

## Always on call

Meet the People of Residence Life at BU



# Dear BU Parent,

The last we saw you, it was a bustling, buzzing time at Boston University. My staff and I were busy welcoming your student to our campus for the 2009/2010 academic year. We were unlocking residences, handing out keys, rolling blue and orange carts, hosting tailgate parties, ceremoniously welcoming you at Parents Convocation, and chatting with you about the impressive experience your student will have at BU.

The activity and excitement have yet to slow down—in fact, I think the pace has picked up! Students are exploring their classes, and hunkering down to compose their first large assignments, while joining student organizations and becoming engaged in our larger community. They are watching soccer matches and field hockey games, and getting excited for the upcoming basketball and hockey season openers. Your student is exploring all that the University has to offer, and my staff and I could not be happier.

I hope you will take a few minutes out of your own busy schedule to read this copy of *BU Parent* magazine. It will connect you with happenings at BU, and help you visualize what your student is doing during the fall semester.

I also hope that you can join us during another hopping time at the University—our annual Parents Weekend, October 16–18. We welcome you back to experience some of the best of what the University has to offer, and to see your student thriving in his or her second home.

Also, I encourage you to check out my website ([www.bu.edu/dos](http://www.bu.edu/dos)) and *BU Today* ([www.bu.edu/today](http://www.bu.edu/today))—both great places for you to get a sense of the campus buzz from wherever you happen to be.

Thank you again for being a part of our community. Keep in touch.

With best regards,



Kenneth Elmore  
Dean of Students



## Cover Story

**8** Whether it's broken lightbulbs or breakups, RAs and the rest of the Residence Life team are ever ready to respond to students' problems.

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# Dear Fellow Parent,

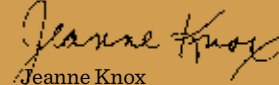


Last year was incredibly exciting for Boston University—*Times Higher Education* named BU one of the world's top 50 universities, the School of Medicine received a \$10.5 million pledge to create a Breast Cancer Research Center, and our men's ice hockey team won the national championship. And 2009/2010 promises to be equally free of dull moments. The academic year kicks off with the opening of StuVi2, our newest (and tallest) residence hall, which you'll see on page 9. In this issue, we also highlight BU's brand-new Sustainability department.

At the same time, we will introduce you to a few of the many accomplished students thriving at the University. You'll meet the founders of the Women's Resource Center and a member of our championship hockey team. We also want to highlight Parents Leadership Council members, Richard and Marie Carr, along with their daughter Elizabeth (SHA'10). Marie and her daughter joined forces to research, write, design, and publish the *Prepared Parent's Operational Manual* specifically for Boston University. Each year, they prepare a new edition of the manual and donate thousands of copies to parents of incoming students during Summer Orientation. (See page 16.)

We wish you and your BU student(s) a happy, healthy, and successful fall semester and we look forward to meeting you during Parents Weekend, October 16–18, 2009. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the Parents Program at [parents@bu.edu](mailto:parents@bu.edu).

Warm wishes,



Jeanne Knox  
Chair, Parents Leadership Council  
Mother of Merrill (COM'06) and Bobby (CGS'08, SAR'10)

## About This Magazine

**The Boston University Parents Program** links parents and other family members of BU students with the University. We encourage your participation and welcome questions and comments. Please write to the Parents Program, Boston University, 595 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 700, West Entrance, Boston, Massachusetts 02215; call 617-358-1187; or e-mail [parents@bu.edu](mailto:parents@bu.edu).

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# A Place of Their Own

## Emily Calvin (CAS'09)

is one of six 2009 graduates who, three years ago, saw a way to improve BU: create a center devoted to women's and gender issues. After many months of signature-gathering and consensus-building, they turned their vision into a brightly furnished sanctum where students can meet, seek information, and find support. Today the student-run Women's Resource Center (WRC), which opened in October 2008 in the basement of the George Sherman Union, hosts weekly forums and several special events each month.

### BU Parent: What is the Women's Resource Center's role on campus?

*Emily Calvin:* The WRC is open to all BU students, both women and men. It provides a central location to access women's resources: anything from health information to Boston Area Rape Crisis Center training. There's also a committee of student volunteers, a full-time counselor, a room to hold meetings and events (such as book clubs, open-mic nights, and performances), a study lounge, and space for student art displays.

### What was the process of founding the WRC at BU?

It was a long process of planning, petitioning, and asking any and every administrator and professor for support. But it was definitely exciting and inspiring to work with such driven and dedicated women. Of course, it was amazing to succeed and see the final product.



### What experiences do you remember most?

My strongest memory is of meeting in one of the founders' apartments my sophomore year. There were just six of us. We were discussing ways to get the BU administration's support. It felt so unofficial and underground, but at the same time it was empowering because we were taking matters into our own hands. We weren't part of any organization or bureaucracy... we were just a bunch of women who recognized that it was imperative that BU have a women's resource center.

### Now that you've graduated, what's your hope for the future of the Center?

Right before I graduated, we founded the Feminist Collective, a subgroup of the WRC. I would love to see that collective take off and gain a strong political stance. But I mainly just want to see the Center thrive as a community of women who are passionate about protecting and improving women's rights on campus, in Boston, and all over the world.

—Meredith Niles



Photos by Kimberly Cornuelle



## Did You Know?

An estimated 4,000 Terrier fans filled Marsh Plaza on April 14 to cheer on the men's ice hockey national champions' victory parade. *The BU Today* live webcast of the celebration drew 30,000 viewers—enough to crash the server! Click on the "Looking Out" and "Lining the Route" links at [www.bu.edu/today/sports](http://www.bu.edu/today/sports) to see photo slideshows of the event.



