

BOSTON COLLEGE

FALL 2020

MAGAZINE

What happens
when child soldiers
return home?

Lisa Piccirillo '13
solved the math
problem that had
confounded experts
for 50 years.

A Time For Change

Law School Dean
Vincent Rougeau,
director of BC's new
Forum on Racial
Justice in America,
on reforming systemic
racism, acknowledging
our past, and building
a more equitable future.



CHARACTER SKETCH

Sarah Khan '03

Sarah Khan '03
framed by a rickshaw
in Hyderabad, India

New York-based travel writer Sarah Khan '03 has filed dispatches from six continents for the *New York Times* alone. Indeed, she likens herself to the globetrotting video-game heroine Carmen Sandiego, hence her social media hashtag #whereintheworldissarahkhan. Grounded by the pandemic, however, Khan has been poring over old notebooks from her seven years as a freelance journalist (previously, she was an editor at *Travel + Leisure* and *Gotham* magazines). They are a means of exploration in a stagnant time, of course, but she's also using them to pitch stories with fresh takes on previous trips. "By cataloging my past experiences, I'm looking at them in different ways," Khan said. "That's what I can offer."

—Jacqueline Tempera

CHILDHOOD DREAM

I've been telling people I wanted to be a journalist since I was eight years old. It was nonnegotiable. My father worked for an airline when I was younger and traveling was always a part of my life and my upbringing. Blending the two made a lot of sense.

LEAP OF FAITH

I moved to South Africa and gave myself a year to make freelance writing work financially. I leveraged the fact that I was living in Capetown to break onto editors' radars. I know not everyone can move overseas, but if you ever have the opportunity—do it.

SENSE OF PLACE

You can't try to tell the entire story of a place as an outsider helicoptering in. What good travel writing is meant to do, and what I aspire to do, is use my perspective and my life experiences to tell a side of a story of that place.

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“I would want to tell my former self to lean into what makes you feel different, and your own unique viewpoint. And I'd tell her, 'Just you wait, because a whole lot of change is going to come.'”

—
L'Oréal USA chief marketing officer **Gretchen Saegh-Fleming MA'05**, who earned a spot on *Fast Company's* new Queer 50 list, spotlighting LGBTQ women and nonbinary innovators in business and tech

BC IN THE NEWS

The New York Times

On a report showing how masks may have curbed the spread of COVID-19 at a salon: "This really shows the power of face coverings, especially in indoor settings...[But] this is about short-term exposure, indoors. We cannot generalize these results to a situation where people are spending prolonged periods of time indoors together." —**Nadia N. Abuelezam**, assistant professor of nursing, July 17



REUTERS

On whether President Trump has the authority to deploy federal agents to police cities: "The president is not the king. The president does not have the ability to require states to enforce their laws in a certain way, or to elbow aside their law enforcement abilities." —**Kent Greenfield**, professor of law, July 21

WIRED

On humor during a pandemic: "This virus is a terrible scary thing, and, therefore, we should expect joking...news narrows down, and has this element of fear; jokes are a way of temporarily triumphing over and repressing it." —**Paul Lewis**, professor of English, March 5

Roll Call

On how the world views the protests over racial injustice in the United States: "The key to this whole thing is it's a real test of our political freedoms and liberties, and I think for smart people around the world, that test matters a lot to them. They are looking at it and saying, 'Is America going to hold it together? Because God help us if it doesn't.'" —**Martha Bayles**, associate professor of humanities, June 12