

BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL

FALL 2007 BULLETIN

A NEW DAY DAWNS pg 18

*America's oldest school welcomes
a new head master*

DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Honor Roll 2006-2007

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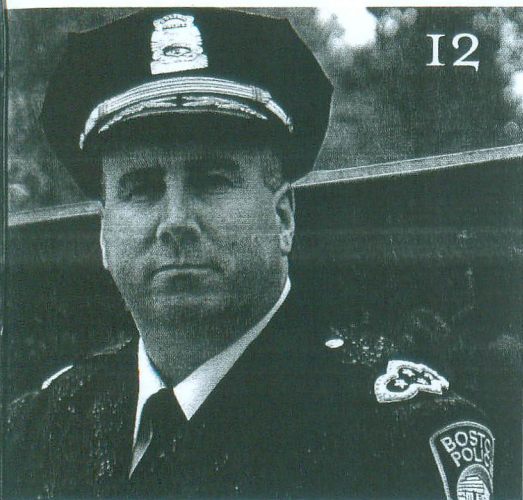
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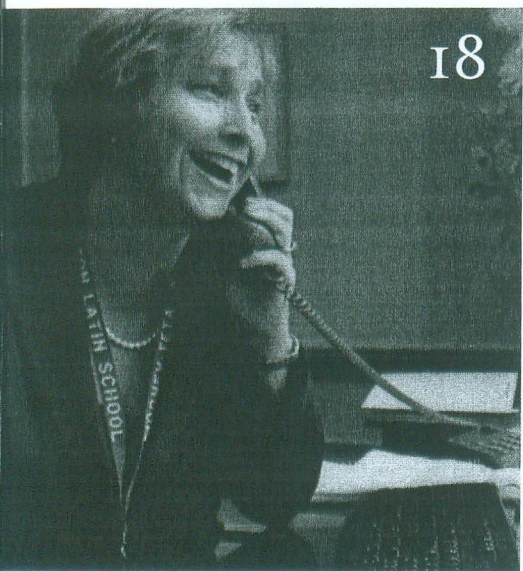


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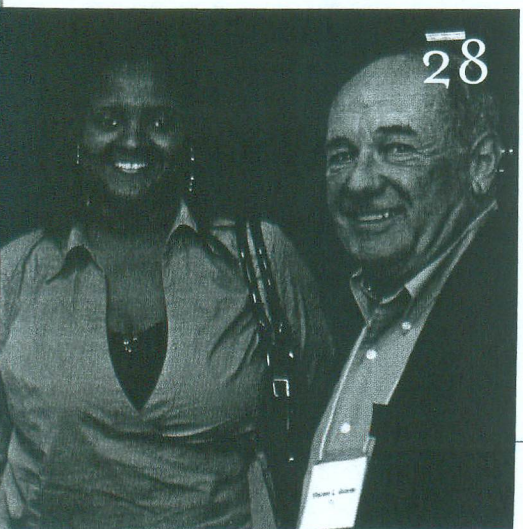
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charting a LEGAL PATH

*Francis Chin '65 Tackles
Immigration Law*

BY RICHARD SALIT

Ask Francis Chin '65 where he's from and he'll tell you he's a "local boy," born and raised in Charlestown. But even though he lives and works just several miles from where he grew up, his education and career have taken him far from the Chinese laundry his poor immigrant parents owned and where he and his eight siblings toiled as children.

"The school really fosters achievement and excellence. I was surrounded by very bright, capable, high-achieving people. What I learned still has relevance to what I am doing now."

Today, Chin is the managing partner of Chin & Curtis, a Boston law firm he founded and which now employs 13 lawyers. For more than 10 years annually, he has been named in the *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in immigration and in the *International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*. He was also designated a



"Massachusetts Super Lawyer" by *Boston Magazine*. Another publication, *Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business*, says Chin is "an extremely intelligent immigration lawyer with a sky-high-level practice."

The prominence in the legal community of both Chin and his firm wouldn't be what it is today if Chin hadn't given up a promising career path to strike out on his own. He says his days at Boston Latin School helped put him on the path to the success he enjoys today.