## What's HOT

Bo Obama

Hulu

Gladiators

Lost

Canvas Grocery Bags

Adele

Twitter

Frisbee

Dustin Pedroia

Gmail Chatting

30 Rock

Andy Samberg

An Tua Nua

John and Kate's Eight

Vespas



## What's NOT

Barney Bush

Limewire

Uggs

24

Plastic Bags

Norah Jones

MySpace

Hacky Sack

Manny Ramirez

Instant Messaging

*Arrested Development*

Jimmy Fallon

J Tree

John without Kate

Segways



Compiled by Meredith Niles

## PARENTS WEEKEND 2009

See Boston University through their eyes.

OCTOBER 16-18



[www.bu.edu/orientation/parents](http://www.bu.edu/orientation/parents)

With a new sustainability director and a host of green initiatives, BU is making it a priority to save resources. BY GREG KWASNIK



For tips on being green at school and at home, visit [www.bu.edu/green](http://www.bu.edu/green).



At the end of the last academic year, BU students discarded 6.75 tons of clothes in dorms across campus. In terms of sheer mass, that's a mature African elephant worth of last season's jeans and tube tops.

The clothes—all 13,500 pounds of them—were donated to the Big Brother Big Sister Foundation of Boston, which sold them to fund its programs for at-risk youth. A perfect ending, right? Not completely.

To BU Director of Sustainability Dennis Carlberg, those clothing heaps represent the elephantine task of making BU environmentally sustainable.

"It's great that we're finding ways to take that and use it for good causes," Carlberg says, "but it's much better not to have all that waste to begin with."

For Carlberg, making BU eco-friendly means going beyond University initiatives like recycling and ride-sharing programs, or the new bike lane along Commonwealth Avenue. For an institution so large that it burned enough electricity in 2008 to power nearly 15,000 single family homes for a year, becoming truly sustainable means having students, faculty, and staff generate less waste, and use less electricity, period.



BU's sustainability director, Dennis Carlberg

By hiring Carlberg as its first-ever sustainability director last January, BU signaled that it was serious about going green. The University received its first environmental wake-up call in 2007, when it earned a "D" on the Sustainability Report Card, published annually by the Sustainable Endowments Institute. That same year, Harvard earned an "A-," while MIT scored a "B-." Since then, BU has shown steady improvement, earning a "C" in 2008, and a "B-" in 2009.

Since taking office, Carlberg has been working hard to spread his "waste less" philosophy. His primary vehicle for change is the Campus Sustainability Steering Committee, an organization made up of BU students, faculty, and administrators. The committee devises sustainability strategies that focus on energy conservation, waste management, building construction and operations, and communications. Recent projects include the replacement of five power plant boilers with a 30 percent more efficient combustion management system, lighting retrofits at the Mugar Memorial Library and FitRec Center, a geothermal heating and cooling system at 888 Commonwealth Avenue, and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified George K. Makechnie Study Center at the College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (Sargent College).

What excites Carlberg most is the new sustainability website, part of a campaign that will use student energy to power campus sustainability.

"It's absolutely important to get students involved," Carlberg says. "That's critical to the success of any sustainability program on any campus." Just think: If students can waste 6.75 tons of clothes during a few frenzied days in May, they also have the potential to save a vast amount of energy and goods over the course of an entire year. With use of a limited \$1 million revolving fund to finance all campus sustainability projects, Carlberg says that changing student behaviors is the first, most cost-effective path to improvement.

Fortunately, today's BU students grew up learning about global warming and carbon footprints, and have begun to advocate for a greener campus themselves.

Rebecca Morgan (CAS'12), treasurer of the Environmental Student Organization, spent her freshman year helping to organize events and pushing for the adoption of a voluntary "Green Fee," which would be added to student tuition bills and help fund BU's sustainability initiatives. Morgan, an environmental sciences major interested in environmental law, says students have embraced the opportunity to learn about sustainability. "While you're in college you want to learn so many things," Morgan says, "and I think learning about an environmentally conscious lifestyle is a great way to do it."

