

## FACULTY OBITUARIES

and the University was asked to adjust its governance rules. In 1996, when he stepped down as president, Silber was named chancellor, maintaining an office on Bay State Road and continuing to live in University-owned housing. In 2003, he was widely criticized for his role in selecting Daniel Goldin, a former administrator at NASA, as BU's ninth president—and then dismissing him with a \$1.3 million payout before he took office.

Silber's role at BU diminished over the next few years, as Aram Chobanian (Hon.'06), the former provost of the Medical Campus and dean of the School of Medicine, served as president ad interim, then president, until 2005. Brown, the former provost of MIT, was appointed the 10th president of Boston University, taking office in September of that year. Silber continued to live on the BU campus, but turned his attention to other interests, such as sculpture (he completed a bas-relief of Wiesel) and architecture. He published a well-reviewed critique of modernist architecture, titled *Architecture of the Absurd: How "Genius" Disfigured a Practical Art* (Quantuck Lane, 2007). In December 2011, he finished a critical analysis of the work of the German philosopher Immanuel Kant, a project he began in 1954 when he was a graduate student and member of the junior faculty at Yale. The book, *Kant's Ethics: The Good, Freedom, and the Will* (Walter de Gruyter), was published in May 2012.

In 2007, the University honored Silber with a gala tribute, featuring letters and presentations from colleagues, dignitaries, and friends. While many friends poked fun at the former president's notorious frankness and occasional temper, others talked of his lesser-known kindness: letters and phone calls that came at times of illness or trouble, his habit of eating breakfast and dinner with his children every day, even at the most demanding moments of his career, and his long and loving relationship with his wife, who died in 2005.

"What I am most grateful for was the honor and privilege of serving for more than 30 years," Silber said at the end of the evening. "BU was one of the finest toys I was ever allowed to play with—a great toy with enormous potential, if you polished it up and gave it a few tools to make it run."

Silber is survived by six daughters, Rachel Devlin and Martha Hathaway, of Newton, Mass., Judith Ballan, of New York City, Alexandra Silber, of Carlsbad, Calif., Ruth Belmonte, of State College, Pa., and Caroline Lavender, of Atlanta, Ga., a son, Charles Hiatt, of Hot Springs, Ark., 26 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Phyllis Silber, of San Antonio, Tex., two nieces, a great-niece, and a great-nephew.

A memorial service for Silber, attended by 700 people, was held on November 29, 2012, at the George Sherman Union Metcalf Ballroom.



VERNON DOUCETTE

## JOHN CHEFFERS: Athlete, Coach, Academic

*SED professor emeritus brought people together*

By Madeline Rosenberger  
(COM'14)

JOHN CHEFFERS, a School of Education professor emeritus of curriculum and teaching, was an authority on crowd behavior, focusing his studies on the behavior of sports fans. He advised the International Olympic Committee and the New England Patriots on crowd control techniques, and his research on violence in sports was featured in a 1983 *Sports Illustrated* article.

But Cheffers wasn't always an academic. He began his career as an athlete and then a coach before joining the BU faculty.

Cheffers died on October 28, 2012. He was 76.

He grew up in Melbourne, Australia, with dreams of competing in the decathlon at the Olympics, according to the *Boston Globe*. Just weeks before he was to compete in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, he tore his anterior cruciate ligament, ending his athletic career. It was then he turned to coaching and teaching.

He coached the Carlton Football Club in Australia, the team he had played for years earlier, and continued coaching various sports teams in South Africa in the

✦ In class, John Cheffers would sit at a large round table and stroke his beard while discussing the essentials of great teaching with his graduate students.

early 1960s. He became the track and field coach for the Olympic team of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1968, but Mexico refused to recognize the athletes' passports and denied them entry into the country. He wrote about the experience in his memoir, *A Wilderness of Spite: Rhodesia Denied* (Vantage Press, 1972).

He began teaching at the School of Education in the 1970s, and his office was legendary among students. In the small space crammed with treasures from all over the world, including a boomerang, Cheffers always welcomed students. In class, he would sit at a large round table, stroking his beard and discussing the essentials of great teaching with his graduate students while classical music played in the background.

