the historical performance department. "That's what I like about this whole group—how open they are about musical styles, about cultures.

"The guitar doesn't figure as a main line of development in music history books, which is unfortunate, because it has a very, very deep history," adds Coelho, an expert lute player who also rocks out on his Fender Telecaster in the class he teaches on the Rolling Stones. "These young scholars are now studying the instrument as the main actor of a much larger global music history." —Joel Brown

process and structure—of a real advertising agency," says Shawn Zupp (COM'95), a veteran ad exec, a COM professor of the practice in advertising, and one of AdLab's faculty advisors, along with Chris Lee, a senior lecturer in advertising. "It's an experiment—hence the lab in the name—in students' professional advertising selves, as they develop a rigor, a discipline, and a sense of, 'Alright, how do I get things done in advertising?'"

Teams of students in the semester-long course work with clients to produce an ad campaign that addresses their business needs. Many clients will run the completed campaigns, giving students a professional portfolio before they've graduated. AdLab is the largest student-run agency in the country. Graduates have taken jobs at top agencies like MullenLowe, BBDO, and Ogilvy or at businesses like TJX Companies. —Mara Sassoon

## NEW COURSES AT CAS, MET

**TWO NEW** College of Arts & Sciences classes are examining life in the icy north this semester. Arctic Studies, taught by Adriana Craciun, a CAS professor of English and holder of the Emma MacLachlan Metcalf Chair of Humanities, "immerses students in the dynamic world of the circumpolar Arctic," according to the course description, with a focus on the North American and Scandinavian sections. And Peoples of the Arctic, taught by Catherine West, a CAS research associate professor of archaeology and of anthropology, looks at the "diverse and thriving communities" of the region, using archaeological, oral history, historic, and ethnographic data, exploring how the past can be used to highlight contemporary issues in the region.

Rapid global warming, extractive capitalism, threats to wildlife, ecotourism, Indigenous rights disputes, even a bit of international friction—it's all

happening above roughly 66° 34' north latitude—aka the Arctic Circle. Four million people live up there, along with polar bears and reindeer, and what happens there impacts all of us. "Everyone is connected to the Arctic," Craciun says.

**JOSÉ LÓPEZ GANEM** has introduced a new course in Metropolitan College's Gastronomy program: LatinX Experiences of Farming, Cooking and Eating in the United States. The class examines the "fundamental force" that "Latin American or Spanish-speaking people" bring to the food culture of the United States, he says.

People who are part of the Latin American diaspora are often the overlooked engine of the US food system, says López Ganem (MET'22), a graduate of the Gastronomy program, and now co-executive director for the nonprofit Fine Cacao and Chocolate Institute.

## FACULTY OF COMPUTING & DATA SCIENCES GROWS

**THE FIRST NEW** members to join BU's Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences since it moved into its state-of-the-art new building on Commonwealth Avenue hail from all over the map, both scientifically and literally. The work they do pushes the boundaries for many applications in the fields of robotics, neuroscience and cognitive science, computer vision, genetics, social media, and marketing. The quartet brings the CDS core faculty to 15.

Josh Peterson started his education at a community college and has crafted a cognitive science curriculum where none existed. Aldo Pacchiano grew up in Mexico City and was introduced to academia in the United States through a high school math competition. Jack Zhang started out as a biology student in Beijing before switching to math and then computer science. Lisa Wobbes tried out a government job as an education data scientist in the Netherlands, then worked for a US start-up before coming to BU. —Joel Brown



ALDO PACCHIANO



JACK ZHANG



LISA WOBBS



JOSHUA PETERSON



JACKIE NIAM/ISTOCK.COM

## A FUTURE WHERE LUNG DISEASE IS TREATABLE, AND DAMAGED LUNGS ARE REGENERATED

► Darrell Kotton and team are paving the way using engineered lung stem cells | BY JESSICA COLAROSSO

FOR MORE THAN 20 years, a team of BU scientists has been on a quest to figure out how to treat incurable lung diseases, and how to regenerate damaged lungs so they're as good as new.

Leading the push is pulmonologist Darrell Kotton, who runs a lab at the Center for Regenerative Medicine (CRoM), a joint effort between the University and Boston Medical Center, BU's primary teaching hospital. By refining their work using sophisticated stem cell technology, Kotton and his team are closer to realizing that vision than ever before.

In two new studies published in *Cell Stem Cell*, BU researchers detail how they engineered lung stem cells and successfully transplanted them into injured lungs of mice. Two lines of cells targeted two different parts of the lung: the airways, including the trachea

and bronchial tubes, and the alveoli, the delicate air sacs that deliver oxygen to the bloodstream. Their findings could lead to new ways for treating lung diseases, such as severe cases of COVID-19, emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis, and cystic fibrosis, a disease caused by a genetic mutation.

"We've accomplished this by getting better and better at generating the cells," says Kotton, a BU Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine professor of medicine, director of CRoM, and corresponding author on both papers.

Kotton and his team imagine a future where they can use a patient's own cells to fix lung damage caused by disease by reprogramming cells in a laboratory dish and transplanting them back into the patient. The new lung cells would replicate, like regular cells do,

replacing the damaged and diseased areas of the lung.

Bringing damaged lungs back to normal function without a lung transplant is possible with stem cells, which can develop into other specialized cells in the body. There are many different types of stem cells that have been discovered over the years, but Kotton and his lab focus on a type called pluripotent stem cells.

These cells are found only in embryos. But in 2006, Japanese scientist Shinya Yamanaka figured out how to genetically reprogram adult

skin or blood cells into an embryonic stem cell-like state. Those engineered cells are called induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, and won Yamanaka the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012. Induced pluripotent stem cells can be turned into any cell type in the body, including lung cells.

Kotton and his team—which includes Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine professors Finn Hawkins and Xaralabos Varelas, College of Arts & Sciences physics professor Pankaj Mehta, and many other researchers—developed methods for engineering each of the lung's stem cells in the laboratory using iPS cells, including by using machine learning methods. This step helped them determine the best conditions for generating cells that could go on



DARRELL KOTTON

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to be lung cells. And then they developed methods for transplanting them into experimental mouse models with injured lungs.

“We demonstrated that engineered cells, which have never before been part of a lung, can be transplanted into injured mouse lungs, where they integrate into the host’s respiratory system and behave similar to the host’s pulmonary cells,” says Michael Herriges, a post-doctoral fellow in the Kotton Lab and lead author of the paper focused on the lung air sacs. Making lung cells that can be used for therapy from just microscopic clumps of unspecified iPS cells is a long and complicated process—and one that has been Kotton’s life work.

The cells that were transplanted into the mice lasted their entire lifespan, over two years. Now, the researchers must figure out whether the cells can prevent disease progression in the mouse models; eventually, they will have to test their technique in larger animals with lungs that more closely resemble human lungs.

“Many lung diseases are characterized by irreversible tissue damage,” says Martin Ma (CAMED’26), an MD/PhD student in molecular and translational medicine and the lead author of the paper focused on lung airways. “Since the lung is not the most regenerative compared to other organs in the body, damage can lead to much suffering for patients without a ton of treatment options.”

Ma believes that years down the line, the process for fixing damaged lungs

could appeal to patients who would rather not take medications every day for their whole lives. And it could put another option on the table for patients who suffer from genetic lung diseases that do not have a current medical therapy. For example, a patient with a genetic lung disease like cystic fibrosis would have a drop of their blood taken. Their blood cells would be reprogrammed into iPS cells, and then manipulated—using methods developed in the Kotton Lab—to recreate in a laboratory dish the needed lung cells. Those cells would be gene edited to correct the genetic mutation causing the disease and, lastly, transplanted back into the patient. Unlike getting a lung transplant, which involves heavy immunosuppressants so the body doesn’t reject the new organ, a patient would ideally tolerate their own cells without rejecting them, with no need for immunosuppression.

Beyond their clinically focused goals, the researchers hope their work continues informing basic science questions, like how cells communicate with each other, what mechanisms regulate the identity of lung cells, and what makes them different from one another.

“Our work builds on a lot of basic science research that didn’t originally have a clinical goal,” says Ma, such as the invention of iPS cells. “My hope is that our papers can create a platform for other researchers in the community to generate more foundational knowledge that future translational studies will eventually build upon.”

## COULD A SALIVA TEST FOR SOLDIERS PREDICT MISSION READINESS?

► BU engineer to lead project analyzing biomarkers to assess readiness for physically and mentally challenging tasks | BY PATRICK L. KENNEDY

**YOU’RE DUE TO RUN** a grueling road race in a few hours. Do you have the stuff to make it across the finish line or will you crash before the end? Or maybe you’ve got a ballet recital or a poker tournament or a big speech—some demanding physical or cognitive challenge is looming, and you need to know that your brain and body are up to it. What if, instead of relying on a vague gut feeling, you could turn to cold, hard data?

That’s the goal of a multi-institutional, cross-disciplinary project led by Alexander A. Green, a College of Engineering associate professor of biomedical engineering. With up to \$17.7 million in federal funds over four years, Green and his colleagues plan to develop a fast, portable saliva test that will analyze an assortment of biomarkers associated with performance on challenging tasks. It could be used to test readiness and the likelihood of success—with results in just 30 minutes.

The project is funded by the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which aims to develop a test that will one day save lives and dollars

by predicting soldiers’ performance on missions. For example, if a pilot isn’t in the optimal zone, that’s good information to have, allowing the mission team to take extra precautions. The project’s formal name is Smart Paper-Integrated Technologies for Interrogating Readiness (SPITFIRE).

Like the internet, microwave ovens, and aviator sunglasses, Green’s test ultimately might gain use far beyond the military.

“I see it as a platform technology,” Green says. “We demonstrate it here, in war-fighter readiness, but it’s something that could be applied to help everybody.”

Green and his team will start by testing volunteers as they undergo rigorous physiological tests.

“They might be running on a treadmill in the lab or out in the field doing military training exercises for multiple days with little rest,” says Green. “We’ll take samples from people subjected to these challenges to see how their performance can be associated with different biomarkers,” such as testosterone, cortisol, myoglobin, and, possibly, a dozen or more biomarkers across three categories: RNA, protein, and metabolites.



**I see it as a platform technology,” Green says. “We demonstrate it here, in war-fighter readiness, but it’s something that could be applied to help everybody.”**

The testing device would serve as a kind of personal dashboard, showing the levels of the biomarkers of interest.

Scientists at GE HealthCare’s Technology & Innovation Center will take the data from the volunteer samples and develop a machine learning model to help figure out that mix of levels that will determine readiness. “Some of the molecules might need to be present in the saliva at higher or lower concentrations,” Green says.

The GE center, formerly part of GE Research, has been working with DARPA for several years to identify biomarkers for readiness. Although DARPA’s first priority is armed forces readiness, the device could have a variety of uses in civilian homes and clinics. An obvious application is in elite athlete training. “In the lead-up to some big competition, like the Olympics, you could test yourself daily to find out what the conditions are when you have peak performance,” Green says.

The researchers also envision the test being used to assess maternal health during a pregnancy, or even the likelihood of a transplant organ’s rejection, among other health applications.

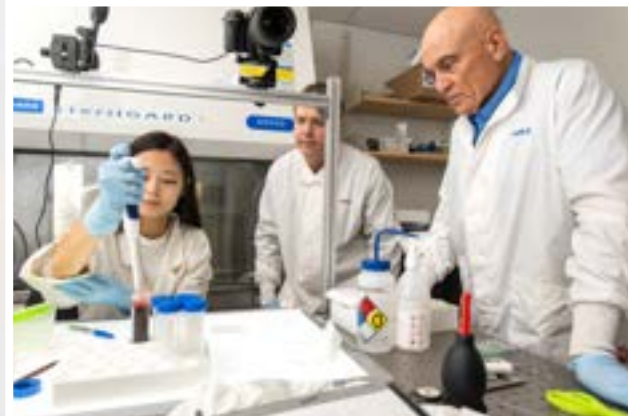


ENG’s **ALEXANDER A. GREEN** aims to develop a fast, portable saliva test to analyze biomarkers associated with performance.

COURTESY OF ALEXANDER GREEN



WAVEBRAIN MEDIA/ISTOCK.COM



# UPDATING THE SCIENCE FOR CRIME SCENES

► How BU engineers are changing the way blood evidence is interpreted | BY DEVIN HAHN

AS FANS OF ALL good cop shows know, blood evidence can help detectives crack even the toughest of cases. The century-old science of bloodstain pattern analysis—using the configuration of blood left at a crime scene to reconstruct details of the incident—is as critical to crime scene investigation as fingerprinting or DNA analysis.

But it's having to update its playbook to keep up with the technology of our everyday lives and the modern materials found at crime scenes. A century ago, blood evidence might have been found on plain wooden floors, simple textiles, or carpets—and it still is today. But it's also found on scratch-resistant cell phone screens, ant glare

windshields, and hydrophobic surfaces specifically engineered to repel fluids.

"As with any science, it's constantly evolving," says Kenneth Martin, a retired 33-year veteran of the Massachusetts State Police and a clinical instructor in the Biomedical Forensic Sciences program at BU's Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine. Martin often testifies as an expert witness in court cases that depend on blood evidence, and he is increasingly seeing crime scenes where blood has come into contact with different hydrophobic surfaces. "That has been an area where I've thought that we could use a lot more research," says Martin.

At the College of Engineering's Fluid Lab, James Bird has made a career of studying the interaction between fluids and their surroundings—and his latest

A BU team working to improve the science of bloodstain pattern analysis: PhD student Garam Lee (ENG'25) (from left), ENG's James Bird, and Kenneth Martin of the Biomedical Forensic Sciences program.

research could help give forensic scientists like Martin new tools for analyzing bloodstains. Bird, an ENG associate professor of mechanical engineering, became interested in interpreting blood evidence after attending Martin's course. His lab is doing a range of experiments designed to simulate the kinds of blood evidence found at crime scenes—from the complex scatter patterns associated with stab wounds to the dynamics of a single drop of human blood falling onto a surface.

"A lot of the experiments people have done looking at bloodstains have been on clean surfaces," says Bird. "Well, most surfaces aren't clean."

Watch a video about how BU researchers study the complex interactions of human blood on different surfaces at [bu.edu/bostonia](https://bu.edu/bostonia).

CYDNEY SCOTT (3)

PK-PHOTOS/ISTOCK.COM



# NEARLY HALF OF DOG OWNERS ARE HESITANT TO VACCINATE THEIR PETS

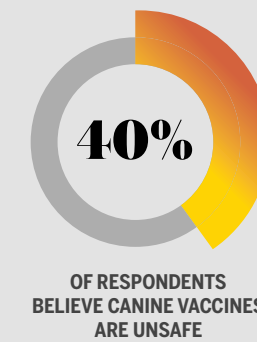
► A new BU study is the first to quantify the prevalence of canine vaccine skepticism | BY JILLIAN MCKOY

**PUBLIC CONFIDENCE** in adult and childhood vaccines has been on the decline—only made worse by COVID-19 vaccine misperceptions and mistrust. Now it appears that vaccine skepticism is extending to shots for pets too.

A study published in the journal *Vaccine* found that US dog owners who harbor mistrust in the safety and efficacy of childhood and adult vaccines are also more likely to hold negative views about vaccinating their four-legged friends. The study, led by a School of Public Health researcher, analyzed a nationally representative sample of adults and found that more than half of people who own dogs expressed some level of hesitancy in inoculating their pets against rabies and other diseases.

According to the survey—conducted with 2,200 dog owners between March 30 and April 10, 2023—nearly 40 percent of respondents believed that canine vaccines are unsafe, more than 20 percent believed these vaccines are ineffective, and 30 percent considered them to be medically

unnecessary. About 37 percent of dog owners also believed that canine vaccination could cause their dogs to develop autism, even though there is no scientific data that validates this risk for animals or humans. An estimated 45 percent of US households own a dog.



The study is the first to formally quantify the prevalence, origins, and health policy consequences of concerns about canine vaccination. Notably, the findings show indication of a COVID vaccine spillover effect in the US—that people who hold negative attitudes toward human vaccines are more likely to hold negative views on vaccinating their pets. These dog

owners are also more likely to oppose policies that encourage widespread rabies vaccination, and less likely to make the effort to vaccinate their pets.

"The vaccine spillover effects that we document in our research underscore the importance of restoring trust in human vaccine safety and efficacy," says study lead author Matt Motta, an SPH assistant professor of health law, policy, and management, who studies how anti-science beliefs and attitudes affect health and health policies. "If nonvaccination were to become more common, our pets, vets, and even our friends and family risk coming into contact with vaccine-preventable diseases."

These attitudes are in contrast to state-level policies in the US, where almost all states require domestic dogs to be vaccinated against rabies. The disease still poses a potential health threat; more than 59,000 people die from canine-mediated rabies across the globe each year. The risk is especially high for veterinarians and clinical staff. ■

In the early 20th century, the “Black Angels”—nurses at Sea View Hospital on Staten Island—took the risk of caring for tuberculosis patients when white nurses wouldn’t.



NYCHIC SEA VIEW ARCHIVES

## RESTORING THE “BLACK ANGELS” TO MEDICAL HISTORY

► Alum’s book chronicles role of Black nurses in the fight against tuberculosis | BY DAVID SILVERBERG

FOR MARIA SMILIOS, a single sentence in a book on lung disease led to almost a decade of research and writing to tell the world about a little-known chapter of early 20th-century medical history.

A former editor for Springer Science+Business Media, Smilios (GRS’07) was reading about a drug discovery one day in 2015 and spotted a line about how tuberculosis was cured at Sea View Hospital on Staten Island.

The hospital, which closed in 1961 and is now an apartment complex, was only 20 or so miles away from her Astoria home, so she began searching online for more information. Hidden deep in the Google results was an article about Virginia Allen, a Black nurse who became part of a cohort of nurses of color who worked at the hospital.

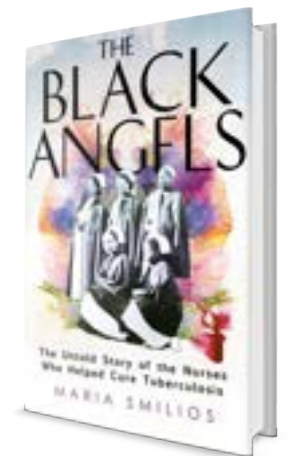
“I couldn’t even find much about them online, these ‘Black Angels,’ as they were called by the patients who would write them Christmas cards,” Smilios says. “But I kept googling, and then called the Staten Island Museum to see if they knew anything, and they said, ‘Oh, Virginia will actually be giving a presentation here in a few days.’”

She met Allen at the museum, struck up a friendship, and spent days at Allen’s home discussing nursing, healthcare, and equity. She learned how this group of nurses saved lives and helped pave the way for a TB drug whose discovery was credited entirely to white male physicians.

“That’s when I knew I had a book,” she says.

Smilios, now living in Asheville, N.C., with her daughter, spent eight years searching newspapers and archives and interviewing nurses and their relatives to write *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis* (Penguin Random House, 2023).

In the book, Smilios sets the scene by outlining how tuberculosis, then known as “consumption,” ravaged the US. The leading cause of mortality in many American states, TB killed more than 5.6 million people in the country in the first half of the 20th century, she writes in the book. It attacked all parts of the body, especially the lungs, where it ate away at the tissue. Victims faced progressive difficulty breathing,



coughing up blood and choking as they wasted away.

Sea View, the largest municipal sanatorium in New York, cared for poor and Indigenous patients “suffering every conceivable form of tuberculosis,” Smilios writes. In 1929, white nurses began quitting, most fearing how contagious TB could be in close quarters: a single sneeze shot 40,000 infected droplets 27 feet into the air, and a cough blasted out 300,000.

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For more than 20 years, the nurses—“Black women in white whose decades of service changed the course of medical history,” Smilios writes—toiled on the wards, where “they bathed and fed and then shrouded the dead.” They did so not only because they were



committed to saving lives “at the risk of their own,” she writes, but also because “they were Black women, subjects of Jim Crow labor laws that offered them few options.”

Smilios says she didn’t want the book to read like “dry history, but I wanted people to be entrenched in this human story.

“I interviewed dozens of people, read hundreds of articles and everything I could on TB and World War II and the Great Migration, and I asked for help from TB doctors who were gracious enough to help me turn all of this into an understandable layman’s language.”

Virginia Allen was one of the cohort of nurses of color who worked at Sea View Hospital, saved lives, and “changed the course of medical history,” Maria Smilios writes.

Many histories of the battle against TB cite the famous 1951 drug trial of the antibiotic called isoniazid, which was so effective that patients who were once at death’s door could suddenly get out of bed and walk. But, as Smilios writes, the trial might not have succeeded without the nurses’ knowledge of “how the disease ebbed and flowed, how it cloyed, then let go.” By 2022, only 714 cases were reported statewide in New York.

**PERSISTENCE OF MEDICAL INJUSTICE**

Smilios has seen the effects of medical injustice again and again. At BU, where she studied religion and literature, she volunteered for three years in the pediatric bone marrow transplant unit at Boston Children’s Hospital. There, she heard of families struggling to deal with insurance companies and pay their hospital bills.

“Something about being present in that moment, with those dying kids—I thought, if I could tell all of these human stories and make people aware of this kind of suffering, maybe some greed would stop,” she says.

Then, in her early 20s, Smilios lost her mother to breast cancer. “Everything was a fight to get her good care,” she recalls. “I knew if we had money, things would have been different, and it was then I began to see the injustice in America’s healthcare system—how who lived and who died was really determined by how much money you made and your zip code.”

That injustice was apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, she says. “When I saw what was happening with who died from COVID, I wondered, well, who lives and who dies? It’s the zip code you live in,” she says. “And I became furious, but I wanted to write a book that was objective. I wanted to write a book where the story would tell people, ‘You need to be angry.’”

