

Columbia College

Spring 2014

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On

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 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Contents

THE SHOW GOES ON



- 18** **Varsity Show Endears and Endures**
In a world of planned obsolescence and the latest Internet meme, some things do last.
BY THOMAS VINCIGUERRA '85, '86J, '90 GSAS
- 20** **Another Opening, Another Varsity Show**
Since 1894, the theatrical tradition has satirized Columbia in song and dance.
BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08
- 24** **The Varsity Show Through the Years**
A look back at 120 years in pictures, programs and posters.
- 30** **The Marriage of True Minds**
The Broadway team of Tom Kitt '96 and Brian Yorkey '93 delve into the reasons behind their successful collaboration.
BY JAMIE KATZ '72, '80 BUSINESS
- 35** **Orestes Brings Lit Hum to Life**
- 36** **Theater District**
Columbia's many theater groups give students a chance to watch, and perform, everything from Shakespeare to opera to student-written plays.
BY SHIRA BOSS '93, '97J, '98 SIPA

COVER: POSTERS COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES; BACK COVER: EILEEN BARROSO

ABOVE: CAST MEMBERS PERFORM DURING 1980'S *FLY WITH ME*.

PHOTO: PETER KRUPENYE PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



15 Coach Brett Boretti (left)



48 Susanna Daniel '97



80 Jenji Kohan '91 (right)

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 [Message from Dean James J. Valentini](#)
Building the best undergraduate experience.
- 4 [Letters to the Editor](#)
- 5 [Within the Family by Editor Alex Sachare '71](#)
All the Columbia world's a stage.
- 6 [Around the Quads](#)
Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2014.
- 15 [Roar, Lion, Roar](#)
Coach Brett Boretti builds upon the Lions' baseball legacy.
- 40 [Columbia Forum: Dr. Arnold A. Hutschnecker in Paradise](#)
From a collection of five one-act plays.
By TONY KUSHNER '78

ALUMNI NEWS

- 46 [Message from CCAA President Kyra Tirana Barry '87](#)
Columbia College Women connects female students with alumnae mentors.
- 47 [Bookshelf](#)
Featured: *Sea Creatures* by Susanna Daniel '97.
- 49 [Obituaries](#)
49 Arnold A. Saltzman '36
51 Richard D. Heffner '46, '47 GSAS
- 53 [Class Notes](#)
Alumni Profiles
80 Jenji Kohan '91
87 David Johns '04, '06 TC
- 96 [Last Look](#)

WEB EXTRAS

[View photos from the John Jay Awards Dinner](#)

[View photos from the Dean's Scholarship Reception](#)

[Listen to an NPR interview with Jenji Kohan '91](#)

[Watch a performance of the Varsity Show](#)

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

Building the Best Undergraduate Experience

We recently marked the end of The Columbia Campaign, a University-wide fundraising and alumni relations effort that raised more than \$6.1 billion, including \$980 million for undergraduate education. We raised \$401 million for College financial aid, \$25.5 million for student advising and \$134.4 million for the Columbia College Fund, which supports the Core Curriculum, summer internship stipends, financial aid and student services. We also endowed 43 new professorships for faculty in the Arts and Sciences. And we did it with the help of you — the generous alumni, parents, students and friends of Columbia College.

Throughout the campaign, many of you gave time, energy and financial contributions to Columbia. You reconnected with your classmates, with your Columbia experiences and with the institution, and helped propel the University forward. You were leaders in The Columbia Campaign, and I thank you for helping make us the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world. I especially thank the Undergraduate Campaign Council and all the other College fundraising volunteers who gave their time and resources to help us reach our goals.

The momentum we have built from this campaign will enable us to focus on key priorities that will enhance Columbia College. We must continue to strengthen the College, build the greatest undergraduate experience for our students and faculty, and provide for the next generation of Columbians. We need to sustain the Core, which unites Columbia College students and alumni; we need to support our students, who are at the core of the College — through financial aid, summer internships, study abroad, research and fellowship opportunities, and other programs and services — and we need to support the faculty who teach our students, who are world-class researchers, outstanding teachers and thought-leaders in their fields. We need to be the best Columbia we can be so we can continue to attract the best students, regardless of their families' abilities to pay, and ensure a diverse community where students can learn as much from one another as they do from our faculty. Sustaining the College's success will take a lot of work, and your participation is essential. I hope you will remain engaged, continue to connect with the College and take advantage of programs and opportunities that we offer.

In this issue, you'll read about some of the remarkable Columbians who have achieved success in the performing arts, and some of the unique Columbia traditions that have influenced them on their path to greatness — in particular the Varsity Show, but also groups like Columbia University Players, King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe and Columbia Musical Theatre Society, to name a few. Columbia College students interested in theater and

film can take advantage of the School of the Arts and courses in Barnard's Department of Theatre.

Columbia University's resources — including our world-renowned faculty, 16 graduate and professional schools, hundreds of extracurricular opportunities, and many institutes and centers across campus and around the globe — are among the many things that make Columbia College special, and this is especially true for students interested in theater and the performing arts. These opportunities are enhanced by the University's location in the greatest city in the world, where students can take advantage of countless arts internships, world-class performances and unique cultural opportunities. Our Columbia Arts Experience internship program, for example, provides select students with a New York-based internship in the arts and connects them with special events and educational programming

designed to help them explore career possibilities. Our NYC Performing Arts Alternative Spring Break program gives students with a passion for performing arts the chance to attend theater, music and dance performances; participate in workshops on topics such as audience development and careers in arts administration; and reflect on their own work and the performing arts community on campus during spring break.

Performing arts is just one example of the many professions that College students embark on, and one of the many passions that we support through our programs and opportunities. But none of these programs would be possible without the support and guidance of former students, parents of students, and friends of the College. So I thank you, once again, for all that you have done during The Columbia Campaign and all that you continue to do for the College. Your commitment to Columbia is extraordinary, and I look forward to working together to sustain the College, build programs and opportunities, and support the next generation of Columbians.



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

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Letters to the Editor

A Football Alternative

So the Lions were winless again this year — more evidence that building a viable football program at Columbia is unlikely. The banging-head-on-wall metaphor seems to describe this entire subject and leads to my suggestion: Just stop it. Give up football. We don't need an Eric Kandel to explain that this game can, and too often does, cause permanent brain injury. It is time Columbia made a statement about this by dropping the sport altogether or replacing it with a touch or flag version. Encourage the rest of the Ivies to do the same.

I know, I know. "The alums would never stand for it! What about the University's investment in facilities?" And so on. No doubt such a change would be difficult. But it's time. Columbia should lead the way.

Jeff Fereday '72
BOISE, IDAHO

[Editor's note: The writer played lightweight football for Columbia in 1969.]

Seeking Change

A group of alumni that includes former athletes and non-athletes, Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame members, major contributors and a former University trustee has formed the Committee for Athletic Excellence at Columbia (CAEC) to seek change. The immediate spark for this was the past football season but the fuel consists of a long history of sub-par athletic accomplishment.

Since the creation of the Ivy League in 1956, Columbia owns the significantly worst team record of any member school. We have won 89 team championships out of a possible 1,755. Brown is the second worst with 119 titles, 33 percent more than us. This institutional futility comes despite a large athletics budget that might be justified in terms of student development, morale, spirit and alumni contributions but only if Columbia fielded credible teams. With rare exception, we do not. Our historic average of 1.6 titles per year has not changed during the past five years, so there has not been any recent improvement, either.

CAEC suggests that the administration concede this history is unacceptable and represents a black eye for the University. Additionally, acceptable fitness facilities for athletes and non-athletes alike are

sadly lacking on campus, notwithstanding tremendous expenditures for facilities five miles away.

We request that CU commission a study to analyze the historic failure of CU athletics and make recommendations on how to achieve competitive respectability. We don't point to specific issues or individuals; we simply want to have a competent third-party analysis. We believe that Columbia's students, faculty and alumni all deserve these answers. At the same time, we also insist on the University formulating and executing an acceptable plan to provide state-of-the-art campus fitness facilities for the entire Columbia community, athletes and non-athletes.

We welcome all to join CAEC (lion-sports.org) and to support these proposals.

Richard Forzani '66
GARFIELD, N.J.

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All the Columbia World's a Stage

I never got to see a Varsity Show when I was a student. My freshman year was 1967–68, and the Varsity Show was one of many things at Columbia — just about everything, actually — that fell victim to that spring's demonstrations. After buildings were occupied beginning on April 23, 1968, and especially after the police bust in the early hours of April 30, what passed for normal activities on campus came to a screeching halt.

Classes were canceled, although some faculty chose to continue meeting with their students either outdoors on campus or in faculty apartments. There were plans for a 1968 Varsity Show based on Erskine Caldwell's *Tobacco Road* but it was never staged. And it would not be until 1978 that the Varsity Show was revived with *The Great Columbia Riot of '78*.

The first Varsity Show I saw was in 2001, a few years after I began editing this magazine. *Sex, Lions, and Videotape* also happened to be the first Varsity Show to be staged in Roone Arledge Auditorium of the newly opened Alfred Lerner Hall. I've attended several since then, and hope to be in the audience when this year's edition takes place Friday, May 2–Sunday, May 4.

The Varsity Show is not Columbia's only student theatrical production — far from it. As you'll learn in the roundup that appears in this issue, there are many other groups that stage performances during the school year. But the Varsity Show, which was first staged in 1894, is Columbia's oldest performing arts tradition and, arguably, one of Columbia's oldest traditions of any kind.

Now, as Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '86J, '90 GSAS points out in the essay that introduces this issue's theme (see page 18), many of our peers have their own versions of the Varsity Show — an annual musical comedy, created by students, that satirizes life at their school. So what's so special about our Varsity Show?

For one, its alumni. Some of the most prominent names in Broadway history cut their theatrical teeth on the Varsity Show. Composer Richard Rodgers '23 ranks as one of the creators of the modern Broadway musical, yet before he collaborated on shows like *South Pacific* and *The Sound of Music* with Oscar Hammerstein II (Class of 1916) and on *Babes in Arms* and *Pal Joey* with Lorenz Hart (Class of 1918J), he worked with them on the Varsity Show. Ed Kleban '59, lyricist for *A Chorus Line*, and Terrence McNally '60, who won Tony Awards in consecutive years for writing *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class*,

worked together on the Varsity Show. More recently, Tom Kitt '96 and Brian Yorkey '93, the duo who won Tony and Pulitzer awards for *Next to Normal* and created this spring's *If/Then*, met and had their first collaboration on the Varsity Show.

The success of Varsity Show alumni extends beyond the stage — way beyond. Herman Mankiewicz (Class of 1917), who with Orson Welles wrote *Citizen Kane*, and Herman Wouk '34, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Caine Mutiny* and many other novels, are Varsity Show alumni. I.A.L. Diamond '41, Billy Wild-

er's co-author on *The Apartment* and *The Fortune Cookie*, wrote four Varsity Shows, the only person ever to do so. When the MGM movie studio needed a logo, publicist and Varsity Show alumnus Howard Dietz (Class of 1917J) thought of the Columbia mascot and came up with the iconic roaring lion. Cultural historian Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS and Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Sid Luckman '39 were Varsity Show alumni, as are singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman '68 of Sha Na Na and comedian Kate McKinnon '06 of *Saturday Night Live*.

But a roster of famous alumni is not enough. What makes the Varsity Show an enduring treat for Columbians is the creativity and dedication of the students who gather each fall to begin the process of producing the latest edition and spend countless hours crafting it into the production that is seen during performance weekend.

Naturally, some Varsity Shows are better than others. The writing may be better in some years than others; same for the music and the acting and the staging. Despite the best efforts of the Admissions Office, not every class contains a writer like Diamond, a composer like Rodgers or a lyricist like Hammerstein. And sometimes even the best talent produces a show that falls short of the mark. Will this be one of those years when it all comes together? At least today's students will have a chance to find out for themselves.

We hope you enjoy our look behind the scenes at preparations for this year's Varsity Show, at the visual history of this longstanding tradition, the conversation with Varsity Show alumni Kitt and Yorkey, and the snapshots of the many other talented theatrical groups on campus. And we urge you, whether you happen to be on Morningside Heights or are planning a visit, to check out one of their productions.

Alex Sachare



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

AROUND THE QUADS

Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2014

BY LISA PALLADINO



Catching up with friends on the Low Steps — just like the old days — is one of many things Alumni Reunion Weekend attendees can enjoy while back on campus.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Fourteen classes will gather Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, for Alumni Reunion Weekend. The celebration is a chance for alumni to connect with old friends and make new ones, and to rediscover the campus and the city where they created memorable and meaningful moments. Celebrating this year are alumni from classes ending in 4 and 9, from 1944–2009.

Highlights of the weekend will include

- class-specific gatherings planned by

- each class' Reunion Committee;
- cultural outings such as the New York Philharmonic, American Ballet Theatre, Broadway theater and an art gallery crawl;
- intellectual classes featuring Mini-Core Courses given by Columbia faculty members;
- the Dean's Day keynote lecture with Eric Foner '63, '69 GSAS, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History;
- affinity receptions for members of *Columbia Daily Spectator*, varsity

- athletics, veterans and alumni on active duty, and student leadership;
- Camp Columbia for Kids, an all-day Saturday program for Lion cubs ages 3–12; and
- the all-class Wine Tasting and Starlight Reception with dancing on Low Plaza.

"Reunion and Dean's Day are opportunities for generations of alumni to return to campus, see classmates and friends, and renew connections with the College," says Dean James J. Valentini. "I

look forward to celebrating with former students who graduated in years ending in 4 and 9 throughout the weekend and invite other alumni, along with parents and friends, to join me on Dean's Day for thought-provoking lectures on topics ranging from science to art to literature and to engage with the Core Curriculum, the common intellectual experience that connects all current and former Columbia College students."

Alumni who attended Reunion 2013 noted how wonderful it was to be back on campus with classmates.

"My 60th reunion was a remarkable experience. I reconnected with old as well as long-term friends. The Mini-Core was a step back into heaven," said Bill Frosch '53, voicing the sentiments of many attendees.

And for those who helped to plan their class' reunion, seeing their work come to fruition was especially rewarding: "Reunion was a wonderful experience both for me and my classmates who returned to campus, some for the first time since graduation," said Rachel Mintz '93. "From the cocktail parties to the Dean's Day talks to the barbecue to the class dinner to dancing under the stars on Saturday night, Alumni Reunion Weekend allowed me to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. It was excellent, and I am so glad to have been a part of both planning and participating in it."

Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2
reunion.college.columbia.edu
college.columbia.edu/deansday
ccalumni@columbia.edu
 212-851-7488

If this is your reunion year, watch for Alumni Reunion Weekend materials by mail and email, go to the reunion website to register for reunion and Dean's Day events and to get event details (reunion.college.columbia.edu) or refer to the box at the top of your Class Notes column in this issue for staff contact information. Dean's Day is open to alumni of all class years but if it is not your reunion year, you need to register on the Dean's Day website (college.columbia.edu/deansday) or by calling the Alumni Office (212-851-7488). Deans' Day information, with lecture and registration details, will be sent to those in non-reunion years.

For an idea of what to expect from reunion and Dean's Day, check out the "2013 Reunion Highlights" on the reunion website.

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti '92 Joins Dean James J. Valentini in Conversation



Dean James J. Valentini joined about 200 College alumni, parents, students and friends in Beverly Hills on January 15 for an evening with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA (above, left). Held at the Beverly Hills home of David Javdan '90, the evening featured time to mingle with guests and with Garcetti as well as a discussion between Garcetti and Valentini. The mayor spoke about his time at Columbia; the Core Curriculum; the two organizations he helped to found, the Harlem Restoration Project and Columbia Urban Experience; and what he thinks about now as mayor. See more event photos at facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums.



Columbia Campaign Raises More Than \$6.1 Billion

The Columbia Campaign, the nine-year, University-wide fundraising and alumni-relations effort that concluded on December 31, raised more than \$6.1 billion. This total is the largest sum raised by a single campaign in Ivy League history and the second largest ever raised by any university.

Generous alumni, parents and friends of Columbia gave \$980 million to the Campaign for Undergraduate Education, and more than \$1 billion for student financial aid across Columbia's schools, including \$401 million for Columbia College students. Donors also gave \$25.5 million for advising at the College and Engineering through The Austin E. Quigley Endowment for Student Success, nearly \$4 million for internships and nearly \$1.5 million for undergraduate research programs. Donors endowed 43 new professorships for faculty in the Arts

and Sciences departments that teach Columbia College students and 222 additional professorships around the University; gave \$100 million to Columbia Athletics; and gave close to \$1 billion in capital funding for projects including Hamilton Hall, the Northwest Corner Building for interdisciplinary science on the Morningside campus, the Campbell Sports Center at Baker Athletics Complex and the first buildings on the new Manhattanville campus.

"Even the bare statistics underlying the Campaign total are amazing and should give us heart for Columbia's future," President Lee C. Bollinger noted in a message to the Columbia community. "This vast personal engagement with the institution and commitment of resources is nothing less than extraordinary, and, so too, is the institution's renewed capacity for Columbia to help society overcome the fateful chal-

lenges in the century ahead." Bollinger also noted that the campaign record would likely be broken by another Columbia campaign, adding, "We will not for a moment pause in the effort to supplement the University's financial foundation, which is the eternal spring that feeds the creativity of our extraordinary students and unmatched faculty."

Dean James J. Valentini affirmed Bollinger's message, saying the campaign was an outstanding success and set the stage for a stronger Columbia. "Our challenge now is to find ways to build upon the remarkable success of the Columbia Campaign and translate that into programs and initiatives that directly impact Columbia College students so that we can continue to create the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world," he said.

Schiller To Chair Board of Trustees

Jonathan D. Schiller '69, '73L, a prominent attorney and the recipient of the 2012 Alexander Hamilton Award, the College's highest honor, has been elected co-chair of the University's Board of Trustees alongside current chair William V. Campbell '62, '64 TC. Schiller will succeed Campbell as chairman upon the latter's retirement from the board.

Schiller, who played on Columbia's 1968 Ivy League champion basketball team, is a co-founder and managing partner of the law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner. His practice concentrates on complex litigation and international arbitration, and he has successfully tried cases before juries and judges in federal and state courts throughout the United States and before arbitral tribunals in Europe and Asia as well as the United States. He has been honored frequently for his professional service and success and is a fellow of the American Bar Association.

"The University is extremely fortunate to have a person of Jonathan's talent and character to take on this leadership role on our board," said Campbell, who has served on the board since 2003 and was elected chair in 2005. "Our board and the University will benefit from Jonathan's



Jonathan D. Schiller '69, '73L

expanded role, and I am looking forward to collaborating with him to build on the substantial progress of recent years."

"I'm honored to take on this responsibility at an institution that has meant so much to me and my family," said Schiller, whose three sons are all Columbia alumni. "Under Bill Campbell's extraordinary

chairmanship, the board has become a vibrant community of ideas, hard work and shared commitment to Columbia. I know that in order to maintain Columbia's impressive momentum, we cannot pause in our collective efforts to help this great University prepare for the future. I am looking forward to fulfilling this role with the same inclusive, affirmative spirit that Bill has brought to the board and the Columbia community."

"Jonathan Schiller is deeply dedicated to Columbia and brings both great personal insight about the institution and admired professional experience to this important new role," said President Lee C. Bollinger. "It is especially fitting that at this moment when our University is embracing the opportunities of the 21st century, Jonathan eloquently speaks of the enduring importance of his study of our classic Core Curriculum. He is highly familiar with the initiatives that are essential to Columbia's future, both here in New York and around the globe, and we look forward to benefitting from his leadership together with Bill Campbell who, in his distinguished service on this board over the past decade, has been an extraordinary resource to this University and a close friend to me personally."

Joseph Ayala '94 Heads Double Discovery Center

Joseph Ayala '94 is the new executive director of the College's Double Discovery Center, which works to enhance higher education opportunities for local low-income and first-generation youth and adults aged 12-27. DDC's academic enrichment program, which serves approximately 1,000 students annually and has become a model for similar programs throughout the United States, focuses on ensuring high school graduation, college enrollment and completion, and responsible adulthood.

"We are excited to welcome Joe Ayala, a Columbia College graduate and nonprofit leader, as the new executive director of Double Discovery Center," says James J. Valentini, dean of Columbia College and v.p. for undergraduate education. "Joe's experience in youth development and advocacy, as well as his passion for helping the youth of our community, will be an asset to the organization and to DDC's current and future students and families."

Founded in 1965, DDC was the creation of Columbia undergraduates who were moved by the disparities between their Ivy League institution and the underserved Harlem community. Annually, 90 percent of high school seniors participating in DDC programs graduate on time and enter college the following fall semester, which greatly surpasses city, state and national outcomes for low-income, first-generation college and minority students.

Ayala is a leader in educational advocacy for the local community with nearly 20 years of experience in youth development. A Bronx native, he has focused on teaching and counseling underserved youth throughout his career. Ayala's background in youth development dates to his time as a College student, when he coordinated childcare for Columbia's Harlem Restoration Project.

"The opportunity to lead a program that provides support and guidance for young people who would otherwise not have those opportunities is extraordinarily exciting," says Ayala. "What I love most, which is at the core of DDC's mission, are the double discoveries: Columbia has the chance to discover the gold mine right in its own backyard, while our young people get to see one of the finest institutions in the world and create a set of expectations for themselves about what is possible for them to achieve."



Joseph Ayala '94 has focused on teaching and counseling youth throughout his career.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

Since 2006, Ayala has designed and implemented educational programs focused on college access and completion at Publicolor, a youth development nonprofit dedicated to enhancing opportunities for at-risk New York City children. Before joining Publicolor, he spent seven years at Prep for Prep, a leadership development program for promising New York City students of color, which he himself attended.

"Joe brings together a passion for the

center's mission with demonstrated experience helping New York City youth make the most of educational opportunities," says Roger Lehecka '67, '74 GSAS, a co-founder of DDC and member of the DDC Board of Friends. "His life is an example of how the right help at the right time can change everything. I am confident that his leadership and vision will provide such assistance to current and future DDC students."



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Annette Insdorf Ph.D. is the director of undergraduate film studies at Columbia and a professor in the Graduate Film Program of the School of the Arts (which she chaired 1990–95). She is the author of *Double Lives, Second Chances: The Cinema of Krzysztof Kieslowski; Francois Truffaut, a study of the French director's work; Philip Kaufman; and the landmark study Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust*. Her commentaries can be heard on many DVDs and she has interviewed more than 100 film celebrities in the popular "Reel Pieces" series at Manhattan's 92nd Street Y.

to be an opera singer. But when it came time to commit to singing in a larger way, my father warned me that the career of a performer is difficult and often short. He and my mother urged me — and I'll always be grateful to them — to go to the kind of college where my intellect could be expanded, and where I could really choose a career. That led me to CUNY's Queens College. My mother had recently earned a Ph.D. in French and was teaching there. She inspired me to embrace the same career, and off I went to Yale for a Ph.D. in English.

How would you describe your approach to cinema?

My approach is, first and foremost, sympathetic. When I sit down to watch any movie, I try to appreciate it in its own terms — whether it's mainstream, avant-garde, old or new. I seem to have developed a simultaneous emotional and cerebral response. I am able to feel things with immediacy in the darkness, while taking notes to grasp — and later understand — what I'm perceiving.

What undergraduate courses do you teach?

"American Film History, 1930–60" (also known as "Intro-

but has a certain cult status; for example, his *Saragossa Manuscript* was Jerry Garcia's favorite film.

What's your favorite place to be?

In my husband's arms.

What's your most treasured possession?

I try not to get attached to things but if there were a sudden fire in my apartment, the first thing I would grab while running out is my laptop. Isn't that awful?

What's the first movie you recall seeing?

It's either *Trapeze* or *The Greatest Show on Earth*. I'm not sure which one because I

remember only the exhilaration of the circus scenes.

What reading is on your nightstand right now?

The truth? All I have is a remote control to my TV, where the default channel is TCM, Turner Classic Movies. I tend to fall asleep while watching an old black-and-white film.

Interview: Alexis Tonti '11 Arts

duction to Genre and Auteur Study"), which is an introductory-level lecture course. And the "Senior Seminar in Film Studies," through which film majors write their senior essays. On a rotating basis, I also offer such courses as "Polish Film," "Holocaust Cinema" and "Auteur Study" (whether Kieslowski or Philip Kaufman).

What's the most valuable thing a professor can do for his or her students?

Get them to think with rigor as well as sympathy and to write with clarity as well as elegance.

Are you working on any personal projects right now?

I'm starting to work on my next book, which is about the films of Polish director Wojciech Has. He is not well known in the United States

Where were you born and raised?

Paris until I was 3½, at which point my parents decided we could all have a better life in New York. We did not have French citizenship: They were Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivors who met in Paris on a blind date at the circus. My father's cousin lived in the Bronx and urged us to move there. So we took the *SS Liberty* and eventually landed on the Grand Concourse.

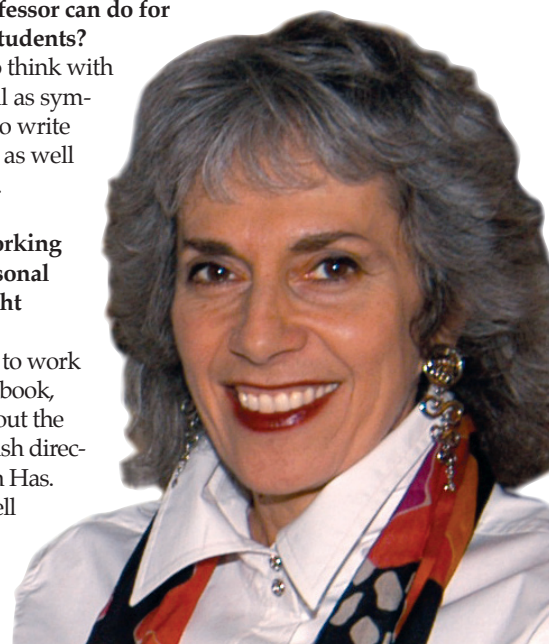
What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I first wanted to be a performer. I was always extroverted, singing at parties, and turning every street into a stage. Fortunately, my parents didn't think much of my aspiration and insisted that I take my classes seriously. I did, and loved school. But I had an impressive voice (mezzo-soprano), and I was accepted into the singing program at Juilliard. Every Saturday, from age of 13 to the age of 17, my mother accompanied me on the subway to this very neighborhood of Morningside Heights, where I was trained

Five Minutes with ... Annette Insdorf

What drew you to study film?

Yale had many great film societies when I was there, and I went to the movies almost every night. That was the real basis of my film education. I got the feeling from my classes that everything of value had already been written about literature. But with film, I had something new and meaningful to say. I was lucky because my adviser was Harold Bloom, and he convinced me not to leave Yale in order to try for a Ph.D. in film at NYU. Instead, he encouraged me to finish my doctorate in three years, and then teach whatever I want. After two years of coursework, I spent the third year writing my dissertation, and teaching a class at Yale on The French New Wave. ... I got to share with about 20 students the films of Truffaut, Godard, Resnais, Chabrol and Rohmer. We were all so excited by the personal movies of these former film critics, and by the cinematic language they were using to tell their stories.



Columbia Establishes Butler Aging Center

Columbia has established a University-wide, interdisciplinary aging center with a mission to explore and better understand the aging process and its societal implications, and named it in honor of the late Dr. Robert N. Butler '49, '53 P&S. The inaugural director of the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center is Ursula M. Staudinger, founding dean of the Jacobs Center on Lifelong Learning and Institutional Development at Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany, and v.p. of the German National Academy of Sciences.

Butler was a gerontologist, psychiatrist, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and founding director of the National Institute on Aging. "We are proud to have created this new center that will mobilize the intellectual resources of the entire University to address the challenges and opportunities that demographic change pose for individuals and society alike," said Provost John Coatsworth. Located at the Mailman School of Pub-



Dr. Robert N. Butler '49, '53 P&S
PHOTO: KIM MARTINEAU '97J

lic Health on the Medical Center campus, the Butler Columbia Aging Center consists of an Aging Lab and the International Longevity Center, founded by Butler in 1990,

and reflects the University's recognition that the study of aging is inherently multidisciplinary. The center organizes and builds on existing aging-related programs and activities, translating scientific knowledge into policy and practice. It focuses on the systemic nature of aging — the continual interaction among biological, behavioral and socio-cultural factors that constitute human development — and will forge partnerships with the academic, corporate, nonprofit and public sectors to develop policies on aging, engage communities and effect societal change.

The Aging Lab is dedicated to research on aging as well as on ways that individuals and society can benefit from the latest scientific knowledge. That research enables the International Longevity Center to develop public policies and education and community-outreach programs. The Longevity Center is part of a global consortium of 13 such centers, including ones in Cape Town, Paris and Tokyo.

Dean's Scholarship Reception Brings Together Donors and Recipients



Nearly 500 named scholarship donors and student recipients filled Roone Arledge Auditorium on February 6 at the annual Dean's Scholarship Reception. The reception gives students who receive named scholarships and the donors of those scholarships the opportunity to meet and to share stories about their College experiences. The evening's speakers were Dean James J. Valentini (above left, third from right); donor Daniel Loeb '83 and one of his scholarship recipients, Zack Susel '11; and Phillip Ross '14, a member of the Senior Fund Executive Committee. See more at college.columbia.edu/namedscholarships and facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ *Modern Vampires of the City*, the newest album by Vampire Weekend, was No. 1 on *Rolling Stone's* list of the 50 best albums of 2013 and No. 4 on *The Guardian's* Best Albums of 2013 list. Vampire Weekend's members, **Ezra Koenig '06**, **Rostam Batmanglij '06**, **Chris Tomson '06** and **Chris Baio '07**, met and began their musical career while College students.

■ **Melissa Mark-Viverito '91** was inaugurated as New York City Council speaker on January 29, succeeding Christine Quinn in what the *Daily News* called "New York City's second most powerful political post." Mark-Viverito, a council member since 2005, was elected unanimously with the support of new mayor Bill de Blasio and is the first Hispanic to hold citywide office. At her inauguration ceremony, Mark-Viverito declared, "Today, we live in the most unequal city in the nation. But it is a new day in New York City. Now is the time to embrace our progressive moment and put our values into action."

■ **David Henry Gerson '08**, who starred in the film *Chapel Perilous*, won the YouTube Audience Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, which took place January 16–26. The College was once again well-represented

at the festival, with alumni filling roles from executive producer to principal cast members. In addition to Gerson, others involved in films at the festival were **Sam Bisbee '90**, **Frances Bodomo '10**, **Maggie Gyllenhaal '99**, **Yana Gorskaya '96**, **Jim Jarmusch '75**, **Gabe Liedman '04**, **Colin Patton '01**, **Jonathan Schwartz '03**, **Jenny Slate '04** and **Caroline Suh '93**.

■ **Adam Kushner '03**, former executive editor of *National Journal*, has joined *The Washington Post* as editor of a new digital opinion and analysis venture that aims to deliver wide-ranging commentary on major debates facing Washington, D.C., the country and the world. At *National Journal*, Kushner ran all aspects of the weekly political magazine, from setting overall direction for coverage to overseeing individual writing. Previously, he was a senior editor at *Newsweek*, leading foreign coverage and writing on ideas and trends; editor of *TNR.com*, where he oversaw a site re-launch; and assistant managing editor at *The New Republic*.

■ The film *12 Years a Slave*, whose producers included **Dede Gardner '90**, won the Oscar for Best Motion Picture of the Year at the 2014 Academy Awards on March 2. Previously, it won the Best



Dede Gardner '90
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Motion Picture – Drama award at the Golden Globes, Movie of the Year at the AFI Awards and Best Film at the BAFTA Film Awards, among other honors.

■ **John Chun '91** was appointed a judge to King County's Superior Court by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, effective January 6. Chun had been a member of the Summit Law Group with a civil litigation practice and clerked for the Hon. Eugene Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

■ **Terrence McNally '60's** latest play, *Mothers and Sons*, opens on Broadway on March 24. Tony Award-winner Tyne Daly stars as a mother who pays an unexpected visit to the New York apartment of her late son's ex-partner, who is now married to another man and has a child, and is challenged to face how society has changed.

■ **Eric Goldstein '80**, who had been a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, will become CEO and e.v.p. of UJA-Federation of New York, the



Eric Goldstein '80

world's largest local philanthropy, on July 1. Goldstein has been involved in UJA-Federation activities for 25 years as a lay leader, most recently as vice chair, and will succeed John Ruskay, who is retiring after 15 years as CEO and EVP.

■ **Ganesh Betanabhatla '06**, managing director at Talara Capital and a former J.P. Morgan oil and gas investment banker, and **Matthew Schoenfeld '08**, a specialist in Morgan Stanley's risk arbitrage group, were among those named on *Forbes* magazine's "30 Under 30" list in finance for 2014, released in January. Betanabhatla also was recognized in January by *Oil and Gas Investor* as one of its "20 Under 40" in energy finance. Meanwhile, **Amir Rao '06**, co-founder of Supergiant Games and co-creator of the action role-playing video game *Bastion*, was included on *Forbes'* "30 Under 30" list in games for 2014.

■ **Julius M. Genachowski '85**, who from June 2009 to May 2013 chaired the FCC, has been named managing director of The Carlyle Group's U.S. Buyout, a fund

that engages in buyouts, privatizations and strategic minority investments.

■ **Stanley Lubman '55, '70L**, a pioneer in Chinese legal studies in the United States, received a Distinguished Columbian in Teaching Award from the Columbia Law School Association on January 3. Lubman is a senior fellow at The Honorable G. William and Ariadna Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law and a distinguished lecturer in residence at the UC Berkeley School of Law. He has specialized in China as a scholar and as a practicing lawyer for more than 50 years and taught at Stanford, Yale, Columbia, Harvard, the University of Heidelberg and the University of London before returning to Berkeley in 2002.



Stanley Lubman '55, '70L
PHOTO: UC BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW

■ **Janice B. Min '90, '91J** has become the co-president and chief creative officer of Guggenheim Partners, which owns *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Billboard*. She will be responsible for the editorial direction of the two brands. Min, who had been

the editorial director of *The Hollywood Reporter* since March 2010, previously was editor-in-chief of *Us Weekly*.

■ The legacy of former Dean of the College **Jack Greenberg '45, '48L**, a crusading civil rights attorney who argued the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* before the U.S. Supreme Court and won Martin Luther King Jr. the right to march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., was the focus of a symposium at the Law School on January 24. Greenberg, the Alphonse Fletcher Jr. Professor of Law, was dean from 1989 to 1993, after which he became a full-time professor and vice dean at the Law School. He also created its Human Rights Internship Program, which has placed more than 1,500 students in human rights organizations worldwide.

■ University Trustee **Jonathan S. Lavine '88**, managing partner of Sankaty Advisors and managing director of Bain Capital, will be the guest of honor at Columbia/Barnard Hillel's annual Seixas Award Dinner, to be held in Low Rotunda on May 15. Lavine, a former chair of the Board of Visitors, will receive the Gershom Mendes Seixas Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Jewish life at Columbia.

Contact CCT Online

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IN LUMINE TUO

■ **STIGLITZ:** University Professor and Nobel Laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz was awarded the 2014 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize for Research on Income Inequality. Named for the late New York senator, the award is presented annually by The American Academy of Political and Social Science to individuals who "use sound analysis and social science to inform public policy, while also contributing to the public discourse on society's most pressing issues." Stiglitz will be presented the prize on Thursday, May 8, in Washington, D.C.
The academy cites Stiglitz's recent book, *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*, as important, noting, "Stiglitz has contributed greatly to our understanding of the sources and dire ramifications of economic inequality in America."

■ **WILLIAMS:** Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of the classics department, was awarded the 2013 C.J. Goodman Award of Merit for his book *The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca's Natural Questions*. Williams' book examines the cultural and historical context that inspired Seneca's scientific and philosophical explanations of meteorological phenomena in his famous work *Natural Questions*.
On the importance of Williams' book, the award committee stated: "In an era when STEM-centered education seems to be crowding out the humanities, *The Cosmic Viewpoint* is a welcome reminder that our discipline has a good deal to offer those interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

Hire Columbians

Who better to hire Columbia students than Columbia alumni? That's the idea behind "Hire Columbians," a campaign by the Center for Career Education to get Columbia alumni to hire students for internships or full-time positions. For more information, go to careereducation.columbia.edu/hirecolumbians.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

College Has Broadened Bintu Conteh '14's Love of Theater

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

From performing Shakespeare to musical roles to an internship at the Apollo, **Bintu Conteh '14** has turned her time at the College into a training in all things theater.

Most influential, however, has been her experience with the student group Black Theatre Ensemble, which began with a lead role in spring 2011 as part of BTE's annual festival of one-act plays. The show, *Prophet's Wife*, was a drama by Harrison David Rivers '09 Arts about a woman married to a man without genitalia. "I remember thinking, 'Wow, others think I have the potential to carry a show.' That was really exciting for me," says Conteh, who had an ensemble role in the Kings Crown Shakespeare Troupe's presentation of *The Taming of the Shrew* that same semester.

She adds, "[*Prophet's Wife*] was really hard work because it was such a strange play. A lot of work went into connecting to the character, but I was thankful to be part of that show ... It was the first moment at Columbia where I realized, 'I think I can do this.'"

Conteh has since worn multiple hats with BTE, which showcases playwrights and actors of color. She was stage manager for its fall 2012 production of *Fun-nyhouse of a Negro*, a 1964 one-act play by Adrienne Kennedy, and directed the group's spring 2013 staging of *Til Death* by Nailah Robinson '13. Last fall, as BTE president and producer for Eisa Davis' Pulitzer-nominated play *Bulrushes*, Conteh managed the show's budget and secured space for rehearsals.

Bulrushes explores themes of race, sexuality and gender — the same topics that prompted Conteh to major in American studies. "I love that I get to incorporate what I'm learning in my classes into the kind of theater I am interested in," says Conteh, who cites two Barnard courses, "Black Women in America" and "Explorations in Black Theater," among those she has found most relevant.

Conteh, whose parents hail from Sierra Leone, attributes her initial interest

in performance to a casual remark by a family friend. "I was doing an imitation of my mom, with her accent and all, and my mom's best friend said, '[Bintu] is such a character.' And I thought, 'You know what, yes,'" recalls Conteh, who grew up in New Brunswick, N.J., and was around 10 at the time. "Since then, it's been something I've wanted to do."



Bintu Conteh '14 is pondering a career in theater administration.

PHOTO: ERICA BOWER '14

Beyond BTE, Conteh has played a disciple in the student troupe NO-MADS' spring 2012 production of Patrick Blute '12's *SPEARS: The Gospel According to Britney*, which narrates the life of Jesus through Britney Spears songs, and portrayed Chuck Bean in the Columbia Musical Theater Society's presentation of *Bright Lights, Big City* by Paul Scott Goodman. She says she particularly enjoyed her contrasting roles in the Barnard Theater Department's spring 2013 production of *Eye Piece*. The non-linear play by Barnard lecturer Rinde Eckert explores themes of sight and blindness. One of Conteh's characters, an elderly blind woman reading a magazine, provided comic relief; her other part was a personification of death.

Conteh was further exposed to the

African-American performing arts tradition at the Apollo Theater, where she procured a spring 2013 internship in the programming department through Columbia Arts Experience. The program, co-sponsored by the Center for Career Education and the Arts Initiative at Columbia University, offers art-related internships in New York City and provides support in the form of a stipend and career counseling. Conteh provided administrative support and contributed to the Apollo Archive Project, which involved organizing more than 2,000 colorized images of musicians who headlined the legendary venue.

She continued to intern at the Apollo during summer 2013, when she helped plan and orchestrate the first Breakin' Convention, a hip-hop dance festival that featured acts from around the world. William Furio, an associate in the Apollo's programming department, says the event showcased Conteh's energy and people skills. "She was there to coordinate the back and forth — calling restaurants, getting flowers, all while going up and down the stairs a million times," he says. "She was just so excited about everything."

As a result of her diverse experiences with BTE and the Apollo, Conteh is pondering a career as a theater producer. "I began to realize that I like all the aspects of theater, whether it is being on stage or backstage," she says.

Though she always planned to be involved in undergraduate theater, it was the Core that drew Conteh to the College. "I loved that I would take a science class, an art history class and a music class," says Conteh, who as a campus tour guide shares her enthusiasm for the Core with prospective students. "Something I like to say on my tours is that I want to be a genius. I want to know everything, and the Core is helping me with that endeavor."

Nathalie Alonso '08, from *Queens*, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball's official Spanish language website.

Roar, Lion, Roar

Boretti Builds Upon Lions' Baseball Legacy

BY LEE LOWENFISH '63

Columbia baseball has enjoyed its share of success through the years both in team and individual accomplishments, and coach Brett Boretti hopes to add to that legacy when the Lions defend their Ivy League championship this spring.

Columbia's most famous baseball alumnus was Lou Gehrig '25, who slugged home runs on South Field for two seasons before launching a Hall of Fame career with the New York Yankees. Earlier, Eddie Collins (Class of 1907) shone at short-stop for the Light Blue and went on to a Hall of Fame career as a second baseman with the Philadelphia Athletics and Chicago White Sox. More recently, Gene Larkin '84 stroked his way into baseball immortality with his extra-inning, pinch-hit single that won the 1991 World Series for the Minnesota Twins. And don't forget speedy outfielder Fernando Perez '06, who scored the winning run in the only game the Tampa Bay Rays won in the 2008 World Series.

There have been periods of team success as well. Columbia won consecutive Ivy League titles in 1933 and 1934, took three of four crowns from 1960 through 1963 and captured consecutive titles again in 1976 and 1977. Last year's Ivy championship was the 11th for the Light Blue and their second since Boretti arrived on campus prior to the 2006 season.

Fresh from five outstanding years at Division III Franklin and Marshall, where his teams compiled a 116-82 record, Boretti did not take long to establish a winning program. In just his third season he led Columbia to the 2008 Ivy League title, the Lions rallying to beat Dartmouth 7-5 in the deciding game of the best-of-three playoff in Hanover, N.H. Captain Henry Perkins '08 moved over from second base to save the game with four innings of stellar relief and also belted a big insurance home run.

There were no Gehrig Division (Columbia, Cornell, Penn and Princeton) or league titles the following season but for the first time Columbia did beat Division I powers in Texas (Lamar) and California (Cal-State Fullerton). In 2010, Columbia won the

Gehrig Division, but Dartmouth turned the tables by winning the rubber game of the best-of-3 playoffs at Columbia. Thus, it was sweet revenge for the freshmen from that team when, in front of a record-setting crowd of more than 1,000 at Columbia's Robertson Field at Satow Stadium last May, the Lions swept a doubleheader from the Big Green 6-5 (10 innings) and 12-5 to earn another trip to the NCAA tournament.

Boretti's 2013 Lions were not satisfied with just winning the Ivy League title, setting a regular season record of 16-4, and leading the league in batting average and ERA. To cap

off their memorable season, the Lions won an NCAA tournament game for the first time in school history. Trailing 5-0 against New Mexico in the eighth inning, first baseman Alex Black '13 got Columbia on the scoreboard with a two-run homer that sparked a rally that tied the game. After Columbia took the lead in the top of the 13th inning on second baseman Nick Crucet '13's RBI single, Black moved to the mound to earn the save.

One of the charms of college baseball is that talented position players like Black are often asked to contribute as pitchers. "The more your best athletes are on the field at important moments, the better your chances will be," says Boretti.

After Columbia's season ended with a loss to Arizona State, Black was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the 29th round of Major League Baseball's free agent draft. Working exclusively as a relief pitcher, he made an impressive pro debut with a 2-2 record and 3.24 ERA. He joins in pro baseball two other drafted Lions who played for Boretti:

Pat Lowery '12, the 2010 Ivy League Pitcher of the Year who has two years under his belt after being drafted in the 21st round in 2012 by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, and outfielder Dario Pizzano '14, the 2012 Ivy League Player of the Year who was selected by the Seattle Mariners in 2012. Since he was drafted, Pizzano has hit .324, slugged .482 and — impressively in this age of swing-and-miss baseball — has walked seven more times than he has struck out.



Brett Boretti has led the Lions to an 89-71 record in eight seasons as head coach.

PHOTO: GENE BOYARS



Boretti, with trophy, and assistant coach Dan Tischler leave Robertston Field at Satow Stadium after the Lions swept a doubleheader against Dartmouth on May 4 to win the 2013 Ivy League Championship.

PHOTO: MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Boretti, 42, a native of Beverly, Mass., who was named Ivy League Coach of the Year last season, came to Columbia with a solid baseball pedigree. He was a four-year starter at catcher for Davidson — yes, the same Davidson that ruined the NCAA hopes of Columbia’s great 1968 basketball team. Boretti played for and later was an assistant coach for the highly respected Dick Cooke, who has been on NCAA rules committees and was an assistant coach for Team USA at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2008 Beijing Olympics. During his junior year, in 1993, Boretti made the Southern Conference all-star team and followed it up during the summer by being selected to the all-star team of the prestigious Cape Cod League, where he competed against such future major league players as Nomar Garciaparra, Matt Morris and Jay Payton.

A learning experience that summer proved instrumental in Boretti’s development as a coach. “I struggled with failure as a player. I was a helmet-thrower,” he admits. A Cape Cod League coach called him aside and told him sternly that tantrums had no place in baseball; they hurt both the player and the team. He absorbed the lesson and passed it on after he turned to coaching, and now one of his greatest attributes is his ability to convey to players his hard-earned knowledge about baseball’s inevitable struggles.

“This game eats you alive,” says Mike DeFazio ’06, a catcher on Boretti’s first team, in 2006, which won only six Ivy League games. “I learned from coach Boretti that baseball is a game of failure, but you’re always one pitch away” from making something good happen. DeFazio now coaches for the KIPP charter

high school in New York City. Boretti is pleased that the coaching bug has also bitten Jon Eisen ’13, a player he describes as “the greatest overachiever I ever coached” and who is now working for the RBI (Restore Baseball in the Inner City) program in his hometown of Nashville.

Boretti, whose Columbia teams have compiled an 89–71 Ivy League record in his eight seasons, welcomes many voices to explore the subject of the mental game of baseball. He appreciates input from Brett Walker, Columbia’s new director of peak performance and a former college pitcher, who organizes regular seminars for the team. For winter break reading this year, Boretti distributed to the team copies of *Heads Up Baseball*, a book and tapes by sports psychologist Brian Cain.

As usual, the Lions will spend the early part of their season in warmer climes against opponents like South Florida and Texas before they open defense of their Ivy title on March 29 with a doubleheader against Brown at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium.

Leading the Lions will be their tri-captains, durable catcher Mike Fischer ’14, ace left-

handed pitcher David Speer ’14 and steady shortstop Aaron Silbar ’14. Boretti looks for a big season from Speer, whom he says “has increased his velocity from the low 80s [miles per hour] to the mid-80s, and he has a chance to pitch at the next level.”

Outfielder/designated hitter Joey Falcone ’16 GS, a former Marine medic and veteran of tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and son of former major league pitcher Pete Falcone, is back after hitting .331 and compiling a .520 slugging percentage last season. Nick McGuire ’16 may get a chance to fill Black’s big shoes, and Jordan Serena ’15, Gus Craig ’15E and Robb Paller ’16 will vie for playing time in the outfield.

In addition to Speer, who was 6–3 with a team-leading 2.34 ERA last season, another pitcher to watch is Joey Donino ’14, who was 7–0 with 69 strikeouts in just 56.2 innings last season. Kevin Roy ’16 and Zack Tax ’14, who contributed important shutdown innings in 2013, and newcomer Ryan Marks ’17 are also expected to see mound action.

Boretti and his staff are well aware that a target will be on Columbia’s head in 2014 — the respected national publication *Baseball America* has picked the Lions to repeat as Ivy League champion — but they relish the challenge. As associate head coach Pete Maki puts it, “Guys want to win for Boretti not just for themselves or their teammates. They want to win for him because he is so tremendously competitive.”

Lee Lowenfish ’63 is the author of the award-winning biography Branch Rickey: Baseball’s Ferocious Gentleman, and is a member of the national board of the College Baseball Hall of Fame.

Save the Date!

March 22
CAA Alumni Reception —
Baseball Austin, Texas

March 22
CAA Alumni Reception —
Women’s Tennis Miami

March 30
Field Hockey Alumnae Game

April 12
Baseball Homecoming Weekend vs. Princeton

April 29
Varsity C Celebration
Levien Gymnasium

May 5
Football Golf Outing

Men’s Fencing Shares Ivy Crown

Columbia’s men’s fencing team earned a share of the 2014 Ivy League Championship on February 9, compiling a 4–1 record to tie defending champion Harvard. It was Columbia’s first men’s fencing title since 2008 and 34th since Ivy fencing began in 1956. The Columbia women finished third at 4–2, behind Princeton and Harvard, even though the Lions lost Olympian Nzingha Prescod ’15 to injury on the first day of competition.

Columbia fencing enjoyed a superb season, the men attaining the nation’s No. 1 ranking and the women being ranked as high as fifth. The NCAA Championships will be held Thursday, March 20–Sunday, 23 in Columbus, Ohio.

Columbia’s men’s team easily defeated Penn and Brown to start the Ivy meet, then beat Harvard head-to-head by rallying from a 13–11 deficit as Jack Hoyle ’16, Harry Bergman ’16E and Brian Ro ’16 scored pressure wins. A 20–7 rout of Yale gave the Lions a 4–0 record going into their final match against Princeton, and the two teams were tied 12–12 before the Tigers won two of the last three bouts to win 14–13 and foil

Columbia’s bid for an outright Ivy title.

The Columbia women swept their opening-day matches against Penn, Brown and Cornell, but lost to Harvard 14–13 to start the second day. Columbia beat Yale 19–8 to keep its hopes for a share of the title alive, but Princeton, which won all six of its matches and had not lost in more than a year, beat Columbia 19–8 to drop the Lions to third place.

Men’s, Women’s Tennis Win ECAC Indoor Titles

Columbia’s men’s and women’s tennis teams enjoyed successful indoor seasons highlighted by wins at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Indoor Championships.

After beating five of six opponents to start their spring season, the men’s team blanked Harvard 4–0 to win the ECAC title on February 17. The Lions got off to a quick start by taking the doubles point as the teams of Winston Lin ’15-Mike Vermeer ’16 and Dragos Ignat ’16-Richard Pham ’17 won their matches. Vermeer, Ashok Narayana ’15 and Bert Vancura ’15 posted singles victories for the sweep. The other three singles matches were still in progress at the time of Columbia’s clinching win, so they were not completed.

Following the ECAC victory, Columbia rose six places to No. 34 in the International Tennis Association (ITA) national rankings.

One week earlier, Columbia’s women’s team beat Yale for the first time since 2006, winning the ECAC crown 4–1 on February 9. Columbia captured the doubles point when, after the teams split the first two matches, Crystal Leung ’15 and Tina Jiang ’17 rallied from a 3–5 deficit to even the final match and ultimately win 8–6. Singles victories by Jiang, Kanika Vaidya ’16 and Ioana Alecsiu ’14 gave the Lions the ECAC Championship.

Columbia’s women climbed to No. 35 in the ITA national rankings as of February 18, the highest in program history.

For the latest news on Columbia athletics, visit gocolumbiaions.com.

Women’s Swimming and Diving Sweeps Dual Meets

Columbia’s women’s swimming and diving team enjoyed its best season in program history, sweeping all Ivy opponents in the Lions’ first undefeated dual-meet campaign.

“If you said this to us as freshmen, or even last year, it would have been completely unbelievable. To do something completely unprecedented ... it’s exciting to be a part of history,” said team captain Corinna Bertelsen ’14.

Columbia started the season with a splash on November 9, defeating Harvard for the first time in program history at Uris Pool 163.5–136.5. Wins over Yale and Penn the following weekend sent the Lions into winter break with a 3–0 record. The Lions easily defeated Cornell and Brown, then capped their dual-meet season with wins over Princeton 165–131 and Dartmouth 167–124 on the final weekend. Highlighting the victory over

Dartmouth were the performances of Gabbie Toback ’17, who won the 200 backstroke in 1:58.25 to set a program and Uris Pool record, and Mikaila Gaffney ’15, who won the 200 freestyle and 200 breaststroke and participated in the winning 200 medley relay.

“It feels absolutely amazing to finish 7–0, the best we’ve ever been as a team,” said Alena Kluge ’14, whose program record in the 200 backstroke was broken by Toback. “I’ve seen a lot of improvement in my teammates, and being part of a team that could go out like this — I couldn’t ask for more.”

Columbia finished fourth in the Ivy League Championships on February 20–22 as Harvard won for the third consecutive year. Kluge won the 200 individual medley and Gaffney finished first in the 100 breaststroke.

SCOREBOARD

1 Men’s fencing’s national ranking and finish at the Ivy League Championships.

\$12,279

Money raised by Columbia Athletics for cancer research during its Play 4 Kay women’s basketball game.

35 Highest national women’s tennis ranking in school history, achieved this year.

2 ECAC tennis titles Columbia holds this year, with both the men’s and women’s teams winning.

7 Number of dual-meet Ivy League wins by women’s swimming and diving, as the Lions went 7–0 against league opponents.

Varsity Show Endears and Endures

BY THOMAS VINCIGUERRA '85, '86J, '90 GSAS

In a world of planned obsolescence and the latest Internet meme, some things do last. Every year, the Varsity Show delights the Columbia community with a witty, razor-sharp reminder of what really matters in these parts. The production is a rite of spring, a heady respite before dreaded finals. It's also the savviest take on the undergraduate experience around. If you want to know what's uppermost on the student mind, buy a ticket. All will be revealed in the two-plus hours that send up everything from devilish administrators to micro-trends, from Plato to libido.

Why, though, do such adolescent shenanigans endure? And make no mistake; endure they do. The Varsity Show has been around for 120 years. That makes it one of the oldest things on the Morningside campus — older than the campus itself, in fact.

It's too easy to explain the show merely by thundering, like Tevye, "Tradition!" After all, plenty of our rituals have gone the way of mandatory Latin. Most aren't missed. Can anyone describe the Cane Spree? What was the Goodwood Cup given for, anyway? Is there a single person who cares?

