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Dean's Gifts a 'Win-Win' for Students, Family

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Michael Shinagel PhD '64, the longest-serving dean in Harvard University history, calls investing with Harvard a "win-win."

Shinagel retired as dean of continuing education and University extension in 2013 after 38 years of service to the Division of Continuing Education, including 36 years as dean. Shinagel says his Harvard annuities offer several advantages: his children receive a dependable stream of yearly income from the accounts established for them, and his deferred charitable gift annuities help create a secure retirement fund for him and his wife, Marjorie.

And there are other benefits.

"You invest in Harvard, which I think is a safe investment, and you get a tax deduction. You also get a reasonable rate of return over time, and when you pass on, or when the people you have done annuities for pass on, the money reverts to Harvard," he says.

Shinagel's gifts will also support a cause he is passionate about: scholarships for students in need at Harvard Extension School. A charitable remainder unitrust will benefit the Dean Shinagel Scholarship Fund at the Extension School as well as the School's general charitable purposes.

"I care very deeply about access for deserving socioeconomically disadvantaged students," he says. "It has been my great sense of satisfaction over the years to give a Harvard education to students who normally wouldn't come."

Shinagel has long been dedicated to making a Harvard education accessible and affordable. As a graduate student working in Harvard College's admissions office, he once recommended an applicant who did not fit the profile of a typical Harvard student. The student attended Harvard, graduated cum laude, went on to receive graduate degrees in education, and eventually became a high school principal.

"My hope for my scholarship fund is that we get more people like that and do some good in the world," Shinagel says.

Shinagel first came to Harvard in 1957. After graduating with a PhD in English in 1964, he went on to teach at Cornell University and Union College. He returned to Harvard in 1975 as director of the Division of Continuing Education before being named dean of the Extension School in 1977. He has held a number of other roles at Harvard: He was a master of Quincy House from 1986 to 2001, a tutor at Eliot House, and president of the Harvard Faculty Club. He also worked with the Harvard Foundation, chaired the Committee on Dramatic Arts in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and served on the boards of the American Repertory Theater and the Harvard COOP.

Harvard students will continue to benefit from Shinagel's teaching as well as his gifts; he remains at the Extension School as a distinguished service lecturer in extension, teaching graduate courses on satire and the English and American novel.

"There's an old saying attributed to Confucius: If you find work that you really enjoy, you'll never have to work another day in your life," he says. "I've always valued the opportunity to do the things I've done."



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The Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine spotlights Ronald Minter, MD.

Featured Doctor: Ronald Minter

03/Aug/2010

Ronald Minter, MD, freely admits that he isn't a morning person. But he has a solution for getting ready for 7:00 am calls.

"All you have to do on your way in is to remember that there's a patient you need to take care of in a few minutes and you need to be on," he said. "That makes for a good morning. It wakes you up and focuses you."

As interim chief of anesthesiology and medical director of perioperative services at Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), Dr. Minter splits his time between clinical work and perioperative management. "On the days that I don't have a lot of meetings scheduled, I'll often be in the OR running the schedule, being the anesthesia charge person, supervising Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) or anesthesia residents," he said.

Dr. Minter attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin and completed his residency at SUNY Stonybrook. He came to Massachusetts in 1995 to serve as the chief of pediatric anesthesia at Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary. In 1999, he started at CHA.

Dr. Minter became interested in anesthesia while training to become a surgeon. "As a third-year med student, I was doing a surgical rotation, and after four hours of holding a retractor and not really learning anything, I noticed that on the other side of the screen, the anesthesiologists were talking about anesthesiology, and they were smiling and enjoying it," he said.

"I started asking them some questions about what they're doing and how they liked being an anesthesiologist. So while doing surgery, I developed an interest in anesthesia."

Dr. Minter's projects for CHA have included coordinating the installation of Metavision, a digital recordkeeping system; implementing a modified version of the World Health Organization checklist; and installing stop clocks outside the operating rooms to improve turnover time.

While he spends most of his time at CHA, he works a few days a month on Mass General's main campus to work on Metavision and to keep up his pediatric anesthesia skills.

"I also get to see some old friends," he said. Becoming interim chief of anesthesia has been a "life-changing event," he said.