"His methods changed the behavior of everyone who had the good fortune of being his student," says Leonard Zaichkowsky, a retired professor of counseling psychology at SED and the School of Medicine

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1930s

ELIZABETH MARY ROHT (PAL'33, GRS'46) *Middleboro, Mass.*  
 SARAH B. SHUKIS (PAL'37, GSM'42) *Stoughton, Mass.*  
 PRISCILLA T. CHANDLER (SAR'38) *South Weymouth, Mass.*  
 NORMAN F. HENLEY (CAS'38) *Catonsville, Md.*  
 GRACE E. MATTSON (CAS'39) *Arlington, Mass.*  
 STANLEY J. STOKLOSA (SMG'39) *Lowell, Mass.*

### 1940s

MURIEL G. NASH (PAL'40) *Asheville, N.C.*  
 CONSTANCE O. PUTNAM (SED'40) *Melrose, Mass.*  
 BARBARA H. STACKPOLE (CAS'40) *Arlington, Mass.*  
 JOHN A. PETERSON (SMG'41) *Granby, Mass.*  
 INEZ DOLIN (SED'42, SSW'47) *West Hartford, Conn.*  
 MARION F. KENNEDY (PAL'42, SED'73) *Woburn, Mass.*  
 AARON M. LEVINE (LAW'43) *New Haven, Conn.*  
 RONALD W. OBER (STH'43, GRS'48) *Painesville, Ohio*  
 ESTHER EVELYN MESH (SED'44) *Easthampton, Mass.*  
 SYLVIA D. CHESES (PAL'45) *Newton, Mass.*  
 CLAIRE B. GORDON (CAS'45, GRS'47) *Milton, Mass.*  
 JOSEPHINE MARIE SALOMONE (SAR'45) *Eastport, N.Y.*  
 GORDON A. GASKILL (CAS'46) *Sugar Grove, W. Va.*  
 NORMA SPOFFORD (PAL'46, SMG'49) *Bellevue, Wash.*  
 GRACE K. STADTLER (CAS'46) *Washington, D.C.*  
 WALLEN L. BEAN (STH'47, GRS'69) *North Dartmouth, Mass.*  
 IRENE KRAMER (CFA'47) *Amherst, Mass.*  
 JOSEPH K. ALLEN (SED'48, '58) *Newport News, Va.*

LIONEL H. BUCKLEY (SED'48, '53) *Quincy, Mass.*  
 MARY S. DEMPSEY (SED'48) *Mill Creek, Wash.*  
 HARRY J. ELAM (CAS'48, LAW'51) *Needham Heights, Mass.*  
 MARJORIE E. RAINGE (PAL'48) *Chelmsford, Mass.*  
 ROBERT I. ROSENBLOOM (CAS'48) *Scarsdale, N.Y.*  
 EUGENIA GLINECKIS (PAL'49, SED'65) *Brockton, Mass.*  
 JOHN J. HENDRICK (COM'49) *Abington, Mass.*

### 1950s

E. RUTH DEXTER (SAR'50) *Macomb, Ill.*  
 LOUIS F. GHILONI (SED'50) *Marlborough, Mass.*  
 JOSEPH S. HINCHLIFFE (SMG'50) *Berlin, Conn.*  
 HERBERT KATZ (LAW'50) *Rumford, R.I.*  
 ALAN L. MCKINNON (SMG'50) *Milton, Mass.*  
 JOHN P. MCMORROW (SMG'50) *South Orleans, Mass.*  
 M. PATRICIA ROYAL (SED'50) *Lowell, Mass.*  
 HUGO A. BEDAU (GRS'51) *Concord, Mass.*  
 ALLEN A. COHEN (SMG'51, '55) *Nederland, Colo.*  
 MILFORD J. DEPREY (SED'51, '55) *Orange, Conn.*  
 WILLIAM T. FISHER (SED'51) *South Hadley, Mass.*  
 DENNIS P. FOLEY (SMG'51) *Fairfield, Conn.*  
 VINCENT GALVIN (SMG'51, LAW'53) *Palm Coast, Fla.*  
 THEODORE R. HELLER (DGE'49, CAS'51) *Cedar Park, Tex.*  
 ANDREW G. MONTALBANO (DGE'48, LAW'51) *Buzzards Bay, Mass.*  
 CHARLES Z. ADAMSON (CAS'52, LAW'56) *Cleveland, Ohio*  
 JOHN R. ATAMIAN (SMG'52) *Wellesley, Mass.*  
 WALTER BOKLAGA (SED'52) *Pepperell, Mass.*

