

# common ground

Issue 1, 2014

SHARE.  
CELEBRATE.  
LAUGH.  
GROW.



FOUR COLLEAGUES  
WALKED INTO TOBY  
KEITH'S BAR, AND—

page 8

DEFINING MOMENTS:  
7 stories that  
changed lives

page 16

34 MOMENTOUS  
MOMENTS  
*(June 19 is  
totally aww-some!)*

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SHE SINGS!  
SHE SKATES!  
*Really meet Kate Flood*

page 30

BALL IN  
YOUR COURT?  
See if you're  
one of the lucky 50!

page 4



## SAY HELLO

TO THE NEW COMMONGROUND

### Hello there!

Earlier this year, way back when the phrase “polar vortex” was new to our vocabularies, a group of creative, industrious, and culture-loving volunteers got together to talk about *COMMONground*’s value in our *Anything but Common* culture and the ways that we—as a community—could work together to make it something really special.

Our conversations flowed from the things we enjoy most about Commonwealth to the magazines and websites we find ourselves most drawn to (Who knew *Us Weekly* was so popular? Have you seen that “Humans of New York” photojournalism series?) to the importance of legacy and community building in this special environment of ours. “These are some of the most fun and productive meetings I’ve ever been in!” participants mused. Even without a single page written, a whole new mix of colleagues—veterans and rookies alike, from all corners of the firm—were finding common ground.

No doubt, we can find common ground between the pages of a magazine, but it’s the conversations in the hallways, kitchens, and meeting rooms; at summer outings and in community service; in line to refill your water bottle or while finding a place for your lunch in the refrigerator where the real magic begins. And it all starts with saying hello . . .

HOLLY SIVEC, EDITOR

### Questions, comments, suggestions? Drop us a line!

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*COMMONground* is an in-house publication that captures and celebrates our employees’ stories and milestones.  
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29 Sawyer Road, Waltham, MA 02453



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ISSUE 1, 2014

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# take a seat MAKE A FRIEND

*Take a seat, make a friend.* That's pretty much how it went for Giovanna Zaffina and me in a Professional Development class a few months back.

BY HOLLY SIVEC

We'd been colleagues for years, but friendly just in a small-talk way. That day, however, we bonded over "shiny things"—our shorthand for the "intuitive influencer" communication style we just learned that we had in common—which got things rolling.

A couple of weeks later, we sat next to each other at a Sox game and chatted about travel, yoga, and the fact that we were both wearing our winter coats—in late April. I Facebook-friended her that night; that weekend, she clicked the "like" button on the photo of my meal from La Casa de Pedro. Soon after, we went there for dinner together. Our conversation jumped all over the place in our true "shiny things" fashion—yet it all tied together because it was about us cultivating a friendship, and friendships are full of glimmering facets. Today we took a lunchtime walk; we've got an

after-work outing to go kayaking on the Charles on our calendars in a few weeks—followed by another dinner at La Casa de Pedro.

*Take a seat, make a friend.* As I was starting to work with the team on this issue of *COMMONground*—around the same time that Gio and I made that initial connection—I came across a video of a ball pit set up on a busy street corner. The goal was to get pairs of strangers to climb into the ball pit together, strike up a conversation, and "find the common." (Curious? Google the phrase "take a seat, make a friend." It's the first thing that comes up.)





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The goal was to get pairs of strangers to climb into the ball pit together, strike up a conversation, and “find the common.”

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Minus the colorful balls, that’s exactly what Gio and I did—and it’s the theme of this issue in your hands. We hope the stories here inspire you to strike up a conversation with someone you’ve never really talked to before. You never know where or when you’ll find yourself a new friend . . .

Let us know what you think of this issue of *COMMONground*. We mean it. Strike up a conversation with any of us whose name you see in the magazine. We’re a friendly bunch.



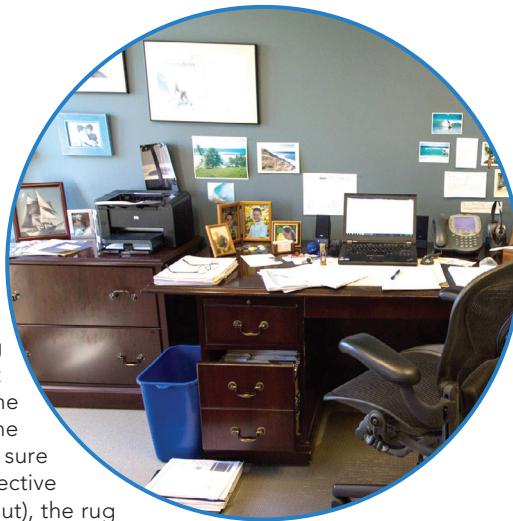
# WHAT'S AT MY DESK?

BY CAITLIN ROUILLE AND JAMIE DOYLE

The way you personalize and accessorize your workspace gives a glimpse into your inner workings, too. Here's a run-down on some of the stuff that shapes your colleagues' lives—in the office and beyond.

## ANDREW DANIELS

Some of my favorite items in the office are the picture way to the right, which my mom gave me on my first Father's Day (my dad holding me, and me holding my first son), the egg timer just to the left of my laptop (given to me by our illustrious CEO to be sure I was dialing the next prospective advisor when the sand ran out), the rug (it was my grandparents' from when they lived in Turkey), and all the pictures that serve as my balance and focus points.



## AUDREY MARINER

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea? Sheldon Conch the crayfish!



## JIM MCDERMOTT

This pretty much sums up my life.



## CHRISSE GANNON

Skipper the Penguin:  
"Of course not. We don't belong here. It's just not natural. This is all some kind of wacked out conspiracy. We're going to the wide-open spaces of Antarctica! To the wild!"



### DEBBIE WAPPLER

Even though the San Diego Padres don't always play well, I am still an avid fan, and Mickey helps me cheer them on!



### NICK FOLLETT

Ayrton Senna was the best race-car driver of all time (winning 25 percent of the races he entered) and a folk hero in Brazil. My girlfriend's mom gave this keychain to me the last time she visited.



### TODD STEWART

My man cave, home away from home . . .



### JUSTIN UNTON

Music is my life. I wouldn't be able to survive without it. This is my life support here at work.



AS THE CLICHÉ GOES, THE EYES—ER, DESK—ARE THE WINDOW TO YOUR SOUL.

### LISA PLANTE

I recently got married and changed my last name to Plante. To help get acclimated to my new name, I adopted two plant children, Hen (on the left) and Chick (on the right). On the ruler is a picture of me getting "planted," compliments from my fellow Web team members.



### DEBBIE GALIANO

This is a picture of my mom and her "boyfriend," George Clooney, while he was filming *The Perfect Storm*. I know the real people in that story.



# FINDING COMMON GROUND

A FIELD TRIP FOR COMMONWEALTH  
VETERANS AND ROOKIES

BY JAY MARINO AND STEPHANIE WOICIECHOWSKI

## THE VETERANS



JAY



AUDREY

## THE ROOKIES



STEPHANIE



CHRIS



## THE CHALLENGE:

This is the true story . . .  
of four Commonwealthers . . .  
picked to share an adventure . . .  
to find out what happens . . .  
when Commonwealth rookies  
and veterans get together . . .  
and start getting real. The  
Real World—Commonwealth!