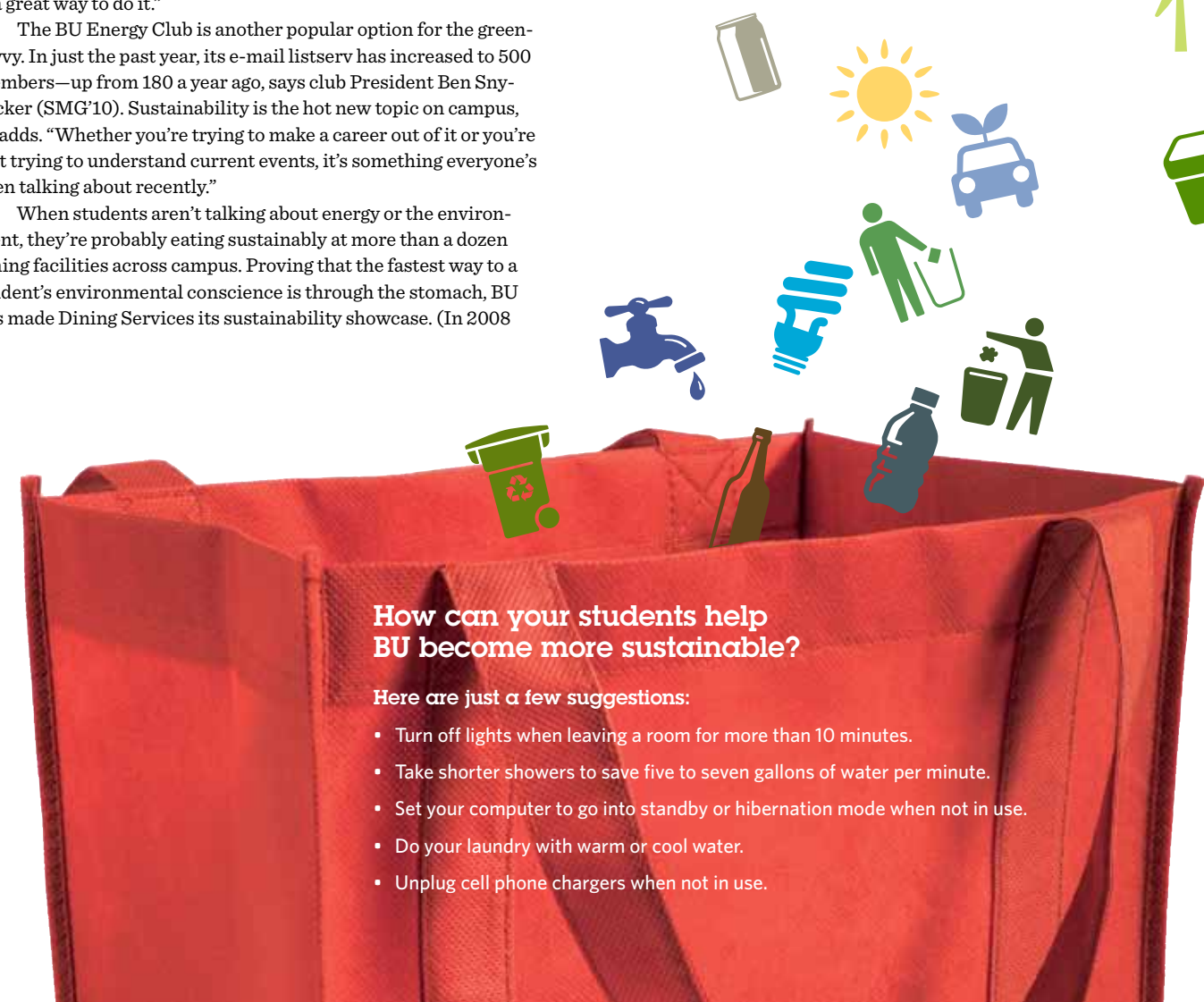
The BU Energy Club is another popular option for the green-savvy. In just the past year, its e-mail listserv has increased to 500 members—up from 180 a year ago, says club President Ben Snyder (SMG'10). Sustainability is the hot new topic on campus, he adds. "Whether you're trying to make a career out of it or you're just trying to understand current events, it's something everyone's been talking about recently."

When students aren't talking about energy or the environment, they're probably eating sustainably at more than a dozen dining facilities across campus. Proving that the fastest way to a student's environmental conscience is through the stomach, BU has made Dining Services its sustainability showcase. (In 2008

and 2009, the department earned "A" grades on the Sustainability Report Card.) Last October, BU upped the ante by hiring Kelly Dunn to serve as the first sustainability director for Dining Services. This year, Dunn plans to run energy audits on all kitchens, and will replace aging appliances with EnergyStar models when needed.

Dunn says that increased energy savings will help fund purchases of local food, compostable flatware, and green cleaning products, which all come at a premium. It's all part of what Dunn calls a "cost-neutral" program. And in keeping with the University's broader sustainability plan, Dining Services began enlisting students to achieve its goals. In the past year, the department removed trays from all dining halls, saving the half-gallon of water needed to wash each tray and reducing food waste by an estimated 25 to 30 percent.

If a sustainable future rests in the students' hands, it's encouraging that they've adopted the once-foreign concept of going trayless—as they have recycling, turning off unneeded lights, and taking shorter showers. "It's just kind of a way of life," Dunn says. "And no one thinks twice about it."



### How can your students help BU become more sustainable?

Here are just a few suggestions:

- Turn off lights when leaving a room for more than 10 minutes.
- Take shorter showers to save five to seven gallons of water per minute.
- Set your computer to go into standby or hibernation mode when not in use.
- Do your laundry with warm or cool water.
- Unplug cell phone chargers when not in use.

# Meet The Posse

## To adapt to BU, these freshmen stay tight

BY CALEB DANILOFF

**Growing up homeless, Atlanta native Danielle Galloway found that mathematics helped her cope.**

"I love numbers," she explains. "To me, math applies to life, because in life there are steps you have to go through. And if you skip steps, most likely you will end up with the wrong answer."

"If I can do math, I can conquer anything."

Galloway (CAS'13) is a member of BU's second class of Posse students and the first in her family to go to college.

"I've never really had an apartment since I was six years old," she says. "My mom made some bad financial decisions. We've been in and out of shelters and family housing."

Fortitude and perseverance, mental and academic, made Galloway stand out to the Posse Atlanta selection committee and BU Admissions.

"Every student brings something unique to their Posse and to BU," says Kelly Walter, executive director of admissions. "I noticed Danielle right away because of her warm smile and the manner in which she interacted with her peers, and once I spent some time with Danielle I learned that it was her drive and determination that had contributed to her success in high school. I have no doubt these same qualities will lead her to accomplish even more at Boston University."

With programs in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta, the Posse Foundation connects leadership-oriented students in urban centers with participating universities, which in turn provide full-tuition scholarships. The idea: send a group of highly talented kids from similar backgrounds to boost one another's chances of thriving in college, which can be a culturally bewildering place. Since 1989, Posse has placed 2,650 students at 33 elite colleges and universities, representing \$265 million in scholarships. The organization has a 90 percent college graduation rate—significantly higher than the national average—and hopes to groom the next generation of America's urban leaders.