Quite simply, the Varsity Show is still with us because we need it. From time to time, every young woman and man in the College, confronting the triple threat of adulthood, the Core Curriculum and the greatest city in the world, requires some kind of affirmation. The Varsity Show offers it in the best possible way — by mocking what's driving them nuts and celebrating whatever instills confidence. If the show offers up an earful about the aesthetic (and nomenclatural) horrors of the Northwest Corner Building or a particular class creep, fear not. It won't be long before *Alma Mater* herself arises from her throne and appears on stage before you, ready to reassure and inspire.

Now, the show is hardly unique. Just about every outfit of higher learning worth mentioning has its loopy annual musical comedy. Columbia itself has several. A certain J.D. program here offers The Law Revue. Over at Uris, they unwrap the Columbia Business School Follies not once but twice a year.

Nonetheless, the Varsity Show is nonpareil. Any effort that can attract such wildly diverse talents as John Erskine (Class of 1900), Herman Mankiewicz (Class of 1917), Jacques Barzun '27, I.A.L. Diamond '41, Sorrell Booke '49, Terrence McNally '60, Howard Kissel '64, Jon "Bowzer" Bauman '68, Jeanine Tesori '83 Barnard, David Rakoff '86, Eric Garcetti '92, Brian Yorkey '93, Tom Kitt '96, Jenny Slate '04, Greta Gerwig '06 Barnard and Kate McKinnon '06 has earned bragging rights. Whenever the kids in Cambridge smugly mention Hasty Pudding, or Old Nassau types pile it on about the

Triangle Club, all you have to do is say, "Rodgers and Hammerstein." If that doesn't shut them up, just add, "And Hart."

Not that it's an unbroken lineage by any means. In 1895, a bare year after its founding, the show's leading lights, acting out of pure ego, refused to mount a follow-up. WWII pre-empted the proceedings in 1943. Creative bankruptcy and insufficient funds were at fault, respectively, in 1962 and 1965. The unpleasantness of 1968 seemed, at the time, to be the final blow.

Yet as the campus regrouped, in the four years from 1978 to 1982 precisely as many efforts to revive the show arose. The last one, *Columbia Graffiti*, was a modest cabaret that wasn't even called a Varsity Show. Nonetheless, the crew that produced it galvanized the Class of 1920 into donating its treasury the following year to ensure that never again would the production languish. And for a generation, it hasn't.

It's that unspoken ethos, transcending the years, that defines the Varsity Show as more than a theatrical. It's part of the student DNA. Put it this way: In 1906, the audience for *The Conspirators* was implored to clap its hands and cheer to save Tinker Bell and the football team alike. You could drop that same shtick into the show today and get the same uproarious result.

Talk about spirit. As surely as South Field will always have scuff marks, and as surely as there is a College on Broadway, every year a distinctly Light Blue reality check of gags, ballads, show stoppers and, of course, pony ballets can be counted on to lift us out of our academic doldrums — and, for a while at least, leave us humming.

Former CCT acting editor **Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '86J, '90 GSAS** directed, performed and wrote — in ascending order of competence — portions of the Varsity Shows *Columbia Graffiti* and *Fear of Scaffolding*. He is the author of "*Sing a Song of Morningside*," a history of the show that appears in the 110th anniversary book *The Varsity Show: A Celebration*.



John Bateman '38, '39 GSAS, captain of Columbia's 1937 football team, smokes a cigar while being made up prior to 1939's *Fair Enough*.

PHOTO: WIDE WORLD PHOTOS, INC.



The cast and creative team behind this spring's Varsity Show pose in John Jay Lounge.

Another Opening, Another Varsity Show

Since 1894, the theatrical tradition has satirized Columbia in song and dance

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

PHOTOS: CHAR SMULLYAN

SPRING 2014

20

A reporter assigned to write about the 120th Varsity Show runs into an immediate access problem. In a friendly but firm email, the producers, Allie Carieri '15, Ally Engelberg '15 Barnard and Renee Kraiem '14 Barnard, decline a request to observe a rehearsal. Having consulted with the cast and other creative team members, they cite a historic policy of keeping the details of the show secret from the press and public.

In its business of satirizing Columbia in song and dance, little is off-limits for the Varsity Show. The popularity of the student-produced musical stems precisely from its penchant for commenting on sensitive issues with a humorous eye. The response from the producers for V120, however, make it clear that if anything remains sacred for the Varsity Show, it's the traditions and collaborative spirit that have come to define it.

Except for a hiatus following the 1968 student demonstrations and three other one-year interruptions, the Varsity Show has taken place annually since 1894, when it was founded as a fundraiser for Athletics. More than 100 undergraduates — the show is open to participation by College, Engineering, Barnard and General Studies students — devote long hours each year to perpetuating this oldest of Columbia's performing arts traditions.

The process begins anew each fall, when the creative team from the previous show chooses its successors. (Seniors who graduated the previous year are expected to return for this purpose.) Consisting of a director, producers, writers, composers, lyricists, a choreographer and an artistic director — nine to 10 students in total — the new team's first task is to audition and select a cast of 10–15 students. In a deviation from conventional theater practices, Varsity Show characters and songs are tailored to the actors' stage personalities and vocal ranges. "It's really nice to have someone write material for you," says V117 cast member and V119 director Chris Silverberg '13.

And then there is the way actors are notified of their selection: with a pie to the face. In a quirky community-building tradition that yields some emotionally intense moments, the creative team startles newly minted cast members in their dorms, often late at night, with tins of whipped cream. "I was in pajamas, my hair was wet, and I wasn't wearing shoes," recalls Carieri, an ensemble member for V118. "I remember bursting into tears because it

was a dream of mine. It was just the coolest experience."

V116 cast member and V120 director Emily Feinstein '14 Barnard calls "pieing" a fellow student "the biggest rush" of her life, adding: "Initiating someone into the Varsity Show is more than just this funny thing of putting a pie in their face. You are inviting them into a [more than] 120-year-old tradition."

It is common for a student to be involved with multiple Varsity Shows. Feinstein and Silverberg, both cast members turned directors, agree that having been on stage proves useful in the moments of frustration that inevitably arise over the course of a semester-long production. "It gave me an understanding of when things are going to be rough and the ability to encourage the creative team and the cast at those moments and say, 'Hey, I know that we are not comfortable with this scene or this song right now but it is going to work out,'" says Silverberg.

After selecting a cast, the creative team goes on a weekend retreat during winter break — in recent years, these gatherings have taken place at a team member's home on Long Island and a suite in East Campus residence hall — to develop a plot and scene-by-scene breakdown of the show. "We all bring this Columbia experience with us and what we've felt at Columbia and noticed that year and want to bring out in our show," says Solomon Hoffman '14, the composer for V118 and V120.

Though each member has specific responsibilities, the Varsity Show is distinguished by a hyper-collaborative creative process in which it is typical — and expected — for the choreographer (in the case of V120, Lauren Wingenroth '15 Barnard) to make suggestions about set design, or for the composer to solicit feedback from the writers and director. "It's a unique situation where everyone has input about everything," says Eric Donahue '15, co-writer for V119 and V120. "Final decisions on a matter are left to [the creative team member who's in charge] but, for example, I came up with a song idea last year. Other [creative team members] would pitch us jokes and things would come up in conversation; we came up with the set ideas together."

In recent years, those sets have been constructed at Prentiss Hall on West 125th Street, which offers the convenience of a loading dock. Though Jiin Choi '14, the artistic director for V119 and V120, also calls the Varsity Show "one of the most collaborative processes I've been a part of," one of the set pieces she is most fond of is something of her own design: a cardboard sink she



Last year's Varsity Show, *The Great Netscape*, centered around a storm-induced Internet outage on campus.

SPRING 2014

21

created for a V118 scene that took place in a student's room in Wien. "Though it felt like a minor detail, a lot of people in the audience were able to see that sink and say, 'That's Wien Hall,'" she says. "It really reminded me to think of details like that."

Mounting a full-length, entirely student-driven musical is, by all accounts, a lofty and demanding endeavor. The stakes are magnified by the show's rich history — Varsity Show alumni include the likes of Oscar Hammerstein II (Class of 1916), Richard Rodgers '23, I.A.L. Diamond '41 and Terrence McNally '60 — and its prominence in the Columbia community. "There is an immense amount of pressure to create something unique and hysterical and touching and relatable to every person in the theater," says Engelberg, who also was a producer for V119. "Once we get it right, we know it's going to be fantastic, but throughout the process it's really on your shoulders, knowing that this is a large event and people are watching."

As Engelberg notes, chief among the creative team's challenges is crafting a show that resonates with Columbia's various undergraduate constituencies. "Students need to feel that the person they are watching sing or act or dance on stage is a part of them, a character that could be one of their friends or someone they know," says Nick Parker '14, the lyricist for V119 and V120. "The issue is that there is not one thing that makes Columbia, Columbia; there aren't just four or five things. What you might think is a very Columbia thing, like the Core, is only specific to CC, and to some extent, SEAS."

Coming up with a plot specific to Columbia can also be a challenge, as Donahue learned from writing V119, *The Great Netscape*, which featured a storm-induced Internet outage on campus. While he thinks that the show succeeded in giving the audience an opportunity to simultaneously laugh and feel proud of their school, this time around, he and co-writer Rae Binstock '15 are looking to develop a plot in which the stakes hit closer to home. In that regard, Donahue praises V118, *The Corporate Core*, in which a CC student and self-proclaimed Renaissance man named Phineas takes on an administrator who abolishes the Core in favor of a business curriculum. "The Internet going down in this day and age lent itself to a lot of funny situations. There was a lot of humor in that," says Donahue. "But bringing the Internet back up wasn't Columbia-specific and not something that the audience

would care about as much as, for example, replacing humanities with corporate training."

Save for the West End Preview in February, when a selection of scenes and songs are unveiled to the Columbia community at what is now Havana Central at The West End, the premise of any Varsity Show remains a mystery until opening night. The secrecy amps up the excitement and suspense that surrounds the show but it is also a by-product of more practical concerns: the show typically undergoes adjustments right up until the curtain rises.

A key moment in that regard is Turkey Day, a longstanding tradition in which the cast and crew perform a full show for an audience of Varsity Show alumni — the event is open to all former participants — who then offer constructive criticism. It takes place the week before Spring Break, leaving a window of fewer than six weeks for show members to digest and implement feedback. Changes can range from making minor tweaks to scrapping an entire scene to gutting the entire show.

The Internet outage that was the main conflict of V119, for example, was introduced after Turkey Day. V116 and V117 were rewritten in their entirety. In the latter, Silverberg originally played what he describes as a "morose SEAS computer programmer." But at Turkey Day, "they asked, why are you making this silly, exaggerated performer do this heavy, unenthusiastic character?" says Silverberg. "So [the creative team] went back and came up with something that played more to the silliness I brought as a performer." The new part was a male student enrolled at Barnard.

"After Turkey Day, you have all of these different opinions in your head: what people have said to you, what numbers people liked, what numbers fell flat. Making sense of all of that and putting in into the final product can be a challenge," says Hoffman, who had to pen a few songs from scratch in the run-up to V118. "It's certainly a crunch, but it's also really exciting to get to develop better material, and by that point you've had more practice so it tends to happen more easily."

Hoffman's post-Turkey Day responsibilities also include arranging the music for the show's pit orchestra, which has expanded under his watch to feature more than 20 musicians from various student music groups. "It joins musicians from the classical, jazz, rock and pop communities here at Columbia," says Hoffman.



The creative leaders behind V120 lifted their veil of secrecy just long enough for CCT to photograph a dance rehearsal in John Jay Lounge.

Following the final performance of each year's Varsity Show, the set is struck and parts of it become, as Choi puts it, "souvenirs" for the cast and the crew. Carieri kept the foamcore pizza she donned for "Natural Selection," a tap dance number in V118 that extolled the virtues of the unusually large slices served by Morningside Heights institution Koronet. Engleberg has a 110th Street sign from V119 that came apart during that year's Saturday show. "I will have that sign in my room for life to remind me that things are sometimes uncontrollable and you just have to roll with it," she says.

For Kraeim, taking apart the set was bittersweet. "Everything you put effort into is dismantled at a speed that is incomprehensible compared to the amount of work you put in," she says. "There is something dramatic about it, but then there is also something really important — the reminder that the actual product that we put out is only so much of what we take away from this. The family and the experience you get is so much more than those four shows."

Close bonds often develop among the cast and creative team of a single production, which is hardly surprising given the amount of time they spend together. V120 calls for rehearsals all semester

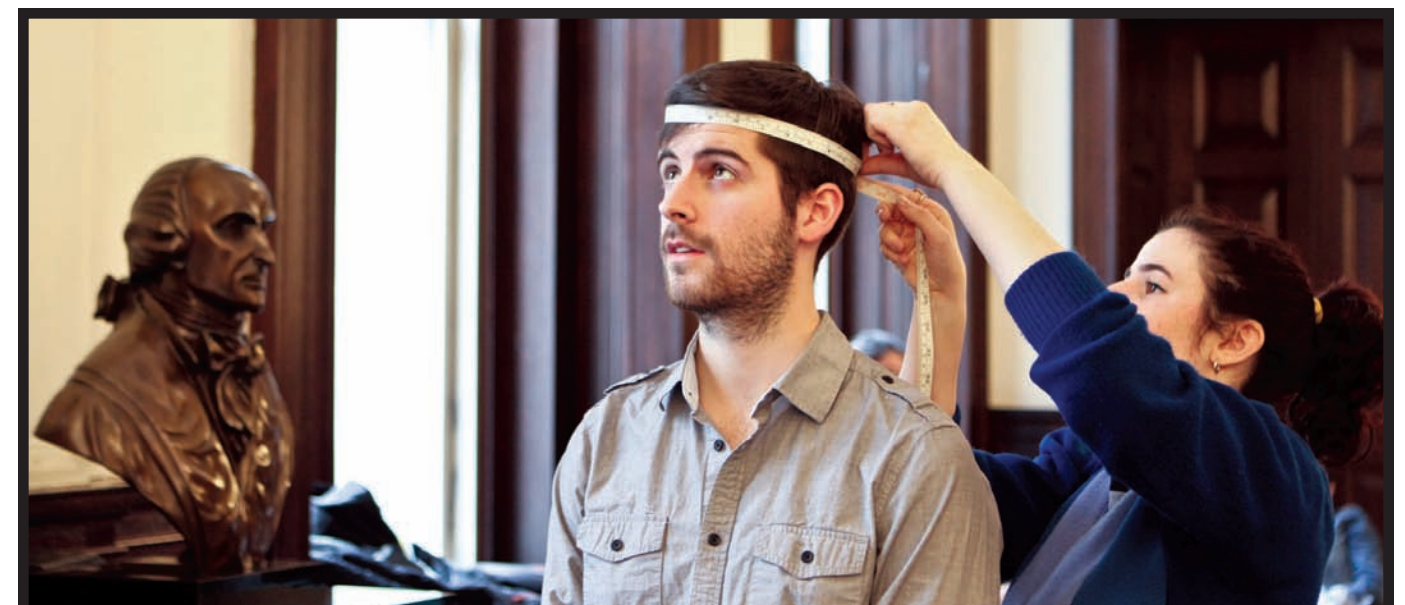
long, Monday through Thursday 8–11 p.m., and for three hours on Sundays. Extra rehearsals are usually scheduled right before the West End Preview and Turkey Day, and during the week leading up to opening night, known as Tech Week. "You forge a bond of, quite frankly, shared suffering because when you do a Varsity Show, there is barely time to do homework and you don't sleep," says Silverberg. "It takes over your life."

Among the Varsity Show alumni who have developed lasting bonds are Tom Kitt '96 and Brian Yorkey '93, creators of the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Next to Normal*, who worked together on V100 and V102. [See feature in this issue.] More recently, Silverberg, Carieri and other Varsity Show alumni have collaborated on the production of *Lydia and Tom*, a musical by Hoffman and Parker about two childhood friends growing apart as they become adults; it was accepted for the 2013 New York International Fringe Festival after premiering at the Austin E. Quigley Blackbox Theatre in Lerner Hall in fall 2012. "We were working with actors who had worked on the Var-

sity Show, so they knew what it was like to handle original material, and our director, designers and producers also were able to guide us using their Varsity Show experience," says Hoffman. The Varsity Show, which Feinstein describes as a "rare and all-encompassing" experience, also fosters camaraderie across generations of participants. Each year, a group of its alumni perform songs from shows past — called Class Act — during the New Student Orientation Program. The repertoire often includes "Roar, Lion, Roar," Columbia's fight song, written for the 1923 Varsity Show, and "The Stroke," a song from V102 that pokes fun at the swim test.

Another event that builds camaraderie is the presentation of the I.A.L. Diamond Award for Achievement in the Arts, held prior to a Varsity Show performance. The award, instituted in 2004, goes annually to a Columbia graduate for continued commitment to and success in the arts. Among the recipients are Kitt and Yorkey, and fellow Varsity Show alumni Kate McKinnon '06, a current *Saturday Night Live* cast member, and Jenny Slate '04, a prolific comedian and creator of the animated short film *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*.

With such distinguished alumni, the Varsity Show has developed a reputation as a springboard for careers in entertainment. "Producing the Varsity Show was something I always wanted to



Costume designer Isabella Rosner '14 measures the head of actor Alex Donnelly '14 in preparation for V120.

do because it was the closest thing to a professional experience that I could get in my college time," says Carieri, who chose Columbia as much for the show as for the Core Curriculum.

While some participants certainly continue to reap the benefits of belonging to the Varsity Show family long after they have graduated, for most, the rewards are much more immediate. Says Silverberg, "It is a very cool way to participate in a Columbia tradition and to be involved in something that the entire student body is interested in and everyone is going to have an opinion about."

The 120th Varsity Show is scheduled for Friday, May 2–Sunday, May 4 in Boone Arledge Auditorium. For more information, visit thevarsityshow.com. To watch past productions, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Nathalie Alonso '08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball's official Spanish language website. She writes "Student Spotlight" for CCT.

One of the Varsity Show's signature elements has been the pony ballet, shown here by the chorus line from 1929's Oh Hector!



The Varsity Show Through the Years

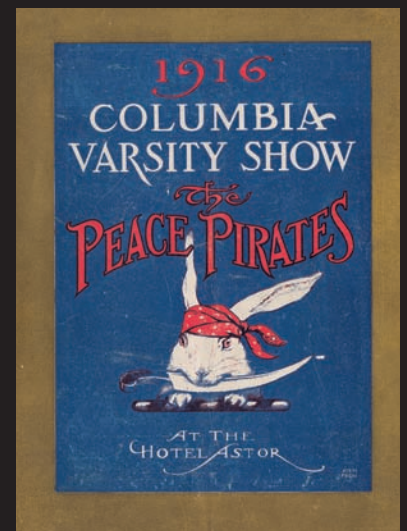
A look back at Columbia's longest running theatrical tradition in pictures, programs and posters

ALL IMAGES COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Above, Beatrice Kay, a performer from Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe supper club, seems unsure what to make of Alexander McAllister '40 of 1939's Fair Enough. Below, the full cast on stage at the Hotel Astor.

PHOTOS: ABOVE, ANDREW COSTIKYAN '43; BELOW, DELAR ROCKEFELLER CENTER





Above, cast members of 1948’s Streets of New York receive some dance instruction. Below, a chorus girl with a Low Library replica on her head cavorts with the Columbia lion in 1980’s Fly With Me.

PHOTOS: ABOVE, MANNY WARMAN; BELOW, ADRIAN BRYAN-BROWN



Top, rehearsing the pony ballet on Low Plaza for 1940’s Life Begins in ’40. Bottom left, getting a posture lesson during rehearsals. Bottom right, a pony ballet member is flanked by British soldiers in 1954’s Sky’s the Limit.

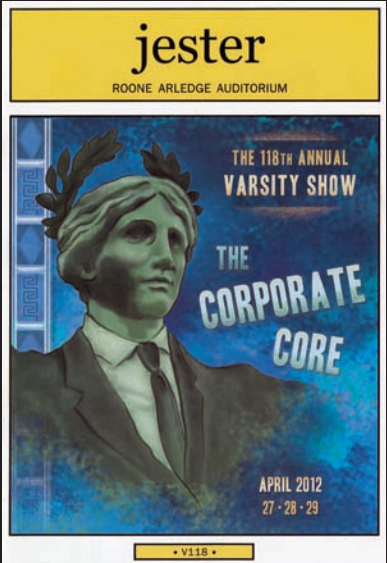
PHOTOS: TOP, WILD WORLD PHOTOS, INC.; BOTTOM LEFT, JACK M. LEWIS; BOTTOM RIGHT, MARTIN MOLLOY '55, '60 GSAS





The cast of 1980's Fly With Me, a revival of 1920's show, with music by Richard Rodgers '23 and lyrics by Lorenz Hart (Class of 1918J).

PHOTO: ADRIAN BRYAN-BROWN





Brian Yorkey '93 (left) and Tom Kitt '96, who won Pulitzer and Tony Awards for *Next to Normal*, share a laugh as they prepare their latest show, *If/Then*, for Broadway.

PHOTO: MATTHEW MURPHY

The Marriage of True Minds

A freewheeling conversation with the Broadway team of Tom Kitt '96 and Brian Yorkey '93

BY JAMIE KATZ '72, '80 BUSINESS

Gilbert and Sullivan. George and Ira Gershwin. Rodgers and Hammerstein. Dorothy Fields and anybody. Let's not forget Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte, who wrote the libretto for *Don Giovanni* and, much later, became Columbia's first professor of Italian.

It's too soon to say whether the creative partnership of Tom Kitt '96 (music) and Brian Yorkey '93 (book and lyrics) will someday join that pantheon. But they're off to a good start, having won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for their first Broadway collaboration, *Next to Normal*, which was also nominated for 11 Tony Awards and won three. This was no happy-times stage show: It explored the searing anguish of a suburban American family with a manic-depressive mother at its center. Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* called it "a brave, breathtaking musical," writing, "No show on Broadway right now makes as direct a grab for the heart — or wrings it as thoroughly — as *Next to Normal* does."

Angels at Columbia: Centennial Approaches, the 1994 Varsity Show, was Kitt and Yorkey's first collaboration on a musical. The experience played a pivotal role in their lives and careers. They were introduced by Rita Pietropinto-Kitt '93, '96 Arts; it was not the only partnership forged among them — Kitt and Pietropinto-Kitt, an actress and drama teacher at the Marymount School and Barnard, were married in 2000 and now have three children. "I often say that I met both of my spouses at Columbia," Kitt says.

Born on Long Island, Kitt was raised in Armonk, N.Y. His many Broadway credits include Green Day's *American Idiot* (which won a Tony Award for Best Musical), *High Fidelity*, *Debbie Does Dallas*, *Urban Cowboy* and *13*; he also has written music for the Public Theater's New York Shakespeare Festival and TV's *Sesame Street* and *Dawson's Creek*.

Yorkey was born in Omaha and raised there and in Issaquah, Wash., about 20 miles east of Seattle. An alumnus of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, he was associate artistic director for seven years at Village Theatre in Issaquah and Everett, Wash., one of the nation's leading incubators of musicals. Yorkey wrote the book for Sting's *The Last Ship*, which opens on Broadway later this year, and has three screenplays in development. His other theater credits include *Making Tracks*, the musical adaptation of Ang Lee's *The Wedding Banquet*, and the country musical *Play It By Heart*.

The composer and lyricist took time out to speak with CCT as they prepared for the Broadway premiere of their latest musical, *If/Then*, another psychological work of feeling and wit, examining the different paths life can take based on a single decision. The lead character, a 40-year-old professional woman in New York, is played by the Tony Award-winning actress/singer Idina Menzel (*Rent* and *Wicked*); the director is Michael Greif (*Rent*), who also directed *Next to Normal*.

If/Then resonates personally for both Kitt and Yorkey. "Every day we make choices," Kitt says. "Sometimes they're just

small choices and sometimes they're bigger ones. But we often wonder about the power of those choices and whether our life would have turned out the way it did. Are we meant for something? If you find that person whom you love, are you meant to find that person no matter what road you take? What if I hadn't gone to Columbia?" Yorkey agrees. "If we look back to where we met, there was an awful lot of chance involved," he says. "What if Tom had not been home when Rita knocked on his door?"

If/Then opens at the Richard Rodgers Theater on Sunday, March 30.

Herewith are edited excerpts of the conversation.

CCT: *You have joined a distinguished line of collaborators in the performing arts — Rodgers and Hart, Nureyev and Fonteyn, Bialystock and Bloom. [laughter] When did you realize that your creative partnership was something special?*

Yorkey: Telling our story, it may seem like we went running to each other in a field full of pianos. But when I met Tom at The West End over a pitcher of beer, I thought he was sort of a stupid frat boy sitting there with his backward baseball cap.

My first instinct was to not like him. But then Tom and I started to write songs together. I wrote some lyrics to the first song that he wrote for the Varsity Show. And it was pretty solid. Then we wrote a song for a dance number called "The College Walk." It's kind of a classic show tune in structure. I remember watching that song be rehearsed and watching the choreographer put the dance to it, and realizing that Tom and I had done something special. And it hadn't felt effortful. It had felt as natural as breathing. That was the moment when I knew that we had something kind of remarkable. It's hard to explain exactly what that is. But you know it.

Kitt: I was very intimidated by Brian at first, especially because the Varsity Show people were rock stars on campus. It was kind of like hanging out with the cast of Saturday Night Live.

Kitt: I was very intimidated by Brian at first, especially because the Varsity Show people were rock stars on campus. It was kind of like hanging out with the cast of *Saturday Night Live*. They were all dynamic, they all were comfortable with each other. So when I was a lowly freshman going to that table, sharing a pitcher of beer, I was intimidated. But when Brian and I began working together, I felt very quickly like I belonged, and I was just blown away by his intelligence, by his wit. For the whole semester that we wrote our first show together, I was obsessed with what we were doing. It lived in my head every day. I would go into class and constantly think of new ideas. Up to that point I hadn't written with anyone else and I hadn't written for the musical theater. Yet it came so easily to me, working with Brian. I just always felt inspired, and I immediately knew that it was something that I cared deeply about and wanted to pursue. The experience of writing with Brian, the satisfaction that those songs gave us, felt as important as anything I was doing. So I had to believe that it was something that I wanted to preserve and protect.

CCT: *Now that you've been working together for some 20 years, what would you say makes your collaboration work so well? What is its genius?*

Kitt: I think we trust each other, and I think we both bring out really wonderful things in each other. I know that Brian's lyrics and ideas always challenge me and keep me honest in the most wonderful way. There are times where I wouldn't necessarily go to a certain place but for his lyrics that push me in new directions. Brian just looks at the world in a way that I find so beautiful and surprising, and yet familiar, because it's a way that I want to look at the world and the way I want to write about the world. And when I do write about it, I trust him completely, both good and bad. Sometimes with any marriage, with any collaboration, there will be hard moments where you're not completely on the same page or one person is challenging the other. But those challenges always bring out the best and we always come at it from a stronger place afterward.

Yorkey: For my part — well, first of all I was realizing, Tom, that you shouldn't expect to find your two spouses in the Varsity Show, and then expect a sort of even-keeled life after that. [laughter] That said, and this sounds very basic, but I love Tom's music. The music that Tom writes touches me at a very deep level, emotionally. It's full of meaning, and it's full of feeling, and it's probing, and questioning, and romantic and yearning, and all those things that Tom is himself. The ability to truly put yourself into your writing, I think, is what makes a great writer. And Tom's music embodies him in a way that continues to knock me flat all the time, and to make me want to dig deep, and really be truthful, and be honest, and emotional, and not just try to be clever. Really to try to write something that matters and that is personal to me and to the two of us. And I think that we do that to each other.

I also think part of the reason we've managed to survive this long, and not always through good times, is that we balance each other out well. We have very different but compatible ways of looking at the world. We also are pretty good at giving each other a ribbing, keeping each other honest and not letting either person tip too far into the places that writers like to go, which include self-pity and resentment and anger and those things. They're a part of life, but we're I think pretty good at pulling each other back from the brink. We had an assistant on *Next To Normal* who observed that we have a talent of never both being in a bad mood at the same time. [laughter] I think that's pretty true, and it has stood us in good stead.

Yorkey: Tom's music embodies him in a way that continues to knock me flat all the time, and to make me want to dig deep, and really be truthful, and be honest, and emotional, and not just try to be clever.



(Left to right) Kitt, Yorkey, Rita Pietropinto-Kitt '93, '96 Arts and Laura Pietropinto '00 attend a pre-reception on the night of the 2009 Tony Awards. *Next to Normal* won three, including best original score.

CCT: *That talent helps keep a lot of marriages alive, too.*

Yorkey: It's very much a marriage. We understand that whatever individual bumps or hills or valleys the road may have, we're in it for the long haul. And the most important thing is to just keep moving forward.

CCT: *The Varsity Show played such a crucial role in both of your lives. Were you aware of it before you applied to the College?*

Yorkey: One of the reasons that I went to Columbia was the writers who had been there before me. And obviously, being a pretentious high school senior, Kerouac ['44] and Ginsberg ['48] were high on that list. But also being a musical theater kid, I knew that that's where Rodgers ['23] and Hart [1918] wrote their first stuff together, and Rodgers and Hammerstein [1916] met. It just seemed like Columbia was the place where musicals were made. I actually didn't know about the Varsity Show, but I did know about that tradition. That it drew me to Columbia in the first place, and played such a role in how my life played out, is kind of incredible to me.

Kitt: I didn't know about the Varsity Show before I came to Columbia. My dream then was to be a singer-songwriter in the mold of Billy Joel and Paul Simon and James Taylor and Elton John and Bruce Springsteen, to name all my heroes. It wasn't until I worked on the Varsity Show that I realized how much I wanted to pursue composing for the musical theater. And as I started to realize the history of the show, it became even more exciting that I was involved in a show that counted, as Brian said, Rodgers and Hart, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Terrence McNally ['60], Jeanine Tesori ['83 Barnard] as alumni. So I became really aware of the rich history of the show. And again, it's really the reason that I started writing for the theater.

CCT: *Apart from the Varsity Show, what had the greatest impact on you at Columbia?*

Kitt: I was a bit of a mess when I got to Columbia. I procrastinated a lot. I didn't have a great work ethic. I think what I really got out of Columbia aside from the wonderful education was just the people who were there. Everybody was striving for something and was in their own way doing important things. And that really rubbed off on me.

Yorkey: I think that I chose Columbia in part because it didn't have a theater major at the time. I knew somehow — and I'm

pretty amazed that I knew this at 18 — but I knew that I needed to study everything *but* theater. That if I really was meant to do theater, I'd find a way to do it anyway. But if I had gone to study theater, that might be all I ever studied, and I needed to become a more well-rounded person than that. And that's exactly what happened at Columbia — though I think that I took the Core Curriculum maybe not as seriously as I wish I had. I'd like to go back and take those classes again.

CCT: *Quite a number of alumni feel that way.*

Yorkey: That's good to hear. At the same time I got a lot out of the Core, an awful lot. It really was about becoming a citizen of the world and a person who has a life of the mind of some sort. I double majored in English and religion, which I think most people might think of as two of the least job-specific majors you could pick. But I actually ended up in a job where I use both of those majors every day. And that's pretty remarkable. The things I'm able to do in my work, I know are very much a part of the education that I got in the classroom and outside of it at Columbia.

Kitt: It's the same for me, and I was an economics major. It's really a people science. You're studying people's choices and tastes and what they value. Learning about that science was very important for me. I also took a number of really wonderful music classes that opened me up and certainly brought me back to classical music. I was a classically trained pianist from the age of 4, but I hadn't been serious about studying it again. I took [the Anne Parsons Bender Professor of Music] Elaine Sisman's Beethoven and Mozart classes. I'll never forget the day I walked in and she put the *Requiem* on — it had such an impact on me. And I just wanted to devour everything that he wrote.

CCT: *In the greatest Broadway musicals, and in opera for that matter, there is a beautiful integration of the music and the lyrics and the story — they are braided almost seamlessly. Is that an important goal for you? And how is it achieved?*

Yorkey: I think it's absolutely a goal. The music and the songs need to serve the story, and I think that the integration of words and music is the thing that Tom and I strive for most. There are three things that have really made it possible, for instance, on

Next to Normal, for us to achieve that, to whatever extent we did. The first is that we're not precious about material. If something doesn't work as well as it can, we'll write something else until we find the thing that really does work. The second factor is that we keep going — we don't stop and say, "That's good enough." We keep going until we get the best thing we possibly can, until we've exhausted every option that we can think of. And the third thing is we have people like Michael Greif, our director,

and David Stone, our producer, who really hold us to a standard of integration and a standard of making the music and the text a seamless whole, and help us figure out how to do that — certainly with *Next to Normal* and with the new show, *If/Then*. Michael's sense of how to tell a story and how to keep what's essential and cut away everything else continues to teach us lessons.

Kitt: The other thing I want to add is that Brian is actually a wonderful musician. He's very knowledgeable. And even though he may not want to sing, he writes lyrics with a very strong musical sense. So when I get lyrics from him, most times they kind of just sing off the page. He structures them in a way that it's very rewarding to write music for those lyrics. If things aren't clicking, he always has wonderful things to say musically about other ways to go. And even though I don't write lyrics, I think my knowledge of lyrics and scanning and where rhymes want to go also helps serve what we're doing. So I think the great thing about our collaboration is that even though we trust each other in our departments, we have real knowledge of what the other person is doing, so

we can write work that will hopefully arrive at the other person's doorstep feeling fully formed and feeling like you can be intuitive and write without much complication.

CCT: *How powerful is it for you when all that work culminates in an actual production, where all of it is sung and acted and lit and danced?*

Yorkey: I really marvel at it every day of a rehearsal process or a tech process. I'm amazed that people are speaking lines that I wrote and singing songs that I wrote the words to. It never fails to blow me away. Especially with some of the people we get to work with, it's astounding and incredibly humbling. It never gets old.



Varsity Show alumni (left to right) Yorkey; Noah Cornman '96; Matt Eddy '94; Joy Gorman '96 Barnard; Rita Pietropinto-Kitt '93, '96 Arts; Laura Pietropinto '00; and Kitt celebrate at the after-party following the Broadway opening of *Next to Normal*.

Kitt: Brian and I still get such a rush out of just hearing someone sing a song that we came up with, especially when you have the Idina Menzels and Alice Ripleys and Anthony Rapps and La Chanze of the world singing those songs, it's a pinch-me kind of feeling.

Kitt: I think that Brian and I still get such a rush out of just hearing someone sing a song that we came up with it. And especially when you have the Idina Menzels and Alice Ripleys and Anthony Rapps and La Chanzas of the world singing those songs, it's a pinch-me kind of feeling.

Yorkey: One example: We had struggled to write a song for a very emotional and important part of *If/Then*, late in the show. It's called "Always Starting Over." We had gone back and forth on it and had not agreed and just weren't having a good time writing it. Finally Tom went away and just wrote something really full of feeling, and sent it to me. I poured out every last ounce of emotion I had into the lyric. It really felt like a last gasp for us. We brought it into rehearsal and we were both sort of exhausted and just a little bit down. And Idina Menzel learned it and sang it. I think we both started to cry because what she did with it was so amazing.

CCT: Let's talk about your winning the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2010. How did that go down, for you?

Kitt: I'll never forget it. I was in tech for *American Idiot* on Broadway — I was the music supervisor and I did the orchestrations and arrangements — and I was sitting in the audience just talking with Tom Hulce, the show's producer. My phone rang and it was David Stone, who informed me of the news. I walked up the aisle and down the aisle of the St. James Theater going, "No f---ing way! No f---ing way!" [laughter] Then it was announced on the "God mike" and the whole cast came up and hugged me. It was a really, really emotional, wonderful moment, and unexpected. I don't think that was even in our universe, the idea that something like that could happen. It felt like such a privilege because it's an award for writing. That was so clear when we went to the luncheon and sat with journalists and writers of fiction and nonfiction. I felt a little bit like, "What am I doing here?" People are writing these important articles about this and that. I felt privileged to be included in that company.

Yorkey: My story's a little bit less romantic. I had just gotten back from a trip overseas and was still sort of jetlagged. And our publicist, Tom D'Ambrosio, called me and said, "You guys are in the mix for the Pulitzer, and so if it happens, we're going to have to jump right into some interviews. Can you come down to the office?" And I said, "Well, I would need to take a shower." "Well," he said, "can you shower now just in case?" So I said, "Yes, I'll shower now, Tom." But then I got off the phone with him and I thought, "I

don't want to shower and be sitting around here all clean and have nothing happen, 'cause then I'll be all clean and sad." So I didn't actually shower. And David Stone called and I picked up the phone and he said, "Is this Pulitzer Prize-winner Brian Yorkey?" And the first thing I thought was, "Oh man, I should've showered." [laughter] I don't know if Tom ever knew that, because I did shower very quickly and I made it to the office in pretty good time!

CCT: Once lightning struck, how did your life change?

Yorkey: I think a Pulitzer is not a prize for mortals. Tom and I certainly dreamed of winning a Tony, as I think anyone who writes for musical theater does. But no one dreams of winning a Pulitzer because it just seems like something that happens to gods like Edward Albee and August Wilson, not to people like us. It certainly felt like a bolt out of the blue. The combination of the Pulitzer and the fact that *Next to Normal* was a hit on Broadway changed our lives probably forever. You do sort of realize that you could do not one more damn thing and you'll still be a Pulitzer Prize winner! [laughter] Not that that's my plan.

CCT: Anything you'd like to add?

Yorkey: One thing I wanted to say — I don't know if I can put this into words, ironically — but the thing that was great about Columbia, which made the Varsity Show possible, and made so many things possible, and really sort of helped me form my outlook as a human being, is that Columbia never takes itself too seriously. Or at least it didn't in my time. And if anyone did, there would always be someone there to take them down a peg. No one at Columbia is really all that comfortable with orthodoxy or with authority. It makes for a campus

that can be kind of difficult to manage sometimes, but it also makes for really, really sharp and funny and smart and skeptical individuals who look at the world and want to question the received wisdom and want to shake up the foundations of the establishment a little bit. There's a long, long history of that. I hope and believe it's still alive there — absorbing that ethos and looking at the world in a smart and generous way, but also a way that's questioning and wants to find out the truth and wants to upend the apple cart a little bit. That's something that feels to me unique to Columbia and very much an important part of who I am and what I get to do today.



Former CCT Editor **Jamie Katz '72, '80** *Business* has held senior editorial positions at *People* and *Vibe*, and now writes for *Smithsonian* magazine and other publications.

Yorkey: We balance each other well. We have very different but compatible ways of looking at the world. We also are pretty good at giving each other a ribbing, keeping each other honest.



Yorkey and Kitt, at the Off-Broadway opening of *Next to Normal* at the Second Stage Theatre in 2008, say they don't settle for "good enough" but "keep going until we get the best thing we possibly can."

Bringing Lit Hum to Life

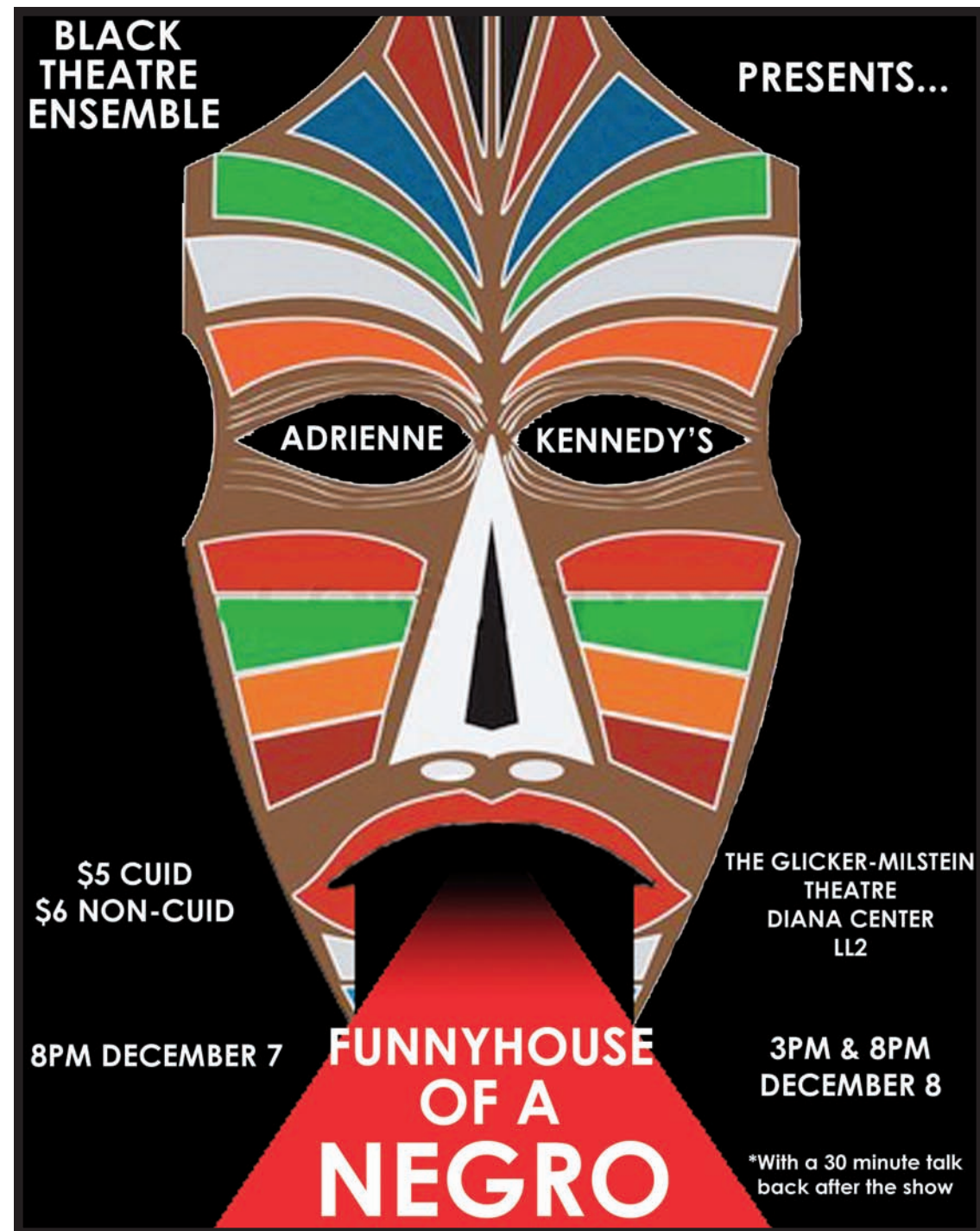


Madness, intrigue, and questions of justice and revenge came to Miller Theatre in November with a performance of Euripides' *Orestes*. Graduate students from the School of the Arts' Theater Division staged the production specifically for Literature Humanities students and instructors; they have done so each year, albeit with different plays, since 2008. "This collaboration between the Core Curriculum and the School of the Arts has been tremendously fruitful," says Roosevelt Montás '95, '04 GSAS, director of the Center for the Core Curriculum and associate dean of academic affairs. "While theater students get support to stage a play before a large audience, Lit Hum students can experience the full dramatic power of a text they have only encountered on the page. Experiencing the play as it unfolds in real time is often a revelation for students."



PHOTOS: CHAR SMULLYAN





Theater District

Columbia's many theater groups give students a chance to watch, and perform, everything from Shakespeare to opera to student-written plays

BY SHIRA BOSS '93, '97J, '98 SIPA

The Varsity Show isn't the only ticket on campus. Student theater groups are flourishing and perform regularly, from Shakespeare to musicals to student-written works. There are opportunities for students of every theatrical skill level and inclination, and the shows can pack venues from Lerner's intimate Austin E. Quigley Black Box Theatre to its huge Boone Arledge Auditorium.

The following round-up offers an introduction to 10 groups that can be seen around campus. All also belong to the Columbia University Performing Arts League (columbia.edu/cu/cupal), an umbrella organization that encourages the sharing of resources and expertise and serves as an advisory board for new groups. CUPAL also sponsors one special project per semester — for example, a multimedia event, fundraiser, or theatrical, music or dance performance — as well as a spring showcase of student work that includes selections from the most successful or highly anticipated productions of the academic year. This year's showcase was scheduled for March 8.

Black Theatre Ensemble

MISSION: "We seek to promote minority playwrights and actors, thus giving students of color on campus, and in NYC, an outlet for creative expression that was previously void."

FOUNDED: 2002

MEMBERSHIP: Open to everyone at Columbia, with the occasional non-Columbia cast member; average 10–12 participants, about 80% College

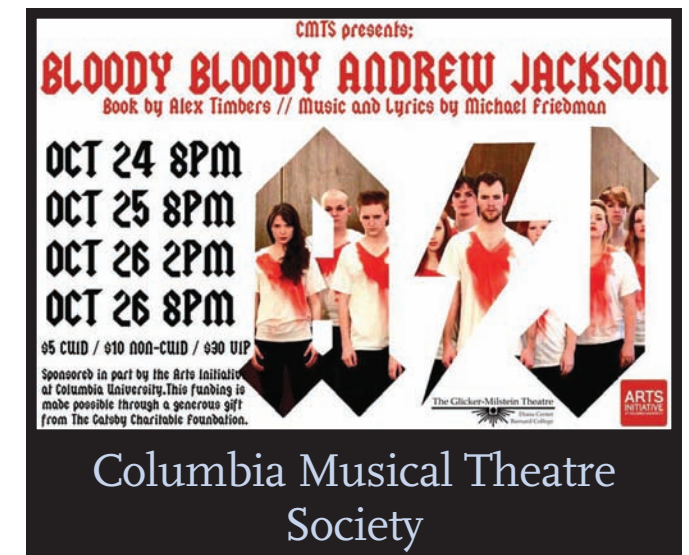
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: One show per semester; an annual Spring Student-Written One-Acts Festival; this spring, a second show in collaboration with Columbia Musical Theatre Society

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, *Bulrushes*, *Fucking A*

NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI: Playwright Katori Hall '03

WEBSITE: "Black Theatre Ensemble" on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: "Something I like to stress to those inquiring about BTE is that we are a group that is dedicated to creating community," says president Bintu Conteh '14. "Since I have been a member of this organization (since my freshman year), I have always felt like I was part of a beautiful, crazy, loving family. And I am sure anyone who does at least one show with us will feel the same way."



MISSION: "We pride ourselves on producing original takes on musical revivals. We strive for these types of productions and not just carbon copies of Broadway shows/revivals."

FOUNDED: 2000

MEMBERSHIP: 100–150 participants, about 60% College

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: Average of two musicals per semester and a special project

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Carousel*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*

NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI: Nina Pedrad '11, currently a writer for the FOX show *New Girl*

WEBSITE: "CMTS" on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: "We attempt to include as many people as possible to expand our musical theater community and provide opportunities for anyone excited to perform musical theater," says v.p. Sam Mickel '14. "Our special projects have included musical theater karaoke nights, miscasts (where students sing songs from roles/shows they would never be cast in) and cabarets (students sign up and choose a song to sing) for students."

Columbia University Players

MISSION: "The performance of straight plays, providing the opportunity for students to propose and present nearly any theatrical work that is non-musical and non-Shakespeare."

FOUNDED: 1906 (as Barnard College Musical Theatre)

MEMBERSHIP: 40–50 participants per semester, about 25% College

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: Four per year

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *Playgrounds*, *The Maids*

NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI: Cody Holliday Haefner '12, Thomas Kapusta '12 and Brian LaPerche '12 founded The Brewing Dept., a theatrical collective in NYC, along with three Barnard alumnae

WEBSITE: "CU Players" on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: "CU Players offers students with relatively little theater background the chance to dive into the world



of theater here at Columbia,” says treasurer Danitra Campbell ’15. “Whereas some of the other groups can be rather intimidating for newcomers, CUP manages to feel welcoming.”

King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe

MISSION: “King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe exists to bring outstanding free theater to the Columbia Community and to create an awesome experience for everyone involved.”

FOUNDED: 1995

MEMBERSHIP: Approximately 50 participants per year; roughly 60% College

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: Generally two shows in the fall semester (though not necessarily Shakespeare, they can be anything except musical theater). Large-scale show spring semester (always Shakespeare, outdoors and staged at multiple locations around campus) and usually also a smaller production.

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *Cymbeline*; *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*; *Henry IV, Part 2*

NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI: Ezra Koenig ’06 and Rostam Batmanglij ’06 form half of the band Vampire Weekend

WEBSITE: kcstumbles.tumblr.com and “King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: All performances are free; every Columbia student who auditions for the spring show is cast.

Latenite Theatre

MISSION: “We have a simple purpose: to offer our playwrights the opportunity to see their work on stage, giving them a freedom to experiment, to take artistic risks, and above all, to have fun in a non-competitive environment.”

FOUNDED: 1995, “by a group of theater and English majors who wanted to produce their own original works,” says Hannah Ceja ’14 Barnard, co-president with Taha Wiheba ’16. “These works were to be performed at 11 p.m., long after other events on campus had ended and prudent artistic sensibilities have gone to bed for the night — hence the name Latenite Theatre.”

MEMBERSHIP: About 45 participants per semester

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: One anthology of student-written, one-act plays per semester

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *Amor Escandaloso* by Noel Gutierrez-Morfin ’15, *The Hanukkah Elf* by Rachel Chung ’15E, *Love, Approaching the Station* by Madison Seely ’16, *Nick at Nite* by Emilia Lirman ’16, *Goldfish* by James Rodrigues ’14

WEBSITE: Latenitetheatre.com and “Latenite Theatre” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: “We have four performances, the last being a prank show, where, really, anything could happen,” Ceja says. “The actors and/or directors come up with various ways to prank their respective shows, ranging from adding a few props or extra jokes, to altering an entire script.”

The Mechanicals

MISSION: “We seek to provide the Barnard/Columbia community with a place for students to develop their acting skills in a collaborative, low-pressure peer workshop environment. We are not professionals, nor are we teachers — we are simply a group of students passionate about acting, and dedicated to helping each other improve.”

FOUNDED: 2014

MEMBERSHIP: Just launched in spring semester; about 50 people have expressed interest

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: No performances; the group is



an acting workshop, with meetings every other Sunday

WEBSITE: thecumechanicals.wordpress.com

CURTAIN CALL: “The Mechanicals is a way to open up the theater community. It can be unbelievably rewarding to do theater but also incredibly daunting,” says co-founder Maddie Ghillany-Lehar ’16. “The Mechanicals aims to isolate acting from the stress of performance so you can really focus on the fun stuff — that is, trying to form meaningful, believable connections onstage.”

New Opera Workshop

MISSION: “Our goal is both to provide opportunities to classical singers on campus and to push the frontiers of opera by generating new works and engaging new audiences. We hope to rekindle the legacy of Columbia’s Opera Workshop, the campus opera company that from 1941–58 commissioned and performed groundbreaking new opera.”

FOUNDED: 2013

MEMBERSHIP: Spring 2014 production has 38 participants, about 50% College

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: One production per semester

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *Opera Untapped*, featuring scenes from Mozart, Bizet, Gilbert and Sullivan, and more

WEBSITE: “Columbia University New Opera Workshop” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: “Many audience members have come to us, telling us they’ve never seen opera and were pleasantly surprised,” says co-founder and financial officer Hannah Rose Gorman ’16. “I think the fun, collaborative nature of this project shines through in performances, and makes the art form approachable to new audiences.”

NOMADS

MISSION: “NOMADS (New and Original Material Authored and Directed by Students) gives a home to the creation of unique, experimental and provocative original work by artists from across the Columbia University community. Combining full-scale theatrical projects with multi-media installations, dance, music, playwriting workshops and ‘live artwork,’ we provide a safe, professional and exciting space where any member of our community can develop their creative ideas — however wild, wacky or wondrous — from page to stage (or any other venue we can find!).”

FOUNDED: 2003

MEMBERSHIP: Around 60 participants per semester

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: One student-written, full-length play per year, usually in the Fall semester; an annual festival of student work each spring; Word Play, an annual writer’s workshop, where undergraduate playwrights are mentored by a School of the Arts student and that culminates in a staged reading of their work.

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *The Gift* by Anika Benkov ’16; *Grieving for Fish* by Elyse Pitock ’15 Barnard

WEBSITE: “NOMADS Columbia” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: Some productions have been presented off-campus at Theatre Row, Cherry Lane Theatre and the New York International Fringe Festival.

V-Day at Barnard College of Columbia University

MISSION: “V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. We seek to enlighten and inspire our community through performances of *The Vagina Monologues* as well as to raise money for existing anti-violence organizations.”

FOUNDED: Late 1990s

MEMBERSHIP: Around 35, about 30% College

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: Up to three performances of *The Vagina Monologues* in February / March

WEBSITE: “Columbia University V-Day” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: “The work done by V-Day at Barnard College of Columbia University extends beyond the campus gates,” says producer Anita Warner ’14 Barnard. “Our group donates 100 percent of the proceeds from *The Vagina Monologues* to NYC-based organizations working to end violence against women and girls.”



MISSION: “To create an original student-written, satirical musical, parodying the holiday season. XMAS! is for everyone!”

FOUNDED: 2006

MEMBERSHIP: 70 cast and crew in the December 2013 show, about 50% College

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: Two performances annually, at holiday time

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: *XMAS!8: Elves Gone Wild*

WEBSITE: “XMAS8” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: “In its eight years, XMAS! has grown from a variety show in a residential hall lounge to a full-fledged musical in Roone Arledge Auditorium,” says co-producer Jeremy Stern ’15. “As everything in XMAS! — from the scripts to the set, from the score to the posters — is created by students, XMAS! is truly a collaborative labor of love.”

Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA is an author and contributing writer to CCT. Her last feature was “Global Columbia,” in the Winter 2013–14 issue.

[COLUMBIA FORUM]

Dr. Arnold A. Hutschnecker in Paradise



PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

Tony Kushner '78, a playwright and screenwriter, is the author of *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, *Homebody / Kabul* and *Caroline, or Change*, among other major theatrical works. Two of his screenplays, for Steven Spielberg's *Munich* and *Lincoln*, have been nominated for Academy Awards. He has won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1993), two Tonys (1993 and 1994), an Emmy (2004) and the 2012 National Medal of Arts, among other honors, and received numerous nominations.

The play that follows, *Dr. Arnold A. Hutschnecker in Paradise*, is excerpted from a collection of short works, *Tiny Kushner: Five One-Act Plays*, to be published by Theatre Communications Group later this year. The real Dr. Hutschnecker, who died in 2000 at 102, was President Nixon's psychiatrist for many years.