"It's brought a whole bunch of new challenges, particularly in the administrative side. You begin to understand the challenges they're facing about trying to meet budgets and providing the substructure, the support system to provide the best care possible," he said.



Ronald Minter, MD

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Stupid Crimes and Misdemeanors Story of the Week

Posted: July 27, 2007

Original link no longer available online

Talk about sweet and lowdown.

Greer, S.C., police are still searching for a monster muffin that was stolen from outside a Bloom's grocery store.

The plastic pastry is a 4-foot-tall, 6-foot-wide version of Bloom's signature "Bloomberry" muffins, which the company describes as "topped with a crispy streusel and drizzled icing and ... available with or without a wild Maine Blueberry filling."

It weighs approximately 200 pounds and is worth \$4,500, according to Karen Peterson, special project manager for Lion LLC, which owns the Bloom stores.

And the great muffin heist happened on an unlucky day.

"On the night of Friday the 13th, persons unknown absconded with the muffin," Peterson said.

Why "persons"?

"One person can't carry that muffin," Peterson said.

But according to police, there may be a break in the case.

"On Monday, a lady called us and said she saw a dark pickup truck pulling out of the parking lot with the giant muffin in the back," said Chris Varner of the Greer Police Department. "She didn't find that odd till she saw [a news report] on TV."

Varner suspects the theft is a prank, but said that hasn't stopped people from theorizing.

"We've heard all the jokes, that it was a muffin man who lives on Drury Lane, that it could have been Betty Crocker," Varner said.

The pastry is a Bloom's icon, constructed two years ago for an advertising campaign. A billboard featured six giant muffins in a pan that extended beyond the parameters of the billboard.

"As part of the recent campaign, a car was parked below the billboard, and the muffin was placed on top of the car as if it had fallen there," Peterson said, noting the campaign had created "a tremendous amount of buzz."

"From that point, the monster muffin became our icon," traveling from store to store, she said. "We'd have banners saying, 'Pardon the size of our muffin,' and 'The baker got carried away.'"

"We've become really attached to the muffin because it's so much a part of our culture, our history. It's a little sad for us."

"We're certainly wondering where our muffin is," Peterson said.

The company has just increased a reward for the muffin's return. It will donate \$300 to the Loaves and Fishes food bank and give \$300 in free groceries to the person who provides police with information "leading to the whereabouts of the big baked good."

CourtTVnews.com

Stupid Crimes and Misdemeanors Story of the Week

(originally posted with video)

Posted: Jan. 12, 2007

Original link no longer available online

Burglary suspect slips up

A slippery suspect's greasy trail didn't help his getaway from police.

Charles Grant's robbery spree ended when cops found him covered in chicken grease at a local motel, according to Florida police.

"He got caught with his hand in the grease, so to speak," Pasco County Sheriff's Office spokesman Doug Tobin said.

Around 8:15 p.m. on Jan. 7, Grant broke through the ceiling of a Subway restaurant in New Port Richey and demanded money, Tobin said.

"A couple of workers saw the particle board-type ceiling start to move, and then it crashed down," Tobin said. "[Grant] picked himself up and, after a few expletives, said, 'Give me your money and you won't get hurt.'"

He took the cash drawer and fled. But his rooftop adventures weren't over.

When Detective Michelle March, who had been working on several burglary cases in which Grant was a suspect, arrived at the Subway restaurant and showed employees Grant's photo, they identified him as the intruder, Tobin said.

March began driving to the Green Key Motel, where she knew Grant was staying. On the way, she got a call about another rooftop restaurant break-in — this time, at the Wing House, across the street from the motel.

"She said, 'I betcha that's the same guy,'" Tobin said.

When officers arrived at the Green Key, they found a chicken-grease-covered Grant, who had climbed through an access panel in the roof and through the grease vents to get inside.

"He literally had grease all over his body," Tobin said. "We tried to clean him up the best we could for his mugshot."

Grant was "very fortunate" that he didn't get stuck in the grease vent, Tobin said. "If he had got stuck up there, and they would have turned on the grease pit, it's steaming hot ... it's a really tight space. That would have been a horrible way to go."

He faces burglary and robbery charges and is being held at Land O' Lakes Detention Center on \$35,000 bond.