She plans to continue writing about the issue. “My next book will definitely be on health equity,” Smilios says. “There are so many more stories to tell.”

JASMINE CLARKE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES (TOP), PARKER PFISTER



A classroom scene being filmed.



# TEACHER AND CFA ALUM BEN DUCOFF STARS IN YANIV, HIS DEBUT FEATURE FILM

► Dark comedy follows a fictional high school teacher who infiltrates an underground card game | BY SUJENA SOUMYANATH (COM’25)

**AN UNDERGROUND** card game run by Hasidic Jews and a high school musical come together in *Yaniv*, New York City–based filmmaker and producer Ben Ducoff’s first film, a quirky comedy that he says “is our own strange, bizarre love letter to the Jewish community.”

Ducoff (CFA’15), who studied theater at BU, wrote and produced the movie with his best friend, Amnon Carmi, who directs. Their script follows Barry Bernstein, a high school teacher in the Bronx—played by Ducoff—whose school is facing budget cuts. To scrape together the money to stage the school’s spring

musical, Bernstein infiltrates an underground community of Hasidic Jews playing *Yaniv*, the Israeli card game, encountering chaos, comedy, and adventure in the process.

“He ends up recruiting his best friend at work, who’s the statistics teacher and a recovering gambling addict,” Ducoff says, “and he dresses his friend up as an Orthodox

Jew, and they go in and basically cheat at this game. Then they get caught and it all unravels—but there’s a happy ending.”

The film is partially based on his experience teaching in the South Bronx, says Ducoff, who still works for New York’s department of

On the set of *Yaniv*: actor Lisa Ann Loggins (from left); film director Amnon Carmi; screenwriter, producer, and star Ben Ducoff; and actor Mitchell Fields. Fields was Ducoff and Carmi’s high school film and acting teacher at the Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Academy in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



COURTESY OF BEN DUCOFF (2)



I wanted to write a book that was objective. I wanted to write a book where the story would tell people, ‘You need to be angry.’”

MARIA SMILIOS

education. “During the pandemic, [Carmi and I] were bouncing ideas off of each other, like, what would be a good story? We grew up playing this Israeli card game, Yaniv, and we always would joke that it would be a great game in a casino.”

Four other alums contributed to the movie. Nik Sadhnani (CFA’15) produced and has a supporting role as a rude party guest. Annabel Steven (CFA’16) plays one of the leads, Deb, a new teacher at Ed Koch High School, and Ben Salus (CFA’16) plays Rick, whose bachelor party leads to disaster. Ian Geers (CFA’14) helped out behind the camera and played background characters in several scenes.

“These are my closest friends from school, and we know how to create together,” Ducoff says. “It made sense to bring them on board.”

The filmmakers had Orthodox Jews working on the film as well as rabbinical and Yiddish consultants. “It was really important to us that we not lean into any stereotypes,” Ducoff says, noting that *Yaniv* has been accepted into a number of Jewish film festivals.

“The whole process has been a dream come true,” he says. “As a kid, I could never imagine this happening, but it is—and it’s thrilling.”

Is there really an underground Yaniv scene in New York City? “That’s a really good question,” Ducoff says. “That’s something we always get, that people always ask us. We neither confirm nor deny it.”



# ALUM’S NEW BOOK CALLS OUT CHRISTIANITY FOR STIGMATIZING FAT PEOPLE

► Anastasia Kidd, an STH lecturer, denounces what she calls diet myths

BY RICH BARLOW

“IF YOU CARE about systemic oppression, you need to start caring about fat people.”

Anastasia Kidd (STH’04,’18) issues that challenge in her new book, *Fat Church: Claiming a Gospel of Fat Liberation* (Pilgrim Press, 2023). Kidd, a minister in the United Church of Christ and a lecturer and director of

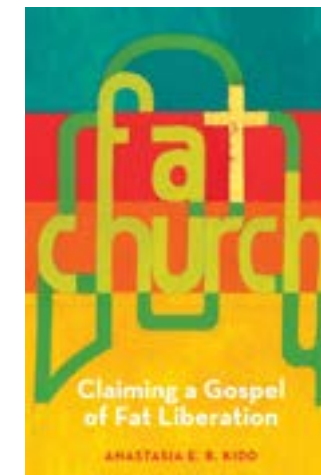
contextual education at the BU School of Theology, declares war on popular notions about people who are fat, a word she embraces (and that *Bostonia* therefore uses here).

“The supermajority of fat people will remain fat people their whole lives,” she writes. “Eighty years of research shows that employing restrictive diets



**It is dang near impossible to grow up, especially as a woman, in this society and not imagine the fat on one’s body to be a symbol of failure, even if it’s literally always been there.”**

ANASTASIA KIDD



CYDNEY SCOTT

and exercise regimens for sustained weight loss works for only the tiniest fraction of people.”

As for religion, she continues, “Fat activists specifically name the Christian church as an institution unyielding in its denigration of bodily appetites of all sorts, which makes it a happy bedfellow with diet culture.”

Established medical opinion says obesity (which Kidd types with an asterisk replacing the “e”—“ob”sity—because she considers the word, its Latin origin meaning to overeat, a slur) is a risk factor for ailments such as hypertension, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Kidd relies on contrarian research, in publications from *Scientific American* to the *International Journal of Epidemiology*, asserting that fat correlates with, but doesn’t cause, unhealthiness.

With studies suggesting fat people face workplace discrimination, Massachusetts and other states are considering bans on size discrimination in employment. Kidd says Christianity must do its part by embracing “fat liberation” as it embraces the movements of other marginalized people.

**Bostonia:** People might think that dieters fail at “sustained weight loss” because they forsake dieting and exercise. What does research say about that?

**Anastasia Kidd:** Studies since the 1950s show that restrictive food diets and exercise alone are not enough for sustained weight loss of more than a couple of years. By year three, approximately 95 to 98 percent of dieters will have gained all their weight back, plus some.

It boils down to the fact that body size is not a mutable trait without life-altering interventions, including dangerous surgeries or lifelong dependence on weight loss drugs. The American Medical Association declared fatness itself a disease, against the recommendation of its own working group. They know what the research says, but they still use all their tools to stigmatize fatness so they can sell diets

and pills and programs and surgeries because it’s hugely lucrative to do so.

**Has Christianity failed to embrace fat people or participated in their stigmatization?**

Christianity certainly has participated in the stigmatization of fat people. We can point to Christian colonialism, which was led by white, Protestant, and primarily Anglo-Saxon people. Sabrina Strings’ *Fearing the Black Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobia* is the seminal work on how anti-fatness grew in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries, as white colonists encountered bodies unlike their own because of the transatlantic slave trade and immigrant waves from southern Europe and elsewhere. The ideal body type became the thin, tall, lithe form of northern European culture.

[My] book was written to help people who’ve never known anything but body shame understand that the way we feel as a society is not about “truth” about fatness, but about the monied narrative power that’s shared by the media, beauty and diet industries, and a white colonial Christian ethic of tightly controlling our bodies as a way to be morally superior.

**Was it difficult writing about your own weight and your shame about it earlier in life?**

Yes, even as a fat activist, I have had to undo much of my own internalized anti-fatness along the way, and am still doing so. It is dang near impossible to grow up, especially as a woman, in this society and not imagine the fat on one’s body to be a symbol of failure, even if it’s literally always been there. Fat people are used to turning their anger inward at our own “failure” to become thin. Once I turned my anger outward, toward the anti-fatness that had so affected my life, I lost my shame and embraced my fatness as a permanent and unapologetic identity marker. Because one doesn’t have to love everything about one’s own body to fight like hell against that which oppresses it.

>>



EXCERPT

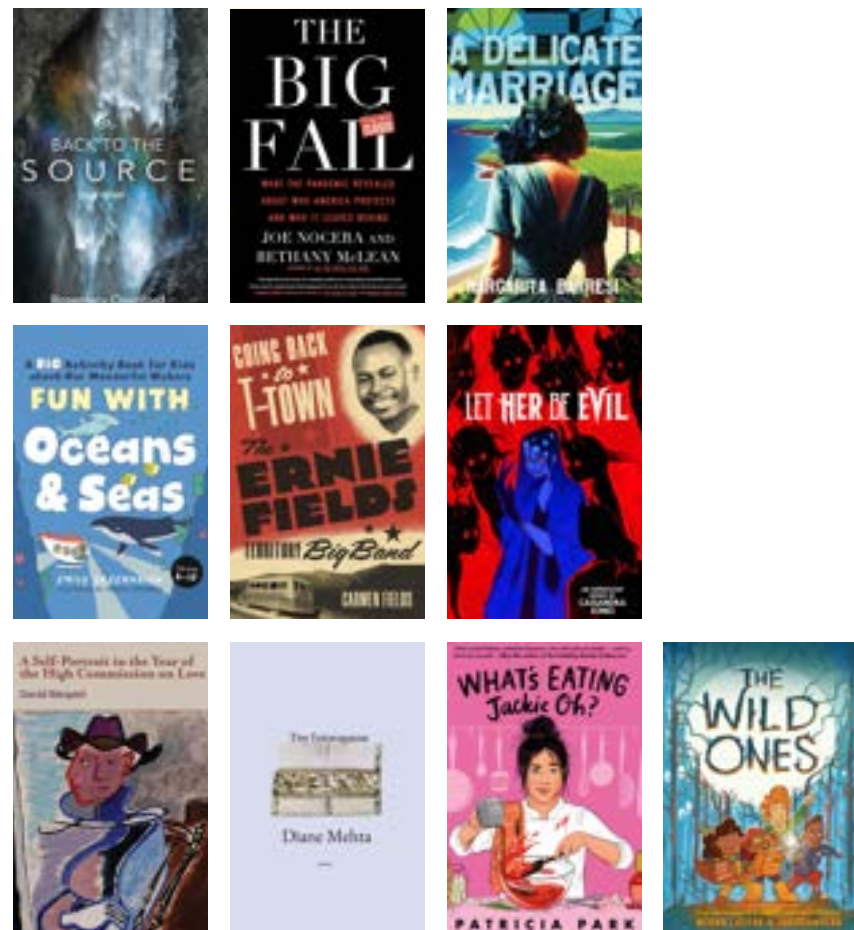
**SHE MAY BE LYING DOWN BUT SHE MAY BE VERY HAPPY**  
Kelson Books, 2023  
By Jody Gelb (CFA'78)

An artful, soul-baring “micro-memoir” about raising her daughter Lueza, who sustained a catastrophic brain injury during birth but lived joyously until she died as a teenager.

“Doctors in pediatric residency were learning from Lueza. They would ask me about the decisions that we were facing and what was important. One morning I heard the sound of classical guitar music and opened the door to a bearded man sitting in the hall outside of Lulu’s room playing Bach. There was a pain-management golden retriever that worked with a nurse and visited children who were undergoing painful procedures. A beautiful gray-haired chaplain would check on us. We would stand in the hall, and she would listen to me talk about Lueza and how I had been living with the idea of approaching death for so long.”



JODY GELB



READING LIST

▶ Alumni books that caught our eye | BY BOSTONIA STAFF

**BACK TO THE SOURCE**  
The Choir Press, 2023  
By Rosemary Oxenford (GRS'83)  
In this novel, six wildly assorted characters cross paths at the turn of the millennium, with unexpected consequences.

**THE BIG FAIL: WHAT THE PANDEMIC REVEALED ABOUT WHO AMERICA PROTECTS AND WHO IT LEAVES BEHIND**  
Portfolio, 2023  
By Joe Nocera (COM'74)  
Cocreated by Bethany McLean, the book looks at what the pandemic did to America and the inequalities it exposed.

**A DELICATE MARRIAGE**  
Atmosphere Press, 2023  
By Margarita Barresi (COM'83)  
A novel set in Puerto Rico from the 1930s to the 1950s explores class, oppression, and the effects of colonialism through the lens of a marriage.

**FUN WITH OCEANS & SEAS: A BIG ACTIVITY BOOK FOR KIDS ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL WATERS**  
Z Kids, 2023  
By Emily Greenhalgh (COM'12)  
For readers aged 6–10, a chance to explore the world’s oceans, and 100 fun ways to do it.

LISA KEATING

**GOING BACK TO T-TOWN: THE ERNIE FIELDS TERRITORY BIG BAND**  
University of Oklahoma Press, 2023  
By Carmen Fields (COM'73)  
The daughter of Tulsa-based musician Ernie Fields (1904–1997) tells his story of success, disappointment, and perseverance from the early jazz era to the 1960s.

**LET HER BE EVIL**  
ZOOP, 2024  
Edited by Cassandra Jones (CAS'17)  
Jones created, edited, and contributed a tale to this crowd-funded comics anthology celebrating “unapologetically wicked women with cruel intentions.”

**A SELF-PORTRAIT IN THE YEAR OF THE HIGH COMMISSION ON LOVE**  
Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2023  
By David Biespiel (CAS'86)  
In 1981, a privileged, Jewish 18-year-old and his gay, Hispanic best friend leave Houston on a road trip that may change their lives and the life of an attractive runaway they meet along the way.

**TINY EXTRAVAGANZAS**  
Arrowsmith Press, 2023  
By Diane Mehta (GRS'94)  
The second poetry collection—from a former student of BU’s Derek Walcott (Hon.'93), the late Nobel Prize–winning poet and playwright, and Robert Pinsky, a three-time US poet laureate and a William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor—looks at art, aging, grief, and the sublime.

**WHAT'S EATING JACKIE OH?**  
Penguin Random House, 2024  
By Patricia Park (GRS'09)  
In this young adult novel, a Korean American teen appears on a TV cooking show and has to balance her dream of becoming a chef with the cultural expectations of her family.

**THE WILD ONES**  
Lee & Low Books, 2024  
By Megan Lacera (COM'00, MET'02)  
A graphic novel–style picture book for readers aged 4–8 follows four best friends who turn to mythical monsters to help them save the only home they’ve ever known. Illustrated by the author’s husband, Jorge Lacera; the two previously published *Zombies Don’t Eat Veggies!* (Lee & Low, 2019) together.



*Black Tie*, 1981. Robert T. Freeman (American, born in 1946). Oil on canvas. Gift of Kate and Newell Flather, Alice Flather, and Newell Flather II. Reproduced with permission. Photograph © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Read a profile of Robert T. Freeman at [bu.edu/bostonia](http://bu.edu/bostonia).

Gallery

ROBERT T. FREEMAN (CFA'71,'81)

An Image of Elegance

**ROBERT T. FREEMAN'S** *Black Tie* was recently installed in Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey’s Executive Office suite at the State House. The painting is on loan from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, as part of Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll’s commitment to bringing more inclusive art to the State House. Freeman (CFA'71,'81) painted *Black Tie* in 1981 as part of a series intended to highlight the “beauty, elegance, and grace of the Black middle class.” The picture shows a social gathering in a ballroom with women in gowns and men in tuxedos, all of them looking back at the viewer. Their collective eye contact is meant to create a dialogue about belonging. A painting by Allan Rohan Crite was also installed in Healey’s office. —Joel Brown



+ Find a recipe for Jacques Pépin's bread flapjacks, and watch a video of the chef cooking with students in BU's test kitchen, at [bu.edu/bostonia](https://bu.edu/bostonia).



# Jacques

IN THE KITCHEN WITH

BY  
MARA  
SASSOON

The longtime BU faculty member, TV host, and friend of Julia's has a new cookbook, with dishes and techniques that save time and money

# Pépin

CHEF

AUTHOR

TEACHER

TIKTOK STAR

OPPOSITE PAGE: ADAM DETOUR; MOHAMMAD XTE

"I don't cook the same way that I did 50 years ago, but the way you sharpen a knife, poach an egg, or slice an onion—that never really changes," says Jacques Pépin in his Madison, Conn., kitchen.

# I arrive

at Jacques Pépin's Connecticut home on a hot August day and knock on the front door. I hear footsteps approach, followed by a high-pitched bark. The door opens, and I'm face-to-face with the legendary chef I grew up watching on TV as he whipped up cassoulet and baked apple tarts. Dressed in a dark blue polo shirt, gray pants, and white slip-on shoes, Pépin is a spry 88. "Welcome to my home," he says in a quiet voice, his French accent still pronounced after all these years living in the US. He smiles warmly, shakes my hand, and introduces me to the source of the barking: Gaston, his nine-year-old black toy poodle.

We pass through the brick-walled foyer, Gaston at our feet, and Pépin (Hon.'11) tells me the home used to be a brick factory. The walls are dotted with photos from his storied life, including images of Pépin with legendary chef Julia Child (Hon.'76), his friend of 44 years and frequent collaborator, who died in 2004. The two costarred in PBS specials and their own show on the network, and teamed up to establish a certificate program in the culinary arts and a master's degree program in gastronomy at BU.

His collaboration with Child is just one highlight of his long and luminous career. Pépin has cooked for heads of state, written more than 30 cookbooks, and received 16 prestigious James Beard Awards. But teaching has been the hallmark of Pépin's work, ever since he published his groundbreaking first cookbook, *La Technique*, almost 50 years ago, and appeared on his first TV series, in 1982. He continues to teach in BU's culinary arts certificate program each semester, and he's devoted himself to opening doors to culinary training for the disenfranchised through his Jacques Pépin Foundation, established in 2016 with his daughter, Claudine (CGS'88, CAS'90), and son-in-law, Rollie Wesen.

Pépin, who recently completed a book tour for his newest cookbook, *Jacques Pépin Cooking My Way: Recipes and Techniques for Economical Cooking* (Harvest, 2023), seems equally adept at conquering every medium. He's become a social media star, showing a new generation of cooks on Instagram,

TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube how to make a perfect egg, butterfly shrimp, or prepare a simple green salad. "I don't really go on things like Facebook or Instagram much," he says. "Claudine was the one who asked me, 'Why don't you make some short videos?' Now, we've done more than 300."

## MAKING SOMETHING SIMPLE

At Pépin's home, we make our way into the kitchen—*his* kitchen, not the second one he had built at the back of the property many years ago for interviews and cooking demos. His wife, Gloria, who died in 2020, requested the space to prevent the constant flow of media from circulating through their home. The room has none of the oddly minimalist aesthetic—all gleaming stainless steel appliances and empty, pristine counters—we associate with the archetypal chef's kitchen.

It feels cozy, lived-in, in the best way. An enviable collection of pots and pans hangs on one wall. Four utensil holders brim with kitchen tools, and an orange-enameled crock sits on the back stove. The island has a built-in block for every sort of knife, a second cooktop, and an array of oils and vinegars.

Pépin's personal touches are everywhere in his kitchen. A longtime painter and avid craftsman, he points to the tiles he painted, featuring his favorite foods and ingredients—a baguette, a chicken, a

Pépin's flapjacks are savory pancakes made with onions, chives, and stale bread. His new cookbook espouses ways to avoid wasting food and is filled with recipes that call for seasonal ingredients and leftovers.



ADAM DETOUR

lobster, a mushroom, carrots. Above the range, there's a mosaic he designed depicting a kitchen with an open window looking out on the water.

But mostly, this kitchen is where his culinary artistry takes place, which he graciously showcases by preparing flapjacks with onions and chives from *Cooking My Way*. The cookbook is filled with recipes that call for seasonal ingredients and leftovers and espouses ways to avoid wasting food. The flapjacks are savory pancakes that come together with stale bread.

"It's part of the DNA of most people in the world to not waste food," Pépin says. "In France, I think it's part of tradition, but maybe even more so for me because I was raised during the Second World War. My mother was a very great cook and had a restaurant, but she was very miserly and used absolutely everything in the kitchen. That's what I was raised on. There is probably no country in the world that wastes as much food as we do in America."

Pépin wields his knife with the speed and precision of an accomplished chef. He moves assuredly through the kitchen, explaining as he goes and revealing the culinary alchemy that occurs when you combine stale bread with some milk, an egg, onion, chives, and seasonings. He dollops yogurt onto each pancake and tops them with chive blossoms.

"Of course, the presentation of a dish is important," he says. "But it's often become too complicated and unnatural in the last few years, using what I call 'punctuation cooking,' where they do a drop [of sauce], a drop, a comma, a drop, all around the plate."

His flapjacks are unfussy—and delicious. (Mark Bittman, journalist, author, and former *New York Times* food columnist, wrote on his website in October, "Jacques is obviously a famous chef, and a brilliant one, but he's also the best home cook I've ever met. He's a chef with a home cook's sensibility, and has never stopped being inventive.")

"There is nothing wrong with making something simple," Pépin says. "I remember times going to BU and teaching classes where a student wanted to do something very complicated. And I'd say, playing devil's advocate a bit, 'How about you try a hot dog?' The point is, whether it's a hot dog or a ham sandwich, there is always one which is better. It doesn't have to be that complicated if it's done well." (In one of his Instagram videos, Pépin actually prepares a hot dog—"the curly dog"—with homemade relish. "You do that for the kids," he says, "they will love you.")

Pépin's 1976 cookbook *La Technique* was one of the first to show, step-by-step through close-up photos of his hands, essential cooking methods, including how to mince an onion or carve a turkey. The techniques are still relevant today, he says.



"I don't cook the same way that I did 50 years ago," he says, "but the way you sharpen a knife, poach an egg, or slice an onion—that never really changes."

## A SOCIAL MEDIA HIT

Pépin has made cooking a family affair, bringing his daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter on episodes of his shows and collaborating with them on cookbooks. Claudine, who studied philosophy and political science at BU and appeared with her father in their 1996 show, *Jacques Pépin's Kitchen: Cooking with Claudine*, manages his social media. She encouraged him to start posting short cooking videos during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The videos were an immediate hit, especially on Facebook, where his followers grew from around 300,000 to almost 2 million.

