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Profile: Edward J. Downes, Faculty in Residence
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High Praise for Eddie from
his Student (other 3 pp.
in ntbk.)

BOSTON – Neil Diamond’s voice softly permeates the room from a speaker in the bedroom. The half-living-room-half-kitchen is illuminated with the sunlight of a late summer afternoon. With his sandaled feet resting on the wooden coffee table and his hands clasped behind his head, Edward Downes, clad in jeans and a black long sleeve shirt, reclines on his sofa and smiles. “If things are good, ya know, if life is good, why change it?”

At 44 years old, Downes is content with his life. He has a job that he loves after reaching the peak of his professional training, and is close with his seven older sisters, his 83-year-old father and step-mother. But what makes Downes stand out among his peers is not his PhD in Mass Communications with a specialization in Social Affects of the Media, a fancy way of combining theory, public relations and political communication in one. “I’m 44-years old, living in a dorm. I’m a role model, man,” he says.

Downes, a professor of Public Relations in the College of Communications at Boston University, is a Faculty in Residence at Shelton Hall, a suite-style dormitory on Bay State Road. Tucked away in the corner of the second floor, his apartment is fully furnished, mostly with Boston University owned furniture, he jokes. The apartment is full of pictures of his family, college experiences and high school memories. VHS tapes are stacked neatly on a shelf, above a collection of audio tapes and a few CDs, next to a few shelves of books. Hanging on the wall, is a framed front-page of the Syracuse newspaper from the day he was born highlighting the 20 to 40 inch snow storm that hit that day, a large poster of a cow, and a map of the world.