**Their assignment:** Choose a place and/or activity, get together, talk/laugh/inquire and identify a common ground in an uncommon manner.

**Their goal:** Creatively work to bridge the gap between Commonwealth veterans and rookies. Learn something new. Make a friend.

## MEET THE PLAYERS:

- **JAY MARINO** is a Commonwealth veteran (joined in January 2004) in the Service Center.
- **CHRIS MEREDITH** is a Commonwealth rookie (joined in May 2014) in Technology.
- **STEPHANIE WOICIECHOWSKI** is a Commonwealth rookie (joined in June 2013) in Technology.
- **AUDREY MARINER** is a Commonwealth veteran (joined in September 2009) in Cashiering.



## Guess who? Match the correct player to the corresponding "fun fact!"

- He or she would choose to live out a real-life version of the sitcom *Seinfeld* if given the choice.
- He or she recently completed a triathlon in May and plans to compete in the Commonwealth Triathlon in September.
- His or her favorite weird food combination includes applesauce and cottage cheese.
- His or her favorite band in high school was REO Speedwagon.



## IF YOU LIKE IT, WE LOVE IT

Not sure about mixing applesauce and cottage cheese together? Well try these two other options and tell us what you think!



Add a spoonful of cottage cheese while you're making scrambled eggs. It'll give you the cheesy flavor you crave with an extra dose of protein.



Applesauce and pork chops go together. Just ask Peter Brady, from *The Brady Bunch*!

ANSWERS: (Jay, Stephanie, Audrey, Chris)



## THE EXPERIENCE

This adventure had several stops throughout Patriots Place in Foxboro, Massachusetts:

### 5 WITS

A 5 Wits adventure is a cutting-edge, live-action entertainment venue that immerses participants in realistic, hands-on adventures, challenging them to prove they have what it takes to battle a giant squid (e.g., 20,000 Leagues) or save the world (e.g., espionage)!

Our tour guide's name was Kevin, and his tweed jacket quickly altered him from soda jerk to qualified guide. We learned a lot about Jules Verne. We visited a museum dedicated to his work and vision and stumbled across the entrance to a mysterious vessel that had been hidden for 100 years.

The map room helped us to chart the course, giving us clues in the form of musical notes. Luckily, Stephanie could read music and played the organ with the right notes in order to set us free. It was very Goonies.

In the engine room, we had to line up radioactive rods and then line up gears in order to open the next sequence. This required a lot of teamwork and communication.

The mixing room was interesting because the funnels had to be lined up to drain the beakers and activate the diving bell. After we activated it, the colors had to be mixed just right to power the submarine and open the door. This took longer than expected as both Chris and Jay are colorblind.

While we were on the bridge of the ship, we had to clear water from the diving bell by activating a series of levers, switches, and knobs in sequence. This was our proudest moment and quickest escape. Go team!

The diving bell room had us turning wheels to generate electricity. We were attacked by the giant squid and had to generate enough juice to shake him loose. When the squid shakes the diving bell causing pipes to break and steam to shoot out, Stephanie shrieks and jumps with legitimate fear. At one point, Kevin gets "electrocuted," and Jay says to Audrey, "Oh my God, they killed Kevin, you bastards!"

### TOBY KEITH'S BAR AND GRILL

First, beer here is served in 32-ounce mason jars.

Our waitress had to come back several times as we were very engaged in conversation and were reluctant to stop and open the menu!

We decided to share hot wings and nachos rather than get our own plates. The waitress warned that the nachos were really more for a party of six or more. We told her not to worry because we were up to the challenge. She was right and we were wrong.

Somehow, we got on the subject of where we were during the Boston Marathon bombing last year. While most of us shared location and logistics, Stephanie shared a story of a friend that was hit with a small piece of shrapnel. Chris and Jay discussed how each of them has a long history with lacrosse as parents, players, coaches, administrators, and even as a referee.

### CUPCAKE CHARLIE'S AND PATRIOTS HISTORY

We discovered this on our walk from 5 Wits to Toby Keith's.

Jay stopped in his tracks in anticipation and let the group know that he had been to the Cupcake Charlie's at the Mashpee Mall while vacationing at the Scraggy Neck house. Both Jay and Stephanie bought some for their kids, of course. (They only felt a little guilty for having so much fun without them!) Note: Both adults had cupcakes for dinner that night.

On the way back to our cars, we stumbled across a metal marker in the walkway in the exact place where Adam Vinatieri kicked the winning field goal in the infamous Snow Bowl. Jay let everyone know he was actually at the game, sadly in Raider gear.

## OUR COMMON GROUND

Not only did this experience allow our group to bridge the veteran/rookie gap, it also allowed us to bridge the operations/technology gap. It was nice to break out of our professional comfort zones and learn more about each other and all the different things we had in common. Big and little things, such as:

- Two of us are recovering from ankle injuries, two of us are color blind, and two of us are very active in lacrosse.
- Two of us have connections to working in nursing homes.
- Two of us were English geeks.
- Three of us are interested in photography.
- Stephanie and Audrey both participated in the recent Make-a-Wish event and were both dressed as characters. Stephanie was Snow White, and Audrey was Minnie Mouse.
- Chris and Jay have both held a number of unique jobs that in no way relate to the others.
- We've all traveled a good amount.
  - Audrey met her boyfriend in Germany on their way to Ghana. They were both students at Bentley and had never met before. Chris said to Audrey, "Bentley is not that big of a school. How can that be?" Audrey's answer, "I was making good life decisions by not hanging out with the Bentley hockey team."
  - Stephanie has been to four continents.
  - Chris lived in Guyana while working for the State Department.
  - Jay has visited most of the United States at one point or another in his life and has lived in four different states (He is originally from Framingham, Massachusetts.).

The best part of this experience was getting to know people that we might not have had the chance to meet otherwise. We wish we could send random groups out to have the same experience! While there are lots of Commonwealth events, we all agreed that we do tend to hang around with our usual cliques at them. This experience was a great chance to get out of our comfort zone to meet new people.

It sparked a couple of other ideas that we wanted to share with all of you, so that we could recreate this type of experience more broadly across Commonwealth. Some ideas:

- **Balloon questions at Bagel Friday.** What if we filled the Tree-Top Kitchen with helium balloons? Pop a balloon and make a friend. Inside the balloons will be challenge questions like "Find someone in a red shirt that you don't know and ask what his or her best/worst summer/part-time job was."
- **Legacy Campaign, Part Two.** It'd be fun to revisit this campaign, as we've grown so much since the last one!
- **Lunch club.** Lunch club started in the Technology PMO as a group who liked to cook (and eat!). We meet once a week for lunch (Tuesdays) and rotate who brings in lunch for the group. We'd like to expand so we can meet more new friends! We'll organize groups of 3–6 new friends for lunch clubs and mix it up each quarter so you can meet new friends or participate as time allows. If there's interest from the lunch groups, we can also have a potluck of all the groups once a quarter. For more information, contact Stephanie Woiciechowski or Monica Baires.

