



The Northeastern Voice

Q&A with Luis Falcon, vice provost for faculty and graduate education **page 9**



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NU REACHES \$200 MILLION GOAL

Roaring Success

BY GLEN SUMMIT

Thanks to the generosity of more than 63,000 alumni, friends, faculty and staff, Northeastern's most ambitious fundraising effort surpassed its goal of \$200 million.

The Leadership Campaign: New Pathways to Excellence raised the necessary resources to support several key priorities, including teaching and research, educational opportunity and urban engagement, co-operative education and a vibrant campus community.

"The incredible generosity from so many alumni and friends is proof that what we are doing at Northeastern is worthy of support," said President Freeland in a toast to advancement staff after learning the \$200 million goal had been reached. "Congratulations are due to campaign chairman Ron Rossetti and the entire advancement division for all of their hard work through the years."

Alumni and friends of the university gave more than \$102.5 million to the campaign, followed by more than \$96 million from corporations and foundations. Parents and students contributed nearly \$2.5 million.

Campaign funds have financed the construction and renovation of a number of facilities, including the

Capital Campaign, continued on page 8

New Alumni Center planned

BY SUSAN SALK

Construction of a state-of-the-art alumni center on the sixth floor of Columbus Place is due to begin this spring, ushering in a better on-campus experience for visiting Huskies.

The 12,000-square-foot space, now dominated by concrete and bare wires, will soon house a pavilion for receptions, an executive lounge patterned after those found at airports, a reception area, and offices for alumni relations staff, according to Jack Moynihan, vice president of alumni relations.

A brightly painted mural on the first floor of Columbus Place and an exterior sign hanging down the side of the building are two design concepts being explored, Moynihan said.

Once visitors cross the threshold on the sixth floor, they will be met by a sleekly modern interior dominated by glass walls and a large video screen displaying the faces of the many alumni to whom the center is dedicated.

Among the services available to alumni will be computers for checking e-mail, a kitchen, and a function room for events and lectures, Moynihan said.

"This will be the premier event facility on campus," said Moynihan, noting that the pavilion will hold up to 400 guests, or 200 seated for dinner.

"Our concept is to create a premier facility where alumni can come and gather. We want it to be the epicenter of Northeastern University," Moynihan added.

Alumni Center, continued on page 8

Capital Grins



President Freeland shakes hands with Ronald Rossetti, BA '66, chair of the \$200 million Leadership Campaign. He is flanked by Bill Bartolini, vice president of development, and Bob Cunningham, senior vice president of advancement.

spotlight

Northeastern grad shows at Sundance

BY SUSAN SALK

Journalism school grad Byron Hurt debuts his documentary film "Beyond Beats and Rhymes" at the Sundance Film Festival this week after winning a rare honor that launched such productions as "Gods and Monsters" and "March of the Penguins."

And later this year, his film, which examines masculinity, sexism and homophobia in hip-hop music, will air on PBS.

But nobody should misunderstand: success did not come overnight for Hurt. Since graduating from Northeastern in 1993, he has come up against setbacks, financial difficulties and bitter disappointments in pursuit of his filmmaking dream.

Asked what separated him from the pack, Hurt suggests it had something to do with his willingness to step far out on a limb — to quit a decent job, move home with his mom and dad in New Jersey at age 30, and pester the heck out of an established filmmaker for that one small chance to reinvigorate his career.

"Everyone keeps asking me if I'm excited, and I keep telling people that of course I'm excited. But more importantly, I'm just amazed at how far determination and belief in yourself will take you in this life."

He started as a senior producing a black senior video yearbook. Quickly he channeled his interest into a two-hour film, "I Am a Man," a documentary about black masculinity in American culture. After generating interest from PBS, it was ultimately turned down, and Hurt was left "deflated and broke," he said.

But this was a dream that refused to die. Gathering up the courage to call an established documentary filmmaker, Stanley Nelson, Hurt convinced the initially reluctant artist to take him under his wing. "I wanted to learn what it takes to make a film, and since he was established, I thought he could help me."

The result was a film that critiques the "modern cowboy" mentality of today's hip-

hop stars through interviews with some of the biggest names in the industry. Topics such as cultural aggression, sexism, homophobia, as well as the influence of money and power, are all fodder for the interviews, he said.

Through interviews with hip-hop rappers Mos Def, Fat Joe, Chuck D, Busta Rhymes and others, Hurt attempts to get at the culture of the music. "More and more young men are being indoctrinated by the images portrayed in hip-hop videos, images that portray very limited views of what it means to be a man," Hurt said. "My hope is to do

"Beyond Beats," continued on page 8



Beyond Beats and Rhymes

Krentzman leaves stellar legacy



Chet Krentzman, far left, with President Freeland, Keith Lockhart of the Boston Pops, and Lockhart's parents, Marilyn and Newton, E '54.

Krentzman, continued from Page 4

Huntington Avenue as a bridge from Chelsea to Chestnut Hill," Freeland said. "As soon as he could do so he began supporting Northeastern ... over the span of 30 years, he devoted himself to helping three presidents elevate the university he loved toward the achievement and recognition that he knew to be possible."

Former president Curry remembered Krentzman as a man who was both interesting and interested. "If he met you, he would ask what your interests were. At that point, he would always be thinking of ways to introduce you to someone with similar interests," Curry said. "He was a great person who would bring people together. He could open doors for you, and

he was a great help to me when I was president of Northeastern."

Camp Dresser & McKee Chairman Emeritus Robert Marini, E'54, recalled the talent Krentzman had for getting alumni involved with the university. "He was the one who started this whole movement toward reaching out to our alumni," he said. "I think he felt some of the things I felt about Northeastern, namely, that if it wasn't for the university we wouldn't have gotten to where we did."

He praised Krentzman for sending both his sons to Northeastern, proof of continuing devotion. "I think Northeastern's success is due to the seeds that Chet sowed."

Besides his affiliation to Northeastern, Krentzman held numerous positions of importance in the greater Boston community. They include a vice chairmanship of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; a trusteeship of the Norman Rockwell Museum, the U.S.S. Constitution Museum and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Also, he was founding director of the Gorbachev Foundation of North America and founded the Northeastern Small Business Institute.

Capital Campaign reaches \$200 million

Capital Campaign, continued from Page 1

Behrakis Health Sciences Center, CVS Amphitheater, Gicca Atrium, Lawrence Physics Laboratory, Levine Marketplace, Kostas Nanoscale Technology and Manufacturing Research Center, Matthews Arena, the Shanahan Athletic Academic Center and Shillman Hall. In addition, the campaign supported the funding of 198 scholarships as well as 14 faculty chairs, lectureships and professorships.