"The response after the first one, which was just a really rough cut, taken on a phone, of him making a vinaigrette in a jar, was insane," says Claudine. (That video now has more than a million views on Facebook.) "And he really likes making them. At the time we started doing them, my mom was still alive. She just looked at me and said, 'Oh, thank God, because I don't know what to do with your father.'"

Pépin's granddaughter, Shorey Wesen (COM'26), who's studying public relations and psychology at BU, says she didn't grasp the magnitude of her grandfather's celebrity until they were on a book tour together for their cookbook, *A Grandfather's Lessons: In the Kitchen with Shorey* (Harvest, 2017). "There was one specific book signing that we went to where people were lined up around the block to get his signature," she says. "I thought, 'Wait a minute—people really care about this.'"

Pépin met Julia Child (Hon.'76) in 1960, and the two maintained a lifelong friendship and collaboration. He says their relationship was the same on camera and off, with an easy rapport and a deep respect for each other's cooking.



In Pépin's first Facebook video, he makes a vinaigrette. It has more than

1 MILLION VIEWS

2 MILLION followers on Pépin's Facebook page

Pépin's joyful, approachable way of explaining cooking techniques—from the basic to the more complicated—is at the root of his enduring popularity. “My dad is the biggest jokester,” says Claudine. “He loves a good joke. He’s the guy who is so excited to tell you the joke that he’s laughing before he finishes it because he thinks it’s so funny. And chances are, it is so funny. But my father is first and foremost a teacher, and he values education and teaching technique a tremendous amount. You can have the most beautiful ingredients in the entire world, but if you don’t know how to chop an onion, what are you doing?”

### LESSONS FROM HOJO'S

Pépin developed his passion for cooking while working in his mother's restaurants. Born in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, near Lyon, he came of age during World War II and has never forgotten the food shortages of the time. He quit school at 13 to take on a culinary apprenticeship and, a few years later, moved to Paris to work in the kitchens at the renowned Hotel Plaza Athénée.

In his early 20s, he was called to serve in the military, assigned as the personal chef to three French heads of state, including President Charles de Gaulle. That may sound glamorous, a stepping stone to celebrity, but Pépin says chefs weren't afforded the same level of respect they are today.

“It was a different world,” he says. “You have to think of things in the context of the time. Chefs weren't looked at the same way as now. A cook's place was in the kitchen, that was it. I served people like Eisenhower, Tito, Macmillan, Nehru—many heads of state from around the world—but no one would ever mention the chef. At that time, the cook was at the bottom, socially.”

In 1959, Pépin moved to New York City and became a chef at the now-closed French restaurant Le Pavillon, and attended an English for international students program at Columbia. At Le Pavillon he became acquainted with Helen McCully, then the food editor of *House Beautiful* magazine, who introduced him to both Julia Child and James Beard around 1960.

Soon, through other connections he made at Le Pavillon, he had two enticing job offers. One was an invitation to become President John F. Kennedy's White House chef. The other was to helm research and development for the Howard Johnson's restaurant chain, an offer that came from Howard Johnson himself, a regular at Le Pavillon. At the time, Howard Johnson's had more than 1,000 locations and was the biggest restaurant chain in the country. “It was bigger than McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Burger King—all three together,” Pépin says.

Pépin works with students in BU's test kitchen in November 2023. He and Child teamed up to establish a certificate program in culinary arts and a master's degree program in gastronomy at BU in the 1980s and 1990s.



The chef has written more than 30 cookbooks, including his latest (above). His first, *La Technique*, published in 1976, was one of the first to show, step-by-step, essential cooking methods.



He chose Howard Johnson's. “Again, in the context of the time—I didn't go to the White House because I didn't realize the kind of potential that held,” he says. “I have a picture hanging on my wall of [my late friend] René Verdon, who did become the White House chef. He sent me this picture of him with the president a year or two later.”

Pépin studied American dining habits and was responsible for developing and improving dishes. He introduced fresh onions and butter, rather than dehydrated onions and margarine, for instance, and developed dishes like clam chowder and chicken pot pie.

The decade he spent with HoJo's prepared him to open his own restaurant, La Potagerie, on 5th Avenue in New York City, which he operated for five years. After a bad car accident left him with devastating injuries, including two broken arms, he couldn't sustain the hours spent on his feet in a kitchen. He began working as a consultant for the famed Russian Tea Room and the World Trade Center's commissary. “They served 40,000 people

a day at the World Trade Center,” he says. “I never would have been able to do that without the training at Howard Johnson's.”

After his accident, Pépin moved to Madison, Conn., in 1974 and turned his attention to writing cookbooks and columns for publications like the *New York Times*. He taught in culinary programs in New York and cooking classes at BU's School of Hospitality Administration.

### JACQUES AND JULIA

Pépin remembers his first meeting with Child, in 1960: “Helen [McCully] said to me, ‘Oh, that woman who is writing the book *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* is coming to New York, so we're going to cook for her.’ So, we did, and then I became friends with Julia. We spoke French the first time we met because her French was better than her English, having just come back from living in France, and I had only been in [New York] for a few months.”

While the two had good-natured disagreements on certain approaches to cooking, both believed



The master's degree in gastronomy at BU's Metropolitan College is

“STILL ONE OF THE ONLY PROGRAMS OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY.”

JACQUES PÉPIN

that food hadn't been taken seriously as a course of academic study. They set out to change that.

Pépin had already been teaching at BU for many years and, in 1989, he and Child helped establish a semester-long certificate program in the culinary arts at BU's Metropolitan College. But they also envisioned a program with courses both in the kitchen and the classroom, in which students could study food through lenses of history, sociology, anthropology, literature, and the arts.

“Julia had said to me, ‘We should start a program in gastronomy. That doesn't really exist in colleges,’” says Pépin. They wrote to BU President John Silber (Hon.'95), who gave the okay to launch a master's degree in 1991. Pépin and Child taught the program's first course. “It is still one of the only programs of its kind in the country,” Pépin says. “It's been very gratifying.”

“Jacques' impact on the program is clear—we engage our hands and intellects together in the kitchen,” says Megan Elias, a MET associate professor of the practice and director of the Gastronomy Program. “His visits every semester

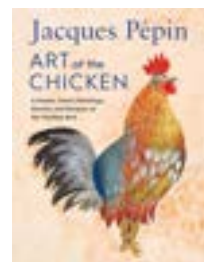


are really magical times, because he brings joy with him when he enters our kitchens. He's approachable and supportive. He is interested in the students, and it's clear that he loves to cook *with* people, not just for them."

Pépin radiates that joy in his television programs and social media videos. He landed his first TV show, *Everyday Cooking*, in 1982. In the years since, he's starred in many PBS cooking programs, including one with Child, 1999's *Julia and Jacques: Cooking at Home*. He says the idea for the show was sparked by the cooking demonstrations they'd given at BU. (Their relationship was the same both on camera and off, he says, with a fun, easy rapport and deep respect for each other's approach to cooking—even if they occasionally disagreed on whether a dish needed more salt.)

Pépin's love for teaching inspired the mission of his charitable foundation. In 2016, he, Claudine, and Rollie Wesen created the Jacques Pépin Foundation, with the goal of expanding culinary training opportunities for those who are disenfranchised or underrepresented in the field. Wesen, director of the foundation, wanted to

Pépin, at home in his art studio, is a longtime painter. For decades, he has hand-painted menus for meals he's cooked for guests. His 2022 book, *Art of the Chicken*, features scores of his colorful, whimsical works.



ensure that Pépin's legacy as a culinary educator is never forgotten. "Jacques said that learning to cook is something that can really help people who need a hand up in society," says Wesen. "That started us on this path of supporting community kitchens that are all around the country."

The foundation has provided over \$1 million in grants to support more than 100 community kitchens and culinary training programs in Cleveland, Ohio, Tacoma, Wash., and elsewhere.

"We wanted to help people who have been a bit disenfranchised in their life—perhaps people who have come out of jail, people without housing, recovering addicts, veterans looking to enter a new career," says Pépin. "The grants we give to the different organizations are not necessarily always to buy new stoves. Recently, we helped one organization buy a washing machine for the students to wash their uniforms. This has been quite rewarding because I feel that if somebody is interested in cooking and likes working in the kitchen, we can probably, in six weeks, teach you how to peel an onion and poach an egg, very simple stuff like that, and get you started in the kitchen. And if you stay there for five years, maybe you're the chef. People can perhaps go on to open a restaurant. You can redo your life this way."

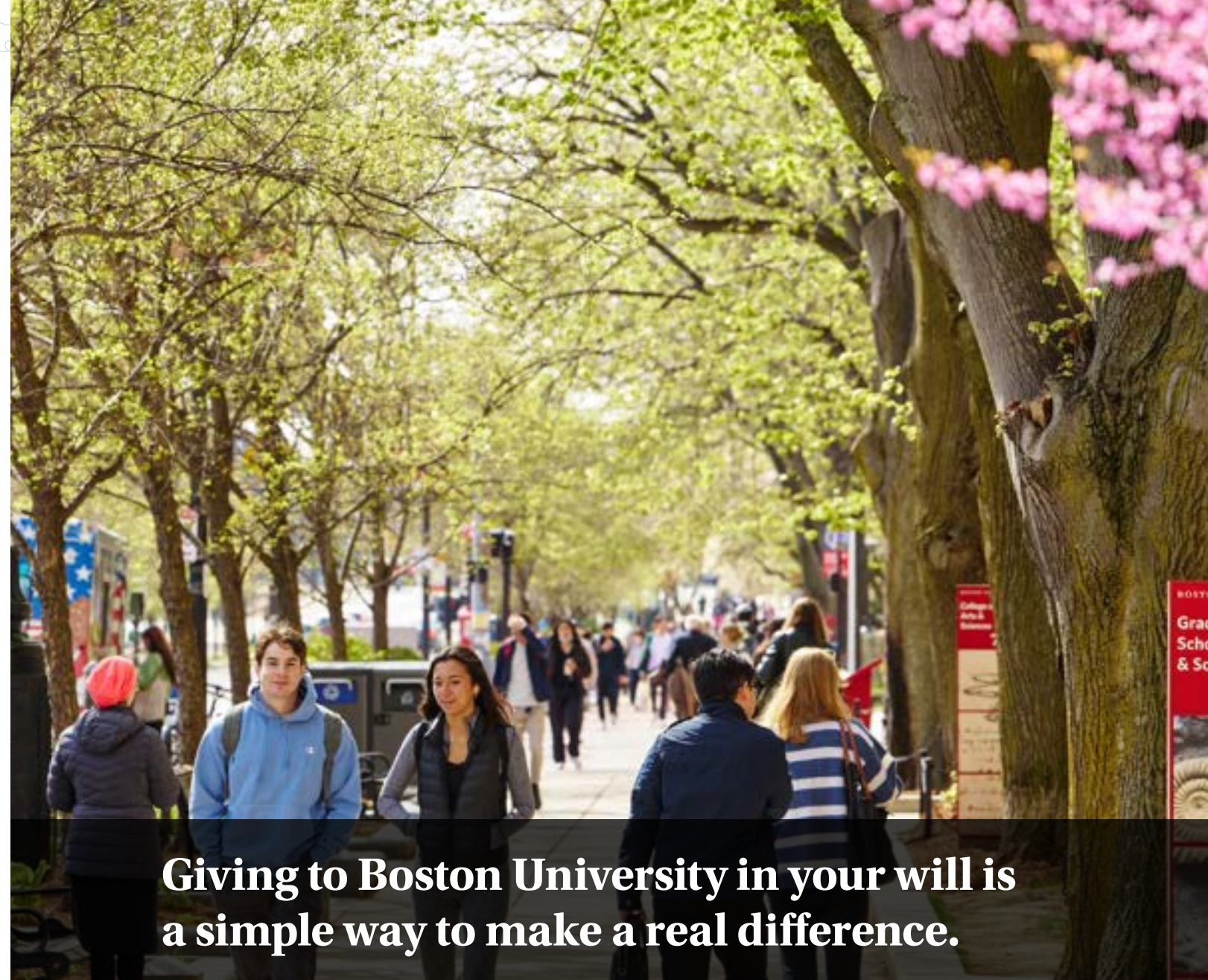
#### THE ART OF COOKING

Back at Pépin's home on that August day, he gives me a tour of his second-floor art studio, a space filled with natural light. For nearly 50 years, he's hand-painted menus for meals he has cooked for guests. He's kept them all. In 2018, he published *Menus: A Book for Your Meals and Memories* (Harvest), a journal of sorts whose pages are bordered with designs he painted, so people can fill in their own menus. In 2022, he published the *New York Times* best-selling book *Art of the Chicken: A Master Chef's Paintings, Stories, and Recipes of the Humble Bird* (Harvest), which features scores of his colorful, whimsical works.

Pépin sees similarities between how he approaches two of his passions: cooking and painting. "Sometimes I start a painting, and I don't really know exactly where I'm going. But at some point, you start responding to it. You put a shape there, or a color there, because it feels good without even trying to validate it in any ways," he says.

Cooking involves similar intuition: "Let's say you are making a chicken sauté with morels," he says. "The same night, you may do that order six or seven times. And if someone were behind you mocking exactly what you're doing, they'll see that for those seven times, you did it differently. But they all came out exactly the same. You make different adjustments without even thinking about it—you taste, you adjust, you taste, you adjust." ■

ADAM DETOUR



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**Download a complimentary copy of our Estate Planning Guide at [bu.edu/estateguide](http://bu.edu/estateguide).**

**Boston University** Planned Giving

# AGING REIMAGINED

**BU's pioneering researchers are cracking the code to help us live longer, healthier lives**

It's likely that superagers such as 101-year-old Millie Flashman (PAL'43, SSW'45) won the genetic lottery. Living that long takes a combination of protective genes that, together, shield their bearer against the illnesses of aging.

JACKIE RICCIARDI

## AMERICANS ARE NOT JUST GETTING OLD—THEY'RE ALSO GETTING OLDER.

Look at Millie Flashman. She was born in 1922. Graduated from Boston University in 1943. And she's happy to tell you all about it. Flashman might have been a novelty once, but not anymore. A hundred years ago, 1 in 20 people in the United States were over the age of 65; today, it's 1 in 6.

BU is at the forefront of research into understanding how and why we are living longer, healthier lives than during any previous time, exploring the impact on families, the health-care system, and the economy. For example, the University is home to the world's largest study of centenarians, where medical

experts and geneticists like Thomas T. Perls are studying superagers, investigating why some people make it to 100 while others don't—and what the rest of us can learn from them. Their goal: help all of us live life to the fullest, for as long as possible.

In the pages ahead, we ask Perls and Flashman the secrets to a long and happy life, get some tips for things you can do in your 20s (and 30s and 40s) to help ensure you enjoy your 80s, and meet inspiring older alums who are enjoying second acts. For folks like them, it's never too late to become a champion swimmer, a model, or a marathon runner. As Perls has found, optimism and extroversion "are conducive to getting to older age."

BY RICH BARLOW | PHOTOS BY JACKIE RICCIARDI

# THE SECRETS OF LIVING TO

BU's New England Centenarian Study delves into the lives of superagers to better understand why some people make it to their centennial—and to maybe help the rest of us do the same

# 100

**+** Watch a video on ways to live to 100, and read more stories in this series, including why we need to change our idea of old age, what's keeping many Americans from living longer, and how to save for retirement, at [bu.edu/brink](https://bu.edu/brink).

**IN 1922**, the year Millie Flashman was born, doctors treated diabetes with insulin for the first time. In 1943, when she graduated from Boston University's (now closed) College of Practical Arts & Letters, fascist Italy surrendered in the Second World War. In 1945, mere months after she got her master's at BU's School of Social Work, a joyful nation welcomed returning troops from the war. In 1991, when she retired from SSW's faculty, the Soviet Union dissolved.

And yet, when asked about the biggest change she's seen, this 101-year-old witness to world-altering events says... the fridge.

"We didn't have refrigerators then," Flashman says, recalling the wooden icebox of her 1920s childhood and the periodic visits by the iceman, selling ice blocks for 60 or 80 cents, "depending on the weight." She's bemused by

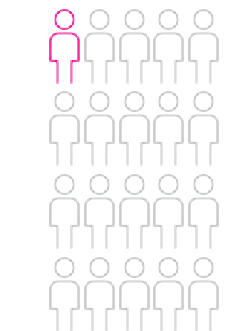
the potency of this seemingly small-bore memory. BU researchers, by contrast, are awed by her prodigious recollection and longevity. Flashman, who lives in a fourth-floor condo at a landscaped complex outside Boston, celebrated the start of her second century with a birthday lobster roll. She drove until the pandemic, and donated her car to a public radio station. That's why Thomas T. Perls recruited her to BU's New England Centenarian Study (NECS), which he has codirected since the first of its four research projects launched in 1995.

Over those three decades, Perls, a BU Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine professor of medicine, has studied thousands of long-lived individuals, pursuing the secrets to their fountain of healthy longevity. "By determining how centenarians and their relatives age so slowly and

## THE UNITED STATES IS GETTING OLDER



IN 2020, ABOUT 1 IN 6 PEOPLE WERE AGE 65 AND OVER.



IN 1920, THIS PROPORTION WAS LESS THAN 1 IN 20.

SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU

**BU's Thomas T. Perls recruited Flashman to the decades-old New England Centenarian Study. Her late uncle was one of the study's first participants; he died at 102.**

**55.8 MILLION**

THE OLDER POPULATION REACHED 55.8 MILLION OR 16.8% OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN 2020.

SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU

**34<sup>TH</sup>**

THE NATION REMAINED RELATIVELY YOUNG COMPARED TO MANY OF ITS PEER NATIONS IN 2020, RANKING 34TH. JAPAN HAD THE LARGEST SHARE (28.5%) OF OLDER RESIDENTS.

SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU



AMERICANS AGE 50 AND OVER CONTRIBUTE \$8.3 TRILLION TO THE US ECONOMY EACH YEAR, OR 40% OF THE GDP.

SOURCE: AARP



BY MOLLY CALLAHAN

# CAN WE FIND A CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?

**BU researchers are taking on this daunting question through a variety of approaches**

**AROUND THE WORLD**, more than 55 million people have dementia, the majority with Alzheimer's disease, a degenerative brain disorder that's the result of damage to the brain's nerve cells and causes memory loss, behavioral changes, confusion, and deterioration of language skills. In the United States, more than 6.7 million people over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's, according to the Alzheimer's Association, and the likelihood of developing the disease only goes up with age. And, while there are a number of therapeutic treat-

ments available to people with the disease, there's no cure.

Where some might see grim statistics and an uphill battle, geneticists, medical scientists, and other researchers at BU—home to the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, one of 33 such organizations in the US funded

**Because genes are inherited, "they can potentially impact Alzheimer's disease mechanisms before any other environmental influences take root," says Lindsay Farrer.**

by the National Institutes of Health to advance research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias—see an opportunity to take on one of society's greatest medical challenges.

Lindsay Farrer, chief of the Biomedical Genetics section in BU's Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, focuses on understanding and identifying genetic factors that make a person more at risk for, or more resilient to, developing Alzheimer's disease. In a seminal 2007 paper published in *Nature Genetics*, an international collaboration of researchers codirected by Farrer demonstrated that variants in the protein-encoding gene SORL1 are associated with Alzheimer's disease in multiple ethnic populations. The discovery, says Farrer, opens up a new potential target for Alzheimer's researchers.

Because genes are inherited, "they can potentially impact Alzheimer's disease mechanisms before any other environmental influences take root," says Farrer, who is also a BU Distinguished Professor of Genetics. "We're trying to figure out what are the genetic risk factors and protective factors, because they can serve both as potential diagnostic or predictive markers, as well as become potential therapeutic targets."

Rhoda Au approaches Alzheimer's disease from a different angle.

In 2005, Au, a BU medical school professor of anatomy and neurobiology and one of the principal investigators of the Framingham Heart Study Brain Aging Program, began digitally recording people's voices as they answered standard psychological test questions. What Au later realized, inspired by the rise in digital voice assistants such as Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa, is that her recordings contained rich information about the participants—not just the content of their answers, but the quality of their voice and memory.

Au and her colleagues can analyze a person's speech over time for changes that may indicate something cognitive—perhaps Alzheimer's—is at play.

"Speaking is a cognitively complex task," she says. "And so, in that search for how to better measure people's cognition, I realized an answer is embedded in those voice recordings. How so? Because, as you're producing speech, you have to bring in a number of cognitive capabilities: you have to bring in your semantic memory, you have to be able to multitask and assemble a sentence, a quote, and then you have to bring together sentences that make sense into



**Rhoda Au can analyze a person's speech over time for changes that may indicate something cognitive—perhaps Alzheimer's—is at play.**

a coherent message. That's all cognition, memory, attention, executive function—all of that comes into play."

Au's team is part of a new program, SpeechDx, launched by the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation. It's "a longitudinal study aimed at creating the largest repository of speech and voice data to help accelerate the detection, diagnosis, and monitoring of Alzheimer's disease," according to a trade magazine specializing in speech technology.

BU is one of several institutions collecting speech and other clinical brain-health data from more than 2,500 participants. All that data will be collated to create an enormous database that can be leveraged to spot trends and possible diagnostic markers—as a means for earlier Alzheimer's detection overall.

markedly delay or even escape aging-related diseases," the NECS website says, "we hope to contribute to the development of strategies and even drugs that do the same in average aging people." That includes Alzheimer's disease, scourge of an estimated 6.7 million American seniors.

The quick version of 30 years' research: It's likely that superagers such as Flashman won the genetic lottery. Eating right, exercising regularly, getting enough sleep, and de-stressing can stretch the expiration date for many of us to around 90, Perls says. But three digits? That takes a combination of protective genes that, together, shield their bearer against the illnesses of aging.