## *lessons* LEARNED:



## ADVICE FROM THE VETERANS:

- Get involved—and not with just the work stuff. Attend events, volunteer, create an activity, and so on.
- Get to know your Common Knowledge buddy—or become a buddy yourself!
- Use department ambassadors to learn more about Commonwealth and how everyone works together.



## ADVICE FROM THE ROOKIES:

- Embrace a fresh perspective. Be open to new ideas!
- Many of us were drawn to Commonwealth for its culture. Help us feel comfortable about getting involved. Reach out. Encourage us to leave our own mark.

ANN WHITEMAN ON

## TALES FROM THE TENURED: JOE DEITCH

### Which Sunday River property is your favorite?

They all hold so much meaning and memories for me. Cabarete, in the Dominican Republic, is the one place I wish I had more time to visit. If we're only talking about the physical property, perhaps Las Vegas. No, make that the big house at Meredith Bay. But Scraggy is so special. And who can beat the Ritz on Key Biscayne? Sunday River is right on the mountain. Okay, let's go to the next question . . .

### If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Häagen-Dazs Dark Belgian Chocolate ice cream.

### What five words best describe you?

Bright, passionate, curious, creative, and loyal. I'd include a bunch of less complimentary adjectives—but, fortunately, you only asked for five.

### When Commonwealth first moved to 29 Sawyer Road, where was your office?

On the third floor where the Trading Room is today.

### If you could perpetually be one age, how old would you be?

Growing up, I always wanted to be 35. I figured that's how old James Bond was (I devoured those books and all the movies growing up.), and I could keep one foot in both the young and adults worlds. Looking back now, I'd go for 42—for the same reasons, plus it took me that long to figure out a lot of stuff about life.

### What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Always make sure that you're coming from a place of love. I also like "Have fun storming the castle" from Billy Crystal in *The Princess Bride*.

### Who would play you in a movie about your life?

There was a time when I'd go for a combination of Sean Connery and Adam Sandler. Or perhaps Brad Pitt—with his "plus one," of course. I wouldn't mind Leonardo DiCaprio either—very flattering. But if I didn't get to choose, I shudder to think who others might pick. I know—it's obviously Liam Neeson!

### What is your favorite accomplishment of Commonwealth's?

All of the friendships it has spawned and the families it has fostered.

### Who is your celebrity crush?

That's a long list, and it has evolved over the years. Everyone from Jodie Foster (yes, I know) and Robin Wright to Jennifer Garner (in *Alias*), Jessica Biel, Keira Knightly, etc. I'm a sucker for movies and fantasizing about the leading lady.

### If you had to be named after a city, which would you choose?

Boston is pretty terrific. I'm always proud of Boston—bright, passionate people who are steeped in tradition and yet on the cutting edge of new developments.

### What is the longest you have gone without sleep?

At Woodstock, I think we were up all day and night for three days. But then again, "I had a little help from my friends."



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I always wanted  
to be 35. I figured  
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James Bond was  
(I devoured those  
books and all the  
movies growing  
up.), and I could  
keep one foot in  
both the young  
and adults worlds.

JOE is the founder of Commonwealth. In 1978, he founded The Cambridge Group to provide sophisticated financial planning for affluent individuals. Commonwealth was formed in 1979 to provide a supportive environment where all affiliated professionals can thrive.

# YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM COMMONWEALTH WHEN . . .

## COMPLIANCE EDITION

BY SCOTT WILKINSON

. . . you break out in a cold sweat if you haven't had a bagel by 8:45 on a Friday morning.

. . . you're in your **twenties** and enjoy **knitting** in your spare time.

. . . you aren't rushing out of the office on Friday afternoons. Instead, you're hanging out with your coworkers, having some laughs and a beer or two.

. . . you are willing to support any of our causes to dress casual for the day.

. . . you **marry a coworker**.

. . . you compare all vacation homes you pay for to the ones you can get for free in the Sunday River Club.

. . . you are afraid to mess with the kitchen **Honey Bear** for fear of e-mail retribution.

. . . the pressure of putting together **the perfect gourd** display is a legitimate concern.

. . . you spend all winter waiting and hoping that this is the week the save-the-date e-mail for the **summer boat cruise** is sent out.

. . . you laugh when your cable provider calls it "customer service."

. . . you know that "the beach" isn't a beach at all. Its only source of water is a sprinkler and a rain drain.

. . . you know how to pronounce Deitch.

. . . you take **trips to the cemetery** to get away from it all.

. . . you know a **large Carl's sub** is a bit more than you can handle.

. . . **flip-flops** are your summer attire.

. . . you head into work early every morning in September to ensure that you can respond quickly to Rich Hunter's Commonwealth Cup e-mail invite.

. . . your friends wonder how they can get a job with perks like this.

. . . a **game of bocce** gets your competitive juices flowing far more than it actually should.

. . . you save PTO for the day after the Summer Cruise or the Holiday Party because you know you will need it.

. . . being at the company for **five years** means you get to **party like a rock star at Wheeler's place** every summer.

. . . you are willing to support any of our causes to dress casual for the day.

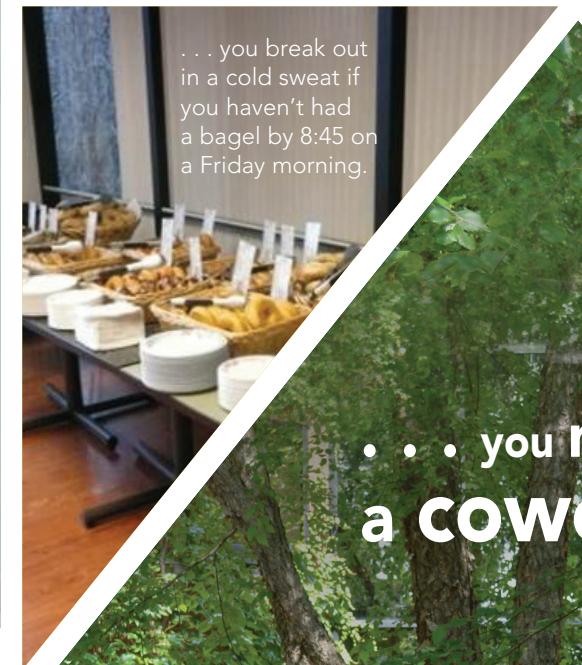




... being at the company for five years means you get to party like a rock star at Wheeler's place every summer.



... a game of bocce gets your competitive juices flowing far more than it actually should.



... you break out in a cold sweat if you haven't had a bagel by 8:45 on a Friday morning.



... you marry a coworker.



... your friends wonder how they can get a job with perks like this.