PHILIP M. DEANGELIS (DGE'50, SMG'52) *Framingham, Mass.*  
 MARCELLE M. HARLING (DGE'52) *Westfield, Mass.*  
 ROBERT A. HUFF (CAS'52) *Geneva, N.Y.*  
 DONALD G. LEGRAND (CAS'52) *Burnt Hills, N.Y.*  
 WILLIAM ROSS WOOFENDEN (CAS'52) *Bowdoinham, Maine*  
 JAMES E. CHASE (CAS'53) *Ipswich, Mass.*  
 ANNE EVELINE COGHLAN (SED'53) *Milton, Mass.*  
 MARIE W. COPHER (SED'53) *Upper Marlboro, Md.*  
 JOYCE B. MEEHAN (PAL'53) *Westerly, R.I.*  
 F. MONROE ALLEN (LAW'54) *Greenville, R.I.*  
 RUSSELL CROTEAU (ENG'54) *Sugar Hill, Ga.*  
 KATHERINE M. FITZGERALD (SED'54) *Needham, Mass.*  
 DANIEL D. HARLAN (STH'54) *Carrboro, N.C.*  
 VICTOR E. MUNIEC (COM'54) *Arlington, Va.*  
 PAUL M. STELLA (DGE'54) *Guilford, Conn.*  
 FRANKLIN D. ARTHUR (DGE'53, SMG'55) *Largo, Fla.*  
 DORT S. BIGG (LAW'55) *Manchester, N.H.*  
 BEVERLY D. FRITZ (DGE'53, SED'55) *Manchester, Conn.*  
 DONALD J. HOUDE (SED'55) *North Grafton, Mass.*  
 DAVID RUSSELL JOHNSTON (CAS'55, SED'65) *Sarasota, Fla.*  
 FRANCIS W. O'CONNOR (DGE'55) *South Weymouth, Mass.*  
 FRANK H. BLACKINGTON (SED'56) *Duxbury, Mass.*  
 JAMES A. GARLAND (SSW'56) *Mansfield, Mass.*  
 HOWARD S. WILLARD (SMG'56) *Franklin, Mass.*  
 ROCCO A. ARMILLEI (CGS'57, ENG'57) *North Attleboro, Mass.*  
 ROBERT JOHN CAFARELLI (SED'57) *Wolcott, Vt.*  
 RICHARD H. O'KEEFFE (SMG'57) *Concord, Mass.*

ANTOINETTE RAGUCCI (SON'57, GRS'71) *Malden, Mass.*  
 ALLEN L. BEAVERS, JR. (SED'58, '61) *West Hartford, Conn.*  
 NANCY ELLEN DUFFY (SMG'58) *Severna Park, Md.*  
 CAROL LEE GRIFFIN (CAS'58, GRS'59, '67) *Westwood, Mass.*  
 FRANCES M. NIBLACK (CAS'58) *Madison, Wis.*  
 THOMAS H. O'CONNOR (GRS'58) *Milton, Mass.*  
 RICHARD E. HOGAN (DGE'57, COM'59) *Beverly, Mass.*  
 JOSEPH L. REARDON (DGE'57, COM'59) *Bridgton, Maine*