BU's inaugural Posse class are now sophomores. Sharrod McClusky (CAS'12) says being surrounded by like-minded people has been a key to his success so far, which includes being his class representative to UMOJA, the black student union, and cofounder of a campus flag football team.

"It takes more than studying and getting good grades," McClusky says. "I found that the true making of a college student lies within his or her inner circle, because if you're not surrounded by people who

share similar goals, then your journey as a student will be much more arduous."

This year, 500 candidates from the Atlanta area were considered for 20 spots—10 at BU and 10 at the College of Wooster in Ohio. Mark Sterling (CAS'13), a graduate of Norcross High School outside of Atlanta, was one of those chosen. He is majoring in computer science. "I want to double in computer engineering," he says, "but I heard that's a really difficult course load."

Sterling became intrigued by spare computer parts lying around his mother's office and used them to build his own computer. "I enjoy putting these things together—it's so cool." He is also the first in his family to attend college and knows he is setting the path for younger siblings. "If I go to school and my sister sees that I messed up and dropped out, then she'll say, 'Well Mark, did this, why can't I?'"

Galloway can relate.

"Coming from my background, my siblings probably feel like they can't do a lot and that they're bound to be poor," she said. "It's only a mindset thing. I feel I'm way beyond being poor. I want to help the poor, but you can't really help someone if you're in the same situation."

*This story is reprinted with permission from BU Today ([www.bu.edu/today](http://www.bu.edu/today)).*



Above, Danielle Galloway (CAS'13)

Left, Posse 1 and Posse 2, along with BU mentors Jeff Allen and Shiney James (CAS'99) (top row, far left), and Roberto Trevino (CAS'05, SED'09) (top row, far right), senior assistant director of admissions, in the lobby of the SMG building.



# Facing History, Letter by Letter

CAS senior delves into the Civil Rights Movement via the papers of famed lawyer Conrad Lynn.

BY JESSICA ULLIAN

**J**oseph Clark didn't spend his summer researching the American Civil Rights Movement in Mugar Library because his grandfather was one of the Sons of the Confederacy—not entirely. But the senior from Tennessee has a complicated relationship with history: he understands why some people would rather not explore the past, yet he considers it an integral part of who we are.

"To become your own person, it's necessary to know where you came from," he says. "You build on what other people have left. You can't really start from zero."

Clark (CAS'10) studies Atlantic history during the school year, focusing on the slave trade. Last summer, with the help of a grant from BU's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), created in 1997 to foster faculty-mentored undergraduate research and help students apply for funding and prepare research proposals, he delved into the more recent past. He used the personal archive of Conrad Lynn, a civil rights lawyer known both for his controversial cases—he defended freedom riders and draft resisters—and as the first black graduate of Syracuse University Law School. Lynn, who died in 1995, donated his papers to Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, which contains the papers of hundreds of well-known (e.g., Florence Nightingale, Martin Luther King, Jr.) and lesser-known figures from a variety of fields. Clark worked his way through 40 boxes of correspondence and personal mementos stored on Mugar's fifth floor.

"He was a lawyer, so he was very meticulous and precise, and incredibly well documented," Clark says. "Everything is detailed and typewritten, sometimes in triplicate."

The project is meaningful for Clark on a personal and an academic level. Growing up in Memphis, where the Civil Rights Movement "left a pretty big footprint," he says, piqued his interest in history, and his family's rumored associations with the Sons of the Confederacy and the Ku Klux Klan make this exploration "sort of a cleansing." As he delved deeper into Lynn's life, he also uncovered the connections and offshoots that make academic research fascinating.

Lynn, for example, is known for representing two young boys, ages seven and nine, in what came to be known as the "Kissing Case." The boys, who were black, were arrested and charged with rape in 1958 when they kissed a young white girl during play. One of Lynn's principal correspondents during the case was Robert F. Williams, a local NAACP leader and later an advocate of armed resistance in the struggle for racial equality; their correspondence, Clark says, paints a fascinating picture of the cultural climate in the Civil Rights and Vietnam eras.

"In the early years, Lynn's tone was more tempered. As you get later and later, it becomes a fever pitch," he says. "Around 1968, everything changes. There's a sense of urgency around everything he writes. They're asking, is there going to be a presidential election this year? What's going to happen with the war demonstrations?"

In a letter to actor and activist Ossie Davis, dated April 29, 1968, Lynn pleaded for collaboration among black and white student activists:

"Now is the time for you and me and other black militants to press on all our activists the necessity for parallel or joint action with white radicals in specific circumstance. For example, it would be suicide for the black kids at Columbia to cut themselves off from SDS. There are signs that they are beginning to listen to reason..."



Growing up in Memphis, Joseph Clark (CAS'10) was steeped in the history of fighting for civil rights; his summer project studies that era using the papers of Conrad Lynn.



A group of Freedom Riders visit Mobile, Alabama in 1961. (Photo licensed by Creative Commons)

"Last week I wrote LeRoi Jones asking him not to testify before the Grand Jury against SDS or any individual white radicals. That would be playing into the hands of the fascist forces. Please get back to New York as soon as possible. Everything will be won or lost in 1968."

Working with Lynn's original documents has offered Clark a new understanding of his chosen field. He had the opportunity to decide for himself what's significant, instead of relying on what other historians have selected for anthologies and books.

"You learn a lot from history, and it's not just history that you're learning," he says. "Once you're interested in one part, it leads you to the next."

*This story is reprinted with permission from BU Today ([www.bu.edu/today](http://www.bu.edu/today)).*



RA Jill Wolfson holds weekly Wednesday night dinners in the Myles Standish dining hall to foster close floor relationships.