H O L D   N O T H I N G   B A C K

# COMMON CONNECTIONS: DEFINING MOMENTS

BY BETTE SKANDALIS

“W  
E SHOW UP,

BURN BRIGHTLY IN THE MOMENT,  
LIVE PASSIONATELY,  
HOLD NOTHING BACK,  
AND WHEN THE MOMENT IS OVER,  
WHEN OUR WORK IS DONE,  
WE STEP BACK, AND LET GO.”

— Rolf Gates, *Meditations from the Mat*

I think about times in my life when I “burned brightly.” These were moments of intense emotion—sometimes sadness and despair, sometimes pure joy, and often, just plain wonder and clarity. The moments end up being great teachers, both for ourselves, and for the people with whom we share them.

These are the stories of your cubicle neighbors, fellow bagel-and-fried-turkey eaters, and bocce friends—and how they have burned brightly.  
Enjoy . . .

**Peter Wheeler:**

My defining moment came at age 20 when my best friend died in a motorcycle accident. While obviously sad, there was a part that was liberating. At that stage of life, one is concerned about what they're going to do, what career, what's next. My friend's death gave me a different perspective along the lines of “hey, I'm alive, not sure I care about the rest,” and that guideline has worked out okay.

**Nick Follett:**

I had muscular dystrophy as a kid, which, typically, is terminal. I received the diagnosis when I was six, and within a couple of years, the symptoms retreated as quickly and mysteriously as they had appeared. I got stronger and stronger. Today, as they did then, my knees hurt a little, but that's the worst of it. From a probabilities standpoint, I wasn't supposed to survive, so the fact that I'm here makes me realize I was given the most generous gift.



Photos by Jamie Doyle and Audrey Mariner

**Sean Pollard:**

Not long ago, I donated my kidney to my mom. I was scared and, in fact, had reason to be. I ended up going in for emergency treatment, both after the biopsy and after the removal my kidney. I bled internally. It hurt for a long time, but it was worth it because she's my mom. I felt satisfaction with my accomplishment. And—now I go to the head of the line if I ever need a kidney. That was a bonus.

**April Gaskin:**

My husband died of a heart attack when I was pregnant. That event made me who I am today. It took time for me to be able to be the mom I wanted to be, but I learned I had to take care of myself before I could take care of someone else. You never know how strong you truly are until you are faced with adversity—and how proud of yourself you'll be when you overcome it.

**John Hagberg:**

I finished dead-last in the Presidential Fitness Challenge one-mile run in the eighth grade (partially because I had run an extra lap around the field). My mom guilted me into joining the freshman cross-country team the following year. By the end of the year, I was close to making varsity. I learned about leadership, hard work, and self-discipline. That unfortunate extra lap around the field was the catalyst that inspired me to take that formative step in my life.

**Peter Essele:**

My mom died of breast cancer when I was in college. She had originally gotten the disease eight or nine years before, had treatment, and gone into remission. She wasn't expected to relapse, but she did. Her death was very unexpected and had a profound effect on me, my vision, and my place in the world. I appreciate the love of family and friends and value cultivating those relationships. I definitely believe it's important to live life to the fullest.

**Angela Saver:**

I volunteered for a suicide hotline and spoke with a man who had a gun. I asked him to "put the gun down" so that we could talk—and then a shot rang out. The silence that followed stunned me. When I hesitantly said "Hello?" the man explained that the gun mistakenly discharged as he put it down. We spoke for a while that day, and many times after that, too. I'm humbled by that experience and have learned how powerful compassionate listening can be.



JAN

POLAR WHAT? POLAR VORTEX!

# COMMONWEALTH Community MILESTONES



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Erin Rainwater is still recovering from the trauma of prepping her first Thanksgiving turkey.



1/1

Matt Hurley's first scuba diving experience, off the coast of Bonaire. Eight dives in three days, including a night dive.



1/14

NATIONAL

1/11  
Fruitcake  
Toss Day

1/14  
Dress Up Your  
Pet Day

1/16  
International  
Hot and Spicy  
Food Day



1/17

Tara Gruteke's baby, Ava Grace Garcia, was born! 3 lbs. 2 oz. of super sassy personality.

7 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Kristi Pero and her fiancé Erik celebrated their engagement with family and the wedding party at Disney World. (This was Kristi's first carousel ride.)



1/18

1/19  
Popcorn  
Day

1/21  
Hugging  
Day

1/24  
Peanut  
Butter Day

1/27  
Chocolate  
Cake Day

1/29  
Puzzle Day

19

# FEB–MAR

## CAN'T WAIT FOR THE RED SOX!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Darren Tedesco celebrated his 20-year anniversary at Commonwealth.



2/14

Nikki Baggetta, Mike Davis, Kevin Freeman, Amar Singh, ErinKate Spina, and Darren Tedesco all came up with the brilliant idea of renaming our annual bocce tournament in honor of Kevin Sherman.



2/15

**SHERM**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



3/6

Wayne Bloom celebrated his 25-year anniversary at Commonwealth.

Steve Jackson completed his third half marathon.



3/16

### NATIONAL

2/6  
Lame Duck Day

2/10  
Umbrella Day

2/12  
Plum Pudding Day

2/14  
Organ Donor Day

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28



Lisa Pagan finished 16 weeks of chemotherapy.

2/24



2/28

Amanda Nieto graduated magna cum laude from Bentley University with her Bachelor of Science in economics and finance.

7 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Spencer Sanchez and his wife welcomed their first baby, Josephine Rose, into the world. 7 lbs. 12 oz. of cuteness.

3/18

3/19  
Chocolate Caramel Day

3/21  
French Bread Day

3/23  
Puppy Day

3/26  
Spinach Day

3/28  
Black Forest Cake Day



Meghan Hoyle got to cross "going to an opening day game at Fenway Park" off her bucket list—with a World Series ring ceremony, to boot.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



It's a girl—and a boy!  
Rajani Tenneti and her husband welcomed Netra Parakala and Neil Parakala into the world.

Kate Flood closed on her first home—a condo in Salem, Massachusetts (Thank you, Commonwealth stock options!)



## NATIONAL

4/2

Peanut Butter and Jelly Day

4/9

Winston Churchill Day

4/12

Licorice Day

4/15

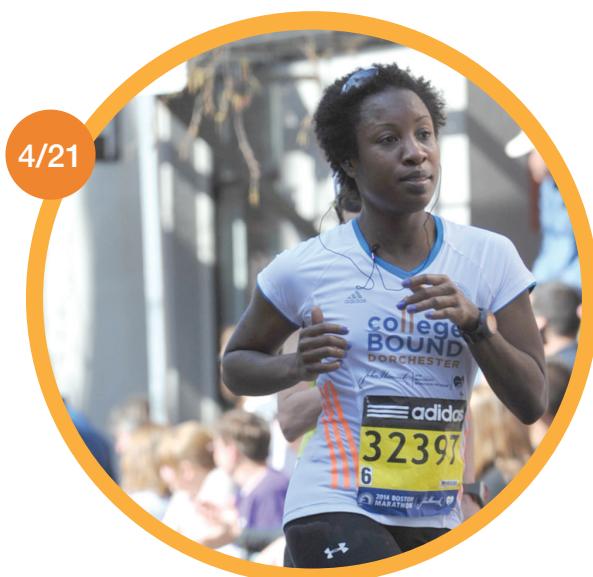
Rubber Eraser Day



4/29

Our sixth annual Super Macho Tough Guy charity beard competition participants raised an amazing \$13,235.39 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation—and Commonwealth Cares matched that amount, bringing our grand total to a whopping \$26,470.78

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



4/21

Natalie Olivier ran and finished with a personal record in the 2014 Boston Marathon after missing out on finishing the 2013 marathon.