"We are grateful to everyone who supported Northeastern through the Leadership Campaign and who helped us to surpass our \$200 million goal," said campaign chair Ron Rossetti, BA'66, who was one of several key trustees to make a \$1 million donation to help kick off the campaign.

George D. Behrakis, P'57, H'98, made the largest commitment ever to Northeastern, and the largest bequest ever received came from the estate of Marguerite Parker, which helped to support eight Presidential Scholarships.

Not only did alumni and friends support the campaign, but more than 1,100 Northeastern employees and retirees donated more than \$3.1 million. Their generosity established the Faculty and Staff Student-Scholarship Fund. In appreciation of their generosity, the university will list their names on a plaque in a prominent campus location.

"Although we may have reached our goal of raising \$200 million, it is still not too late to participate in this campaign," said Vice President of Development Bill Bartolini. To make a donation, call 866-GIVE2NU or visit www.neu.edu/giveonline. The campaign will officially end in February.

"As we enter the final stage of the Leadership Campaign and celebrate this great achievement, we are now in the process of creating a clear vision and plan for the next phase of building our engagement with alumni and friends," said the Senior Vice President of Advancement Robert L. Cunningham.

'Beyond Beats and Rhymes' documentary airs at Sundance

Beyond Beats, continued from Page 1

educational outreach to get people to think critically about hip-hop images." He added, "Getting into Sundance has given legitimacy to myself and to the film."

Selected from 7,000 film submissions, Hurt's production is among 120 to debut, beginning tonight. It will be featured in the Spectrum category, which showcases dramatic documentary work by new, independent filmmakers.

Hurt founded God Bless the Child Productions in 1993 while still attending Northeastern. He was a quarterback on the football team and an original member of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society's Mentors in Violence Prevention program. Along the way, he worked a year as a public relations spokesman in the marketing and communications office here. But he never veered from his goal to make movies.

"I had a cozy office and friendly co-workers," he recalled. "And I was scared to make a bold move." He overcame the fear later. After quitting his job with just a few thousand dollars in the bank, he moved home to his parents and began making the bigger goals happen.

Center to inspire pride

Alumni Center, continued from Page 1

Skyline views and easy parking were two standout features of the space, which tipped the scales in favor of creating the alumni center at Columbus Place, said President Freeland. The physical structure will embody the university's renewed commitment toward its alumni, he said.

"This is a symbolic structure of the new energy Northeastern is putting into reaching out to alumni," Freeland said. "This is a message to our alumni that we attach a lot of importance to them and their continued involvement in the university."

The absence of such a facility has always been a "significant gap" in the university's infrastructure, Freeland added.

Creation of the new space and Moynihan's arrival on campus reflect the university's commitment to better alumni outreach, he said. Improvement in this department is critical to the university's future success.

In his recent address to the corporation, Freeland cited alumni relations as a top priority moving forward. And the new center will help inspire more vigorous school spirit, Moynihan said.

"It's really about pride. When I started here in July, one of the biggest goals was to open this new center," Moynihan said. "It's desperately needed for our future efforts. Our goal is to use the center as a tool to draw our alumni back to campus."

The Campus Activities Office would like to thank those faculty and staff members who dedicate their time to the student organizations of Northeastern.

We would also like to invite those faculty and staff members who would like to become involved to attend as well.

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An afternoon of celebration

BY LAURA SHEA

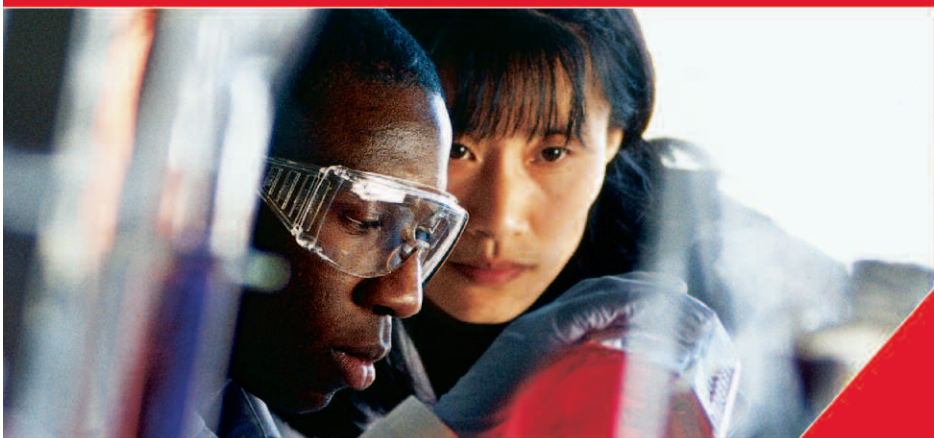
More than 70 scholarship recipients, a handful of donors and several faculty members joined Dean Al Soyster at the eighth annual College of Engineering (COE) Scholarship Luncheon Dec. 7.

The annual event recognizes the recipients of Merit and Legacy Scholarships within the college. Legacy Scholarships are funded by donors for the purpose of recruiting top high school applicants into the freshman engineering class while Merit Scholarships are awarded by the Office of Student Financial Services and enable the college to recognize the academic performance of current engineering students.

"Like a lot of other people here, there's no way that I could attend this school were it not for this scholarship program," said Adam O'Hara, a senior industrial engineering major and Legacy Scholarship recipient. "I am so appreciative to my sponsor Mr. Grant and to all of the people who contribute to this program."

Dean Soyster initiated the Legacy Scholarship program in 1997 with the donation of one scholarship from Anthony Manganaro (E'67). Today there are 77 Legacy Scholarships worth nearly \$5 million and sponsored by 53 different donors. The program's success mirrors the overall growth in COE, which received 2,500 applications for its freshman class this year as opposed to 1,400 in 1996 and enjoys a freshman retention rate of 92 percent.

Louis Guerriere (E'59) and his wife Janice sponsored a Merit Scholarship this year. "I think many of us here in this room — especially the older folks — know what it is to be poor," he said. "Northeastern gave me the opportunity to go out into the world, work hard and be successful. Now I'm honored to be able to give something back."



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Dean Receives Profession's Highest Honor

Will share \$500,000 award for innovation in engineering and technology education

BY LAURA SHEA

Allen Soyster, dean of the College of Engineering, has been named a recipient of the engineering profession's highest honor for 2006, presented by the National Academies' National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

Soyster and four colleagues are the winners of the Bernard M. Gordon Prize, a \$500,000 annual award that recognizes innovation in engineering and technology education. Soyster and his colleagues are being recognized for designing and implementing the "Learning Factory," an undergraduate education program focused on creating leaders in engineering.