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard

The setting is a beautiful room in a pre-war, Upper West Side-type apartment building in Paradise: rococo sculpted plaster ceiling, a small chandelier at its center, a handsome marble fireplace with Egyptian and Greek tchotchkes on the mantelpiece, books in oak bookcases and an old Turkish carpet covering a worn leather divan. This is the office for the psychoanalytic practice of Metatron, the Recording Angel, a vast fiery being with a million eyes.

Metatron is seated in an Eames chair at the head of the carpet-covered divan. Sitting, not lying on the couch — this is a supervisory session — is Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker, best-known during his lifetime as the psychotherapist of Richard Milhous Nixon.

Dr. Hutschnecker died in 2000. The play takes place the year after that.

METATRON: And how are we feeling this morning, Arnold? In saying "morning" I am of course lapsing into poesy, since Time doesn't exist in Paradise.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I feel lousy, frankly. I stayed up all night watching *The Sopranos* on DVD.

METATRON: Again?! Again with *The Sopranos*?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I know, I know, I can't stop myself, I am obviously attempting some sort of negotiation: will the sexy lady analyst cure the gangster sociopath with narcissistic tendencies? It's that episode with the nympholeptic soccer coach, you know, Tony *resists* the impulse to whack the guy, her treatment is working! Oh, it's so tantalizing, so excruciating! She comes so close! He is borderline, not unreachable, I believe had Dr. Melfi employed Pavlovian techniques, it reminds me of the early '70s, right around the Cambodia bombings, I, I (*Silence*).

Oh forget it. It's not worth our time. My neck and my back are killing me.

METATRON: I would suggest that these pains are psychosomatic.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: You always *say* that, but...

METATRON: In this case my proposal gains strength from the fact that you are dead and hence you have no body.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I'm not arguing, I spent my life contemplating the psychosomatic, especially as expressive of the narcissistic personality under duress. But my back *hurts*.

METATRON: Speaking of the narcissistic personality under duress, how is your patient doing?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Who? Milhous?

METATRON: Who else?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: He told me in session yesterday that he doesn't believe he's dead.

METATRON: Interesting that you say discussing this television show — and I agree, it is superb, I watch it all the time, well I watch everything, I am the Recording Angel, it helps having a million eyes, I never have to channel surf — you say it isn't worth our "time", immediately after I have mentioned the fact that we are in Paradise and there is no Time here. Are *you* perhaps manifesting a denial of your *own* mortality, Arnold?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Oh please, I lived to 102, in *Connecticut*, for pity's sake don't you think I was ready to go?

My leg hurts, and don't say I've got no leg. Look, it's swollen. And I have hay fever, my face is throbbing, oddly I never had it in Connecticut, with all those trees.

METATRON: The neck and back pains, these were *his* presenting problems, were they not?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Yes.

METATRON: Let’s talk about counter-transference, then, shall we?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Dear Lord, that scarcely describes it! When I was alive I saw him once, twice a year. Up here, it’s five days a week up here, five days a week of Milhous, Milhous, Milhous!

METATRON: He still insists you call him —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Milhous. MMmmilhous. Muh Muh — It’s so obvious I want to giggle, he wears his psyche on his sleeve, it’s always been endearing to me, it saves me so much work, every day he comes in and he says these remarkable things ... Well, you know, his mouth, oral sadistic, a few days ago he was thinking of changing his name to *M.*, just *M.*, the initial he dropped when he became President, and of course we know what he’s really dropping or rather *who* he’s really dropping or rather *trying*, still *trying* to drop after all this ...

METATRON (*singing*): “M is for the many things she gave me...”

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: That *mother*. Her dying words to him were “Richard don’t give up. Don’t let anyone tell you you are through.” I am afraid he has taken this *literally* — he cannot die, mommy told him not to. He has to obey, he *must* preserve The Idealized Mother, the Saint, formed as he abreacts the depressed controlling woman who couldn’t stop him crying, who breast-fed a cousin, a rival, when Dick — I mean *Milhous* — was six months, who abandoned him for mastoid surgery when he was 9 months, who gave birth to Donald right after that, more betrayal, more abandonment, who left him in his remarkably awkward adolescence for two years to go nurse the dying brother Harold, more abandonment, more guilt, well *is it any wonder?* What’s amazing is he did as well as he did, forget the Plumbers and the tapes and the Checkers speech, what’s amazing is he didn’t blow up the planet. (*Silence.*)

I think perhaps in Hannah’s obsessional, controlling personality may lie the explanation of the fact that Nixon was the last Republican President who believed in Regulation.

So she says “never die” and he can’t afford to disbelieve her, ambivalent mommy — combined of course with his paranoia — and given her obsessive-compulsive personality, paranoia’s a ... given. And his religiously-inflected grandiosity, well he always believed he was immortal —

METATRON: Masking of course a terrible fear of —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Of course! (*He sneezes*) AAAAAAHHHHH-CHOOOOOOOO!

METATRON: Gesundheit.

Metatron hands Dr. Hutschnecker a box of Kleenex.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Are you handing me this box of tissues because you are suggesting that I am resisting? That I should be needing them not to blow my nose but to wipe tears away? That I am *provoked* by my provocative patient rather than *moved* by him, I’m maybe taking *refuge* in anger to staunch the inner pain towards which this counter-transference is leading me: my *refugee* roots, the rejection I felt by my motherland in 1936 when I fled Berlin? An idealized mother, of course, Berlin, Germany, my real motherland was — blech — Austria.

METATRON: Why are you sneezing? You can’t really have hay fever, here where neither pollen nor sinuses nor —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I know I know. *He* has a sinusitis flare-up every year, starting September 5 on the nose, as it were, and ending October 1. *His father died September 4, his mother September 30.* Ba da bing! Remarkable, as I said, I used to wonder if he’d read Freud.

METATRON: Have you ever asked him if he had?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: He’d say yes, but he would probably be lying, he lies easier than breathing — AAAAAAAAHHHH-CHOOOOOO.

Well of what President could that not be said? They all lie, he’s just so transparent, endearing, like I said, at least he wasn’t overdosing on Halcyon, like Bush the First, at least he didn’t upchuck on the Japanese Prime Minister, at least he speaks in complete sentences, he doesn’t have a language disorder like the scary little *stugatz* they got in the White House now, and anyway I wouldn’t mention Freud to Milhous because it could trigger an association that could lead him to one of his anti-Semitic tirades, I have a lot of trouble with that, it really interferes with my ...

Did you know that Bush and Nixon, I mean Milhous, are actually related? They’re both cousins to the Stewart family, in Virginia, American aristocracy — One of the Stewarts, get this, Gladys I think her name was, she’s the mother of —

METATRON: Yes, I know, she’s the mother of Geraldine, the Queen of Albania. But speaking of associations, interesting that you bring up mothers just now, right after you —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Nixon and Bush are cousins of the fascist Queen of Albania! You can’t make this up! But where was I?

METATRON: Associations, Freud, you —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Yeah, right, but Freud — Who has the time? I tried Pavlov, I tried using Pavlovian techniques to get him to stop the war. Conditioning, behaviorism, that’s what works with these frenetic, overly-literal retentive guys, if Dr. Melfi would use Pavlov on... But he went out in the ’60s, it got all touchy-feely and drugs were in and... *The Manchurian Candidate*. Have you ever seen it?

METATRON: Of course. Angela Lansbury, I’m a fan of —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Great film. I tried to get Milhous to forge an association: “Mom”, “Quaker”, “Peace.” It never took. I used to think Kissinger was thwarting me. Now I see it was just the wrong series of associations. That *mother*:

Oh am I depressed. And I ache all over. Did I mention my leg? *Aaaah-Choo!* Five days a week! Water-gate, Lincoln, that guy in the arena with the dust and the sweat and the blood, undaunted etcetera and so forth, you know, that Teddy Roosevelt quote? Jesus wept I could *sing* you the — *expletive deleted* — thing, he’s been on my couch reciting it for fifty years, and NOW! Milhous! Full-blown stops-out week long psychoanalysis with Nixon! Are you sure this is *Paradise* and not the Other Place? AAAAAAAHHHH-*Chooooo!*

(He reaches for a Kleenex. He begins to weep copious tears.)

METATRON: His father was no picnic either.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER (*through his tears*): No, but *that mother*.

He moves me, of course he moves me. Poor Milhous! His mother couldn’t stop him crying, when he was an infant, she didn’t comfort him, she’d stand over his crib and say “He’s not sad he’s working on his lungpower, listen to that strong voice, *he’s born to be a leader!*” Hence all the speechmaking, *Madonn*’l, the mortifying rambling speeches, all the, the graphomania — he’s writing *more books*, did I mention that? — the sweaty upper lip, I mean talk about psychosomatic! — and what *were* all those words? *Tears! Weeping!* Milhous crying, crying for the mother, crying out for hard-hearted Hannah, crying out for mother love, for America, the Idealized Mother, which heard but would not love him and would only say “cry more, Milhous, cry more, you are”

Dr. Hutschnecker blows his nose and wipes his eyes.

METATRON: Interesting, Arnold, what you said about Germany being *your* idealized mother, while your real mother, the bad mother — I believe you said “Blech” — is Austria, where you were born.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: *Na, und?* I mean, *what’s your point?*

METATRON: Well, Arnold, I mean, talk about transparent. German ideal, Austrian roots, whom else might you be describing?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I don't — Oh.
Him.

METATRON: Ja! *He* always referred to Germany as Vaterland, nicht Mutterland.

So perhaps here, the cause of your persistent refusal to consider the bad father introject inhabiting like a shadowy Cronus the cave of Milhous's unconscious.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Huh. That's god, I mean *good*.

METATRON: So we may perhaps want to ask, in our next session, when you first elected to treat this man, this powerful leader, grandiose, paranoiac, anti-Semitic, often described as having a Napoleon Complex ... Who is it you have *really* been trying to treat, Arnold, whose anti-social impulses and abuses of power are you really trying to control? Who is your real patient, Milhous ... or someone else? The one who drove you from your motherland in 1936? Are you perhaps attempting to rewrite history through your treatment of a less-malevolent surrogate who ...

Dr. Hutschnecker has fallen asleep, sitting up.

METATRON: Arnold?

Dr. Hutschnecker snores.

METATRON (*in a voice like seven thunders*): ARNOLD!

Dr. Hutschnecker jolts awake.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Whoah! I must've ... dozed off. I got to get more sleep, I think, it's the — *expletive deleted* — *Sopranos*, I can't stop watching them. That mother!

METATRON: Oh yes, Nancy Marchand!

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: She's just the best! Isn't Nancy Marchand here now? I'd love to meet her. What an actress! What a role! That mother! David Chase is a genius, I can't wait for the new season!

METATRON: I've seen it. I've seen all the seasons. Of everything. Marvelous.
And I think our time is up.

END



DR. ARNOLD A. HUTSCHNECKER IN PARADISE by Tony Kushner '78 is part of a collection, TINY KUSHNER, to be published by TCG. Originally produced by the Guthrie Theater; Joe Dowling, artistic director.



With last papers due and finals around the corner, Butler Library becomes a second home to many students in the late spring.
PHOTO: COLIN SULLIVAN '11

46

Message from the CCAA President

47

Bookshelf

49

Obituaries

53

Class Notes

96

Last Look

MESSAGE FROM CCAA PRESIDENT KYRA TIRANA BARRY '87

The Gift of Knowledge and Experience

As president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA), I strongly believe that one of the most valuable ways alumni can give back to the Columbia community is through the gift of knowledge and experience. Sharing this gift can be done through formal and informal mentorships between alumni and current students, which create direct and personal connections that benefit all for a lifetime.

One of our alumni groups, Columbia College Women, has raised the bar with the CCW Mentoring Program, co-chaired by Michelle Estilo Kaiser '87 and Selby Drummond '09. Now in its 20th year, the Mentoring Program pairs alumnae mentors from the Classes of 1987–2013 with rising junior and senior women using an algorithm based on mentor and mentee responses to a short questionnaire. The program's popularity has grown exponentially during the past two decades, going from 20 matches at its inception to a record-breaking 290-plus matches this year! This spike in interest is due in large part to the time and effort Michelle and Selby have devoted to improving the program, and also due to the demand by women to find connections to one another across generations.

CCW's student chair, Emily Dreibelbis '14, has experienced the benefits of CCW and the Mentoring Program firsthand. "I have been working with CCW since I was a sophomore," she says, "but now that I'm a senior, being part of CCW as well as the Mentoring Program has become even more important in helping me visualize [my future] and prepare myself for graduation. Whether it's job applications, interview skills or figuring out where to start apartment hunting in NYC, the fact that I have so many people to turn to is amazing."

Students and alumnae are drawn to CCW because they share many experiences not only during college but throughout their lives. Kaiser says, "I believe a large factor in CCW's rapid growth and popularity is the fact that women are called upon to continually reinvent themselves, especially if they choose to take a life partner and raise children."

Columbia College women represent a mix of backgrounds, professions, beliefs and cultures but something about Columbia called us each by name — and we answered. Before we completed our first year, we began collecting experiences and knowledge that we all now share — the perks and hardships of sharing a Carman bathroom with three roommates, the battle against the John Jay waffle station and the freshman 15, and the thrill of reading *Lysistrata* for the first time.

These shared experiences do not end after graduation; rather, they are only beginning, and they continue to grow in poignancy and gravity. For many, the idea of achieving life balance comes to the fore, whether that means managing career, family, hobbies, philanthropy and/or other interests. As a graduate of the first fully coeducational class of women at Columbia College, there were no footsteps for me to follow in. The experiences that we as College alumnae have had — the triumphs and the missteps — are incredibly valuable to pass on to future generations of Columbia College women.

Now in its 25th year, CCW is in a position to successfully expand its reach and benefit. As Kaiser describes it, "We are now in an opportune moment where the eldest of us are starting to feel the gift of time, with more independent children and/or comfortable careers. We have had several groups of alumnae in the glow of their 25th reunion looking to find a place in CCW, and we fully welcome their involvement in expanding intellectual, social and alum-to-alum offerings. CCW thrives on the diversity of Columbia's alumnae. We find a huge student demand for non-traditional as well as traditional careers and have found many women's lives are incredibly interesting and enriched by the panoply of their life experiences."

While CCW may be best known for its Mentoring Program, it has many other initiatives and its board is looking forward to capitalizing on this moment to broaden CCW's scope and boost involvement.

CCW's success is supported by Kim Diamon, who joined the alumni relations team last fall. Kim's efforts

have been vital in enabling CCW's growth and expansion. She also works closely with Columbia College Young Alumni, another group that has strengthened in recent years.

I am also pleased to introduce three staff members who joined the Alumni Office this winter: Executive Director of College Alumni Relations and Events Jessica Green '05 Business, Associate Director of Alumni Relations Megan Cheever and Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Suzy Alpert. With the leadership and support of Senior Executive Director Bernice Tsai '96, I am confident that we will soon be able to offer alumni a much more robust array of ways to participate with CCAA and to pay back the gift of a Columbia experience to others.

Kyra Barry



Alumnae share their knowledge and experience with students via the CCW Mentoring Program and through events with speakers such as Sheena Wright '90, '94L (second from left), CEO of United Way of NYC. Joining Wright at a 2013 CCW brunch were (left to right) Constance Boozer '13, CCAA president Kyra Tirana Barry '87, Emily Dreibelbis '14 and Michelle Estilo Kaiser '87, '92 PH, '97 P&S.

PHOTO: REBECCA CASTILLO '94, '06J

Bookshelf

The Wrights of Vermont: Searching for My Father's Family by George T. Wright '45. After his father's death, Wright digs into his father's genealogy to discover the stories and relationships of his father and his father's relatives (Wheatmark, \$13.95).

Letters from the Attic: Save the Last Dance for Me by Charles Young '50. The author recalls his life through letters that he wrote during WWII and reflects on family life, young romance and the war's influence on his and future generations (iUniverse, \$34.95).

I Am Abraham: A Novel of Lincoln and the Civil War by Jerome Charyn '59. Charyn interweaves fictional events with Lincoln's already well-documented life to provide a more human and intimate perspective on him (W.W. Norton & Co.: Liveright, \$26.95).

Congo: The Miserable Expeditions and Dreadful Death of Lt. Emory Taunt, USN by Andrew C.A. Jampoler '62. Through retelling the story of Taunt's death, which occurred during a 1995 solo mission up the Congo River, the author offers a glimpse into the United States' role in the birth of a nation (Naval Institute Press, \$44.95).

Alien Rule by Michael Hechter '66. The author argues that alien rule (non-native leaders) can be legitimate if it provides governance that is both effective and fair. Reflecting on historical examples, he then

applies his theories to universities, corporations and families (Cambridge University Press, \$28.99).

Medimont Reflections: 40 Years of Issues and Idahoans by Chris Carlson '68. In this collection of essays, Carlson draws from 40 years of public life as a press secretary and journalist to provide a history of Idaho's politics and northwestern conservation issues (Ridenbaugh Press, \$15.95).

Report from the Interior by Paul Auster '69. Narrated in the second person, this autobiography tracks Auster's moral, political and intellectual journey as he moves toward adulthood through the postwar 1950s and into the turbulent 1960s (Henry Holt and Co., \$27).

Saint Bernard's Three-Course Banquet: Humility, Charity, and Contemplation in the De Gradi-bus by Bernard Bonowitz '70. The author digs into the seventh chapter of Saint Bernard's *The Steps of Humility and Pride* to provide a spiritual guide for the Cistercian disciple and modern reader alike (Liturgical Press, \$18.95).

The Tales of Hoffmann by William Germano '72. Germano argues that the elaborate theatrical requirements of composer Jacques Offenbach's opera *Les contes d'Hoffmann* allowed directors Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger to work imaginatively and creatively in their cinematic adaptation (Palgrave Macmillan, \$14.95).

Into Daylight by Jeffrey Harrison '80. The author's Dorset Prize-winning collection of poetry reflects on the daily familiarities and fragilities experienced in a long marriage, refracted through the shock of a brother's suicide (Tupelo Press, \$16.95).

The Sea & Civilization: A Maritime History of the World by Lincoln Paine '81. Paine uses the lens of maritime travel to retell human history, examining the world's waterways as the primary means of spreading goods, languages, religions and cultures (Knopf, \$40).

The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon by Brad Stone '93. Stone chronicles the rise of Bezos and the company he founded, providing a behind-the-scenes account of the e-commerce revolution (Little, Brown and Co., \$28).

Jessica Darling's It List: The (Totally Not) Guaranteed Guide to Popularity, Prettiness & Perfection by Megan McCafferty '95. Jessica Darling, armed with a "guaranteed guide" from her older sister, stumbles through junior high as she discovers that being herself trumps popularity (Poppy, \$17).

The Dead Run: A Novel by Adam Mansbach '98. In this supernatural and surreal work, an American police officer must track down a runaway girl while another American, incarcerated in Mexico,

is tasked with delivering a living, beating heart to an apocalyptic cult leader in Texas (Harper Voyager, \$25.99).

Raising Henry: A Memoir of Motherhood, Disability, & Discovery by Rachel Adams, professor of English and comparative literature. Drawing on her background in the study of the physically disabled and outcasts in American culture as well as her experience raising a son with Down syndrome, the author provides context for understanding the ways the disabled and their families are viewed and treated (Yale University Press, \$26).

The Rise of Women: The Growing Gender Gap in Education and What it Means for American Schools by Thomas A. DiPrete, the Giddings Professor of Sociology, and Claudia Buchmann. The authors analyze the social influences that have caused the growing gender gap in higher education (Russell Sage Foundation, \$37.50).

Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection by Debora L. Spar, president of Barnard College. Drawing on research and experience, Spar addresses how the political goals of the feminist movement have evolved into an overwhelming set of expectations for contemporary women to succeed in all areas of life (Sarah Crichton Books, \$27).

Karl Daum '15



Susanna Daniel '97 Returns to Familiar Waters in Second Novel

BY JUSTIN DEFREITAS

Susanna Daniel '97 set her first novel, *Stiltsville*, in the community of that same name, a mile off the south Florida coast in Biscayne Bay. The book allowed Daniel to explore familiar territory — she grew up roughly 40 miles away, in Coral Gables, south of Miami, and often visited the wood stilt houses whose residents inspired several of the novel's characters. It also earned her a 2011 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for debut fiction.

When she decided to write a second novel, however, Daniel feared she had exhausted the setting. "I thought I had burned Stiltsville down," she says.

Her husband dissuaded her of that notion, freeing Daniel to return to South Florida for *Sea Creatures* (HarperCollins, \$25.99). "It just seemed the perfect setting for the material I had in mind," she says. "I like to write about marriages and parents, and Stiltsville is perfect for that: families together, trapped on an island."

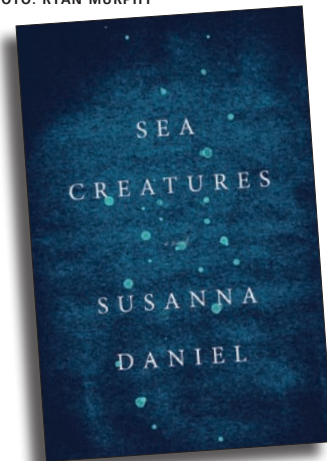
The novel's emotional landscape is also somewhat familiar. Daniel, who suffers from insomnia and is the mother of two small children, centered the story on an insomniac, Georgia, whose son, Frankie, is closing in on 3. But from there the story takes on dramatic complications. Frankie refuses to speak and Georgia's husband, Graham, suffers from severe parasomnia. His dangerous, often threatening sleepwalking behavior causes disturbances in their Illinois community, precipitating the family's relocation to Georgia's hometown of Coral Gables. Though they hope for a fresh start, Georgia soon finds herself grappling with the impact that Graham's sleep disorder is having on their son as well as the implications of her relationship with a reclusive Stiltsville artist for whom she works as an errand runner.

Today, Daniel is a long way from the sunny shores of Florida. She lives in Madison, Wis., and teaches writing at the Madison Writers' Studio, which she founded last year with author Michelle Wildgen. The pair teach eight-week courses in fiction writing and nonfiction narrative. Daniel's inclination toward writing began as a junior at Columbia. At that time the College did not have an undergraduate writing program, "so I took the playwriting class," she says. "It was a general class, held in the evenings. I took it over and over."

A few years after graduation, while working as an editor, it occurred to Daniel that although she thought of herself as a writer, she hadn't written anything since her time at Columbia. "I realized I was going to have to make it happen," she recalls. So she applied to the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop in



PHOTO: RYAN MURPHY



Iowa City. "It forced me to take my writing seriously. It gave me discipline," she says. "It took years off the process of developing as a writer. Not that I'm through developing, by any means. But it forces you to confront your flaws."

Daniel felt she was strong on character and language but needed to develop her skills in plotting and action. She had a tendency, early on, to write about characters lost in their own thoughts — "people doing nothing, just staring into mirrors or sitting in airports with a drink in one hand," she says with a laugh.

One story written at Iowa proved a sort of golden ticket. "We Are Cartographers" was included in the 2001 edition of *Best New American Voices* and earned Daniel a teaching and writing fellowship at Iowa as well as a fellowship at the University

of Wisconsin. The story, along with two others, served as the basis for *Stiltsville*.

Sea Creatures, by contrast, was conceived as a novel from the start. The idea stemmed from an afternoon Daniel spent sitting in her car in a Target parking lot. While her infant napped in the backseat, Daniel listened to the *Moth Radio Hour* broadcast of Mike Birbiglia's one-man show, "Sleepwalk With Me," in which the comedian chronicles his own harrowing experiences with parasomnia. She was struck by the subject's fictional possibilities. "I just wondered what it would be like to be married to a parasomniac," Daniel says.

Daniel constructed a tale of a family that hopes and may even believe that it's merely working its way through a transition. But gradually it becomes clear that the family is drifting amid dire, if understated, crisis, with disaster looming on the horizon. "I like novels where nothing happens until the end," Daniel says, "and then *everything* happens — character-based novels that explode into action in the final act."

Daniel captures the difficult dynamics of family life, including the sometimes conflicting pulls of personal and communal needs. And she conveys the heightened senses that accompany parenthood: the fear, the anxiety, the self-doubt and the compulsion to assess the safety of every situation, not to mention the sudden, blinding panic that can follow even a momentary lapse in attention. The first-person perspective brings Georgia's predicament to the fore as she weighs the emotional health and development of her child against the viability of her marriage.

"I tend to tell stories from a very personal perspective," Daniel says. "I like big, messy novels with a lot of heart."

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer, editor and artist.

Obituaries

1939

Thomas H. Dawkins, retired plumber, artist, Middletown, Conn., on April 30, 2012. Dawkins was born in Fort Worth, Texas. He opened a plumbing business in Manchester after serving in the Army Air Corps during WWII. After retiring, he turned to art, forming the plumbing materials with which he was comfortable working into a variety of sculptures, many with religious themes. He traveled into his 90s and remained active, including as a member of the Talcottville Congregational Church. Dawkins is survived by his son, Thomas, and Thomas' fiancée, Catherine Rohrbach; daughter, Elizabeth Poreba, and her husband, John; brother, John; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters, Joan and Christine; and brother, Richard. Memorial contributions may be made to The Nature Conservancy.

1943

Cedric C. Philipp, retired pharmaceutical representative, Audubon, Pa., on July 18, 2013. Philipp was born in Iquique, Chile, on July 3, 1922. Philipp entered the Army in December 1943. Commissioned at Fort Benning, Ga., he is in its OCS Hall of Fame. Philipp was in the Rhineland Campaign and toward the end of the war he joined a team in Spain to capture Hitler if he escaped there. Philipp was U.S. representative on the Quadripartite Property Control Secretariat in Berlin. Leaving the Army in October 1946, He drove a Jeep from Venezuela to Chile, the first trip by vehicle the length of South America, totally overland. He attended the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton and then joined the Department of State Office for Inter-American Affairs. For 30 years Philipp was an executive of Wyeth International and worked in 44 countries. On retirement, he headed a consultancy to the pharmaceutical industry and was a volunteer for the International Executive Service Corps. He lived in Radnor, Pa., for 39 years. Philipp is survived by his wife, Sue; children, Tad '80 Business, Christopher and Julie; and three grandchildren.

1948

Paul H. Gerst, surgeon, Tenafly, N.J., on September 29, 2013. Gerst

earned an M.D. from P&S in 1952. He completed training in general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center and joined the attending staff in 1962. In 1964, he was appointed department chair of surgery and surgical residency

program director at the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center and professor of surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, a position he held until his retirement in 2003. Gerst had a distinguished career as surgeon and educator and in 2003 received the Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award

from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education for outstanding direction of The Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center Surgical Residency Training program. During the Korean War, he served as a medical officer with the Army in Korea. Gerst is survived by his sons, Steven '81, '86

Arnold A. Saltzman '36, Diplomat and Presidential Adviser

Arnold A. Saltzman '36, a diplomat, businessman and presidential adviser, died in Sands Point, N.Y., on January 2, 2014. He was 97.

Saltzman, who worked until a week before his death, was involved in many aspects of business, public service and diplomacy. He worked on foreign and economic policy under five U.S. Presidents.

Emigrating from Russia, Saltzman's family settled in New York City, where Saltzman was born on October 1, 1916. He attended Samuel J. Tilden H.S. At Columbia, Saltzman majored in economics and government. He was the president of his fraternity, Beta Sigma Rho, and a member of the tennis team and the Debate Council.

After graduating at 20, Saltzman left his family business, Premier Knitting, to work on economic policy for the Roosevelt administration during the Depression, serving on the Industrial Mobilization Commission and with the

Office of Price Administration. He also served in the Coast Guard as an officer, 1943–45. In 1961, Saltzman became CEO of Seagrave Corp. (later Vista Resources), which made fire engines.

Saltzman continued to work on policy in the 1960s, first under the Kennedy administration as a troubleshooter and then as an adviser for numerous committees and agencies. He also participated in diplomatic envoy work in Eastern Europe under the Johnson administration, worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development and advised the Office of Economic Opportunity. Saltzman helped negotiate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty in Vienna in 1967–68, for which he received a Presidential Commendation.

In 1992, while chairman of the investment firm Windsor Production Corp., Saltzman was hired by the former Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzstan as

its chief negotiator for contracts to develop the nation's mineral resources. Acting as the middleman between Kyrgyzstan and western companies, Saltzman had the authority to sign contracts on Kyrgyzstan's behalf. In a 1992 *New York Times* article, he said that despite his age, working in foreign policy and development was "better than taking a vacation."

While negotiating policy and managing corporations, Saltzman remained an active member of the Columbia community, establishing a number of scholarships, including the Arnold A. Saltzman Scholarship Fund. Saltzman was awarded the Alumni Medal in 1964. In 1965, he helped to found the Double Discovery Program (now the Double Discovery Center). In 2003, the Institute of War & Peace Studies — founded by President Eisenhower during his tenure as Columbia's president — was renamed the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War & Peace Studies. Saltzman endowed two professorships

at SIPA: the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies and the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs. Saltzman chaired the Columbia College Board of Overseers, the University Trustees, the Columbia College Fund and the John Jay Associates.

Inspired by an undergraduate art history class, Saltzman had a lifelong passion for collecting art. He was a generous donor to galleries and museums; he assumed direction of and revitalized the Nassau County Museum of Fine Arts and was a trustee of the Baltimore Museum of Art. Saltzman is survived by his wife, Joan, whom he married in 1942; sons, Robert '67 and Eric '69; daughter, Marian; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Karl Daum '15



PHOTO: COURTESY ARNOLD A. SALTZMAN INSTITUTE OF WAR & PEACE STUDIES

P&S, '87 PH, Andrew and Jeffrey; and a granddaughter. His wife, Dr. Elizabeth C. Gerst, a former assistant dean at P&S, died in 1994.



Leonard Ornstein '48

Leonard Ornstein, cell biologist and professor emeritus, White Plains, N.Y., on May 7, 2013. Born in 1926, Ornstein served in the Navy as a hospital corpsman during WWII. He earned an M.A. (1949) and Ph.D. (1957), both in biological sciences, from GSAS. He taught and conducted research in Columbia's biology department 1949–64. Ornstein joined Mt. Sinai Hospital in 1954, where he was director of its Cell Research Laboratory, and was a professor of pathology in its School of Medicine 1966–92. That year, he retired and became a professor emeritus. Ornstein had a long and distinguished career in cell biology and cytochemistry, with technical specialties in flow cytometry, elec-

trophoresis, bioengineering, biophysics, electro-optics, optical and electron microscopy and automated medical diagnosis. He also researched and wrote about information theory and meaning, pattern recognition and artificial neural networks, epistemology, agricultural irrigation and global warming. Ornstein held 26 patents in the fields of histochemistry, bioengineering and agricultural irrigation. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Theresa Roller Ornstein; sister, Norma O. Goldstein; sons, Avi and Tad; daughter, Cindy; son-in-law, Charles Johnson; daughters-in-law, Bernice Nowak-Ornstein and Lyanne LaBelle Ornstein; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. A second daughter, Rani Simoff, preceded him in death.

1 9 4 9

Herbert F. "Smokey" Stover, retired pilot, Laconia, N.H., on May 26, 2013. Stover was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on January 8, 1925, and graduated from Brooklyn Tech. He enlisted in the Navy and trained as an aviation electrician's mate. After graduating from Columbia he was hired by Eastern Air Lines and served in various capacities for 37 years, finishing his career as No. 1 senior captain while based in Boston. In 1975, Stover met and married Joni (Ballard) Dow; they were married 38 years. After mandatory retirement from Eastern Air Lines at 60, Stover filled his time with building projects, a run for the city council, a brief stint in real estate and several terms on the YMCA Board of Directors. Twenty-five winters were spent at the couple's retirement home in Fort Myers, Fla., and golf remained a favorite pastime. Stover is survived by his wife; children, Lorinda Steadman and her husband, John, and Herbert F. "Ricko" III; stepchildren, Brenda Daniels and her husband, Dennis, John H. Dow, Linda Hayes and her husband, Todd, and Mary K. Dow and her companion, Leigh Studley; and five grandchildren and stepgrandchildren. Stover was predeceased by a brother, Arthur; and a son, Scot.

1 9 5 0

Harry W. Pauley, professor emeritus, Newburg, Pa., on February 3, 2014. Pauley was born on April 6, 1921, in Spring Hill, Pa. He enlisted in the Navy in WWII and rose to the rank of chief radioman. He entered the College on the GI Bill ("the best thing the government ever did, which should be expanded to include everyone who can get into college"). Pauley revered the Core, and was grateful to study with professors including Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS

and Joseph Wood Krutch '24 GSAS, and classmates who encouraged him to think. Pauley earned an M.A. in English from GSAS in 1952 and taught at the New Hampton School, the University of Minnesota Duluth and Stephens College. He earned a Ph.D. from Missouri in 1965, then taught English at Shippensburg State College (later University), specializing in Shakespeare. He wrote *Shakespeare: The Main Story* and a play, *The Rocking Chair*. Pauley is survived by his wife of 57 years, Evelyn M. (née Green); son, Christopher '84, and his wife, Barbara; daughter, Ingrid LaBarbiera '81 Barnard, and her husband, Leonard LaBarbiera '82 Business; and five grandchildren. Pauley was preceded in death by five siblings and one granddaughter.

1 9 5 1

Chester M. "Chet" Edelmanna Jr., professor of pediatrics, Bronxville, N.Y., on September 19, 2013. Edelmann earned an M.D. from Cornell and completed his residency in pediatrics as chief resident at BMHC. During his 57-year tenure at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Edelmann held many prestigious positions, including senior associate dean and Distinguished University Professor of Pediatrics. He authored 43 scientific abstracts and was a member of 25 national and international medical societies. Edelmann was a lover of languages and their usage; a concert level pianist; and a faithful patron of opera, the theater and the Philharmonic. He also created fine furniture and was a loyal Mets fan. Edelmann is survived by his wife of 60 years, Norma; children, John, Christopher and Kathy; sister, Maida Heitner; and one granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made to Concordia College, Greenwich Hospital Inpatient Oncology Unit or the Sierra Club.

1 9 5 2

David A. Braun, attorney, Montecito, Calif., on January 28, 2013. Braun was born on April 23, 1931, in New York City. He earned a degree from the Law School in 1954 and began his career in New York in the television industry before recognizing an opportunity in the late 1950s to represent singers and songwriters in the emerging world of rock 'n' roll. Braun was president and CEO of PolyGram Records in the United States in the early 1980s before returning to representing artists. Known as a tough negotiator, he led a move in the industry to demand higher royalty rates for artists. Braun worked with, among others, Bob Dylan; Peter, Paul and Mary; and Gordon Lightfoot. He also taught at UCLA and USC, and helped found the Rock and Roll

Hall of Fame and Museum. Braun served on the College's Board of Visitors, was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1981 and was an Alumni Medalist in 1988. He practiced in New York until 1974 and thereafter in California. Braun is survived by his wife of 57 years, Merna; sons, Lloyd, Kenneth and Evan; daughters-in-law, Lauren, Joana and Shauna; and eight grandchildren.

1 9 5 6

Seymour J. Mandelbaum, professor, Philadelphia, on January 23, 2013. Mandelbaum was born in Chicago and raised in New York before settling with his family in Philadelphia in the mid-1960s. He earned his graduate degrees from Princeton, and his Ph.D. thesis on New York City in the 1870s led to his book *Boss Tweed's New York*. Mandelbaum's interest was in the development of human communities, the moral orders that shaped them and the flow of individuals and information through them. He was the volume editor of *Explorations in Planning Theory* and served on several editorial boards. Mandelbaum taught briefly at the Carnegie Institute of Technology and Penn's Annenberg School for Communication before joining Penn's School of Design as a professor in 1967. He taught planning theory, communication policy and planning, international comparative planning, community design and urban history; he became professor emeritus in 2004. Mandelbaum enjoyed vacationing with his family on Long Beach Island, N.J. Surviving him are his wife, the former Dorothy Rosenthal; sons, David and Judah; daughter, Betsy; a sister; and six grandchildren. A brother predeceased him. Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center, University of Pennsylvania, 330 S. Ninth St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, or to the National Parkinson Foundation, 1501 N.W. Ninth Ave., Miami, FL 33136.

1 9 5 7

Sheldon S. Hendler, scientist, physician, musician, San Diego, on November 12, 2012. Hendler was born May 12, 1936, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from GSAS in 1969, then conducted post-doctoral studies at UCSD and the Salk Institute, where he made seminal discoveries on the structure of the nucleosome and contributed to the development of the first antiviral drugs. After helping found the Medical School at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Tijuana, and chairing its first Department of Biochemistry, Hendler

completed an M.D. at UCSD and a medical residency at Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego. He was a leading authority on micro nutrition, human physiology and the impact of diet and lifestyle upon health and disease. He authored more than 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts and a number of books on nutrition, and was the founding editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Medicinal Food*. The world's first description and biochemical characterization of a new human disease, elastoderma, was described by Hendler and his colleagues in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1985. A concert-level jazz trumpet player, Hendler composed the original musical score for the 1973 television series *The Ascent of Man*. He was preceded in death by his son, Seth, and is survived by his wife, Joyce, and their son, Ross.

1 9 5 8

Myron Bander, professor of physics and astronomy, Newport Beach, Calif., on December 19, 2012. Bander was born in Belzyce, Poland, on December 11, 1937. In 1939, his father moved the family to what is now Ukraine. The family spent the remainder of WWII there, part of the time in a ghetto and for many months hidden by two Polish families, before being liberated in 1944. The family relocated to displaced persons camps in Austria and Germany before immigrating to the United States in 1949. Bander attended Brooklyn Tech and earned a bachelor's in physics as well as a Ph.D. from GSAS (1961). His principal field of research was quantum field theory and elementary particle physics, in particular. After a year as an NSF Postdoctoral Fellow at CERN, the University of Copenhagen and the University of Paris, Bander became a research associate at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. In 1966 he joined the faculty of UC Irvine, where he spent the last 46 years of his career. He chaired the Department of Physics and Astronomy 1978–80 and 1992–95, and was the third dean of the School of Physical Sciences, 1980–86. Survivors include his wife, Carol.

1 9 6 7

Alan Candiotti, university dean and professor, Madison, N.J., on August 19, 2013. After graduating as valedictorian of Francis Lewis H.S. at 16, Candiotti earned a B.A. in mathematics and then a Ph.D. in mathematics from Harvard (1973). He was the interim dean of Drew University's College of Liberal Arts in Madison, N.J., and a professor, since 1980, of mathematics and computer science. Candiotti earned the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1992 and

Richard D. Heffner '46, '47 GSAS, Host of Public Television's *Open Mind*

Richard D. Heffner '46, '47 GSAS, host of public television's current-affairs program *Richard Heffner's Open Mind*, a communications professor and the former chair of the Classification and Ratings Administration, died on December 17, 2013. He was 88 and lived in New York City.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel once described Heffner as "one of the most intelligent, sensitive interviewers" who with "every subject that he chooses — war, politics, literature — manages to humanize it and bring it up rather than bring it down." First broadcast in 1956, *Open Mind* examined then-controversial topics: homosexuality, alcoholism, McCarthyism, segregation and anti-Semitism. Heffner's guests included writers, activists and politicians, from Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X to Isaac Asimov '39, '41 GSAS and Gloria Steinem.

Heffner was born in New York City on August 5, 1925. He graduated from DeWitt Clinton H.S. in the Bronx and majored in history at the College. Heffner was one of the earliest on-air voices for the Columbia University Radio Club, where he delivered weekly current events reports. He earned an M.A. in history under Richard Hofstadter '42 GSAS. In 1952, Heffner published the first of many books, *A Documentary History of the United States*, a collection of primary documents of American history.

After graduation, Heffner taught briefly at Sarah Lawrence but left to pursue broadcasting. In 1953, he visited radio stations throughout New York City to pitch an interview with Eleanor Roosevelt on the eighth anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death. Accepted by WMCA, Heffner's interview marked the beginning of his broadcasting career with the weekly

half-hour show *History in the News*.

A year later, Heffner moved on to *Man of the Year*, a public affairs show, and in 1956 he launched *Open Mind*, which he produced and hosted from its inception until his death, with unaired episodes to air posthumously.

Heffner joined the editorial board at CBS in 1959. In 1961, he helped negotiate the acquisition of Channel 13, a failing commercial station in Newark, N.J. The station became New York's first public television station and today's WNET, with Heffner its founding general manager. He left in 1963 over a disagreement over the channel's direction.

Heffner was the University Professor of Communications and Public Policy at Rutgers from 1964 until his death. He also founded the consulting firm Richard Heffner Associates, which served such clients as American Airlines and Time, Inc.

In 1974, Heffner became the sixth chair of the Classification and Ratings Administration of the Motion Picture Association of America, serving until 1994. Under his leadership, CARA added two new ratings: PG-13 in 1984

and NC-17 in 1990.

Heffner published his book *As They Saw It: A Half-Century of Conversations from The Open Mind*, in 2004. The book brings together decades of historic and exclusive interviews conducted by Heffner, who was described in his *New York Times* obituary by John Corry as a man who "would sooner dive under the tablecloth than needlessly interrupt. When he does interrupt, it's because he has something to say."

Heffner is survived by his wife, Elaine '51 SW, '86 TC; sons, Daniel and Andrew; and four grandchildren.

Karl Daum '15



PHOTO: RANDY MONCEAUX

Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 6th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that *CCT* receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear.

- 1934** Millard L. Midonick, attorney, New York City, on January 18, 2014.
- 1938** George W. Sferra, dentist, Gulfport, Fla., on November 6, 2013.
- 1942** John A. Persson, retired engineer, Cranberry Township, Pa., on October 15, 2013.
- 1943** Ernest E. Tucker, physician, Morristown, N.J., on December 16, 2013.
- 1945** Norman J. Selverstone, physician, New York City, on November 5, 2013.
- 1947** Jules L. Gladstone, physician, Monroe Township, N.J., on November 2, 2013.
- 1948** Harvey C. Gardner, editor and actor, Nyack, N.Y., on December 11, 2013.
- 1949** Albert E. Koska, retired insurance underwriter, Jersey City, N.J., on December 12, 2013. Lewis Kurke, retired psychiatrist, Scottsdale, Ariz., on May 29, 2013.
- 1950** Joseph A.M. Mehan, communications executive, Fort Myers, Fla., on December 18, 2013. Harry W. Pauley, professor, Newburg, Pa., on February 3, 2014.
- 1951** George E. Chase, real estate broker, Atlanta, on September 16, 2013. Allan W. Robbins, retired Navy officer and librarian, Alexandria, Va., on March 3, 2013.
- 1952** Thomas E. Federowicz, retired physician, Binghamton, N.Y., on November 27, 2013. Robert C. Schwegler, certified life underwriter, North Tonawanda, N.Y., on June 25, 2012.
- 1954** Enno W. Ercklentz, international corporate lawyer, New York City, on January 24, 2014.
- 1955** Thomas L. Chrystie, retired investment banker and executive, Charleston, S.C., on December 24, 2013. Jay P. Joseph, Merrick, N.Y., on November 23, 2010.
- 1956** Leslie Y. Rabkin, retired clinical psychologist and professor, Seattle, on January 7, 2014.
- 1958** Martin F. Stein, physician, Bronxville, N.Y., on November 11, 2013. Charles A. Swenson, retired software developer and editor, Alpharetta, Ga., on September 21, 2013.
- 1959** Evan Juro, marketing and advertising executive, Matamoras, Pa., on November 13, 2013. George H. Semel, plastic surgeon, Los Angeles, on December 4, 2013. Richard J. Stepick, retired design and merchandising executive, Dallas, on January 29, 2014.
- 1960** Earl B. Hathaway II, corporate banker, Falmouth, Maine, on October 18, 2013.
- 1961** Kenneth C. Edelin, physician, Sarasota, Fla., on December 30, 2013. Victor Hao Li, executive consultant and professor, Oakland, Calif., on September 18, 2013.
- 1962** Ralph B. Dunn, attorney, Aventura, Fla., on December 29, 2013.
- 1965** Geoffrey M. Horn, editor and writer, Red Bank, N.J., on November 25, 2013.
- 1967** John W. Elsberg, retired editor and poet, Arlington, Va., on July 28, 2012.
- 1969** Arthur Schoengold, physician, Derwood, Md., on April 20, 2013. Conley E. Ward, attorney and politician, Kuna, Idaho, on October 28, 2013.
- 1970** Anthony J. Rock, Eastchester, N.Y., on January 28, 2014. Richard G. Smolev, retired attorney and novelist, Kintnersville, Pa., on January 25, 2014.
- 1972** William A. Pencak, professor and editor, Coburn, Pa., on December 9, 2013.
- 1981** Louis J. Brindisi III, consultant, Jamaica Plain, Mass., on June 11, 2011.
- 1987** Karin M. Higa, art curator, Los Angeles, on October 29, 2013.

1 9 8 1

Alan J. Saffran, otolaryngologist, Winter Park, Fla., on September 27, 2013. Saffran was born in New York City on July 30, 1960. He graduated from Bronx Science, the College and P&S (1986). At the College, Saffran was a founding member of the Roach Motel League, considered the oldest continuously operating fantasy baseball league. As an alumnus, Saffran was an active member of the Alumni Representative Committee. Saffran did his residency at Virginia and in 1990 relocated to the Orlando area and began his practice. He was ENT chief at both Orlando Regional Medical Center and

Florida Hospital. Saffran also was devoted to humanitarian causes, taking trips to Mexico to treat needy children with cleft palates. Back home, Saffran was an active volunteer at Park Maitland School, which his children attended, serving as a science-fair judge and speaking to parents and students about nutrition and health. His wife of 19 years, the former Pamela Thompson, survives him, as do their children, Miles, Nathaniel and Ella; his mother, Dolores; and brother, Bruce, and his wife, Elaine. Memorial contributions may be made to an organization to combat cancer established by Saffran's daughter, Ella: Cross Out Cancer,

471 Virginia Dr., Winter Park FL 32789.

Jonathan Taffler, business executive, Wilton, Conn., on September 13, 2013. Taffler was born on October 27, 1959, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He was the founder and president of Programmed Solutions and more recently president and co-founder of Spitfire Product Management System. He also developed software. Taffler was a pilot, a flight instructor and an avid sportsman, and he loved to travel. Taffler is survived by his daughters, Brooke and Lindsay; parents, Sy and Elaine; sister, Robin, and her husband, Dick Dougherty; nephew, Casey Dough-

erty; and former wife and mother to his children, Randi Shamitz.

1 9 9 2

Meredith A. Norton, author, Oakland, Calif., on August 2, 2013. Norton was born on January 10, 1970, in Berkeley. She earned a degree in fine arts and film studies from the College and spent part of her college junior year in Milan studying fine arts. Norton worked variously as a hymnal editor with the Anglican Church Center in New York, Hollywood assistant talent agent, Sorbonne zoology student, junior high school American history teacher, CEO of Norton Whittaker, graduate engineering student (in preparation to be an astronaut) and a radio sports editor in Paris before finding her métier as an author and editor after marrying, having a son and developing breast cancer. Her book, *Lopsided: How Having Breast Cancer Can Be Really Distracting*, published in 2008, was hailed as a wickedly funny, unique addition to the genre of breast cancer memoirs for its insightful observations and skewering of cultural attitudes and medical behavior. Norton is survived by her husband, Thibault J. Jousse; son, Lucas; sister, Angela; brother, Douglas, and his wife, Ashante; parents, John and Eloise; grandmother, G. Alexandria Edwards; uncle, Edward; a niece; and three nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

2 0 0 3

Shannon K. Smith, grant management specialist, Jamaica Plain, Mass., on June 5, 2013. Smith was raised in South Weymouth, Mass., and recently lived in Jamaica Plain. She was a 2011 graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where she attended a master's program in English and library science and was a teaching assistant. During the last two years of her life, Smith was employed in the oncology research department of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Prior to entering the University of Wisconsin, she taught English as a foreign language in Leszno, Poland, and Daegu, South Korea, and had worked at the Harvard School of Public Health in the grants research department. Smith loved music and had performed both in groups and as an experimental soloist. She was also an accomplished fiction writer. Smith is survived by her parents, Richard W. and Mary Jane Sullivan Smith; sister, Deirdre; and brother, Patrick. Memorial contributions may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via dana-farber.org/ gift.

Lisa Palladino



Class Notes

25 40

Columbia College Today Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 cct@columbia.edu

Your friends and classmates want to hear from you! Please send news about yourself or your family, or a favorite Columbia College memory, to *CCT* at either the email or postal address above, or you can send news online via *CCT*'s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

41

Robert Zucker 29 The Birches Roslyn, NY 11576 rzucker@optonline.net

No news this time but I encourage you to get in touch. Your classmates want to know how you are. You can write me at either address at the top of the column, or use *CCT*'s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. In the meantime, best wishes for a happy spring. May the warm weather come again soon!

42

Melvin Hershkowitz 22 Northern Ave. Northampton, MA 01060 DrMelvin23@gmail.com

On October 1, I had a note from **Paul Hauck**, who reported that he and his wife, Betty, sold their 200-year-old house in Maryland and are now full-time residents of Florida. Paul reports that at 93 he still drives to meetings of his local Columbia Alumni Club and his Antique Clock Collectors Club. A former member of the Gulf Coast Runners, he now "just walks in air-conditioned malls." I last heard from Paul in May 2012, when he sent regrets from his home in Naples, Fla., about being unable to attend our 70th reunion luncheon.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University.

At Columbia, Paul was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and in 1964 he earned an M.B.A. from The George Washington University. He later served as a consultant to the Navy and Department of Defense. As one of our most accomplished and loyal alumni, we salute Paul for his devotion to Columbia and send him good wishes for many walks in air-conditioned malls.

The *New York Times* editions of October 24 and 27 contained obituary notices for **Philip Sherman Hobel**, who died at 92 at home in New York City on October 23, 2013, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. After Columbia, Phil served in WWII as a Navy officer, a lieutenant and an admiral's aide in the Destroyer Command-Atlantic Fleet (ComDesLant). After the war Phil established Cortland Furniture Co., a prominent manufacturer and wholesale distributor, where he worked until 1970, when he changed to a career in the film and television business. He became founder and owner of Cinema Guild, Hobel-Leiterman Productions and Document Associates, and produced and distributed many award-winning TV features and documentaries; these include *Tender Mercies*, which won Academy Awards in 1983 for best original screenplay (Horton Foote) and best performance by an actor (Robert Duvall).

At Columbia, Phil earned numerals for freshman fencing, was a member of Debate Council and was an advertising manager for *Spectator*. He served on the Kings Crown Advisory Committee and was chairman of the junior prom. As a member of the Van Am Society and an active member of the ZBT fraternity, Phil's many contributions to our undergraduate life were recognized by his election to membership in Nacoms.

His wife, Mary-Ann '47 Barnard, told me that Phil frequently mentioned his happy memories of his Columbia years, especially his colloquium seminar with Professors Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS and Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS, and his many friendships with his ZBT fraternity brothers. Since 2003 he had served, along with **Thornley Wood** (who passed away in 2011), as one of our class vice presidents.

Phil is survived by his beloved wife; sons, Joseph '75 and Michael; daughter, Sara; and six grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Bernice. We send our condo-

lences to Phil's family, who suggest that contributions in Phil's memory may be made to the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain at Columbia University.

gist in Boardman, Ohio.

Our 2013 football season was another major disappointment, with no wins and 10 consecutive losses. The team allowed 402 points scored by opponents (a record)

Paul Hauck '42 and his wife, Betty, are full-time residents of Florida, where Paul attends local Columbia Alumni Club meetings.

Because of illness in the family, your correspondent was unable to attend the Homecoming game on October 19, which we lost to Penn, 21-7. *CCT*'s alert executive editor, Lisa Palladino, was there as usual and reported to me that our Class of 1942 was represented by **Immanuel Lichtenstein**. Manny, one of our most loyal and enthusiastic classmates, was an authority on metals and metallurgical technology in his business career and, though he lives in Princeton, N.J., has remained a loyal Lion. I last saw Manny at our 70th reunion luncheon in June 2012 in Hamilton Hall, where he made some interesting comments about the Core Curriculum in an exchange with Dean Kathryn Yatrakis.

As I write some of these notes on November 20, 2013, I see in my perpetual Columbia calendar that on November 20, 1982, 31 years ago, I was at the old Baker Field, watching the last game played there before it was torn down and replaced by Lawrence A. Wien Stadium. We lost that game to Brown, 35-21. With me were lifelong friends **Gerald Green** and Ray Robinson '41.

Gerald, who died in August 2006, was a prolific, famous novelist and television producer. His novel *The Last Angry Man* was made into a film with Paul Muni. He also was one of the founders of Dave Garroway's NBC morning news show, *Today*, with J. Fred Muggs, and his *Holocaust* television series brought him worldwide acclaim. Ray wrote a biography of Lou Gehrig '25 (*Iron Horse*) and more than 25 other books, including biographies and portraits of famous sportsmen. Ray, 92, lives in New York City and is a loyal Columbia alumnus.

The co-captains of that 1982 football team were Jim Davin '82 and Mike Scavina '83. Jim became a sales executive with Procter & Gamble in Lancaster, N.Y., and Mike went to Ohio State's medical school before becoming a cardiolo-

and in turn scored only 53 points on offense in the 10 games, the lowest total on offense since 1958. That 1958 team scored a meager 35 points during the entire season and was held scoreless in six games. Memories return of Columbia's record 44-game losing streak, which began in 1984 and ended when we defeated Princeton, 16-13, on October 8, 1988, in the fourth game of that season. Among many students and alumni there is a rising tide of restlessness and discontent over the dismal failures of Columbia's football program. These sentiments were recently expressed in an editorial and in a letter to the editor, published in *Spectator*, calling for the dismissal of Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy and head football coach Pete Mangurian. *The New York Times*, which ordinarily does not pay much attention to Columbia athletics, had a feature story in the sports section on November 23, discussing the long-term failures of Columbia football and some of the reasons for it. How President Lee C. Bollinger will react to this situation remains to be seen, although he indicated his support for Murphy in a response to the *Spec* editorial.

In contrast to our football disappointment, we can celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our men's cross country team, which was ranked among the top 10 in the nation under the expert coaching of Willy Wood. We also have a nationally ranked women's cross country star in Waverly Neer '15, and a national champion women's archery team. We are still waiting for the men's and women's basketball teams to become Ivy League champions.