4/19  
Hang Out Day

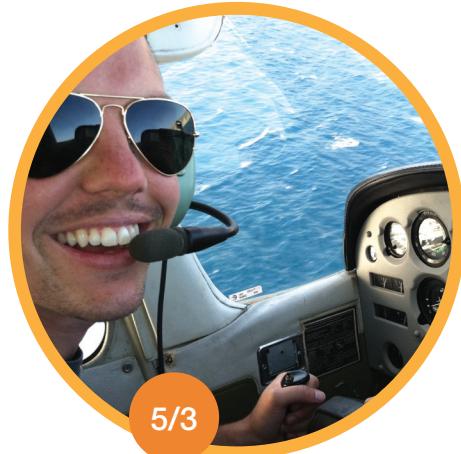
4/22  
Jelly Bean Day

4/24  
Pigs in a Blanket Day

4/26  
Pretzel Day

# MAY

## BOCCE ANYONE?



5/3

Andrew Escue passed 200 hours of total flight time and is on his way to earning his commercial pilot license.



5/5

Peter Wheeler celebrated his 30-year anniversary at Commonwealth.

5/9



Kelsey Conklin and her husband, Jeffrey, drove cross country from Connecticut to San Diego to start her new job at Commonwealth. They left on May 9 and arrived on May 21.

5/15



Maura Burke's pet rabbit, Peanut, celebrated his 12th birthday. Twelve is roughly 279 in bunny years . . . so his birthday is kind of a big deal.

(Peanut hopped on to greener pastures a couple of months later.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



5/3

Steven Johnian got married at Saint Leonard's Church in the North End of Boston.

5/7



Debbie Wappler adopted Tigger, an orange tabby.

5/11



Stephanie Woiciechowski completed her first triathlon.

### NATIONAL

5/4  
Firefighters' Day

5/10  
Fair Trade Day

5/13  
Frog Jumping Day  
5/15  
Straw Hat Day



5/18

Stephanie Woiciechowski graduated from Brandeis with her Master of Science in virtual team management.



5/20

Devon Cordell's baby, Raya Mae (born 11/14/13) is looking forward to her first swimming lessons and beach time this summer.



5/25

Holly Sivec traveled to Peru—on a bit of a whim—to celebrate her birthday in countless epic ways.

7 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



5/18

Wilston Johnston and his son, Ian, completed their first charity bike ride together at the Geared up for Kids event.



5/23

Justin Duft graduated from New England Law with his JD.

5/19  
Accounting Day

5/24  
Brother's Day

5/27  
Sunscreen Day

# JUN

## SUMMER IS OFFICIALLY HERE!



6/1

Audrey Mariner ran her first half marathon in Newburyport, Massachusetts, with her family in town from Maine to cheer her on.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



6/3

Courtney Templin's baby, Julia Anne (born 10/29/13), recently began sitting by herself for the first time. She's excited to play and get dirty with her big brother, Adam!



Joe Tully reports that, though not having made a hole in one yet, he did make a two on a par-4 hole while playing with Commonwealth advisor James Taylor.

NATIONAL

6/2  
Hug Your Cat Day

6/7  
Chocolate Day

6/11  
Corn on the Cob Day

6/15  
Smile Power Day



It's Joe Deitch's birthday, which also happens to be Commonwealth's 35th anniversary. That also means, being our founder, it's Joe's 35-year Commonwealth anniversary.



Briana Rhein and her husband celebrated their first wedding anniversary!

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



Lisa Plante and her husband, Nick, celebrated their two-year anniversary of being homeowners.



A nest showed up outside the window in the Service Center in Waltham—and then, a week or so later, the eggs . . .



6/18 Go Fishing Day 6/20 Flip-Flop Day 6/22 Onion Ring Day

6/25 Strawberry Parfait Day 6/27 Sunglasses Day

# HOW I SPENT MY VTO DAY

Earlier this year, at our annual company meeting, Wayne announced that we were piloting a new program: Volunteer Time Off (VTO). With two week's notice to your manager, full-time employees may take off one day (per year) to volunteer your time in support of a cause that is important to you.

Here's how four of our colleagues spent their VTO days:

In May, I had the opportunity to chaperone my son's third-grade field trip to Boston. I was glad I was able to share this experience with the third graders since it was my first time exploring the Freedom Trail. The students were excited to see these sites and were able to learn more about the story of the American Revolution.

Together, we toured the Freedom Trail and visited 13 out of the 16 historical sites. Starting at the Boston Common, we walked for two miles, ending at the Old North Church. We spent a lot of time at the Granary Burying Ground, the third oldest

cemetery in Boston, and also saw the Ben Franklin statue, the Boston Massacre site, Faneuil Hall, the Paul Revere House, and more.

— Jen McTague



On May 21, I took a VTO day to volunteer at Everett High School, where I served as a teacher's assistant, tutor, and mentor for the students. I spent the day following a first-year math teacher, helping him teach below-average and specials-needs students. It was a truly fantastic experience.

For the students, seeing a new, fresh face in the classroom kicked their curiosity into high gear. I even got to take lead in teaching a few classes (Who would've thought an English major would be teaching math one day?). Perhaps the most interesting thing for me was that I used my near fluency in Spanish to connect with a few nonnative English speaking students. Their faces lit up when I was able to explain how to find the area and volume of a cylinder in Spanish. They'd been having difficulty understanding a few fundamental concepts and, since I've followed up with the teacher to see how the students are doing, their geometry test scores have improved. Not bad for English major, I'd say . . .

When classes ended, I spent a few after-school hours tutoring ESL (English as a second language) students. We read a few short stories and discussed basic comprehension concepts.

My favorite part, though, was playing with chess club after school. As an avid chess player, I jumped at the chance to play the students. Some of them were really good! One student even beat me in a down-to-the-wire timed match. I must have been at the school until 5:30 P.M. The hallways were long since cleared out by the time I left.