The Learning Factory was developed to produce engineering graduates who could easily translate engineering theory into practice and manage projects independently. In this innovative undergraduate program, students tackle real problems from industry, such as designing a collapsible crutch, turning coal ash into a pavement or making the mechanism that adjusts the position of car seats safer. Multidisciplinary teams of students define and characterize the problem, build a solution prototype, write a business proposal and make presentations about their idea.

"Learning Factory students see firsthand the importance of teamwork, ef-

fective communication and engineering ethics," says NAE president William A. Wulf. "Mastering such qualities is essential for engineers to become leaders in a dynamic workplace."

Soyster was head of the department of industrial engineering at Pennsylvania State University when the Learning Factory was created. He led the administration of the project and was responsible for assembling the Learning Factory faculty and staff as well as for establishing the industry advisory board.



Allen Soyster

CRAIG BAILEY

"Engineers want to design and build things," said Soyster. "Our team, with strong industry support, simply provided the motivation and created an innovative work environment. The project has exceeded our wildest expectations with more than

10,000 engineering students participating over the last decade. We feel we've made a real difference."

The Learning Factory originated from a coalition between three universities, Sandia National Laboratories, and 36 industrial partners that shared a desire to give students firsthand experience in design, manufacturing and business. A 1994 National Science Foundation/Advanced Research Projects Agency grant funded the creation of the Learning Factory as a Manufacturing Engineering Education Partnership (MEEP).

Within three years, the university part-

ners — Pennsylvania State University, the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez (UPRM) and the University of Washington (UW) — successfully integrated the Learning Factory into their institutions and curricula. Since then, Learning Factory concepts and course materials have spread to other departments within these institutions, and to other universities in the U.S. and Latin America. More than 10,000 students have created over 1,200 Learning Factory design projects involving more than 200 industry partners.

Soyster shares this award with Jens E. Jorgensen, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at the University of Washington, who led facilities development at all three partner universities and directed the Learning Factory at UW until his retirement in 2000; John S. Lamacusa, professor of mechanical engineering and director of the Learning Factory at Pennsylvania State University, who designed the product realization curriculum, the product dissection course, and the facilities for the university's Learning Factory; Lueny Morell, the Hewlett Packard Co.'s director of university relations for Latin America and former professor of chemical engineering at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, who led the Learning Factory curriculum development at UPRM, and continues to conduct dissemination workshops and assessment activities; and Jose L. Zayas-Castro, professor and chair of industrial and management systems engineering at the University of South Florida (USF), who established the Learning Factory at UPRM and has adapted Learning Factory concepts to other U.S. universities.

The Gordon prize was established in 2001 as a biennial prize recognizing new

literature quiz

BEST SELLERS

FRESHMAN She's gone from writing about Lestat the Vampire to Jesus of Nazareth.

SOPHOMORE His just-announced relationship with Match.com is a timely "Love Smart" tie-in.

MIDDLER Macaroni was her pony/Now kids' verses she disperses.

JUNIOR John Berendt hopes to send as many visitors to this European city as he did to Savannah, Georgia.

SENIOR What did Galileo know? According to Thomas Friedman, "The World Is ____."

Answers appear below.

SENIOR Flat

JUNIOR Venice

MIDDLER Caroline Kennedy

SOPHOMORE Phil McGraw

FRESHMAN Anne Rice

modalities and experiments in education that develop effective engineering leaders. Recognizing the potential to spur a revolution in engineering education, NAE announced in 2003 that the prize would be awarded annually.

The prize will be presented at a gala dinner in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 21.

MLK keynote challenging, inspirational

BY RAUL FERNANDEZ

Those who anticipated a somber and contemplative commemoration at this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation were sorely disappointed. The Jan. 11 event at Blackman Auditorium, hosted annually by the John D.

O'Bryant African-American Institute, challenged the notion that racial, class, gender and other injustices are a thing of the past.

This year's convocation seemed to mean much more, taking place shortly after the passing of civil rights icon Rosa Parks and the 50th anniversary of the

Montgomery Bus Boycotts, and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which some charge exposed an undertone of racism that persists throughout American government and society.

President Freeland welcomed the hundreds of guests in attendance, asking, "In this time of war, in this time of growing

disparities of 'haves' and 'have-nots,' are we still able to believe in the dream that empowered and propelled Dr. King?"

From there, the event took on a congregational and inspirational tone, led by an impassioned invocation from Rev. Viola Buchanan and the inspired vocal performances of Francis Ingram-St. George with Dr. Emmett Price on piano.

If they were the appetizer, the main course was the keynote speech by Rev. Dr. Vashti M. McKenzie, the first female bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

It seemed Bishop McKenzie had no plans to merely reflect on the legacy of Dr. King, but rather to question what those in the audience had done to honor it. She asked, "Have we forgotten Martin Luther King's dream? Have we forgotten how to stand up and speak out? How to hold our leaders accountable?"

Bishop McKenzie continued amid "amens" and applause, "One should not wait for others, especially those who are in power, to tell you it is right to act, especially when you know in your soul what is right."

McKenzie's oratory played like a sermon, turning podium to pulpit, attendees to parishioners. As she closed, she dared the youth in the congregation to take the reins from those who came before.

She said, "I dare you to study, to learn, to read and to grow, and for God's sake, graduate! To go to places where your parents have never been. To accomplish the impossible!"



Vocalist Francis Ingram-St. George (at podium) ushers in the annual Martin Luther King Day convocation. Joining President Freeland in the front row, left to right, is the Rev. Dr. Vashti M. McKenzie, event keynoter; Lula Petty-Edwards, associate dean and director, African-American Institute; and the Rev. Viola Morris Buchanan. Pictured in back, left to right, is Tracy Robinson-Woods, Ashley Adams and William Reese

HERATCH PHOTOGRAPHY

Top Huskies reap rewards

Students, organizations praised for commitment to NU

BY VOICE STAFF

Six students and six student organizations are being honored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs with Husky Leadership Awards to reward students for the time, effort and overall commitment they have made to the university.

"These students and the student organizations we're honoring have greatly enhanced the quality of the Northeastern experience," said Vice President for Student Affairs Ed Klotzbier. "We applaud them for their efforts and hard work."

Award criteria consider both individual and organizational contributions, such as engagement of other students, impact of contributions, enhancement of campus life and quality of leadership.