Though I write these notes in 2013, they will be published in the New Year. I send best wishes and kind regards to all members of our Class of 1942, and I encourage you to contact me with news of your families and yourselves.

43

G.J. D'Angio
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Bernard Weisberger writes, “What remembrances can I summon up of the nine months past? It’s almost exactly that since the June 2 reunion lunch. No exotic or even familiar travels — nearest I can come is a trip from here in Chicago to Colorado to visit my daughter and son-in-law in a suburb of Denver. That at least gives me a chance to plug my favorite mode of travel, rail. There’s nothing like relaxing by a big picture window, feet partly elevated, libation in hand, watching prairies, mountains and river crossings roll by, to say nothing of the big cities and dwindling small towns through which you are passing. Even with many scars of erased natural splendor on its face, it’s still *America the Beautiful*. I wish that someday the price of a sleeper berth would shrink to affordable levels so that I could take even longer trips by Amtrak. At the moment, the most I can handle is one night of economy-class dozing in a chair.

“Like most nonagenarians, which is what all of us who entered Columbia in the fall of 1939 now are, the usual topics of conversation are health and grandchildren — and now great-grandchildren! Both generations in my family are in good shape. As one who voluntarily and luckily wants to and can keep working, I have no plans for any more books (though the door remains open) but have published a few political musings from time to time on the indispensable website of my admired friend, Bill Moyers. OK, that’s another plug and a worthy one.

“Before I ramble further and descend into hawking the merits of certain over-the-counter laxatives I’ll sign off. Come on, ’43-ers; don’t leave the two or three of us out here as the lone contributors to the annals of our class.”

Leo Stern shares, “We do more reminiscing than we used to! I have always wondered how some professors managed to remember the names of the students they taught. In ’41 and ’42, I was accelerating into the Dental School and was registered in large premed classes in physics and chemistry; there were more than 50 students in each, as I recall. That did not faze Professor Herman Farwell, who more than once sped by me on Broadway, cheerily saying, ‘Hello, Stern!’ Then there was the time when my cousin, Dick Stern, who was visiting from MIT, asked to come to my large chemistry class. Somewhat improperly, I brought him along. There was no assigned seating in the auditorium, but Pro-

fessor Carpenter looked at Dick of all those seated and queried pleasantly, ‘Who are you?’”

From my own diary, Casa D’Angio/Evans has been busy. Our guests for some days were the son of a New Zealand friend, and the young man’s lady friend. They were good company, full of the exuberance of youth. Another guest was the daughter of our incomparable housekeeper of years past, the latter having long since passed away. We have maintained contact with the younger lady over all the years. She was the babysitter for my son, who is now a grandfather! The years pass.

In October, I went to Boston for the first of a series of annual lectures I endowed. It was given at the Boston Children’s Hospital, where I trained. The lectures are named in honor of one of my influential mentors and role models, Dr. Martin “Dick” Wittenborg and his wife, Harriett. Those two played an important part in shaping my career. A named lecture seemed a fitting way to remember their importance for me and the many others who had the good fortune to know them. Their four children were all present for the occasion.

We attended the christening of my great-granddaughter, Margaret, in November. She is thriving, as are all my family members in their various pursuits.

Finally, it is my sad duty to share that **Robert S. Greene** ’58 Arts, a documentary writer, jazz musician and founder of The World of Jelly Roll Morton Band, died on October 13, 2013, in Amagansett, N.Y. (See Obituaries in Winter 2013–14.)

Cedric C. Philipp, a retired pharmaceutical representative, died in Audubon, Pa., on July 18, 2013.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29–JUNE 1

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44

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Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye: all members of the Class of 1944, please take note of our 70th reunion, to be held Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. This is our opportunity to renew old friendships and/or to catch up with those classmates whose acquaintance we somehow missed in the historic days of the 1940s. An exciting program awaits us, so please come whether for all four

days or any part thereof. Come by plane, by boat, by car, by train, by subway or on foot; on your own steam or with the help of spouses, significant others and family members; with or without wheelchairs, walkers, crutches or canes. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to get together for members of The Greatest Generation!

Henry Rolf Hecht, my predecessor as class correspondent, writes, “Of course we are all in the same age bracket but old age seems to have hit me extra hard. I’m still alive and breathing and wish all the best to my classmates. Have a great 2014.”

We heard from **Paul Sandhaus**, whose wife of 67 years, Helen, also says “hello.” They winter in New Mexico and Tucson, and at this writing were expected to return to New York in late January. We recall that Paul produced two plays live on NBC in 1954 for the Armstrong Circle Theatre, and that Elizabeth Montgomery’s professional debut was in one of them, *The Millstone*. Paul’s novel, *A Choice of Evils*, based on his WWII experience as a bomb disposal officer and his business experience in advertising, was published in 1968. Paul also self-published *The Patralnador Paradox* in 2005. All that plus a successful career with the J. Walter Thompson Agency (now JWT Global Advertising Agency) and 33 years with his own agency, Paul Sandhaus Associates, in New York City.

Oscar (Bud) Harkavy and I have been emailing, although we never met as undergrads. When I told him that I remember that he sat in front of me in a Contemporary Civilization class, he said, “I should have turned around.”

Dan Choy, in his so-called retirement, continues to market — with expanding success — his device for the cure of tinnitus.

Bruce Mazlish’s latest nonfiction tome, *Reflections on the Modern and the Global*, has been published. As to the critics’ response, he said: “It’s too early to say how *Reflections* will be received. It tries to deal with the historian’s effort to deal with the last 500 years until WWII under the rubric ‘modernity,’ and then the transition to what we call ‘globalization.’ The latter is then studied, under very contested ways, under the heading of ‘global history.’ I became heavily involved in this inquiry starting with my convening a conference in Bellagio, Italy, in 1987, backed by the Rockefeller Foundation. The papers were subsequently published as *Conceptualizing Global History*.

“Then the Toynbee Prize Foundation entered the picture. I was fortunate to be awarded the prize in 1986–87, and subsequently became

president of the foundation for two years. The focus of the foundation became and continues to be global history. As you [Bill] say, we of the Class of 1944 are a dwindling number. You are good to have taken on the task of holding us together, while in the background we hear the wheels of time’s chariot.”

When I commented on the lofty status enjoyed by his wife, Neva Goodwin, Bruce responded, “My wife is indeed an extraordinary person. We have been married for 32 years, and every day I realize how wonderful she is. She is an economist and director of the Institute for Global Development and Environment at Tufts.”

I, as class correspondent, am well aware of Neva’s achievements, having read her brilliant speech, “What Can We Hope For the World in 2075?” — which she delivered at The Thirtieth E.F. Schumacher Lecture in November 2010 in NYC — and her essay, “A New Economics For the 21st Century,” published in October 2010.

With the imminence of our 70th reunion, I have been thinking of members of my family [some now deceased] who graced the Columbia campus in days gone by. These include my kid brother, Dr. Norman E. Friedman ’51, now residing in Boca Raton, Fla.; Harold T. Arbitter ’22, who was my mentor when I began the practice of law; Paul Cohen ’42; Raymond M. Glueck ’45; Jacques Breitbart ’46 GSAS; Robert Kassriel ’48; Donald R. Klein, who was Engineering’s dean of students 1969–75; and Rhoda Klein Breitbart ’36 Barnard, ’42L, now 99, who resides in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. Her article, “How It Was,” about Barnard during the Great Depression, which was written when she was a youthful 90, appeared in the Fall 2004 edition of the *Barnard Magazine*.

I also think of my old pharmacist, Robert Jacobson, who graduated from Columbia’s Pharmaceutical Sciences school in 1955, and my now-retired dentist and neighbor, Dr. Martin H. Spar ’63 Dental, and his wife, Judy, who are the proud parents of Debora Spar, president of Barnard.

Finally, we note with sadness the passing of **Richard Bercu**, my Beta Sig fraternity brother.

45

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I am very pleased to have received four responses to my requests for news. It is a hope that the response increases.

Chester J. Semel ’48 P&S reports, “[Columbia] was an exciting time for me. I remember some of my classmates. I see Arnold Zentner ’46 from time to time. I remember luncheons with **Howard Schmertz**, the cafeteria, the serving lady extolling ‘the good soup today,’ professional option, the first year of medical school at P&S, the smell of spring when they fertilized the lawn at Hamilton Hall, the history of the duel and the war.”

Mario E. DeOrchis writes, “I am 90, in good health, living in Delray Beach, Fla., and enjoying my retirement after practicing maritime law for 60 years in New York. After graduating from [high school] in 1941, I received a scholarship and a job at Columbia University. I volunteered in WWII and spent 30 months in Africa and Europe. Fortunately, I came back in one piece.”

Jack Greenberg ’48L reports, “I entered the College in 1941 and by mid-1943 had completed enough coursework to have attained what ordinarily could have been called junior status. I was in the V-12 Navy College Training Program and so I was shipped to Cornell to complete my undergraduate education. At Cornell I took an academic program of my choice for two semesters, except that I think I had to take courses in naval architecture and celestial navigation. After those two semesters I went to midshipmen’s school for something like a semester, became a naval officer aboard an LST (landing ship tank) and went to sea for more than a year. After a few months of that, during which I participated in three invasions where we took the first wave of Marines onto the beach (including Iwo Jima), I got in the mail my Columbia A.B. degree because someone in the College or University decided I was entitled to several credits for my military experience, which when added to the College, Cornell and midshipmen’s credits, gave me sufficient credits to graduate.

“Went to the Law School, followed by a job with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), where I participated in many important civil rights cases including *Brown v. Board of Education*. Anyone interested in those years might want to read a book I wrote about the time, *Crusaders in the Courts*. I took leave from LDF from 1989 to 2003 to return to the College as dean. Enough said.”

George T. Wright Jr. writes, “Earlier this year I published a book, *The Wrights of Vermont: Searching for My Father’s Family*, which is mostly about my father’s family through several centuries of living in New England (and especially Vermont). It is available from Amazon. [Editor’s note: See “Bookshelf.”] There

is even more about Columbia in my next book, which I am trying to finish now. I have a long chapter titled ‘Manhattan and Columbia,’ which might interest classmates, at least the Columbia part. It includes, for example, memories of Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882); of the colloquium course I took from Professors Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 GSAS and Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS; of my many years of singing in the Columbia choir; and so on. ...

Barnett Zumoff ’46, in addition to a long career in medicine, has had a parallel career for 30 years as a translator of Yiddish literature.

“When I was drafted into the Army in 1944, Bernard Wishy ’48, ’58 GSAS (he was also a student in that colloquium class) was drafted with me, and we stayed together for almost all of our Army service. I don’t want to send any excerpts of my writings about him, but mention it as a possible point of interest. Bernard, as you may know, died in 2012. He was a good friend in those war years and much later, after we retired.

“Perhaps I have said enough to start a conversation. Let me say that I do appreciate the difficult task you have in keeping us old folks sending news to you.”

46

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Classmates living in the New York area met for lunch in October in a midtown French bistro. The gathering included six wives (women are becoming a regular enhancement to our get-togethers). As always, the focus was catching up and good humor. Joseph Ienuso, a Columbia e.v.p. whose responsibilities include overseeing construction of the Manhattanville campus, was our speaker. His PowerPoint presentation was impressive, and so is he. It was highly informative and giving perspective to the project were the following details:

The new campus is virtually the same size as the Morningside campus.

The southern boundary, West 125th Street, was originally a river, which poses construction challenges calling for creative engineering.

The construction budget exceeds \$1 billion.

There have been significant changes around Columbia since we joined the family 70 years ago, but the Manhattanville campus is the

most ambitious and transforming initiative.

Attending the lunch were **Howard Cohen** and his wife, Marjory; **Richard Heffner**; **Mel Holson** ’48E and his wife, Phyllis; **Ira Millstein** ’47E; **Leonard Moss** and his wife, Muriel; **Irwin Nydick** and his wife, Eleanor; **Aihud Pevsner** and his wife, Lucille; **Bernard Sunshine** and his wife, Marjorie; and **Barnett Zumoff**. Everyone gave the luncheon a double thumbs-up.

I had a phone call from **Eugene Rogers** ’45E, one of the greats in Columbia’s athletics history. A swimmer for the Lions, Gene won 53 intercollegiate events, losing only once when he and the declared winner were clocked in identical times. After he served in the Navy and when he was 24, he swam for the United States in the 1948 London Olympics. Gene recalled that he was narrowly beaten for a gold medal.

Barnett Zumoff, in addition to a long career in medicine — teaching, research and practicing (still) — has had a parallel career for the past 30 years as a translator of Yiddish literature. He is probably the most prolific living translator of Yiddish, with 23 volumes in print; his most recent are *In Pursuit of the Moment* by Itzhak Luden and *Red Shoes for Rachel: Two Novellas and a Story* by Boris Sandler. Barney writes, “It started when I was reading a newly published book of English translations of Yiddish poems and I remarked to a friend that I thought I could do better. I was immediately challenged to make good on my boast and I was off and running.”

During the past two years Barney has begun writing original poetry in English. He says, “Where the poems come from I cannot say. I have rephrased that answer in the subtitle of my present volume, *Gifts from the Muse* — a poet’s answer to an unanswerable question.”

John McConnell reported two sightings from Post Falls, Idaho: “A Christmas tree of extra length, reportedly 88 ft., was being transported east for public display that required double 40-ft. trailers. And a 250-lb. cougar killed in a backyard in the neighboring town.”

Ira Millstein ’47E and his wife, Susan, lunched with **Harold Brown** in Santa Fe, where Harold resides. It was a great visit, said Ira.

The winter holiday season brought **Don Summa** to New York

City for family visits and afforded a chance for this writer and he to have lunch. Don’s talk about his experience flying gliders was fascinating. He has done so until recently.

This column ends with the sad news of the passing of two esteemed classmates:

Joseph Foa of Montgomery, Texas, passed away on January 13, 2013. His company, AJ Foa Associates, was engaged in insurance and real estate.

Richard D. Heffner died on December 17, 2013. His was a career in academia, television and Hollywood’s film industry. For more than 50 years as creator and host of *Richard Heffner’s Open Mind* on public television, Dick engaged in intense yet civilized discourse with world-renowned persons on a wide range of subjects. In honor of the 65th anniversary celebration of our class in June 2011, he taped a conversation with then-College Dean Michele Moody-Adams. It was previewed at our reunion, with Dick and the dean leading a spirited discussion.

Dick and I had exchanged emails on December 16 about our next class luncheon; given that the last was in October, as reported earlier in this column, I asked if it would be too soon to hold another in the spring. In support he wrote almost prophetically, “... natural attrition will no doubt have taken its further toll among us Ancients.” He died the next day.

His program sign-off, which he attributed to a mentor, Edward R. Murrow, was always, “Good night and good luck.”

[Editor’s note: See Obituaries in this issue as well as a profile of Heffner in the Fall 2012 issue.]

47

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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Dr. **Nicholas Giosa** let us know all is well: “I keep busy writing poetry, doing photography, cutting grass and looking after the household.”

We, and the class, would love to hear from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column. You also can send news online using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

This column is a wonderful way for the class to stay connected but CCT needs a class correspondent to

write it. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485.

48 *Columbia College Today*
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Dr. **Peter A. Arturi** shared his story: “My folks were both immigrants and I was lucky to have been born here. Also lucky to have gone to Columbia, with a small interruption by WWII.

“Unfortunately I commuted to Columbia from lower Westchester County (Port Chester) and I would have enjoyed my college years more if I had lived on campus.

“However, I participated at Columbia on the basketball J.V. team under Lou Rossini [’47 TC] and I was invited to go out for the baseball team by John Balquist [’32], the coach after Andy Coakley.

“I elected a pre-medical career and was fortunate to go to NYU med with my GI Bill and war service scholarship.

“I elected to continue my medical experience at a hospital in Greenwich, Conn., and I was a general practitioner (primary physician) in Greenwich for 35½ years. I eventually achieved board certification in family medicine and after 17 years joined five other physicians to start the Emergency Department at Greenwich Hospital.

“My wife, Marillyn, and I have been married for 60 years (she is an R.N.). We have six children, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and are enjoying ourselves in Greenwich, a wonderful place said to be affluent but better yet a place for great diversity.”

Dr. **Murray Strober** and Albert Burstein ’47 wrote regarding the passing of Walter Budko ’47E: “[We] must sadly report to you the death of our basketball teammate Walter Budko, on May 25, 2013. Walter was the ‘gentle giant’ who led the College team to the Eastern Intercollegiate League title (as it was then known) in the 1946–47 and 1947–48 seasons. After graduation Walter turned professional and was chosen by the Baltimore Bullets (now the Washington Wizards) and was a co-winner of Rookie of the Year in the NBA in the 1948–49 season. Subsequently, while still engaged as a player, when a coaching vacancy occurred in mid-season Walter was designated by ownership to take on that role as well. In recognition of his illustrious career, Walter was one of the early inductees into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

“But Walter was not solely a world-class athlete. After his basketball career ended he became an insurance company executive, which endured until retirement. He exhibited a natural ability to be a leader whatever the undertaking, whether in the sports world or insurance industry.

“Walter was born and raised in metropolitan New York but remained in Baltimore after his playing career. He had a genial personality that attracted people to him. For those who remained in contact with Walter, his passing, after 66 years of friendship, leaves a significant void.”

Dr. Alvin Eden ’48, who lives in New York City, practices pediatrics and is writing another book about childhood obesity. He also plays doubles tennis.

Dr. **Alvin Eden**, who lives in New York City, is “still practicing pediatrics and writing another book about childhood obesity. Also playing tennis but only doubles.”

William Horton lives in Cos Cob, Conn., and let us know things are well: “Married to Doris 65 years; 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Address unchanged.”

We, and the class, would love to hear from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column. You also can send news online using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

This column is a wonderful way for the class to stay connected but CCT needs a class correspondent to write it. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1**
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I’m writing this column in the wake of the second storm of January, on my birthday, in fact. I must report that the world is not all bad

news and young folks are not all bad, either.

In our two-family house in Brooklyn we are blessed with tenants, two young women in their early 20s, who this morning gave me the birthday present of shoveling the snow from our sidewalk and both front stoops. That started the day right!

Our class president, **Fred Berman**, has been in touch and the reunion planning meetings continue. Please, all of you who can, set aside the dates for Alumni Reunion Weekend and make it a priority to attend: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. All of us who

assertion inasmuch as he says he spends a considerable amount of time playing golf and tennis.

It is always gratifying to hear from an unfamiliar classmate. For anyone who has been reluctant to write, please let us hear from you. And please, again, try to make reunion a priority. You can beat me up if I am wrong, but you will never know how good it feels to reconnect with your classmates after 65 years if you don’t show up.

See you then.

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Hubert “Buddy” Brandt is still at it full-time in New York City, convincing assessors and courts that, as he puts it, “the real-property tax system is fraught with error.” In fact, he likes calling and being greeted with, “Hey, are you still around?” That alone should keep him busy enough, but Buddy and his wife, Frances, have managed to make more than 40 trips to different corners of the globe, often accompanied by children and grandchildren. There are now 10 grandchildren, more than half a dozen of them with Columbia diplomas. Buddy sends best wishes to classmates and would welcome hearing from anyone inclined to contact him. His home phone is 516-431-5498 and business phone is 212-563-2200. Personal email is budandfran@aol.com and business email is hbrandt@bsl-taxcert.com.

The Class Notes from the Winter 2013–14 issue included news of the publication of **Bob Goldsby**’s book, *Molière on Stage: What’s So Funny*. Bob reports that the book is now available in paperback.

Gil Hermann is enjoying retirement from his medical practice though he is not inactive. He devotes much time to teaching in the adult education program at the University of Denver, mostly in the biological sciences although he is flexible and is delving into history with a class on the famous Dreyfus Affair. Plus he plays tennis several times a week. On a trip to New York Gil made time for a mini-reunion with JV basketball teammate **Norman Dorsen**.

Dan Kramer ’50E has made an offer of special interest to the engineers among us. As you may recall, all engineers were required to take summer classes at Camp Columbia, a Columbia-owned property near Litchfield, Conn. (Years later, the school abandoned the 400-acre site and sold it to the state of Connecticut.) Well, Dan has a collection of 15 black-and-white photos of chemical

engineering class activities that took place there during summer 1946 and he invites anyone who is interested to view and download the jpeg scans by going to app.box.com/s/g45x7cwwtpxf1hd5uxa2. Dan says, “My whole life has been touched and improved by the Camp Columbia experience.” In 2008 the residents of Connecticut acknowledged the camp’s history by presenting a four-month exhibit of Camp Columbia memorabilia at the Old Town Hall Museum in Morris, Conn.

Ray Scalettar practices medicine in Washington, D.C., and also is a clinical professor of medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences as well as a master of the American College of Rheumatology. In addition, he presents papers at professional conferences; two of the most recent were “Complications of Hip Replacement Surgery,” at the MedStar National Rehabilitation Network in Washington, D.C., and “Alcohol Use and Abuse in the Military,” at the Society of Federal Health Agencies in Seattle. It is a busy schedule, Ray acknowledges, but he says, “I hope to continue on this pace as long as I am well and enjoy what I am doing.”

Ray and his wife, Phyllis, have managed to do some traveling, including a photo safari in South Africa and a tour of Scotland. He sends best wishes to classmates and lets us in on his discovery of “deep water running” as a means of exercise. It’s more interesting than a treadmill or an elliptical, he says, because you socialize with others as you move through the water.

Finally, I am saddened to report that **John Hollander** of Branford, Conn., died in August 2013. [Editor’s note: See Obituaries, Winter 2013–14.]

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On November 23, Juliet Macur ’92 Barnard, ’97J, a sports writer for *The New York Times*, wrote an article titled “Columbia Football’s Dogged Futility.” Juliet, a former member of the women’s rowing team, knows her stuff. She had her share of early morning trips to the muddy waters of the Harlem River for workouts before rushing back to campus for a day of classes. Her comments about the football program were more sympathetic than accusatory regarding who was responsible for a year when the Lions were outscored by 354–66.

Juliet concluded: “Nick Melka [’14], a political science major and

defensive lineman on this year’s football team, can explain the dilemma. Melka’s teams have lost 31 of 39 games, but they continue to be obsessed with winning. Turning in his powder blue uniform has not once crossed his mind. ‘I wouldn’t quit on any of my teammates because we’re all struggling together; none of us are quitters.’”

Thinking about all of this, I can’t help recalling our 60th class reunion in June 2011, when some of us had an opportunity to talk informally with Austin Quigley, a gentleman, scholar and much loved former dean of Columbia College. He reminded us of the numeric considerations that go into selecting a freshman class of 500 men and 500 women. We strive to have students of every race and color, students from all (or nearly all) 50 states and many foreign countries, scholars and athletes, musicians and artists, creative kids as well as a few who just squeak under the wire. Those of us who followed the conversation concluded the College was a little school in the big Ivy League where the likes of Harvard, Princeton and Yale can skim off the cream of athletic prowess in the Northeast.

Your Class Notes editor had some recent conversations with members of the Class of 1951 who played football at various levels while undergraduates. **Robert Osnos** ’52 GSAS, ’56 P&S advised he was one of the “stars” on the 150-lb. Lions, even though he had a short career lugging a pigskin. Bob agrees that talent is key. If a team has it, the coach can smile. Bob spent 48 wonderful years as a psychiatrist. How does he feel about life in New York City? “It’s like being let loose in a giant candy store with not enough time and money to taste everything!”

By the way, some of the other 150-lb. stars were **Alfred Byra** and **Donald Beattie**.

And what about Juliet’s comment that playing football at Columbia was for job prospects from the network of former players, not on-field glory? “Right on!” says **Peter DeBlasio** ’54L. Peter played on the varsity team and says he found his career enhanced in public and private practice as a result of his Morningside campus experience.

While speaking with **Edgar Coghlin** of Richardson, Texas, I discovered that he was captain of the freshman football team. An injury during the season ended his playing days. Following graduation, Edgar became a 2nd Lt. in the Marine Corps and had a successful career in material handling equipment sales and distribution. He continues to enjoy The Lone Star State with his wife, Billye, three

children and one great-grandchild.

Some of the additional players on the freshman team were **Jay D. Battenberg**, **Fred Bernard** and **Joe Zetkulic**.

A final question: Who can identify the players from our class who are in the football photo section of our yearbook, *The Columbian of 1951*?

52 *Columbia College Today*
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Eric Javits ’55L writes, “I have recently finished *Twists and Turns: Episodes in the Life of Ambassador Eric M. Javits*. . . I devote many pages to my six years at the College and Law School, which alumni, classmates and friends will enjoy. I describe negotiating with Panama’s strong man General Omar Torrijos, of saving Ling Temco Vought from bankruptcy, of myriad events and people including, among many others, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, Alexei Kosygin, Sammy Davis Jr., John DeLorean and Dame Margot Fonteyn, and of my highly successful eight years in the field of international arms control.

I have now retired from law and diplomacy and have embarked on my third career — venture capital

43 years of thoracic surgery was terrific, but enough — and I teach at UCLA. Having needed to seek refuge from tyranny, I also am doing as much as I can to educate younger generations about the adaptability that leads to survival, and how resilience can lead to success. Most recently I taught a class as part of Loyola Marymount’s course, ‘The Literature of Exile and Terror.’”

Bob Adelman, who notes that he has been class president for more than 40 years, writes of happenings in his life since the last reunion: “My wife, Judith, and I spent summer 2012 in the Svalbard, north of the Arctic Circle, watching polar bears, and summer 2013 playing golf near Salzburg, Austria; Passau, Bavaria, Germany; Vienna, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary; and cruising on the Danube River.

“The only dark cloud in our lives occurred when our granddaughter, Kayla Adelman, was not accepted for the Class of 2017. (Kayla would have been the fourth generation of our family to attend.) Since 2017 is the year of our 65th reunion and I will be in Charleston, S.C., attending Kayla’s graduation from the College of Charleston, I think it best for me to resign as class president.”

Howard Hansen sent the following note in response to the sad news of the death of Dr. **Tom Federowicz** ’56 P&S:

Edgar Coghlin ’51 of Richardson, Texas, became a 2nd Lt. in the Marine Corps and had a successful career in material handling equipment sales and distribution.

investing in the fields of health and energy. My wife and I live in Palm Beach, Fla., where some College and Law School classmates also reside.”

John Benfield writes, “The Benfields, now including seven grandchildren, have been enjoying each Thanksgiving in Hawaii for the past 34 years.

“In 2011 (my 80th birthday), I seized the opportunity to go to Vienna to swim in the 13th European Maccabi Games. My family and I had been fortunate to escape from that city weeks after Hitler’s *Anschluss*, and therefore I wanted the current residual fascists in Austria to know that we had been fortunate enough to survive and that the United States had provided me with wonderful opportunities to succeed.

“More recently, this past summer, my partner, Mary Ann, and I had a spectacular time in Uzès, France (Provence) and Belgium. “I am retired from operating —

“We lost a great classmate and teammate in **Tom Federowicz** on November 27, 2013 — the day before Thanksgiving — after a prolonged illness. Being the careful person Tom always was, we think he planned the timing so that his large family would be present to help celebrate a life of purpose and significance. He was ready ‘to go’ at dusk on the 27th.

“Tom made friends easily with that big smile and even temperament. Whether it was on the football field, in the Livingston Hall dorm or in the classroom, he was an impressive friend to have!

“He grew up as a coal miner’s son in Plymouth, Pa. A bright and conscientious student, Tom earned his M.D. from P&S. On the football field he was a proud member of Lou Little’s last winning football team — one of six in the last 66 years. He played both offensive and defensive tackle and was respected for his strong abilities by all team members.

“After a successful medical career in the upstate New York ‘triple city’ area, he retired in Vestal, N.Y., and built a magnificent getaway lakeside log cabin home about an hour’s drive away. He also owned a large tract of land, of which a portion was used to harvest a vegetable garden where family members enjoyed working together.

“Tom will always be remembered as a smiling, warm ‘gentle giant.’ His trademark traits were sincerity, honesty, loyalty and giving. He was a most impressive husband and family man while raising nine college-educated children and 21 grandchildren.

“To our teammates and classmates, count your age by your friends, not years, and count your life by smiles, not tears!”

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Anthony Robinson recently published *New Water*, a collection of 12 short stories of small-town life in the United States. As we read his first tale, my wife, Saralee, and I were seduced by his characters and didn’t dare to stop reading until we had finished all the tales. The following excerpt is from the beginning of one of the stories, called “It Can Be Did”:

“When I landed a job in 1974 as an assistant professor of English at New Falls State, Kate and I sold our house in Wichita and bought a fixer-upper in New Falls, N.Y. Clearly we needed help. I called a local carpenter named Oliver Moore and he came by the house in an old panel truck a couple

mentioning other jobs my wife and I wanted done.

“We began seeing a lot of Oliver’s truck in our driveway. He put a new roof on the house, built a back porch, finished our basement, sanded floors, installed new cabinets and counters in the kitchen, made built-in bookshelves for the living room and my study, and painted the house inside and out. Kate and I thought the world of Oliver.

“Sometimes after a day’s work he and I would sit on the porch, have a beer, talk fishing [and] gardening. I considered him a friend. My daughter, a senior at New Falls High, thought I patronized Oliver and told me in no uncertain terms that I was a ‘closet snob,’ the college professor in his refurbished Civil War house having a beer with a black man who lived in an ungainly double wide on the other side of town.”

The rest of Tony’s story and his other yarns are both intriguing and heartwarming. They can be purchased as a paperback or Kindle edition. He is the author of seven other novels and for 34 years taught literature and creative writing at SUNY New Paltz. Now retired, he and his wife, Tatiana, live in New Paltz, N.Y.

Art Elkind writes, “I have reduced my activity at the Elkind Headache Center but remain president of the National Headache Foundation, a not-for-profit. In addition, I’m enjoying Core Curriculum mini-courses for Columbia alumni in NYC and travel with my wife, Arlene. I proudly announce that my son, Dr. Mitchell Elkind ’98 P&S, has been appointed professor of neurology and epidemiology at Columbia University Medical Center as of January 1.”

Anthony Robinson ’53, who for 34 years taught literature and creative writing, has published *New Water*, a collection of 12 short stories.

of days later. I went out to the driveway to meet him. Before he got out, I saw him lift a small paper bag to his mouth. What was I going to do, fire him on the spot? He was a wiry black man, in jeans and a rough shirt, a long-billed fishing cap on his head. I was skeptical. To see if I liked his work, I told him that I wanted louvers installed in the high peaks of the house. No easy job as I saw it. Oliver looked up at the gabled roof, studied the job for a moment and said, ‘It can be did.’

“He worked all day. I was impressed with his work, liked what he charged, and immediately began

Henry Villaume has retired from his thermal seminar/design business and now spends his time writing political essays about the free enterprise system from his home in Intervale, N.H. Henry describes his authorial self as a “grumpy old man”; he says he came to Columbia with liberal tendencies that were effectively squelched as he rebelled against his Republican father, and he is now a “closet conservative.”

Well-informed classmates who would like to consider thoughts about the free enterprise system from an experienced old man would do well to read Henry’s in-

telligent essays. You can write him at P.O. Box 97, Intervale, NH 03845.

Henry writes that his children have suggested that his attempts at retirement have been a failure. They are doing well. His oldest daughter has retired from a career as a management accountant. His oldest son trades fixed income securities in the city but spends weekends in New Hampshire. His youngest son lives in New Hampshire and a grandson is a mechanical engineer with a large control valve company.

Henry’s advice to Uncle Sam: “You are broke! Stop spending!” His offer to all classmates: “If you get to southern Maine or northern New Hampshire give us a call and we can get together to eat a meal and chat about old times.”

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1**
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Things are falling into place with enthusiasm regarding our 60th Alumni Reunion Weekend, set for Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Our Reunion Committee has been meeting regularly and an exciting program will be finalized soon — perhaps by the time you read these notes. What I do know is that there will be class-specific events throughout the weekend as well as chances to mingle with alumni from other graduation years. Saturday is Dean’s Day, which provides an opportunity to attend lectures by some of Columbia’s most distinguished professors and accomplished alumni. Our class dinner is also Saturday, followed by dancing under the stars at the Starlight Reception. For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu.

Dick Werksman ’58L and his wife recently visited their son, Jack Werksman ’86, in Europe. He is a senior climate change adviser for the European Commission. Dick continues to volunteer with the Alumni Representative Committee, through which he interviews Columbia College applicants from Maryland’s eastern shore.

We look forward to seeing the Werksmans at reunion.

Ed Cowan and **Clay Black** are members of a men’s book club of which Ed was a co-founder eight

years ago. Both Ed and Clay have been in touch with **Herb Hagerty**, and the three had lunch at Clay and his wife Moira’s home. I understand that Herb is living at Sunrise on Connecticut Avenue, a senior living facility, and would be happy to hear from classmates. His address is 5111 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

Many classmates have lived all over the world as a result of their careers. **Ron Sugarman** is a good case in point. He and his wife, Hisako, now live in NYC after enjoying 44 years with the Interpublic Group, which included assignments at corporate headquarters and with several operating companies in NYC, Atlanta, London and Tokyo. It was a good experience; as Ron put it, “never a bore, seldom a chore.”

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As we move into the spring season, there are many events and celebrations in which the school on the Hudson participates involving students, faculty and alumni: the Dean’s Scholarship Reception in early February and the fabulous John Jay Awards Dinner in March (both of which will have taken place by the time you read these Notes); the Student Leadership Awards in April; the Mark Van Doren Award and Lionel Trilling Award, also in April; the Senior Dinner on South Lawn in early May; and Class Day and Commencement in mid-May.

The Sunday before the two aforementioned events is the stirring Baccalaureate Service, held in St. Paul’s Chapel, where students speak “from the heart.” At the end of May, alumni get a chance to relive their college years with Columbians of all ages during Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean’s Day.

For our class, an important reunion is coming up in 2015 — the 60th (Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31). A special shout-out goes to our classmates in the western part of the United States. Some of the guys we are expecting to make the trip are: from Washington, **Ronald Cowan** (Seattle); from Arizona, **Frank Laudonio** (Scottsdale); and from California, **Jim Hudson** (Pacific), **Ed Rodgers** (Encino), **Harold Seider**, **Lew Sternfels** and **Shelly Wolf** (all Los Angeles), **Bob Teichman** (Mill Valley), **Ralph Tanner** (Los Altos), **Bob Fairbanks** (Sacramento), **Gary Berry** (Westlake Village), **Charlie Sergis** (Redondo Beach) and **Bill Mink** (Napa Valley).

The reunion will have excellent

food, exciting events and terrific conversation. Details will be coming soon.

Outside of the U.S., Columbia’s Alumni Travel Study Program has put together a package for this June called “Discovering Turkish Treasures from Istanbul to Ankara.” It promises to be wonderful.

The monthly dinners among members of our fearsome class are still going on. Attendees have been **Anthony Viscusi**, **Don Laufer** (organizing the event), **Bill Epstein** (adjusting to “big city” life), **Dick Kuhn**, **Roland Plottel** (trying to get **Richard Ravitch** more involved in Columbia alumni work), **Stan Zinberg** and **Aaron Hamburger**. Others who have attended are **Herb Cohen**, **Peter Pressman** and **Berish Strauch**.

Allen Hyman took part in a charity bike event in Israel. He finished high in the rankings.

Ralph Wagner’s son shared that his father recently celebrated an age that has been (or will be) a milestone for us all — the big 80.

Did you know that **Gerry Pomper** has a blog and has written a new book, *The New York Times on Critical Elections*? It is engrossing.

We ran into **Ezra Levin** (who played basketball for Rollie Rourke — that’s a trivia name) at a Columbia basketball game. Ezra was wishing he was still on the court and reliving his long, two-handed set shots. **Richard Ascher** and **Bob Pearlman**, two other devotees of round-ball, unfortunately were not in attendance.

Lew Mendelson took his once-a-year trip to the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan. He unfortunately missed **Stanley Lubman**’s award from the Law School in early January. It was the Distinguished Columbian in Teaching Award, one of many awards Stanley has received.

Sad news to report: **Cal Jenkins** passed away recently in Salt Lake City. Condolences go to Cal’s family and friends.

Fellow classmates:
Be of sound mind and spirit.
Get ready for what will be the best 60th ever.

It’s getting closer. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Love to all! Everywhere!

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Our November class lunch was held on November 2 at the Yale Club and was hosted by **Len Wolfe**. The luncheon was attended by **Daniel Link**, **Mark Novick**, **Ron Kapon**, **Al Broadwin** and

myself.

It seems the discussion among many of us these days focuses on the state of Columbia football. As alums we would like to see a winning team, but are we prepared to do what is necessary to produce one? Len, our class historian and former *Jester* editor, made two tongue-in-cheek suggestions: 1) Have Robert K. Kraft ’63 guarantee a place on his New England Patriots NFL team to one graduating senior (good luck, New England Patriots) or 2) introduce a handicapping system, similar to a golf handicap, for our Ivy League football team. This may level the playing field between us and other, better-endowed college football teams. Len also brought an article, salvaged from his recent move, about the average cost and SAT scores from our senior year at Columbia. It indicates that tuition was substantially lower (even affordable) and that the average SAT scores to get into Columbia were significantly higher than I thought, so we were probably a lot smarter than we thought we were.

Our December lunch was held at **Alan Press**’ office, where he presented a talk and description of his trip to North Korea, which I mentioned in our last Class Notes. In attendance were **Daniel Link**, **Mark Novick**, **Ron Kapon**, **Robert “Buzz” Paaswell**, **Jesse Blumenthal** and **Al Broadwin**, in addition to Alan and me. Alan’s description of his trip and his observations of the North Korean people were interesting and informative. We were even treated to a video, which is on YouTube, titled “Awesome American Man Dances with North Koreans on May Day,” which Alan would like to think is a good representation of his present state of being. In any case, it shows that traveling can be both fun and informative. I invite all our class members to share some of their travel experiences by writing to me at tball8000@earthlink.net; then I can include them in a future column.

Len Wolfe has completed his move from Wilton, Conn., to New Haven. For classmates who would like to keep in touch with him, his new address is 360 State St., New Haven, CT 06015. Len also informed me that his book, *Easy Economics, A Visual Guide to What You Need to Know*, has been translated into Thai, its third foreign language translation. Len reports that he’s enjoying the amenities of his new digs and he and his wife, Ruth, are partaking of the educational and cultural events available in New Haven, a college city, where he received his graduate degree.

Lou Hemmerdinger and his

wife, Anita, celebrated in mid-December the birth of their ninth grandchild. According to Lou, this is the only event that would bring him back from Florida during the cold NYC winter, from which many of our class members also escape. Lou returned to Florida in late December and is organizing our spring Florida class get-together for our snowbirds, Florida residents and visitors, myself included.

My twin brother, **Maurice Easton**, reports that he enjoyed a week of skiing at Vail, Colo., in early December. Skiing six days in subzero weather with friends from Detroit is not my idea of fun at our age, but it is a testament to how exercise can keep us young.

Ron Kapon, our peripatetic oenophile, had knee replacement surgery in December. Based upon his successful rehab, we are looking forward to his being more active in our summer lunch and tennis outings at **Danny Link**’s club.

Once again, please contact me or **Lou Hemmerdinger** (lhemmer@aol.com) with any news that you would like to share in Class Notes. Also, if you have changed your email or mailing address, please inform the CCT staff: college.columbia.edu/contactus. This is part of our mission to keep all class members up to date on class news and activities.

As we start to count down to our 60th reunion, only two years away, I look forward to sharing news of our academic year-end events, among them Class Day and the Alumni Parade of Classes, Commencement and Dean’s Day.

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Marty Fisher shares that he and his wife, Doris, arrived at their Boynton Beach, Fla., home on November 15. He writes, “We enjoyed our previous six months in the north, during which we got our ancestral (42 years) home in shape to sell during our next extended visit in 2014.

“Florida is a magical place for us. We open the blinds in the morning to see a beautiful blue sky with cotton clouds scudding across the horizon. Also, we do not have to root for the Knicks, Jets or Giants down here ... what a relief.

“A recent article in *The New York Times* sports section had an assessment of the Columbia football program: three winning seasons in the last 50 years. This season the team went winless. [This may be] the first shoe to drop in an effort to deemphasize the sport. Is President Bollinger brave enough to do it?

“Our big news is that Doris’ cousin, Chris Eisgruber, was installed as president of Princeton last summer, just in time to try to deal with the meningitis outbreak on campus, a very difficult assignment. ...

“Signing off from Boynton Beach; it is time for a swim.”

Sad to report that **Sheldon S. Hendler**, a scientist, physician and musician, died in San Diego on November 12, 2012. [Editor’s note: See Obituaries.]

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I am sorry to report the death of **Martin “Fritz” Stein** on November 11, 2013, as the result of a stroke. He is survived by six children: Fritz, Kimberly, Susan, David, Peter and Maggie, and 14 grandchildren. His wife, Sheila, a former mayor of Bronxville, N.Y., died earlier in 2013.

Fritz was a member of Sigma Chi and a catcher on the freshman baseball team. He earned his medical degree from Albany Medical Center, went on to specialize in the treatment of kidney disease and was director of the department of medicine at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Yonkers.

Beyond his successful career, there was another dimension to Fritz’s life, which was revealed in a packet of newspaper clippings he sent me a few years ago. Just a week after he retired from St. Joseph’s, he was deployed on a six-month tour to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, returning to the colonel’s rank he had attained when he retired from the Army Reserves in 1997. Fritz had heard the military was short of physicians, especially at the main trauma center in Germany where he had served four times. So when he offered his services, he was told that if his 69-year-old body could pass the

What’s Your Story?

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ONLINE by clicking college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

physical, the Army could use him.

At the time he shared the clippings, he reported that he welcomed the daily challenges he faced in treating wounded soldiers and their families. He observed that the mostly reserve doctors, nurses, chaplains and administrators who made up the hospital’s team were the most dedicated and motivated health care professionals he had worked with. The ability to airlift the wounded directly from the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan to the hospital, together with medical advances, had led to favorable results. Fritz said he found it particularly satisfying that some of the most severely wounded soldiers made partial or complete recoveries that seemed almost miraculous from a medical standpoint. Fritz’s service was the subject of a profile in the Westchester edition of *The New York Times*.

The annual Homecoming party was festive as always and the guest list was bigger than ever; it was held at the home of **Ernie Brod** and his wife, Ruthie, in Manhattan. Attending were **Barry Dickman** and his wife, Carol; **Joe Dorinson** and his wife, Eileen; **Charles Goldstein**; **Peter Gruenberger** and his wife, Carin Lamm; **Bernie Nussbaum** and his wife, Nancy; **Howard Orlin** and his wife, Anita; **Shelly Raab** and his wife, Judy; **Arthur Radin** and his wife, Miriam Katowitz; **Bob Waldbaum** and his wife, Ruth; **Mark Weiss** and his wife, Joan; Arnie Abrams ’61 and his wife, Phyllis; Michael Berlin ’59 and his wife, Nancy; **Peter Cohn** and his wife, Joan; Ira Jolles ’59 and his wife, Andrea; Linda Lynn, widow

Columbia School Designations	
In Class Notes, these designations indicate Columbia degrees from schools other than the College.	
Arch.	School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Arts	School of the Arts
Barnard	Barnard College
Business	Graduate School of Business
CE	School of Continuing Education
Dental	College of Dental Medicine
E	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
GS	School of General Studies
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
J	Graduate School of Journalism
L	School of Law
Nursing	School of Nursing
P&S	College of Physicians and Surgeons
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College

of **Ted Lynn**; Elizabeth Ostrow, daughter of the late Allan Gardner ’59, and her husband, Jeff Ostrow (Allan was a primary organizer of this get-together for many years until his death in 2013); Ruth Schwartz Cowan ’61 Barnard; and Pat Mullins ’59, who succeeded Ernie as sports editor of *Spectator*.

Last November saw the publication of *Double Down*, a book about the 2012 presidential election by John Heilemann and **Mort Halperin**’s son, Mark Halperin; it is the sequel to their bestseller, *Game Change*, about the 2008 campaign. Mort’s youngest son, Gary, is a yoga instructor; his second book, *Feel Better: Essays on Yoga, Meditation, Mindful Living, and Love*, was published last year.

Elliott Gross sent a brief summary of his medical career. Since graduating from Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, he has been a practicing neurologist in Westchester County. He is the founding president of the New York State Neurological Society and a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology.

Last year German authorities confiscated a huge art collection held by an eccentric collector named Cornelius Gurlitt, which they asserted had been looted by the Nazis. Gurlitt claimed he inherited the works from his father, an art dealer, but the government says the works were either looted or bought by his father at rock bottom prices from fleeing Jewish owners. In covering the story, *The New York Times* turned to **Charles Goldstein** for expert advice. Charles, who is counsel for the Commission for Art

Recovery, which was founded by Ronald Lauder, said he understood the Germans’ difficulty in proceeding, saying, “They’ve got a hot potato. The stuff belongs to Gurlitt, and they have no proof that it’s not his; they have to make a determination that it was stolen or taken from the museums.” In addition, he said restitution to the families of the Jewish owners was problematic because of the difficulty of proving ownership as well as the statute of limitations.

The class lunch is held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Grill Room of the Columbia University Club of New York, 15 W. 43rd St. The cost is \$31 per person. Email **Art Radin** if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radinglass.com.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1
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I begin by reminding one and all of the 55th reunion of the Columbia College Class of 1959. Alumni Reunion Weekend will take place from Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Our Reunion Committee is far along in preparing for it and I encourage all of you to attend. For updates on events and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. See also the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

I would be remiss if I didn’t convey the fact that the College views reunion as an opportunity to solicit funds from you for the Columbia College Fund. You are likely to be contacted by a member of the Gift Committee asking you to contribute. Please be as generous as you can.

I am saddened to learn of the recent death of **George Semel**.

Last month I could not include the full contributions from **Pat Mullins**, **Luigi Lucaccini** and **David B. Smith**. I am including the rest of their updates here.

Pat writes, “It’s been three years since I lost my wife, Jackie. We would have celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in July. I miss her lots and often think when traveling that when I get home I need to tell her about this or that, but then I remember she is not there to share it with. I have four children and

six grandchildren. All my children attended Virginia colleges, and three live here in Virginia and one in Washington, D.C. I try to spend as much time as possible with my grandchildren: watching Little League, youth basketball, soccer and volleyball games; I even attend PTA talent shows and have once or twice been to a dance recital.

“I work for Markel Insurance at our international headquarters in Richmond, Va., insuring horses, equine associations and their members, and I travel to horse shows and races around the country. I was president of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (now PATH) for six years. This organization has more than 800 riding centers in the United States; it provides equine therapy for challenged youth and for our wounded warriors who have lost limbs in battle. As president I was invited to South Africa and Turkey to help start therapeutic riding in those countries. I also was invited by the government of Taiwan to visit their country, along with nine other national Republican leaders, and meet with their political and business leaders to learn more about their country and its resources.

“A closing note: Bill Campbell [’62, ’64 TC] was my ‘little brother’ at AXP fraternity. As I recall, Bill came to Columbia from a middle-income family in Pennsylvania. Bill succeeded and remembers and appreciates the opportunities Columbia gave him, and has given back to Columbia tenfold or more — a wonderful example for all of us blessed with having received a Columbia education.”

Luigi writes, “My plan for longevity, if not immortality, is to associate fiercely with youth and hope the wrinkles go unnoticed or at least unmentioned. To that end, I teach undergraduate classes at the University of San Francisco’s School of Management, mostly in creativity and innovation, occasionally in family business. Interacting with undergraduates keeps one on one’s toes mentally; it also serves as a shortcut to the latest advances in personal technology devices, which appear in the students’ hands ... immediately after launch ... and often in the middle of lectures.

“One of the things that makes leading a course in creativity attractive is the rich pool of talent in the Bay Area-Silicon Valley corridor. The area is populated with many generous, creative individuals, such as craigslist.org founder Craig Newmark, who are willing to spend an hour as a guest speaker in the classroom sharing their stories and perspectives with our entrepreneurship majors.

“As an avocation, I have been an academic migrant worker in higher education at Bay Area universities for nearly 45 years, serving as an adjunct faculty member on a part-time basis without tenure. It was interesting, therefore, some months ago to see **Steve Trachtenberg**’s defense on the *PBS NewsHour* of the right of aging tenured faculty to maintain employment while newly minted Ph.D.s without academic job prospects pile up unemployed at the end of the production line. It brings to mind the economic divide in academia, which mirrors that in our larger society. The current debate about tenure is one sign of the turmoil in higher education that will likely be intensified with the advent of online courses. Meanwhile, we adjunct faculty members muddle along doing our thing, many of us mainly because we enjoy it, waiting for the dust to settle.

“On a different front, personal efforts to maintain some level of physical health include enrolling in PE and weight-lifting classes at the local junior college. There, the college’s former football coach screams at us continuously to ‘put more effort into it,’ reminiscent of Joe Stanzig, PE instructor at Columbia in the ’50s, to whose similar, well-intended verbal blasts I now realize I should have listened. After two years of classes and ongoing exhortations, the pain has become tolerable, the sag and belt size are somewhat reduced, and the hearing is still OK. At the same time, with a nod to the inevitable, my wife and I are getting our (financial) affairs and so on in order while we still retain a modicum of rationality. It turns out not to be so easy to face the task of completing health care directives and end-of-life instructions. But, once done, it is a relief.”

David was writing from Cabrerets; he reports, “Cabrerets derives its name from the Langue d’Oc word for goat. There is a tale that a beautiful young girl once went to the lord of the chateau to plead with him that her aged grandmother no longer had the means to pay her taxes. The lord, overcome by her beauty, tried to have his way with her. The girl, to save her honor, committed suicide. Since that time, at the New Year, a white goat appears atop the cliffs. The locals swear that it is the spirit of the girl who took her life many years ago rather than surrender her virginity to the lord.

“Cabrerets also is famous for its paleolithic cave, Peche Merle, which is full of beautiful paintings. The cave was discovered by the old man who lived next door when he was a boy. Another cave has been discovered nearby and archaeologists believe some of the

paintings are by the same hand that painted in Peche Merle. Sadly, it’s not yet open for viewing.

“We spend a quiet time here. My wife, Helen, paints and I read and write. After 3½ months in the western and northern isles of Scotland, the food is exquisite. This is fois gras and crepes country, with several Michelin star restaurants in the surrounds.”

By now, David should be home, having made a subsequent stop in Venice.

David Kirk ’60, ’69 Arch., a retired Navy captain, attended the September ceremony marking the return of Naval ROTC to Columbia.

Gibbs A. Williams writes, “I came [to Columbia] from Miami Beach. Upon walking the path onto the campus for the first time I didn’t see the fantasized rolling green hills I had eagerly anticipated; instead I saw the dirty grey walls of Low Library. Far from conquering, I fell into a deep depression. Cutting through my fog and lifting my spirit was a barrage of illuminating ideas, conveyed through the inspired teachings of my professors. After reading Plato during my first week of philosophy class, I was convinced I had come face to face with the absolute truth. The second week I had the same awesome reaction reading Aristotle’s *Ethics*. I again had the same reaction reading Spinoza’s *Ethics* the third week. By the fourth week I was overwhelmed with information overload.

“During the holiday break of my sophomore year I experienced two major events. One, I read Will Durant’s *The Story of Philosophy*, which deeply resonated, validating my search for meaningful connections and convincing me that my major had to be philosophy. And two, I started what was to become a 35-year journal. The first entry was: ‘Plato said the unexamined life is not worth living. I say: the overly examined life is incapable of being lived.’ The thrust of my life after graduation from Columbia has been to adequately resolve this problem. I would eventually learn that I was overly reliant on linear scientific logic. To obtain and sustain a balanced life I would have to learn how to mix messy feelings with my ideas resulting in what I refer to as experiential logic.

“Aware of my divided self, I initiated the first of three dedicated attempts to organize my chaos in psychotherapy — the third was successful. Determined to fix myself, I considered majoring in

psychology, but as the psychology department in 1956 insisted that all behavior could be explained by reinforcement theory alone there was no encouragement to spend time and energy pondering unscientific speculations of the so-called mind. Fortunately, I discovered Freud and psychodynamics in Salters bookshop. Don’t get me wrong, my four years were not all doom and gloom. Representative of these meaningful events was attending the inspired lectures of Professors [Charles] Frankel [’37, ’46 GSAS] and [Sidney] Morgenbesser among others, and walking after class with some classmates, listening with rapt attention as Professor Zito brilliantly analyzed literature using Freud’s structural approach. I took very seriously his and their continual encouragement to be true to myself.”

As we’re running out of room for this column, the rest of Gibbs’ submission will appear next issue.

Lou Stephens writes, “I’m working on getting another show for my paintings either in NYC or Mexico City. Daughters Phoebe and Annette had quite an impressive display of their jewelry during September’s Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week. Their Annndra Neen trademark has been well received — you can look for them online. They soon will be joining e-commerce, so you can buy, buy, buy. My wife, Karen, was accepted as a fellow in The Writers’ Institute at the CUNY Graduate Center and will work on short stories and her screenplay. In September, there will be a posthumous showing of my mother, Annette Nancarrow’s, paintings at The Taubman Museum in Roanoke, Va. Cheers to all classmates, especially fencers.”

See you all on campus on May 31.

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In the words of President Lee C. Bollinger, the ceremony held on September 30 on the Columbia campus marked a historic moment. It was the return of Naval ROTC to Columbia after an absence of four decades. The University’s involvement in NROTC began in 1916, and during WWII more than

20,000 naval officers were trained at Columbia. The protests on campus in 1968, motivated by a variety of issues with anti-war sentiment predominating, resulted in the dissolution of the University’s agreement with NROTC and the program came to an end in 1973 when the last Columbia students received commissions. In 2011 the University Senate voted to revive the relationship after Congress repealed the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

The return of NROTC was in large part due to the determined efforts of College alumni who had received their commissions on campus. Many of them would not have been able to afford to attend Columbia had it not been for their NROTC scholarships.