### The Newest Home Sweet Home

Student Village II (or StuVI2) is the academic-year home to 960 students. The 26-story tower opened this fall. Watch a time-lapse video of its construction at [www.bu.edu/today/stuvi2](http://www.bu.edu/today/stuvi2).



Meet John Battaglini (MET'08), executive director of student activities and operations, and his wife Jennifer Battaglini (SED'03), a Residence Life hall director. They have lived in the Shelton Hall residence for eight years, living where they work, and raising a family with the help of the BU students. Two of their children are even BU students themselves!

The Battaglinos host home-cooked dinners for students, can relate to parents of college students and talk to them as fellows, and maintain a welcoming home for students when they need some time in a family environment.

But the students, whether they realize it or not, also give a lot to the Battaglinos in return.

"The students are some of the best neighbors I've ever had," says John. "They are so bright and so engaging. I love to talk to them about what their hopes and their dreams are . . . I need to keep challenging myself in order to be able to keep challenging the students. I get everything from being around the students."

Jenn, who helps train RAs and is part of the on-call system, loves the insight living on campus has given her. "It provides me with the opportunity to live their lives. It helps me connect with them," she says.

"It changes the dynamic and breaks down that administrator/student divide," says John. "It's like: 'Hey guys, we're all in this together.'"

"The on-call system never, ever, stops," says Assistant Dean of Students Daryl DeLuca, who describes the Residence Life RAs and staff members as the "backbone" of student life at the University, which is responsible for more than 11,000 undergraduate on-campus residents. (Another 4,000 undergraduates and most of the 13,000 graduate students live off campus.)

RAs, at the base of this hierarchy, play a vital role. They're the ones who often prevent emergencies from ever arising. These BU upperclassmen live in the dorms and help their fellow students adjust to college life, tackle tough academic and personal problems, and make friends. In short, they help their floor mates succeed by "managing day-to-day student life," says Zamojski.

"We're here for basically anything the students need," says Michelle Surdyk (CAS'09), who spent two years as an RA before graduating this past spring. "I've had students come to me for advice on anything from roommates to relationships to religion, classes, where to live next year." Furthermore, "If there's something they need that we can't help with, we can figure out how to get them help."

Jill Wolfson (ENG'10), an RA and senior in the College of Engineering, describes her relationship with her all-female freshmen floor last year as that of "an older sibling." For her, being an RA is all about building community and establishing bonds among students who come from all around the globe. The key to her floor's success was engaging her 55 residents in daily conversations.

Wolfson also held a weekly Wednesday night dinner at the Myles Standish dining hall to foster close floor relationships. "About 15 to 20 students showed up each week," Wolfson says proudly. *(continued on next page)*



Director of Residence Life David Zamojski



Graduate student Roberto Santos (COM'10) is a senior RA who holds weekly floor meetings and workshops.

# Always n Call

**BU's Residence Life staff solve problems 24-7, and along the way they create community on a big campus.**

BY RACHEL WEINER

**IT'S DIFFICULT TO TURN A SINGLE ROOM** shared by two strangers into "home sweet home," but every year Boston University's residence assistants, or RAs, help freshmen all over campus do just that.

"BU is a big university, and RAs help make it feel smaller and warmer," says David Zamojski, assistant dean of students and director of the Residence Life team. "Building community is the most important part of the job."

The RAs are part of the network of students, faculty, and staff who compose the "on-call" system, a tiered arrangement that makes certain someone is always available in case of emergency, Zamojski explains. RAs (who may be juniors, seniors, or graduate students) make up the first tier; senior RAs (graduate students) and hall directors (full-time staff members) make up the second tier; and deans and administrators make up the top tier.



## Always on call, *continued*

Video chat and other technologies certainly allow students to stay in touch with family, high school sweethearts, and old friends, but it's also important to engage with other BU students and find a niche in a new place. And it can be tough, at least at first. The RAs are there to help guide them through these life changes as much as they are there to plan and organize social activities and help solve problems.

Wolfson's weekly dinners came on top of the monthly events she was required to plan as part of her RA job. These events covered a wide variety of activities, including a floor-wide game of capture-the-flag, an outdoor pizza party, a coffee study-break during midterms, and an authentic Ethiopian Meal served at BU's Hillel House on Bay State Road.

RAs also encourage their charges to find student clubs and activities that suit them. "I think that the biggest thing—and this is what I told my freshmen at the beginning—is to find what you like," says Wolfson. "BU is such a big place, you can do whatever you want to do and I guarantee there will be someone else who wants to do it with you." Indeed, an organization exists here for every taste, from the Archaeology Club to the Zen Society.

Since the RA knows everyone on their floor or in their building, they are often aware of similar interests that could blossom into friendships, as well. Surdyk, for example, helped several of her shyer floor mates connect over their shared love of Japanese anime. They might never have come together without her insight.

Of course, the students have an affect on the RAs, too.

Roberto Santos (COM'10), a graduate student at the College of Communication, is a senior RA, so he doesn't deal directly with a floor of freshmen, but he knows the kindness and commitment that are the requisites of a good RA. In a meeting at the end of last year, he says, "I asked the RAs to tell me what they were going to take away from the job most. And the skill set they described—it wasn't project or event management, things you identify with the RA—it was empathy. . . Just seeing that nine months into the job, they had all been describing the same power or emotion of being able to understand without judgment—it was a revelation."

During an intensive training period in late August each year, as well as in weekly and monthly meetings, RAs gain the tools and resources needed to transform a floor of often shy, nervous freshmen into a family; to resolve roommate conflicts and avert potential crises; to make coming home to the dorms comfortable for every student. But the empathy Santos cites is not something that can be taught, any more than the responsibility of being a constant role model can. Good RAs just know.