The winners of the fall 2005 Husky Leadership Awards are:

Tom Kneafsey, homecoming chair, for his leadership and organization of student programming for the 2005 homecoming and success in increasing participation and building traditions.

Christina O'Sullivan, vice president for finance, Resident Student Association, for her assistance with Alcohol Awareness Week and work with RSA's extensive programming over the course of the fall semester.

Tabitha Bennet, co-op in Councilor Mike Flaherty's office and unofficial student liaison in Mission Hill, for serving on the planning committee for the Mission Hill Road Race, taking charge of recruiting and overseeing student volunteers. Tabitha was also a student site leader at Service Day, leading a group of students in a cleanup and painting project at HERE house, a retirement home in Mission Hill.

Mistie Connor, senior fellow for the Scholarship for Service Program, for helping create the new course "Civic Engagement, Leadership and Ethics in Practice," working with the human services program and acting as the student service-learning liaison for their courses and the community.

Stephanie Musso, president and director of the NU Chapter of Strong Women, Strong Girls, for getting the

group off the ground at Northeastern and officially recognized through Student Activities, and setting a strong precedent for mentoring third and fourth grade girls in the local community and in Northeastern's neighborhoods and elementary schools, and also giving real leadership opportunities to Northeastern's female students.

Marilyn Sitoris, building manager, Curry Student Center, for her accomplishments as building manager for the past three years and senior team leader and mentor in the Curry Student Center Building Manager Program, as well as her roles as an SGA senator, an involved class council member, and bearer of the torch at the fall convocation.

Northeastern Student Ambassadors, for their tireless work and dedication in reviving the successful Mayor of Huntington Avenue tradition as part of homecoming 2005 festivities.

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, for their support of and participation in the Barrett Seaman panel discussion as part of Alcohol Awareness Week, as well as the funds raised for the Ellie Fund with events such as a letter-writing campaign, golf tournament and benefit concert.

Black Engineering Student Society (BESS), for their tireless work and focused leadership as a unifying force on campus. BESS was recognized with six awards at the National Society of Black Engineers Region One Fall Conference this year for the chapter's efforts, including the Walk for Education organized in the Roxbury community in October.

NU Habitat for Humanity, for getting the group off the ground at Northeastern and officially recognized through Student Activities, for fundraising \$400 for hurricane relief efforts as well as for the Boston local affiliate branch of Habitat for Humanity, and for setting up build days and building projects for the greater NU student body.

NU TELLS, for developing and maintaining an English language tutoring program for the food service and custodial staff of NU, and for utilizing the teaching talents of NU students and giving them real opportunities to serve as educators for those staff members that add to their college experience.

Krentzman remembered

Officials laud the lasting legacy of "Chet" Krentzman

BY SUSAN SALK

Board of Trustees Vice Chair Emeritus Harvey "Chet" Krentzman, a man known for business acumen and tireless commitment to his alma mater, died Dec. 23 while on vacation with his family. He was 79.

Counted among the great influences of Northeastern today, Krentzman, E'49, was remembered as a veritable force, a man who pulled himself up by his bootstraps and went on to become a highly successful businessman, philanthropist and champion of the university.

He chaired Phase II of the Century Campaign, which raised over \$180 million in private donations, grants and contracts from 1987-91. Named a trustee in 1983, Krentzman worked closely with presidents Ryder, Curry and Freeland as a vigilant supporter of the university and its goals.

Krentzman Quad, which was transformed from an expanse of asphalt to the leafy, attractive gathering spot it is today, was named for Krentzman in 1996.

Krentzman earned a master's degree in 1950 from Harvard University and an MBA in 1952. Although he founded the successful Advanced Management Associates, Inc., and went on to great achievement in his lifetime, Krentzman never forgot the start he got at Northeastern, then a commuter school.

"I think he was always thankful for the education he received at Northeastern," said his son, Scott Krentzman, EE '89, adding that his older brother Mark earned a bachelor's degree here in 1977, and many relatives also sought a Northeastern education.

The eighth child of immigrant parents, he grew up in Chelsea and commuted to Northeastern for the rare chance of an education. What happened after that was the stuff of the American dream, said President Freeland at Krentzman's funeral.

"For his country, he was a patriot (U.S. Army) who understood in his bones why this country is a special place. For his university, he was an alumnus who remembered the commuter school on

Krentzman, continued on page 8

employee spotlight

Jackie Indrisano

Name: Jackie Indrisano
Job title: afterHOURS manager
Department: Curry Student Center
Years of Service: since 2003

Describe the scope of your job.

If I had to bullet the things that are always on the table, it would be to provide an entertainment and food venue for the students. Everything I do is with the students in mind; they are my consultants, staff and grad assistants — so it's student-fueled. The next piece would be to bring the students everything they could get in the city right here. That includes bands, DJs, drag shows, singer-songwriter poets. I like to complete those rolls with student acts. Every minute is different — there's no dull moment.

What did you do in the Boston music industry and the restaurant business?

I was a talent buyer, a manager, and I was also a performer. In that regard, I was always emceeding shows. I would go on stage and be the Ryan Seacrest of the evening. I made the jokes, I kept the crowds in line — I kept them entertained.

Where did you go to school?

It went here. I was one of the original music industry students here. I worked as a waitress at Hard Rock Café and did voiceover work at WBCN.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

That I'm a mermaid. I'm wild about the ocean. It is my ritual to dive into the ocean in May, my birthday month. I'm crazy about horses, my 9-year-old son, my husband and my dog. I have my son's name, Michaelangelo, tattooed around my wrist.



"Every minute is different — there's no dull moment"

CRAIG BAILEY

The Northeastern Voice

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briefs

THE NCAA FINAL FOUR NEEDS YOU!

The 2006 NCAA Women's Final Four is coming to Boston and here's your chance to be part of the team!

The Boston Local Organizing Committee (BLOC) is currently seeking volunteers to assist from March 30 to April 5. Visit the volunteer information page at: www.masports.org/womensfinalfour or contact BLOC at: finalfourinfo@masports.org or (617) 423-2006.

Applications are due Jan. 31.

— Brylee Maxfield

'Smart' knee brace holds new promise for stroke patients

Robots in Rehab

BY SARAH O'BRIEN MACKEY

The AKROD v.2: it might sound like something straight out of science fiction, but it's very much of the here and now. It's simply the acronym for an exciting new robotic knee brace that is currently undergoing its first-ever human trials at Spaulding

Rehabilitation Hospital, Boston. Designed by Constantinos Mavroidis, an associate professor in Northeastern's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, the Active Knee Rehabilitation Device represents

scholarship a significant leap forward

from conventional knee braces and holds great promise for helping stroke victims learn to walk again.