Present at the ceremony in full dress uniform, which he proudly informs fit perfectly, was **David Kirk** ’69 Arch. David writes of the event: “The NROTC program was warmly welcomed back to the Columbia campus at a superbly executed ceremony at Casa Italiana, the same venue as our 50th reunion class dinner. The celebration of NROTC’s return included many ceremonial traditions: a Navy band, a color guard parade of colors, and sideboy piping and bells to announce the arrivals of President Bollinger and senior dignitaries. In attendance were contingents of more than 50 midshipmen from SUNY Fort Schuyler NROTC and Columbia’s NROTC officer candidates, as well as NROTC faculty staff and Navy brass, all in summer white uniform (including myself as a retired Navy captain), plus Columbia NROTC alumni. The ceremony included excellent speeches by Bollinger, Rear Admiral Jim Lowe ’51, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Juan Garcia III and others, followed by a reception on the Casa Italiana terrace.”

David contrasts this ceremony with the atmosphere he encountered on campus when he pursued post-graduate studies. “The cordial welcome sure was a far cry from the anti-war demonstrations more than four decades ago in spring 1968, when I witnessed the sit-ins and teach-ins behind the barricades of Avery Hall, where I was a post-grad in the Architecture School after my active duty Navy tour and while serving in the Navy reserves.”

Three quarters of a century. Many classmates are about to celebrate, or have already, that passage of time and that’s a matter of no small consequence. Three quarters of a century. A phrase resonant with overtones of veneration and reverence. Yet who among us can say that no traces of adolescence yet inhabit their hoary frame? How will you be marking your 75th?

Richard Friedlander had a celebratory dinner with several of us: **David Kirk**, **Art Delmhorst** and **David Goldman**, who favored us with his photo album of class reunions.

Bob Berne '62 Business celebrated at Walt Disney World along with a party of eight that included children and grandchildren.

Those who attended our monthly class lunch were asked to describe our most memorable personal event of 2013, apart from the 75th milestone. Bob offered two: Walt Disney World with family present, and an educational, thought-provoking trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum to commune with family past. At the museum, Bob examined a roster of residents in the district that included the names of his grandparents and their employees, immigrant residents in buildings that no longer stand. Bob related how his grandfather arrived twice in New York circa 1901–02: At first he was turned around and sent back to Europe because he did not have a job waiting, but he was persistent and, successful upon his second voyage, he set about to begin a new life.

Bob Meyers '62 is enjoying retirement and taking continuing education classes in landscape architecture and horticulture at his local community college.

In the family narrative it was the grandfather who imparted a lesson in economics. Having just enough money for a first installment payment, he acquired a cheap watch, then promptly took it to the pawn shop where he hocked it for its full value. Now with sufficient cash in hand, he put a down payment on an expensive watch, which, again, he hocked for its full value. His resources enlarged by leverage, he was able to furnish and fixture a dairy restaurant that prospered. Bob didn't say who inherited the cheap watch or who inherited the expensive watch, but no elaboration was necessary for us to understand that Bob inherited through the telling of the family legend a knowledge of finance that served him well at the Business School and later in his business career.

For **Victor Chang**, the memorable events of 2013 were the visits with his grandson (5) and one occasion with a circle of friends who have remained in constant contact since their teens. Of the 12 friends, seven were able to reunite for four days in Cancun during the Year of the Tiger. For many, their ties date back generations to family relationships in China.

Sad news reached us in Decem-

ber: **Wayne Case** died in Pittsfield, N.H., on February 1, 2013, following a long illness. Born in Haverhill, Mass., Wayne attended the College on an NROTC scholarship and served in the Navy for 22 years. He retired with the rank of commander. Upon his retirement he and his wife, Susan, moved to Pittsfield. He held several positions in the area and enjoyed sailing and camping. He is survived by Susan; two daughters; one son; 10 grandchildren; and two recently arrived great-grandchildren.

David Kirk informed me that Wayne had been roommates with **Orlin Trandahl** and **Paul Nagano**, to whom I reached out by email to inform them of Wayne's passing. Both promptly responded with memories of Wayne: Paul from his home on the East Coast in Boston, Orlin from his home on the West Coast in Washington, and each unbeknownst to the other remarked on Wayne's regional dialect.

Orlin lost track of Wayne after both went into the Navy but remembers their undergraduate days fondly. He writes, "While at the College, Wayne worked

at Columbia, and we used to joke about the pronunciation of his hometown, Haverhill, Mass. I must have said, 'Have-er-hill,' when he corrected me: 'Hayvril.' There were a few exchanges about some of the names of streets and towns in Hawaii after that. I thought Haverhill was pretty exotic, then. But I've now lived in Boston for 46 years, and all of that has become familiar territory both geographically and in pronunciation."

To Susan, Wayne's wife of 53 years, their family and friends, we send our deepest condolences.

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Judge **Jose A. Cabranes**, a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York, was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on August 9. His term expires in May 2020.

According to *The New York Times*, Jose's appointment was announced as some lawmakers were working to change the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which gives chief justices unilateral power to assign federal judges to the 11-member Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and its three-member review panel, to provide greater ideological balance. The court hears arguments on surveillance matters from the Justice Department, with no opposing lawyers to offer contrary views or file appeals.

On the FISA review panel, Jose joins another Democratic appointee, Judge William C. Bryson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The full article, "Newest Spy Court Pick Is a Democrat but Not a Liberal," was published in the *Times* on August 20.

Please send news! Write to me at either address at the top of the column or send your note through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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From San Francisco, **Bob Meyers** (rmmeyersaia@sbcglobal.net) writes that he is enjoying retirement from his planning consulting practice but that "adjusting to not working is still very challenging" — not only to himself but also to his wife, who now has him "under

foot" more. "To keep the brain engaged and fingers facile," Bob continues, "I am taking continuing education classes in landscape architecture and horticulture at the local community college. I get a kick out of being a senior citizen with the much younger students there. The professors like having me in class so they can call on someone with real-life experience. We enjoy living in the Bay Area, with its Mediterranean climate, and we enjoy year-round hiking, biking, swimming and gardening. The older I get, the more I appreciate our Core Curriculum. It really did teach us how to think, how to put ideas together and how to express them."

Russ Abbott (russ.abbott@gmail.com) teaches computer science at Cal State-Los Angeles. He is particularly enthusiastic about a paper he recently finished, saying, "It applies computer science concepts to problems in philosophy. As it was recently submitted for publication, I can't point to a journal reference, but a draft is available at philpapers.org/rec/ABBAAI. I'm also in the middle of organizing a 60th birthday party for Debora Shuger, my wonderful wife."

Russ loves bicycling but confesses never to have taken a multi-day tour, which I asked him about. "Sounds like a great thing to do," he says. When Debora and I were in Tokyo 1½ years ago, I joined a one-day bicycle tour of the city and liked it so much I kept the bicycle for a second day. In Tokyo people ride on the sidewalks, which are wide enough most places to ride, even in downtown. It would be terrible to ride in the streets."

At the end of 2012 **Alex Firestone** (alexfirest@aol.com) retired fully from his last job, as program officer for high energy physics at the National Science Foundation. For some years, in his words, "I had been giving out (or at least, recommending to give out) U.S. taxpayer dollars to American universities and laboratories to support research in elementary particle physics. Previously, as a professor of physics, I had been taking such dollars for EPP research, so that was a nice reversal. I had given up teaching and research some years earlier, becoming a professor emeritus and resigning all my lab appointments, including the CERN lab in Geneva, Switzerland. It's the largest high-energy physics lab in the world. Recently the long-sought Higgs particle was discovered there and resulted in a Nobel Prize.

"Thus, for the first time since I was 14, I am completely without a job, and I love it! I'm enjoying life in New York City — what better place is there? — and writing a

graduate-level textbook on quantum mechanics. It keeps me off the streets at night."

Bart Blanchard (jblanch61@gmail.com) retired in 2009 and moved with his wife to Denver, because, he says, "All nine of our grandkids live west of the Mississippi. Our main hobby is our grandchildren and their activities. I spent a few years with the Denver Curling Club, and I now am active with the Denver Cribbage Club. We travel when health and energy levels permit."

Daniel Fife (d_fife@verizon.net) practices epidemiology related to the adverse effects of medicines and works for Johnson & Johnson. He summarizes, "A wife, three grown children and two grandsons (1 and 4). I live in Merion, Pa., just outside Philadelphia."

In 2012 **Harry Green** (harry.green@ucr.edu) received the Roebling Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America, its highest honor. He continues to work at the University of California, as he has for 43 years. He no longer teaches but maintains his laboratory, where he and his graduate students work on the physical processes by which earthquakes occur. Harry remains active in the Senate of the University of California, where he's on the Academic Council and chairs the university-wide Committee on Academic Personnel. Harry and his wife, Manuela, have nine grandchildren, seven of whom (along with their parents) shared Thanksgiving. "Chaos reigned," he recalls, "but a great time was had by all."

John Garman (john@garman.net) begins with an anecdote: "Wore one of my old Columbia sweatshirts to the supermarket (in Durham, N.C.). A young cashier asked if it really was from Columbia College in NYC. I said it was, and she asked for help on how to apply. I asked her about her grades, and she replied that she was a junior and had straight As and was interested in what Columbia has to offer. Got the wheels rolling with the Admissions Office! They were most helpful."

This November, John and his wife, Nancy, plan to visit China for three weeks: Beijing, Xian and then a Yangtze River cruise back to Shanghai. They first went to China in 1998 with a delegation led by Wayne Smith, founder of Friendship Force International, to open Chinese homes to foreign visitors. (In a typical Friendship Force program, a local chapter prepares an itinerary of cultural activities, inviting members from chapters in other countries to come and stay with them in their homes for up to a week.) "Now," John says, "Nancy and I will just be tourists seeing a country many of us only have read about. We have five



Members of the Class of '63 gathered at the Gould/Remmer Boathouse before Homecoming for a surprise presentation/celebration thanking Paul Neshamkin for his work on their 50th reunion last spring. Left to right: Stanley Yancovitz, Ed Collier, Bob Heller, Henry Black, Frank Partel, Bruce Kaplan, Doron Gopstein, Neshamkin, Tom O'Connor, Don Margolis, Lee Lowenfish, Doug Anderson, Larry Neuman and Jerry Dwyer. Not pictured but also in attendance were Steve Clineburg and Phil Satow.

PHOTO: JESSICA ROSSO

grandchildren growing like weeds (oldest 14; youngest 3): two boys, three girls; two here in Durham and three in Minneapolis. Keeping busy. Recently finished my 525th goodwill visit with members of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Chamber of Commerce. Lots of fun."

Hilmi Toros is a freelance writer and explorer from bases in the southern Turkish coastal town of Fethiye and the tiny island of Sovalye, which has only 50 houses and does not have any vehicles. Hilmi sails and travels to wherever the wind or sun takes him. He's anxious to keep in touch with classmates and welcomes meeting them whenever business and pleasure (or sun and wind) bring them to Turkey. His email is wordsmith.sailor@hotmail.com; his website is maisondesovalye.com.

From Italy, **Anthony Valerio** sent this email in December: "I'm on tour: lecturing, reading, teaching in Rome, Bologna, Genoa, etc. If any of you visit Italy between now and next spring, drop me a line on my website: anthonyvalerio.com. In his last email [asking for Class Notes updates], John asked about our plans. At least for me, the less and less of a future I sense, the more immediate becomes the present."

Jerry Kessler '63 is planning to perform one of **John Boatner's** compositions in 2014 with the Topanga, Calif., orchestra, which Jerry conducts. The piece is *Cello Ludens* — a work for cello solo and orchestra. John composed it in 1969 and published it in 1999. John thinks Jerry will probably play the cello and John will conduct.

Crawford Killian continues to have fun writing about Canadian

politics, environmental issues and books for The Tyee (thetyee.ca), an online magazine based in Vancouver. Three of his "old" science fiction works were recently published in Chinese. In case you were unaware, Crawford says, "Science fiction is a little-known genre in China but my publisher and I are hoping that combined Chinese and English texts will attract college-age readers."

Crawford and his wife revisited Scandinavia this past fall, traveling to Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Malmo. They found some places, like the high-tech city of Espoo and the Copenhagen Metro, to be intensely modern; other places, like the Finnish architects' retreat at Hvittask, looked up to date, even though they are a century old. To Crawford, "going back into Sweden on the Metro and a commuter train over the bridge took only 40 minutes, and Malmo was worth the trip. Copenhagen was gorgeous but made the equally gorgeous Stockholm and Helsinki look like bargains."

On his blog, H5N1 (crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1), Crawford tracks outbreaks of new diseases such as H7N9 and MERS and natural disasters such as Super Typhoon Haiyan, which pose public health problems that, he says, "we had better start solving."

He continues, "You never really retire from teaching. At the moment I'm discussing dissertation issues with a super-smart young Iranian woman, helping a Qingdao English professor with the fine points of translation and dealing with usage questions from all over, thanks to my blog Ask the English

Teacher (crofsblogs.typepad.com/english). But probably the best parts of my day are walks in the woods with my dog. We watch the changing of the seasons, the surprisingly effective logging operations of the pileated woodpeckers and very rarely the resident barred owls as they glide from tree to tree. Occasionally we get black bears in the neighborhood but it's the skunks you have to watch out for. It's not exactly The West End, or even Riverside Park, but it's pretty good."

Just before my deadline in mid-December, **Bernie Patten** sent this delightful note: "Somewhere the Declaration of Independence mentions the right to pursue happiness. My wife, Ethel '63 Barnard, and I have taken that right seriously and sponsored many family vacations for our kids, grandkids and in-laws to Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy and France. Last summer we all went to Ireland for three weeks and returned home by crossing the wide and weltering North Atlantic aboard the *Queen Mary 2*. This was the first time that I traveled to Ireland on my Irish passport, which came to me courtesy of my grandmother, Mary O'Connor, who was born in Mayo, and my aunt, Joan Patten, who worked hard assembling the necessary documents. Of course, none of the documents made absolute sense, as my Irish relatives were in the habit of embellishing, exaggerating and fibbing. But the Irish Consulate understood: 'If it made sense, we would know right away that it was not genuinely Irish.'

"Last year I again taught logic at Rice. On the final exam there was

one 95, one 90, a 70 and then 36 grades below 60! The students had a lousy teacher. *Truth, Knowledge, or Just Plain Bull* and my other logic book, *The Logic of Alice*, continue to sell well. The truth book has been translated into Chinese. For reasons not understood, the Chinese version has been a best-seller and has routinely been between second and eighth place in self-help books there. By contrast, *Health is Wealth: Small Changes Reap Big Benefits*, a summary of current scientific information about longevity, nutrition and exercise, has sold only 23 copies, most of which have probably been purchased by my mother!”

Classmates, especially if you haven’t written in a while, please get in touch.

63 **Paul Neshamkin**
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Homecoming this past October was a great day for the Class of ’63. The Alumni Office organized a special pre-game event just for our class at the Gould-Remmers Boathouse. We were invited for a champagne toast to salute our recent 50th reunion but when I arrived I was surprised to find that a large group of my friends had actually used the event to surprise me with a presentation of a beautiful bronze lion. **Doug Anderson, Steve Barcan, Henry Black, Steve Clineburg, Ed Coller, Jerry Dwyer, Doron Gopstein, Bob Heller, Bruce Kaplan, Lee Lowenfisch, Don Margolis, Larry Neuman, Tom O’Connor, Frank Partel, Phil Satow and Stan Yancovitz** were among the group who came, and I thank them, the Alumni Office and everyone else who organized this surprise. Now, I suppose, I will have to start planning our 55th!

Richard Tuerk writes, “I was delighted to read in the Fall 2013 Class Notes **Frank Sypher**’s reminiscences of the person we called the Yumpkee Man. I’m sure that the label we used for him was a misnomer (and that it’s spelled with a ‘p’): we were the Yumpkees; he wasn’t. I’m very jealous that **Mark Dintenfass** used the Yumpkee Man in his first book; I wish I had used him in mine, a study of Henry David Thoreau. He would have been at home in the company of Thoreau, Emerson, Margaret Fuller and especially Amos Bronson Alcott and Jones Very. I’d love to hear more reminiscences about him and the uniperversity, the sophmorons and the pyumpkees that inhabited his universe.

“I enjoy my retirement in Com-

merce, Texas, where my wife, Roz, and I have lived for 41 years. In June we celebrated our 50th anniversary. I volunteer for our local hospital district, read, exercise and even write a little.”

Gary Shapiro ’70 GSAS writes, “I wish I could have attended reunion. I was wrestling with some medical issues as well as preparing for a demanding, seven-week trip to Turkey, Bosnia, Croatia and Greece that began later in June. I’m hoping to hobble to the 60th! I retired in 2011 after 41 years of teaching philosophy full-time (at Kansas and then Richmond), preceded by five years as a Columbia preceptor and instructor while finishing my Ph.D.

“Retirement has not been quiet. I had an intensive five-week teaching gig in beautiful Stockholm shortly after leaving work, and I continue to write, publish and give talks. A few years ago my then-colleague, artist Tanja Softić, invited me to write an essay for the booklet accompanying her series ‘Migrant Universe.’ The collaboration flowered and now we are happy companions. The reason for our recent travel was Tanja’s research for an artist’s book on memory and loss in her native Sarajevo, and the trip began and ended with my conference talks in Assos, Turkey, and Athens. My three children from two marriages are distributed around the United States and each has given me two wonderful grandchildren.

“When I left Columbia to teach elsewhere I was carrying the torch for the Core, having been not only a student but also an instructor of Humanities A and Contemporary Civilization B. Although it was always an uphill struggle to convince hidebound departments to think outside of their silos, I like to think that I had some impact on a few students (and maybe even colleagues). I seem to have taken root in Richmond, Va., something I never could have imagined in the heady days of the NYC ’60s. New Yorkers are often quite surprised by the vibrant art and food scenes here. The setting helps me to work on one more book, many smaller projects and my urban garden.”

David Alpern reports a special reason to enjoy this past Thanksgiving: “Call it my ’63 Ring Cycle,” he writes. “More than 40 years ago I tried to master the mystery of Sunfish sailing off the beach at Chatham on Cape Cod with my *Newsweek* colleague Ed Kosner, later editor of *Newsweek*, *New York Magazine*, *Esquire* and the *Daily News*. But he and I were flops at sea. After we tipped over and pulled the boat to shore, I realized I’d lost my class ring, with no

reasonable chance of retrieval. And somehow I made it through life all the years since.

“But the week before Thanksgiving, Paul [Neshamkin] emailed to say that someone had found a Columbia ’63 ring with DMA engraved inside the band and that I was the only class member so initialed.

“Turned out the finder was a young, retired information systems consulting exec named Jim Wirth. Jim lives in San Francisco but summers in Chatham, where he passes much time behind a water-proofed metal detector. He found the long-lost ring at that same beach, while standing knee-deep at low tide and digging 18 inches under the sand.

“It cleaned up well; he contacted Columbia to report the year and initials, exchanged emails with Paul, then me, and handed it back two days later during a previously scheduled trip to NYC. Maybe gold shrinks underwater over four decades, but more likely my digits have fattened along with the rest of me, so it only fits on my little finger now.

“This is actually the second time that ring has been lost, found and returned. One winter in the early ’60s, while working ‘overnights’ at United Press International in the *Daily News* building, I pulled my gloves off in the elevator and didn’t notice until 3 a.m. that the ring was gone. Some two years later a woman called to say her dad was a printer at the *News* and had found a Columbia ring at some point, but that she had just thought of contacting the school with the initials as a means to track down the owner. I picked it up the next day.

“Guess I’ll have to find a more creative way to lose it a third time. Suggestions?”

Lee Lowenfisch is continuing his love of baseball scouting and all things Branch Rickey (who, after all, perfected the farm system based on good scouting and talent evaluation). In mid-December he hosted a panel of three baseball scouts in a lively discussion of the profession of baseball scouting at the Greenwich Village gallery Bergino Baseball Clubhouse. He tried to avoid rubber-chicken stomach while attending hot stove league baseball banquets in Hazelton, Pa. (home town of Joe Maddon, Tampa Bay Rays manager), Portsmouth, Ohio (Rickey’s home area, where the remarkable Portsmouth flood wall murals are located), and Great Neck, Long Island. [Editor’s note: See article by Lowenfisch on Columbia baseball and coach Brett Boretti in “Roar, Lion, Roar.”]

I have the sad duty to report the death of **Richard L. Knopf** in Man-

teca, Calif., on September 15, 2013.

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are always a great place to reconnect. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the next ones, scheduled for March 13, April 10 and May 8 — it’s always the second Thursday. Check cc63ers.com for details.

In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1**
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Our 50th reunion is approaching, and I hope you’re saving the date: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. **Steve Case** and **Bob Friedman** are co-chairing the Reunion Committee, which has been meeting in conference space graciously provided by **Steve Rodner** at his law firm in Manhattan, and subcommittees also are at work. Those involved in the planning at this writing are **Joel Abramson, Adam Bender, Bernard Catalinotto, Lionel Etra, Marty Isserlis, Howard Jacobson, Gil Kahn, Fred Kantor, Beril Lapson, Peter Lowitt, Marshall Meyer, Jeff Newman, Steve Rosenfeld, Merv Rothstein, Dan Schechter, Steve Solomon, Peter Thall, Allen Tobias, Ivan Weissman and Marty Weinstein**.

I think the event will be the sort of memorable occasion a 50th reunion should be. There will be a range of multi-class and class-specific events that we can take part in. Saturday is also Dean’s Day, which offers the chance to relive our classroom experiences through lectures with some of Columbia’s finest professors. It all leads up to our class dinner on Saturday, followed by dancing under the stars at the Starlight Reception.

For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. See also the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

Steve Rodner has been named the chairman of the New York State Bar Association’s section on entertainment, art and sports law.

Ron Padgett has published a new book, *Collected Poems*, which gathers the work of more than 50 years. In 2012, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

Allen Tobias is proud to report that he has started a thriving business in career counseling and presentation campaigns for entrepreneurs and people seeking new jobs or new careers. He was inspired by career facilitation breakfasts he attended at the Columbia Alumni Center. He can be reached at tobias.newyork@aol.com.

Avi Decter writes, “In June 2012 I retired after 13 years as executive director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore. This small but lively institution has won national recognition from the American Association for State and Local History and was the recipient of numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

“My wife, Naomi ’64 Barnard, and I spent the year after my retirement selling our longtime home in Haddonfield, N.J., and moving into a lovely apartment in Philadelphia. We have very much enjoyed our new home and our new lifestyle.

“For 15 years, we have punctuated our calendar with summer stays at our place in Addison, Vt., a former dairy farm where we live in a restored horse barn, replete with a resident colony of brown bats (who have dibs on the place, having resided there since circa 1910). The viewscape out over the Champlain Valley and toward the high peaks of the Adirondacks is a constant pleasure.

“Our married son, Eliav, his wife, Alyce Callison, and their boys (9 and 7) live close by, so we get to see them regularly. And we have stayed in touch with family and with friends going back to our middle school days. I look forward to seeing classmates at reunion. Until then, all good wishes to the Class of ’64.”

65 **Leonard B. Pack**
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These columns sometimes serve as a slow-motion message board. In the Fall 2013 Class Notes, **Gene Spiegel** commented that he had lost touch with **Dodge Ely**, and I asked if any reader had information about him. David Stern ’66 responded, “Dodge was in business in the Bay Area with his friend, Joe Willingham, a former Columbia grad student, in the ’70s and ’80s. I had occasion to communicate with Joe a few years ago and asked him about Dodge, who had been a good friend of mine in the ’60s. Joe informed me, and I am informing you, that Dodge passed away sometime in

the ’90s. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, and even sorrier that Dodge is no longer with us.”

Also in the Fall 2013 issue, **Steve Steinig** (sns24@optonline.net) made a comment about **Dan Waitzman**’s (danwaitz@sprynet.com) prior reflections as to whether we would wear beanies on “graduation” from “senior citizenship.” Dan in turn has responded with the following:

“I should be most regretful if what I intended as a harmless witticism and a sardonic commentary on the politically correct term ‘senior citizen’ caused anyone any distress. Such was certainly not my intention. Myself, whenever I buy

Ron Padgett ’64 — a 2012 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry — has published *Collected Poems*, which gathers the work of more than 50 years.

a ticket on the Long Island Railroad, I always request an ‘elderly ticket,’ rather than a ‘senior citizen’ ticket — but that is just my personal preference. Nor did I intend to make any connection whatsoever between the solemn Jewish skullcap or *yarmulke* (also known these days as the *kippah*, although the term is fairly new to me) and the humble beanie of our early College days. Although my knowledge of my Jewish heritage is sadly deficient, I do recall the wearing of yarmulkes at funerals and in the synagogue, especially by orthodox and conservative Jews; but I cannot say what the customs are in regard to their use in the dressing of the deceased for burial. Like **Steve Steinig**, I was not asked to provide one for my father’s funeral.

“On a less solemn note, I recently uploaded to YouTube my electronic MIDI realization of my latest attempt at musical composition — a trio sonata movement for flute, viola d’amore and bass, with optional harpsichord accompaniment. My venture into the world of YouTube offers an electronic version of the score, synchronized with the music. The URL is youtube.com/watch?v=RV34dCF1B4M.”

Bill Mitchell ’64 sent a report of a celebration in Charleston, S.C., billed as the “14th Annual Tribal Gathering of the Columbia Beta Theta Pi Brothers,” to celebrate seven decades of **Jack Strauch**’s life path, achievements and recent diagnosis and recovery from leukemia. Bill points out that Jack, a Columbia footballer, was selected as All-East and a two-time All-Ivy linebacker. Jack is a semi-retired comptroller for a local packaging company in Charleston. Also in attendance were Jack’s wife, Shirley

Jones; **Jim Boosales** and his wife, Bonnie; **Gene Chwerchck** and his wife, Sherry; Dave Filipek ’67 GS and his wife, Bev; **Bill Brown** and his wife, Nicole; and **Bob Donohue** and his wife, Mairiad. Several members of other 1960s classes also attended: Len Defiore ’64 and his wife, Maryann; Harry Hersh ’64; Bill Mitchell ’64 and his wife, Sandi; Phil Moore; Paul Kastin ’66 and his wife, Rosthema; Bob Klingensmith ’66 and his wife, Nancy; and Bill Corcoran ’66 and his wife, Kathy.

The festivities began with a “welcome to old town Charleston” dinner at the Marriott’s Sapphire Room, reinforced by Saturday

night’s toast/roast event at the Harbor Club and finalized with a bon voyage lunch at Jack’s beautiful bay view home. Photos should be available on the participants’ social media pages. Bill noted, “Sadly, the Beta attempt to recapture Fort Sumter to avenge the historic Civil War loss failed due to limited group enthusiasm for a noble goal. Additionally, the Beta group found that the traditional toga party robe has long been outlawed in Charleston social circles.”

The ING New York City Marathon was run on November 3. *The New York Times* wrote a story about the heightened security around the race in the wake of April’s Boston Marathon tragedy. **David Obelkevich** was featured in the article, which read in part: “Dave Obelkevich, who has run every New York Marathon since 1976 — a record streak — recalled how close the fans got to the runners in 1976, the first time the marathon branched out of Manhattan to touch all five boroughs. Coming off the Queensboro Bridge, on First Avenue in Manhattan, fans had strayed so far into the street that it left only a narrow pathway for the marathoners. The runners had to form a single-file line. That was electrifying, Obelkevich said, because those fans gave the runners so much of an emotional boost.”

Congratulations to Dave, and may he run many marathons.

The December 11 nomination of his successor brought news that **Flemming L. Norcott Jr.** is retiring as a justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Columbia’s Senior Society of Sachems celebrated its centennial at a dinner on October 18 at the University Club in New York City.

In attendance from our class were **Jay Woodworth, Bob Kronley, Jim Murdaugh, Alan Green** and myself, **Leonard Pack**. I asked Jay (woody17620@aol.com) for an update; here’s his report:

“It was great to see you [Leonard], Jim, Alan and Bob at the Sachems’ 100th. The Krons was the guy who, at our class’ 45th reunion, buttonholed me and asked what Sachems was going to do for our 100th. I replied with something like, ‘I have no idea.’ He then said, ‘Good luck; I’m based in Atlanta.’ Thus a bunch of us in the NYC area got together and did our best to plan for the group’s centennial event and lay the groundwork for its second century.

“Roger Lehecka [’67, ’74 GSAS], Columbia’s retired dean of students and our adviser, will probably be very upset to see all this Sachems stuff in print, but the organizational effort put forth by a bunch of old fogies, plus a large number of youngsters who graduated in the ’90s, the ’00s and the pre-teens, was really impressive. We’ve all suffered major disappointments in life when dealing with committees but Sachems’ planning committee worked well. Everyone had a specific area of responsibility in planning for the centennial and everyone delivered. The dinner itself was a sell-out success. Along the way, we raised a fair amount of seed money for scholarship assistance and the group’s ongoing expenditures. I’m very proud of the group.

“In addition to that crunch in September and October, life has been very hectic. Or is it that our productivity declines so much as we age that it takes a helluva lot longer to do what we used to do in our 30s and 40s?

“**Larry Guido** swung through New York at the end of September and we got together to drown some sorrows. He had just lost his wife, Jane, to the side effects of a decades-long battle against rheumatoid arthritis. The specific occasion was one of great sadness but we found some good old times to remember.”

Jay continued:

“I’m mostly retired but still am involved in the business economics profession. [As I write,] I will take off in two days for a round of quarterly meetings in Washington with about four dozen of my colleagues from around the world. We meet, analyze the world’s economic policy problems and solve many of them. Unfortunately, not many people listen to us. We live in times where facts and knowledge are not really essential for decision makers, especially in the Congress.

“The railroad that lives in my train room is thriving, and I apologize for not having made more

video clips (available on YouTube under the channel 'WoodyNJ') in a while. I'll catch up this winter. I have several new videos cued up in my mind. The priority has been to complete the construction of a couple of new rail lines to enhance the excitement and realism. I've thought about dropping a note to *The Wall Street Journal* writer who visited my train room several years ago and invite him back for an update.

"My two middle-aged 'children' are doing well. One is a lieutenant commander in the Navy, based in Washington state. The other lives 'down da shorah' in New Jersey and is about to close on the purchase of a new house. Both are married and my wife, Susan, and I have three grandchildren.

"It's only a 1½ years until our 50th class reunion. I'm looking forward to catching up with many old friends!"

David Paglin '66 will direct *The Trial of Franklin D. Roosevelt* at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in May.

Ken Wasserman (kenwass@gmail.com) sent a nice note: "I have two kids, Sara (19) and Mike (23), and am happily married to Amy Berlin, who is a court lawyer in family court. We have lived in Brooklyn Heights since 1993. I practice criminal law in Manhattan and invest in micro-cap stocks. I travel a bit to attend micro-cap conferences. The criminal practice is nothing fancy — run-of-the-mill state court crimes — but it is very social, which balances nicely the computer-driven investment work. I have kept up with **Mike Moore**, who is an inspiration."

Peter Wallenstein (pwallens@vt.edu) reports, "After teaching history in the 1970s at the college level at various places in New York, Canada, Japan and Korea (pretty special experiences all), I landed at Virginia Tech 30 years ago, where I've had wonderful students and gotten to write a number of books on U.S. history. I'm still at it. Shortly I'll be sending off final copy for a second edition of my *Cradle of America: Four Centuries of Virginia History* (the subtitle will change) and *Free to Marry: Loving v. Virginia*, both to be published in 2014.

"I'm in touch with classmates I met during freshman orientation in 1961, among them **David Osher** and **Ahovi Kponou**, though we've been distressed as one by one our finest teachers, including James Shenton '49, '54 GSAS and Alan

Westin, have left us.

"I still live in Appalachia, albeit in western Virginia instead of rural New Hampshire — what I long ago came to refer to as '19th-century Northern New England' (I tell people I was an affirmative action admit, as the only applicant to the College my year from that time and place)."

Serge Wind (swind2@nyc.rr.com) writes, "While working for AT&T and Lucent Technologies, I was fortunate to have been given responsibility for formulating plans for an array of fascinating industry issues and analytically challenging problems in a rapidly evolving external environment. Activities included the analysis of major mergers and the design of variable compensation for 110,000 management employees based on a measure of shareholder value. I also served directly as a senior adviser to the CFO and v.p. of

enthusiasm hasn't declined.

Our youngest, Rich, is in the middle of 2L at Richmond and doing well with law journal and learning a southern accent.

I enjoyed getting together at Homecoming with **Tom Chorba**, **Harvey Kurzweil**, Ed Malmstrom '65, Ed Botwinick '56, **Tom Harold**, **Ron Brookshire**, the family of the late Steve Franke '67E, '69E and other alums.

Announcement: I am chairing the recently formed Committee for Athletic Excellence at Columbia. It is dedicated to improving competitive and non-competitive athletic capability and performance at CU. We welcome any inquiries or members; you can write me directly or go to lion-sports.org.

Steve Weinberg writes, "Four married kids and seven grandkids. Work split between affordable housing and Habonim Dror camps. Hoping we're about to end this 30-year clobbering of the 99 percent and rebalance our society. There's still no other country with anything like the DNA of the United States, so we've got to return to respectability and leadership, even as planetary concerns increasingly trump national concerns. Let's all sit and watch around the earth as we turn the large hadron collider back on again and think what that means for our planetary civilization."

David Paglin will direct *The Trial of Franklin D. Roosevelt* at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in May. It's part of an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the turning-away of the liner SS *St. Louis*, which was carrying more than 900 Jews fleeing Hitler's Germany in May 1939, and who were thus forced to return to a Europe on the eve of WWII. A number of those passengers who survived the Holocaust will attend.

Gary Foulks writes, "The last issue led me to catch up with **Jim Larson**, who is now on the East Coast, as am I. In December 2011, I became the Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Louisville, where I was the Arthur H. and Virginia T. Keeney Chair of Ophthalmology and Visual Services for eight years. I continued at the Veterans Administration Medical Center as a cornea specialist for the next year but in November 2012 I retired from clinical practice. My wife, Sims, and I moved to Wilmington, N.C., to join our daughter, Beverley; son-in-law, Michael; and granddaughter, Haley (18 months). We have been having a blast babysitting Haley ... I am editor-in-chief of *The Ocular Surface* journal and consult to the pharmaceutical industry. Sims says this means I can't claim to be fully retired but I think

I qualify. My goals for this year are to spend more time fly fishing and surf-fishing the Carolina coast."

David Matthew writes, "The big news is that the latest family genius, Ellis Marie Matthew-Williams, arrived on October 16. Her sister, Gene Aurelia, greeted her with glee. This evens the score for my daughters at deuce: Elizabeth has a son and a daughter, and Sayre has two girls. I am happily managing some friends' finances, hoping to honestly beat TIAA. (So far, very good.) Missed my Little Rock Central High reunion but caught up with some alums while on a cross country wedding trip. Still single, but open for nominations for candidates."

Michael Garrett writes, "The organization I co-founded a few years ago and now lead, Columbia Alumni Singers, is thriving and a number of classmates are participating, among them **Bruce Trinkley** and **David Tilman**. Our group is the choral home of those who sang in any group while a Columbia student, faculty member or administrator in any school or division. There are 2,000 of us on the mailing list, and we serve and support Columbia and today's choral singing on Columbia's campuses. We distribute music over the Web and rehearse, socialize and perform under the direction of distinguished conductors. We perform college songs, folk songs, spirituals, classical pieces and more. Our signature event each year is our reunion concert during Alumni Reunion Weekend (we've had as many as 100 members make joyful noise together there). All '66 classmates who sang are invited to join us in making Columbia Alumni Singers a thoroughly enjoyable, harmonious, valued and valuable component of Columbia tradition."

For more information, write Michael at michaelgarrett@earthlink.net.

Elwyn Schaefer writes, "Many years ago I chose the University of Colorado Law School over Columbia and headed west. I've been in Boulder/Denver ever since. No regrets. A synopsis of my professional career may be found at elwynschaefer.com. In December, I became of counsel to Bachus & Schanker, a Denver-based law firm with 20 trial attorneys and 50 members.

"My Nebraska-born-and-bred wife, Barb, and I live adjacent to a 165-acre city park with views of Pike's Peak, the Rockies and the Denver skyline. We have three daughters and two granddogs. We recently spent quality time with **Lew Davis** (North Carolina), **Ken Rollston** (California) and **Tom McMahan** (also North Carolina).

Expect to re-up shortly with good buddy **Jim Larson** (Delaware). It's been a fun time since leaving my little town of Patchogue, on Long Island, in 1962."

Rudy Von Bernuth reports, "The Indian summer of my long career continues, with another extension of my assignment in London, this time through September 2014, to manage the transition of a newly acquired medically focused charity, Merlin, into Save the Children. More walks to work past Buckingham Palace and through St. James's Park."

Joe Steinberger ponders: "At this point, the news from our cohorts is inevitably dimming. I wonder if any classmates are as foolish in old age as I have been. My first and only child, Takuma (meaning, pathfinder), is 6. Is he the youngest child of the Class of '66? [RF: I do believe Joe wins this award.]

"My wife Keiko's sushi bar has been reviewed as one of the 100 best restaurants in the U.S. (*OA Guide to US Restaurants*). If any classmates come visit us in Rockland, Maine, Takuma and I will gladly take them to dinner at Suzuki's."

Ron Brookshire writes, "I became a first-time grandfather on May 27, 2013, to Harper Jeanne; her mom is my daughter Ashley Brookshire. Then I became a grandfather again on November 13, 2013, to Kenzie Britley; her mom is my daughter Amanda Bogarad."

Cliff Rosenthal is finishing a two-year stint at the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C., focusing on low-income issues after closing out a successful 32-year career running the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. He will be back in Brooklyn for good in March.

Philip Myers reports, "I live in Winchester, Mass., with my wife, Anne Hoffman '70 Barnard. We have three sons who are busy writing software, performing and composing music. David and his wife, Diane, are parents of 7-month-old Andrew. They live in Brooklyn, as does Josh, while Jon is in Oakland.

"Since 1984 I've been an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, researching how stars form through observations, computer simulations and theoretical models. I have had a great time doing this. I also like jazz and have played keyboard with ensembles and rock bands. I enjoy writing songs and am inspired by Gershwin, Ellington and Jobim.

"I've kept in touch with classmates including **Dan Gover**, **Jeff May**, **Cliff Rosenthal**, **Gene Fierman** and **John Akula**. I'd be glad to hear from other classmates, too

(pmyers3@comcast.net)."

Columbia Chinese lunch leader **Mark Amsterdam** relates, "I guess it's time for an update on my Columbia kids. Matt '10, '13L works at the New York State Attorney General's Office in the civil rights bureau. He is a Columbia College Fund Class Agent and serves on the board of Columbia College Young Alumni. Lauren '07, '12 GSAS earned a master's and her article, 'All the Eagles and the Raven in the House Say Yeah: (Ab)original Hip-Hop, Heritage and Love,' was published in the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. She is a community activist and educator.

"I still collect antiquarian books focused on the earliest English printed books (1482-1600), still work at the law, still live in NYC and am still active with alma mater."

One of our best round-ballers and top foul shooter on the squad in '66, **Ken Benoit**, touched base. You may not remember but we came within a whisker of the Ivy crown senior year, thanks in large part to Ken. He says, "I'm entering my eighth year in retirement at our lake house in Bristol, Conn. Health remains good although the handicap has climbed up to 10. My wife, Mary, and I have welcomed two grandsons in the past two years, which is a delightful experience. One big surprise this year was my induction into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame (the ceremony was held in Worcester, Mass.) — only 50 years late! I had almost forgotten that era of my life. My daughters, Kerry and Erin, are nurses at Bristol Hospital, following in Dad's footsteps."

Charles Pitchford wrote in for the first time: "You may remember me as **Barry Nazarian**'s roomie. If not, I will certainly understand, as the older we get..."

"I remember reading the note Barry wrote a while back, mentioning names of acquaintances I met directly through Barry and my managing the student laundry and/or singing in the (in)famous rock band we had (Brewmen and other names). Oh, those nights at Alpha Chi Rho!

"My short bio: Since leaving Columbia and the all-night parties with Barry, I worked in Harlem as a social worker (yes, continued partying and playing in different rock bands). I moved to Canada to 'settle down' and worked in social services in Toronto for almost 30 years. At one time I ran a welfare office in that city. At the end of those many years I wound up writing social assistance policy for the Ontario government.

"I married in 1969 and still am married to Susan, and have two

lovely children in their mid-30s. We moved to Vancouver in the mid '90s, where we finally found our true passion: running our own travel business. Since then, we have traveled to parts of the world too numerous to list.

"We've been blessed having both our children living nearby.

"Any of you inclined to continue the conversation, drop me a line at pitchford@telus.net."

Tom Chorba and his wife, Celeste, announce that their grandson, Orson Thomas Chorba, arrived two weeks early, on December 22, weighing 5 lbs., 5 oz.

Stefan Rudnicki writes, "My audiobook career has continued to develop and amass honors. It now stands at more than 3,000 audiobooks produced, directed and/or narrated. Recent milestones include being named a 'Golden Voice' by the magazine *AudioFile*, kind of a lifetime achievement award. This year I was named 'Best Voice' in science fiction for the second year in a row. I also received a Grammy for producing and directing Janis Ian's recording of *Society's Child: My Autobiography*. I'm planning the launch of a new audiobook publishing initiative."

Philip Shopoff reported on the passing of **Leonard Don Diego**, which was noted in the column last issue. "Lenny, with whom I went to school all the way from third grade through Columbia, was a dedicated educator ... a Columbia man through and through."

Randy Bourscheidt says, "This Oklahoma native never 'graduated' from New York, where I've lived happily since college days. I thank Columbia for introducing me to this great city, which I have tried to serve in various ways. I spent a decade in the Cultural Affairs Department, the culmination of a city government career that began at the Department of City Planning. I was president of the Alliance for the Arts for more than two decades, doing research into the economic and social benefits of the arts and organizing responses from the cultural community to crises such as AIDS and 9-11. To enhance my enjoyment of New York, I spend weekends upstate in Columbia County, about as far from the Hudson River as my dorm room at Fumald was. Write me at randall.bourscheidt@gmail.com."

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Tony Greco '76 GSAS, '82 Business writes, "After a 25-year career with

the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, I've been happily retired for just over four years. Free of the business of actually having to work for a living, I've had the time to put my Columbia political science Ph.D. to use and revisit longstanding intellectual interests.

"The first fruit of that activity is my book, *Chomsky's Challenge to American Power: A Guide for the Critical Reader*, which came out in December. Now, while I'm trying to come up with a new book project, I'm filling in my spare time with a blog, Talking About Politics (tony-greco.com).

"I still live in Manhattan with my wife, Celia, and still love being here. I'm writing this note from a great place where I've spent more than a little time over the past few years: Butler Library."

Please write. It won't take five minutes, and your classmates want to know how you are and what you are up to. You can send news directly to me at either of the addresses at the top of the column, or submit news via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Pete Janovsky wrote a few months ago with a brief account of the Marching Band's activities during our Alumni Reunion Weekend.

"On the Saturday of reunion, there was a cross-class Columbia University Marching Band gathering in Carman Hall. Quite a few former band managers, and others from the '68 period and all the time since, attended and reminisced about the 1964 'moral decay' and other halftime shows, 3 a.m. Barnard fire drill concerts, Carnegie Hall appearances and other landmarks of the modern band era.

"A group of alumni, including Dan Carlinsky '65, J. Donald Smith '65 and Sam Rowan Barnard '96, have helped form a Columbia Band Alumni Association. It's an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, with Sam as president. The association plans regular events for alumni and provides support for the current band, such as encouraging donations of instruments by alumni. Non-alumni also can donate instruments if they happen to have a clarinet, trumpet or E-flat double-reed contra-bass sarrusophone gathering dust in the attic (see columbiabandalumni.org/instrument-drive.html).

"The band alumni association arranged a reunion at Homecoming,

held October 12. Alumni joined the present band members in material ranging from ‘60s-era classic fight cheers to the White Stripes’ *Seven Nation Army*. Band alumni also sang a full-throated version of *Sans Souci* (to the amazement of current, non-band students in the crowd, who could not believe anyone knew the lyrics, or that there were lyrics).

“Other directors of the association are Steven Greenfield ‘83, Mark Tabry ‘07E, Morgan Robinson ‘08 and Kevin Gould ‘12. The advisory board consists of Joe Klein ‘58; Ed Coller ‘63; Dan Carlinsky ‘65; J. Donald Smith ‘65; Dennis Klainberg ‘84; Cathy Webster ‘87; Betsey Benaugh ‘94, ‘94E; Mike Schiraldi ‘00E; David Albert ‘09E; and Stephanie Tarras ‘10 Barnard.”

I was at a Columbia basketball game recently, and the band was there in large numbers, performing with great cheer.

It was great to hear from **Nigel Paneth**, who observed that his nationally ranked Spartans (he is a professor of public health at Michigan State) almost lost to the Lions in basketball in Lansing, Mich. He was flummoxed, for sure. He also acknowledged the whipping the Spartans took out there in wrestling from the Lions.

As I write, I’m planning to have a lunch with **Bill McDavid**. Bill is general counsel at Freddie Mac and continues to amaze me with his energy and involvement with some of today’s financial issues. It seems like yesterday that we were listening to Bill and his band perform on campus. But in fact, it was almost 50 years ago. I really shouldn’t note that, I suppose. (Although, to that point, I’ve been thinking of our having an event in the fall to celebrate our good fortune of landing on Morningside Heights in fall 1964. Maybe a grand dinner in the city, either on- or off-campus, modest in scope but with entertainment. You may recall John Lindsay was

running for mayor when we arrived. Any interest? If so, write me: arthurspector@gmail.com.)

I chatted with **Greg Winn** a few times in the last few months and am grateful for the years of good humor and friendship with him.

I heard from some classmates about the fate of football this past fall, and clearly the program had a major setback. **Jim Shorter** and **Ira McCown** commented on it, among others. **Paul de Bary** and I went to games this year.

I will be diplomatic and note only that the women’s swim team has beaten Harvard, Yale and Penn so far this year. Tennis also has been fabulous, for example.

I was negligent with respect to the last Class Notes column and this one; I have been swamped with personal stuff and work, so I am sorry for the relative lack of news. The next one will be back in full force.

This being the first column of 2014, I wish all of the class — as well as family, partners, spouses, children and grandchildren — a healthy new year. I figure we all have about 30 more years to go, at least, so I get more time to do this column.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29-JUNE 1**
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Jonathan Schiller ‘73L was elected on December 19 as co-chair of the University’s Board of Trustees and is slated to become chairman upon Bill Campbell ‘62, ‘64 TC’s retirement from the board. Jonathan is the first member of our class to achieve this distinction and, for that matter, our class is among the few to have a classmate achieve this distinction. In general we are well represented on the board, with **Michael Rothfeld** continuing as a trustee. Jonathan is the father of three sons, all of whom graduated from the College. In his non-Columbia role, Jonathan is managing partner and co-founder of the Boies, Schiller & Flexner law firm. Jonathan has received both the John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement (2006)

and the Alexander Hamilton Award (2012). Classmates will have the opportunity to congratulate him at our 45th reunion (see more later in this column).

This news-seeking columnist always appreciates an assist from the general news media, which happened twice in this cycle. *The New York Times Book Review* of December 23 featured **Paul Auster’s** latest, *Report from the Interior*, a companion memoir to his 2012 *Winter Journal*. This new book is a history of Paul’s psychological development. The review calls him “one of the great prose stylists of our time.”

The second item appeared in mid-December in numerous sources. **Judd Gregg** has, after seven months, stepped down as CEO of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. Now, here is my difficulty; I am filing this column at the end of December for the Spring issue. What Judd plans to do next is the subject of current speculation but may be answered by the time this issue is published. So, I leave for a later column a report on Judd’s next step. Judd, by the way, also was a recipient of a John Jay Award (1993).

“Some news/reflections, both happy and sad,” from **Doran Twer**: “For the second consecutive year, **Ron Tarrington** traveled six-plus hours north to see my son, Aden, compete as a wide receiver for Gettysburg. As fate would have it, Ron’s back was turned to the field, looking for me in the stands, on the first play of the game from scrimmage, as Aden hauled in a 62-yard TD pass. (Aden finished his career as the leading receiver in school history in total yards, career-receiving TDs and receiving TDs in a season — and led all active players in NCAA DI in 2013 in career yards per catch — 19.2.) As I write this, Ron is getting a new knee. I hope all goes well.

“Wanted to pay public respects to Rich Arcaro ‘72, who passed away in January 2013. I roomed with Rich at the Psi U house senior year and traveled with him for a dozen weeks across the country in summer 1971 on our so-called ‘hippie trip’ — tales of which I’ve embellished and then bored my family and friends with throughout the ensuing decades. Gas was 25 cents a gallon when we reached California — a good thing, as the truck we purchased from the bread man in Fairview, N.J., got only six miles per.

“Rich was a person of tremendous physical and mental strength. A loyal friend. Better yet, he knew how to repair the truck. But Rich could be painfully shy, and on day four of the trip he killed a deal I negotiated to travel along

to Aspen (upon invitation) with two gorgeous (at least that’s the way I remember it), lapsed (at least that’s the way I imagined it) Mormon girls in a green MG who followed us into a Colorado gas station and proceeded to engage us as they purchased a dollar’s worth of gas. I only wish Rich were here so I could tell him that I still don’t forgive him. Rest in peace.

“Also, congratulations to **Joe Santosuosso** (we share a birthday two hours apart), who pedaled from the northernmost point of Maine — where America starts, according to the sign he posted on his ‘crazyguyonabike’ site — to Key West, Fla. An unsupported solo ride of just about 3,000 miles from August 11 to November 4. Amazing.”

John Bernson is returning home to Armonk, N.Y., following 3½ years of bank advisory and corporate finance projects in the Middle East. He keeps in contact with **David Alger**, on Martha’s Vineyard, and **David Parshall** and **Ron Dronzek**, in NYC.

Jesse Goldner attended the memorial service for **Mark Drucker** in St. Louis on November 9, and he provided this report: “Family members, friends and former students recalled Mark’s love of movies, TV, reading, history, trivia, learning and talking. He was an inveterate viewer of C-SPAN. As they said, ‘He knew a lot about a lot and never stopped learning.’

“They recounted his many efforts to help members of various groups, in addition to his family, about whom he cared in particular. These included the poor and underprivileged, and local mystery writers. He was described as a ‘kind and gentle man and an omnivorous intellectual’ who had a unique ability ‘to know how to be a friend’ and to demonstrate ‘unconditional acceptance’ of others. Mark was a humble person who was known for always treating others with dignity.”

This issue is the last one scheduled ahead of our 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend, and I urge all classmates to attend. The dates are Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. The Reunion Committee is trying to plan a calendar of events that will maximize the opportunity for classmates to catch up with one another. For encouragement, I’ve gone back to my September/October 2009 column, which reported on our 40th reunion; here are some reactions to that one, beginning with my own:

“I would sum up the reunion in these few words: ‘really good conversations and respectful remembrances.’ Our goal all along was to create opportunities for

classmates to spend quality time with each other, and we met our goal. The lunch program was the subject of singular attention during the planning, and **Rich Wyatt** suggested and then hosted the main event: an open microphone session called ‘40 years in 3 minutes.’ After a few volunteers kicked off the discussion, a majority of attendees shared their thoughts and exposed their feelings about the reunion, the College years, and that long time in between. What struck me was the cohesiveness of the class, comprised of individuals who saw the world in different ways back when and who have traveled varying paths since. And yet, we were a group who felt like connected classmates.”

From **Jeffrey Klein**: “A reunion virgin, I’m happy to report a highly satisfying experience at our 40th. Reconnecting with old friends was an expected pleasure. Unexpected was how much pleasure I felt connecting with classmates I’d never really known well while in college — **Jim Alloy**, **Jerry Avorn**, **William Bonvillian** et al. Repeatedly I was struck not just by the intelligence of our classmates (that’s a given), but also by how much work for the public good each had done in his chosen field. On the plane ride in, I’d read our yearbook — unopened for 40 years, with a nasty mildew smell as proof. It’s a striking, iconoclastic volume. How many yearbooks sport a funny audio/video script from a class drop-out announcing he’s a sell-out?

Post-strike interviews with several professors and with Provost Truman are at once insightful, nakedly confused and poignant. At the reunion, before I could congratulate **Roy Feldman**, our yearbook editor, on how well he and the *Columbian* staff had captured that historical moment, Roy said he’d re-read the volume the night before and was swamped with second thoughts about what he should have done differently. This tendency to consider and reconsider showed up in many reunion conversations. Could it be the true core of our curriculum?”

From **Eric Witkin**: “I thought our reunion was a great success, because so many of the people that I know and admire showed up at **Mike Schell’s** terrific cocktail party on Thursday, at the cocktail party at SIPA the next evening and at both lunch and dinner on Saturday. **Jerry Nadler** gave a very interesting talk on a highly controversial issue at Saturday’s dinner. Many classmates gave fascinating accounts of their Columbia and post-Columbia lives after lunch on Saturday, and even the weather cooperated with a sunny day and a beautiful evening after dinner on

Low Plaza. I didn’t make it to any of the theater events or lectures but for me reunions are about people, and many splendid people in our class made it a great success.”

From **Rod Reef ‘69E**: “This was my most memorable reunion to date. We had many chances, both formal and informal to talk to both Engineering School and College classmates. I was able to meet, talk to and listen to interesting life events from people I had not seen in many years. Although Dean Hubbard’s economics lecture was interesting, it is fast receding from memory. This is not true for the interactions with the members of our class. I am glad we adopted **Rich Wyatt’s** idea for the Saturday afternoon event and I will remember the value of our time talking and laughing together when we plan the next reunion.”

And from **Jim Weitzman**: “Reunion was good to me. I enjoyed it immensely. ... I especially found

A New York Times Book Review article about **Paul Auster ‘69’s** new memoir, *Report from the Interior*, called him “one of the great prose stylists of our time.”

touching the luncheon comments of **Jory Berkwitz**, sitting at my table, who stood to ask for forgiveness that he had essentially gone through most of his four years without interfacing with the rest of the class. My visit to WKCR knocked me off my feet: I walked into a studio only to lay eyes on four guys, most of whom I hadn’t seen in 40 years, arrayed around a table, recording recollections of the past: **Steve Silberblatt**, Roger Berkley ‘68, **Bob Papper** and the famous Robert Siegel ‘68 of NPR, who gave up his seat for me. A half-hour down memory lane recorded on, gasp, a reel-to-reel recorder.”