"Even if I'm not on my floor, I might be down in the dining hall or across campus and people still know I'm an RA," says Surdyk. "It's not a responsibility you can leave at any door."



## Advice to Freshmen Parents

**"Give students space and let them succeed and let them fail, because it's all about their finding what is right for them in these four years. Just have confidence in the students that they will find their way through."**

— **Roberto Santos (COM'10), senior RA**

**"Sometimes we have to remind parents that their students are adults and there is privacy that we need to respect. We can't just give them a roommate's cell phone number, for example. A lot of parents get freaked out by that, but at the same time they need to realize this is the next step in their student's growing up. They're not out in the crazy real world yet, but they're kind of in the college bubble, where they can start to learn how to live on their own without their parents."**

— **Michelle Surdyk (CAS'09), RA**

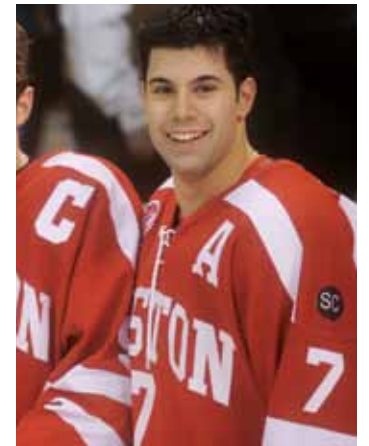
**"Be proud of yourself for how far you've brought them. Let your children show you that they're ready."**

— **John Battaglino (MET'08), executive director of student activities and operations**

## 20 Questions with Brian Strait (MET'10)



"It was so surreal," says 2008/2009 Terrier men's ice hockey co-captain and defenseman Brian Strait (MET'10) of clinching the NCAA championship title in April's overtime nail-biter against Miami University of Ohio. With his sturdy, 6-foot, hockey-star build, Strait is still the same "Boston kid" he always was: a Waltham, Massachusetts, native who looks up to his father, lives for the game, and has big dreams of a career in the NHL. In June, Strait secured his spot in the big league by signing a contract with the Stanley Cup-defending Pittsburgh Penguins. That makes the 2009 championship his last game as a Terrier, and Strait is proud to have crowned his college career with the win he calls "the greatest moment of my life." *BU Parent* got the chance to speak with him before he left for the Iron City. —*MN*



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>What is your favorite topic of conversation?</b><br/>Hockey.</li> <li>2. <b>What books are you reading now?</b><br/>A book about the Crusades for my History of the Crusades class.</li> <li>3. <b>What was the last film you saw?</b><br/><i>Angels &amp; Demons</i>—I loved it.</li> <li>4. <b>Whom do you admire?</b><br/>My father is a blue-collar, hard-working, loving man whom I aspire to be like every day.</li> <li>5. <b>Who or what makes you laugh out loud?</b><br/>All my teammates. We have a good time when we are around each other.</li> <li>6. <b>What are your most marked strengths?</b><br/>My athleticism and my leadership.</li> <li>7. <b>What are your hidden talents?</b><br/>They are called hidden talents for a reason!</li> <li>8. <b>What is your greatest achievement?</b><br/>Winning the National Championship.</li> <li>9. <b>What do you enjoy most about BU?</b><br/>Everything! I love it here. But if I have to pick one thing, it would be that the people here are great. The tradition BU has with hockey makes for a really supportive, encouraging fan base.</li> <li>10. <b>What's in your CD or MP3 player?</b><br/>T.I., Soulja Boy, Kanye West, Lil Wayne.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <b>Where do you get your news?</b><br/><i>The Boston Globe</i>.</li> <li>12. <b>What's your favorite campus hangout?</b><br/>Agganis Arena.</li> <li>13. <b>What do you do to relax?</b><br/>I go to the movies.</li> <li>14. <b>Who will play you in the movie of your life?</b><br/>Ummmmm...Ben Affleck.</li> <li>15. <b>What is the strangest thing in your backpack?</b><br/>Protein shakes.</li> <li>16. <b>If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would it be?</b><br/>The Caribbean.</li> <li>17. <b>What is your favorite place to eat in Boston?</b><br/>T. Anthony's is the spot I visit most, but my favorite place is Maggiano's. I'm very Italian.</li> <li>18. <b>If you weren't training for hockey, what would you like to do with your free time?</b><br/>I'd play video games or golf.</li> <li>19. <b>What do you splurge on?</b><br/>Shoes and T-shirts.</li> <li>20. <b>Red Sox or Yankees?</b><br/>I am a Boston kid—obviously, the Sox!</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

## Fuel Cells and Atoms

Two new concentrations at the College of Engineering will position students for some of the fastest-growing jobs in the industry.

Beginning this fall, students graduating in January 2011 or beyond may concentrate in energy technologies and environmental engineering. The 16-credit coursework will take advantage of ENG faculty expertise in emerging fields of research, such as fuel cells, garbage-to-fuel technology, bacteria-generated fuel, and solid-state lighting.

"Our students are entering the engineering profession at an exciting time," says Dean Kenneth R. Lutchen. "Breakthrough energy technologies will derive from virtually all engineering disciplines. They will reshape our society and engineers will create them."

The other new concentration is in nanotechnology. Students will explore the expanding field of engineering on a molecular scale, learning how nanotechnology affects biomedical, photonic, electronic, and atomic systems.

## Terrier Teams Take Titles

In 2009, BU's athletic success wasn't limited to hockey. While the ice Terriers won the Hockey East title on their way to the national championship, no fewer than seven BU teams won NCAA America East championships: men's and women's soccer, women's lacrosse, women's indoor track & field, women's swimming & diving, women's tennis, and softball. That made this the fourth year in a row (and the seventh time in the last eight years) that BU clinched the America East Stuart P. Haskell, Jr., Commissioner's Cup, for the top athletic program in the conference.

