

# Nobles

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IT IS  
RINGING  
IN  
THE  
YEARS





# A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY MAURA KING SCULLY  
PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHLEEN DOCHER

**PAUL AYOUB '74, FORMER NOBLES TRUSTEE** and current chair of the Building Committee, is chair of American Lebanese Syrian Associate Charities (ALSAC) the fundraising and awareness organization of SJCRH, and he serves on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (SJCRH) board as well. ALSAC/SJCRH is now the largest health-care nonprofit in the nation in terms of dollars raised, and it is recognized as being among the world's leading pediatric research and care centers. Paul, who is a partner at the Boston-based law firm Nutter, McClennen & Fish, began his board service for St. Jude and ALSAC in 1992 but traces his involvement back to childhood.

"I remember going door-to-door in West Roxbury, collecting nickels, dimes and quarters when I was 7, during what was then called the "Teenage March for St. Jude," Paul recalls. "I did this for several years."

Paul's parents, Joe and Ellie Ayoub, were among the group who helped actor Danny Thomas, a fellow Lebanese and Syrian American, start ALSAC in 1957, and then St. Jude's in 1962. "My father was on the original board and wrote the ALSAC bylaws with Danny Thomas," says Paul. "He also served as president of the board of trustees for many years. My father was a lawyer in the Boston area. He came to know Danny in the early 1950s when he asked him to perform a benefit for an organization looking to operate a summer camp in Plymouth for inner-city kids from

Boston. Danny recognized my father's humanitarian core and recruited him for St. Jude."

Today, it costs more than \$2 million each day to operate St. Jude. Eighty percent of the hospital's budget comes from donations, yet remarkably the average donation is just \$30. "Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food," he says. "St. Jude also shares its research with doctors and scientists around the globe. So even if St. Jude isn't in your neighborhood, our treatment protocols and research are."

Now, love for St. Jude has reached to the third generation of Ayoub's, with Paul's daughter, Lizzie '12. "I always heard my dad talk about the hospital growing up, but the moment I had my own connection to St. Jude was when I was 6 and met a patient named Suzanne—a girl only a few years older than me who had neuroblastoma," explains Lizzie, now a senior at Vanderbilt University. "I met her at a patient ice cream party. Scooping ice cream with her dad, she had a huge smile across her face, and I couldn't help but wonder how she could be so happy knowing she was fighting to stay alive every day. Even though I only knew her for a short time, she changed my life."

Sadly, Lizzie notes that Suzanne lost her battle with cancer and passed away when she was only 11. "I didn't know what to do or how to feel," she said. "Music has always been an outlet for me, so I wrote a song called 'Ice Cream With Suzanne.' I spent several years singing this song at St. Jude events around the country to tell her story." In the process, Lizzie raised more than \$15,000 selling her CD, which she donated to St. Jude.

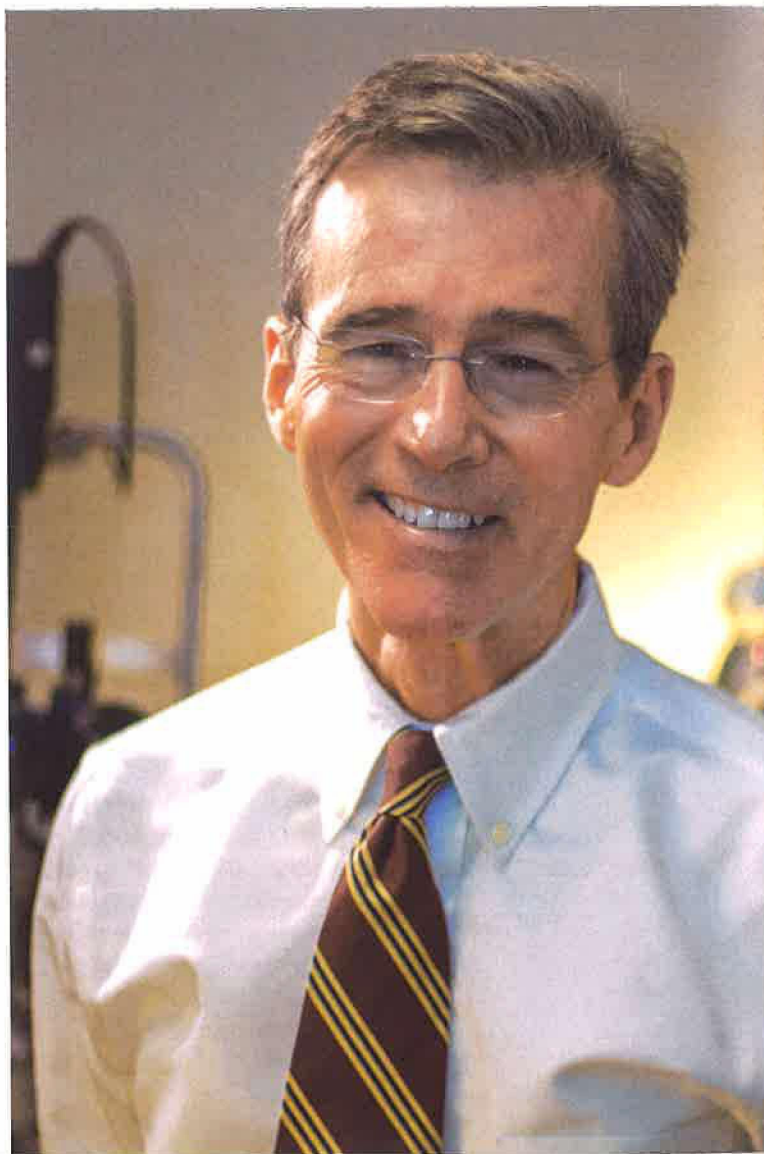
Now, Lizzie and Paul are collaborating on a book, *Inspire Me! A Father/Daughter Book of Quotes*. Slated for publication in 2016, all proceeds will go to St. Jude.