As this column goes to press, our Reunion Committee is working hard on outreach, aiming to raise a great turnout for the weekend. Hope you join us and thereby avoid the nagging concern about what you missed. For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. See also the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

70 **Leo G. Kailas**
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Every once in a while you get news about a classmate from

other sources. I was reading my Columbia Law School magazine and learned that **Eric Eisner** had started and funded a program in Los Angeles that links promising students from low-income communities with some of the city’s top schools. His Young Eisner Scholars program, which now also includes a branch in NYC, funds SAT prep and covers costs that financial aid packages miss. YES scholars who attend schools such as Columbia and Stanford then come back to recruit other promising students to the institutions they attend. Eric notes that these YES graduates are inspirational to their younger peers, saying, “The glamour radiates from successful students with whom other kids can identify.”

Eric deserves thanks and congratulations for his good work! All this, following a successful Hollywood career that included a 10-year stint as president of The Geffen Co.

My good friend **Frank Motley** reports, “With 19 grandkids and two great-grandkids, I think I still own the title [for most grandkids among classmates] but that could have changed. CC and Humanities taught me that if you have enough grandkids, you will one day be famous yourself.”

Larry Rosenwald sent “a quick note to say a) I’m making an anthology of American antiwar and peace writing for the Library of America and b) I had the pleasure of a lively, fruitful conversation about the anthology with **David Lehman**, whom I hadn’t spoken with in some time and was delighted to be reconnected with!”

Tom Barrett is a contributing editor to *Arcadia*, a literary magazine out of Oklahoma City. His *Borrowed Time*, a “fictive but not untrue” exploration of his and his family’s past written under the pen name Thomas Shane, is a monthly feature of *Arcadia’s* Online Sundries blog (arcadiamagazine.org).

Steve Stahler writes, “I continue to pursue my passion in astronomy and am embarking on the second edition of my 2004 book, *The Formation of Stars*. For recreation, I tramp up and down the hills of California and sketch humans and others around me. I would enjoy hearing from classmates!”

You can write to Steve at stahler@astro.berkeley.edu.

Joel Richard Glucksman proudly

reports the birth of his third granddaughter (no grandsons yet). He writes, “The kids all live in Los Angeles, which gives me and my wife, Freddie, the excuse to visit the Left Coast regularly. Otherwise, I do bankruptcy law here in New Jersey and am waiting for the economy to turn around.”

Robert Launay writes, “I had a heart attack in July but am recovering well.”

Tom Keenan’s new book, *Technocreep: The Surrender of Privacy and the Capitalization of Intimacy*, will be published in March. He writes, “It’s a chilling look (excuse the hyperbole; that’s what authors are supposed to do, I’m told) at the ways in which technologies — from surveillance cameras and on-line tracking to sensors inside our bodies — are eroding what’s left of our privacy, often with our consent but without our full understanding. The revelations of Edward Snowden and Chelsea Manning have given us a glimpse into some of the ways this is being done by governments. This book lifts the covers on how we ourselves are surrendering our most personal information. *Technocreep* is based on more than 25 years of research in computer security, along with attending and presenting at hacker conferences such as DEF CON.”

David Lehman wrote a follow-up note about the launch party for his new book. He says, “The official publication date for my *New and Selected Poems* was November 5, and a day later the launch reading was held at the NYU Bookstore on Broadway and Waverly Place. The space was crowded, and it was gratifying to see some old pals from Columbia College days including **Bill O’Brien**, **Jim Periconi**, Steven Silberblatt ‘72 and Jamie Katz ‘72. The presentation began with my reading a half-dozen of the new poems from the book. Then Ken Tucker of NPR’s *Fresh Air* interviewed me about my career and my work. He is a veteran interviewer, very skillful, and my only regret is that the interview was not taped. At his suggestion I read certain poems (such as ‘Nirvana’ and ‘Any Place I Hang My Hat’) to illustrate points. The last poem I read, ‘Story of My Life,’ provoked a man in the audience to leap to his feet and shout ‘Bravo!’ I am happy to report that my book received favorable reviews in *The New York Observer* and *Publishers Weekly*. Interviews with me ran on NPR and PBS, and Garrison Keillor read my poem ‘Radio’ on his show *‘The Writer’s Almanac’* with Garrison Keillor. So it was quite a week.

“In addition, the November 16–17 issue of *The Wall Street Journal* contained a Masterpiece

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column — under the heading of ‘The Palpable Presence of Time’ — that I wrote about Wordsworth’s great poem ‘Tintern Abbey.’”

Finally, **Bill Schur** writes, “After 23 exciting years with the Southwestern Bell, then SBC, now AT&T legal department, I retired at the end of December. I’m considering whether to teach, write, consult, do legal work pro bono, volunteer or just quietly disappear.”

71

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If you are not receiving the ‘71C eNews and would like to, please email me.

Remember Jonathan Schiller ‘69, ‘73L, reserve forward-center on the great Lions basketball teams of our Columbia years? He has been appointed co-chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, along with current chair Bill Campbell ‘62, ‘64 TC, and will succeed Bill upon Bill’s retirement from the board. Jon is a managing partner and co-founder of the law firm of Boies, Schiller & Flexner, where he focuses on complex litigation and international arbitration. Dave Newmark ‘70, David Boies and now Bill are three formidable names with which to be associated. But I’m sure that Jon’s name is also.

Follow class correspondent Bernard Sunshine ‘46 attended an event and filed a report for us. Bernie was president of the Columbia College Alumni Association in the 1970s, subsequently was the senator who represented University alumni in the Columbia University Senate and in the ‘90s was president of the University’s Alumni Federation. He writes:

“**Lloyd Emanuel** is now an official part of the City of New Rochelle’s (N.Y.) 325-year history. In an impressive ceremony in October, Lloyd was inducted in the city’s Sports Hall of Fame, sharing the distinction with home-grown sports luminaries so honored in recent decades. The inscription honoring him is permanently installed in the City Hall.

“Lloyd was cited for his stellar career as a tennis player, starting at New Rochelle H.S. and continuing at Columbia, where he was captain of the tennis team and had a successful record in tournaments; he later was a college coach, professional coach and instructor.

“In 2011 he was named Man of the Year by the United States Tennis Association for his lifetime contribution to the game. In 2001 Lloyd received the George Seewagen Award, given to the Eastern

tennis pro who best exemplifies the spirit of excellence in competition, sportsmanship and love of the game. Internationally ranked Butch Seewagen (George Seewagen’s son) was his Columbia coach (1969–79), and it speaks of his high regard for Lloyd that he had Lloyd present him for his induction in the Eastern Tennis Hall Of Fame in 2005.”

Juris Kaza wrote in December: “Since last [reporting to ‘71C], I have changed ‘jobs.’ I left the Latvian news agency LETA after six years and became a contract stringer for *The Wall Street Journal* and Dow Jones Newswires. I worked for the latter in Frankfurt and Stockholm in the early 1980s when it was called AP-Dow Jones Newswire. So it was a kind of return to the fold.

Lloyd Emanuel ‘71 was inducted in the New Rochelle (N.Y.) Sports Hall of Fame for his tennis career as a player, college coach, professional coach and instructor.

“Journalism is something I hope to do for several years more. I like it and I will not be joining the chorus of those from ‘71C who will happily announce their retirement in the next year or two. Good for them, but I’m not ready. As far as I am concerned, the rock ‘n roll generation that saw 1968 doesn’t head for the rocking chair that easily.

“Some of the stories I have covered for the *WSJ* include Latvia’s progress toward joining the Eurozone on January 1, and last summer’s Latvian Song and Dance Festival, where one of the conductors of a 15,000-voice choir was a 100-year-old man from Michigan (born in Latvia under the Russian czar). I also wrote a feature on a Soviet-era garbage dump that has been transformed into a mainly clean facility that grows strawberries and tomatoes year-round in automated greenhouses heated and lit by biogas from the mountain of decomposing garbage (most of which is covered by grass that is trimmed every summer by a herd of sheep).

“One story I would rather have not had to cover was the disaster in November, when a supermarket roof collapsed in a Riga neighborhood, killing 54 people (including three firefighters hit by a second collapse when they rushed in to rescue victims) and injuring dozens of others. I was at the disaster site twice, mingling with people awaiting word on the survivors and the dead, or just laying flowers and candles as the scope of the catastrophe became evident. The supermarket opened in 2011 and

was part of an award-winning project that combined retail space with a high-rise condominium building, rumored to be teetering after the roof of the attached supermarket collapsed.

“After that, we also had an unexpected resignation of Latvia’s government, the 18th in 22 years (I think we beat Italy!).

“In Latvia, eyes are also on developments in the Ukraine, torn between an opening to the European Union and pressure and enticements from an increasingly authoritarian and corrupt Russia, which offers a customs union but little aside from oil and gas to circulate inside the customs union. There are some superficial similarities with conditions in Latvia — or rather, what Latvia could have

faced outside the EU and having taken a different political and economic path.

“Like the Ukraine, there are pro-Western and pro-Russian divisions, even along East-West lines. Regions in Eastern Latvia were the only parts of the country to have voted for Russian as a second state language in a 2012 referendum (the proposal was overwhelmingly voted down). The East — the region of Latgale — also has its own dialect and, in contrast to the largely Lutheran rest of the country, is predominantly Catholic with a smattering of Old Believers and Russian Orthodox.

“Interestingly, the ethnic Russians who have been present in this part of Latvia for centuries, but who live in a predominantly Russian-speaking local environment, are Latvian nationalists and patriots, as I found out on a trip to the Latgale area recently for an upcoming look at Latvia ahead of the transition to the euro.

“Of more immediate concern to the Baltic States is the placement, reportedly based on Western intelligence but confirmed by Russia, of medium-range, tactical-nuclear-capable Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad. Russia threatened to do this unless it got firm promises that NATO anti-ballistic missile systems were not directed at Russia, but at possible rogue-state missile attacks, and now has executed on this threat. The appearance of the missiles in a Russian enclave bordering Lithuania and Poland has a superficial similarity to the Cuban missile crisis that most of

‘71C should remember from their junior high days. I certainly do.

“I visit Stockholm whenever possible to watch my grandson, Elliot (4), grow and develop into a bright little guy who speaks Swedish and English and is always ready to play ‘What’s this called in Latvian?’ with me.

“My youngest son, Matiss (18), is applying to U.S. universities (he holds a U.S. passport). He wants to follow his mother into the film and media industry, so the closest he could come to Columbia (which he did consider applying to) may be NYU. He already has been admitted to Emerson in Boston but will wait to hear from NYU, USC and Chapman.

“In October, Matiss, my wife, Una, and I were in Newton, Mass., to celebrate my mother’s 100th birthday. She is still looking after the family home she and my late dad bought in 1959. She is still going strong.”

Remember back 47 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

72

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Bruce Jacobs recently presided over the inaugural Forum on Quantitative Finance in NYC, sponsored by the Jacobs Levy Equity Management Center for Quantitative Financial Research at the Wharton School (wharton.upenn.edu / jacobslevycenter). He and his business partner, Kenneth Levy, endowed the center in honor of the 25th anniversary of their firm, after which it’s named. The forum drew a large crowd of practitioners and academics, who heard the partners give the keynote address on a concept they developed called “leverage aversion.” It updates one of the foundational theories of modern finance regarding the risk-return tradeoff to factor in the potentially harmful effects of leverage, or borrowed money. They also presented the first Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation to Nobel Laureate Harry Markowitz in recognition of his recent work on individual retirement investment planning.

Jeffrey Laurence was featured in a recent HBO documentary, *The Battle of amFAR*, about the founding of the first American AIDS research organization. Jeffrey directs the Laboratory for AIDS Virus Research at Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and is a senior scientific

consultant to amFAR.

Mark Hoffman, who sent a dramatic set of then-and-now pictures showing a marked transformation in hair distribution and sartorial tastes, is still in the insurance business after 41 years. He consults on all sorts of group insurance, pensions, executive benefits and property and casualty plans for business. He writes, “I spend much time these days interpreting the Affordable Care Act and its benefits and tax consequences for clients and prospects alike. My wife, Jana, and I have been enjoying the Dallas area since October 2006, having lived in Tulsa, Okla., for the previous 24 years.”

Adweek named **Rick Kurnit** No. 21 of “The Adweek 50”: “the power players who make the wheels turn across media, marketing and technology.” Rick, a leading lawyer for the advertising industry, was the only attorney included on the list. The banner publication of the advertising industry, *Adweek*, summed up Rick’s practice with these words: “If Kurnit hasn’t negotiated your employment contract, you probably know a CEO for whom he has.” Rick reports that his NYC law firm, Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, has grown to 65 lawyers, focusing on entertainment, media and marketing law, providing nearly a full range of legal services, with a particular emphasis on litigation and trusts and estates work. Rick says that he plans to continue practicing as long as it remains fun and the firm flourishes.

As I write this column, the cherry trees that line both ends of College Walk are wound with strings of white lights, bouncing reflections off the late fall snow beneath them. By the time you’re reading, it will be much closer to spring. But I hope you all had a chance to return to campus at some point to enjoy the beauty of the scene.

73

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By the time these Notes are read it will be 2014, 45 years post our year of entry into the College. Who woulda thunk?

East Coast news first: **Michael Shapiro** conducts not only the Chappaqua Orchestra but also the West Point Band’s Jazz Knights, the Traverse Symphony Orchestra and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he has created scores for a new NBC crime show; his *Second Sonata* is being performed in Los Angeles and

New York; his *Yiddish Quartet* and *Piano Quintet* are touring the United States and Israel and being recorded on Paumanok Records; and his new piano concerto, *Archangel*, will premiere at the New York Repertory Orchestra and the Orchestra Sinfonica de Puerto Rico. Finally, his *Second Symphony* will be recorded in England during the 2014–15 season.

Fred Schneider has lots of good things happening. His older daughter, Lauren, is working on an M.B.A. at NYU and at this writing was to be married in February in Manhattan. His younger daughter, Stephanie, will have her law degree from CUNY in May. His wife, Harriet, received the Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare last May in Albany. And Fred (not to be outdone) recently celebrated his second anniversary as a partner and chair of the matrimonial and family practice at Ballon, Stoll, Bader & Nadler in Manhattan.

Bill Miller was recognized in October by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers for contributions spanning decades. Bill was governor, section chair and engineering v.p. at various times, and pioneered a program where he matched donations made by other SMPTE members to pay for student memberships; more than 250 students are now members as a result. Bill retired from ABC-TV in 2008 after 33 years in the technical side of television and consults from time to time to “keep myself out of trouble.”

Moving west, **Bruce Rush** writes in (for the first time, brave soul) from Santa Monica, Calif., where he is a clinical psychologist and an adjunct professor of psychology at Pepperdine. He has a “wonderful” family, including wife Lynn; daughter Claire; and son Colin. Bruce also is a fee-for-service provider at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, testing and evaluating children. In his spare time, he is the California program director and a martial arts therapist for Kids Kicking Cancer. And he “eats and sleeps once in a while.”

Also in California is **Jerry Sebag**, who is a professor of clinical ophthalmology at Doheny Eye Institute in Huntington Beach, Calif. Jerry is one of the world’s leading authorities on vitreous (of the eye). He has written two books and 66 articles on various related subjects and he recently delivered the plenary lecture to two vitreo-retinal societies in Nagoya, Japan. He has been chosen as a “super doctor” for Southern California for the past five years by his peers, and his third book on vitreous will be published in 2014, the 25th an-

niversary of his first publication.

Well done, all! Keep up the good news.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1**
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74

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One of the unique aspects of our time at Columbia was that we each were free to form our own subculture. There was no sense of having that infamous figure, “the big man on campus.” It wasn’t the quarterback of the football team (perhaps for good reason!), the president of our class or the heads of any of the many clubs or groups on campus. We each formed our own community that combined floormates from different years, Columbians who shared our political or social interests, and people we simply enjoyed being around. There was no caste system that placed some classmates in groups higher or lower than others.

So here we are almost 40 years after graduation, with Alumni Reunion Weekend planned for Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Sure, there will be great events, but what many of us really are looking forward to is seeing members of our “posse.” That said, reunion attendees have frequently commented that their big surprise was how much they enjoyed finding out what happened to the many classmates outside their inner circle — the guys who were on their Carman floor freshman year, their lab partner or even the person they sat next to during an early-morning CC class. Both groups were an integral part of our Columbia experience, and some members of both groups may be on campus for reunion.

I encourage you to think about the three to five classmates who come to mind when you reflect on your College days — the ones with whom you may stay in touch. Then try to remember the guys who make you wonder, “What ever happened to (fill in the blank)?”

Some classmates will return to Morningside Heights to see the campus — the part they knew four decades ago, the great additions and the incredible new campus emerging between West 125th Street and West 134th Street. Others will come back to have their minds opened once again by world-class

professors and alumni, who give Dean’s Day and Mini-Core Course lectures during the weekend. But I think almost everyone is drawn to reunion by the chance to catch up with the classmates we were close to as well as to have surprise encounters with those we forget we were close to. You’ll never know whom you could meet unless you come!

An unusual number of classmates have popped up lately in the media: PBS, NBC, ABC, *USA Today* and a couple in *The New York Times*. I’m sure there have been a lot more, but these are the ones that I know of (mostly due to posts on Facebook).

Following the death of musician Lou Reed, PBS aired *Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart*, a 1998 documentary by **Timothy Greenfield-Sanders**. The one-hour American Masters documentary chronicles Reed’s career, starting with the creation of *The Velvet Underground* in 1965. *USA Today* quoted Timothy, who said, “Lou Reed’s music was the backbeat to our lives and his lyrics were our conscience.” Around this time I saw Facebook comments from a couple of classmates. **Pinchas “Paul” Giller**, a professor at both the American Jewish University and the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, wrote, “Very upset about Lou Reed ... New York in the ‘70s, itself a lost time.” **Darryl Chin**, an author and writer in Brooklyn, posted: “RIP Lou Reed. OMG they’re dropping like flies: the people who made NYC what it was in my lifetime are going fast.”

At the other end of the music spectrum is *The Sing-Off*, a five-year-old a cappella competition show that airs on NBC. Dr. **Burt Rochelson** (chief of obstetrics at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y.) posted that the fiancée of his second son, Ellis, is part of the all-female group Element. They hung in with incredible performances but were eliminated toward the end of the competition.

Someone posted a YouTube clip on Facebook that featured **Darryl Downing**, who does business development in Harlem, at Denny Moe’s Superstar Barbershop. The clip was from HLN’s TV show, *What Would You Do?*, and involved the reluctance of a black guy to have his hair cut by a “white dude” and the whole issue of what has been termed “reverse racism.” This seems to be an issue that will keep popping up until we all internalize the lessons from the late Nelson Mandela.

Paging through *The New York Times* one Sunday last fall, I saw a full-page ad featuring Montefiore Medical Center, the University Hos-

pital for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in the Bronx. While reading through the “article,” I noticed it featured Dr. **Mark Mehler** in his role as chairman of the department of neurology at both the Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. I don’t know how he keeps up with all the areas under his purview — they have a Headache Center, a Sleep-Wake Disorder Center, an Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center and much more. (It gives me a headache just thinking of the stack of journals on his nightstand; I wonder if it also gives him a sleep disorder?)

Due to the slow adoption of state legislation recognizing same-sex marriage, we have not received word of a “state-sanctioned” gay marriage of a classmate ... until now. The December 1 edition of *The New York Times* carried an announcement that broke a barrier for the Class of ’74. It read, “**Thomas Merrick Reefer** and the Rev. John Gregory Morgan were married Friday at Christ and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in New York, where Mr. Morgan, a priest, is assistant to the rector.” (To be clear, we are not placing any special importance to the “state-sanctioned” designation and are pleased to report any unions of our classmates. Please send in announcements that we should have made, even if they occurred a while ago.)

The last we heard, Thomas was the headmaster at the Barstow

he was in Naples, Italy, and then a week later on the Cote d’Azur, France. In December he posted from “near Bali, Indonesia, on the nearby island of Lombok” while on work for the foundation. He added, “Going next to Jakarta.” That was three countries in three months!

Barry Klayman, a partner at the law firm Cozen O’Connor in Wilmington, Del., posted photos on Facebook of his son’s wedding last November and added, “Kim and Matt’s wedding was a typical 350-person Israeli wedding. Beautiful, big families, big traditions, big party!”

Kevin Ward, a longtime financial adviser in Paramus, N.J., tells us that the daughter of **Ted Gregory** attends Barnard. Ted is the director of diversity initiatives and talent retention for Columbia Alumni and Development and is once again living in the Morningside Heights area.

An update came in from **Dan Angius**, soon to be the retired senior partner of the Angius & Terry law firm in Walnut Creek, Calif. His son, Dan, had a “beautiful baby boy, Daniel Vincent Angius, in October.” I asked him the significance of the “Dan” name, and he replied, “I think passing down the name ‘Dan’ is a product of both my own and my son’s ego. So much for noble causes.” To which I responded, “As it was written in The Book of Fred (a long-lost, and rightfully so, scripture): ‘And Dan begat Dan that begat Dan.’”

John Chen ’74 posted on Facebook that he has traveled to 750 cities in 30 countries. Among the latest was a stop here in the U.S., in Virginia Beach, Va.

School in Kansas City, Mo. But the *Times* says that he now works in New York “overseeing maintenance and budgets of telecommunications networks at CenturyLink” (the lesser known, third largest telecom, which provides services in 38 states). He also freelances as an organist at various churches in the New York area and earned a doctorate in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard.

It was hard not to be impressed by the Facebook posting by **John Chen** announcing that he had traveled to 750 cities in 30 countries. “How about you?” he added. His latest photo was from his vacation in Virginia Beach, Va. Just a wild guess, but I bet that **Ken Krug** (CFO at The Asia Foundation and nominally living in Berkeley, Calif.) could give John a good run for the title of “most traveled classmate.” In October, I saw a Facebook post that

When a classmate has four children, we need to spread out the news on his offspring. Dr. **Steve Blumenthal**, a pediatrician in Portland, Maine, shared news on two of his four. His eldest daughter, Kelsey, is a violinist who earned a B.A. from The Colburn School, in Los Angeles, and is finishing a master’s in music at the New England Conservatory of Music. She’s good enough to substitute in the violin section for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His second daughter, Cory, graduated from Boston University and recently left for Korea to teach English.

One Facebook photo merits a mention. **Tim Marcov**, a partner with Willacy, Lopresti & Marcov in Cleveland, posted a picture of his taxi driver’s license from 1974.

A great YouTube video came my way showing the Columbia University Marching Band parading

through Butler at midnight during exam prep week last December. They were playing *Roar, Lion, Roar*. The video was titled “Orgo Night.”

There you have it. Classmates in the news and traveling around the globe. The kids of classmates going in wonderful directions. And videos of the poor pre-meds continuing to be abused by the rest of the College student body. How can this not make you want to take a few days off to come back to Morningside Heights and relive our glory days? For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. See also the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

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This is going to be relatively short! I’m writing the column in December while supporting my clients as they get ready for end-of-year processing, including all tax notifications. Ugh! I promise to have more for the Summer issue. In the meantime, I can’t let the opportunity to report the following pass:

In the fall, I attended one of my favorite Columbia events — Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, held on campus October 11–12. Alumni were there from many University schools, although I spent most of my time with College folks. We talked about many things, among them the Core Curriculum, Class Notes for *Columbia College Today*, networking and especially reunion planning. And you know I’ve been talking about that last one for a while!

The highlight of the weekend for me and for **Ira Malin** was his recognition at the CAA Alumni Medalists Gala on Saturday evening. I reported last spring that Ira had been recognized, and this was the big finale — another outstanding Low gala! I was so pleased to see Ira’s wife, Janet Serle, and children, Beth ’11 and Allyson ’17. Ira, Janet and I walked into Low just before Dean James J. Valentini, and then met up with Beth and the rest of Ira’s family at the reception.

Now, it’s time for all of us to get to work on some of the items mentioned above. Our next reunion is fast approaching, and we need to start thinking about it. Please look on Facebook for the “Columbia College Class of 1975” page, Like it and contribute to it! And then, too, let me know if you are interested and willing to serve on our (gulp!) 40th reunion committee.

Finally, send cards, letters and emails so I will have lots to report. You can reach me at either of the

addresses at the top of the column, or submit an update through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Go Lions!

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Gara LaMarche shares the good news of his marriage on September 28 to Lisa Mueller, a Seattle native and director of development and communications for Sanctuary for Families, a New York City organization working against domestic violence and sex trafficking: “We were married in Watch Hill, R.I., near Westerly, where I grew up and where I worked at the beach during the summers of my childhood and Columbia days. **Dan Baker**, my Carman Hall roommate, was in the wedding party and played the part of me in a performance during the rehearsal dinner of *Lisa and Gara: The Early E-Mails*. A few days after we returned from our ‘mini-moon’ on Nantucket, the Democracy Alliance, an organization of progressive donors and activists, announced my appointment as president. I started on November 18.”

Until September 2011, Gara was president of the Atlantic Philanthropies, a global foundation, and for the past two years he’s been a senior fellow at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU, also doing stints as a senior fellow at the Tides Foundation and a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley. In addition, he has been taking care of his grandson, Sam (2), while his older daughter, Una, has published one young adult novel and finished a second; she is now working on a collection of humorous essays to be published this year.

My close friend from Carman Hall days right through to graduation and after, **Paul Sterne**, writes that as an empty-nester at last, he has time to report some news. First, on the prospect of getting older: “I never liked 60-year-olds and now I am one of them.”

But, he adds, there are compensations: “In the Buddhist lifecycle, I have progressed to the hermit stage, having exited the householder phase.” His son, Ben, left for UC Santa Barbara in September; daughter Kate works in sales at box.com in San Francisco, while daughter Erica works for The Weinstein Co. as a post-production director in Los Angeles. His eldest daughter, Rachel, is the chief digital officer of the City of New York and made the “40

under 40” list in *Fortune*. She lives in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, with her entrepreneur husband, Max Hoat, CEO of Livestream.

While Paul’s career is winding down — General Motors, Deutsche Bank, IBM, E2open, Open-Xchange AG and now Match My Email for Salesforce.com — his wife Anna’s career is blossoming. She is the director of Community Care Professionals at St. Mary’s for Children in Queens. In the last five years, he says, he has finally found his true vocation: building handmade fences from black locust (a kind of tree) and blogging on GroundReport. He attached a picture of one of his fences in his message to me. Very handsome.

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Hmm (riffing through papers) ... looks like I have reports from **Larry Moss** and **Harold Lehmann** (see below); a shout-out from **Dave McAvoy** (from Boston, where he is a managing partner with Northwestern Mutual); and an update on **Neal Wolkoff**, who chairs the board of OTC Markets Group. Larry is with Seyfarth Shaw, where his practice mostly involves commercial real estate. He works out of the New York office but started in Chicago; wait, let me backtrack.

So, after college, Larry spent two years at the Jewish Theological Seminary and got married. After that he earned a law degree from Chicago and spent many years at the firm of D’Ancona and Pflaum, which merged into Seyfarth in 2003. Divorced in 2000, Larry has been “dating” (as he puts it) Lauren Class Schneider, who lives in midtown Manhattan, which explains his move (back) to New York. Larry has two daughters: “Elena (26), who is married, lives in Chicago and manages a pet store, and Adele (22), who is a graduating senior at the ‘other’ CC (Colorado College).”

Larry conveys greetings to his buddies from Columbia soccer, adding, “I’d love to go to a CC soccer game sometime but haven’t made it yet.” Larry notes that he won the Dwight D. Eisenhower Student Watch Award in 1977. “Alas, the watch was stolen a couple of years ago. Memories of the College remain.”

As for Harold, he recently received two promotions at the Johns Hopkins Medical School — one to full professor and one to interim director of the school’s Division of Health Sciences Informatics. In reference to the latter, he says,

“Dean [Robert L.] Belknap [’57 SIPA, ’59 GSAS] said that half of us would wind up in jobs that didn’t exist back in 1977. I laughed then. I ain’t laughing now.” Harold and his wife, Rivka, manage a “multinational establishment,” with son Gil in his first year at Penn, and daughter Amalya, a Penn graduate, working on an M.Phil. in musicology at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

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As I write, it’s 15 degrees and starting to snow — New Year’s Day evening. I’m thinking of a long ago December day, shortly after finals, when I was walking across the South Field walkway toward the subway with a suitcase in hand, an incomplete paper tucked in my things. Snow was collecting on the octagonal black bricks and I was filled with the sense that winter break offered an endless and needed rest. Probably I took a trip to Florida to see my grandparents after hanging out with high school friends over New Year’s. Time to wake up ...

Tom Mariam has made the move to an iconic NYC law firm, but I’m sure the ex-WKCR maven will still be found in his spare time in the dressing rooms and press boxes of New York sports teams, filling for his own network of radio stations. He writes, “I am happy to report that I have become the director of business development and marketing for Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, one of the leading international law firms and the second-longest continually operating law firm in the United States.”

James “Huck” Hill offers these kind words: “My first and last stop on the radio is WKCR. A year of listening to its music — jazz, classical, raga, bluegrass, funk, folk, blues, electronic oddities, etc. — feeds the soul now as it did in 1974. When our sports get airplay, win, lose or roar, their songs are our songs, too.”

Chuck Callan, whom I saw at Homecoming with **Alex Demac**, is keeping up with folks in the College tradition. He writes, “**Alex Demac** and I met for lunch last fall and discussed Shakespeare, the Core and related topics. **Ben Caplan** and I got together in Washington, D.C., between one of his many European trips. We all had a lot of fun at my pre-reunion Cinco de Mayo soiree.”

As for Alex, he says, “I’ve been

practicing psychiatry in suburban Connecticut for 23 years. Now that my two eldest sons are in college and the two younger ones are in high school, I’ve indulged my intense longing for my hometown, Manhattan, by opening an office in Greenwich Village. I come in at least one day each week to see patients, visit with friends and walk, walk, walk. Would love to hear from any NYC classmates and get together for whatever.”

Don Guttenplan has great news: “My wife, Maria, and I are very proud that our daughter, Zoe, has been accepted to the Class of 2018! Time to dust off that Lit Hum shelf in my study.”

Not to be outdone, **Jeffery Moerdler**’s son is at grad school at Columbia: “Eric is getting a master’s in real estate development from the Architecture School and he loves it. He is the first one of my kids to attend Columbia!”

Jeff Canfield ’78, who works in the Department of Defense, is the deputy director for battlespace awareness for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

More family updates from **Joseph Schachner**: “I am an empty-nester; my older daughter is married and my younger one now lives in Manhattan, which she learned to love while she was a student at Barnard. She thought living in suburbia (for free) and having to take a train to Manhattan was a form of child abuse. She is student-teaching; she wants to be an English teacher. Both my parents passed away in the past year, my mom at 89 and my father at 92. At work, I’m a senior software engineer at Teledyne LeCroy. (LeCroy was bought by Teledyne last August.)”

Kevin Vitting also has kid news: “My son, Matt, finished his first semester at Rensselaer. He’s dual-majoring in computer science and computer systems engineering. I told him to hurry up and finish; the way Obamacare is going, his country really needs him!”

Jeff Canfield is keeping us safe in the Department of Defense, where he was “appointed in April 2013 as a defense intelligence senior level executive and assigned as deputy director for battlespace awareness for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I’m also celebrating my granddaughter Marissa’s fourth birthday.”

Rob Freeberg writes, “Since I have only sent updates to CCT when I’ve reached a milestone, I figured it’s about time to announce my retirement from teaching. After 30 years of directing the New Rochelle H.S. band program, I hung

up my baton in June 2012. My wife, Judy Fink, also retired from her job directing school and public programs at the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture. We sold our house in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., and moved to Dummerston, Vt., near Brattleboro, where we live on 17 acres at the top of a mountain overlooking the hills of southern New Hampshire. I keep busy cutting wood to heat the house and building trails on our property so we can hike, cross country ski and snowshoe from the back door.

“I recently began teaching jazz part-time at The Putney School (where Harry Bauld ’77 used to teach English), and I’ve gotten involved playing trumpet in the surprisingly decent music scene in Brattleboro. Judy is involved in various volunteer projects, and there are plenty of things to keep us occupied. Our son, Nathan, will soon reach the age where he

needs to purchase his own health insurance, and leads mountaineering trips for Colorado Outward Bound.”

Sigmund Hough Ph.D. writes with lovely thoughts of his time on the Heights and his life today: “At half a century, I have begun to appreciate and really understand the teachings and lessons learned during my Columbia College days. Not only [the keys to] career success and [knowledge from] prestigious academic discussions ... but also the challenge of protecting oneself and one’s family against unfairness, inequality and discrimination. To remain strong, seek and remain with good people and be up to the challenge of correcting the wrongs and, most important, being a part of correcting and addressing needed change. Perhaps the biggest gift Columbia College provides is the development and refinement of character, moral values, ethical understanding and awareness to address the good and the bad in life. For that, my tuition is a real value that cannot be measured in dollars. At this time of year, I am thankful for the continued connection with good people.

“Sorry; every once in a while, a person (a psychologist, smile) needs to not just talk about professional accomplishments but personal feelings and thoughts as well.”

Tim Riedler is another of our wandering Lions, with an itiner-

ary worthy of Ambassador **Chris Dell** or a feature in *The Wall Street Journal*. He writes, “Sorry I missed the reunion [last year]. The last few years have been hectic. I’m a foreign service lawyer with the U.S. Agency for International Development but will be retiring in a few months. My wife and I bought some land in Abruzzo (Italy) and we’ll start building our retirement home there this spring. We’re now in Cairo but after three years in Moscow, where President Putin shut down our program, I’m tiring of working in countries where we’re not particularly welcome. Before Moscow I was in Baghdad for a year (also some prickly local relations, to put it mildly) while my family was ‘safe-havened’ in Budapest, where we’d spent the previous four years.

“It’s been a great career overall and my Columbia education has always been the bedrock. My daughter, Pallas, started Wellesley this year, and my son, Laurens, is skipping the last two years of high school to start at Bard College at Simon’s Rock in the Berkshires. Although having both kids go off to college at the same time comes with sadness and is a shock to ‘family life’ at home, it’s good to have them moving successfully on to that next phase. Not to mention that this opened up the possibility for imminent retirement for me, particularly attractive with all the tumult around. Maybe now I’ll have time to go back and read all those pages from Herodotus that weren’t assigned in Lit Hum!”

Dan Pincus, who is in New York, says, “I’m a classically trained tenor who has sung in and around New York since 1981. Later, I became a reform cantor and have served several congregations. Now, I spend my time leading classical music classes at senior residences, raising money for music programs at NYC public schools, leading therapeutic drum circles at health care facilities and, of course, singing concerts and leading services when called upon.

Of Columbia interest, during the past two years I have sung the *The Star-Spangled Banner* at several CU basketball games.”

Midwesterner (now) **Rob Blank** sends this update: “I was delighted to catch up with many classmates at reunion last spring. On returning home, I started a job as chief of endocrinology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. After a sheltered career in which I only had to worry about my own lab and patients, I now find myself responsible for a group practice and others’ research programs as well. I’m finding the management side both challenging and fun, despite the turmoil related to the Affordable Care Act and the NIH research budget.”

Henry Aronson is in Brooklyn and plying his career on the Great White Way. He writes, “I continue to sport the ‘80s big-hair as musical director of *Rock of Ages* on Broadway, the 34th longest running show in Broadway history, which is coming up on its fifth anniversary. My own show, *Loveless Texas*, is on the development roster of ROA producer Jeff Davis, with a workshop in Florida scheduled for 2014. My wife, Cailin, and I lost our old Italian greyhound, Wee Seán, who passed away in September at 16, and have welcomed a new IG puppy, Wee Chappie, who is a rock star: beautiful, endlessly energetic and dangerously destructive. His hobbies include terrorizing his 11-year-old sister, Luna Rae.”

Another of our musical classmates is **Paul Phillips**, who writes, “In 2013 I led the Brown University Orchestra on a concert tour of Ireland. Also, [with librettist Bill Harley] I won the North Cambridge Family Opera 2012 Proposal Competition and plan to spend much of 2014 on sabbatical from Brown composing the opera with Bill. The premiere is scheduled for March 2015.”

Jonathan Soffer writes, “I teach history at NYU and am working on a book on Tammany Hall and the construction of New York’s infrastructure.”

I may need Jonathan’s book because after 10 years I have left the presidency of the Connecticut Technology Council to become the new economic development administrator for the city of New Haven and our new mayor, Toni Harp. Aside from steering what should be a billion dollars in new building and housing development, I get to oversee the fun departments, seven in all, including around 300 people. We create jobs; train people; and deal with the airport, parking, arts and marketing, and I hope we can add IT soon. When I came to Columbia it was as much for the urban location and offerings as anything.

I studied cities, along with their politics, history and role in America. I have wanted to hold this job since I was in the ninth grade and wrote a paper about New Haven’s history and planning. I am delighted and excited to contribute to my hometown in this great way. Come visit or send me your ideas! At my appointment press conference, I made references in my comments to the Yankees and Jane Jacobs, which made an impression with the local press.

My daughter Elana is at Simmons in Boston (in a fancy apartment overlooking Fenway Park — yikes) earning a master’s in archiving, and my daughter Joy is a sophomore in international studies at American in Washington, D.C.; she’ll head off to China this summer. My wife, Marian Chertow ’77 Barnard, is a professor of industrial ecology at Yale and spends her own time in China and India when not down the street. These are good times for us.

I know we’re a few months in, but Happy New Year to you all!

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1

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79

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To start, it’s my duty to report that our 35th reunion is nearly upon us. Be sure you’re saving the date for Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Our Reunion Committee has been hard at work planning activities for our group, plus there will be a range of multi-class events that we can take part in. Saturday is also Dean’s Day, which offers the chance to relive our classroom experiences through lectures with some of Columbia’s finest professors. It all leads up to our class dinner on Saturday, followed by dancing under the stars at the Starlight Reception. For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. See also the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

Jace Weaver is the Franklin Professor of Religion and Native American Studies and director of the Institute of Native American Studies at the University of Georgia in Athens. This March, his 12th book, *The Red Atlantic: American Indigenes and the Making of the Modern World, 1000–1927*, will be published.

Richard Cooper is “considering seeking the Libertarian Party nomination for governor of New York. I have previously served as state chair of the Libertarian Party.”

News from **Mark Itzkowitz**: “My whole family has a Columbia connection now. My older daughter, Laura ’13 Arts, received her M.F.A. in October. She is the managing editor of Untapped Cities and has had her articles featured there and in The Huffington Post, *Business Insider*, *Words Without Borders*, *The Culturist* and elsewhere.

“My younger daughter, Melissa ’13 Barnard, was the school’s ‘poster child’ in the Summer 2013 *Barnard Magazine*, having been featured on the inside cover for the ‘Barnard Now: An Appeal for Annual Support’; she also had her photography (*From the Roots*) displayed in two exhibitions at Barnard during her senior year, and she combined her photographs with my father’s to prepare a grandfather/granddaughter book (one of her senior projects), *Losing Balance*. She is helping me in my legal practice while she looks for a more desirable (as if that were possible) position in her chosen fields of anthropology and photography and contemplates graduate school.

“You can guess their mom’s (Ellie Louis ’79 Barnard) and my pride at both. Ellie and Melissa were featured in the ‘Alumnae Daughters’ section of *Barnard Magazine* some time back, and both attended the mother/daughter celebrations at graduation. Those of us from across the street were able to enjoy the events on campus.

“It was wonderful to spend so much time in Morningside Heights while the girls/women were in school. It’s amazing to see how much the area has changed since 1979. Hard to believe that it’s been 35 years since I was the first to graduate college in my family. Ellie and I continue our private practices, psychology and law, in the Boston area, which somehow seems further from New York now that the girls have graduated. Best wishes.”

Robert C. Klapper: My wife and I saw an incredible movie by Ron Howard called *Rush*, which takes place around the 1976 Formula One season (essentially our freshman year at Columbia — as if that were so long ago; for many of us, it’s like yesterday). It was not incredible because it was about Formula One racing, a subject about which I know nothing. It was incredible because of the story it told about two men, drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda. And it made me think about a moment from my time at Columbia that has

stayed with me all these years:

One night during our junior year, **Robert Darnell** M.D., Ph.D., M.O.U.S.E. and man from U.N.C.L.E. — now professor at The Rockefeller University and, in my opinion, future Nobel Prize winner — and I were watching the news in the TV lounge at John Jay. Our heated conversation took us from the lounge into his dorm room, where one entire wall was covered by a red poster of Lauda in his Ferrari Formula One car. His face was permanently disfigured by a burn from a horrific crash he suffered in a race in Germany. It was at this moment, staring at this poster, that Bob relayed the story that is the subject of *Rush*. But he said something that night that has stayed with me. He said that Lauda’s wife was a beautiful model and that even after this life-threatening and disfiguring tragedy, she did not leave him. I remember looking at his face and imagining the power in their relationship. Three decades later, whenever the phrase ‘true love’ is mentioned, I go back to that dorm room and look at that poster and hear that story again. Thanks, Bob.

Go see that movie.
Can you believe all we had was a TV lounge?
Roar, lion, roar!

80

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Spring is a wonderful time here in New York City as Central Park begins to bloom, people are out and about riding their Citi Bikes and baseball season is in full swing. Coach Brett Boretti and a group of alumni got together in February to kick off the season. Coming off one of the best seasons ever last spring, the coach and his staff have assembled a high-quality team that surely will continue the winning tradition. [Editor’s note: See story on Boretti and Columbia baseball in “Roar, Lion, Roar.”]

I had a nice dinner with **Jack Hersh** ’80E, **Dave Maloof** and Harlan Simon ’81 at Carmine’s in Manhattan. The red sauce was delicious, and the great stories kept us in laughs! Jack is managing money out of Santa Monica, running marathons and flying planes in his spare time. Dave is an expert in maritime law, an avid Jets fan and has a son, David II ’17. “The Big H” (Harlan) is a partner in a hedge fund business in NYC.

Stan Lazusky checked in from Hershey, Pa., where he runs his executive search firm focusing on the healthcare industry. Always up for

a debate, we have been trying to figure out the direction of the stock market and where the economy is headed.

Eric Goldstein is leaving Paul, Weiss, where he was a partner in the litigation department, to become CEO and executive v.p. of UJA-Federation of New York, the largest local Jewish charity in the world. He has been involved with the organization for 25 years as a lay leader and in 2013 was named vice chair. He begins in his new post this July.

I look forward to hearing from you. Send your submissions to either address at the top of the column, or you can use CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

81

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I apologize to the class for missing the deadline for the Winter 2013–14 edition of CCT. I did receive one update prior to the deadline, which appears first here.

On October 1, 2012, the Hon. **Paul Feinman** was designated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, First Department. The First Department hears appeals from the trial courts in Manhattan and the Bronx, which represents a tremendous number of cases due to the high number of appeals from these boroughs. Paul says that appellate decision making is a collaborative process and very different from being a trial judge but he enjoys the new position. In close proximity to Paul are several other Columbians: Roland Acosta ’79, ’82L; the Hon. David Saxe ’63; and the Hon. Rosalyn Richter ’76 Barnard.

The next update is for all classmates who either a) have a tattoo they’d like removed or b) have a son or daughter with a tattoo, which they would pay to have removed. (I fall in the latter category; it’s a long story.) Dr. **Jeffrey Rand** is a board-certified dermatologist in Manhattan with a specialty in laser tattoo removal and is the only doctor in the country whose practice is exclusively devoted to removing unwanted tattoos. Jeffrey uses the PicoSure laser, which he says reduces the number of treatments by half and allows for effective removal of difficult colors. In his practice, Jeffrey sees many Columbia students and children of Columbia alumni as well as international patients who book appointments while visiting NYC.

He recently celebrated his 31st anniversary, and he and his wife have four children: Michael (27), Adam (25), David (21) and Daniel (15).

Congratulations on a successful medical practice and on a long and fruitful marriage!

This next update came to me from Elliot Cafritz ’82 via **Jeff Pundyk** and concerns a new book by **Lincoln Paine**, *The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World*. The online reviews are very favorable. And on November 11, there was a gathering of several alumni at the Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, D.C., where Lincoln gave a reading.

Mark Allen sent sad news about the death of his dear friend Dr. **Alan Saffran** ’86 P&S. Alan passed away on September 27, 2013, at 53, from pancreatic cancer. At the College, Alan followed a

He is survived by his daughters, Brooke and Lindsay; parents, Sy and Elaine; and former wife, Randi Shamitz.

Our condolences go out to the Taffler family.
[Editor’s note: See Obituaries for more on Saffran and Taffler.]

I am stepping down as the CCT class correspondent for 1981. It has been a privilege reporting on the class, as it has allowed me to stay in touch (albeit from a distance) with Columbia College. While attending Columbia and living on the Upper West Side in the late 1970s was not easy for me, it was a tremendous life experience and great preparation for all that has followed. If you have not attended a reunion in many years, you should before too long, as the campus looks fantastic and the undergraduates actually look happy!

Paul Feinman ’81 was designated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, First Department.

pre-med track and was a sportscaster at Columbia Television. He did his residency at Virginia and was a board-certified otolaryngologist and a partner in an Orlando practice. Beyond being an accomplished doctor, Alan was a great father, husband and friend. He was a member of the Roach Motel League, a fantasy baseball league that was formed in 1981 and is the oldest continually operating fantasy baseball league in the world (I’m not in a position to confirm or deny this fact but you have to admire their persistence — wow). Alan participated in this league from 1981 until his death, officially winning the league’s 2013 title on the day after he passed away. He is survived by his wife, Pam; mother, Dolores; brother, Bruce; and children, Miles, Nathaniel and Ella.

Thanks to Mark for bringing this to my attention and for providing such a thoughtful message to the Class of 1981. Our condolences go out to the Saffran family.

I also was informed of the death of **Jonathan Taffler**, who passed away on September 13, 2013, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Jon was a business executive who resided in Wilton, Conn. He was the president and founder of two firms (Programmed Solutions and Spitfire Project Management System). Jon was described by his friends as a force of nature who was a pilot, flight instructor and sportsman. He developed software, possessed a photographic memory and had an insatiable curiosity about the world.

I turn this column over to **Michael Kinsella**, a longtime friend. Michael resides in Connecticut with his wife and two daughters, who are about the same age as mine, so we have much in common (note: Michael has been able to retain his hair; mine has departed). I hope you will support Michael as the class correspondent as you all have supported me. He can be reached at mgk1203@gmail.com or 16 Millwood St., Milford, CT 06460.

Very best to the Class of 1981!

82

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Greetings, gentlemen! I trust all is well and that all your “doomsday prepping” came in handy during the recent polar vortex.

Checking in this quarter is our award-winning physician **Sal Volpe**. Not only has Dr. Sal been running his own high-tech primary care practice for more than 20 years but he also is chief medical officer for Physicians Desk Reference (PDR) Network, a technology firm that integrates vital bio/pharmaceutical information with electronic health records to support healthcare professionals. He is happy to report, “My two sons continue to refine their acting chops by participating in their schools’ dramatic and musical productions. The position at PDR continues to prove interesting

What’s Your Story?

Letting classmates know what’s going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes!

ONLINE by clicking college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

as the company develops products and services, many of which integrate with electronic health records.”

It is also worth noting that Sal fully revealed himself as a CC graduate by taking exception to the fact that my current employer, Janus Capital, has three chief investment officers (one of which is yours truly); he pointed out that the Roman god Janus had two faces and therefore we should only have two chief investment officers. I’d point this out to the CEO but he’d probably can me if I did, so I guess I’ll hold off ... for now.

Also touching base this quarter is noted esquire **David Shine**, who has an interesting update complete with a Homeric reference. Before I get to it, though, I wanted to share that I did a bit of (to quote Derek Zoolander) “investagatory journalism” and discovered that David is co-head of Fried Frank’s Mergers and Acquisitions Practice. Among other achievements, he was named a “Dealmaker of the Week” by *The American Lawyer* for his role in advising Merck in its \$41 billion merger with Schering-Plough, and he is the director of New Classrooms Innovation Partners, a not-for-profit K–12 education reform company.

So, David, what are you doing with all your spare time?

David writes, “Our friend **David Fishman** and the eminent architect Robert A.M. Stern [’60] have published their architectural history book, *Paradise Planned: The Garden Suburb and the Modern City*. To celebrate, several classmates held a dinner in David’s honor at the original Wolfgang’s Steakhouse on Park Avenue (where, David noted, the Guastavino tile interior is one of the few landmarked interiors in New York City). After four years of work on the book project, David reports that he finally understands that man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains.

“**Larry Sacks ’82E** was at the dinner, flying over the wine-dark seas from London where he works in financial services and where he is getting ready to move with his family from a flat to a proper house in the suburbs. Stately plump **Evan Hollander** was also there. Evan lives on the Upper West Side with his wife and daughter and reported that he is content at his law firm, Arnold & Porter, where he is a partner specializing in restructuring and bankruptcy.

“Michael Offen ’84, the group’s favorite investment banker, was a bit late to dinner, but when he did appear he reported that he is now with Guggenheim Partners in New York and lives with his wife and three kids in Rockland County. There, he said, he cultivates his garden, because he must. **Gavin Miles**, executive ADA (rackets bureau) in Brooklyn, won the night’s ‘Best Hair at Age 52’ contest; he reports that his son, Ben, has started college at Oberlin, where he will seek to forge in the smithy of his soul the uncreated conscience of the Miles clan. **Phil Teverow** is the founder of a specialty foods consulting business based in Brooklyn and has two kids in college (Oberlin and the University of St Andrews) and one soon to be entering. The financial impact on him of all this college, Phil reports, has sometimes left him feeling like a patient etherized upon a table.

“I (**David Shine**) have been living in Armonk, Westchester, for 15 years, but my wife and I have been unable to resist the siren call of NYC and will be moving back this fall when our youngest leaves for college. The dinner was long, we stayed late and before we knew it rosy-fingered dawn crept in.”

Gents, thanks for writing in, and I look forward to hearing from all of you again soon.

83

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Kevin Chapman and his wife, Sharon Gerstman Chapman ’83 Barnard, are proud to report that their son, Ross, has been accepted to the Class of 2018. Sharon’s father is Dr. David Gerstman ’56, so Ross represents their third generation at Columbia.

Kevin is writing a novel and was kind enough to share one of his favorite chapters — a flashback to the old college days (set at Columbia) of Jonathan Prescott, the protagonist, and his conscience and confidante, Frank Elkhardt. An excerpt:

“1990. ‘Four weeks, gentlemen. Four.’ Professor Gray’s baritone boomed through the small seminar room in Hamilton Hall. It was a gray, cloudy, chilly day outside the slightly grimy window, and nearly as drab inside the room. It certainly had not been painted in 20; no, 30 years. Brown streaks ran down over what had once been ornately carved wooden molding, staining the paint where the heating pipes leaked hot water during the winter months. The iron radiator under the window hissed occasionally during class to remind the students that they sat in the same room, with the same hissing radiator, where Lionel Trilling had first taught Ulysses to eager boys in tweed jackets. Wallace Gray had been one of them, and now he was teaching another generation of philosopher kings, only Joyce was not on the fall semester reading list for Contemporary Civilization. But Plato’s Republic was, although the memories of it were fading in the minds of the 15 young men sitting in silence before the gray-haired professor. Only four weeks until the semester exam. A thousand pages left to read, and 3,000 behind them to review. Wally Gray was an icon: chairman of the English department and professor for over 20 years. His senior seminars and lecture classes on Eliot, Joyce and Pound were always oversubscribed. English majors battled to have him for an adviser. Yet he still relished the opportunity to teach freshmen and sophomores in the ‘Core Curriculum’ classes of Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization. The great works of literature, philosophy, politics and economics — the basis of Western civilization. They were the bedrock of the Columbia education, and brutal courses for young college men, no matter how well prepared in high school. Professor Gray was molding minds; shaping the course of lives. He loved every minute of it. He prowled the front of the crowded room, making eye contact with each student, pouring ideas into their minds like fine wine into a two-week-old jack-o’-lantern.”

David Rubel writes, “Thought I’d pass on the good news. Columbia admitted my daughter, Abigail, early decision. Yippee! In October, I was invited to take part in the annual CAA Alumni Authors Book Fair, which is part of Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend. During the lunch, held in Lerner Hall (a far cry from the old Ferris Booth), we were treated to a conversation between President Lee C. Bollinger and chair (now co-chair) of the Board of Trustees William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC (still the football coach to me). Listening to them sing the University’s praises,

I found it hard to believe that they were talking about our alma mater. I always thought of the school I attended as the ‘scruffy’ Ivy, but Columbia is scruffy no more.

“I felt much more at home, however, after serendipitously sitting down at a table already occupied by my freshman-year John Jay roommate, **John Cody**. My eyesight isn’t what it used to be, so I didn’t recognize John across the table. But when he heard my voice (which still carries), he picked up his head and boomed out a very welcome greeting. I also caught up with another alumni author and *Spectator* colleague, Eric Laursen ’82, who has written a book about the history of Social Security called *The People’s Pension*. I’m looking forward to reading it.”

Teddy Weinberger had dinner with my family during his recent visit to the United States for his niece’s bat mitzvah. Teddy also spent time with **Adam Bayroff**. Adam’s son, Logan, recently graduated from Penn. Teddy and his wife have raised five children in Giv’at Ze’ev, Israel. He is a true Renaissance man, having been an assistant professor of religious studies, writer (he recently hit No. 399 in his bi-weekly columns on life in Israel, and he writes for several American Jewish newspapers), businessman and tennis instructor. Teddy’s daughter, Rebecca, is a professional Israeli basketball player.

Bruce Abramson reports, “I am about to launch a series of monthly continuing legal education webinars through Lawline.com on the broad topic of ‘Strategy in the Age of IP Holdup.’ The talks will run one hour each and are CLE-accredited in many states. Though they all hew to a common theme, I have designed them to be independent. My first talk is ‘Winning the Aftermarket.’ The other talks are not yet scheduled but I plan to cover the following topics: patent strategy in the modern economy, the strategic benefits of IP valuation, the strategic uses of big patent data, the strategic side of IP licensing, strategic copy-right in the digital age, strategic navigation of the standard-setting process and strategic IP exclusivity in a competitive economy.

“Although I am presenting the materials in a CLE course, the materials and presentations are geared toward anyone interested in the interplay between IP rights and business strategy — technologists, managers and investors as well as lawyers. If you would like details or know anyone who might want details, please let me know. I will share the abstracts of the various talks.”