Centenarians generally have the average person's number of disease-promoting genetic variants. But they may also have variants that shield against heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and other diseases of aging. Perls and his NECS colleagues have also discovered that superaging runs in families. Flashman's uncle, Joe Goldstein, was one of Perls' first study participants, dying at age 102.

## Centenarians may have genetic variants that shield against heart disease, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and other diseases of aging.

The four NECS studies gather extensive data on participants. Debbi Cutler (SSW'89), Flashman's daughter, recalls that in addition to basics like blood samples, Perls' team collected reams of information regarding her mother's personal and medical histories, using forms going into minute detail. "They ask, 'When you were a kid, how many hours a day did you spend reading, [or] playing cards?'" Cutler says. "She remembered more than I did."

### Formula for Healthy Aging

Perls found his calling after first being repulsed by the shoddy care given to older adults, then amazed by how some aged so well.

As a teenaged nursing home orderly in 1970s Colorado, "I just saw some pretty horrific things going on," he says. "Anybody with any kind of behavior issue was put on an antipsychotic. It felt a little bit like the lobotomy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*." After medical school, he cared for his first two centenarian patients during a fellowship at a rehab center. Their robust health stunned him.

"I immediately wondered why they didn't have Alzheimer's disease, because the pervasive wisdom at the time was that since Alzheimer's had an exponentially increased rate of prevalence after the age of 85, everybody at 100 must have Alzheimer's," Perls says. "Well, these two definitely did not. And I wanted to then go out and find more centenarians and see if they were this natural model of resistance or resilience to aging."

He summarizes what it takes to be a centenarian with an invented word: SAGEING. The acronym is for seven

behavioral and other factors that can get many of us to age 90, and a lucky few beyond that: sleep ("not getting enough sleep has been associated with increased risk for Alzheimer's and other dementias"), attitude (research suggests optimism and extroversion "are conducive to getting to older age"), genetics, exercise ("at least five times a week, 30 minutes each time"), interests (passions that get you out of bed, "exercising your brain as much as



exercising your muscles”), nutrition (“as much non-red meat as possible, fish is good, maybe a little bit of poultry” and aiming for a healthy weight), get rid of smoking and “quackery,” like growth hormone.

These factors form the basis of Perls’ 40-question longevity calculator, which yields an estimate of the age to which you’ll live. (Perls, who is 63, clocks in at 94.)

Flashman has always practiced “E” (exercise) and “N” (nutrition). She’s watched what she eats, and while “I’m not a great athlete, I loved different sports,” including field hockey, tennis, and fencing. She smoked in college but dropped the habit after having kids. Flashman also credits “I” (interests). “Recently, if I wasn’t able to Zoom, I’m not sure I would be alive. Because I’ve taken courses online.” She took in-person classes, too, pre-COVID.

Perls notes a vital caveat to SAGEING. “Those who are the victims of structural racism really have the deck stacked against them, in terms of being able to have proper access to medical care, screening and prevention, vaccinations,” he says. “If we did as good a job of screening and preventing hypertension in Black people as we do in white people, a huge chunk of the life expectancy disparity would disappear.”

### A More Youthful Cognitive Function

During a visit last year with Flashman, Perls secured her agreement to undergo neuropsych testing to see if she’d qualify for a study of cognitive super-agers, RADCO (Resilience/Resistance to Alzheimer’s Disease in Centenarians and Offspring), one of the four projects under NECS. “These are 100-year-olds and older who have the cognitive function of people 30 years younger,” says Perls. “If you’re cognitively intact like that at 100, you’re virtually immortal.” RADCO participants donate their brains postmortem for study, in part to see if they had any evidence of Alzheimer’s. If so, “How did they have neuropathology consistent with Alzheimer’s and yet they were cognitively intact? What’s protecting them?” asks Perls.

## 10 THINGS TO DO IN YOUR 20S TO HELP ENSURE YOU’LL ENJOY YOUR 80S

**Sure, you might bounce back from a night out or a vigorous workout now—but you won’t always. And retirement? You’ll have to pay for it somehow. Here are 10 things you should do in your 20s to help ensure you age well and can continue living life to the fullest in your 80s (and beyond).**

### 1 Start putting money away ASAP

When it comes to retirement, there’s significant peace of mind that comes from knowing you have cash to count on. Start an IRA now, advises Jean Berko Gleason, a College of Arts & Sciences professor emerita of psychological and brain sciences. Saving even a little bit at a time now is far preferable to scrambling to put money away later—and more effective too.

### 2 Commit to getting enough sleep each night

Not getting enough sleep has been associated with an increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia, according to Thomas T. Perls, a BU Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine professor of medicine who studies the aging secrets of centenarians. Everyone’s different, but experts generally recommend young adults get around seven hours of sleep a night.



SKODONNELL/ISTOCK.COM

### 3 Watch what you eat

A balanced diet is important no matter what age you are. Perls recommends a Mediterranean diet to help fend off aging-related diseases and cancer. Also helpful if you want to live a long, healthy life: go easy on the red meat.

### 4 Ditch the bad habits

Smoking, for one, has notoriously terrible health outcomes—as does drinking alcohol. And gambling or binge shopping? That’s money you won’t have for your retirement years. Dropping your bad habits now is critical to longevity and stability later in life, Perls says.



### 5 Exercise every week

Worry less about a number on the scale and more about what makes you feel your best, Perls says. Try to fit in 30 minutes of exercise a day, 5 times a week—mixing core work, cardio, and strength training.

### 6 Exercise your brain too

Research suggests that doing preventive cognitive therapy—brain exercise—helps keep your mind in good shape. When you’re an older adult, that’ll help you manage daily tasks and maintain your independence longer, says Magdalen A. Balz (Sargent’09), a Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences clinical assistant professor of speech, language, and hearing sciences. Now is the time to develop a crossword or Sudoku habit, or find a brainy hobby like chess to enjoy.

### 7 Don’t get set in your ways

Growth—the mental and emotional kind—should be an eternal pursuit. Keep an open mind as you make your way

through the world. And, once you enter your older years, consider keeping your circle large. “Intergenerational relationships are a gift,” Balz says. “Older adults have valuable wisdom to share with younger adults, and younger adults bring new and novel ideas to conversations.”

### 8 Develop deep, lasting friendships

Safe, strong friendships that you can rely on are critical, says Merry White, a CAS professor of anthropology. You don’t need to see each other every day, but everyone needs people who will show up when it counts.

### 9 Develop skills in a wide range of areas

Cultivate a variety of skills and hobbies, White says. She recommends curating a set of “adventure” skills—like hiking or camping—and “sedentary” skills—like pottery or cooking—that you can enjoy both by yourself and with friends.

### 10 Commit to leaving the world better than you found it

Socioeconomic inequalities like access to housing can compound with age, says Judith Gonyea, a School of Social Work professor of social research. Consider getting—and staying—involved with equity-focused nonprofits or advocacy groups in your community to help make sure that everyone around you can enjoy their 80s too. —Alene Bouranova

“May find out that I have Alzheimer’s,” Flashman quipped when Perls floated the idea of her joining the study. “I promise you that’s not the case,” he replied. She agreed that, should she qualify, she’d be willing to donate her brain after she passes away, eliciting the doctor’s delighted “bingo!”

Other programs in the NECS include Integrative Longevity Omics, a study of about 1,400 individuals, two-thirds of them centenarians and the remainder their offspring; the Longevity Consortium’s Centenarian project, which aims to find healthy-aging therapeutics; and the Long Life Family Study, which started in 2004 with members of 550 families that had clusters of exceptionally long-lived members.

“We want to find the familial factors that these families, individually and as a whole, have in common” that enable longevity across generations, Perls says of the family study. “This study will go on forever, I hope.” The National Institute on Aging funds all the studies.

### Brains in a Dish

You don’t have to die to give the researchers a crack at your neurons, though. While visiting with Flashman, Perls also persuaded her to give a blood sample for coresearchers who make “brains in a dish.” These are lab-made neurons, developed from patients’ blood cells, which are used to test how brain and other cells react to stress and fight off disease.

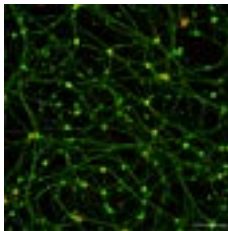
George Murphy, an associate professor of medicine at BU’s medical school and a cofounder of its Center for Regenerative Medicine, describes how you make a brain: “We collect a teaspoonful of blood from centenarians and reprogram these samples into personalized, master stem cells, called induced pluripotent stem cells.” The lab takes these cells and “coaxes them into a host of cell types that are impacted by aging.”

One such cell type, cortical neurons, can reflect diseases such as Alzheimer’s. “We hypothesize that individuals with exceptional longevity share protective molecular profiles that regulate stress response and

promote [cognitive] resilience,” says Murphy. To test that hypothesis, PhD student Todd Dowrey (CAMED’27) doses the lab-made neurons with stress-inducing materials to learn how superagers and their brains fend off aging’s infirmities.

BU’s stem cells bank has collected blood samples from 42 people—some older than 105—including the children of superagers. The holy grail of this work is insights about how the rest of us might live cognitively healthier lives. “We are beginning to uncover a compelling story,” says Murphy. It appears that superager-derived neurons boost genes that help adapt to aging and cognitive issues. Centenarians also may possess elite immune systems that help ward off debilitating disease.

The beauty of these stem cell lines is that they can be grown indefinitely, Murphy adds, “creating a permanent repository of biomaterial that can be used to fuel any aging study.”



A “brain in a dish”: neurons derived from a superager’s blood and used to study resilience to Alzheimer’s disease and other infirmities of aging.

Life itself isn’t permanent, but Flashman is hoping her twilight years contribute to mind-blowing knowledge that leads to healthier longevity in others. That would cap a lifetime devoted to healthcare. After graduating from BU, the School of Social Work hired her to organize a student unit in the psychiatric clinic at what is now Boston Medical Center, the University’s primary teaching hospital; after that got off the ground, she taught the course Casework and Human Behavior, took time off to raise her family, then returned to teach and develop a course in family therapy. She became a charter member of the American Family Therapy Academy.

“Having taught at BU, and knowing how important research was—the dollars they get from that,” she laughs, “I was glad to help out [Perls’] research. I think that, you know, a good citizen would do that.”

**Herman Kelly, Jr. (STH’83), a champion swimmer, has competed in the National Senior Games three times.**

JESUS ARANGURE/AP IMAGES FOR HUMANA INC., COURTESY OF GEORGE MURPHY (INSET)



+

Hear these six alumni talking about what their second acts mean to them at [bu.edu/bostonia](https://bu.edu/bostonia).

# THEIR SECOND ACTS

In their encore careers and ongoing hobbies, these six alums are following their passions

BY SOPHIE YARIN

**Encore, encore!** For some older adults, a second act is a postretirement career that draws on different skills and expertise from the first. For others, it’s an engaging hobby that allows them to be surrounded by a community of fellow passion seekers. Experts on aging agree that staying active as we get older is one of the keys to a fulfilling life. We spoke to six alums whose second acts have taken them to center stage, down the catwalk, across the finish line, and other remarkable places.





## THE LIFESTYLE MODEL

**NAME:** Veronica “Ronni” Sarmanian (CAS’70, COM’74)

**LOCATION:** Charleston, S.C.

**FIRST ACT:** Science and technology communications strategist

Perhaps no one was more surprised at Ronni Sarmanian’s modeling career than Sarmanian herself. “In school pictures, I stand out—that odd little dark face in the corner,” she says. “I just wasn’t the profile.” After a successful career as one of the nation’s first tech communications specialists, Sarmanian retired in the early 2000s and moved to Charleston, S.C., in 2019. A few years later, some friends convinced her to attend a model casting call for the city’s fashion week. She was a hit with the judges and soon caught the attention of a local modeling agency. Now, in addition to walking the catwalk in community fashion shows, Sarmanian is moving into lifestyle modeling. “The kind of work I would do might be an ad for a retirement community...or being the face of some medication,” she says. “They always say, ‘Don’t tell anyone how old you are because you don’t look that old.’ It’s just a number. You’re doing what you’re doing because you’re healthy and vibrant.”



## THE MUSIC HISTORIAN

**NAME:** Hank Davis (GRS’65)

**LOCATION:** Puslinch, Ontario, Canada

**FIRST ACT:** Rockabilly singer, psychology professor

As a high schooler in the late 1950s, Hank Davis formed a rock and roll group called Hank and the Electras, cut a few records, and then disbanded the group to attend college. “[But] I guess I never got past it,” he says. As a psychology professor, he reconnected with his love of performing. “When I stood in front of a class of 600 kids teaching Intro Psych, that’s exactly the same energy I might have used when I was performing onstage,” he says. “Only now, I’m talking about Skinner and Pavlov.” Now that he’s an emeritus professor, he has more time to write magazine articles and liner notes, archive and reissue rare tracks by early rock and country musicians, and record new music—all of which he did during his 35-year teaching career. In 2023, he compiled all of his knowledge into a new book, *Ducktails, Drive-ins, and Broken Hearts* (SUNY Press), a look at the roots of American rock music, which *Library Journal* called “captivating and surprising.”



MATHEW MCCARTHY/WATERLOO REGION RECORD; OPPOSITE: MAX REGENOLD (TOP), JESUS ARANGUREN/AP IMAGES FOR HUMANA INC.



## THE CHAMPION SWIMMER

**NAME:** Herman Kelly, Jr. (STH’83)

**LOCATION:** Baton Rouge, La.

**FIRST ACT:** Adjunct college instructor, AME pastor

Before Herman Kelly, Jr., became an award-winning instructor in African and African American studies at Louisiana State University, before he was ordained as a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he was a Morehouse College Tiger Shark. “The Morehouse swim team has the legacy of being one of the premier Black swim teams in the world,” Kelly says. “I made the team my freshman year, and I swam all four years.” After graduating, Kelly took a decades-long break from swimming, until a worrisome doctor’s visit got him back in the pool. Since his return, Kelly has trained every week, earned a few state championship titles, and competed in the National Senior Games three times, placing 14th in the nation in 2022. His goal is to become national champion in the next five years. “The water is where God and I meet,” he says.



## THE DISTANCE RUNNER

**NAME:** Mary McManus (COM'76)  
**LOCATION:** Chestnut Hill, Mass.  
**FIRST ACT:** VA social worker

As a child, Mary McManus was diagnosed with polio in one of the country's last outbreaks. The nightmare returned in 2006 in the form of post-polio syndrome, a painful nerve and muscle disorder that often occurs decades after recovery from the initial virus. It forced McManus into early retirement from her beloved career as a Veterans Affairs social worker, and doctors told her to get used to life in a wheelchair. "In February of 2007, I was home all alone, and I said [to] God, 'I know I'm at a crossroads. You helped me when I had polio. What are we going to do now?'" McManus says. The answer came with the arrival of an in-home personal trainer. "We started setting new goals. I said, 'I want to run the Boston Marathon next year.' And she said, 'Well, you're going to need a pair of running shoes.'" In 2009, at 55, McManus crossed the finish line, raising \$10,535 for Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. She still runs three times a week, rain or shine.

## THE ACTOR/DIRECTOR

**NAME:** Harvey Widell (CFA'57)  
**LOCATION:** Boynton Beach, Fla.  
**FIRST ACT:** English teacher

After a 32-year career as an English teacher in Brooklyn, N.Y., Harvey Widell retired in 1989 and relocated to a senior community in Florida. Within two weeks, he was asked if he would like to be the director of the Way-Off Broadway Players, a troupe of 16 people who toured south Florida, doing scenes from plays, comedy, and sketches. Since his move, Widell has helmed three local theater groups, led acting workshops, and appeared in more than a dozen productions. "The correlation between teaching and directing is a very great one," he says. (Before retirement, he was a community theater director on Long Island for 30 years.) A star player in his current theater troupe, Widell has had lead roles in *My Fair Lady*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music*, and *South Pacific*, to name a few. "I don't see any reason not to keep at it," he says. "I'm going to keep doing it for as long as I can." **B**



## THE FIBER ARTIST

**NAME:** Linda Keene (Questrom'73)  
**LOCATION:** Charlotte, N.C.  
**FIRST ACT:** Marketing executive, nonprofit CEO

Technically, Linda Keene is in her third act. After a 25-plus-year career as a marketing executive, she transitioned to the nonprofit sector, serving as a CEO for eight years. It was a whirlwind career, and Keene didn't feel like sitting idle in her retirement. "I learned about a field called art quilting, where people create pictures out of fabric," she says. "And I said, 'Well, let me see if I can do something like that.'" Keene's work, which features vignettes of African American life, is influenced by her grandmother's quilting and mother's seamstress handiwork. "They were doing it to make something to keep families warm, using the fabric that was available," she says. Steeped in tradition and incorporating some of the skills she picked up from her mother, Keene's fiber works have been featured in *Quiltfolk* magazine, shown in local galleries, and exhibited in the Mint Museum in Charlotte, N.C.

JACKIE RICCIARDI (TOP), EBONY STUBBS OF RAE IMAGES; OPPOSITE: SONYA REVELL



**+** Hear four students talk about the pain caused by the Israel-Hamas war, in a video at [bu.edu/bostonia](https://bu.edu/bostonia).

# CAMPUS REACTS AND RESPONDS TO ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

STUDENTS HOLD VIGILS, LAUNCH FUNDRAISERS, WHILE GRAFFITI BECOMES A FREQUENT TOOL TO VOICE ANGER

**FIRST, THERE WAS OUTRAGE, ANGER, AND SADNESS.**

“We are appalled by and condemn the attack by Hamas on the State of Israel and especially the intentional and large-scale targeting of noncombatants,” Kenneth Freeman, BU president ad interim, said in a statement to the BU community following the savage October 7, 2023, attack by the Palestinian militant group.

Then there were campus vigils, rallies, walkouts, die-ins, and fundraisers. Students spoke out, in solidarity with Israelis or with Palestinians, condemning the loss of innocent lives. They were angry—at each other, at the University.

Graffiti became commonplace on campus. A vandal scrawled “Free Palestine” on an exterior window at Hillel House, prompting an investigation of a possible hate crime by BU police and the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office. Muslim students faced verbal assaults. Some criticized the University for inaction. They felt unsafe, unsupported, unseen.

“This hateful act struck at the heart of my community, defacing a place of worship and peace,” Amanda Kopelman (ENG’25) wrote in an opinion piece on *BU Today*. “As a Jewish student, I do not feel safe at Boston University.”

In another essay published the same day, Adam Shamsi (CAS’24) and Faisal Ahmed (CAS’24) wrote, “BU is capable of swiftly mobilizing resources and putting out statements when it comes to acts that are perceived as anti-Israel. However, despite ongoing harassment against pro-Palestinian students, Boston University has failed to act just as swiftly in condemning those acts.”

In January, Freeman announced initiatives underway to “ensure a safe and secure campus,” including the creation of two working groups, one for the Jewish/Israeli community, one for the Muslim/Arab community, that will both report directly to him.

Here, in photos, is a glimpse of how the tensions unfolded at BU last fall.



JACOB CHANG-RASCLE (COM'22)

OCTOBER 11

Hundreds gathered on Marsh Plaza for a candlelight vigil in solidarity with Israel, organized by BU Hillel and BU Students for Israel. Among the speakers was Yonatan Manor (COM'25), BU Students for Israel president (facing the crowd):

**“WE ARE HERE TODAY TO REMEMBER AND MOURN THE BEAUTIFUL SOULS LOST DURING THE DARKEST TIME IN ISRAEL’S MODERN HISTORY.”**



**OCTOBER 18**

BU Students for Justice in Palestine held a solidarity vigil on BU Beach, inviting those of all faiths and drawing about 200 people. The group wanted to create a space for mourning, prayer, and remembrance for the Palestinians who have lost their lives.



CYDNEY SCOTT (TOP), JACKIE RICCARDI

**OCTOBER 23**

Students joined a national walkout, rallying on the George Sherman Union plaza and calling for an end to Israel's siege of Gaza and an immediate end to US military funding and arms to Israel.

**"WE HAVE THE POWER AND THE DUTY TO FORCE OUR INSTITUTIONS TO END SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI OCCUPATION,"**

BU Students for Justice in Palestine said in their social media post promoting the walkout.

**NOVEMBER 8**

The Boston University Police Department and the Suffolk County District Attorney's office said they were investigating a possible hate crime on campus, after someone wrote "Free Palestine" on a window of BU Hillel. A spokesperson for the DA's office said the vandalism may rise to the level of a hate crime because the Florence & Chafetz Hillel House is a place of worship that holds regular religious services, as well as a community center and a building associated with an educational facility.



**FEATURE STORY**

**NOVEMBER 9**

Students gathered at the Tsai Performance Center for the worldwide Shut It Down for Palestine protest, called by pro-Palestinian groups, urging people around the world to demand a cease-fire and an end to US support for Israel. The silent sit-in was to honor the thousands who have died in Gaza. An estimated 250 people were part of the protest at BU.

**NOVEMBER 16**

About 50 demonstrators blocked traffic on the BU Bridge, calling for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Pictures and videos posted on social media by the Boston chapter of the organization IfNotNow showed demonstrators in shirts that said, "Not in our name." They also held up signs reading, "Jews Say: Ceasefire Now," "Let Gaza Live," and "Free the Hostages."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JACOB CHANG-RASCLE (COM'22), JOEL BROWN, CYDNEY SCOTT



**DECEMBER 1**

BU Students for Israel, supported by BU Hillel, held an event on Marsh Plaza called Bring Them Home Now! They asked the BU community to show solidarity with Israel and demand that all remaining hostages be returned home from Gaza. The 137 chairs, each with a photo, or more than one photo, of a hostage attached, represented those being held captive. The circle of chairs represented the hostages released so far. The same day, BU Students for Justice in Palestine held an Emergency Die-In in the GSU Link.