"The school really fosters achievement and excellence. I was surrounded by very bright, capable, high-achieving people," he says. "What I learned still has relevance to what I am doing now." Chin says he sees himself as an erudite person and says that Boston Latin helped inspire his intellectual aspirations.

From Boston Latin, Chin went to Middlebury College, where he majored in German literature and studied a semester in Germany. He joined AmeriCorps*VISTA,

a national service organization, and assisted migrant farm workers in upstate New York. Chin was one of the first 50 people in the country to win a Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellowship, which took him to numerous Southeast Asian nations to study the relationship between native populations and Chinese immigrants.

"Having grown up as an ethnic Chinese in America...I was very interested in the academic issue that was so topical about these Chinese communities," he said, referring to the 1970s when Southeast Asian nations were wary of China's emerging economy and improved relations with the United States.

After returning from abroad, he earned a law degree from New York University. His specialty in corporate law landed him a job at a now defunct Boston firm, Grabill & Ley. But it was his coursework in immigration law that would make his career. These types of cases were referred to him so frequently that he developed an expertise, so much so that he decided to start his own firm in 1986.

acupuncture for animals

Dr. Narda Robinson '78 Charts New Course for Pets

BY ELAINE MCARDLE

"Some of the partners said to me, you are not thinking straight if you are leaving this firm, where you could become a partner in charge of one of the firm's biggest clients in banking law," says Chin. "And going to this unknown and unpraised area of immigration law, it was not deemed by some to be a wise move. But I thought the practice had a solid future."

He was more right than he had ever imagined.

Chin's firm doesn't handle what he calls "Statue of Liberty-type cases," immigrants seeking to become residents. His clients are corporations that need help obtaining visas to hire foreign workers.

"We deal with a very narrow piece of the spectrum of immigration to the U.S., people who are coming here principally as skilled contributors to our economy," he says. "We represent corporations and entities such as research institutions, academic institutions, and nonprofits."

These people include the chief officer of a U.S. bank, a new director of a local museum, a top executive in a biotech firm and the head of the U.S. equestrian team.

"It's an area that has grown, and, by being excellent at it, we have grown from two to 13 lawyers, and 16 paralegals. We are the largest immigration law firm in Boston, and, indeed, in New England," Chin says. "I thought we would grow to be a few [lawyers]. I never had as my goal, and still do not have as my goal, being the largest. I want to be one of the best."

The national immigration debate doesn't directly affect his business, he says, but it has had the unfortunate side effect of freezing legislation to smooth legalized immigration. That, he says, has had a "huge impact on our clients."

Chin, 60, lives in the Waban section of Newton with his wife, Wai Jit Chow Chin, who is an accountant for his law firm. They have a 19-year-old son who attends Cornell University, in New York.



Where do you turn when a beloved pet bison—all 600 pounds of him—runs into a fence and is paralyzed? Or your aging but adored Golden Retriever has back problems and can't walk or urinate?

You could euthanize the animal. Or you could call Dr. Narda Robinson '78, one of a growing group of veterinarians in the United States who practice animal acupuncture. Hers, however, is a decidedly different medical approach that doesn't always endear her to the New Age crowd and its mystical view of the centuries-old Chinese treatment.

Robinson was able to get the bison back on his feet after several acupuncture sessions, in which she inserted very thin needles under his hide to stimulate his nervous system and restore muscle function. It was a remarkable but rather dangerous result since the beast had horns and an attitude.

"You have to have large animals in stocks and under control," says Robinson, who graduated from Harvard in 1982 before going on to become a physician and then a veterinarian. She prefers treating smaller critters like dogs, cats and reptiles. "I'm not a large-animal person. I don't want to get my fingers crushed or head kicked."

Acupuncture is one of the fastest-growing and most-accepted alternative treatments in the Western world. In the past decade, since she became a veterinary acupuncturist in Fort Collins, CO, Robinson has helped numerous non-human patients.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TANIT SAKAKINI FOR WGBH

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