I met Paul Foglino ’84, ’85E at

a mutual friend’s birthday party. Paul is married to Libby O’Conner Foglino ’85 Barnard and teaches math at The Brearley School. He is a former CU marching band member and is in touch with **Robert Kahn**, Dennis Klainberg ’84 and Steve Greenfield ’82.

Jon Ross wrote toward the end of last year: “I wanted to take this moment, in this season of thanks-giving, to express my appreciation for your support. And I want to specifically mention the tragedy in the Philippines. Of course, my heart goes out to the survivors of that disaster-term, disaster-recovery organization, I will go there to help down the road. Our mission is to stay focused on areas after the world’s attention has moved on. MicroAid is still working in the Indian Ocean basin (tsunami 2004), Myanmar (cyclone 2008), and Haiti (earthquake 2010). In your thoughts and generosity surrounding this new disaster, please don’t forget those left behind.”

I spoke to **Steve Coleman** at Homecoming on October 12. He has a daughter, Sarah ’15. Steve attended the 100th anniversary Sachems dinner. More than half the members of the Senior Society of Sachems attended, including former Dean of Students Roger Lehecka ’67, ’74 GSAS.

Steve also sent in a press release issued about **David Nagle**, who has been named president of Nature’s Way Purewater Systems of Pittston, Pa. The press release notes that David had been the company’s v.p. of sales and marketing and that he has more than 25 years of business experience, having managed two start-ups in addition to holding executive level roles in two other companies. He holds a master’s from Scranton.

Wayne Allyn Root sent me a holiday card noting that his book *The Ultimate Obama Survival Guide*, was a No. 1 national bestseller, stayed in the top five in bookstores for 10 consecutive weeks and was No. 1 in the world in three categories at Amazon. His new book, *The Murder of the Middle Class*, is coming out in July.

Wayne traveled the world in 2013 for speaking engagements, visiting South Africa twice and going on his first safari! He was invited to address the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., alongside Mitt Romney, Sarah Palin, Newt Gingrich, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz. The card adds, “[My wife, Debra, and I] are so proud of [our daughter], Dakota. She received three ‘firsts’ during her

two terms at Oxford in the spring and will graduate with honors from Harvard in May.”

This past October I attended Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, which included a talk about the Manhattanville campus. To share some of the highlights, the new campus brings the future forward, as there will be 17 acres and 6.8 million square feet of space, links among disciplines and campuses, the highest standards for sustainability (New York City’s first LEED platinum plan for neighborhood development), 6,000 new university jobs and thousands of construction-related jobs during the next several decades, and an urban campus that welcomes visitors through open streets, ground-floor retail, plazas and public programs.

The *New York Post* ran the following story about **Dan Loeb**’s holiday card: “Irascible hedge fund billionaire Dan Loeb’s holiday card is full of over-the-top family achievements past, present and future — including a Loeb moon landing. Bearing the tag line ‘Not Your Ordinary Family,’ it features on one side a Facebook page-inspired spread of Loeb clan pictures that include the wet suit-wearing Third Point founder surfing an enormous wave, a mocked-up shot of him cheekily engraving a giant ‘LOEB’ tattoo on his wife Margaret’s back ‘circa 1953,’ plus shots of the couple and their kids in exotic locations, one of them on a boat.”

The grandfather of one of my son’s Little League teammates is a great Columbia supporter. Herbert Soroca ’63, ’66L was a varsity crew

Rueda for their suggestions about what was worth paying attention to in 2012 and my darling Melissa for bearing with me all the time it took to get this survey finished.

“My list of the Top Twelve (of the pops) for the year follows: 1, The Mars Volta, ‘Noctourniquet’; 2, Burial, ‘Street Halo/Kindred’; 3, Actress, ‘R.I.P.’; 4, Flying Lotus, ‘Until the Quiet Comes’; 5, Goat, ‘World Music’; 6, Tame Impala, ‘Lonerism’; 7, Sigur Rós, ‘Valtari’; 8, Galactic, ‘Carnivale Electricos’; 9, Bat for Lashes, ‘The Haunted Man’; 10, Crystal Castles, ‘Crystal Castles (III)’; 11, Stars, ‘The North’; and 12, Ondatrópica, ‘Ondatrópica.’”

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29–JUNE 1

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84

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Alumni Reunion Weekend: a chance to reunite, to see old friends and make new ones, to introduce our families, network, celebrate the successes of our classmates, commiserate over departed friends, talk about the old times, talk about the new times, rewind, reconnect and relive the great experience that was Columbia ’84.

Steve Coleman ’83 attended the 100th anniversary dinner of the Senior Society of Sachems.

member and coached crew after graduating from CC. He also was close friends with late former Dean Harry Coleman ’46.

Steven Greenfield writes, “It took about 12 months longer than it should have, but my 2012 music survey is complete and available at permanenttransience.blogspot.com. Please have a look when you get the chance. Remember 2012? The year of Psy’s ‘Gangnam Style’ and Carly Rae Jepsen’s ‘Call Me Maybe’? If it already seems a distant memory, this survey will serve as a refresher of sorts.

“Because it took so long for me to get through this time around, I am dispensing with the usual introductory material, snark and all, in favor of getting to the heart of the matter. ... I want to thank, as usual, **Steve Holtje** and Luis

Thanks to the leadership of Reunion Committee chair, **Arthur C. Kohn**, meetings have expanded to included **Ben Pushner**, class president **Larry Kane**, **Alfred Torres**, **Paul Auwaert**, **John Perfetti**, **James Gorton**, **Ken Ofori-Atta**, **Virgilio Lozza**, **Averill Powers** and **Dennis Klainberg**.

Special note: Many of you have mentioned through the years that you wanted greater participation with our friends across Broadway. So this year, we are pleased to report that the Barnard Class of 1984 has been working with us from the start. What’s more, our first reunion event will be a shared event, much like last year’s successful Thursday evening event at the home of Roy Pomerantz ’83.

So please save the date: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June

1. For details and to register go to reunion.college.columbia.edu.

Now, on to the updates:

With health care a major topic, National Kidney Foundation president **Bruce Skyer** is in the news. As noted in various outlets, Bruce expressed “[thanks] to NKF’s patient constituency and those of our professional members who are on the front lines caring for dialysis patients for their work in reaching out to lawmakers. However, our work is not over, and we will continue to make sure kidney patients have access to the care and treatments they need.”

Despite a little rainfall, the annual outdoor Columbia Alumni Association soiree during Art Basel Miami provided a well-needed break during an otherwise terribly hectic time. Yours truly (**Dennis Klainberg**) was able to jog over from the beach (I was handling the Scope Art fair’s shipping needs) and meet with dear friends **Bernardo Burstein** and his wife, Lynn, and Seth Schachner ’85. Bernardo is one of Miami’s best legal eagles, while Seth wheels and deals in international media. Seth, his wife, Allison, and their two kids visited the show the next day, and my sons and I met Bernardo, Lynn and his daughter two weeks later at Bernardo’s second business, The Guitar Nook. Check it out (and make purchases) online. The lunch at the nearby Jewish deli wasn’t too shabby, either!

On December 11, two of our former varsity wrestlers, Andy Barth ’83 and **Yossi Rabin**, who both won the Dwight D. Eisenhower Watch Award for the highest GPA among athletes (in 1981 and 1982, respectively), had a personal 30-year reunion in Los Angeles. Andy is the chairman of and a portfolio manager at Capital Guardian Trust Company, a division of the Capital Group Companies. Yossi is the owner and manager of Kochavim Real Estate in Jerusalem, Israel.

Also, Yossi and his wife, Kochava, get a *mazel tov* on the birth of their third grandchild, Bat-Iyan Rabin, on January 4.

Pastrami dreams, and hope to see you all at reunion.

85

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This edition’s updates include a variety of news from around the world, around the New York area and around campus.

Joseph L. Novak continues his career with the U.S. State Department. He is based in Montreal,

Columbia College Alumni on Facebook



Check out the
Columbia College
Alumni page!
**facebook.com/
alumnicc**

Like the page to get
alumni news, learn
about alumni events and
College happenings,
view photos and more.

where he serves as the deputy chief of mission and alternate U.S. representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization. The U.S. Mission to ICAO is focused on improving the security, safety and economic sustainability of international civil aviation, an area in which the United States is the world leader. During ICAO's recent General Assembly, the U.S. Mission hosted a huge delegation from Washington, D.C., which included the Secretary of Transportation, the (acting) Secretary of Homeland Security and the administrators of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board. The mission's activities can be reviewed at icao.usmission.gov.

A member of the State Department's political cone, Joe also has served in Jakarta, Indonesia; Islamabad, Pakistan; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Manila, the Philippines; and Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has served in Afghanistan, meeting with Hamid Karzai, Ahmad Shah Massoud

and went undefeated in conference play and won the Ivy title. Of course, Kevin's relationship to Columbia soccer extends back to his membership on the team 1981-84 (during the heart of the team's eight consecutive Ivy titles); he also was an assistant men's soccer coach 1988-93.

At a Columbia event this past fall, I was truly fortunate to catch up with a group of classmates. In the corporate world, **Michael Cho**, who founded Destination RX, now DRX, in 1999, sold the company to Connexture in January 2013. Michael now leads Connexture's private Medicare exchange business as chief innovation officer and will no doubt continue to do great things.

Ed Scott is a managing director at Concord Investment Partners Holdings in Riverside, Conn. Concord is a private equity firm specializing in buyouts, middle market and turnaround investments, with a preference for investments in the manufacturing, distribution and high technology sector.

In the legal arena, after extended work in the public sector, **Hector**

four-year bill can now approach a quarter of a million dollars), let me make a plug for two other things for which you can volunteer. First, the Admissions Office is always looking for alumni volunteers to interview prospective students through the Alumni Representative Committee; you can find more information here: undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/admissions/archandbook. Second, the Center for Career Education is looking for alumni who can offer internships (clearly, if you are located in New York, it is easier for internships during the semester; but summer or between-semester opportunities are valuable as well). Go to careeredu.columbia.edu.

Finally, congratulations to those of you who have children who received early decision acceptances at Columbia or elsewhere. You may remember that the Class of '85 led the way last year in legacy admissions to Columbia, and in the Fall 2014 issue, look for the list of classmates who will create a multi-generational relationship with the College. My middle son, Noah, was blessed to receive good early news and will be joining the Duke Class of 2018. We are extremely happy, very proud and we get to continue wearing blue and white college attire — albeit a slightly different shade.

86 **Everett Weinberger**
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Happy 50th birthday, classmates! I know; it's painful to see that in print but we should be proud that we are the youngest of the Baby Boomer generation, or those born between 1946 and 1964. Throughout 2014, 12,500 of those born in 1964 will turn 50 each day. So, happy birthday and congrats on hitting the golden jubilee of birthdays!

Also, I hate to remind you, but age 50 is when the American Cancer Society suggests you should start screening for colorectal cancer. If you want to make a party of it, contact **Jack Merrick**, who, as was reported here four years ago, helps organize "Scopefest" colonoscopy parties.

Congrats to **Mark Fortier** for being appointed managing director, head of global defined contribution research and product development at State Street Global Advisors. He joined from Alliance Bernstein and previously worked at Aegon for more than 20 years.

The proverbial mail bag was far too empty this time around. Send in your updates! You can write me at either of the addresses at the top

of the column, or submit news via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

87 **Sarah A. Kass**
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Although thankfully these occasions are still not the norm, I once again find myself with a heavy heart at having to report the death of **Karin Higa**, who passed away on October 29, 2013, following a battle with cancer. Her friend **Karen Walker** sent the following remembrance.

"Karin was an expert in Asian-American art who worked for many years as a curator at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. She was well respected for her expansive knowledge and numerous contributions [toward] increasing understanding of Asian-American and contemporary art. Karin organized many notable exhibitions, including a landmark 1992 show of art made at internment camps during WWII and a 2008 show devoted to the art of *ikebana*, or Japanese flower arrangement. She had been named a curator for the Hammer Museum's 'Made in L.A.' Biennial for 2014 but was forced to step down due to her illness. Karin lived in Los Angeles, where she grew up. She is survived by her husband, Russell Ferguson, as well as her mother and brother.

"Throughout her illness, Karin was remarkably courageous and continued to live her life with zest, even taking up cycling and traveling to visit the White House for an event organized by The White House Historical Association and hosted by Michelle Obama in celebration of American art. Life is precious and short, and goes fast. Karin was an inspiration for how we should make the most of every single day, and appreciate every single hour. It is a testament to Karin's gift for friendship that more than 500 people attended her memorial in Los Angeles in early December. Karin was a wonderful classmate and a dear and loving friend, and she is missed hugely."

Thank you, Karen.

As an existential psychologist, I know — and I always remind people — that while death is what makes life precious and fragile, we have to celebrate life. And we do have a celebration in our class as well, as we congratulate **Nancy Silver Basri** and her husband, Bill Basri '84, who received the wonderful news on early decision that their son Noah will be a member of the Class of 2018. Nancy wrote,

"He will join our older son, Ross '15E, on campus next fall. Bill and I are excited and proud to share the Columbia tradition with our newest Lion-to-be and are looking forward to four more years of eating at V&T."

88 **Eric Fusfield**
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Positive reviews of last spring's 25th Alumni Reunion Weekend continue to roll in. **Margaret Traub-Aguirre** writes, "It really warmed my heart to see so many fantastic people, whom I've missed and whose lives have developed so wonderfully. We really have the greatest graduating class. Plus I feel like no one has aged!" (Columnist's note: I guess I'm in the minority on that last point.) Margaret is director of global communications at International Medical Corps, in which capacity she recently traveled to the Philippines for typhoon relief work.

Steve Stastny also shared that he and his wife, Lauren, enjoyed attending the reunion festivities. Steve, a Tulane Law graduate, has practiced law in Birmingham, Ala., for 21 years. After years of working for large firms, he opened a solo practice in 2011 and is listed in both the employment and commercial litigation sections of *Best Lawyers in America*. Steve and Lauren reside in Vestavia Hills, Ala., with their boys, John Michael (11) and Ross (8).

Also representing the Class of '88 in the legal profession is **David Stoll**, a partner in the trusts and estates department of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in New York. "I live in Carnegie Hill," David says. "I run through campus virtually every weekend on my way to Riverside Park and still love seeing it."

Donna Renaud Schober has "been busy for the past several years as an active Columbia Alumni Representative Committee (ARC) member, interviewing approximately 30 applicants per year. My daughter, Morgan, spent last summer in Barnard's High School Pre-College Program Summer in the City and had a blast covering more boroughs than I ever did! Because she's now a high school senior, I am taking a sabbatical year from ARC. In the past year I've been able to catch up with Tom Boyntin '90 and Tom Kamber '89."

Congratulations to our newest Columbia legacy parents, spouses **Michael Argenziano** and **Maria Rodino**. Michael writes, "My oldest son, Michael, was accepted

to Columbia via early decision and will be in the Class of 2018, continuing the Columbia tradition that Maria and I started 30 years ago. Michael is the oldest of our six children and is thrilled to be a Lion.

"Maria and I met at Columbia in 1987, were married in 1994 and live with our kids in Closter, N.J. Maria is an endocrinologist in private practice and I am a cardiac surgeon, currently chief of adult cardiac surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and associate professor of surgery at Columbia. I see and work with many of our classmates and credit Columbia for so many of the opportunities that I've had."

Another parent who is *kvelling* (bursting with pride) is **Carl Schaerf**, whose son, Gabriel, completed his bar mitzvah ceremony at Congregation Agudath Israel of West Essex, in Caldwell, N.J., in December. "My son performed beautifully and led the service from start to finish," Carl writes. "He put on *tefillin* (prayer phylacteries) competently, unlike his father, who stumbled on it." The Class of '88 was well represented at the bar mitzvah, as **Jonathan Lavine**, **Daniel Goldberger**, **Andrew Hyman**, **Hal Shapiro** and **Molly Chrein** '88 Barnard were all on hand for mazel tovs.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to your emails. I also encourage everyone to join the Columbia College Class of 1988 Facebook page; it's a convenient way to stay in touch.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29-JUNE 1**
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I'm thrilled that our long-awaited reunion is nearly upon us and, even more importantly, that I've heard from so many classmates who are planning to go. The Reunion Committee has been in full swing planning a full and exciting weekend. Even if you can only come for a few hours, it'll be worth it because, as one of our 25th reunion organizers, **Matt Engels**, says, "The 25th reunion is it — the next big reunion after this one, we'll all be running around NYC with artificial hips and knees, and it just won't be the same."



Columbians gathered to celebrate the bar mitzvah of Carl Schaerf '88's son, Gabriel, on December 1. Left to right: Schaerf, Andrew Hyman '88, Molly Chrein '88 Barnard, Jonathan Lavine '88, Hal Shapiro '88 and Daniel Goldberger '88.

PHOTO: OLGA STARR

It's never too late to sign up to attend and join in the fun. But why not do so now? The dates are Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, and you can register at reunion.college.columbia.edu.

Sharon Bernecki DeJoy is an assistant professor of health at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where she directs the undergraduate program in health promotion. Sharon says, "I am also a certified professional midwife, although I am not currently practicing. My husband, two youngest kids, dog, cat, hamster and I live together peaceably in southeastern Pennsylvania."

Amy Asch recently shared that she lives in Inwood (the tippy top of Manhattan, near Columbia's football stadium) and is working for *Playbill*, singing with Riverside Choral Society and "looking forward to reunion."

Michael Barry writes, "I am a real estate developer and hotelier. I own a company, along with my brother, David '87, called Ironstate Development (ironstate.net). I develop and own properties in New York City, Jersey City, Hoboken and other urban areas in the region." Michael also shares that he has joined the Columbia University Medical Center Board of Advisers. Michael is not a medical doctor but the board is made up of individuals with varied professional backgrounds.

I heard from fellow Carman 11 resident **Eric Altbach**, who has lived in Washington, D.C., since 1997. He worked primarily in government before moving to the private sector last year to join

the Albright Stonebridge Group, a global commercial diplomacy firm founded by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former National Security Adviser Sandy Berger. Eric is an s.v.p., assisting clients in China and other Asian markets. Prior to joining the firm, Eric was the deputy assistant U.S. trade representative for China affairs, responsible for Taiwan and China. From 2004 to 2006 he was at the White House as the National Security Council's director for Asian economic affairs. Eric also has held a number of positions at the Department of State covering Asian economic issues in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Eric is married to Michelle McGrath, a social worker, and they have a daughter, Catherine (6). Eric has periodically stayed in touch with a number of his CC classmates from Carman 11, including **Rob Kaplan**, a partner at Debevoise and Plimpton, who also lives in Washington, D.C.; **Gina (Shishima) Sosa**, a patent attorney in Austin; **Laura Offut**, a doctor in Philadelphia; **Matt Irvine**, a police lieutenant in San Francisco; and honorary Carman resident **Karen (Mochizuki) Kano**. Eric's New Year's resolution is to catch up with all of them soon.

Mark Zoland is a surgeon in private practice in NYC, practicing open and advanced laparoscopic surgery. He writes, "My specialty and passion is sports hernia surgery. I have recently been granted patents on two inventions: a new mesh for inguinal hernia surgery, and a tray that promotes sharps safety in the operating room. The

Jenji Kohan '91 Finds Humor and Truth In Life's Darker Moments

BY KIM MARTINEAU '97J

In a period that many would describe as a golden age for television, **Jenji Kohan '91** has created not one but two hit TV shows: *Weeds*, a satirical take on the war on drugs, and *Orange Is the New Black*, an equally subversive look at the criminal justice system. Queen of a new, edgier brand of storytelling, the Emmy-winning Kohan has found a way to bring laughs and sharp social commentary to mainstream television.

"Jenji is one of the great show-runners of our time," says Kevin Beggs, chairman of Lionsgate Television Group, producer of *Weeds*, *Orange* and *Mad Men*. "It feels like every one of her characters is real, and not a television creation. That is a unique skill set."

To survive in show biz it helps to have a thick skin. Kohan developed hers around the dinner table, where she tested wits against a family of writers: Emmy-winning father, Buz; acclaimed novelist mother, Rhea; and twin older brothers, Jono and David (co-producer of the '90s sitcom *Will & Grace*). In the Kohan household, bathroom humor was dismissed as too easy, and the bar to say something funny and original was set almost impossibly high. "Comedy was serious business in my house," she says.

Growing up in Beverly Hills, Kohan had an early narrative ear that was tuned toward the Valley, where her mother insisted all the "interesting stories" could be found. But when it came time for college, Kohan went East, first to Brandeis, then transferring to Columbia as a sophomore. "I liked the legacy, the campus and the Core Curriculum," she says. "You're there to learn and grow and absorb and figure stuff out."

One of the things Kohan hoped to figure out was how to

break into New York's spoken word scene. Aspiring to be the next Spalding Gray or Joe Frank, she landed an internship at Franklin Furnace, a performance art space located at the time in TriBeCa, where she ran errands and helped set up shows.

On weekends, Kohan explored. From Morningside Heights to SoHo, she wandered a different avenue each time. "I'd stop in places and listen in on conversations," she said. "In New York

obnoxious," says Lippit. "It was just her curiosity; she was always observing."

While honing her powers of observation off-campus, Kohan concentrated in English and pushed the envelope in her writing at school. Lippit remembers with a hint of envy the "A" that Kohan earned for a paper that used an Elvis bust lamp to launch a discussion of philosophers John Locke and David Hume.



Jenji Kohan '91 (right) and *Orange Is the New Black* actress Dascha Polanco ("Dayanara Diaz") on set at Kaufman Astoria Studios in Queens during a Season 1 filming break. To show her support, Kohan often wore an orange backpack and matching accessories to shoots.

City, there's always something funny going on." Her friend Miya Lippit '91 remembers Kohan dragging her to estate sales not so much for the vintage finds but more to catch a glimpse of something intimate about people's lives. "It was never

In her spare time, Kohan wrote fiction. After winning several contests, she wondered if she might be able to write for TV after Columbia. Her boyfriend was skeptical. "You'd have a better chance of getting elected to Congress than get-

ting on the staff of a television show," he told her.

Undeterred, she drove cross-country and settled with a friend in Santa Cruz, Calif., where she began writing speculative scripts for *Roseanne*, *Seinfeld* and *The Simpsons*. One day she handed her scripts to her sister-in-law's father, who passed them to a literary agent. Soon Kohan was working on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* starring Will Smith.

Kohan worked on several more shows, including *Friends* and the sketch-comedy show *Tracey Takes On*, with Tracey Ullman. Itching to create a series of her own, she wrote the pilot for *Weeds*, a comedy-drama about a widowed soccer mom turned dope dealer. Kohan says she wanted to do an outlaw show, and that while pot was illegal it was the "funny drug. It served my goals," she says.

Showtime bought it, and across an eight-season run that ended in 2012, *Weeds* racked up numerous awards, including Emmys for cinematography and sound mixing. The show was nearing its end when a friend mailed Kohan a copy of the memoir *Orange Is the New Black*, about a Smith graduate who goes to jail for a drug-smuggling stint in her past. Kohan saw in author Piper Kerman the opportunity to create a fictionalized version of the girl-next-door who could bring together worlds divided by race and class.

"We talk about this country as this big melting pot, but it's a mosaic," she told Terry Gross on NPR's *Fresh Air* last summer. "There are all these pieces that are next to each other. They're not necessarily mixing. I'm looking for those spaces where people actually do mix, and prison happens to be a terrific one."

Kohan pitched the idea to Netflix, which bought the series

unseen. With its second season premiering in June, *Orange* has also received critical acclaim. Taylor Schilling ("Piper Chapman") was nominated for a Golden Globe; Regina Spektor, who wrote the show's theme song, "You've Got Time," was nominated for a Grammy. Though *Weeds* and *Orange* are both premised on privileged white women breaking the law, Kohan warns that it would be "reductionist" to read more into her artistic intent. She is similarly cagey about whether drugs should be legalized or the criminal justice system reformed. Neither show explicitly makes a case for either. "I'm an entertainer," she says. "I'm here to start conversations. The criminal justice system is clearly broken but it's boring to sit and talk about that."

Avoiding formulaic conventions, Kohan has occasionally taken risks that her colleagues have warned against. After lead *Weeds* character Nancy Botwin burns down her house at the end of Season 3, Kohan insisted on changing the popular theme song, "Little Boxes," to customized main titles, or credits, signaling the show's transition to new narrative terrains. It was chancy but as a result, *Weeds* never got stuck in suburbia, unlike *Desperate Housewives*, says Beggs. "We say to ourselves at the studio, never bet against Jenji," he says.

There are also few sacred cows in her work. When it comes to getting laughs, all ethnic groups are fair game, not to mention potheads, narcissist moms, old people and gangsters. She is an equal opportunity offender, which is one reason, she says, she will rarely call out colleagues for making sexist remarks. What she will call out is work she considers substandard. "What offends me more than something sexist is something poorly written or unfunny or clichéd," she told *Fresh Air*.

The sly, antic humor that Kohan brings to her characters can be glimpsed in her public persona, from the cat-eye glasses to the tousled hair

often dyed bright, punk-rocker hues. In her most recent Christmas card, she and her husband, writer Christopher Noxon, pose with their kids — ages 8, 12 and 14 — in matching Hoodie-Footie pajamas.

Kohan credits Ullman with helping her make the leap from writer to show-runner, a kind-of CEO of the series who controls all creative decisions, from writing to casting to the final cut. The Emmy she won as supervising producer on *Tracey Takes On* in 1999 sits on her mantle, and to this day, Kohan follows Ullman's "sane and healthy" management style. By that, Kohan means wine with lunch, no slacking off so that everyone goes home at a decent hour and creating a safe environment that encourages risk-taking. That combination has inspired an unusual degree of loyalty among her crew on *Weeds* and *Orange*, where "Jenji's sets and Jenji's rooms are happy sets and happy rooms," says Beggs.

In those sets and rooms, Kohan is training the next generation of talent, which will most certainly include more women. For now, she is one of few women to have risen so high. Her main motivation in striving to become the boss, she says, was to have flexibility in raising her family. As for her own creative needs, Kohan says she likes to work in a noisy room, usually coffee shops, with a bag of sunflower seeds and above all, a deadline ticking away.

She is working now on a new series about witches in Salem. It sounds like more gloomy material awaiting a humorous treatment but Kohan promises the series will look nothing like what has come before.

To listen to the interview with Kohan on NPR's Fresh Air, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Kim Martineau '97J writes about earth and environmental science at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, N.Y.

two companies owning the mesh, SurgiSure and Conform, are in the process of bringing the products to market. I live in Scarsdale with my wife, Stacey, and have three boys, two dogs and a whole lot of fish."

Gil Greenman was married in September 2012 to Dr. Lisa Hebner Vila, a clinical psychologist. Gil says, "I split time between Washington, D.C., where I work at the law firm of Williams & Connolly, and Seattle, where Lisa lives with my three stepchildren, Audrey (15), Sam (13) and Joey (9). My children in Washington, D.C. (really, Alexandria, Va.), are Quinn (17) and Jacqueline and Julia (both 13)."

See you all very soon, I hope.

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Our class's Facebook group (Columbia College Class of 1990) is growing by leaps and bounds, right in time for reunion next spring (Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015). This group is a great place to catch up with classmates professionally and socially in between issues of CCT. To join, please message administrator **Emily Glickman** on Facebook and she will add you. To hold you over until you can get on Facebook, let's catch up with a few folks.

Nancy Pak; her husband, Jim Marshall; and their two children and dog are firmly ensconced in Warsaw, Poland, where they moved in July 2012. Nancy is the marketing director of the Central Europe East region for Colgate-Palmolive. The family is enjoying a more suburban existence (compared to their previous home of Bangkok) but Nancy still misses the Big Apple.

Adam Jacobs is "living on a former tree farm in rural New Hampshire with my wife, Vivian, and our daughter, Kara (3), who warms my former-linguist heart with her animated chatter in her three native languages: Italian, Hungarian and English. I left academia in 2006 and am now chief scientist at 1010data, a NYC-based 'big data' software firm. Most weeks I spend a couple of days in NYC and/or Cambridge, Mass.; I'd love to catch up with classmates in either area. Or come visit us in Hungary, where we spend a few weeks a year at our little place in the village of Hosszúhetény, near Pécs."

Margaret Flynn reports that her son, Carson Robison (6), Alexandra and Madeline Nobert (**Lisa Dabney** and **Craig Nobert's** daughters) and Zachary and Lilah Shapiro (**Kirsten Mellor's** kids) spent the night before Thanksgiving

together in New York, continuing their parents' tradition of going to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons being blown up. Margaret has a new job as a private banker at J.P. Morgan. This is the next step in a career that began in tech startups and then progressed to private equity/VC investing and advisory services. Margaret now helps individuals who had wealth created through tech IPOs and other sources to manage and grow their assets. She loves the more personal aspect of the work.

And that's all, folks. Hope to hear from you soon. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column, or via CCT's webform at college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Happy spring!

91 Margie Kim
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Greetings, all!

Joel Rubenstein has returned to the United States after three years of working with a private equity firm re-launching bankrupt food companies in Scotland. Joel is now a v.p. with Nielsen's market and brand adviser group, based in Parsippany, N.J. He says he misses living in Edinburgh but says that access to NYC is a decent trade-off!

Jonathan Ross writes, "My wife and I welcomed twins (boy and girl, Leo and Hannah) earlier this year, thus bringing our brood to three along with Madeleine (4). We live in over-abundantly sunny Santa Monica, Calif., and love it. After working for Fox studios in film distribution, I am now actually 'making the film' as a film producer. I am currently producing a feature length film for HBO about the only verified person to have walked around the world. Look for it on HBO later this year (with a little luck). I would love to hear from and reconnect with other '91-ers."

In other career news, **John Chun** was appointed a judge to the King County Superior Court in Washington state. He reports that **Noah Elkin** recently visited Seattle and they had a terrific time at dinner. John lives in the Green Lake neighborhood of Seattle with his wife, Elizabeth '00 TC, and their two kids. They'd love to have Lions as guests!

Jacqueline Harounian was named a "New York Super Lawyer in Family Law" for the fourth consecutive year. She was also named one of "Top 50 Women Lawyers" in New York by *Super Lawyers*, as well as a "2013 Women Leaders in the Law" by *New York* magazine. An-

other highlight of the past year was her admission to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. She was sponsored by Justice Jeremy Weinstein.

Elisabeth Porter is a supervising attorney at Choice Legal Group in Fort Lauderdale but her greatest joy is curating in her home her growing collection of her 4-year-old son's wonderful art (still using that art history degree).

Hope you all are having a great 2014 so far. And send in your news! You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Until next time ... cheers!

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Music therapy, a dispatch from Japan, a fundraising start-up, a slow-lane social and How To Get Your Poem on a Street-Cleaning Truck — all in my inaugural column's packed mailbag! I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, and if those who wrote to catch up but didn't want to be in CCT have changed your minds, send up a flare!

The first person to respond was **Jessy Randall**, who sent a nostalgic nod to Tom's and a thought-provoking note about seeing one of her poems ("Why I Had Children") picked to adorn a street-cleaning truck in Sydney, Australia, as part of that city's writers festival. "How my poem got chosen is a mystery — other poems on other trucks were by Yeats, Rilke and Berryman, among others," she says. "This will clearly be the highlight of my poetry career."

It was fun to hear from fellow Carman 7 inhabitant **Wendy Greene**, who headed to Chicago after CC for film school and stayed for about six years. "That was seriously cold," she writes. She went to work as a producer and showrunner for A&E Network and Discovery Channel. Last year, she moved from production to network and is an executive producer for History, "where I oversee shows in production and develop new series. I love it."

David Abbott is finishing a master's in music therapy at NYU and interning at Beth Israel Medical Center. Music therapy? "A colleague's nutshell description is 'like shrinks with guitars,'" he explains, adding, "In the hospital, we tend to focus on alleviation of pain and anxiety but can also get into deeper, more psychotherapeutically oriented work, especially with patients facing life-threatening illness."

David and his wife, Ishaani, recently bought and renovated a co-op in Jackson Heights, Queens.

I envy **Patricia Nanus Ireland's** ability to hit Tom's anytime — she's on West 108th Street — and admire her self-discipline. "In 2012 I started swimming in the mornings with a masters/triathlon team at Dodge. Anyone nearby who is looking for a workout should join us," she writes. "I'm in the slow lane." She and her husband, Kelly, recently welcomed their fourth child, Rieve, whose arrival made it two boys and two girls. Patricia also gives seminars as a licensed presenter of "Parenting is Heart Work."

Our next update takes this column from the Upper West Side to Tokyo. **Laurie (Freeman) Lebrun** has been living in Japan for 8½ years with her husband, Ken; their daughter, Sylvan (11½), and son, Max (10). "Oh yes, and two Labradoodles," she says. Laurie has moved from being a practicing lawyer to recruiting them, as she built a Tokyo office for Major, Lindsey & Africa.

First-time Class Notes contributor **Chris O'Brien** recently launched a start-up, iKeedo.org, which he describes as "the only fundraising platform to monetize the actions of an opposing force." Suppose you support Cause X. You pledge to give a certain amount every time a powerful interest group takes to the Twitter social media site to oppose it. You can set a cap so that the interest group won't break the bank.

Dickie Bernard broke his Class Notes silence with a dispatch de-

to writing fiction in the next couple of years: P.G. Wodehouse meets homeschooling — lots of ripe material in my life," he says.

Jennifer Madrid strongly urges all of you to have a voice in the next generation of Lions by joining the Alumni Representative Committee (for more info, go to undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/admissions/archandbook/frontpage). "I do interviews as regional ARC chair of Westchester. It really does make a difference," she writes. Jennifer is married to Ivan Madrid '89 and hopes that one of their children will end up at Columbia — "but that's up to them." She loves being the 2014 co-chair for the Metro New York North Red & White Ball, which is hosted by the Red Cross.

As I write this column, there's a snowstorm in Jerusalem — a rare occurrence — per a report from **Tobie Strauss Sherebrin**. Tobie moved to Israel a month after graduation and earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew language from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She embarked on a one-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto in August 2009, then extended her stay as a professor of modern Hebrew. That second year — "over winter break," in fact — she and Shi Sherebrin got married in New Jersey. A blizzard deterred about one-third of the expected guests but did not prevent Tobie and Shi from boarding a plane for Israel the next day for a celebration in Israel. That one was attended by the family of Rivka Matitya '89

fanatics, Gregory (7) and Ryan (5). **Sarah Wolman** and **Ken Levine** are here too!"

Alexandra Colacito (née Hersh-dorfer) wants to hear from you if you live in Massachusetts or Rhode Island — "closer to Providence than Boston." Her email is alexandra.colacito.com. She's a stay-at-home mom raising a 4-year-old son but plans to return to work when he starts kindergarten. She earned a law degree at UC Hastings in San Francisco in 1998 and practiced litigation before opting for the "more balanced life" of being a paralegal and using her fillable hours with hiking, camping, biking and traveling. She married solar engineer Mark Colacito in 2009; they live in North Attleboro, Mass. Alexandra is in touch with **Eva Grabum** ("via the Internet; she remains in Portugal") and **Dalia Cohen**, "because we play Scramble With Friends and Words With Friends together on our iPhones!"

And me? You'll have to write to find out.

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The Dynamic Duo is at it again! I recently heard from **Alan Freeman**, who reported that he and his wife, Remy, "joined (literally) dozens of other Columbia alumni for a showing of *Iff Then*, the newest production by **Brian Yorkey** and Tom Kitt '96. Tom's wife, **Rita Pietropinto-Kitt**, was on hand for the show, as was **Jon Mathews**, and it was great to catch up with both of them. There were quite a few other Columbia friends there as well, including Amit Bose '94 and Liz Hale '93 Barnard. We had a preshow cocktail reception as well as a post-show 'talk-back' with Brian and Tom, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2010 as well as three Tony Awards for their show *Next to Normal*. The new show was terrific, and it's been great fun to see them enjoy such success in such a difficult field. My best advice to classmates in the New York area is to buy tickets for the Broadway debut ASAP; they won't regret it."

I ordered tickets to see the show in March and can't wait.

[Editor's note: See feature with Yorkey and Kitt in this issue.]

And now, a shout-out to **Rachel Mintz**, who is essentially serving as my guest columnist for the remainder of this column! Rachel was able to provide updates from a lot of you.

Gina Neff is a professor of communications at the University

of Washington and spent 2012–13 on sabbatical in New York. Her husband, Phil Howard, is also a professor at UW and joined her at reunion events last spring. She recently wrote a book on startup culture in New York City called *Venture Labor: Work and the Burden of Risk in Innovative Industries*, and she has a fellowship at Central European University's Institute for Advanced Study, in Budapest, to complete her next book on mobile data and health hacking. She has two 5-year-old boys, Hammer and Gordon. If that doesn't sound like it will keep her busy enough, the family will be shuttling between Seattle and Budapest for the next two years.

Dennis Kiely '96L also made an appearance at reunion. He is a real estate attorney and lives on the Upper West Side — not too far from Columbia — with his wife, Lena '01L, a bank regulatory attorney, and children, Norah (7) and Fiona (5).

Elena Cabral '99J may have had one of the shortest treks to reunion. She came from her office at the Journalism School, where she teaches and advises students. Previously, she worked for the *Miami Herald* and Scholastic News, and she is thrilled to be back at alma mater. Elena and her husband, David, have two children, Sebastian (10) and Paloma (6). She had a blast reconnecting with old pals at the festivities.

Another short commute was had by **Joe Laszlo**. Living at West 110th and Broadway meant he couldn't claim travel as an excuse to miss the festivities. Joe is making good use of his master's in international relations (from The Fletcher School); he helps manage the mobile division of the Interactive Advertising Bureau, which he describes as "the United Nations of Internet media companies." Getting a fractious and highly competitive industry to agree on standards for digital marketing is a continual test of diplomacy skills.

Arsenio Santos traveled far to partake in reunion, coming from his home in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he has lived for 20 years. For the past two years, he has been quietly focused on breathing life into Circa, his news startup company. He says the only vacation that he has taken of late was to reunion!

Adrian Bordoni both planned and participated in reunion. He is the executive director of Woodside on the Move, a grassroots community organization. Among other things, he is partnering with tech companies, schools and nonprofits to coordinate the first Queens-wide 3-D printing and robotics com-

petition for fourth, fifth and sixth graders as well as an after-school financial literacy program; the students will create business plans and help market products as part of this year's fundraising efforts to purchase a building for the organization. He was recently recognized for his work on behalf of Queens and was named a Queens Fellow, part of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. Adrian was honored for his work strengthening the borough, valuing its diversity through proactively uniting neighborhoods and communities, building partnerships

Oliver Staley '93 is a reporter at Bloomberg News in London, and he and his family enjoy life across the pond.

and advancing the next generation of leaders.

Luckily, **Dave Shimkin** made it to reunion before his move to the West Coast last summer. He works at Cozen O'Connor's Los Angeles office, after taking and passing the California bar. He lives and works in downtown L.A. and his practice focuses on hospitality, construction, food and environmental clients.

Paul Bua writes, "Greetings from San Francisco. Been out in the Bay Area/Silicon Valley for 14 years after playing politics in the Beltway and gigs in Boston and New York. Working on Paul v 3.0 at this point, as the tech scene here is moving fast and furious. Interesting times. Still trying to wrap my head around graduating 20 years ago. Was happy to attend our reunion briefly (was recovering from illness) and see some classmates. Still get back to New York regularly to see family and friends and hope to be more bicoastal in 2014. If you are heading to the Bay Area or want to talk tech (data science, Internet policy, etc.) drop me a line."

Sharad Samy made it to reunion with his wife, Katherine; unfortunately, he was the only member of his 616 Suite Posse to do so. He met Katherine in London in 2009. She is from Wales, and a graduate of the University of Cambridge. They have two girls, Seren (3) and Cariad (1), and live in Darien, Conn., with their dog, Marlin. In early 2010, Sharad resigned as a partner in Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe and became the general counsel of Aladdin Capital Holdings, a Stamford-based hedge fund. Sharad reports that "after a long evening at The West End during reunion, **Dev Lahiri**; his wife, Mythili Rao Lahiri '94 Barnard; Raj Ananth '93E; and his wife,

Alexandra, stayed at our house for a weekend retreat. It was a great catch-up after reunion, and Seren was very, very excited to have her first sleepover, as both couples' kids stayed over as well."

Some classmates were not able to make it to reunion but there were good reasons. Here is news from some of them, and hopefully all of you will make it to our 25th!

George Kolombatovich moved to Los Angeles last summer to begin work for the new mayor of L.A., Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA. George is Eric's associate director of homeland security and public

safety. He helps to oversee the police, fire and emergency management departments, the mayor's crisis response team, the gang reduction and youth development program, and security at LAX and the Port of Los Angeles. He says that he is having an amazing time working with Eric.

In August **Rebecca Shulman Herz** moved to Peoria, Ill., with her husband, Nathaniel, and their children, Charlotte (11) and Alex (9). Rebecca is a museum and art education consultant and blogs about the field at rebecca Herz consulting.com; click on "blog."

Alex Khutorsky, who lives in New York, was sorry to have missed reunion and hopes to make it next time around.

Robert Tsai joined Merrill Lynch right after graduation in 1993 and, after finishing the analyst training program, was sent to its Hong Kong office. He worked for the company in the equities department for 17 years, primarily in equity derivatives trading and proprietary trading. In 2011, Rob joined Soros Fund Management's Hong Kong office as a portfolio manager, managing money for the Quantum Endowment Fund, but left the firm last year. Presently he is semi-retired and taking it easy by doing lots of hiking, golf and traveling. Rob met his wife in Hong Kong and they have two boys (14 and 10), both born and raised in Hong Kong.

Maria Ricci is back in New York City after a short assignment in Washington, D.C. She continues her valiant work as an International Woman of Mystery.

Oliver Staley is a reporter at Bloomberg News in London. His children are 6 and 3, and he and his family enjoy life across the pond.

Eliza Gallo was unable to make it to reunion due to the birth in May of her first child, Ivy, who was promptly modeling Columbia garb. Eliza is enjoying the adventure of parenting. She recently moved back to New York City from Santa Monica, Calif., and is doing social media consulting for several education and nonprofit clients.

Thanks to Rachel for all the updates and thanks to all of you who shared them. Please continue to send news!

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1**
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Our 20th reunion is getting closer! Hard to believe that so much time has passed since graduation but I hope you're saving the date for Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Our Reunion Committee has been hard at work planning activities for our group, plus there will be a range of multi-class events that we can take part in. Saturday is also Dean's Day, which offers the chance to relive our classroom experiences through lectures with some of Columbia's finest professors. It all leads up to our class dinner on Saturday, followed by dancing under the stars at the Starlight Reception. For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu.

And now, a few updates from our fellow CC '94 classmates:

Roy Gal sent a lovely note, highlighting his 11/11/11 marriage to Christine Norred, which **Joseph Biello** attended. Roy also shared the more recent happy news that on July 24, 2013, he and Christine welcomed a son, Peregrine Joseph. Congrats!

Roy is now in his eighth year at the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy. Last year he became the head of outreach and fundraising for the institute, as well as lead for its national office as a partner in the Gemini Observatory, while still teaching and doing research. "Everyone is invited to see what the IfA is doing at facebook.com/uhifa or on Twitter @UHIfA," he adds.

Not many other written updates arrived this time though I did have a delightful, impromptu catch-up session with **Shawn Vietor More-**

head in New York during Thanksgiving weekend, as we wrangled our kids at the Museum of Mathematics in Manhattan. Catching up on two decades in five minutes is a challenge but I can tell you that Shawn lives in Brooklyn, is a lawyer for a foundation, looks great and has a beautiful family. More than anything, I'm grateful that she saw me and shouted out as I aimlessly wandered around with the baby in her stroller.

Also on that Thanksgiving trip, I caught up with **Danny Franklin** and his kids, who trekked into Manhattan from their home in Brooklyn to hang out for an afternoon. Danny is on the leadership team at Benenson Strategy Group, the research and consulting firm that ran award-winning polling programs for President Barack Obama '83's 2008 and 2012 campaigns. Danny is developing opportunities for the business after its recent acquisition by Kantar, the data investment management division of WPP.

Keep the updates coming! Until next time.

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I hope the occasion of our 40th birthdays will inspire classmates who have never written in to send an update.

Congratulations to **Mike Stanton** and **Jamie Bennett** on their new jobs.

Mike gave up his membership in a small subset of our class when he changed employers for the first time since leaving Columbia. He writes, "In November, I moved from *The Bond Buyer*, the financial newspaper where I spent 18 years in pretty much every role under the roof, to join a municipal-bond insurance company, Build America Mutual, as head of strategy and communications.

"Beyond that seismic event in my career, the rest of life remains stable — still commuting a little too long from White Plains (about 40 minutes north of Manhattan). My wife, Beth '95J, and I are bracing for the tween years with our kids (10 and 8), who already fill our 'free time' with everything from synchronized swimming to chess tournaments and Cub Scouts."

Mike did take a detour from *The Bond Buyer* to earn a degree at Harvard Business School in 2002. His wife sits two rows away from me at Bloomberg, where she covers U.S. interest rate markets.

Jamie in January became executive director of ArtPlace America,

a collaboration of philanthropic foundations, financial institutions and federal agencies that promote the inclusion of arts in community development strategies.

Jamie has had a long history of working in the arts. His previous job was at the National Endowment

Jesse Levitt '97's new Brooklyn restaurant, 1 Knickerbocker, is located in a former speakeasy and brothel and will offer a contemporary take on turn-of-the-19th-century fare in NYC.

for the Arts, where — since joining the group in 2009 — he was chief of staff and director of public affairs. He also has been chief of staff in two other jobs, at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and to Columbia's president, Lee C. Bollinger. He provided strategic counsel to the Agnes Gund Foundation from 1997 to 2005.

Jamie writes that he loved his time in Washington, D.C., where he happily discovered good theater and restaurants. Among some memorable Columbia events were an alumni evening for Tom Kitt '96 and Brian Yorkey '93's *If/Then* at the National Theater [see feature in this issue] and **Juliet Bellow's** show, *Diaghilev and the Ballets Russe*, at the National Gallery of Art this past fall. Juliet, my freshman-year Carman suitemate, teaches art history at American.

Back in New York, Jamie is excited to be living in Brooklyn Heights.

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Aun Koh decided to step out of operational work with the communications agency The Ate Group, which he and his wife founded, to start a journey within the nonprofit sector (Ate is still being run by Aun's wife, Su-Lyn Tan, and business partners). His new post is director of marketing, advocacy and development as well as the corporate community investment division at the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, Singapore. NVPC is Singapore's leading connector of volunteers and donors with appropriate charities and nonprofits. It is also the lead capacity builder for the sector, providing leadership programs, skills training and grants for nonprofits, and it runs Singapore's biggest online donations portal (SG Gives) as well as the country's most comprehensive volunteers portal (SG Cares).

The SG Cares team is continually professionalizing the nonprofit sector through new resources, training and consultancy projects; they are also one of the sector's largest grant-makers. Their corporate community investment team helps corporations develop better

CSR programs and tools, and their philanthropy division champions informed giving through the development of tools, processes and research while also helping families and corporations better design their giving programs. Aun writes that it is an exciting and rewarding path for him.

Anastasia Thanopoulos (née Yatrakis) and her husband, Billy Thanopoulos '95, live in Brooklyn and have three sons, George (8), Niko (6) and Teddy (2). Anastasia is busy working in real estate as an associate broker with Skyline Realty, and Billy is in his second year with his restaurant, two8two Bar & Burger in Boerum Hill. Their nephew, George Thanopoulos '16, is playing on the baseball team this year.

Stephen Gargiulo is a managing director in the fixed income sales and trading team at the global financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. Stephen joined Cantor from Citigroup, where he was a director and senior CMBS trader in the global securitized markets business. Prior, he was a managing director in mortgage trading at Bear Stearns.

Keep those notes coming, my fellow CC '96ers. Otherwise I will have to fill this column with personal notes about my children (e.g., Isabelle lost her third tooth recently and Maximilian is obsessed with Batman). Until next time, I leave you with this throwback: "Lunch is for wimps."

— Gordon Gekko

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In November, **Sarah Bunin Benor** won the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature's Choice Award for her book, *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism*. In addition she was included in the *The Jewish Daily*

"Forward 50" 2013 list of influential Jews.

Jill Jacobs gave birth to a daughter, Dvir Hallel, in July. Sister Lior is 4. Jill is the executive director of T'ruah, a rabbinic human rights organization. She and her husband, Guy Austrian, also a rabbi, live in Washington Heights.

Dr. Nelson Tieng is one of five physician owners of a new urgent care practice, MDxpress Urgent Care, in Mamaroneck, N.Y., which opened in March 2013 (mdxpress.com).

Boris Kachka reports that his son, Asher Elias, was born October 5; he's happy, healthy and growing nice and chubby.

Aba (Yankah) Rogers and her husband, Bradford Rogers, welcomed a daughter, Aria, on September 7.

Jesse Levitt '00 GSAS has opened a restaurant, 1 Knickerbocker, in Brooklyn. The restaurant is located in a former speakeasy and brothel, of which some of the original architectural features have been restored, and will feature a contemporary take on turn-of-the-19th-century restaurant fare in NYC. Everyone is invited for dinner and hopefully soon for brunch as well.

Liliana Lopez is senior officer of corporate communications at Amtrak. She is editor in chief of *Amtrak Ink* magazine. Liliana lives in Bethesda, Md., with her daughter.

Malla Haridat has a new role on the Center for Career Development's Professional Pathway Program's team at Manhattan College as the employer and alumni outreach specialist. Last summer, she was named a finalist in the Count Me In Urban Rebound program for her business, Mom and Daughters.

Desiree Ramos Reiner is celebrating two years as deputy director of communications at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where she says she has the pleasure of working with lots of Columbia College alums, including its president, Michael Waldman '82. Desiree is also enjoying her newest family addition, Alejandro Noah, born last April. He and his brother, Antonio Tomas (3), should be hitting Morningside Heights in 2028.

Nicolay Todorov lives in Los Angeles and is producing a documentary on tornadoes for The Weather Channel. Another documentary series he produced this year, *Futurescape*, aired in the fall on Discovery Science.

Tracy Hammond, director of the Sketch Recognition Lab and a professor at Texas A&M, is making waves with computerized navigational technology that she

and her graduate and undergraduate students have created. In 2010, a military official asked Tracy if she could come up with a navigational system for paratroopers. "These paratroopers are jumping out of their plane in the middle of the night, trying to find their location," she explains. Tracy and her team designed a vest that uses Haptic technology, or vibration sensors. A vibration on the right or left shoulder indicates a turn.

John D. Alfone writes that after eight emotionally grueling years as part of the post-Katrina New Orleans cultural renaissance, he is packing his bags and expanding his Gulf Coast Godfatherdom by relocating to Houston. Highlights from last year included his annual visit to the fair city of L.A. with his video production company, Corsair Media Productions, where he met up with Gloria Bradbury '97, the head of marketing for animators Brain Zoo Studios. He was also in production last summer on a 1950s period piece, *The Arnold Travels*, for which he is seeking distribution as well as a sales agent.

Darrell Cohn sent a note from Jerusalem, where it snowed the day he emailed me (December 12). He recently started working for a startup, Woxer.com, in the product management group. Darrell's wife, Leah, is a modern dancer with the Jerusalem Dance Project.

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Happy spring, Class of 1998! I'm afraid there's not much to report this issue, although we do have our first update from **Eugenia Zuroski Jenkins**.

Gena writes, "I've never submitted an update for CCT, but 2013 was a pretty big year so I thought I'd share. I live in Hamilton, Ontario, with my husband, Derek. We have a daughter, Ruby Lynn (2). I'm a professor of English and cultural studies at McMaster University, where I recently received tenure, and my book, *A Taste for China: English Subjectivity and the Prehistory of Orientalism*, was published in May."

Congratulations, Gena!

And to the rest of the class: Let's aim for a full column next time — I know you have exciting news to share, whether it's about family, career, travel or personal accomplishments (or perhaps you have something to say about all of them!). You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29-JUNE 1**
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By the time you read these Class Notes, we'll be a few months shy of our 15-year Alumni Reunion Weekend, which will be held Thursday, May 29-Sunday, June 1. Our Reunion Committee is in full swing with planning; we held an informal gathering at the Lambs Club in NYC on November 21, and will continue organizing and finalizing events through the spring. Of course, the highlight will be our class dinner on Saturday, followed by the Starlight Reception on Low Plaza. Check our Facebook page for news: facebook.com/groups/ColumbiaCollege99. And for information about the weekend at large and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu.

On to some updates! **Rebecca Pawel** shares the good news that she returned to Columbia in September as a Ph.D. student in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. She says it's utterly weird being a full-time student again, especially after spending so many years on the other side of the desk as a high school teacher — a bit like being 18 again! She had a pretty good time as an undergrad but admits she's having even more fun the second time around.

We wish her the best of luck in her new journey! **Boris Pereschensky** has been living in Florida for 10 years. (No doubt he enjoys better winter weather than we in the Northeast, given our single-digit temps of late. I'm envious!) Boris manages fixed income investments at a boutique investment management firm, Semper Capital Management.

Classmates, please do not hesitate to email me with updates or questions as we approach reunion! You can also send news via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Kim Worly Salzman is an attorney for the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees in Tel Aviv, Israel, and is the proud mother to 2-year-old boy and girl twins.

Edgar Lewandowski and his wife, Melanie, welcomed a son to their family last April (their second child) and Edgar was elected partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in November.

Jordan M. Rosenbaum was named partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. His corporate practice focuses on capital markets and securities, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, private and public securities offerings, corporate reorganizations and general corporate law.

I was excited to get an email from **Carrie Russell**, who writes, "My first novel, *Drowning Cactus*, came out last summer. It's satirical fiction about an urban gardening instructor and a cactus thief who unwittingly find themselves in the middle of a controversy about the U.S.-Mexican border. You can read about it on my website: carrierus.sellbooks.wordpress.com.

"I was for a number of years an environmental attorney but once my children were born (now 2 and 5), I took some time off and returned to writing, which I studied at Columbia. I'm living in Scotland while my husband, a psychology professor, is on sabbatical from his job in Pennsylvania, which we usually call home."