# class notes

CLASS NOTES WRITTEN BY SOPHIE YARIN

## 1960

**WALTER FEINBERG** (CAS'60, GRS'62/66) of Champaign, Ill., a philosopher of education, published *Educating for Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, new ed. 2023). The book "provides a vision for curriculum reform that promotes democratic citizenry in an age of climate change and attacks on basic democratic institutions," Walter writes. Email him at [wfeinber@illinois.edu](mailto:wfeinber@illinois.edu).

**MARIAN (GILBERT) KNAPP** (CAS'60) of Chestnut Hill, Mass., published her fifth book, *South Providence Girls: A Clique in Time* (Loagy Bay Press, 2023), a memoir that chronicles the lives of Marian and 12 girlfriends as they grew up and grew old together in South Providence, R.I. In June, Marian held a book discussion at the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. Email her at [knappml@comcast.net](mailto:knappml@comcast.net).

## 1964

**SUSAN STEMPLESKI** (CAS'64) of New York, N.Y., is a retired specialist in second- and foreign-language teaching and the author/editor of several English-language learners textbooks, as well as professional books for language teachers. Since 2002, Susan has been a freelance music critic and regularly publishes her reviews on [www.bachtrack.com](http://www.bachtrack.com) and on [www.classicalsource.com](http://www.classicalsource.com). Email her at [susanstempleski@gmail.com](mailto:susanstempleski@gmail.com).

## 1966

**ZVI A. SESLING** (COM'66) of Chestnut Hill, Mass., published three books in 2023: a poetry chapbook, *Simple Game & Ghosts of Fenway: Baseball Poems* (Alien Buddha Press), and two books of flash fiction, *Wheels* (Alien Buddha Press) and *Secret Behind the Gate* (Cervena Barva Press).

## 1967

**AUDRY LYNCH** (Wheelock'67) of Saratoga, Calif., published *Ruben's Tales from the Amazon Jungle* (Audry L. Lynch, 2022), a collection of folktales for children and grown-ups told from the narrative perspective of young Ruben, who lives on the banks of the Amazon River.

**MARGOT WIZANSKY** (SSW'67) of Brookline, Mass., a poet and painter, published *The Yellow Sweater* (Kelsay

Books, 2023). Her first chapbook, *Wild for Life*, was published by Lily Poetry Review Press in 2022.

## 1968

**MICAELA AMATEAU AMATO** (CFA'68) of Boalsburg, Pa., exhibited multimedia works in *Welcome the Stranger*, a 2019 solo show at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia; that year, the museum honored her as International Woman of the Year. Micaela is a multimedia artist, curator, lecturer, professor emerita, and an illustrator, who recently contributed to *Zazu Dreams: Between the Scarab and the Dung Beetle, A Cautionary Fable for the Anthropocene Era* by C.J. Alhadeff (Eifrig Publishing, 2019). Email her at [mxal17@psu.edu](mailto:mxal17@psu.edu).

## 1969

**CYNTHIA BLOMQUIST GUSTAVSON** (Wheelock'69) of Tulsa, Okla., published *A Mischief of Mice: Secrets, Lies, and Love in the Sand Hills of Minnesota* (Blooming Twig Books, 2023), a memoir of her earliest years. "The book tells about characters of the 1950s and '60s, before the prevalence of television," she writes, "but it is also a mystery." Cynthia is a psychotherapist and was an early practitioner of poetry therapy.

## 1970

**CAROL GENDEL** (Wheelock'70) of San Marcos, Calif., is vice president of the San Marcos Community Foundation, a city-appointed funding agency that awards grants to area nonprofits. In its 35-year history, the foundation has given out more than \$2 million to 501(c)(3) organizations. "It's a joy and honor to serve my community in this role," she writes.

**SHERI KOONES** (Wheelock'70) of Greenwich, Conn., published *ADUs: The Perfect Housing Solution* (Gibbs Smith, 2024). Her 12th book and 10th on modular, prefabricated, and sustainable architecture, *ADUs* is about accessory dwelling units like in-law apartments, garage conversions, and laneway houses.

**ROY PERKINSON** (GRS'70) of Wellesley, Mass., had an oil painting included in *Nocturnes, Sunrises & Sunsets*, a group exhibition held in October 2023 at Page-Waterman Gallery & Framing

in Wellesley. That month, two of Roy's pastels of fly-fishing ties were displayed at the Copley Society of Art's holiday small works show on Newbury Street. "When I first thought of fishing flies as subjects, I recalled Wallace Stevens' poem, 'Anecdote of the Jar,'" Roy writes. "It is amazing that such a mundane object, a jar—or a fishing fly—can become so arresting. That's what poets and artists do." Email him at [roy@royperkinson.com](mailto:roy@royperkinson.com).

## 1973

**ALAN BERN** (GRS'73) of Berkeley, Calif., published *In the Pace of the Path* (UnCollected Press, 2023), a fictionalized memoir that incorporates prose and poetry into a portrait of his Northern California hometown. Alan is a retired public librarian and has lived in Berkeley for nearly his entire life.

**NANCY L. SEGAL** (CAS'73) of Fullerton, Calif., published *Gay Fathers, Twin Sons: The Citizenship Case That Captured the World* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023), about a high-profile 2018 immigration lawsuit that brought attention to the plight of two fathers' attempts to bring their family to the United States. Nancy is a psychology professor at California State University, Fullerton, and director and founder of the university's Twin Studies Center. She is the author of 8 books and more than 300 scholarly articles.

## 1974

**JANET KRAUSE JONES** (COM'74) of Manhattan Beach, Calif., worked for WGBH and WBZ in Boston before moving to LA, where she was a producer and writer for NBC shows such as *Unsolved Mysteries*. In 2020, she launched the Single Mom Project, a Los Angeles-area nonprofit that provides \$1,000 grants to hardworking, low-income mothers. Since then, she has opened the Single Mom Project Nutrition Pantry, which distributes food from Trader Joe's weekly to 250 people in need.

## 1975

**ROBERT KERSHNER** (CAS'75) of New Harbor, Maine, published *Seeing for Life: Clear Vision to Age 88 and Beyond* (Robert M. Kershner, 2023), a guide to maintaining clear vision. It offers expert advice from Robert's

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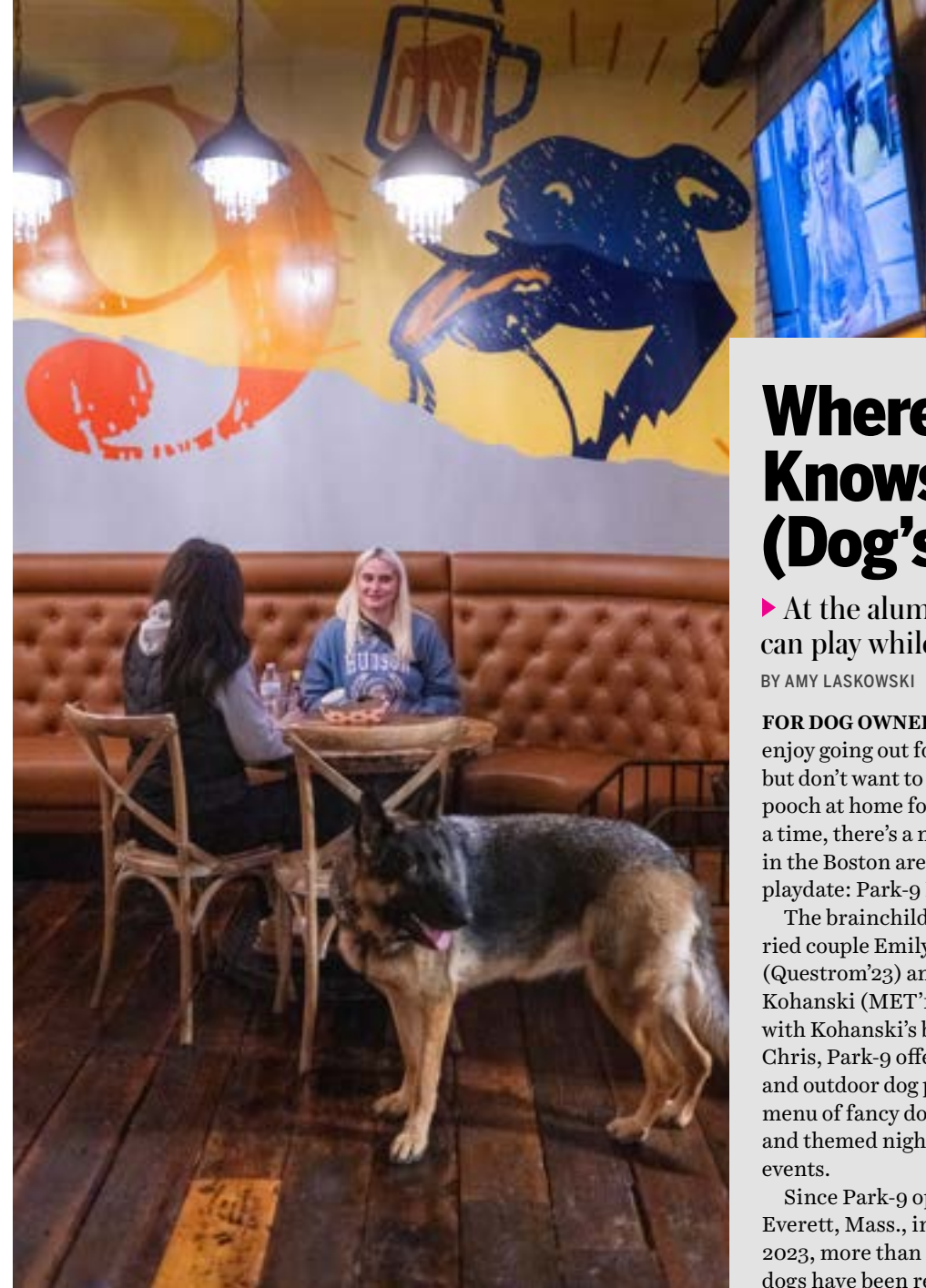
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and make them  
searchable by year  
of graduation.



More than 10,000  
dogs have been  
registered to visit  
since Emily Gusse  
and Tess Kohanski  
opened Park-9.

## Where Everybody Knows Your (Dog's) Name

► At the alum-owned Park-9 Dog Bar, pups can play while their humans grab a beer

BY AMY LASKOWSKI

FOR DOG OWNERS who enjoy going out for a cocktail but don't want to leave their pooch at home for hours at a time, there's a new spot in the Boston area for a pup playdate: Park-9 Dog Bar.

The brainchild of married couple Emily Gusse (Questrom'23) and Tess Kohanski (MET'17), along with Kohanski's brother Chris, Park-9 offers indoor and outdoor dog parks, a menu of fancy dog treats, and themed nights and events.

Since Park-9 opened in Everett, Mass., in April 2023, more than 10,000 dogs have been registered to visit, proving there is a hungry market for a place where both humans and dogs are welcome.

"Dogs are a great uniter and the easiest thing to start a conversation about," Gusse says. "We want to take care of people who want to be with their dog, but we're now starting to see a lot of traffic of non-dog owners coming just to play with the dogs and have a drink."

Kohanski and Gusse had originally talked about running a dog bar as a

retirement plan, until they stumbled upon the perfect location. "I walked through this space and was like, 'We're doing it!'" Kohanski recalls. Gusse was on board, and they signed the lease three weeks later.

Park-9's layout is a "choose your own adventure" for dogs and people, according to Kohanski. There is an on-leash lounge area, which looks no different from a trendy restaurant with industrial touches: an old lathe by the door, reclaimed wood floors, soaring ceilings, and a giant safe. Look closely and you'll spot leash holders underneath the tables and dog couches tucked away in corners. Most dogs will want to head to the main event: the large dog park, which resembles an actual outdoor expanse, with natural light and fake trees.

If you visit, you may notice the couple's four-year-old golden retriever, Nora, who helped inspire the business and has the title of chief happiness officer.

"She helps us realize how much dogs can change your life and have a positive impact," Gusse says.



CYDNEY SCOTT

EMILY GUSSE

TESS KOHANSKI

# Alum Bill Banfield Receives President's Call to Service Award

► Jazzman has long been devoted to bridging music, education, and spirituality | BY JAMES SULLIVAN



OVER THE PAST 20 years, only a select few have earned the President's Call to Service Award. Colloquially known as the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, the honor is bestowed upon those who have committed to lives of community service through education, innovation, or volunteerism. It is the highest designation of the President's Volunteer Service Award.

In October, Bill Banfield (STH'88), an accomplished composer, jazz guitarist, conductor, arranger, and recording artist, received the award in a ceremony at Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain, Mass. Banfield has been serving the community since his years as an undergraduate at New England Conservatory (NEC); at just 19 years of age, he accepted an offer to teach in the Boston Public Schools.

On hand for the ceremony at the church were colleagues representing the breadth of Banfield's impact over more than four decades in and around Boston. In 2005, he was the founding director of the Africana Studies department at Berklee College of Music, where he is now a professor emeritus. In 2022, he joined Longy School of Music of Bard College as its first senior scholar in residence. He is the founder and director of the recording

President Joe Biden's explanation of the meaning of the award was especially meaningful to Bill Banfield.

label Jazz Urbane as well as the Jazz Urbane Cafe, a forthcoming restaurant and performance space in Roxbury's Nubian Square.

Led by Pastors Ray Hammond (Hon.'99) and Gloria White-Hammond (CAS'72, Hon.'09), Bethel AME is Banfield's home church. The evening included performances by the Boston Arts Academy Choir and the full version of Banfield's own Imagine Orchestra, which featured special guest Najee, the renowned saxophonist who was Banfield's mentor at NEC. There was a video message from the church elder and testimonial statements from Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Cornel West, two of Banfield's many admirers.

President Joe Biden's explanation of the meaning of the award was especially moving for him. "Hearing Biden's words about bringing light, life, and redemption to the work—I had to fight back my tears to make sure I kept my composure," Banfield recalls.

Putting into practice his lifelong devotion to making the connection between music, education, and spirituality for more than 30 years, Banfield has taught a curriculum he built, called the Theology of American Popular Music, at colleges across the country. He has served as a research associate with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and three times as a Pulitzer Prize judge in American music.

Having the ceremony hosted at Bethel AME made it particularly meaningful, Banfield says. Every time he looked around the audience, he saw more familiar faces: "It really hit home," he says, "because it was on the soil where I did a lot of the work."



RACHITA CHAUDHURY (ENG'18) and THOMAS FLOROS (ENG'18), both of Cambridge, Mass., met as undergraduates and tied the knot in August 2023, surrounded by family, friends, and Terriers. To honor the bride's and groom's cultures, Rachita and Thomas' guests participated in three wedding ceremonies in one day—one Catholic, one Indian, and one Thai. Their first ceremony was held at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Riverside, Conn., where DREW WOLOS (ENG'18) (bottom photo, back right) served as best man. The rest of the festivities took place at Whitby Castle in Rye, N.Y. In the Thai ceremony, Rachita's mother, Prairat Chaudhury (top photo, standing), who immigrated from Thailand, poured water over the bride's and groom's hands as part of a traditional wedding ceremony called "rod nam sang."

years as an ophthalmic surgeon along with the latest scientific research. "Whether you are seeking to prevent future vision problems or manage an existing condition," he writes, "Seeing for Life provides invaluable insights and actionable steps to ensure that you can enjoy clear vision well into your 80s, 90s, and beyond."

ARTHUR LAZARUS (CAS'75) of Indian Trail, N.C., published *Every Story Counts: Exploring Contemporary Practice Through Narrative Medicine* (American Association for Physician Leadership, 2023), a collection of essays addressing burnout, health inequities, moral injury, imposter syndrome, and other common issues seen by contemporary physicians. Email him at artlazarus6@gmail.com.

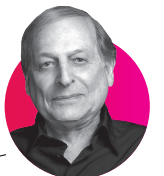
1976 DAVE LEBOW (CFA'76) of Los Angeles, Calif., exhibited his paintings at a solo

show at the Brassworks Gallery in Portland, Ore., in June 2023. In July, one of Dave's oil works, *Malt Shop*, was accepted into the California Art Club; he exhibited at its 112th annual Gold Medal show at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana.

1980 JULIA SHEPLEY (CFA'80) of Brookline, Mass., was the 2023 environmental/installation artist for the Goetemann Artist Residency, in collaboration with the Ocean Alliance and the Rocky Neck Art Colony in Gloucester. A selection of her recent prints was included in *Somerville Prints!* at the Brick-bottom Gallery in Somerville, from November 2023 to January 2024. In 2022, her Boston Sculptors Gallery solo exhibition, *Carry*, was reviewed in *Sculpture* magazine. Learn more about Julia's art practice at www.juliashepley.com.



SZIFRA BIRKE (CAS'72) of Lowell, Mass., writes, "Forty-five years after my last bike ride, at age 15 to get Dairy Queen with a friend, I decided to buy a tandem for my 60th birthday. Twelve tandem-riding years later, my husband, Jay Livingston, and I wrote *In Tandem: Pedaling Through Midlife on a Bicycle Built for Two* (Bates & Hall, 2022), a relationship, tandem bike, and communication memoir-ish book for people in tandem at home, at work and on bikes, too." Email her at szifra@birkeconsulting.com.



AMNON KABATCHNIK (COM'54) of Santa Monica, Calif., published three books in 2023: *Courtroom Dramas on the Stage, Volume 1* (BearManor Media), which analyzes more than 50 trial plays produced in ancient Greece, ancient Rome, the Middle Ages, the Elizabethan era, and early America; *Horror on the Stage* (McFarland), productions of the works of Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, Edgar Allan Poe, and others, as well as theatrical retellings of historical figures like Jack the Ripper and Lizzie Borden; and *Courtroom Dramas on the Stage, Volume 2* (BearManor Media), which looks at trial plays mounted in the 20th century by playwrights such as Agatha Christie, Arthur Miller, Herman Wouk, James Baldwin, Aaron Sorkin, and Jean Genet. Amnon is an award-winning off-Broadway director who has taught theater at SUNY Binghamton, Stanford University, Ohio State University, Florida State University, and Elmira College.

CYDNEY SCOTT

FIRAS JANJAN OF PHOTOS BY FJ (2), ADI GREENBERG (INSET)



**DANILLE TAYLOR** (GRS'77) of Atlanta, Ga., was appointed director of the Clark Atlanta University Art Museum in October 2023. Danille is a professor of African American studies at the university and has been interim museum director since August 2022.



**PEGGY (STRAUBE) BARRESI** (COM'83) of Wakefield, Mass., published her debut historical novel, *A Delicate Marriage* (Atmosphere Press, 2023), under the name Margarita Barresi. Set in Puerto Rico from the 1930s to 1950s, *A Delicate Marriage* is the story of a couple "brought together by love but divided by politics during a time of great change and turmoil on the island," Peggy writes.



**AMY TURNER** (CAS'76) of East Hampton, N.Y., retired from the practice of law in 2000, only to begin a career teaching middle school. Now retired from her beloved second career, Amy has published her first book, *On the Ledge: A Memoir* (She Writes Press, 2022), which chronicles her recovery from an accident and a more profound healing journey from an earlier trauma. Read more at [www.amyturnerauthor.com](http://www.amyturnerauthor.com). Friends can email her at [amyturner2000@gmail.com](mailto:amyturner2000@gmail.com).



**NANCY CHAVENSON** (Sargent'78) (left) of Bradenton, Fla., celebrated 45 years of friendship with **NAZ (ZAGORZYCKI) ZAMOYSKI** (ENG'78, Questrom'78) with a Caribbean cruise in April 2023. The pair met at BU and have been friends ever since. Naz is a former computer engineer with Bell Labs, and Nancy, whose career in the food service industry started with ARA Food Services at BU and ended with Whole Foods Market, consults as a cheese specialist part-time at Whole Foods. Email Nancy at [nchavenson@yahoo.com](mailto:nchavenson@yahoo.com).



Friends gathered in Pittsburgh, Pa., in May 2023 for the wedding of **AARON PLITT** (Questrom'01) (second from right). Other Terriers in attendance included **ROB KANZER** (Questrom'01) (from left), **ZACH DUBEY** (Pardee'02), **SCOTT MCKINNEY** (Questrom'02), **DAVID NEALY** (Questrom'01), and **ERIC KAPLAN** (Questrom'01).

COURTESY OF NAZ ZAMOYSKI (TOP), MARYBETH PLITT (BOTTOM), CURTIS MCDOWELL (INSET, TOP), LENA YAREMENKO (INSET, BOTTOM)

**JIM SULLIVAN** (COM'80) of Brookline, Mass., was honored in October with an induction into the New England Music Hall of Fame, in recognition of his 26 years as a music writer for the *Boston Globe*. Jim is the author of two books, both released in 2023 by Trouser Press Books: *Backstage & Beyond, Vol. 1: 45 Years of Classic Rock Chats & Rants*, and *Backstage & Beyond, Vol. 2: 45 Years of Modern Rock Chats & Rants*. His work has been featured in *USA Today*, *Creem*, *NME*, the *Guardian*, *LA Weekly*, *Newsweek*, and many other publications.

**LARRY WARD** (CGS'78, Sargent'80,'02) and **LINH PHAN** (CAS'22), both of Cambridge, Mass., serve as executive producer/cofounder and manager/producer, respectively, of the annual Cambridge Jazz Festival. In July, Larry and Linh produced the eighth annual festival, featuring a lineup of national and international performers, including some Grammy winners and nominees. Larry, a former Cambridge city councilor, is one of the city's election commissioners.