Four years in the making, the robotic knee brace uses sensors and "smart fluid" to provide real-time, mechanical feedback and exert varying degrees of pressure on a patient's joints as he or she walks. Because it is lightweight and fully portable, the brace can be used in both traditional hospital rehabilitation settings and at home as patients go about their daily lives.

According to Mavroidis, the timing is right for bringing this kind of sophisticated technology to the field of rehabilitation. "We have seen major technological advances across many spheres of society, but rehabilitation is a field in which old technology is still being used. There is a big need for this kind of advancement and consequently big opportunity as well. It can help improve people's lives."

To test the robotic knee brace, Mavroidis has teamed up with Dr. Joel Stein, chief medical officer and medical director of the Stroke Program of Spaulding, and Paolo Bonato, director of Spaulding's motion analysis laboratory.

Dr. Stein explained why he thought the new brace could be particularly beneficial to the stroke survivors in his program: "Patients frequently struggle to control knee movement after a stroke. A stiff-legged gait is common, in which the patient is unable to bend the knee appropriately during walking. Many patients also have difficulty with dragging their toes because of ankle weakness. Existing braces and therapies provide only partial benefit for these difficulties. More sophisticated braces, which can adapt their activities to the patient's needs using computer-controlled algorithms, have the potential to be useful both as training devices to improve the patient's own muscle strength and control, as well as for use on an ongoing basis to make walking easier and more efficient."

In assessing the device's potential, Mavroidis added that he believed the biggest difference for patients will be found in the speed of their recovery.

For the first trials of the robotic knee brace, Spaulding is using healthy human subjects. If they're successful (as Mavroidis, Stein and Bonato all believe they will be) then the next trials will be conducted with stroke patients. Those trials could begin as early as this summer.

Paolo Bonato, far right, and Dr. Joel Stein, MD, test the robotic knee brace with the help of a volunteer model, on treadmill, and Northeastern student Jason Nikitczuk, taking notes.



HERATCH PHOTOGRAPHY

>>The fact that the brace can provide its own feedback adds an extra set of hands to the therapist

"We begin testing with healthy subjects," said Bonato, "so that we can gain complete understanding and control of what the robotic knee brace can do and cannot do in order to maximize the outcomes for real stroke survivors." The healthy subjects, he added, are doing just what patients would do if they came to Spaulding for rehabilitation — walking on treadmills with different types of attachments under the watchful eyes of therapists.

"We are examining the device's effect on control subjects' gait patterns," said Bonato. "We're trying to get the same ratio produced between the hip, knee and ankle joints with and without weight of the knee brace. We're also testing the subjects' reactions to changes in resistance. This would be impossible with traditional rehabilitation unless you had four hands working together at all times.

The fact that the brace can provide its own feedback adds an extra set of hands to the therapist."

Mavroidis, who traces his fascination with robotics to his early days as an undergraduate in his home country of Greece, said that it is the combination of "intelligence and dexterous motion" that he finds most compelling.

"The combination of re-programmability, intelligence and dexterity is what distinguishes a robot from a regular machine," he explained. "Robots are intelligent machines that can be programmed in many different ways and can be used to help humans perform tasks that humans cannot do and in many cases robots perform tasks better than humans. In rehabilitation, as with the knee brace, robotic systems can be used as assistants to the patient and to the medical expert."

Word is quickly spreading about Mavroidis's invention and the trials going on at Spaulding. "We have already received phone calls and e-mails from patients who are eager to use the brace," said Bonato. "I'm confident that it's going to be a winner."



CLUB SPORTS: FOR LOVE OF THE GAME

By Raul Fernandez

When Samantha Perino joined as a freshman, the NU Women's Rugby club was a rag-tag group of friends just playing for fun. Now a senior, she's co-captain of the nationally ranked (#6) Northeastern Lady Maddogs, scheduled this spring to vie for rugby's national championship. Perino's team is organized, competitive and downright tough — and they're not alone.

According to Jerry Foster, director of Northeastern's club sports program, the Lady Maddogs' success is indicative of a university-wide increase in the popularity and competitiveness of club sports.

"When I took over the program in 2004, we had 19 teams," said Foster. "Today we have twice as many and they're all much more organized and competitive."

The rise in popularity is directly attributable to a student initiative surrounding sports, said President Freeland. Several years ago, students agreed to raise their athletic fees toward the goal of a multi-purpose athletic center. Through this effort, which would raise \$10 million toward a \$30 million development, funds were found for club sports as well, Freeland said. "This rapid growth that we're seeing in club sports is a direct result of the increase in athletic fees," he said, adding that the various programs are

another important connection linking students with their school.

The program boasts 38 teams in diverse sports including baseball, cheerleading, cycling, handball, soccer, snow boarding and ultimate Frisbee (a complete list is available at www.campusrec.neu.edu).

Club Sports Top Teams

Men's Lacrosse – 2005 Pioneer Collegiate Lacrosse League Champions, ranked 11th in the nation

Men's Rugby – 2005 Beanpot Champions, 2005 Beast of the East Champions

Women's Rugby – 2005 Beast of the East Champions, 2005 New England Rugby Football Union Champions, ranked 6th in the nation

Men's Volleyball – #2 in the nation, second place in the 2005 NIRSA Championships

According to Foster, several factors have contributed to the explosive growth of club sports including more narrowly focused NCAA rules, fewer scholarships and fewer walk-on positions, leaving former high school athletes searching for an outlet.

Perino and Foster agree that club sports at Northeastern are not for amateurs. Teams generally practice three days a week and the competition on game day is as real as it gets.

"We play just as hard as anyone on an NCAA team," noted Perino. "The major difference is that even though

we hit hard when the game is on, we're friendly with the other teams and usually hang out after."

In addition to building camaraderie, being part of a club sport has some practical benefits. Although the university and each sport's governing body provide oversight, captains and managers must learn the skills necessary to run their team like a business.

"We provide some support for teams, but the budgeting, scheduling and fundraising is up to them," said Foster.

Fundraising in particular is no small task. Club-sport athletes can often be seen around campus selling raffle tickets, holding bake sales and hitting up friends and family for support.

The money goes mostly for travel to regional competitions, but success has its price. The competitive teams need to raise additional funds for lodging and travel to national competitions as far away as Florida and California.

Depending on the size of a team, a successful season can end up costing thousands. But for the hundreds of members of club sports who play not for scholarships but for love of the game, the price of victory is more than worth it.