I had the pleasure of visiting old friends **Rashmi Menon**, **Heidi Yeung** and **Erica Easley** in southern California in January, where they all live. Rashmi and her husband, Jason Kanji, have two boys, Vivek and Nikhil, and live in Los Angeles. Heidi and her husband, **Jim Murphy '00E**, live in San Diego with their daughter, Laura. Rashmi, Heidi and Jim are doctors and Erica, who also lives in L.A., runs a successful sock company, Gumball Poodle (gumballpoodle.com). We were all excited to learn that Beyoncé wore Erica's "gangsta" socks in her "Pretty Hurts" music video.

That's all for now, but I'd like to hear from more of you; I know there's lots of news to be shared. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Though we're several months in, this is my first chance to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope it's off to a great start!

Annie Marquit (née Lainer) and

her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their first child, Samuel Rafael Marquit, on November 15. Annie and her family reside in Los Angeles, so I'm fortunate to be able to see them regularly.

Richard Plotkin and his wife, Emily, welcomed their first child, Arya Emily, on August 10. They happily reside in Buffalo, N.Y.

Congratulations to both couples!

Last summer **Jonathan Lemire** left New York's *Daily News* after 12 years to take a job with the Associated Press. He reported on New York City's 2013 mayoral election and now covers City Hall and the Bill de Blasio administration. He and his wife, Carrie Melago '04 GSAS, a metro news editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, were named one of *The New York Observer's* "Media Power Couples" for 2014. They live in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, with their son, Beckett (2).

Thanks to all who wrote in. Please keep in touch! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Happy 2014, CC'02! It may seem a while ago that we rang it in, but I wish you a happy and healthy year, with plenty of updates to share.

Zena (Park) Tsai had another healthy baby, this time on June 2. His name is Kyle Emerson Tsai. He was born at 8 lbs., 11 oz., and 20.5 inches. He joins sister Zoe, who is

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Trevor Sagan '02 married Lauren Connor in Palo Alto, Calif., on October 5. Left to right: John Culley '04; Laura Pietropinto '00; Victoria Dower '03 and her husband, Graham Dower '03E; the bride; the groom; Sarah Keck and her husband, best man David Keck '04; and Leslie Goodman and her husband, Eli Goodman '02.

PHOTO: VERO SUH

26 months older.

Sheethal Shobowale's son will turn 2 on April 15. She has been working at Google in media research for 3½ years and can be reached at sheethalshobowale@gmail.com.

Trevor Sagan was married to Lauren Connor in Palo Alto, Calif., on October 5. The couple honeymooned in Bora Bora. Trevor runs a production company, Sasquatch Films, and recently started working at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

Also at the wedding were John Culley '04; Laura Pietropinto '00; Victoria Dower '03; Graham Dower '03E; best man, David Keck '04, and his wife, Sarah; **Eli Goodman** and his wife, Leslie; and Justin Restivo, a student in the Film Studies Program at SoA.

Christopher Allen was featured in The Huffington Post in December in an article about arts organizations that are dedicated to community-building with "programs that are innovative, challenging and diverse." He is the founder and director of UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art, in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a community of experimental media-makers, journalists and artists who present, produce and publish various works of art. After Columbia, Christopher studied at Trinity College Dublin, then was a

social entrepreneur, a documentary director and a new media artist.

Also in the arts, **Viviana Rodriguez** has started a film production company with her husband and co-producer, Stuart Luth '01 Colby. Morning Dove Films focuses on narrative work with social interest themes.

Andres Zuleta has officially launched his new company, Boutique Japan. You can reach him at boutiquejapan.com.

Let's fill up the mail bag for next time. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column, or via CCT's webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Happy Year of the Horse, to those who celebrate the Lunar New Year.

I was fortunate to catch up with a few classmates during my travels during the winter holidays, including **Jeffrey Hsieh** and **Andrew Han '03E** in Hong Kong and **Kenneth**

Sim and **Shaun Ting** in Singapore. Jeff was visiting Andrew, who is doing a rotation with Hasbro in its Hong Kong office, and Kenneth and Shaun live in Singapore.

In other news, **Adam Libove** writes, "In October my wife and I moved to Sunnyside, Queens. It's a great community and we are enjoying have more space."

Ariel Schrag writes, "My novel, *ADAM*, will be published in June."

Justin Sellman shares, "I'm developing a travel bag line for the savvy international traveler and festival-goer. I'm also working with fashion brands to make their businesses more efficient through the use of iPad logistics technology."

Jessica Macari writes, "My husband, Ariel, and I welcomed Eli Isaac on July 19. He was 21 inches long and weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. He joins sister Layla (2). We live in Raleigh, N.C."

Lien De Brouckere writes, "Last summer I moved to Washington, D.C., to join an NGO, Global Rights, as its director of natural resources and human rights. I really enjoy my work with local civil society organizations in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Kenya to ensure resource-rich communities can assert their legitimate rights, meaningfully participate in the decisions that affect them and share in the benefits

of resource development! Too often local communities are trampled on and forgotten, kicked out of their houses and off their farmlands, even though the iron ore, copper and other minerals their lands produce let us build our buildings, bridges, cars and essentially live our modern lives."

Jenny Bach-Lee (née Bach) married David Lee in June in Manhattan. Jenny is pursuing a master's in mental health counseling at Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, which is part of Alliance Theological Seminary; she will begin a counseling internship in May and will graduate in 2015. David graduated from Binghamton in 2005 and is an associate at RCC Ventures in Manhattan.

Matthew A. McMillan writes, "In November I was conference chairman for the 46th Annual International Association of Political Consultants World Conference, held in Antigua. I also sit on the board of directors of the organization. Through my firm, BuzzMaker, I've now advised heads of state, opposition leaders, senators and governors in 16 countries."

Please do send me updates about you and other classmates — I'd really appreciate them!

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29–JUNE 1

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Hello CC'04! I hope this edition of Class Notes finds you all well in your corner of the world. Before we get to the news, I remind you to mark your calendars: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1 is our 10-year Alumni Reunion Weekend. Yes, it's hard to believe but it's been a full decade since we donned our Columbia blue caps and gowns and said goodbye to College Walk. The Reunion Committee has a number of great events planned, all culminating in a class dinner on South Lawn on Saturday. Please like the Columbia University - Class of 2004 Facebook page ([facebook.com/CU2004](https://www.facebook.com/CU2004)) to stay up to date on all events and news. Also, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu to register for reunion and to the reunion preview in this issue's "Around the Quads" for info. Five years ago, we smashed reunion attendance records ... let's aim to

David Johns '04, '06 TC Works to Improve Equity and Accountability in Education

BY DAVID MCKAY WILSON

Long involved in issues of race and education, **David Johns '04, '06 TC** now works in the White House, where he helps to lead the effort by President Barack Obama '83 to narrow the achievement gap for African-American students.

"I've had an interest in how educational opportunities are afforded to nontraditional students, including low-income minority students," says Johns, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans. "I've been grappling with these issues over the course of my lifetime."

Since joining the White House in February 2013, Johns has crisscrossed the nation, speaking to educators and community groups about the administration's dedication to improving equity in the U.S. education system. Its program begins with increasing access to quality pre-kindergarten and extends through K–12, where the administration wants to increase the supply of well-qualified teachers, develop more public-private partnerships and provide funding for community-based organizations that support students in their educational journey.

The administration has also pushed its accountability agenda through grants in its Race to the Top competition, which aims to hold teachers responsible, in part, for their students' academic achievements.

In the Midwest, Johns has worked with officials and educators in Detroit and St. Louis on creating access to school-based employment development opportunities for African-American men and boys. Making that leap from school to workforce is crucial for black men, who, Johns

notes, face considerable challenges in American society.

Johns talks often about a 2002 study that said there are more black men in prison than in college. As a counter, he cites the work of Howard University associate professor Ivory Toldson, who found that in 2012 there were 600,000

more black men in college than prison. Johns says it's important to change the narrative and support educational programs for African-American men.

"We need to invest our time to engage with young boys of color," says Johns. "Black men are achieving at higher rates than in the past."

Education has played a big role in Johns' rise to the White House. Raised by a single mother in the predominantly minority Los Angeles suburb of Inglewood, he rode a bus 45 minutes each way to a charter school in Pacific Palisades, an upscale neighborhood on the city's west side.

At Columbia, Johns helped found Columbia University Concerned

Students of Color after a series of campus incidents — including a satirical article in a campus publication and an organization's critique of affirmative action — sparked student debate on racial issues. It led to a week of silent protests in February 2004 by hundreds of students, who urged changes in the Core Curriculum, sensitivity training on racial issues and the creation of an office of multicultural affairs.

After graduation, Johns began teaching kindergarten at The School at Columbia University, where he was one of the

few African-American teachers. A year later, he enrolled at Teachers College, where he delved into education policy.

"David is a terrific amalgam of idealism and pragmatism," says Aaron Pallas, professor of sociology and education at TC. "He remains idealistic about the promise of extending the

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

"I came to Washington to make a more systemic impact," says Johns. "It's important to find ways to scale up best practices, using policy as a tool to make changes on a larger scale."

Working on the Senate committee, Johns learned that

legislation can move at a glacial pace. Talks on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act — known as No Child Left Behind — began in 2007; they were not concluded by the time Johns left the committee in 2012 to work on Obama's reelection campaign, where he was policy and research director in the swing state of Nevada. Obama won the state by six percentage points, which raised Johns' profile in the Obama camp.

While acknowledging that No Child Left Behind was not a panacea for all that ails the U.S. education system, Johns says that the law's requirement that student achievement data be

made public — and broken down by a student's race and socio-economic level — has brought much-needed attention to the needs of schools in the nation's poorest neighborhoods.

"The shining of a bright light on this data has resulted in a more thoughtful conversation on the underachievement of African-American students," says Johns. "And that conversation needs to continue."

David McKay Wilson, a columnist at The Journal News in White Plains, N.Y., also writes for TC Today at Teachers College.



David Johns '04, '06 TC leads White House efforts to shape educational policy.

PHOTO: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Alumni met in December for an evening of art at Dave Fierman '05's gallery, Louis B. James, in Manhattan. Left to right: Paul Reyfman '05, Ling Wu Kong '05, Kavior Moon '05, Coco Cioroiu '04, Fierman and David Shapiro '01.

do it again!

Congratulations to **Andrew Briggie**, who married Melissa Jean Currier in November in Connecticut. Drew is a paralegal at the New York firm Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu. The couple founded EV2BK Productions & Management, a New York company that manages local artists and bands.

Congratulations also go to **Solomon Moshkevich**, who married Ekaterina Moshkevich (née Ivanova) in October in Carmel, Calif. They met three years ago while both were studying at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Katya is from Moscow, and the newlyweds now live in the Mission Dolores neighborhood of San Francisco.

Josh Forester recently became a national champion at the 2013 Checkpoint Tracker Adventure Racing National Championships, a 30-hour race through the wilderness. It involved orienteering, running, trekking, mountain

biking, paddling, caving, shooting, cliff-diving, rappelling and urban tunneling.

Phil Wallace is now v.p. of business development at Ranker.com, which is based in Los Angeles.

In September, **Sophie Beal**'s book, *Brazil under Construction: Fiction and Public Works*, was published. Also, on Halloween, Sophie and her husband welcomed daughter Simone Victoria Shen into the world. Congrats, Sophie!

Christine Vu Luu moved to Memphis in August. She is a law clerk for a federal district judge and is having a great time. She hopes to begin practicing patent law after her clerkship, perhaps in Northern California, Seattle or Chicago.

Matthew McAndrews is starting an M.B.A. at Indiana's Kelley School of Business as well as a marketing leadership development program at DuPont. His plans also involve moving to Philadelphia, and he would love to connect with any Columbians in the area. You can reach him at mmcandrews@gmail.com.

Walker Young and his wife moved to Los Angeles so that he could start a job with The Walt Disney Co. He works in the international labor standards division, focused on the social compliance audit process across the extended supply chain. This division ensures that Disney-branded products are manufactured according to ethical and humane standards and best practices.

Jesse Stowell sent in news on a number of alums: "**Jaclyn Duran** recently returned from American Samoa for a program with the Department of the Interior. She lives in Washington, D.C., and regularly sees **Margaret Johnson '04E**, who moved to Baltimore with

her husband. **Britney Williams** was recently named a director at USA Network in program acquisitions, and **Dan Jacobs** is attending the Business School's Executive Education Program while working at Clayton Dubliler & Rice. **Dominique (Phelps) Clayton** moved to Atlanta, while **Jon Sabatini** doesn't spend more than three days in any one city (though he's based in Boston) working for Accenture.

"I was recently made v.p. of public relations at Full Picture (the same company I worked for in college) and I'm handling publicity for Brooklyn Decker, Adriana Lima, Camila Alves, Revlon, vitamin-water, Living Proof and Zappos Couture."

See you all at reunion!

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Happy 2014, Class of 2005. Those two numbers are growing startlingly distant from one another ...

Speaking of long distances, in November, I traveled from San Francisco to Delhi to celebrate the marriage of Aashti Bhartia '06 to Kunal Agarwal. It was a lovely celebration, not least for the wonderful Columbians in attendance.

Courtney Johnson (a second-year M.B.A. student at the Stanford Graduate School of Business), **Elizabeth Dwoskin** and I were there from California. **Michael Crowley** and **Josh Hadro** made the trip from New York. **Matt Niederhauser** hopped over from his home base of Beijing (you might have seen his photographs recently in *The New Yorker*, *Bloomberg Businessweek* or London's National Portrait Gallery).

Anya Chernerff, who lives in Amsterdam with her husband, **Bennett Cohen**, stopped en route to Nepal where her nonprofit, Empower Generation (empowergeneration.org), brings clean, affordable and safe energy products to people in need. All in all, Aashti and Kunal were thoroughly feted by their friends from around the world.

Read on for updates on adventures the world over:

Yuma Terada owns a Tokyo-based literary agency startup, Cork, exclusively representing Japan's most prominent novelists, manga artists and critics. He'd love to hear from anyone interested in working with his agency or its artists: yt2006@columbia.edu.

Ruven Ellberger '08L and his wife, Lauren Aliza, welcomed their second daughter, Liana Sarit, on December 23. Maya Rose (2) is thrilled to have a baby sister.

Ruven is an in-house attorney and v.p. at Two Sigma Investments in New York City, a technology company that applies a rigorous, scientific method-based approach to investment management.

Daniella Ross is graduating from Michigan State's College of Veterinary Medicine this May.

Caitlin Verrilli '14 Business is a director at New York City Health and Hospitals Corp., focusing on healthcare IT.

Mollie Melissa Kornreich '09L was married in November to Matthew David Podolsky '09L. She is a litigation associate at the Manhattan firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Also in November, **Nick Summers** married Eliza Gray '10J. Nick is a staff writer at *Bloomberg Businessweek* in New York, where he covers Wall Street.

Peggy Hannon reports, "In 2012 I relocated to San Francisco to be closer to my family and to work out of my company's headquarters in the Bay Area. As a national sales manager at SunEdison, I bring financing solutions to solar energy projects around the country. In 2013 I helped to build commercial and municipal renewable energy projects in California, Arizona, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Other highlights of 2013 included a swim from Alcatraz to San Francisco with my dad, and getting engaged to Ryan Flannery '04E after a bike ride up Mount Tamalpais!"

Phil Sandick writes, "In 2013, I began wrapping up law school at Northwestern (J.D./LL.M. in international human rights) and helped my African Lookbook business partner launch and direct the Museum of African Design in Johannesburg. In May, my wife, daughter and I will move to Atlanta, where I'll clerk for a federal judge for two years."

Mike Camacho reports, "After spending 4½ years in Amsterdam, in November 2013 I relocated to Hong Kong to lead one of AlpInvest's business lines for the Asia-Pacific region. I've been with AlpInvest for seven years, taking up posts in New York, Amsterdam and now Hong Kong. I'm looking forward to meeting more Columbians in Hong Kong, so please reach out!"

Michael Sin advises, "Last year was a great one in real estate and 2014 looks to be even better. I have been having a wonderful time helping people find the apartment of their dreams or meeting their investment goals. If you have [New York City] buying or selling real estate needs, please feel free to reach out at msin@townrealestate.com. I love to help!"



David D. Chait '07, '13 Business and Amanda Mullens '13 Arch. were married on October 20 in Palm Beach, Fla. Left to right: Wayne Ting '06, Kwame Spearman '06, Christina Giaccone '07 Barnard, Subash Iyer '07, Jarod Were '07E, Helam Gebremariam '07, Zulekha Inayat '07E, Michael Glennon '15 Business, Tom Lightcap '07, Mohan Ramaswamy '04E, Martin LaSalle '07, the bride, Marc Tracy '07, Nishant Dixit '07, the groom, Andrew Russeth '07, Arvind Kadaba '07, Neda Navab '08, Jason Chekofsky '11 Business and James Williams '07.

PHOTO: MUNOZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Nick Barr writes, "I'm in the midst of a Ph.D. program in social work at USC, where my research interests include mindfulness-based interventions, emotion regulation and post-traumatic stress disorder, among other things. Other than that I live in Los Angeles with my anxious dog, Winston."

Natasha Shapiro Kovtun announces, "Last year brought me the greatest gift possible, my amazing daughter, Elizabeth Sydney Kovtun. She turned 1 on January 11."

Jon Alf Dyrland-Weaver writes, "I believe this is my first time sending something to the Class Notes section (which is pretty sad, since I knew **Peter Kang** and my dad, John Weaver '49, is a class correspondent). Anyway, here's my update: I have been teaching computer science at Stuyvesant H.S. for six years, doing my best through the years to send good students Columbia's way. Last year I co-founded CSTUY (cstuy.org), a nonprofit focused on providing meaningful computer science education to students who would otherwise be unable to have it. In December, CSTUY was officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization, which will allow us to raise funds so that we can put together weekend and summer programs. On a personal note I got engaged to Jamie Thiessen in October and we are starting to plan our wedding, looking at November 2014."

Jennie (Cho) Magiera reports, "Last year was an exciting one! I am the digital learning coordinator for a network of 29 Chicago public

schools. I also began my blog on Education Week, "Teaching Toward Tomorrow," was on a panel for NBC's *Education Nation* and was interviewed by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on C-SPAN. I was most excited to meet President Barack Obama '83 at the White House to receive a White House Champion of Change award for being a Connected Educator! You can learn more at teachinglikeits 2999.com."

Italome Ohikhuare writes, "I'm in my last semester of the M.F.A. film program at The University of Miami. I'm set to produce and star in a short film I wrote as my thesis, *The Mermaid*. It's about a young girl's loving but volatile relationship with her schizophrenic brother. It's based on my experience living with my brother, who suffers from the illness. My goal is to raise awareness about schizophrenia in general; so much more needs to be done. I'll let everyone know when the film is finished. I would love to share it with my Columbia community!"

Dave Fierman notes, "In 2011 I opened, along with R.J. Supa, a contemporary art gallery on the Lower East Side, Louis B. James (louisbjames.com), representing and exhibiting emerging and established local and international artists. Recently we opened a group show called "Touch the Moon," curated by Kristen Lorello '04 Barnard and featuring the work of Christian Dietkus '13 Arts. Our next show is a three-artist show; one of the artists is Nora Griffin '11 Arts. A small

coterie of CC people attended the opening: **Paul Reyfman**, **Ling Wu Kong**, **Kavior Moon**, **Coco Cioroiu '04**, **David Shapiro '01** and me.

Tanya Franklin shares, "I graduated from UCLA Law with specializations in public interest law and policy and critical race studies and am the inaugural David J. Epstein Education Law Public Service Fellow. I represent students in special education and discipline matters and advocate for school policies that promote restorative justice practices. I also blog about my work at mentalhealthadvocacyservices.wordpress.com."

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Hello, Class of 2006! I hope your 2014 is off to a great start. Here are some updates I received from our classmates around the globe in the final weeks of last year.

Montse Ferrer recently moved from Singapore to Hong Kong to be an associate in litigation and dispute resolution for Clifford Chance, a British international law firm. In early December, she met up with Columbia friends Alex Roberts '05E, Mike Camacho '05, Nishant Dixit '07 and Matias Vammalle '05 GS for a night of reminiscing, singing (*Roar*, *Lion*, *Roar*) and debating (JJ, Carman or the LLC?).

As reported by *The Post and Courier*, **Susannah R. Knox** has joined Nelson Mullins Riley &

Scarborough in Charleston, S.C., as an associate attorney.

Teddy Diefenbach is a game designer at four-man game studio Heart Machine; he successfully raised funding for its game *Hyper Light Drifter* and secured publishing on all major consoles. Teddy is based in Los Angeles and is a founding member of the digital design collaborative workspace Glitch City.

Jeremy Kotin is thrilled to have become the creative director of Tandem Pictures in NYC last year and to continue his creative relationship with director Baz Luhrmann. He is especially proud of the tribute film he edited with Baz for *Vogue* editor-in-chief Anna Wintour this past winter.

Justin Ifill writes, "I had the pleasure of attending the wedding of **Dan Kessler** and Emily Fox last October in California. Many alumni were in attendance, including **Julia Nagle**; Jon Posen '07; Anna (Posner) Harb '06 Barnard and her husband, **Raja Harb**; **Ted Malawer**; and **Blair Bodine**. It was a beautiful wedding and I look forward to more excuses to head to the West Coast. I recently closed on an apartment in Queens and love being a homeowner! Looking forward to the many mini CC 2006 reunions we have throughout the year."

Sam Schon and his wife, Katie, welcomed a daughter, Clare, in October and have been reading to her ever since.

My congrats to all on their professional and personal successes and joys and my continued thanks to everyone who contributes to

Columbia College Alumni on Facebook



Check out the Columbia College Alumni page!

facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.

these columns. I so enjoy hearing from each of you, even if it's just to say hello. Thanks for helping our class stay connected even as life takes us to far, distant and exciting places! Best wishes always.

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I hope this edition of Class Notes finds everyone well! Here are some exciting updates from our classmates.

Katerina Vorotova has turned her passion for travel into a business. In May 2013, she launched Try The World, the first online discovery platform for international products. Starting with curated gourmet subscription boxes from cities such as Paris, Tokyo and Rio, Kat hopes to bring the joy of discovering foreign cultures to hundreds of thousands of people across the globe. The company has received coverage on ABC News, The Huffington Post and NY1, among others. She is graduating with an M.B.A. from the Business School in May.

Rina Haverly writes, “A new bar will be opening in Bushwick, Brooklyn, at the hand of a CC ‘07 alum! The Bad Old Days will model itself on a vintage living room and will welcome both locals and far-flung individuals who want a soft place to land. Please join us in late spring for food and drink and a relaxing evening on our rooftop deck. Updates as to our opening schedule and construction progress will be posted to our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing some friendly faces!”

Yonatan Brafman and Ariela Rosenberg Brafman ‘09 welcome the birth of their daughter, Elleora Zahara. Yonatan writes, “She is already working her way through *The Iliad*! More chewing than reading at this point, though.”

Alex Alvarez shares, “I recently wrote for a satirical, animated news program for Fusion, the new cable network from ABC/Univision. I’m moving to Los Angeles early this year in order to pursue more TV writing work with Fusion while trying to avoid driving for as long as humanly possible. Fortunately, there are plenty of amazing college friends — including my freshman year roommate from Carman 3, **Sasha Silver** — in L.A. to ease the transition. I’ll miss New York every day but am excited for the new opportunities That Other Coast has to offer.”

Josie Swindler Raymond ‘08J has exciting news: “My husband,

Adam, an NYU grad who spent way too much time in Wien, and I welcomed our little girl, Pippy May, in November. Last summer we moved to Oakland so I could start career No. 3 — as an academic affairs director at the nonprofit College Track, which supports under-resourced high school students on their way to college. Before that I taught middle school in Indianapolis with Teach For America and edited websites after graduating from the Journalism School.”

Andrew Russeth, Marc Tracy and **Avi Zenilman** attended Kanye West’s concert in Brooklyn on November 20. They sang along to every word of “New Slaves” and applauded when Kanye argued that Drake had been robbed of an MTV Video Music Award (“Best Male Video,” which was given to Bruno Mars).

Ambalika Pinto Sudan hosted a wonderful, Bay Area CC reunion in September. Among the guests were **Casey Levine, Annie Honart, Lucia Plumb-Reyes** ‘06, **Lukas McGowan, Earnest Sweat, David Schor, Marco Zappacosta, Stephen Wang** ‘06E, **Alana Weiss, Jessica Isokawa** and **Diego Pontoriero** ‘07E.

After graduating with an M.B.A. last spring, **Kelsey Doorey** launched a website, Vow To Be Chic, where people can rent designer bridesmaid dresses. Check it out if you or a friend is planning a wedding!

Love is in the air for many classmates.

I’m particularly thrilled to share that I, **David Chait**, married Amanda Mullens ‘13 Arch. on October 20 in Palm Beach, Fla. Columbia College alumni in attendance included groomsmen **Andrew Russeth, Marc Tracy** and **Avi Zenilman**, as well as Wayne Ting ‘06, Kwame Spearman ‘06, **Subash Iyer, Helam Gebremariam, James Williams, Neda Navab** ‘08, **Arvind Kadaba, Nishant Dixit, Martin LaSalle** and **Tom Lightcap**. Also joining in the celebration were Mohan Ramaswamy ‘04E, Christina Giaccone ‘07 Barnard, **Zulekha Inayat** ‘07E, Jason Chekofsky ‘11 Business, **Jarod Were** ‘07E, Angela Serratore ‘13 Arch., Maureen West ‘14 TC, Michael Glennon ‘15 Business and Alex Ely ‘16L.

Nick Weiler writes, “On June 22, I married my longtime sweetheart, Meaghan Pugh, in Calistoga, Calif. I also defended my thesis last fall and am in the final throes of completing my dissertation for a Ph.D. in neuroscience. I traveled to Washington, D.C., in January for a short fellowship with the National Academies of Science and work at the Marian Koshland Science Museum, and will pursue opportunities in science journalism

and education.”

Giovanni Alvarez and **Christin Moné** were married on October 6 in Brooklyn at The Green Building. They fell in love at Columbia and were happy to celebrate their wedding with friends who have been there from the beginning.

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David Henry Gerson recently produced and acted in a feature film directed by a filmmaker he met at Sundance in 2011. It was shot this past summer on the beautiful island of Martha’s Vineyard (eternalreturnfilm.com). He writes, “We are now editing and raising additional funds for post-production. Having a vision, and then watching over time as hard work brings it together and inspires others, has made this both incredibly challenging and the most gratifying of experiences!”

Zak Ringelstein founded UClass, the global lesson exchange, after teaching in U.S. public schools and international schools for four years. Just a year old, UClass connects teachers and students across 86 countries. Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach For America, sits on the UClass board. Last summer, Zak was invited to the White House to discuss education policy with President Barack Obama ‘83 and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. If you are a teacher, sign up for free at uclass.org.

Caroline McNamara did a 717-mile road trip through California at the end of August. She started at the wedding of **Meg Lundy** in Napa, then drove to the Mojave to visit Rebecca Kelly ‘09 and ended in Los Angeles with **Paul Soto** and **Sam Roberts**. Caroline writes, “It was a great adventure and I feel lucky for all my Columbia friends who made my trip possible!”

Rachel Belt recently finished her degree in humanitarian management and is working in the Haitian Prime Minister’s Office in communications and aid effectiveness.

Calvin Sun is finishing up medical school and hopes he will be an emergency medicine doctor by April! He adds, “I’m also leading an expedition to Antarctica this December and then possibly going direct from the southernmost part of the world to Pakistan for a wedding.”

Christine Han graduated from Boston Law last May and, after traveling in Asia and Europe, started a position with the U.S. Department of Justice based in San Juan. She writes, “I’ll be here for two years and I’d

love to catch up with any Columbians who visit the Caribbean.”

Gabriella Barbosa ‘13L happily reports she is working at a public interest law firm called Public Counsel in Los Angeles.

Maxim Pinkovskiy earned a Ph.D. in economics from MIT and is an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He says that he’s “looking forward to reconnecting with my fellow Columbians.”

Betsy (Remes) Purves was married in Suffolk, England, on August 24; she and her husband were delighted to be joined at the wedding by **Camilla Rockefeller, Emily Low, Taylor Harwin** and Hannah Girer-Rosencrantz ‘08 Barnard. Betsy works in arts fundraising in Washington, D.C., and her husband will move from London to join her in the United States early this year.

Claire Blatz earned a master’s in professional French-English translation from the ITI-RI translation school of the University of Strasbourg (France), and is a professional translator in Strasbourg.

In the wake of the Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda that struck the Philippines in early November, **Mark Clemente** felt he needed to do something that could help. He came up with the idea of having a charity tennis event and exhibition match that would support the Haiyan victims. After sharing the idea with some of his Singapore friends, and through the great support of the Columbia University Club of Singapore, “Hit for Haiyan” was put into motion.

A former captain of the men’s varsity tennis team, Mark’s goal for the event was not only to share his love of tennis but also to bring the Singapore and tennis communities together for a common cause. As this project began to take shape, Mark realized something remarkable. He explains, “The immense support, kindness and generosity that emerged among so many people from different backgrounds joining together to help support the Philippines [was incredible]. From the planning stages to the organizing to coordinating donors and volunteers, it was a proud moment to witness such dedication and resolve by everyone involved in making this event a true success.

The event included speakers including the vice-chairman of Gawad Kalinga, Margo Encarnacion, and Jo-e Villagarcia, founder of #givingissocial. Each speaker shared his or her insight on how Typhoon Haiyan affected so many lives in the Philippines and how the community could help in the rebuilding process.

In the end, Mark writes, “The Hit for Haiyan charity tennis event, held at the prestigious Hollandse



Emory Dabney ‘10 married Jay Dolan on June 8 in Richmond, Va. Front row, left to right: **Lauren Ko** ‘10, **Jennifer Velloza** ‘10, **Becky Gallt** ‘10, **Abby Stone** ‘10, **Sari Ancel** ‘10E, the bride and the groom; and back row, left to right: **Colin Cameron** ‘09, **Ari Zolin** ‘10, **Elijah de la Campa** ‘10, **Eric Sadur** ‘10, **Andrew Balmer** ‘10, **Richard Brown** ‘10, **Daniel Spiro** ‘10, **Alex Covino** ‘10, **Rick Fudge** ‘10, **Ruth Singer, Marc Rios** ‘10, **Alyssa Montalvo, Niket Pandey** ‘10 and **Julia Reingold** ‘10 Barnard.

PHOTO: EAGLE EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

Club, was indeed a great success. Attracting more than 150 kids and adults, the event raised more than \$15,000 in donations. One hundred percent of the proceeds have been donated to GK1 World (Singapore), the official representative of Gawad Kalinga Philippines, to support the rebuilding of the 11.3 million lives affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Through the generous support of SACAC and the Hollandse Club, the tennis fundraiser offered fun tennis games, raffle prizes and a chance for spectators to watch Singapore’s top-ranked tennis players compete in a series of exhibition matches.”

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1**
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If you enjoy reading these Class Notes to learn what your classmates have been doing the past few years, then surely you will enjoy our first Columbia Alumni Reunion Weekend! Mark your calendars: the Class

of 2009 will celebrate its five-year reunion Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, with events planned for on campus and throughout NYC. It’s a not-to-be-missed opportunity to see your friends and catch up on all the adventures you’ve had since graduation. And let’s be honest, we all miss Morningside Heights, from the Low Steps to our favorite spots on Broadway and Amsterdam. For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You can also check out the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

Stephanie Russell-Kraft recently married Zachary Henson in Brooklyn, surrounded by many dear friends from Columbia including maid of honor **Hyun Young Kim**. Stephanie spent the last two years earning a master’s in Berlin and is excited to be back in New York, where she is a reporter for the legal news site Law360.

Camille Williams is moving to Buenos Aires in March on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for nine months. Afterward she will spend a couple of months traveling around South America. Sadly, she will miss our five-year reunion but she welcomes our classmates to let her know if they are in Buenos Aires.

Akash Gupta is taking a year off from medical school at Yale to do an epidemiology fellowship at the STD Prevention Division of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. He finds that his new position creates entertaining conversa-

tions with his conservative Indian relatives. He is also enjoying some newfound free time in which he has been playing capoeira, hiding and losing at trivia night.

Maya Koenig-Dzialowski is at P&S and started her clinical rotations in January. Last summer, she conducted a needs assessment in Kampala, Uganda, for a newly opened adolescent health clinic at Mulago Hospital. She interviewed 120 adolescents using a questionnaire that she developed around medical, psychological, reproductive health and logistical needs. She is working with two pediatricians at school on this project and they have presented preliminary findings at conferences in New York and Uganda. She is in the process of refining her results for publication.

After finishing her M.B.A. last spring at Yale, **Tiffany Dockery** moved to Seattle to work for Amazon as a senior product manager. By day, she works on a classified product for Amazon (no, not the drones) and by night and on weekends, she is falling in love with the culinary delights of Seattle and enjoying the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. She also completed her first half-marathon in November in Philadelphia and is looking forward to training for her first full marathon this spring.

Jenny Lam was recently in Miami, where she attended Art Basel and what seemed like a million parallel fairs. She tried her best not

to get into too much trouble. She is now back in Chicago. The Class of 2009 can follow her adventures at her blog, artistsonthelam.blogspot.com, or on twitter, twitter.com/thejennylam.

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The Class of 2010 has many great updates to share. I’ll dive right in: **Morgan Parker**’s first book of poetry, *Other People’s Comfort Keeps Me Up At Night*, was selected by poet Eileen Myles for the 2013 Gatewood Prize. Morgan earned an M.F.A. in poetry from NYU in 2012 and her work has been featured or is forthcoming in numerous publications, including *Tin House*, *Painted Bride Quarterly* and the anthology *Why I Am Not A Painter*. In 2013, she was a finalist for The Poetry Project’s Emergence-Surface-Be Fellowship. A Cave Canem fellow, Morgan lives with her dog, Braeburn, in Brooklyn, where she is education director at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts. See recent publications and upcoming reading dates at morgan-parker.com.

Jordan Hirsch writes, “A few items of note! I’m getting married on June 22 to Samara Jaffe ‘13 Barnard, and I hope many friends from Columbia and Barnard will be in attendance. I’m in my second

year at Yale Law and have the privilege of visiting alma mater every so often as a fellow at the Columbia Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies.”

Lauren “Casey” Hayes-Deats writes, “I am still adjusting to the terms ‘husband’ and ‘wife’ after marrying Caleb Hayes-Deats ’11L on August 24. It was a beautiful, perfect day on a farm in West Virginia, and lots of Columbians were in attendance. Alice Sturm ’10 was a bridesmaid and Jacob Lasser ’12 sang during the ceremony. After the wedding, Caleb and I honeymooned in France, where I discovered that there is a limit to the number of croissants that I can consume.

“[As I write,] having returned to New York, I am now working to produce the inaugural production of The Cake Shop Theater Company, which I co-founded with Katie Lupica ’11. Our New York premiere of Ferdinand Bruckner’s *Pains of Youth* in a new version by Martin Crimp was scheduled to open in February.”

Sue Yang reports, “I am at Harvard Business School with Katie Omstead ’10, Edward Kim ’10 and Otto Magdanz ’10!”

Lauren Patrick is a second-year medical student at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Last summer she won a grant sponsored by the American Society of Hematology to conduct research and recently presented her findings in a presentation and poster session at the national conference in New Orleans.

Gabriella Ripoll writes, “I graduated from NYU Law last May, passed the Florida bar and work in a boutique general practice law firm, Arrufat Gracia, in Times

Square. [As I write I am] preparing to take the New York Bar in February. Shana Knizhnik ’10 and I were in the *NYU Law Revue* show this past spring.”

Anne Reilly writes, “I graduated from Fordham Law in May 2013 and am a federal law clerk for the Hon. William J. Zloch in the Southern District of Florida.”

Jill Larson became engaged to David Byeff on November 29. Jill is the director of special projects and strategy at Sakar International, a consumer electronics manufacturer, and David is an attorney at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. They are planning a summer 2014 wedding.

Finally, **Chris Yim** shares his quarterly musings: “Is there anyone out there with some good advice about how to convince a girlfriend who lives in New York to make her way out west to San Francisco? I love New York and all, don’t get me wrong, but I’ve had a sip of the California Kool-Aid and am here for the time being. I’ll give you some pros and cons.

“Pros: 1. It’s cheaper to live here. You can spend a lot of money on

West and Miss Kim Kardashian at AT&T Park in the fall. Getting into the small get-together through a connection in tech, I had the chance to raise a glass to the happy couple and say a brief toast in their honor about the importance of commitment, dedication and unconditional love.

“My son, Jackson Carman (named after the dorm), is starting to walk, and it’s a miracle witnessing him via FaceTime every day. Love is kind, love is patient.”

“I close my update with this: Please follow me on instagram@fatboyyim.”

Tiffany Jung followed up Chris’ note by saying, “I recently joined Chris Yim’s book club, which has been life-changing. We read novels that Chris has written.”

Ting Ting Guo writes, “After spending the past 1½ years as an expat in China, I’m excited to share that I’ll be back on campus in August to start at the Business School (with a few CC ’10 and CC ’11 classmates!). Leading up to school, I’ve chosen to leave my job — I previously worked at a venture capital

the hands of 2011 alumni world-wide.

Since graduation, Sean and Nuriel have been trying to keep themselves busy.

In June 2011, Sean became part of the Teach For America 2011 Colorado Corps, where he was a special education teacher in a Denver middle school. During that time, Sean’s students achieved the second-highest improvement in standardized test scores of all special education students in the city. While teaching, Sean earned a master’s in curriculum and instruction from Colorado. After finishing the corps in May 2013, he joined the founding administrative team for Academy 360, a health-and-wellness elementary school in Denver’s Far Northeast community. As the student services coordinator, he supports teachers and service providers, manages education programs for students with special needs, carries out the school discipline process and analyzes academic and behavioral data. In June, Sean will move to Philadelphia to start a one-year, post-baccalaureate pre-medical program at Bryn Mawr as he pursues a career as a physician.

Nuriel is back home in California in his second year of an M.D./M.P.P. program at Stanford. He spends most of his time somewhat successfully trying not to fail out, and his research interests are currently in surgical outcomes and in patient-physician (or surrogate-physician) communication. He is a voting member of both the American Medical Association and California Medical Association Houses of Delegates. Two years ago, Nuriel co-founded The Rap Insider — the authoritative source for questionably reliable entertainment news — with **Jonathan Tanners**, **Dhruv Vasishtha** and **Rajib Mitra ’11E**, and TRI continues to be his main distraction outside of school. He is also working on launching The Prognosis, a healthcare issues blog featuring the voices of young leaders, with Jason Han ’12.

With all of that self-aggrandizement out of the way, we’re ready to hear about the cool things that you are doing! Send your updates our way via email, text, Facebook, carrier pigeon, *et cetera*, *et cetera*! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

The notes below were received by CCT before Nuriel and Sean helmed the column:

Zila Acosta writes, “This past Christmas break, **Brian Grimes** and I got engaged. We met in Lit Hum and he proposed on College Walk among the lights.”

News also has reached CCT of several CC ’11 weddings.



Nicole Catá ’11 and Benjamin Theodore were married on June 22 in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. Left to right: Hilary Baboukis ’11; George Escandon ’11; Sara Weaver ’12 Barnard; Stephanie Tarras ’10 Barnard; Laura Benton ’11 Barnard; Ivy Fortmeyer ’11; James Caldarise ’13; Camille Hutt ’11; Amanda Wild ’11E; Jon Jager ’11 GS, ’11 JTS; Sarah Sechan ’11 GS, ’11 JTS; Daniel Miranda ’10E; Nancy Huemer ’10 Barnard; Louise Beck; Paul Lerner; Brian Wong ’11E; Jose Delgado ’12; Melissa Caffrey ’11; Kristin Berry ’11; Adina Levin ’11; Janine Balekdjian ’13; Neeraj Borle ’11; Rebecca Greenstein ’10 Barnard and Devon Grandy.

PHOTO: ALAN WEISS

Nicole Catá married her high school sweetheart, Ben Theodore, on June 22 at the River View in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. The Jewish ceremony took place at sunset in a setting overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades. The couple live in Washington, D.C., where Nicole is a joint degree candidate at The George Washington University Law School and the Elliott School of International Affairs. She is scheduled to graduate with her J.D. and M.A. in May 2015. She is a legal fellow for the International Human Rights Clinic at the Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics and this June will be a summer law clerk in the New York office of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, an immigration law firm. Ben works on teacher retention and recognition at DC Public Schools.

Michal Cohen shared news of the wedding of **Oren Benzaquen** and Emily Berkower ’12 Barnard, which took place in “a beautiful ceremony in New York on January 26. Their wedding celebration was a wonderful opportunity for friends from Columbia to reconnect and reminisce about their years on campus. In attendance were many College alumni, including **Michal Cohen**, **Gilad Bendheim**, **Jordan Katz**, **Daniel Swartz**, **Miriam Wiseman**, Jonathan Berliner ’09, Jonathan

Feld ’10, Eric Bressman ’10, Jacob Hartman ’10, Boaz Cohen ’10, Ariel Schaap ’12, Michael Abramson ’13, Tzipora Quint ’13, Daniel Boiarsky ’13 and many others.

“The couple had been dating since college and everyone had a blast seeing them tie the knot.”

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I continue to be amazed by the updates I receive from our classmates.

Patrick Blute received rave reviews on BuzzFeed and in *Time* and *Vanity Fair* for his production, *SPEARS: The Gospel According to Britney*, which showed at the Snapple Theater in midtown Manhattan on November 7.

Michael W. Hannon writes, “Taking our Columbia motto to heart (*In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen*), this summer I’ll be entering a Catholic monastery in the California desert (stmichaelsabbey.com). I could not be more grateful to my Columbia professors and classmates for my time in Morningside Heights and for the — perhaps largely unintentional — preparation you provided for religious life. I’ll be praying for you

all, and for the entire school community. Thank you and God bless you always. Roar, lion, roar!”

Paul Hsiao, **Jennifer Ong**, **Diane Wang** and **Michael Chan ’12E** say farewell and good luck to **Chris Cheung** as he shifts within Unilever to its Shanghai division.

Paul thanks **Emily Ahn** for hosting him for Thanksgiving in Massachusetts. He was looking forward to spending the New Year in Hong Kong with Columbia and Hong Kong Students and Scholars Society alumni, including **Andrea Mui** and **Justin Cheung ’12E**.

Emily Kwong dropped a note from Fairfield, N.Y.: “Since Columbia, I’ve continued to fall head over heels for radio. After graduating I taught youth media in India and then returned to the United States to study documentary [making] in Maine. I am splitting my time between two radio internships — with StoryCorps and Radio Rookies — making pennies and living with my parents (this is the life of a wannabe producer, I’m told).”

Yin Yin Lu is at Oxford pursuing a master’s in English language. She writes, “My dissertation will be on one of the most fascinating linguistic phenomena in the 21st century: the hashtag. But this is just the beginning: my objective is to write a book on the subject! Outside of my studies, I’ve been participat-

ing in an array of extracurricular activities, including chapel choir, a hand press printing workshop, a web coding course, an innovation and entrepreneurship workshop, ‘Building a Business’ lectures at the business school and a women’s leadership development program. I am still involved with 10 Speed Labs as a part-time contractor. It’s a bit too much, really, but this is the eclectic and relentless lifestyle that I am used to!”

Aditya Mukerjee, who began pursuing a master’s in computer science with the Cornell NYC Tech program this past fall, is taking a leave of absence in the spring semester to participate in the Blueprint Health accelerator for Boardrounds, a startup he cofounded with **Benjamin Jack ’07E**. Aditya shares, “Boardrounds reduces emergency room readmissions by improving communication among inpatient and outpatient physicians and offering dynamic incentives for scheduling timely post-discharge follow-up care. Benji and I are looking forward to building Boardrounds this spring!”

Congratulations are in order for **Amanda Schiff ’14 TC** and Scott Bromberg, who were married on June 30 in Roslyn, N.Y. A number of Columbians attended the beautiful ceremony.

Tarini Shrikhande sent an up-

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date from Toronto: “Not unlike the blockbuster hit *The Hangover*, Tarini Shrikhande is unsure how she came to be living in Mayor Rob Ford’s backyard. Yes, alums, it’s true. This unwilling expat is currently living the dream: advertising to Canucks. What she misses desperately about New York (other than good ramen and friends — yes, in that order) are her fellow Columbians. Where are all you snow-loving, poutine-eating, hockey-playing CC and SEAS people? Get at me. I’ll buy the first round of drinks.”

Derek Turner continues to enjoy life in Michigan. He writes, “Dispatch from Detroit: As a Venture For America fellow, along with the unstoppable **Todd Nelson**, I’m continuing my contribution to the quest to get the city back on its feet. But with only a few months to go in the fellowship, life is starting to take on the exciting yet intimidating openness that we all felt as graduation approached. While the next step is unclear, I have learned a lot in the time I’ve been here.

“This city is a special place. Take a trip here and I’ll introduce you to some of the people who are doing their part to overcome a bankruptcy, to the startups trying to fuel economic growth and to the community organizations that take on responsibilities that are usually left to municipal authorities.

“Detroit has something for everyone. For libertarians: public sector failure. For conservatives: corrupt unions. For liberals: self-interested corporations. For progressives: both white flight and gentrification. Come one, come all! “Roar, lion, roar — wherever you may be. Miss you, Class of 2012.”

Miyako Yerick will graduate in May with a master’s in global policy studies from the University of Texas. She also made the 2013 U.S. national Taekwondo team and represented the United States

in the 8th World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in Bali in November. She and her team made it to the finals and finished eighth in the world.

So impressive, 2012. Happy spring and keep in touch!

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The start of spring brings back memories of sunny days on South Lawn and the joys of second-semester senioritis. It has been almost a year since graduation and I hope this note finds you deep

Miyako Yerick ’12 made the 2013 U.S. national Taekwondo team and represented the United States in the 8th World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in Bali in November.

in the throes of new interests and adventures. Our class has taken full advantage of its Columbia education, with many members achieving great things around the globe. Here are some of their updates:

James Caldalise wrapped up his first semester in Austria, where he has been teaching English as a language assistant at a local school. Living in a small, rural town called Tyrol, he has found enjoyment working with local teenagers, both in and out of the classroom, on developing their conversational English skills. In his free time, James also has been working on his own cultural education, focusing on learning the local Tyrollean dialect. He has taken to his environment, hiking in the Alps and experiencing all that the alpine culture has to offer. He made a short visit home to the United States for the holidays before returning to Austria for a second semester.

Katie Bentivoglio also has been involved in education overseas. Last August she moved to Cairo, Egypt, to work at the American University in Cairo with its president, Lisa Anderson ’76 SIPA, ’81 GSAS. During college, Katie studied modern standard Arabic for four years, including three summers studying in Tunisia and Morocco through the Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship. Katie first traveled to Egypt during summer 2012, when she interned at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and witnessed Egypt’s historic presidential elections. She subsequently parlayed her passion

for Egyptian politics into a senior thesis on the sharia and legislative authority in the 2012 Egyptian constitution. Katie could not be happier to be back in Egypt, she says, this time on the educational side working with a Columbia graduate. In her spare time, she enjoys brushing up on her knowledge of the Egyptian dialect by wandering the streets of the city.

Continuing with the international trend, **Madhavan Somanathan** has moved to France to pursue the study of classical guitar. He is studying the instrument under Professor Judicael Perroy at the Conservatoire d’Aubervilliers. With this education he plans to work toward a performance career.

Tyler Simpson also has had the opportunity to travel internationally,

through her job as an associate at the NBA. Last July, Tyler began working in a rotational program that has her moving from department to department within league headquarters, learning about different aspects of the business. She has worked in the player development department and human resources, and in a position as the ambassador at the 2013 NBA Global Games, during which she traveled to Manila and Taipei. There, she met coaches and team executives from the Indiana Pacers and the Houston Rockets. In January, Tyler transitioned to the global merchandising group.

Tyler has been fostering her passion for basketball outside of her career as well, as a volunteer for the youth basketball program New Heights in Harlem. She helps coach basketball teams for girls in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

In addition to having a full-time job as an IT research analyst in New York, **Takeshi Kaji** volunteers as a social media coordinator for the Icelandic organization Arctic Circle. This past October he took a weekend off to attend its annual assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland, where he live-tweeted and updated the organization’s Facebook page during the event. He observed conversations and debates among major figures in Arctic public policy, business and science.

He also met Kuupik Kleist, the former prime minister of Greenland, and Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, the president of Iceland, as well as Google’s Eric Schmidt, during a panel discussion. Although he

only spent 50 hours in Reykjavik, Takeshi looks forward to attending the conference next year and hopes that next time he will be able to accept his invitation to dinner at Bessataoir, the residence of the Icelandic president.

Devyn Tyler played the role of Margaret in the final scene of Steve McQueen’s newest film, *12 Years a Slave*. The film is sparking many conversations about race in the United States, and Devyn says she is excited to have had the opportunity to bring arts and academics together in discussion. She auditioned for this role during her time at Columbia. Of the films that she has been in, she says this is her favorite because it engaged her “not only as an artist but also as a scholar.”

Devyn has been acting professionally in New Orleans since childhood but took a break while at Columbia so that she could focus on academics. She was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow with research interests in the placement of New Orleans in the Francophone diaspora and the city’s free people of color. Her goal is to complete a Ph.D. in French and Francophone studies. In the near future, Devyn plans to act professionally again and hopes to be involved in more projects that allow her to interact with history and art. Her research at Columbia supplements her work as an actress, and she says she’s excited to see the possibilities for her career now that she has come to this realization. [Editor’s note: See “Senior Snapshots” in the Summer 2013 issue.]

Constance Boozer is also indulging her academic passions. She recently moved to Hyde Park and began a two-year program at Chicago, where she will pursue a master’s in public policy with a focus on political institutions and urban policy. The material has been manageable for her so far, and she says her biggest challenge is surviving the winter in the Midwest! Constance continues, “Another CPR has entered my life. This time it’s not the *Columbia Political Review* but rather the *Chicago Policy Review*, where I am the senior editor on urban affairs. If I’m not in the computer lab trying to figure out why my STATA code doesn’t work, I’m either at an Institute of Politics event or uptown exploring Chicago.”

Samantha Warren sent an exciting update about her rowing life. She writes, “After graduation I moved to Princeton, N.J., and began training for the World Rowing Under 23 Championships, which were held in Linz, Austria, last summer. After racing and traveling around Europe for a couple of weeks I flew home and got a call from the Olym-



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pic rowing coach inviting me to train at the Elite Rowing Center in Princeton. After a couple of months of a trial period in the fall and my second-place finish in the single at the East Coast speed orders in November, I was invited to stay full-time. This training center is home to Olympians, Olympic medalists and world record holders. As there are only about 25 women training at the center, it is a huge honor to be considered, let alone invited, to be here. The level of excellence of these women is both inspiring and intimidating; I am awestruck on a daily basis by the quality of the athletes. Some women have been to two and even three Olympics, and just this past summer the women’s eight broke the world record. It’s exciting to be a part of all this.

“With two or three practices a day, this training is a full-time job. My daily practices combine on-the-water training, weight lifting and cross-training on an erg, some sessions lasting up to about 100

minutes of work. The training is the hardest I have ever done and leaves me at a level of exhaustion I didn’t think was possible. While the training is grueling it is easier because of my remarkable teammates. The women at the center are from schools all over the country and from all different backgrounds yet we train every day as one team with one goal — to win gold medals at the Olympics.

“At Columbia I rowed in the varsity eight for four years and was a two-time captain. I am so grateful to be part of the Columbia athletics family and I hope to one day represent the United States and Columbia at the Olympics. Go Lions!”

For a final update, I congratulate **Allison Lieblein ’13E** and **Will Kender** on their recent marriage! Allison and Will met at Columbia and were married on October 12 in Dana Point, Calif. More than 20 Columbia grads attended the wedding.



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**Deadline for Summer 2014 issue:
Friday, April 25, 2014**

Answers to Varsity Show Quiz on inside back cover

1. *Joan of Arc*
2. Terrence McNally ’60 (sidelight: music and lyrics for that VShow were by Ed Kleban ’59, Tony-winning lyricist of *A Chorus Line*)
3. Herman Mankiewicz (Class of 1917)
4. Dick Hyman ’48
5. The pony ballet
6. Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS
7. Richard Rodgers ’23, Lorenz Hart (Class of 1918J) and Oscar Hammerstein II (Class of 1916)
8. False. For many years the Varsity Show was staged in midtown, in theaters and hotels including the Waldorf=Astoria.
9. Sid Luckman ’39
10. I.A.L. Diamond ’41 wrote four Varsity Shows, 1938–41.

Bonus: Women first appeared in the Varsity Show in 1936 but adverse audience reaction led the show to return to male-only status until 1956, when women were reintroduced to the cast.

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LAST LOOK



THE CAST OF THE 120TH VARSITY SHOW HAMS IT UP DURING A PROMOTIONAL PHOTO SHOOT.

PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

VARSITY SHOW QUIZ

How well do you know the history of one of Columbia's great traditions?

1. What was the name of the first Varsity Show, which was staged in 1894?
2. This four-time Tony winner wrote 1960's *A Little Bit Different*. Name him.
3. The writer of 1916's *The Peace Pirates* collaborated with Orson Welles on the Oscar-winning screenplay for *Citizen Kane*. Name him.
4. *Dead to Rights*, performed in 1947, was composed by what noted jazz pianist?
5. When the College was all-male, one of the regular features of the Varsity Show was a chorus line of students in women's outfits and makeup. What was this VShow staple called?
6. The writer of 1928's *Zuleika* achieved fame as an educator and author. Name him.
7. Three Broadway legends collaborated on 1920's *Fly With Me*. Name them.
8. True or false: The Varsity Show always has been staged on the Columbia campus.
9. What Hall of Fame quarterback, wearing suit in photo above and escorting former Columbia football captain John Bateman '37, '38 GSAS, appeared in 1939's *Fair Enough*?
10. Only one man has written four consecutive Varsity Shows by himself. He later teamed with Billy Wilder to pen screenplays for classics such as *Some Like It Hot*, *Fortune Cookie*, *Irma la Deuce* and *The Apartment*. Name him.

Bonus: When did women first appear in the Varsity Show?

Answers on page 95.

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