**1982**

**JAY WINUK** (COM'82) of Carmel, N.Y., is president of Winuk Communications, a public relations agency that won four prestigious Bulldog PR Awards for an awareness campaign in pursuit of accountability and restorative justice for the September 11 attacks. The campaign garnered Winuk Communications—and its client, the nonprofit 9/11 Justice—a grand prize for Best Campaign of 2022, gold awards in the Best Issue/Cause Advocacy Campaign and Best Not-for-Profit/Association Campaign categories, and a silver award in the Best Media Relations Campaign category. Winuk and families partnered with 9/11 Justice and held several press conferences on behalf of their campaign, which sought to bring public attention to the Saudi-funded LIV Golf series. "Saudi Arabia seemingly has unlimited funds to activate and promote its sportswashing tactics in the US and around the world, and that presented challenges for our client, which is a small nonprofit of well-intentioned people seeking justice," writes Jay, whose family was also affected by the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

**1983**

**JOAN KWIATKOWSKI** (SSW'83) of Barrington, R.I., was appointed to the National PACE Association board of directors after serving as the CEO of PACE-Rhode Island since its founding

DIANE WILAN (TOP), COURTESY OF NOREEN GRICE (INSET)



**JOSEPH PALLADINO** (ENG'82) (far right) of Hartford, Conn., was honored with the Charles A. Dana Research Professorship Award at Trinity College's commencement ceremony in May. Palladino, a Trinity professor of engineering, was unable to collect the award in person, as he was attending BU Commencement ceremonies for his three children: **JULIAN** (CAS'23) (from left), who earned a bachelor's in economics and mathematics; **LUCIA** (CFA'23), who earned a master's in voice performance; and **NICHOLAS** (ENG'23), who earned a bachelor's in electrical engineering. Email Joseph at [joseph.palladino@trincoll.edu](mailto:joseph.palladino@trincoll.edu).

in 2004. Joan is also a member of the boards of directors of Landmark Medical Center and the Rhode Island Food Policy Council.

**SEAN SMITH** (COM'83) of Newton, Mass., published his debut novel, *Transformation Summer* (Atmosphere Press, 2023), in which a man remembers the summer he was 16 and his life seemed to be falling apart. "His parents are on the verge of divorce, he's estranged from his friends and bitter and angry," Sean writes. "His mother then drags him along with her to a unique personal-growth camp, a trip he is sure will be a disaster—but it's like nothing he expected, and years later, he's still processing what went on during those two weeks, and beyond." *Transformation Summer* received a Literary Titan Gold Book Award in the summer of 2023.

**1985**

**MELISSA MAXWELL** (CFA'85) of New York, N.Y., received rave reviews for her recent play, *Imbroglia*, after its world premiere at the 20th annual Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, Minn. In July 2023, the website *Talkin' Broadway* wrote, "*Imbroglia* is a terrific play that holds the audience spellbound from its jocular opening scene to its devastating conclusion...a crackling, snapping good story, expertly meted out over two acts, and given a sterling production by Great River Shakespeare Festival."

**1986**

**JOHN MULSHINE** (MET'86) of Martinsburg, W.V., writes, "Pam and I, along with our son, Sean, spent 20.5 years in the service of the US Army. In spring 1989, I retired as a first sergeant and went to work for BDM Corporation as a military analyst and archivist. Later, I transitioned to doing software configuration management for several corporations and retired to Martinsburg in spring 2016. We spent 13.5 years living and working in Southern Bavaria. Now, I keep busy by driving a Veterans Administration shuttle bus some afternoons. My son and both grandsons are living and working in Arizona." Email John at [jamulshine@gmail.com](mailto:jamulshine@gmail.com).

**1989**

**DARREN PRESS** (CAS'89) of New York, N.Y., cowrote and directed *A Cow in the Sky*, an animated short that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in June 2023. The short, examining the murder of Mulugeta Seraw by white supremacists in 1988, was selected for the competition by Whoopi Goldberg, who also hosted the film's Q&A. "I have a personal connection to the story," Darren writes, "having worked as a young law student with the attorney tasked with collecting what was then the largest civil jury award in US history for a hate crime. I'm quite thrilled to have our film begin its journey at Tribeca."



**NOREEN GRICE** (CAS'85) of New Britain, Conn., is the new president of the Middle Atlantic Planetary Society, whose membership spans from Maine to Georgia and to the Great Lakes. Learn more about it at [www.mapsplanetary.org](http://www.mapsplanetary.org).



**DAVID GOETHEL** (CAS'75) of Hampton, N.H., published *Endangered Species: Chronicles of the Life of a New England Fisherman and the F/V Ellen Diane* (Peter E. Randall, 2023). David paid his way through BU by captaining fishing boats and retired after a 55-year career on the Gulf of Maine. *Endangered Species* is full of fishing stories and tales of how David applied his biology degree to the field of fishery management. Email him at [egoethel@comcast.net](mailto:egoethel@comcast.net).



**RICHARD G. MILLS** (LAW'86) of Bethesda, Md., was appointed president and CEO of United Educators (UE) insurance in August 2023 and began his tenure in September. Richard comes to UE after serving as Dartmouth College's executive vice president for administration. Previously, he was executive dean for administration at Harvard Medical School.



**SUSAN (EVERSON) PAGE** (MET'89) of Orlando, Fla., published *When You Lose Your Spouse: A Practical Guide through the Grieving Process* (Lowell Books, 2023), which includes the topics she uses to facilitate an eight-week "spouse grief forum" in central Florida. "When you spend your life with someone, they become your best friend—they exist in the bits and pieces of every day," she writes. "This practical book is for anyone who lost the love of their life and most important social contact." Email her at [susan.page@cfl.rr.com](mailto:susan.page@cfl.rr.com), and visit [www.susanpagebooks.com](http://www.susanpagebooks.com).

## A Guide to Black Women's Health

► Melody T. McCloud's new book aims to help readers improve their physical, psychological, and social well-being

BY JILLIAN MCKOY AND CINDY BUCCINI

IN HER NEW BOOK, alum Melody T. McCloud presents a comprehensive resource for women to learn the signs, symptoms, treatments, and preventive measures for head-to-toe conditions, including



heart disease, diabetes, cancers, HIV, dementia, and maternal mortality.

In *Black Women's Wellness: Your "I've Got This!" Guide to Health, Sex, & Phenomenal Living* (Sounds True, 2023), the Atlanta, Ga.-based OB/GYN, public speaker, and media consultant provides clinical data, anecdotes, and tools to enable readers to overcome long-standing health inequities and improve their physical, psychological, and social well-being. The book is aimed at the public but also can be used



The top five medical issues for Black women are heart disease, diabetes, cancers, HIV, and maternal mortality, says physician Melody T. McCloud (CAS'77, CAMED'81).

for course curriculum and as a reference for health professionals, says McCloud (CAS'77, CAMED'81), adding that it addresses what other physician-authored books don't: the effect that racism and micro-aggressions—psychosocial stressors—have on Black women's physical and mental health.

Psychosocial stressors come in many forms, she says, from daily disparaging comments to mainstream music: "Today's 'music' has gone from 'Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch' and 'My Cherie Amour' to 'ho, slut, and whore.' That's not positive messaging; that's not endearing. And if your men are talking to you that way and you listen to that all day, that's going to pain your psyche."

McCloud demonstrates how stress can affect physical health. "Stress increases your cortisol and other stress hormones," she says, "which can lead to hypertension, heart disease, obesity, and diabetes—all potential killer diseases."

The book has chapters about sex and sexual health, relationships, domestic abuse, and gun violence.

*Black Women's Wellness* has been praised by public figures. "This book is a blueprint to help us ensure total health," writes actress Pauletta Washington. And Jen Ashton, an OB/GYN and ABC News/*Good Morning America*'s chief medical correspondent, writes, "*Black Women's Wellness* will improve women's lives."

"That is my goal," McCloud says.

DREXINA NELSON (BOTTOM), STEVE RIZDOM/UNITED EDUCATORS (INSET)



**CHRISTINE DORCHAK** (COM'90) of Arlington, Mass., published *Brooklyn Goes Home: The Rise and Fall of American Greyhound Racing and the Dog that Inspired a Movement* (Lantern Publishing & Media, 2023), which earned a silver Nonfiction Authors Association book award in October 2023. *Brooklyn Goes Home* tells the story of one intrepid greyhound who, after his rescue from a notorious racetrack in Macau, came to symbolize the global fight to end dog racing. Christine and coauthor Carey Theil write, "Our sweet boy spent years on death row, yet he held no grudges. Instead, he met each day with joy, always greeting everyone he encountered with a happy wag of his tail and a big smile. He taught us so much about true love and forgiveness." Over 25 years, Christine and Carey's nonprofit GREY2K USA Worldwide has helped save 50,000 greyhounds; their nonprofit recently endorsed the Greyhound Protection Act. Email Christine at [christine@grey2kusa.org](mailto:christine@grey2kusa.org).

### 1990

**STACEY GIULIANTI** (COM'90) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., cofounded Florida Peninsula Insurance Company in 2005 with three partners, and has been chief legal officer for 18 years. The carrier writes residential property coverage in the state and, when Stacey wrote, was projected to pass \$1 billion in annual written premium by the start of 2024. Email him at [sagesq1968@gmail.com](mailto:sagesq1968@gmail.com).

**MARC SOMMERS** (GRS'90,'94) of Washington, D.C., published *We the Young Fighters: Pop Culture, Terror, and War in Sierra Leone* (University of

Georgia Press, 2023), inspired by an interview with Sierra Leonean refugees. *We the Young Fighters* explains how three pop-culture icons—Bob Marley, Tupac Shakur, and John Rambo—unexpectedly influenced youth, terror-based warfare, and postwar peace in Sierra Leone.

### 1992

**POPPY HELGREN** (Wheelock'92) of Henderson, Nev., retired from the state's Department of Veterans Services in August, after nine years as director of nursing at the Nevada State Veterans Home and 39 years as a registered nurse.

## DO YOU SPEAK BU?

BELOW IS A GUIDE TO HOW WE ID ALL THE schools and colleges. Older colleges/earlier names are in parentheses. Closed colleges are shown in gray.

- CAS** College of Arts & Sciences (CLA—College of Liberal Arts)
- CFA** College of Fine Arts (SFA—School for the Arts) (SFAA—School of Fine and Applied Arts)
- CGS** College of General Studies (CBS—College of Basic Studies)
- COM** College of Communication (SPC—School of Public Communication) (SPRC—School of Public Relations and Communications)
- DGE** Division of General Education (CGE—College of General Education) (GC—General College)
- ENG** College of Engineering (CIT—College of Industrial Technology)
- GRS** Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- LAW** School of Law
- CAMED** Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine (MED—School of Medicine)
- MET** Metropolitan College
- PAL** College of Practical Arts and Letters
- PARDEE** Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
- QUESTROM** Questrom School of Business (SMG—School of Management) (GSM—Graduate School of Management) (CBA—College of Business Administration)
- SARGENT** Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- SDM** Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine (SGD—School of Graduate Dentistry)
- SHA** School of Hospitality Administration
- SON** School of Nursing
- SPH** School of Public Health
- SRE** School for Religious Education
- SSW** School of Social Work
- STH** School of Theology
- UNI** University Professors Program
- WHELOCK** Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development (SED—School of Education)



**CARLA SOSENKO** (CAS'98, COM'98) of Brooklyn, N.Y., co-authored TikToker Melissa Dilkes Pateras' book, *A Dirty Guide to a Clean Home* (Dial Press, 2023). Carla's own memoir, *Such a Pretty Face* (Dial Press), will be released in 2025. After graduating from BU, Carla received her MFA in creative writing from Emerson College and went on to become editor in chief of *Time Out New York* and executive editor of *Entertainment Weekly*. She is a freelance journalist and has reported stories for publications including the *New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Refinery29*.



**NIKOLAOS LIGRIS** (CAS'01) of Newton Centre, Mass., was named a "Best Mentor" by Law.com in August, as part of the inaugural New England Legal Awards. Nikolaos is comanaging partner of Ligris + Associates PC and has nearly 25 years of experience in residential and commercial real estate transactions.



**ERICA (MANCZUK) STOCKS** (COM'01, Wheelock'12) of Dorchester, Mass., and her husband, Keith, welcomed their second child, Henrietta Emilia-Lynne, in April 2023. "It's been a whirlwind adjusting to being a family of four, but we couldn't be happier that our family is now complete," Erica writes. Henrietta, aka Hattie, joins big sister Franceszka (Frankie), aged 4. Erica has worked at BU's Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine for 13 years; she is director of student affairs. She can be reached at ericamstocks@gmail.com.

BU Events & Conferences

## Where Your BU Story Lives On



Scan To Book Your Next Social Event



MAGGIE JILL PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP), KATHRYN M. SHELDON (INSET, TOP), SHANNON POWERS (INSET, BOTTOM)

**PEGGY JABLONSKI** (Wheelock'92) of Brewster, Mass., published *Cape Cod Camino Way: Walking with a Purpose* (Blurb Books, 2021), an account of her mission "to walk all of Cape Cod during the pandemic, looking at issues of social and racial justice from both historical and contemporary perspectives," she writes. Peggy has worked in higher education for 40 years and remains in the field as a consultant and coach. She also leads the Executive Leadership Institute for public colleges in New England.

**MARK ROBERTSON** (CFA'92) of Los Angeles, Calif., was the featured violin soloist for the films *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2022) and *John Wick: Chapter 4* (2023), and has contracted orchestras and sat as concertmaster for *The Boogeyman* (2023) and the 2023 remake of *White Men Can't Jump* (1992). Mark has also led the orchestra for episodes of *Big City Greens*, *SEAL Team*, and *Blood & Treasure*, as well as the documentary film *Rather* (2023). Email him at markrobertson720@gmail.com.

### 1993

**TED ATKATZ** (CFA'93) of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., gathered eight collegiate percussionists through his nonprofit organization, TAPS, and provided them with tuition-free master classes, mock audition experience, and unique performance

opportunities in Los Angeles. His program is partnered with the Switzer Learning Center, a school that serves children with mild to severe learning, social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Email Ted at tatkatz@gmail.com.

**EMERY STEPHENS** (CFA'93) of Northfield, Minn., coauthored *Singing Down the Barriers: A Guide to Centering African American Song for Concert Performers* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023) with Caroline Helton, a member of the University of Michigan voice faculty. Emery also recorded the role of Brother Doshier in James P. Johnson's one-act blues opera, *De Organizer*, accompanied by UM's University Symphony Orchestra and conductor Kenneth Kiesler. A music faculty member at St. Olaf College, Emery is also the Minnesota district governor for the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

### 1994

**JOSETTE (DELLEDONNE) MANNING** (Questrom'94) of Wilmington, Del., was appointed cabinet secretary for her state's Department of Health and Social Services by Governor John Carney. She leads a department of more than 4,000 employees and oversees a \$3.5 million budget. Previously, Josette was a cabinet secretary in Delaware's child services department. She also was a prosecutor for the

state's Department of Justice, where she held leadership roles over 17 years, including chief prosecutor and director of the special victims unit. Email her at josettedmanning@gmail.com.

**LYNN MUSTER** (LAW'94) of Salem, Mass., edited *Crime and Consequence: The Collateral Effects of Criminal Conduct* (MCLE, 4th ed. 2023), a practical guide for both criminal prosecutors and defense attorneys on how to address the many consequences of criminal conduct and conviction.

*Continued on page 73.*

**CHARINA ORTEGA** (ENG'16) and **MARSHALL HEITKE** (Sargent'16), both of Brighton, Mass., were married in October 2023 in Waltham. They were joined by many BU friends, with their best friend, **ALEJANDRO EGUREN** (ENG'16) (back row, second from left), serving as officiant. Marshall (center left) and Charina met at Fuller's BU Pub during Senior Week, at Marshall's knighting ceremony. These days, Charina is on the Scarlet Key Alumni Advisory Council. She and Marshall often come back to campus for alumni events and hockey games.



QUAN 'DANIEL' HUYNH (BOTTOM), TERI ROSEN (INSET, TOP), COURTESY OF COACH DIVERSITY INSTITUTE (INSET, BOTTOM)



**MEGAN (WEBER) MURRAY** (COM'02) of Aberdeen, N.J., is chair of the family law section of the New Jersey State Bar Association for its 2023–2024 term. She is the founding partner of the Family Law Offices of Megan S. Murray, in Holmdel.



**MUAZ NIAZI** (MET'04) of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, pivoted to writing mystery fiction after a career as a professor. Writing under the pen name Zeph Baxter, he has published three installments of his *Meditating Psychic Cozy Mysteries*, in which amateur psychic Riza Strong solves supernatural murders with her trusty kitten. His fourth book, *Artificial Dumbness*, is forthcoming. Email Muaz at drmak@bu.edu.



**MONICA KANG** (Pardee'09) of Washington, D.C., received the 2023 Impact Award from Coach Diversity Institute in October for her commitment to fostering inclusion and accessibility. She is founder and CEO of InnovatorsBox. Follow her on social media at @innovatorsbox and @rethink.creativity, and email her at monica@innovatorsbox.com.

# We asked BU alumni about your identities and life stages. Here's what you said—and what you can do next.

## Career Stages

26% of respondents are retired, semi-retired, or considering retirement.

We've got resources for you during an exciting but often challenging time.

- Join the BU Society of Terrier Alumni Retirees (STAR) group on BU Connects. Sign up at [buconnects.com](http://buconnects.com).
- Explore the BU Alumni Association's library of career webinars and filter for "Retirement."
- Learn about the BU Center for Professional Education's Evergreen Program at [bu.edu/evergreen](http://bu.edu/evergreen).



## Young Alumni

28% of respondents graduated from BU in the last 10 years.

- Visit [buconnects.com](http://buconnects.com) to find your regional alumni networks, connect with local Terriers, attend a nearby event, and volunteer locally!
- Sign up to get notified about Alumni Weekend 2024, which will feature events specifically for young alums. Visit [bu.edu/alumniweekend](http://bu.edu/alumniweekend).



## First-Generation

40% of respondents said that they were first-generation undergraduate or graduate students at BU.

You can engage with today's first-gen campus community.

- Write a letter to a first-gen student with advice, suggestions about how to best navigate BU, or any other thoughts you'd like to share. Scan this QR code to submit your letter. →
- Learn more about BU's Newbury Center for first-generation students at [bu.edu/newbury-center](http://bu.edu/newbury-center).

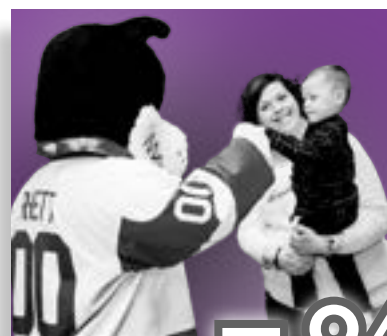


## Parents

31% of respondents noted that they are a parent, guardian, or caretaker of a dependent child, or planning to become one within the next year. Those who responded "yes" are most interested in work-life balance (19%) and attending BU family-friendly events (22%).

You can meet fellow parents and enjoy activities for the whole family.

- Join the BU Terrier Alumni Parents (TAP) network on BU Connects. Hear about upcoming events, and share tips, ideas, and perspectives with other parents in the group. Visit [buconnects.com](http://buconnects.com).
- Remember that Alumni Weekend 2024 (September 26-28) will have family-friendly events and opportunities! Sign up to get notified at [bu.edu/alumniweekend](http://bu.edu/alumniweekend).
- Check out our online seminar "Unicorns, Narwhals, and Work/Life Balance: Which of These is Real?"



## Engaging with BU

The top three ways alumni are interested in engaging with the BU community are:

- 1 Building a professional network and finding or being a mentor (21%). Sign up at [buconnects.com](http://buconnects.com).
- 2 Attending alumni reunions (21%). Visit [bu.edu/alumniweekend](http://bu.edu/alumniweekend).
- 3 Sharing expertise as a guest speaker (18%). Check out the Proud to BU podcast. →



Want to tell us more about yourself? Visit [bu.edu/update](http://bu.edu/update).

Wherever you are in life—or in the world—the BU Alumni Association is here for you.

# Camping Gear Made Just for Kids

▶ Timothy Butcher (Questrom'07) started his company, Mounts, after a disastrous camping trip with his baby | BY AMY LASKOWSKI

WHEN TIMOTHY BUTCHER and his wife decided to take their 16-month-old daughter on her first camping trip, they did what all first-time parents do: they majorly overpacked. They brought a family-sized tent, a travel crib, fleece PJs, three sleep sacks, and lots of other stuff. And while they thought they'd planned for all scenarios, the trip was still a disaster.

"The tent was too hot during the daytime, and then during the night, she got cold because the travel cot had no insulation and was on the ground," says Butcher (Questrom'07). "She woke up throughout the night. We didn't sleep at all."

As soon as he got home, Butcher, who works in finance, began researching better gear. He enjoys hiking, camping, and skiing, but learned that although there is a tool for practically everything adults need to enjoy the outdoors, kids' gear was definitely lacking.

In 2021, Butcher launched Mounts, a company that makes camping gear for toddlers and babies. Through its website, Mounts sells pint-sized sleep sacks, thermal pajamas, hats, and diaper bags. "Our tagline is, 'Empowering people to

get back outdoors sooner, faster, and with more ease," says Butcher, who lives in London with his wife and two young children.

The first year was slow. "I sold a bunch of thermals just because it was winter, and it turns out there is a niche for baby thermals because companies don't really sell those," he says. "And then in the summer, I started seeing sleeping [sacks] taking off." Upcoming products include a tent, socks, and a sleeping/camping mat.