As for BU's hockey champs, several have embarked on professional careers this season. Defenseman Matt Gilroy (MET'09)—winner of the 2009 Hobey Baker Memorial Award for the best player in college hockey—signed a two-year, \$3.5 million contract with the New York Rangers; defenseman Brian Strait

(MET'10) signed with the 2009 Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins (see p. 11); and forward Jason Lawrence (MET'09)—who was named to the Hockey East All-Academic Team for the season—signed with the Providence Bruins of the American Hockey League.



## Delicious, Nutritious

Like scallops and noodles? Like staying healthy? BU Executive Chef Walter Dunphy has unveiled a series of meals that are both salubrious and scrumptious. His latest creation is miso-glazed sea scallops with fresh vegetables and soba noodles. For an exotic-sounding meal, Dunphy stays fairly local, using Nantucket bay scallops. "Their sweetness happens to lend itself quite well to Asian-inspired cuisine, with its subtle yet spicy contrasts," he explains.

The series of savory, salutary suppers is brought to students by the Sargent Choice program, a culinary and nutritional collaboration between BU Dining Services and the Nutrition & Fitness Center at the College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (Sargent College). The meals are served in dining



halls across campus, but you can make them yourself at home: Get the scallops recipe and watch Dunphy prepare the dish at [www.bu.edu/today/sargentchoice](http://www.bu.edu/today/sargentchoice).



## Cycling Safely

Boston University's Bicycle Safety Committee has launched a website devoted to safe biking at BU. The "crossroads of bicycle resources" for the University community, [www.bu.edu/bike-safety](http://www.bu.edu/bike-safety) went online over the summer. It includes an interactive map showing the locations of the bike racks proliferating all over campus; a free bike registration system to help combat theft; and a clear explanation of the rules of the road, for all types of commuters.

Led by Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services Craig Hill, the safety committee formed last year, shortly after Boston's first-ever bicycle lane opened for two-wheeled traffic along BU's two-mile stretch of Commonwealth Avenue. One of the committee's primary concerns is educating students, many of whom hail from suburban towns, about safe urban biking. In Boston, cyclists belong on the road and are required to follow the same laws as motorists.

"This means stopping at all red lights, using proper hand signals, and not making illegal left turns or biking the wrong way down one-way streets," says Officer Peter Shin of the BU Police Department. "Wear a helmet, and don't talk on your cell phone or text or listen to your iPod while you're riding."

## Metcalf Winner

College of General Studies Professor and Chairman of the Division of Natural Science Peter Busher has won BU's 2009 Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching.

A faculty member since 1982, Busher puts a premium on inspiring students to understand and explore science—even if they're only taking the class because they have to. "In many parts of American university education, the goal for faculty is to move away from teaching undergraduates, specifically first- or second-year undergraduates," says Busher. "For me, the opposite is true. You interact with these kids, and you don't realize the impact you have."

To show students the importance of science firsthand, Busher runs a study abroad program in London. Every summer since 2004, he has taken a group of CGS students to Charles Darwin's house, the botanical research center Kew Gardens, the Observatory in Greenwich, Stonehenge, and the chalk cliffs of Eastbourne.



## Going Global

"Write what you know," writing teachers often advise their students. Now, thanks to a \$2 million gift to the College of Arts & Sciences' graduate Creative Writing Program, its students will know a whole lot more about the world.

Robert Hildreth, the vice chair of BU's Board of Overseers and founder and president of International Bank Services, Inc., gave the funds to create two initiatives with a global focus: The Leslie Epstein International Visiting Professorship—named in honor of the longtime director of the program—will bring prominent writers from other countries to BU to lead workshops and courses; and the Robert Pinsky Global Fellowship in Creative Writing—honoring the renowned professor and past U.S. Poet Laureate—will send MFA students abroad to experience life overseas, becoming better writers for it. (Imagine if Ernest Hemingway, for example, had never left Oak Park, Illinois.)

"The gift will bring another unique emphasis to our program: international awareness," says Pinsky. "The very existence of these imaginative and substantial new programs should inspire all of our students to enrich their work with an awareness of other languages, other cultures, other possibilities."

## Our Favorite Levins

When Aaron Levin (SMG'10) graduates next May, his family tree will be notched with its 22nd BU degree. And a preponderance of those degrees come from the School of Management. (Or its predecessor, the College of Business Administration.)

Aaron's great-grandfather, B. Robert Levin, graduated from the old CBA in 1929 before earning a JD from BU's School of Law in 1932. Several Levins followed suit: Aaron's grandfather Henry (CBA'58, LAW'60), great uncle David (CBA'68, LAW'74), uncle Allan (SMG'86, LAW'89), and father Lawrence (SMG'84, LAW'87). Space considerations preclude listing the eleven other Terriers in Aaron's family.

Not surprisingly for a staunch BU brood, many of the Levins are also hockey players. That includes Aaron, his father, his younger sister Laura, and grandfather Henry—who played on the varsity team that won BU's first Beanpot in 1958. At age 72, Henry still plays pick-up hockey twice a week.



Henry, Aaron, and Lawrence Levin at a BU hockey pregame event in 1997.





Filmmaker Steven Spielberg (top) and basketball great Larry Bird (above) received honorary degrees.

## Commencement 2009



"Your life will be very easy if you ignore the rest of the world—you can build a very comfortable life for yourselves," said Massachusetts Congressman Michael Capuano in his Commencement address in May. "But you'll always know that you didn't challenge yourself to something bigger, something greater. I call on you to use some of that ability, some of those talents, some of that drive to change the world."