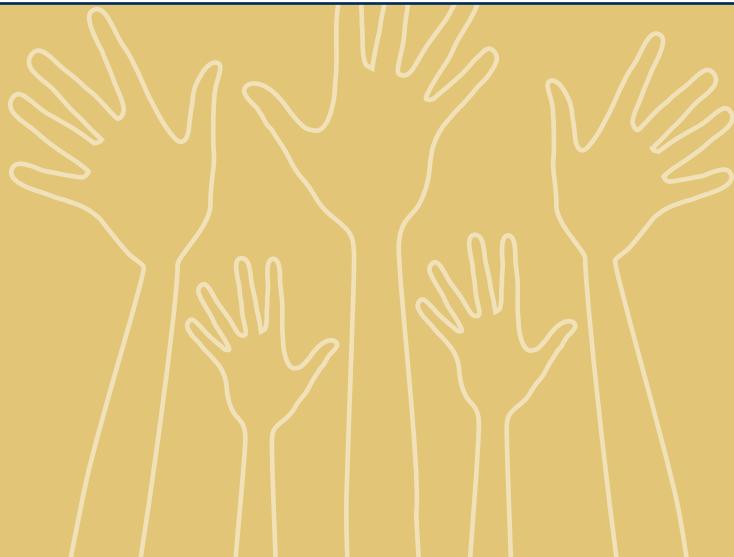
I'd love to see Commonwealth offer more VTO days. I'm an avid volunteer—I do Read to a Child every week, the Pen Pals program, work at my local animal shelter every other weekend, serve as a Big Brother, and I've worked as a YearUp mentor in the past. Indispensable service and professional development go beyond the workplace, and I'm glad Commonwealth enables its employees to excel outside of the office as well. Volunteerism is at the core of my beliefs, and Commonwealth's fledgling VTO day has allowed me to do something that truly makes me happy—doing anything I can to make others happy.

— Gavin Corey





BY ERIN ESPOSITO



## volunteer your time in support of a cause that is important to you

Thank you, Commonwealth, for allowing me the experience to spend a day volunteering. I had the wonderful opportunity to teach a Junior Achievement program to my youngest daughter's third grade class. It was such a great experience for me personally and to share that with my daughter was extremely rewarding. The VTO day gave me the justification I needed to get out there and be involved. It's occasions like this that I am forever grateful to be associated with such an amazing organization. I'm grateful for the opportunity to grow and to take part in my local community.

— Patrick Daniel



It was a blistering summer day in San Diego. We arrived at our jobsite not knowing what to expect, but ready to put in a hard day's work. We were not the only group there; in fact, part of the agreement Habitat for Humanity requires is that the future owners put in at least 400 hours of sweat equity. There were a few future Habitat homeowners on site this day.

There was one foreman (who was the only paid individual on the site) and four volunteer industry experts/retired construction workers who led the

tasks of the day. Once everyone arrived, we quickly gathered together and the foreman went over some commonsense practices. (Habitat or Humanity prides itself on its low number of injuries.) On more than one occasion, they mentioned that this is not a race, there are no time constraints, and if a task is not completed today, it would simply be completed the next day. They kept telling us to take our time and not to rush. After the pep talk, the foreman divided us into smaller groups that were managed by the experts. We were tasked with some light framing, cutting, stair making, and wood panel installation. A few of us had some construction background, but most had never experienced this type of manual labor, let alone been on a jobsite. But we all quickly got into the swing of things and began measuring, sawing, and nailing. By the time lunch came around, we were pretty wiped and in much need of a break. You soon realize that sitting a desk all day is not the same as swinging a hammer or nailing 2x4s. We were all bruised, blistered, and covered in sawdust!

After lunch, things seemed to slow down a little bit, but we worked well into the afternoon. As the day was ending, I had a chance to speak with the foreman and asked how we did.

He told me that some groups come to help and end up hanging around, not really working, so to see us put in the effort that we did all day was impressive to him. He was extremely appreciative of our efforts and extended an invitation to come back anytime. I really enjoyed working on this jobsite for a number of reasons, but especially because I got to spend some time outside of the office with my coworkers doing something I enjoy. I will definitely be volunteering again next year (and maybe even again this year using my own PTO)! A special shout-out to our senior management team that allowed us the VTO day.

P.S. After all the sweating was over, we enjoyed a few beverages at Ye Olde Plank while comparing our scrapes and scratches.

— Angelo Pardo



# really MEET KATE FLOOD

On the surface, Kate Flood appears mild-mannered, hard-working, and an expert in Editorial. Dig deeper, though, and you'll find her embracing her self-proclaimed weirdness, succumbing to laziness, and always at the start of a new adventure.

BY MEGHAN HOYLE



Kate at age of 3.



Kate (as Cinderella) and her Fairy Godmother head off to her wedding in a pumpkin-turned-carriage.



Mom encouraged Kate's love of books from a young age.



# MEET KATE

## STRIKING OUT

Kate grew up in Painesville, Ohio—in a house her family moved into when she was just six months old and in which her parents, Gene and Joyce, still live today, more than 35 years later. Painesville is a small town nestled along the edge of Lake Erie, and Kate spent most of her early years following her older brother, Scott, around. They would ride their bikes through the graveyard by Grandma Flood's house and build houses for toads in the sandbox in their backyard.

When she wasn't chasing Scott and his friends, Kate was playing sports. "I was really good at slow-pitch softball," she confides. "They used to intentionally walk me." She probably could have gone on to play at the college level if it hadn't been for a ball she caught in sixth grade. A ball to the face, that is. A softball hit her in the eye and she quit the sport then and there, never able to get over the fear of the incident.

## COLD SHOULDER

That fateful meeting with cork and rubber didn't totally end Kate's athletic career, however, as she participated in many other sports including gymnastics, track, and volleyball. She was good at everything and eventually decided to try figure skating, after watching it on TV during the 1988 Winter Olympics.

It wasn't quite Calgary, but her mom signed her up for lessons at the Mentor Figure Skating Club in Ohio. Her lifelong athleticism made her a natural, and she easily soared through the drills. Within six months, she had moved on to basic jumps and by a year and a half was landing her axel, which is the most difficult jump to learn due to its forward takeoff and extra half rotation. Kate skated for three-and-a-half years but, as she was entering her senior year of high school, quit. Her mom urged her to keep at it, but instead she opted to take an extra class.

After graduating, Kate once again followed her brother, this time to the University of Cincinnati. When she was a freshman, Scott would drive her to the public skating rink, where she and her friends would casually circle around while he played video games. For 10 years, this was the extent of her skating career. Although she tries not to have any regrets, Kate considers quitting the sport the biggest one of her life.

## MISSED NOTE

She didn't completely give up on extracurricular activities, though, but instead discovered an outlet for a different passion. She and a friend enrolled in an arts class where they learned tap dancing, studied music, and took acting lessons. Kate always liked to sing

but was shy. In her sophomore year, though, she landed a role in *Working*, and then went on to perform in other productions, including *Into the Woods* as well as the role of Nancy in *Oliver!* "I was always either playing a hooker or Cinderella," she laughed. After she finished her undergrad at UC and landed a job as a proofreader at a graphic design firm, Kate quite literally flooded the community theater circuit, performing in 12 productions in two-and-a-half years before her voice teacher steered her off Broadway and into opera.