For more information on any specific team or to make a gift to the club sports program, contact Jerry Foster at 617-373-7766 or j.foster@neu.edu.



Luis Falcón

BY SARAH O'BRIEN MACKEY

It was a typical Tuesday morning and Luis Falcón, vice provost for faculty and graduate education, had a meeting at 9, 10, 11 ... well, you get the picture. It wasn't until long after the business day had ended that he could finally take a breath to reflect on some of the achievements of the past year — and the many challenges that still lie ahead.

q&a “This job can be a little crazy,” he confessed. “Working with faculty and the graduate programs is challenging. They both need and deserve a lot of attention. On the other hand, I get to interact with just about every aspect of the university — from faculty and deans, to the budget and legal offices. And that's exciting.”

It's also an exciting time for Northeastern, as the university forges ahead with its ambitious academic investment plan and continues to pursue its goal of moving into the top 100 universities in the nation. With oversight for both hiring new faculty and strengthening graduate programs, Falcón's office is playing a key role in helping the university achieve its twin objectives. Charged with increasing graduate revenue by two percent each year, for example, Falcón recently oversaw a significantly higher increase of 5.5 percent. The additional revenue, he said, went right back to work strengthening Northeastern's graduate community.

While proud of this accomplishment, Falcón was quick to put it into a more holistic context. “We want to strengthen our graduate programs because top graduate programs bring top graduate students who, in turn, bring top faculty who will boost Northeastern's reputation. It's a big challenge but one I feel we're capable of meeting.”

A tenured faculty member in the Department of Sociology, Falcón has taken leave from his teaching duties while serving as vice provost. He continues, however, to pursue his NIH-funded research on social support and stress in older Hispanic populations in the Boston area. Luis Falcón is a busy man.



CRAIG BAILEY

Let's start with the growth in graduate revenue. Why is that such an important goal?

There are two reasons, really. The first is that the University's academic investment plan calls for an increase of 100 faculty members. Our ability to do that is predicated partly on enrollment and therefore, revenue. The second reason is that in order to have viable graduate programs, you need to have a large enough enrollment. When we look at the universities to whom we compare ourselves, we clearly have a disproportionate number of undergraduates. As we prepare to move into the top 100, we have to think about shifting that balance. So it's to help us achieve our goal of adding new faculty and to make our graduate programs comparable in size to our peer institutions.

How do graduate programs enhance Northeastern's competitive position?

Strong universities depend on strong graduate programs. Distinguished and active faculty want to work with talented graduate students, who can act as research assistants and even coauthors on certain projects. Those experiences are also an important part of graduate student training. If you want to attract top faculty, there must be a vibrant graduate program in place.

What defines a successful graduate program?

If you look at the graduate level for an indicator of success, you look at placement — where

do they place their graduates once they complete their Ph.D.s? We want to see all of our Ph.D.s become more competitive in getting academic appointments. Having a cadre of Northeastern students out there who are college professors enhances your reputation and encourages other talented people to join your programs. A lot of what goes into your reputation depends on visibility — what people know about your work. And reputations are difficult to change overnight.

“Strong universities depend on strong graduate programs”

What are some of the 'hot' graduate programs at Northeastern right now?

The Bouvé College of Health Sciences has seen a real boom in applications and enrollment. There is such high demand these days for trained professionals in fields like nursing, speech-language pathology and counseling psychology. The good news is that almost all of our programs are showing signs of strength. Almost every college is seeing positive progress in their spring admissions.

You're also in the middle of the faculty-hiring season right now. How do you manage to do your own research on urban poverty and older populations with so much going on?

I have three assistants out there doing interviews for me and it's a challenge to find time to meet with them. So far I've managed to move the research forward. I've gone nine years without a sabbatical and taking one now would simply be impossible so I will continue to postpone it for the foreseeable future!

calendar 1/24 > 2/27

*Eve Ensler's
Vagina
Monologues,
Feb. 17 & 18,
8 p.m.,
Blackman
Auditorium.
Tickets are
\$15.*

MUSIC

Music at Noon Feb. 1, noon, Curry Student Ballroom. Featuring Stephen Drury and the Callithumpian Ensemble.

Music at Noon Feb. 22, Raytheon Amphitheater. Professor Dennis Miller hosts "Moving Target."

MEISA LIVE! Jan. 26, 8 p.m., afterHOURS, Curry Student Center. MEISA LIVE! offers a night of live performance by Northeastern music majors. Those interested in performing may contact a.lawrence@neu.edu.

The Color of Water: A Meditation on Identity Jan. 26, 8 p.m., Blackman Auditorium. Featuring acclaimed author, composer, saxophonist James McBride. Using the spoken word and music, topics of race and heritage are explored with his own five-piece jazz ensemble. Tickets are \$15; seniors and students \$12, NU students \$5. Call ext. 2247.

THEATER

Dead Man Walking by Tim Ribbons, Jan. 31 to Feb. 4, 8 p.m., Itty Bitty Theater, 334 Ryder Hall. Call ext. 2244.

Tales of the Lost Formicans by Constance Congdon Feb. 7 through 10, 8 p.m., and two shows Feb. 11, at 2 and 8 p.m., Studio Theater. Tickets are \$10 for Tuesday through Thursday performances; \$13 for Friday and Saturday. A \$2 discount available for NU students. Call ext. 2244.

Janie's Song Feb. 24 and 25, 8 p.m., Blackman Auditorium. A world premiere by Ed Bullins, Anthony DeRitis and Jude Law. Tickets are \$15 general; \$12 NU faculty/staff; \$5 NU students. Call ext. 2247.

LECTURES

Service Oriented Architecture Jan. 26, 3 p.m., Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan. With Ian Foster, of Argonne National Laboratory and University of Chicago. Visit www.ccs.neu.edu/colloquium/distinguishedspeaker.html.

Architecture Lecture Jan. 30, 6 p.m., Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan. Featuring Boston architect and developer Stephen Chung. Call ext. 4367.

Sustainable Aquaculture of Softshell Clams on the Massachusetts North Shore: Restoration, Enhancement, Industry Feb. 7, 7 p.m., Marine Science Center, Nahant, Mass. Featuring Salem State College biology professor Joe Buttner. Call 781-581-7370 ext. 321.

The Future of the Labor Movement: A View from the Trenches and the Academy Feb. 9, 5 p.m., 94 Cargill. Moderated by Matthews distinguished law professor Karl Klare. Featuring a panel discussion of the challenges presented by outsourcing, pension benefit elimination and striker replacement. Call ext. 3923.