One of their favorites is from Danny Thomas, whom Paul quotes from memory: "There are two kinds of people in this world: the givers and the takers. The takers sometimes eat better, but the givers always sleep better."

# A GLOBAL VISION

BY ALEXIS SULLIVAN  
PHOTOGRAPH BY BEN HEIDER

*Michael Morley '75 is a local ophthalmologist committed to community service here and abroad. In addition to his work last summer as a Fulbright Specialist in Thailand, he has been active in fundraising efforts and service throughout the Boston area. He also spends one month of every year teaching and providing quality eye care to underprivileged communities around the world.*



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## 1970

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## 1973

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## 1974

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This summer has been filled with challenges and new beginnings! I have begun a new career and find myself working as a psychiatric social worker on an inpatient unit at Leonard Morse Hospital in Natick, an outpatient clinician in Everett and a wellness consultant at the Metro Youth Services in Dorchester. Starting a new career has been exciting and rewarding. I have been able to draw support from many members of the Nobles community.

**Mike Vance '77** was able to provide a great deal of insight regarding the possible options of practice in the nonprofit sector. **Betsy Morris-Rosen '83**, a Nobles alum and graduate of the Boston College School of Social Work, has also been an inspiration and support. She was able to help me understand the importance of these next steps I am taking and how they will help me define myself within the social work profession.



Paul Ayoub with Jane, Lizzie, Marlo Thomas, St. Jude National Outreach Director and some patients at the hospital

My summer brought me the good fortune of being in touch with classmates **Tom Sleeper** and **Seth Tower**. Tom has become a Bostonian, finally moving into the city, and Seth has been working on a project for my mentor and spiritual adviser, Father James Woods S.J. of Boston College. **Jan Jelleme** took me for a cruise around Nantucket and sends his best. To my other classmates whom I am sure will get a chance to read this, I look forward to getting together reunion weekend for the 150th celebration.

**Paul Ayoub** was recently elected as chair of the board of ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Paul writes, "My father was among the original group who worked with the late entertainer Danny Thomas to establish the hospital and ALSAC, which is now the nation's largest health care nonprofit organization."

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## 1975

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**Bob Richards** and **Joel Flaherty** recently relived the glory days when they attended a Sparks concert at the Orpheum.

From **Jay Riley**: "It was cool to see everyone at the Friday night festivities for our 40th. Betsy and I married in May, and she was happy to meet y'all in Weston and to catch a glimpse into our pasts! Andy and Jerry were a swell hostess and host. It was Parents Weekend here at

Gould Academy, so we couldn't be with everyone in Dedham on Saturday. Betsy and I had a fascinating 11-week summer cycling trip across Europe, from Belgium to Turkey, via Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Bulgaria. Some days were long and hard, and some days were blissfully long and dreamy. We love the bikes, and we loved being back on the road, leading a life full of daily discovery. My kids are great. Thomson and his wife, Ann, moved to Charlotte, N.C.; Will lives in the North End; and Britty has stayed in Washington, D.C. Ring me if skiing at Sunday River is in your winter plans: (603) 498-5199!"

**Ted Almy** reports that he and Maura recently hosted their son and daughter-in-law in Simsbury for their first wedding anniversary, then headed to Oregon to mark their daughter and son-in-law's first. "The Oregon trip included some wine-tasting, a visit to Crater Lake, a few days in Bend and a stop at Mt. Hood. Amazing country. Hard to believe a year ago we were going crazy getting ready for two weddings six weeks apart. The first anniversary reflections and time spent with the kids were decidedly more chill! Great seeing many of you at the 40th."

From **Bob Phinney**: "I am still a teacher and administrator at Dexter Southfield School in Brookline, having just finished my 35th year on the faculty. I am still teaching Latin and science, running the after-school science clubs, half-time bus monitoring (gave up driving them), director of the Clay Center for Science and