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charting a
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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
saves 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 MCCARDLE

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.