Global Innovation Management: Lessons Learned from Companies Introducing New Products to International Markets Feb. 9, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan. Featuring Harry Lane, Brodsky professor of international business; Bert Spector, associate professor of human resources management; Nicholas Athanasiou, associate professor of international business management; and Rosanna Garcia, assistant professor of marketing. Call ext. 5851.

Computer Technology in Health Care Feb. 15, noon to 1:15 p.m., 10 Behrakis. Featuring assis-



COURTESY PHOTO

A plea for eros

Novelist and essayist Siri Hustvedt speaks Feb. 8, noon, in Room 90, Snell Library. She is described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as one of a few writers who "apply a rigorous spirit of investigation to explorations of the intimate, forging connections between the life of the world and the life of the mind." Her latest work, "A Plea for Eros," explores ways we create identity and self-meaning by examining classic literature, culture, gender issues, sexuality and meditations on writing. Hustvedt's talk is part of the library's Meet the Author series. Contact Maria Carpenter at ext. 2821.

tant computer and information sciences professor Timothy Bickmore; associate professor of health sciences, Maureen Holden; and assistant professor of health sciences Rupal Patel. Contact Sue Lowe at s.lowe@neu.edu.

Transforming the Academy: Knowledge Formation in the Age of Digital Information Feb. 9, 3 p.m., Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan. Visit www.ccs.neu.edu/colloquium/distinguished-speakers.html.

WORKSHOPS

Build a Basic Blackboard Course Jan. 24, 8:30 a.m. to noon, 50 Dockser Hall. Offered by the EdTech Center. Call ext. 3157.

Web Development with HTML Jan. 25, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., part 1, 50 Dockser Hall. Offered by the EdTech Center. Call ext. 3157.

Web Development with HTML Jan. 26, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., part 2, 50 Dockser Hall. Offered by the EdTech Center. Call ext. 3157.

Advanced PowerPoint Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to noon, 182 Snell Library. Offered by Academic Technology Services. Visit www.help.neu.edu.

Introduction to Blackboard Jan. 30, 2 to 4 p.m., 182 Snell Library. Offered by Academic Technology Services. Visit www.help.neu.edu.

Bluetooth Wireless Feb. 2, 3 to 4:30 p.m., 50 Dockser Hall. Offered by the EdTech Center. Call ext. 3157.

MEETINGS

Faculty Senate Jan. 25, 11:45 a.m. to 1:25 p.m., Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan. Agenda items include the creation of a school of social studies, urban affairs and public policy. Call ext. 3353.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Practice-Oriented Education Spring Breakfast Series Jan. 26, 7:30 a.m., Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan. This kickoff event will focus on faculty success with POE. Featuring Joe Raelin, the Asa Knowles chair of Center for Work and Learning; arts and sciences Dean James Stellar; Len Glick, associate academic specialists; and Rick Porter, special assistant to the arts and sciences dean. Call ext. 7074.

The Souls of Black Folk Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m., Blackman Auditorium. Celebrating black history month through poetry, dance, art, jazz and gospel music. This year's theme focuses on the Harlem renaissance. Featuring work by storyteller Jean Moss, music by the Duke Ellington Memorial Band, poetry by Jeremiah Shepherd Jhanea Williams and Sophia Snow, and musical performances by Monica Milton and Makieya Kamar. Sponsored by Northeastern Black Student Association, Special Support Services/Office of Minority Student Affairs, John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, and African-American studies. Call ext. 2787.

Health and Counseling Services Open House and Welcome Breakfast Feb. 3, 8:30 to 10 a.m., Forsyth. An event to welcome three additions to the center's medical team. They are Robert Klein, MD, director of behavioral health; Gairy Hall, MD, medical director; and Kimberly Bortle, nurse manager. Call ext. 5190.

NIGHT SKIING

Night Skiing at Nashoba Valley Jan. 23 through Feb. 27, (no skiing Feb. 20), bus departs at 5 p.m., outside Chicken Lou's. Lessons and lift tickets are \$150. Sponsored by Campus Recreation. Call ext. 7398.

Send us your listings

The Voice welcomes your calendar listings. Send them to Susan Salk, 598CP; e-mail to s.salk@neu.edu; or submit via the Web at www.voice.neu.edu.

notable & quotable

“I, for one, do not believe in miracles — miracle diets or miracle crime solutions.”

James Alan Fox, Lipman family professor of criminal justice, in a Jan. 2 Boston Herald opinion piece on Boston crime.

NOTABLE

William Hancock, Bradstreet chair and professor of chemistry and chemical biology, was an invited speaker at the New York Academy of Sciences Meeting Dec. 12 through 14. His presentation was on the importance of analytical tests in the development of lower-cost generic biotechnology drugs.

Tim Kendall, adjunct research scholar, African-American studies, had his work featured in the December 2005 issue of Discover Magazine. His work in the Sudan was featured in the article, “Mystery of the Black Pharaohs: Will a Lost Coronation Temple Reveal How the ancient Nubians Rose Up and Seized the Throne of the Mighty Egyptians?”

Ira Krull, associate professor of chemistry and chemical biology, published “Middle-out proteomics: incorporating multidimensional protein fractionation and intact protein mass analysis as elements of a proteomic analysis workflow” with co-authors S.J. Berger, K.M. Millea, and S.A. Cohen. It was published in Separations in Proteomics in 2006.

Mary Jo Ondrechen, professor of chemistry and chemical biology, made two presentations at the Pacificchem 2005 conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. She presented “Prediction of Functional Information for Proteins from 3D Structure,” and “Structure-to-Function Prediction Methods in Structural Biology” on Dec. 16.

Stuart Peterfreund, professor of English, published “Browning’s Decoding of Natural Theology in ‘Caliban Upon Setebos’” in Victorian Poetry, fall 2005.

Rebeca Rosengaus, assistant biology professor, presented the paper “Choosing the right partner: Mate choice and disease avoidance in the dampwood termite, *Zootermopsis angusticollis* Hagen (Termopsidae: Isoptera)” at the annual Entomological Society of America Conference Dec. 15 through 18 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She also presented “Strength in Numbers: Benefits of Group Living for the Control of Nematode Infection in the Dampwood Termite, *Zootermopsis angusticollis* Hagen.”

Phyllis Strauss, Matthews distinguished biology professor, gave two talks in Norway on the topic of repair of oxidatively damaged DNA. The first was presented at the University of Oslo’s school of medicine on Dec. 15. The second was presented at the Institute for Cancer Research, University of Trondheim, on Dec. 16.