### 1960s

ELAINE SIFAKIS (SAR'60) *Milton, Mass.*  
 JOSEPH A. WALKER (COM'60) *Newport, R.I.*  
 DONALD W. GILPIN (SSW'61) *Dracut, Mass.*  
 FRANCIS A. KELLEY (SED'61) *Manchester, N.H.*  
 CRAIG CHAPMAN (SMG'62) *Godfrey, Ill.*  
 ARDITH HOUGHTON (CAS'62) *Bangor, Maine*  
 WILLIAM G. LYFORD (SED'62) *Cumberland Center, Maine*  
 MARGARET THOMAS CAMPBELL (SON'63) *Yakima, Wash.*  
 MADELYN GORMAN COLLINS (SON'64) *Lincoln, R.I.*  
 PATRICIA A. CONLEY (DGE'62, CAS'64) *Napa, Calif.*  
 CHARLOTTE FRYE (COM'64) *East Orleans, Mass.*  
 THOMAS R. HUGHES (SED'64) *Sharon, Mass.*  
 JUDITH ROSS (CFA'64) *Boston, Mass.*  
 BARBARA BALAS (CFA'65) *North Plainfield, N.J.*  
 NANCY MOREHOUSE MARSHALL (SED'66) *Longmeadow, Mass.*  
 JOYCE WEBER (SON'67) *Fort Collins, Colo.*

KENNETH A. LEE (ENG'68) *Franklin, Tenn.*  
 LUCINDA M. BLAKELY (COM'69) *Houston, Tex.*

### 1970s

RUTH L. BRODER (SON'70) *West Newton, Mass.*  
 WARD W. WEIZEL (CAS'70) *West Newton, Mass.*  
 STEPHEN F. NESTOR (SED'71, '74) *Stoughton, Mass.*  
 MARY C. SMITH SANTOPIETRO (SON'71) *Wilmington, Del.*  
 HERBERT A. STANWOOD (SMG'71) *Bethesda, Md.*  
 DINO S. DELICATA (CAS'72) *Downers Grove, Ill.*  
 PETER IAN MAURICE LYTTLE (CAS'73) *Spartanburg, S.C.*  
 PHILLIP J. TRAINOR (CAS'73) *West Newton, Mass.*  
 LAWRENCE ALEXANDER (LAW'75) *Marblehead, Mass.*  
 BARBARA F. BENDER (SSW'75) *Boston, Mass.*  
 JOHN A. RUTLEDGE (COM'76) *Bristol, R.I.*  
 PHILLIP J. WESTRA (SED'76) *North Miami Beach, Fla.*  
 ROBERT F. FLAHERTY (LAW'78) *Savannah, Ga.*

### 1980s

NORMA WILSON COUTURE (SON'80) *Methuen, Mass.*  
 JOSEPH R. ALLARD (SED'83) *Dunstable, Mass.*  
 ROBERT A. BRESNAHAN (CAS'83) *Pittsfield, Mass.*  
 JEANNE M. MCCORRIE (CFA'83) *South Easton, Mass.*  
 KAREN NOEL LEVIN (MET'85, SED'87) *Salem, Mass.*  
 NORMA EMILY BOUCHARD (SON'87) *Lehigh Acres, Fla.*  
 ELLEN TAMARA KANDER (LAW'87) *Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
 SANDRA LOUISE STUBAN (SED'89) *Fairfax, Va.*

### 1990s

JUDITH A. MCKENZIE (GRS'94) *York, Maine*

and a friend of Cheffers' for more than 30 years.

Cheffers led the Human Movement Program at BU for more than two decades. In the late 1970s, he started the Tuesday/Thursday Physical Education Program. Twice a week, students from Boston public schools with limited access

to physical education facilities are bused to Boston University, where physical education certification students run classes. The program is one of the longest-running community service initiatives at BU, with more than 300 children participating every week.

"His thinking was well

ahead of his years, as he used interdisciplinary activities to teach and reinforce movement," says Eileen Sullivan (SED'81), a former doctoral student of Cheffers' and now an assistant dean at Rhode Island College's Feinstein School of Education and Human Development. "He is and will remain a legend."

In 1984, Cheffers began a two-year term as director of the Australian Institute of Sport. That same year, he became president of the Association Internationale des Ecoles Superieures d'Education Physique, a post he kept until 1998.

After retiring in 2004, he moved back to Australia. ■