"Sometimes you feel trapped as a parent, and you don't want to forget your old self," Butcher says. "We wanted to give you the tools to get back out there."



↓  
**TIMOTHY BUTCHER** (Questrom'07) says he wanted to give parents the tools "to get back out there."



↓  
Mounts' toddler sleep sack is suited to keep kids warm on nights as cold as 20 degrees.

COURTESY OF TIMOTHY BUTCHER (2)

Former members of the BU ski racing team gathered with loved ones at the new West Roxbury, Mass., home of **AARON KELLOGG** (COM'06, Pardee'06) (back row, far left) to celebrate his recent move and engagement to Han Park. Joining Aaron (clockwise from back left) were **JILLIAN (POIRIER) PETERS** (Sargent'09,11), **RYAN IMPAGLIAZZO** (Questrom'09), **CARLA ELVY** (Questrom'09), **ALLISON (LEWIS) BAKOW** (Questrom'09), **JAMIE LYNNE (METZINGER) HART** (CAS'09, Sargent'09), **SHANNON (BRINK) WHITLOCK** (Questrom'09), and **ELYSE MAGNOTTO-CLEARY** (CGS'07, Pardee'09).



**KEITH DRUCKER** (CAS'17) of Boston, Mass., married Abby Oliver in April 2023. The newlyweds celebrated with fellow alumni from the Questrom School of Business, the College of Communication, the College of Arts & Sciences, and Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences.



ALEX HART (TOP), AMANDA BOULEY PHOTOGRAPHY (BOTTOM), TARSHA JONES PHOTOGRAPHY (INSET)



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**LAURA ZIMMERMANN** (CAS'93) of Minneapolis, Minn., published *Just Do This One Thing For Me* (Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2023), about a 17-year-old girl's attempt to reckon with her mother's disappearance. Laura, who was the student speaker at BU's 1993 Commencement, is the author of *My Eyes Are Up Here* (Dutton, 2021), a young adult novel *Booklist* called "insightful and humorous."



↓  
**CHANNON S. MILLER** (GRS'17) of Hartford, Conn., was named an assistant professor of American studies and history at Trinity College, where she teaches African American history, African American women's history, Hartford history, and race and gender. One of 10 new tenure-track faculty appointed in 2023, Channon is pursuing the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in the 2023–2024 academic year.



# One Good Deed

**CHRISTINE KANNLER (CAS'96, SPH'00, CAMED'00)**

Screening local firefighters for skin cancer | BY SOPHIE YARIN

**IT ALL HAPPENED** so fast. In July 2015, Christine Kannler's brother, Peter, a firefighter in Chelsea, Mass., was diagnosed with stage 4 esophageal cancer. In September 2016, he died. In the spring of 2017, Kannler (CAS'96, SPH'00, CAMED'00), a private-practice dermatologist, launched into action.

She began doing screenings for firefighters in Westwood and Chelsea. "Then I started to talk to the union," she says, "and I explained how I had done this free skin cancer screening program as a dermatology resident, and I had done it every year since.... I would just call up, get the forms, show up at the fire station, and do it right there."

More than seven years later—and over 100 towns and cities visited—Kannler is a regular at firehouses across Massachusetts, where she offers free skin cancer screenings and preventive education. For her impact, she received the state's Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award in 2022 and a Distinguished Alumni Award from BU's College of Arts & Sciences in 2023.

**CHRISTINE KANNLER** says that after her brother's death, she became aware of studies showing a strong link between the firefighting profession and cancer diagnosis.



Christine Kannler (CAS'96, SPH'00, CAMED'00) performs a screening at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

"I think this population is perfect for this program, because you have a high-risk population that [is a part] of their community and will ultimately need someone to screen them for many years," Kannler says. "So, why not pair a local dermatologist with a local firefighter, or fire station? It seems like a no-brainer and easy lift."

After her brother's death, Kannler became aware of a few studies that showed a strong link between the firefighting profession and cancer diagnosis. According to a 2014 study done by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, firefighters are 9 percent more likely

to be diagnosed with cancer than the general population and suffer a 14 percent higher mortality rate due to exposure to burning carcinogenic chemicals.

Kannler says the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer published a paper in the journal *The Lancet* in 2022 stating that occupational firefighting is a group-one carcinogen—the highest level. The study listed melanoma among the most frequently diagnosed cancers in the firefighting population.

"Just from looking at the public health numbers," she says, "it would seem as though they're getting more aggressive cancers, but we're also maybe not catching them in time."

To expand her program, Kannler collaborated with the state firefighters union, the Massachusetts fire marshal, the Department of Fire Services (DFS), and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, which integrated her program into a larger DFS initiative, Extinguish Firefighter Cancer. As she visited more firehouses, other dermatologist volunteers joined the ranks.

Now, firefighters can get screened by a participating dermatologist on select days throughout the month and during special events. Typically, Kannler will show up after a firehouse has requested a cancer-awareness class from DFS; during a screening, Kannler will often reiterate some of the safety tips from the presentation.

The efforts are paying off. After conducting thousands of free screenings, 17 firefighters have contacted Kannler to thank her for catching a melanoma.

There's another benefit. "Sometimes people will say, 'I knew your brother,' and I'll be like, 'Oh, great, tell me a story, give me one more little nugget that I can hold on to,'" she says, "and that's how I process it. It gives me a chance to think about him."



Do you know of a BU alum who has taken the initiative to right a wrong? Email us at [alums@bu.edu](mailto:alums@bu.edu).



**SAMANTHA VELASQUEZ** (ENG'14) and **RONAK PATEL** (Questrom'14), both of Boston, Mass., were joined by dozens of BU alumni—and a few hundred other family members and friends—to celebrate their wedding on Long Island in the summer of 2023.

**1996**  
**WENDY NYSTROM** (CAS'96, GRS'96) of Beverly Hills, Calif., hosted **MADLINE DI NONNO** (CAS'82) of Marina Del Rey, Calif., on her webcast, *Environmental Social Justice*. Madeline is president and CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

**PETE SHAMON** (COM'96) of Boston, Mass., received top honors in two categories at the 32nd annual Radio Mercury Awards in June 2023. Pete's 30-second radio spot, "Birds," created with Arnold Worldwide for their client Progressive, won awards in the Broadcast Radio Commercial and Use of Humor in a Broadcast Radio Spot categories.

**1997**  
**SHIN YU PAI** (CAS'97) of Seattle, Wash., is the creator of *Ten Thousand Things*, an award-winning podcast produced with KUOW, Seattle's NPR affiliate station. In the summer of 2023, the podcast received two Golden Crane awards from the Asian American Podcasters Association, and was named one of the best podcasts of 2023 by Mashable.

*Ten Thousand Things* also netted a 2023 silver Signal Award for podcasting. "We exceeded more than 200,000 downloads and listeners in July 2023, putting us in the top one percent of all podcasts published," Shin Yu writes. "I make the show with producer **WHITNEY HENRY-LESTER** (COM'04)."

**BRAD SYKES** (COM'97) of North Hollywood, Calif., published *Neon Nightmares: L.A. Thrillers of the 1980s* (BearManor Media, 2023). His new movie, *Hi-Fear*, was released to streaming platforms and DVD by Wild Eye Releasing in June 2023.

**1998**  
**LORI GARDINIER** (SSW'98) of Boston, Mass., coauthored *Introduction to Human Services and Social Change* (Oxford University Press, 2023). Email her at [l.gardinier@northeastern.edu](mailto:l.gardinier@northeastern.edu).

**TARSHA A. PHILLIBERT** (CAS'98) of Washington, D.C., joined Duane Morris LLP in September 2023 as a partner in the firm's trial practice group. Previously, Tarsha was a trial attorney in the fraud section of the US Department of Justice's criminal division.

**1999**  
**SALIM AFSHAR** (Sargent'99) of Boston, Mass., transitioned out of clinical practice after performing nearly 6,000 operations and has returned to venture capital investing and start-ups. In 2023, he launched Reveal HealthTech, a software engineering service that works with hospitals and other healthcare stakeholders; as chief medical and innovation officer, Salim focuses on removing technological barriers to innovation and patient

care. He also continues his role at the Innovation & Digital Health Accelerator at Boston Children's Hospital as well as his research professorship at Harvard University. Email him at [salim@revealhealthtech.com](mailto:salim@revealhealthtech.com).

**DAN HUNTER** (GRS'99) of Cambridge, Mass., published *Learning and Teaching Creativity* (Radio Ranch Press, 2023), a guide for teachers, students, and parents looking to expand their imaginations through neuroscience, humor, and pedagogy. Dan has been a songwriter, playwright, columnist, political consultant, creative writing instructor at BU's College of Arts & Sciences, and the inventor of H-IQ, an individual assessment of imagination and creativity.

**BROOKE LONGVAL** (CAS'99) of Saint Petersburg, Fla., completed the Everglades Challenge, a 300-mile expedition race for kayaks and small sailboats, in March 2023. The race runs through Everglades National Park from St. Petersburg to Key Largo. Brooke's vessel of choice was a 19-inch sea kayak with a small sail. She finished in six days and nine hours.

**TANIA MOHAMMAD** (COM'99) of Sunnyside, N.Y., is a producer and host for CitizenRacecar, a podcast and video production company, which launched a podcast called *Undiscovered: Stories of New York* with the City Reliquary Museum. "It's a love letter to a forgotten New York, where we feature the everyday, often mundane, artifacts in the museum's collection and tell the very New York-y forgotten stories behind them," she writes. Email Tania at [taniamania@yahoo.com](mailto:taniamania@yahoo.com).



**JULIA LYTLE** (COM'14) of Los Angeles, Calif., is founder of Che Consulting, a boutique PR and brand strategy agency catering to art, interior design, architecture, and real-estate development spaces. She and her team have secured features for clients in outlets such as *Forbes*, *INSIDER*, *HuffPost*, *POPSUGAR*, and *New York* magazine. In August, Julia celebrated four years in business. Learn more at [www.che-consulting.com/](http://www.che-consulting.com/) club-che, and email her at [julia@che-consulting.com](mailto:julia@che-consulting.com).



**THOMAS HOWARD "BEN" SUITT III** (GRS'21) of Franklin, Tenn., published his first book, *Narratives of Trauma and Moral Agency among Christian Post-9/11 Veterans* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023), an exploration of the role of faith in the lives of veterans and their search for meaning amid warfare and the return to civilian life. Email him at [bensuitt@bu.edu](mailto:bensuitt@bu.edu).

COURTESY OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES (TOP), AMANDA DEZAGO

ASHE PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP), SUSANNAH PAZDAN PHOTOGRAPHY (INSET)



**RENEE HIRSCHBERG** (Wheelock'12) of Redwood City, Calif., became the chief alumni relations officer at Stanford University in October 2023.



**EMILY GREENHALGH** (COM'12) of Mashpee, Mass., published *Fun with Oceans & Seas* (Penguin Random House, 2023). "The science activity book is full of engaging activities and is perfect for future ocean explorers aged 6 to 10," she writes. Email Emily at emwritesscience@gmail.com.



**SAATVIK AHLUWALIA** (Pardee'12) (left) of Natick, Mass., was appointed to the commonwealth's Asian American & Pacific Islanders Commission in recognition of his award-winning work as an activist and a communications professional. Saatvik, joined by his wife, Nanditha Shivaprakash (right), was sworn in by Massachusetts Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. Friends can email Saatvik at Saatvik.Ahluwalia@gmail.com.

**RACHEL SPATES** (CAS'99) of Weston, Mass., became president of the UMass Amherst Alumni Association board of directors in July 2023; she's served on the board since 2016. Rachel recently celebrated 10 years with Sun Life U.S. in Wellesley Hills, where she is director of communications. A lifelong fan of aviation, she obtained her private pilot certificate in June.

**2000 SAMUEL FREDERICK** (CAS'00) of State College, Pa., is a professor of German at Penn State University.

**2001 REBECCA (ROBBINS) PITTS** (CAS'01) of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., published *Jane Jacobs: Champion of Cities, Champion of People* (Seven Stories

Press, 2023), a young adult biography of the visionary activist, urbanist, and thinker who transformed the way America inhabited and developed its cities. Friends can email Rebecca at rebecca@rebeccaipitts.com.

**CHRISTOS VIORES** (Sargent'01) of Newton Centre, Mass., comanaging partner and chief operating officer of Ligris + Associates PC, was named a 2023 HousingWire Insider in September. The award recognizes operational leaders who "are the foundation for their company's success."

**2002 DEVRI (WATTS) DAVIS** (CGS'00, COM'02) of O'Fallon, Mo., joined the Lutheran Hour Ministries of St. Louis as syndication account manager in

October. She lives nearby with her husband and four children.

**2003 VICTORIA BRITTON** (CGS'01, CAS'03) of Moorestown, N.J., was honored as the Somerset County Bar Association 2022–2023 Professional Lawyer of the Year at the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law annual awards luncheon in July 2023. Victoria is counsel in the Cherry Hill office of White and Williams, LLP.

**KEITH BROWN** (COM'03) of North Kingstown, R.I., a teaching professor of film and media at the University of Rhode Island, was honored with the URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement Excellence Award in Teaching Excellence in May 2023. Email Keith at kbfilms@gmail.com.

**AMANDA MA** (Questrom'03) of Pasadena, Calif., is founder and CEO of Innovate Marketing Group, which in 2023 made the *Inc.* 5000 list of fastest-growing private companies in America. "This milestone would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our clients, partners, family, friends, and amazing team," Amanda writes. Email her at amanda@innovatemkg.com.

**2005 PAULA BISHOP** (CFA'05, GRS'11) of Foxboro, Mass., coedited *Whose Country Music? Genre, Identity, and Belonging in Twenty-First-Century Country Music Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), with Jada Watson, and *Hidden Harmonies: Women and Music in Popular Entertainment* (University Press of Mississippi, 2023), with Kendra Preston Leonard. She teaches at Bridgewater State University.

**2007 JOHN ZILCH** (MET'07) of Walpole, Mass., published his first book, *The Quality Lever: The Art and Science of Building a Product You Can Be Proud Of* (John Zilch, 2023).

**2008 VICTORIA (WAXMAN) HALLINAN** (UNI'08) of North Haven, Conn., published *The Moiseyev Dance Company Tours America: "Wholesome" Comfort During a Cold War* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2023), about the first Soviet cultural representatives to tour America during a time of extreme tension between the US and the USSR.

**TIM JACKSON** (GRS'08) of Bryn Mawr, Pa., published *Into the World's Great*

*Heart: Selected Letters of Edna St. Vincent Millay* (Yale University Press, 2023), an edited collection of letters penned by the Pulitzer Prize–winning poet and playwright.

**2010 MARIA KENT BEERS** (CGS'08, COM'10) of Natick, Mass., cofounded the podcast *Remember Me* after losing her beloved mother, Lia, to frontotemporal dementia (FTD) in 2020. The show's other cofounder, Rachael Martinez, met Maria over social media when each woman was caring for a parent with FTD, and they bonded over their experiences. They launched a blog and podcast soon after—without ever meeting in person. Now in its seventh season, *Remember Me* has been a crucial resource for others on their FTD journey, including Emma Willis, wife of actor Bruce Willis, and actor Seth Rogen and his wife, Lauren, who founded the Alzheimer's support organization Hilarity for Charity.

**NOAH COBURN** (GRS'10) of Plainfield, Vt., coauthored *The Last Days of the Afghan Republic: A Doomed Evacuation Twenty Years in the Making* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023) with Arsalan Noori, an Afghan scholar and social sciences researcher. Part memoir, part history, the book recounts the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan through the experiences of four Afghan citizens. Noah is a sociocultural anthropologist and provost at Goddard College.

**2011 DAVID JAMES** (Wheelock'11) of Spokane, Wash., coauthored *It's Time for Strategic Scheduling: How to Design Smarter K–12 Schedules That Are Great for Students, Staff, and the Budget* (ASCD, 2023) with Nathan Levenson. "[The book] is meant to help educators combine education and management best practices," David writes. "In many ways, my journey writing this book began when I studied education and instruction at BU. What I learned then has very much informed my work in the K–12 education sector."

**2012 AREZU SARVESTANI** (COM'12) of San Francisco, Calif., is a public affairs officer for NASA, stationed at the Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, and has supported a number of missions, "including the James Webb Space Telescope, the LOFTID inflatable heat shield test, the OSIRIS-REx asteroid sample

return mission, the Astrobee smart robots aboard the International Space Station, and the Starling CubeSat robotic swarm in low Earth orbit," she writes. Arezu is about to celebrate her second year at NASA, "and am still loving my work."

**2015 CECILIA WEDDELL** (CAS'15, GRS'22) of El Paso, Tex., translated from Spanish *When You Get to the Other Side* (Lee & Low Books, 2022), originally written and published in 2019 by Mariana Osorio Gumá. Cecilia is an associate editor at *Harvard Review*, and her translations have been published in journals such as *World Literature Today*, *Latin American Literature Today*, and *Literary Imagination*.

**2019 ANDREA RUSTAD** (CAS'19) of Chicago, Ill., published *Skin-vincible: A Story of a Superstar with Ichthyosis* (Mascot Books, 2023), a children's book that raises awareness about a group of rare skin conditions. "I hope to become a pediatric dermatologist, so this is a very important cause to me," she writes. "I worked closely with those with ichthyosis and...we hope that this [book] will combat bullying that many of these children face by improving public knowledge."

**2022 NEEHARIKA MUNJAL** (Sargent'22) of Andover, Mass., is founder of Young Indian Professionals of New England, a collaborative platform dedicated to providing connection and networking opportunities. Since April 2022, the group has grown to more than 3,600 members collectively on Instagram and Facebook; convened a board of advisors; was featured in the *Boston Globe*, *New India Abroad*, *Lokvani*, *Andover* magazine, and the *Eagle-Tribune*; held a sold-out networking event attended by more than 400 young Indian professionals; and launched a YouTube talk series highlighting community groups and individual success stories. "We have had very successful small meetups that have been sold out in fewer than two days," Neeharika writes. "We also have a WhatsApp community."

**2023 CHRISTOPHER LEE** (Questrom'23) of Washington, D.C., received the Delta Beta Xi Award and Key from the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity at its annual Elevate International Leadership Conference in July 2023. The award was presented to alumni in recognition of sustained service to the fraternity. **B**



**CONOR CARLIN** (Pardee'98) of Plymouth, Mass., was elected president of the Society of Plastics Engineers in August 2023. He is the coauthor and editor of *Plastics and Sustainability: Grey is the New Green* (Wiley, 2021). Connect with him at [www.linkedin.com/in/conorcarlin](http://www.linkedin.com/in/conorcarlin).



**VICTORIA WASYLAK** (COM'17) of Lowell, Mass., a music journalist, was selected in August for *Forbes'* inaugural "30 Under 30" list for Boston. Victoria is the Boston music editor for *Vanyaland*, a Boston-based online cultural magazine. "This distinction reflects my decade of devotion to documenting the Boston music scene, my three awards for tireless local coverage, and my efforts to uplift the local arts scene as a member of the Recording Academy," she writes. Email Victoria at [vmwasylak@gmail.com](mailto:vmwasylak@gmail.com).

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ROSELYN FAITH SULLIT, NANCY ROTHSTEIN (INSET, TOP), COURTESY OF EMILY GREENHALGH (INSET, BOTTOM)

NICHOLE FREDRIKSEN/FREDRIKSEN PHOTOGRAPHY (INSET, TOP), MARIA ALEJANDRA MATA

# “Intellectual Brilliance and Brilliant Kindness”

► COM'S OTTO LERBINGER, AUTHORITY ON CORPORATE AFFAIRS, CRISIS MANAGEMENT, DIES AT 98 | BY BURT GLASS

OTTO LERBINGER, a College of Communication professor emeritus, taught public relations at COM for 50 years before his retirement in 2004, making him Boston University's longest-serving faculty member. But it was his mix of knowledge and kindness that the University community remembered after he died, on September 17, 2023. He was 98.

“I've met hundreds of academics, and Otto was among the very top,” says Edward Downes, a COM associate professor of public relations, recalling how Lerbinger helped him navigate the transition from industry to academics. “He brought an admirable combination of intellectual brilliance and brilliant kindness.”

Janice Barrett (COM'80), a former COM associate professor, remembered Lerbinger as “a brilliant academic, a prolific writer, and a trailblazer in our field. A gentle, kind, compassionate soul, he offered sage advice and unwavering support.”

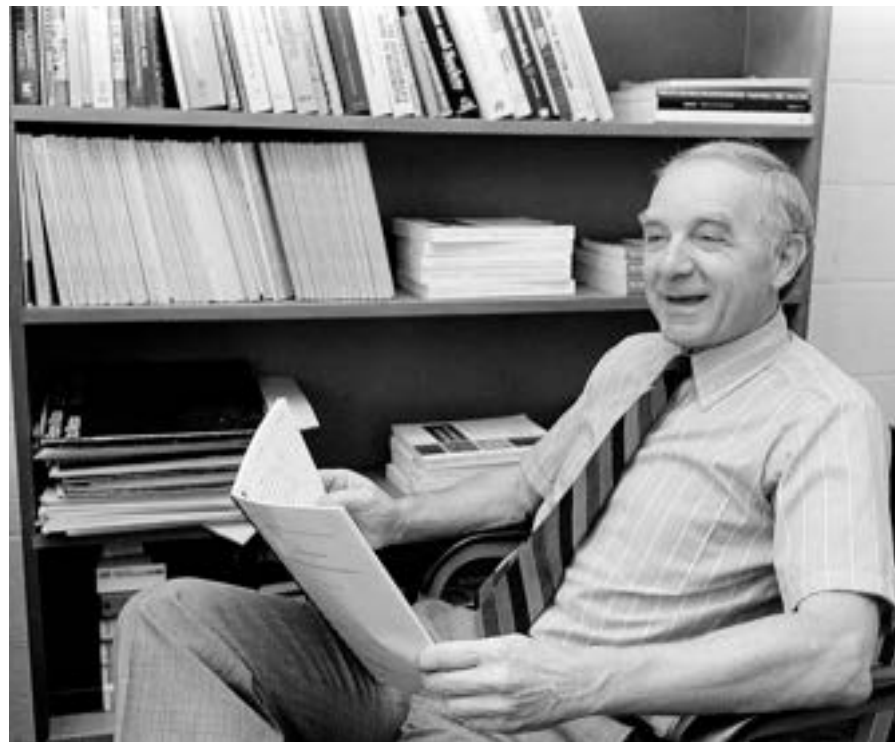
Amy Shanler (CAS'96, COM'96'04), a COM associate professor of the practice of public relations, was a graduate student in Lerbinger's Crisis Communication course in 2001 when

In 2003, Otto Lerbinger was appointed the inaugural recipient of COM's first endowed chair, the Harold Burson Chair in Public Relations.

planes struck the World Trade Center towers in New York City.