She found inspiration in Tatiana Troyanos, a Greek-American mezzo-soprano, and, vowing to live without regrets, auditioned for—and was accepted at—the New England Conservatory. Her time there was short-lived, though, as she moved to Boston in August 2001, just one month before the September 11 attacks. On that fateful day, Kate was living alone in Somerville without any family or friends close by, and her perspective on music school changed. She was 25, already had a degree, and was taking classes with 18-year-olds. Yearning for stability in the wake of such unsettling current events, she quit NEC after just a semester and a half.



Fagan's crew of pickpockets support Nancy (Kate) as she sings "It's a Fine Life" in *Oliver!*



Kate (again as Cinderella) sings as her wicked stepsisters look on.



A very young Kate and brother, Scott, in their '70s finest.

## THE RIGHT FIT

That's when Commonwealth found her. After uploading her résumé to a jobs website, she was called in to take a proofreading test (one that she still gives to candidates today!) and started at the company when there were less than 200 people working here. In Marketing, there were only three designers and three conference planners, and Kate sat right outside Joe's and Kathy's offices.

Despite her affinity for discovering new passions, Kate has no intention of leaving Commonwealth. She's proud of her longevity here (12 years!). Her dad worked for the same company for 33 years, and she finds comfort in the stability of coming to work here each day.

Kate likens her editing job to a puzzle, where she dives into a piece of work and hunts for what's wrong. She tries to make tweaks in a way that no one can tell what she's changed, but they are able to sense that the overall piece has been improved. Making these updates while maintaining the author's voice is a point of pride for her and gives her a thrill. Being a manager can be a bit more difficult, as she doesn't like to control people or be negative. She credits her team's success to bringing people on board who "get it," and motivating each member to find ways to make the often-tedious work new for them.

## LEAP OF FAITH

If you're not completely convinced of Kate's ability to commit, may you be reassured by the fact that she has two tattoos. When she's not editing jobs here at Commonwealth, Kate is reading fantasy novels. She devours them, "like a fiend," and is addicted to Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series. One of her tattoos includes a symbol she borrowed from the novels. This eccentric passion keeps her real; her eyes light up when she talks about the symbol of the Ouroboros, or serpent eating its tail and the inspiration for her potential third work of body art.

Despite her athleticism, Kate hates to work out and calls herself lazy unless she has a goal. But in 2005, when she needed a way to strengthen her leg after a difficult knee surgery (She had a second surgery to fix the first one in 2008.), she found herself back on the ice. She went to the DCR rink in the North End near where she was living and held onto the wall practicing waltz jumps before letting go and launching herself into the real thing. It hurt when she landed, but she stayed out there for two hours and continued to work through the pain for several weeks before eventually rehabbing herself.

Kate has recommitted to the sport and calls it her thing, her hobby, her kid. She spends hours on the ice each week and is at the rink by 6:00 A.M. on Sunday mornings. As a member of the Skating Club of Boston, Kate most recently passed her U.S. Figure Skating Adult Gold Free Skate test by completing a routine in front of three judges. She dedicated an entire summer to passing that test, practicing tirelessly until she achieved it. She's not sure if she will go on to compete, but she and her mom shared a special weekend together this past winter, when they attended U.S. Figure Skating Championships at TD Garden. If she remains true to the real Kate Flood, who continuously goes all-in, we may be throwing her a send-off in Tao/Jones before she heads to Pyeongchang in 2018.

## SHOWDOWN ON THE HORIZON

# PATRIOTS VS. CHARGERS

BY MIKE TRIANA AND MIKE CLIFFORD

Hey there football fans! The 2014–2015 season is upon us, and guess what?! It has been four years, but the New England Patriots are coming back to sunny San Diego for a December 7 showdown against the SuperChargers!

As we like our sports here at Commonwealth, and we have a plethora of loyal fans, you can imagine that the release of this year's schedule has led to some friendly trash talk between the San Diego and Waltham folks. In my department, Retirement Ops, it went a little like this:

There is nothing better than a friendly wager to add to the excitement of the game. Clifford and I have made similar wagers in the past with other coworkers, and it has not fared well for either of us. It should be interesting to see who prevails this time around.

The Patriots always seem to find a way to win, while the Chargers have had some struggles; however, they have a lot of young talent that the Patriots should not underestimate this season. Both teams had winning records and made the play-offs in 2013, so regardless of the outcome, it should prove to be a fun and entertaining matchup. Some San Diegans will be tailgating and attending the game, so anyone in San Diego or Waltham interested in joining should drop a line to Jon Cooper in Direct Investments for details.

## FAN BACKGROUND: MIKE VS. MIKE

**Mike Triana:** I grew up near Los Angeles and have always watched football, but since the Rams and Raiders were only in L.A. for a short time, I was never really a fan of either team; however, my roommate in college was from San Diego and was a huge Chargers fan. The Chargers game was on every Sunday in our apartment, and I have been a fan ever since my freshman year (2001) as a result.

**Mike Clifford:** Since I was a young lad, my parents made sure that I was dressed in red, white, and blue with a "Pat Patriot" T-shirt in my arsenal of clothing.



## TEXT SMACK DOWN

Text Message  
Today 12:44PM

I got nothing against the Patriots; but come December 7th, Tom Brady will be heading back to Boston with tears in his eyes after the Chargers put a hurtin on him and the Pats!

Hah... the Pats are going to blow out the Chargers. They're going to pacify Phillip Rivers and send him back to his crib!

Whateva... If you are so confident, care to make it interesting?

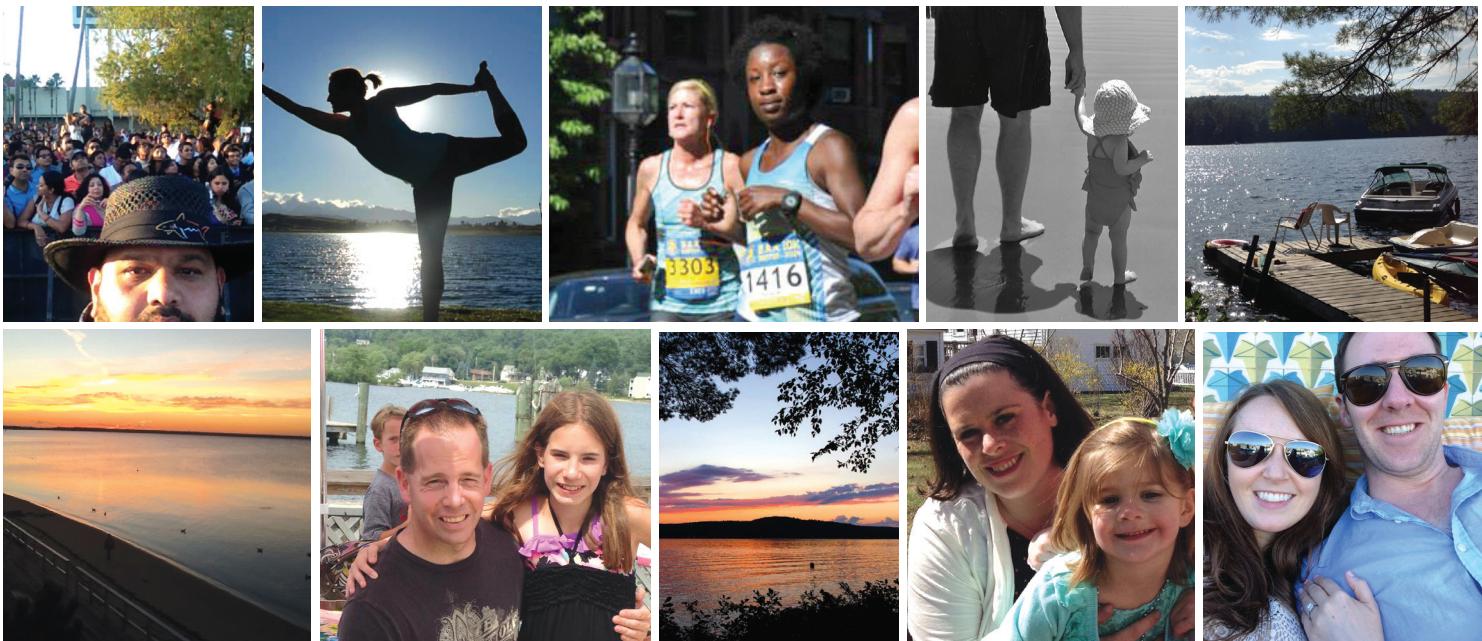
No diggity, what'd you have in mind?