## Celebrating Tradition

President Robert and Dr. Beverly Brown (below, with the *Kwek family*) joined BU Board of Trustees Chair Robert Knox (CAS'74, GSM'75) and Parents Leadership Council Chair Jeanne Knox, parents of Merrill (COM'06) and Bobby (CGS'08, SAR'10), in hosting a Commencement Weekend reception for dedicated BU parents in the Trustee Lounge in the Metcalf Trustee Center.



From left, Hajna Moss and Laurence Fishburne celebrate the graduation of their son, Langston Fishburne (CGS'07, COM'09), along with his sister, Montana, and step-mother, Gina Torres.



Genuine Terrier family: Alan (SED'74), Philip (CAS'09), and Marsha (SON'75) Rich.

## Above And Beyond

The Boston University Parents Annual Campaign helps continue the tradition of excellence that defines the BU experience. Gifts to the Parents Annual Campaign may be designated to support scholarships, student life, athletics, specific schools or colleges, libraries, or the University's area of greatest need. On behalf of President Robert Brown, deans, administrators, faculty and staff members, and the thousands of students who have benefited, the Parents Program would like to thank the 2,861 parents who donated more than \$980,000 to the Parents Annual Campaign this year.

We would especially like to recognize the following parents who joined an Annual Fund Leadership Giving Society by giving \$1,000 or more to an annual fund this year. We are grateful for their leadership. To learn about the benefits of membership or to join a Society, please visit [www.bu.edu/alumni/giving/annualfund/societies](http://www.bu.edu/alumni/giving/annualfund/societies).

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# Taking the Lead

The Parents Leadership Council, which advises and supports the Parents Program, comprises parents of undergraduates and of alumni. Members attend campus and regional activities, act as ambassadors, and strengthen the financial foundation of Boston University.

The Parents Program extends heartfelt thanks to the following members of the Boston University Parents Leadership Council for their continued support.

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Richmond, Virginia  
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## To Serve and Parent

### BU parenting? They wrote the book on it.

If a child of yours is a BU undergrad, you probably understand “convenience points” and may even remember where you put the list of important University phone numbers. But have you thought about obtaining a health care proxy or how to organize a never-large-enough dorm closet? Answers to questions you didn’t know to ask are provided by two experts: **Elizabeth Ashby Carr (SHA’10)** and her mother, **Marie Pinak Carr**, in a handy little booklet, *Prepared Parent’s Operational Manual: Sending Your Child to Boston University*. “There’s so much emphasis on getting a child into college, and then celebrating and

getting ready to go,” says Marie, who along with husband Richard is a member of the Parents Leadership Council. “But there’s a lot you need to know once your child is there. Dean [of Students Kenneth] Elmore was enthusiastic about our book,” which he gives to parents at orientation. Marie wrote a similar handbook when her eldest daughter attended Emory University and “other schools have asked me to write one for them.” Information about her larger, more general parents manual is at [www.preparedparent.com](http://www.preparedparent.com).

— Natalie Jacobson McCracken



## Academic Calendar Important Dates

### Fall 2009

Classes Begin	Wednesday, September 2
Holiday, Classes Suspended	Monday, September 7
Holiday, Classes Suspended	Monday, October 12
Parents Weekend	Friday, October 16– Sunday, October 18
Holiday, Classes Suspended	Wednesday, November 11
Fall Recess	Wednesday, November 25– Sunday, November 29
Last Day of Classes	Friday, December 11
Final Exams	Wednesday, December 16– Monday, December 21

### Spring 2010

Classes Begin	Wednesday, January 13
Holiday, Classes Suspended	Monday, January 18
Holiday, Classes Suspended	Monday, February 15
Spring Recess	Saturday, March 6– Sunday, March 14
Holiday, Classes Suspended	Monday, April 19
Last Day of Classes	Thursday, April 29
Final Exams	Tuesday, May 4–Saturday, May 8
Commencement Weekend	Friday, May 14–Sunday, May 16



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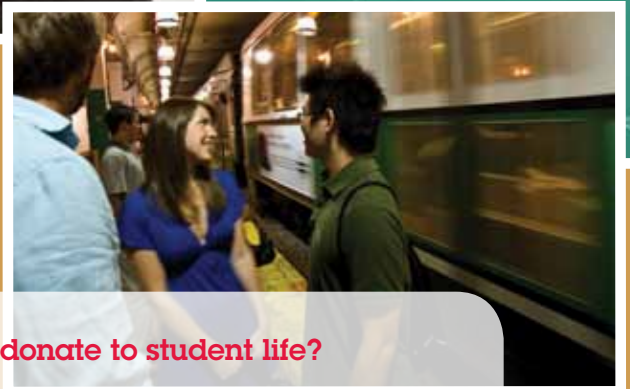
The Boston University Parents Annual Campaign is supported by parents, grandparents, and friends of undergraduates at Boston University. As part of the campaign, you can help the University continue the tradition of excellence that defines a BU education.

Gifts to the Parents Annual Campaign can support a variety of areas of the donor's choice, including:

- Specific schools and colleges
- Scholarships
- Athletics
- **Student life**
- The University's area of greatest need



Please visit the Parents Program website, at [www.bu.edu/parentsprogram](http://www.bu.edu/parentsprogram), to make a gift today. Together, we can prepare our students for success.



### Why donate to student life?

Classes are just one aspect of the BU experience. When students take active social and community-leadership roles, they create meaningful memories and gain invaluable experience. Gifts to the Student Life Fund help BU support nearly 500 student organizations and hundreds of campus activities that enrich students' lives outside the classroom.