“Dr. Lerbinger was a pillar of strength and empathy during the September 11 attacks, helping our class try to make sense of the senseless and find hope during a dark and scary time,” Shanler says. “I am eternally grateful for having the opportunity to learn from this smart and empathetic human.”

Lerbinger was an internationally recognized authority on corporate affairs,



Otto Lerbinger, who retired in 2004, was BU's longest-serving faculty member.

BU PHOTOGRAPHY

crisis management, and communication theory. He earned a BA from Brooklyn College, an MS from the University of Chicago, and a PhD in economics from MIT. His publications exploring public relations include the books *The Crisis Manager: Facing Disasters, Conflicts, and Failures* and *Corporate Public Affairs: Interacting With Interest Groups, Media, and Government*. He also was a consultant to commercial clients and gave seminars around the world.

In 2003, Lerbinger was named the inaugural recipient of COM's first endowed chair, the Harold Burson Chair in Public Relations.

At the ceremony announcing the chair, then-BU Provost Dennis Berkey said Lerbinger “is one of those senior scholars on the faculty who carry the character and the aspirations of the University with him constantly, serving as a member of the Faculty Council, serving on key committees across the campus, and always being there with a watchful eye and a thoughtful mind and a willingness to speak up and say what needs to be said.”

John Schulz, the dean of COM at the time, said at the ceremony that Lerbinger, “despite being the longest-serving member of faculty on our campus, retains an energy and enthusiasm in the classroom that is seldom equaled and never surpassed. Each term, students note the demand and rigor of his classes and then give him rave reviews.”

KALMAN ZABARSKY



Roye Wates was a founding member of the Mozart Society of America.

## The Gifts of Great Teaching

► ROYE WATES, CAS PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, WAS A MOZART SPECIALIST

ROYE E. WATES, a retired College of Arts & Sciences professor of music, died on March 10, 2023. She was 89.

Wates, a Mozart specialist and a founding member of the Mozart Society of America, earned a BA in English from Birmingham-Southern College in 1954 and a PhD in the history of music from Yale University in 1965, according to her obituary. She began teaching at BU in 1962 in the Division of General Education before becoming a University Professor and later a CAS professor of music.

In 1999, Wates was honored with the Boston University Teacher/Scholar of the Year Award. In a *B.U. Bridge* article about the award, John Silber (Hon.'95), then BU chancellor, described her as “an outstanding scholar and teacher, someone who brings to the classroom exemplary erudition and the gifts of great teaching.”

In 2010, she published *Mozart: An Introduction to the Music, the Man, and the Myths* (Amadeus Press). BU's *arts&sciences* magazine covered the book: “Writes British reviewer

Philip Borg-Wheeler in *Classical Music* magazine: ‘As in a good novel, the author draws the reader into the lives and interrelationships of her characters—Mozart, his family and colleagues—and engagingly describes the cultural milieu. I cannot recommend this outstanding book too highly.’”

In a 2011 interview with Ohio's *CantonRep.com*, Wates described her fascination with the 18th-century Austrian composer. “He was so complicated, so colossally talented, and he had a father who gave him superb instruction,” she said.

When asked if she could have only one piece of Mozart music, she told the publication, “*The Marriage of Figaro*. And the Mass in C Minor. Both of those have a good deal of Mozart's pastoral music, which I believe was his most distinctive personal idiom. The way Mozart wrote pastoral music was unlike any other, except Bach. It's so powerful and so moving that I'm not sure I could live without it.”

Wates retired from BU in 2015.

>>



## John Stone, CAS Sociology Professor

### ▶ FORMER CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT

**JOHN STONE**, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of sociology and an international scholar of the politics of race and ethnicity, died on October 11, 2023. He was 78.

Stone earned a doctorate in 1970 from St. Antony's College at Oxford University. His interest in the dynamics of race and racial conflict began with his dissertation research in South Africa, when he was visiting scholar at the Universities of Witwatersrand, Natal, and Cape Town.

During the 1970s and 1980s, he held a variety of faculty posts, at Columbia University, Oxford University, the University of London, and others. He was chair of George Mason University's department of sociology and anthropology for many years. In 2001, he joined BU's sociology department, serving as chair until 2007.

In 1978, Stone founded the journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies (ERS)* and was its chief editor for 10 years. *ERS* was the first social science journal devoted to the study of race and ethnicity, and its influence on other scholars in the field was profound.

He was the author or editor of at least nine books,

and published widely on race, ethnicity, colonialism, nationalism, and migration. He coedited *Alexis de Tocqueville on Democracy, Revolution, and Society* (University of Chicago Press, 1980), with Stephen Mennell; the book was reissued and translated into many languages. His 2003 coedited book, *Race and Ethnicity: Comparative and Theoretical Approaches* (Wiley-Blackwell), with Rutledge Dennis, was recognized as the definitive introduction to the field and widely assigned as required reading to students. He coauthored *Racial Conflict in Global Society* (Polity Press, 2014) with Polly S. Rizova (GRS'03). And, in 2020, he coedited the five-volume *Wiley Blackwell Companion to Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism* with Dennis, Rizova, and Xiaoshuo Hou (GRS'08).

Students flocked to Stone for the wise, committed, and compassionate mentorship he consistently provided.

His BU colleagues regarded him as witty and self-deprecating, always willing to offer cogent editorial remarks on their manuscripts. In their tribute, they wrote: "To many in the sociology department, John was a friend, and, to some, a mentor, who never missed an opportunity to share a joke or a laugh. That moment always seemed more important than anything else that we were doing. He combined sardonic wit with a warm and buoyant personality and went out of his way to help students and the department whether that need was large or small. He cared about people and

lifted up those around him. He was kind and funny and a calm voice of reason amid challenging circumstances and an incredible source of knowledge and insight about the department's history."

Japonica Brown-Saracino, CAS professor and chair of the sociology department, describes Stone as a warm colleague and mentor: "He was incredibly dedicated to his students, and approached academic life with steadfast kindness, levity, and calm. We will miss him greatly."



## David Anable, Former COM Journalism Chair

### ▶ LONGTIME REPORTER AND EDITOR SPENT 20-PLUS YEARS AT THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

**DAVID ANABLE**, former chair and professor of journalism at the College of Communication, died on August 13, 2023. He was 84.

Anable was born on June 7, 1939, in the village of Brampford Speke in England. He earned a degree in agriculture from the University of Cambridge and in agricultural economics at Oxford University.

He spent more than 20 years with the *Christian Science Monitor*—first in London and then in Boston—as a reporter, New

York bureau chief, international news editor, and managing editor.

"He was a mentor to legions of *Monitor* reporters and editors, by nature a teacher, with a strong sense of principle and a gift for making reporters' draft copy shine on deadline," wrote Linda Feldmann, Washington bureau chief for the *Monitor*, in a tribute to Anable. "As foreign editor, he led morning meetings dubbed 'Sunday School,' as we gathered round to discuss events and coverage ideas. To young staffers, it was better than grad school. We were being paid to learn."

After leaving the *Monitor* in 1988, Anable became a COM professor of journalism and chair of the department. In 1997, he moved to Washington, D.C., to become president of the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), a non-profit that helps reporters and editors cover the critical issues of the day, use new tools and techniques to connect with communities, and build news organizations that thrive.

"Anable's passion for helping journalists fulfill their vital mission across the globe shone through all his work for ICFJ," according to the center's tribute. "He loved to travel to see the impact of ICFJ's programs on many continents, and he equally loved to host visiting journalists in Washington from everywhere from Peru to Nigeria to Kyrgyzstan."

Anable led the center until 2004, after which he became a fellow at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School.

MATTHEW DINEEN (TOP), COURTESY OF PERRY ANABLE FERRIS (CFA'94)

## in memoriam.

*Due to space constraints, we are able to publish only a small number of names of BU alumni who have passed away. If you would like to see the name of a deceased alum listed on our In Memoriam page, please send us their name, school and year of graduation, place of residence (city and state), and a link to a published obituary. Thank you.*

### 1940s

RACHAEL WHITNEY (SARGENT'42) *Ashburnham, Mass.*  
 PHILIP L. DENNETT (QUESTROM'45) *North Andover, Mass.*  
 RUTH A. JOHNSTON (PAL'45) *Glastonbury, Conn.*  
 MARILYN SUMMERS (PAL'46,'48) *Framingham, Mass.*  
 SYLVIA CHAVKIN (PAL'47) *San Marcos, Tex.*  
 ELIZABETH JORDAN DUNLAP (PAL'47) *East Moriches, N.Y.*  
 VIRGINIA KIMBALL JOHNSON (SARGENT'47) *Montpelier, Vt.*  
 MARTHA-CLAIRE M. KNEE (WHELOCK'47) *Hixson, Tenn.*  
 PATRICIA M. WEST (PAL'47) *Long Beach, Calif.*  
 HELEN K. FINE (SARGENT'48) *Nashua, N.H.*  
 MARILYN FOX GLEBER (SARGENT'48) *Newark, Del.*  
 CAROLYN PLANTAMURA (PAL'48) *Morristown, N.J.*  
 FRANK SUSSLER (COM'48) *Farmington, Conn.*  
 KATHLEEN M. TIVNAN (WHELOCK'48) *Lansingburgh, N.Y.*  
 LEE E. CHERENSON (DGE'49, COM'51) *Boonton, N.J.*  
 BONALYN-ALETHE V. MUNSON (PAL'49) *Boise, Idaho*  
 WILLIAM F. SPENCE (CAS'49) *Boise, Idaho*  
 MARJORIE P. STEVENS (WHELOCK'49) *Chicago, Ill.*  
 ANNE V. WILLIAMSON (CFA'49) *Manchester, N.H.*

### 1950s

JOHN LEWIS MOORE (DGE'50, COM'52) *Ocean Park, Maine*  
 CLOREDA E. SARAGOSA (SARGENT'50) *Medford, Mass.*  
 MARILYN G. TANNY (CAS'50) *Concord, N.H.*  
 JOAN CHILCOTT MCKENNA (WHELOCK'51) *Denver, Colo.*  
 MARILYN MCMILLAN (CAS'51) *Ludlow, Vt.*  
 RICHARD F. MOONEY (DGE'51, CAS'53) *Peabody, Mass.*  
 GRETA ARKIN LOOMIS (PAL'52) *Wayland, Mass.*  
 EUGENIA S. PATTERSON (GRS'52,'55) *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*  
 ROBERT L. BLACK, SR. (QUESTROM'53) *Arlington Heights, Ill.*

BETTE A. JOHNSON (CAS'53) *New Brighton, Minn.*  
 SARKIS W. MALKASIAN (WHELOCK'53) *Sacramento, Calif.*  
 ROBERT D. NAIVA (DGE'54, COM'56) *Harvard, Mass.*  
 ELAINE G. BOETTCHER (SON'55) *Edgartown, Mass.*  
 HENRY E. BURR (CFA'55) *Greenville, R.I.*  
 BARBARA WADDELL (SARGENT'55) *Cedar Hill, Tex.*  
 ROBERT M. JACOBS (QUESTROM'56) *Hudson, Mass.*  
 RICHARD A. LEMAIRE (CFA'56, WHELOCK'57) *Palm Springs, Calif.*  
 MALCOLM OSBORN (LAW'56,'61) *Winston-Salem, N.C.*  
 GILBERT M. SOULE (ENG'56) *Plymouth, Mass.*  
 SUSAN C. ADLER (WHELOCK'57) *New Orleans, La.*  
 CAROLYN P. BEATTY (QUESTROM'57) *Enola, Pa.*  
 L. ALFRED HUBLER (STH'57) *Elyria, Ohio*  
 SALLY M. BACON (CFA'58) *Lisle, Ill.*  
 CAROLE B. DOHERTY (DGE'58, CAS'60) *Windsor, Conn.*  
 SANFORD M. KIRSHENBAUM (LAW'58,'60) *Cranston, R.I.*  
 LORRAINE B. COTTON (QUESTROM'59) *Framingham, Mass.*  
 DONALD F. DYGERT (CFA'59) *Roanoke, Va.*  
 IRVING F. WALLACE, JR. (CFA'59,'74) *Berkley, Mass.*

### 1960s

JAMES H. MOORE (CFA'60) *Lynnfield, Mass.*  
 ROBERT N. HELBIG (ENG'61) *Noank, Conn.*  
 QUEEN ANN JONES (CFA'61,'64) *Marietta, Ga.*  
 DAVID H. WILLIAMS (COM'61) *Falls Church, Va.*  
 JOHN H. EMERSON (STH'62) *Sparks, Nev.*  
 CAROLYN CURTIS EVERETT (WHELOCK'62) *Tucson, Ariz.*  
 EMILY V. SPENCER (WHELOCK'62) *Kennebunkport, Maine*  
 IRENE DIFLORIO (SON'63) *Brewerton, N.Y.*  
 ANN A. POST (CAS'63) *Warren, R.I.*

DONALD L. LABOMBARD (ENG'64) *Glastonbury, Conn.*  
 CALVIN S. MORRIS (GRS'64,'82, STH'67) *Viroqua, Wisc.*  
 SANDRA E. BASMAJIAN (SON'65) *Boulder City, Nev.*  
 MADA J. HAPWORTH (CGS'63, CAS'65, GRS'71) *New York, N.Y.*  
 ROY F. CEDERHOLM, JR. (CAS'66) *Franklin, Mass.*  
 SUSAN GREEN (WHELOCK'66) *Covington, La.*  
 CHRISTINE S. PAKATAR (SON'66) *Watervliet, N.Y.*  
 DAVID A. BUTLER (QUESTROM'67,'71) *Acton, Mass.*  
 LAURA ARMAGOST FRICK (CAS'67) *Kansas City, Mo.*  
 SYLVIA A. GORDON (GRS'67,'73) *Ann Arbor, Mich.*  
 BARBARA RABINOVITZ (COM'68) *Brookline, Mass.*  
 ANNE SCHAEFFER SINN (WHELOCK'68) *Castle Rock, Colo.*  
 CHARLES R. CARUSO (ENG'69) *St. Petersburg, Fla.*  
 SUSAN N. KANAK (DGE'69, CAS'71) *Wells, Maine*

### 1970s

LUCETTA M. GANLEY (SON'70) *Rye, N.Y.*  
 MAURICE E. SIGMON (WHELOCK'70) *Dothan, Ala.*  
 ROSALIE J. BENCHOT (SON'71) *Norton, Ohio*  
 VICTOR S. DIETZ (SDM'71,'72) *Yarmouth, Maine*  
 BERTRAM R. COTTINE (LAW'72) *Olathe, Kans.*  
 ROBERT B. DICKINSON (MET'72) *Aguadilla, Puerto Rico*  
 ERIC L. ALMQUIST (GRS'73,'77) *Belmont, Mass.*  
 LEMUEL V. MILLS, SR. (WHELOCK'73) *Boston, Mass.*  
 BETTY WRIGHT JOHNSON (WHELOCK'74) *Bloomfield, Conn.*  
 WANDA L. MINTER (DGE'74) *Warrensville Heights, Ohio*  
 HONOR MOGEY-FELLOWS (CAS'75, SSW'78) *New Boston, N.H.*  
 STEPHEN R. PETERS (CAS'75, CAMED'79) *Wyckoff, N.J.*  
 KATHLEEN LEMAN (CFA'76) *Pepperell, Mass.*  
 ANNE MITCHELL-ATHERTON (LAW'76) *Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*  
 ALAN D. GAREY (CAS'77) *North Reading, Mass.*  
 LEONARD S. HOCHSTER (QUESTROM'77) *Dallas, Tex.*  
 MARTIN J. KENNY (COM'78) *Cromwell, Conn.*  
 ADA J. KUSSELL (CAS'79) *Needham Heights, Mass.*

### 1980s

ROBERT J. COX (GRS'80,'00) *Waltham, Vt.*

MARTHA THOITS (WHELOCK'80) *Warner, N.H.*  
 ROSAMUND S. ZANDER (SSW'80) *Cambridge, Mass.*  
 LAWRENCE M. EDELMAN (LAW'81) *Scarborough, Maine*  
 DOUGLAS A. RUSSELL (WHELOCK'81) *Plymouth, Mass.*  
 ROBERT M. QUINN (QUESTROM'82) *Pembroke, Mass.*  
 LARRY R. DOLINSKY (QUESTROM'83,'86) *Hingham, Mass.*  
 HARRY GENNIS (QUESTROM'83) *Concord, Mass.*  
 CHRISTOS S. KOTSIPOPOULOS (ENG'83) *Honolulu, Hawaii*  
 JAMES A. TILLEY (ENG'85) *Raymond, N.H.*  
 TONY H. C. YU (ENG'85) *West Newton, Mass.*  
 JERROLD I. HIRSCH (WHELOCK'86) *New York, N.Y.*

### 1990s

DORCAS L. MANSELL (SPH'91) *Nashville, Tenn.*  
 BLAISE A. RICHARD (COM'93) *Polson, Mont.*  
 EUGENE F. THOMAS (STH'93) *Arlington, Va.*  
 KEVIN TRIER BARCY (CGS'92, CAS'94) *Akron, Ohio*  
 LINDA K. MCDONNELL (SARGENT'96) *South Abington Township, Pa.*  
 DIANE L. CHRISTIAN (WHELOCK'97) *Sterling, Mass.*  
 JAMES I. LADGE (QUESTROM'97) *Brookline, Mass.*  
 DIANE E. LEVINSON (GRS'97) *Belmont, Mass.*

### 2000s

ELIZABETH DOWNTON (SSW'00) *Ypsilanti, Mich.*  
 STEVEN TURNER (WHELOCK'00) *Raleigh, N.C.*  
 BONNA MAI (SSW'03) *Lowell, Mass.*  
 CHRISTINE F. MANDELL (WHELOCK'03) *West Roxbury, Mass.*  
 CHRISTINE M. JUDGE (COM'09) *Westfield, Mass.*  
 MARGARET M. ROSSMAN (COM'09) *Battle Creek, Mich.*

### 2010s

ROBERT HULL (ENG'11) *Roanoke, Va.*  
 SAMANTHA G. SAMPIERI (SARGENT'11,'13) *Spotsylvania, Va.*  
 LAUREN L. PATALAK (SSW'14) *Melrose, Mass.*  
 GARY J. LOPRESTI, JR. (CGS'97, CAS'16) *Melrose, Mass.*  
 JOCELYN M. REAVES (SPH'17) *Tulsa, Okla.*

### 2020s

SAMUEL A. LAURO, JR. (MET'22) *Tampa, Fla.*

one more thing.

## WAIT, THERE'S A NATIONAL PLUMBING COMPETITION?

► Yep, and BU lead plumber Craig Childress is the best in the country | BY RICH BARLOW

FOR THREE HOURS during the final weekend in October, Craig Childress sweated against the country's best in a Florida arena.

With tens of thousands of prize dollars on the line and CBS Sports Network cameras trained on him, he installed a vent and drain for a sink, added piping for an electric water heater, and rigged the whole assembly together. Then, putting together a horizontal furnace with air-conditioning system, he mounted an a-coil and plenum, laid the assembly on the ground to install a filter, and connected refrigerant lines from the unit to an outdoor condenser.

What, you thought this was the NBA?

As lead worker in plumbing services at BU's Facilities Management & Operations, Childress helps students and employees plug leaky faucets, stanch ceiling drips, and upgrade aging boilers. Now, he deserves that superlative "lead" at the national level, after taking first place in both the national plumbing and the heating/ventilation/air-conditioning championships in Tampa. Childress won \$50,000, wrenching victory (sorry) from 2 other plumbing finalists—and from 14 HVAC technicians in that specialty's semis and finals—in the annual Elites Trade Championship Series. (CBS Sports



Craig Childress appreciates the plumbing and HVAC competitions, where he competed, for "celebrating the trades."

➤ Read the full story about Craig Childress' championship wins at [bu.edu/bostonia](https://bu.edu/bostonia).

Network, which occasionally shows nonathletic endeavors such as poker, was scheduled to air both championships in December.)

"Professionally speaking, this competition was the most rewarding and fun thing I've ever been part of," Childress says.

The competitions, held at the Tampa Convention Center, were developed by the Chicago-based marketing firm Intersport and by Ideal Industries, a global manufacturer of tools and

components for the trades. Childress' journey to Tampa began last April, when 9,000-plus contestants nationwide completed a first-round timed written test on their phones in the HVAC competition. (A plumber by profession, he learned HVAC systems while working for a previous employer.)

Childress appreciates the spotlight the competition shone on his work. "It was celebrating the trades," he says. "You don't really ever hear about anything like that." ■

JACKIE RICCIARDI



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