Loser has to buy a Tshirt of the winning team and wear it on the next casual Friday? I think gold and powder blue will suit you very well!

Oh man bring it on! You're gonna look pretty nice in red, white, and blue

It's on like Donkey Kong!

Delivered



# MEET THE TEAM

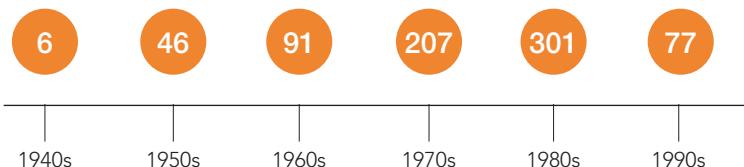
**The highlight of my summer was . . .**

1. Taking my dad to see the Red Sox versus Yankees at Fenway in Derek Jeter's final year (yes, we are Yankee fans). — **Jaime Whiteman**
2. Finally being 21! — **Amanda Nieto**
3. Enjoying a day at the lake in the Peruvian Andes. — **Holly Sivec**
4. Finally talking my hubby into taking ballroom dancing lessons with me. We attend a policeman's ball every year, and we'll finally be able to show up the couple we've envied for years. — **Stephanie Woiciechowski**
5. Weekends in P-town. — **Bette Skandalis**
6. Spending the week of July Fourth at Joe's Cape house with family and friends. — **Ann Whiteman**
7. Spending time down the Cape with my family, especially my goddaughter, Kristen. — **Maura Burke**
8. Vacationing at the Meredith Bay house with family and friends. — **Jay Marino**
9. Walking the red carpet at the IIFA (International Indian Film Academy) awards—the Oscar equivalent of Bollywood. — **Amit Chogle**
10. Toasting s'mores on the patio with my family. — **Erica Bowden**
11. Getting engaged in Portugal! — **Meghan Hoyle**
12. Enjoying a turkey dinner at Hart's Turkey Farm while making use of Joe's Meredith Bay townhouse over the Fourth of July weekend. — **Scott Wilkinson**
13. Going to the Jersey Shore for my family's annual Fourth of July party. — **Audrey Mariner**
14. Achieving a personal record time twice in the Oakley New York mini 10K in Central Park and in the BAA 10K this summer. — **Natalie Olivier**
15. My biannual trip to Maine at the end of July. — **Jamie Doyle**
16. My trip to Europe (Spain and England). — **Mike Triana**
17. Celebrating summertime and all the good things that come along with it (good weather, cookouts, the latest homebrew, and time by the lake) on my family's annual vacation in Maine. — **Meagan Swanson**
18. Taking a two-week vacation on Cape Cod with family and friends. — **Caitlin Rouille**
19. Spending time at the beach with my family. Even though it is a little less relaxing, requires way more stuff, and my view is a little different these days, I wouldn't change it for the world. — **Erin Esposito**
20. Vacationing at Long Sands Beach in York, Maine, with my wife, Bridget, and a few of our close friends—lounging on the beach and retelling stories about our high school glory days out on the deck at night. — **Mike Clifford**

# COMMONWEALTH BY THE NUMBERS



## BIRTHS

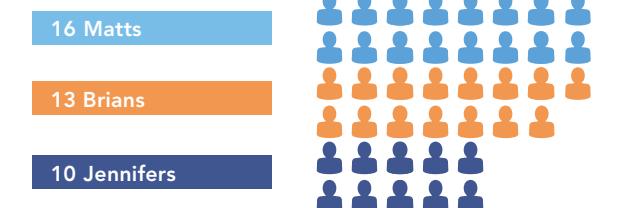


**728**  
EMPLOYEES

on our payroll as of  
September 25, 2014

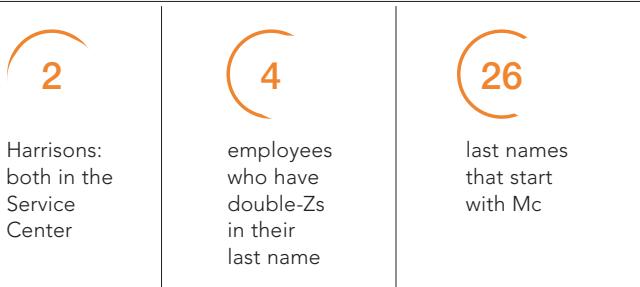


## NAMES

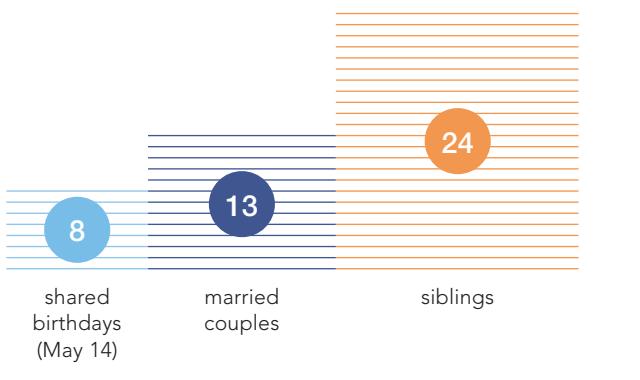


**28**  
YEARS

Kim Hiltz's tenure  
(the longest after  
Joe and Peter)

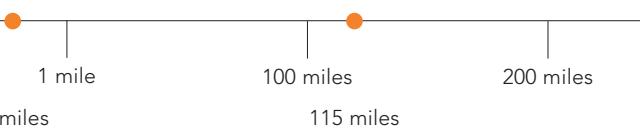


## CONNECTIONS



## COMMUTE

The shortest and the longest commute to CFN



COMMONWEALTH