QUOTABLE

James Alan Fox, Lipman family professor of criminal justice, published an op-ed on Boston crime rates in the Jan. 2 Boston Herald. Likening crime fighting to dieting, he asked whether Police Commissioner Kathleen O’Toole had made it her New Year’s resolution to “shed a few crimes in 2006.” “I, for one, do not believe in miracles — miracle diets or miracle crime solutions. Similarly, quick fixes are foolish and ineffective as weight control or crime control.”

Kate Klepper, director, graduate school business programs, was quoted in a Jan. 8 MSNBC story on the need to retool MBA programs in the face of a slip in applications. “It is that combination that we think is going to be very distinctive in our offering, and set us apart in the marketplace,” she said. “As the economy comes back, hopefully things will turn around.”

profile

Bluestone legislation opens doors to new homes

NU professor and director of the Center for Urban and Regional Policy **Barry Bluestone** proposed an amendment to Chapter 70, the state’s education aid law, which will provide education funds for communities participating in Chapter 40R Smart Growth Districts. This amendment, titled Chapter 40S, was passed by the state Legislature and signed into law.

“This is not just a story about equity,” said Bluestone. “It is about the future prosperity of the region. We are losing exactly the young men and women we need to help our economy grow. Why would they remain here and struggle to find affordable housing when they can move to Chapel Hill and have a substantially higher standard of living on the same or lower income than they now get in Massachusetts?”

Bluestone co-authored the legislation with Ted Carman, president of Concord Square Development Company, Inc., and Eleanor White, president of Housing Partners, Inc.

The legislation is based on a report titled “Chapter 40R School Cost Analysis and Proposed Smart Growth School Cost Insurance Supplement” drafted by Carman, Bluestone and White in May 2005. The report shows that Chapter 40R, as it was originally enacted last year, by itself would not have provided for the construction of sufficient new housing because of increased school costs for communities created by the housing.

Chapter 40S will function as a “school cost insurance” that will change all of this. The legislation will greatly benefit local communities who pass Chapter 40R Smart Growth Districts, and at a minimal cost to the state. According to the report, if 31,000 new housing units are constructed in Smart Growth Districts over the next decade, there will be no state funding outlays until FY2008, and state costs by 2014 will only equal 0.8 percent of the anticipated Chapter 70 budget in that year.

According to the center’s “Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2004,” young skilled workers are leaving the state in increasingly large numbers. Massachusetts was the only state in the nation to lose population in 2004. By way of comparison, the number of people between the ages of 20 and 24 increased by 5.6 percent between 2001 and 2003 in the nation as a whole; in Massachusetts that number decreased by 11.5 percent.

Bluestone is not surprised that Greater Boston and Massachusetts are losing population, especially young working families, to other regions of the country. While housing production has increased over the past three years, 2004 production was still at only 72 percent of the level needed to slow housing price appreciation to normal levels. There is still a significant need to encourage more housing production as a “moral imperative” and an “economic necessity,” says Bluestone. “The passage of Chapter 40S legislation was absolutely critical to the success of Chapter 40R housing,” said Bluestone.

>> Bluestone’s legislation will provide educational funds to communities



Emily Spieler, law school dean, was quoted in a Jan. 8 Washington Post story on mine safety. “There are not enough incentives for safety built into the regulatory and compensation system,” she said. “Pressure on regulatory agencies to allow unsafe businesses to operate is enormous, and the incentives to comply with regulations are small if the regulatory agency does not issue large fines.”

TRANSITIONS

New hires: **Carolyn Boviard**, manager, corporate programs, office of the business dean; **Elliot Clayton**, admissions assistant, admissions; **Nichole Gordon**, student account representative, customer services; **Barbara McCarthy**, electronic communications manager, advancement communications; **Lynne Sarikas**, director-MBA career center, graduate school of business; **Julian Scott**, budget assistant, professional and continuing studies; **Zlatko Vasilkoski**, postdoctoral research associate, physics; **Tusar Vyas**, postdoctoral research associate, pharmaceutical science;

Elaine Wilson, senior director — strategy and research, office of co-op vice president.

Promotion: **Shola Kadiri**, senior training specialist, Center for the Study of Sport in Society
Rehired: **Tanneke Burns**, coordinator—operations and logistics, Center for the Study of Sport in Society; **Gregory Cunha**, Help Desk specialist I, IS customer service.

Transfer: **Carol Dobson**, administrative assistant, development; **Mary Gano**, administrative assistant, graduate school of business; **Theresa Mangan**, assistant co-op coordinator — business administration, co-op faculty and advisors; **Jennifer Mele**, director — marketing and communications, office of the vice president of co-op; **Scott Putnam** supervisor — IS call center IS customer service; **Melanie Reeves**, administrative assistant, Center for Effective University Teaching; **Santiago Ruiz**, recycled materials handler, facilities; **Katherine Meller Vedova**, MBA/career planning manager, graduate school of business; **Mary Yee**, manager — information technology and database, criminal justice.

coop corner

“There were times when we were treating over 1,200 hurricane evacuees. My biggest impression was just shock. I was so surprised to see all the devastation in person.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior nursing student Courtney Leach recently traded the relative calm of the Massachusetts General Hospital ER for something really busy — an emergency shelter in Shreveport, La. At times, the numbers of medically needy people swelled to over 1,000, as evacuees from hurricanes Rita and Katrina sought refuge from the storms. “We had dialysis patients in desperate need, and people with diabetes who needed their insulin,” Leach recalled. “I just got so caught up in the moment. I did what I needed to do, and in the evening I was just so exhausted when I fell into bed.” Tired as she was after working 8 p.m. to noon the next day, the future nurse never felt so fulfilled as she did in her co-op position, which concluded earlier this month. “It’s definitely character building,” she said. “I would never have thought I’d have the confidence to do what I did. What I found was that with a positive attitude, and willingness to put myself out there, I could do anything.” Leach was working in the Mass General emergency room, acute care division, when the aftermath of the hurricanes began dominating the news. She was riveted. She had to go help. “I approached my co-op nurse manager at Mass General, and she was so incredibly supportive — everyone was just rooting for me.” Working in the medical clinic there, Leach assisted in the care of so many people that when she thinks back to her first impression, the word that springs first to her mind is “shock.” Seeing the story on the news did not prepare her for the reality of being there. Now home, the daughter of Jeff and Cheryl Leach, of New Jersey, said she is even more committed to her future work helping the sick and needy.

Let us know

Do you know of a student who has had an interesting co-op job? Send story ideas to:

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