

# Columbia College

Spring 2015

TODAY 



Congratulations, Class of 2015!





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## FEATURES

# Class Day Speakers

*How well do you know the distinguished speakers from recent Class Day ceremonies?*

1. This U.S. Senator and Columbia parent was the most recent keynote speaker (2006) who was not a College alumnus/a.
  2. Name the 2005 speaker who owns four Super Bowl championship rings.
  3. He twice won Tony Awards for Best Lead Actor in a Play, in 1999 for *Death of a Salesman* and in 2003 for *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and was the speaker in 2000.
  4. Name the former NAACP president who spoke in 2010.
  5. The 2009 speaker served as U.S. attorney general from 2009 to 2015.
  6. This playwright won a Pulitzer Prize and two Tony Awards for *Angels in America* and spoke in 2004.
  7. A book author as well as a senior contributor for ABC News' *Good Morning America*, this alumna was White House correspondent for rival network NBC when she spoke in 1999.
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  9. A Law School alumnus, this 2002 speaker was the National Basketball Association commissioner from 1984 to 2014.
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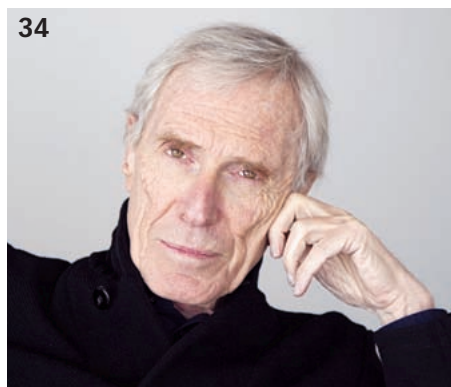
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## MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

# Success Can Come in Unpredictable Ways

**W**hen Andrew Marlowe '88, a recipient of a 2015 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, spoke at the John Jay Awards Dinner in March, he told the audience that while his friends at the College had been pre-law and pre-med, he was “pre-unemployment” — an English literature major who wanted to tell stories. He didn't know what that would mean for his bank account. He moved to Hollywood and took a chance.

Marlowe went on to write the screenplays for *Air Force One*, *Hollow Man* and *End of Days*, and to be the longtime executive producer and a writer on the hit ABC series *Castle*, which has won a People's Choice Award, a PRISM Award, a Shorty Award, an Emmy Award and a Golden Reel Award. Marlowe was one of five alumni to receive a 2015 John Jay Award, along with Kyra Tirana Barry '87; Abigail Black Elbaum '92, BUS'94; Ira Katznelson '66; and Nicholas P. Leone '88. All found success in unique and sometimes unpredictable ways.

I thought about the John Jay Award recipients in May as I watched alumni carrying their class banners in the annual Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day, ushering members of the Class of 2015 as they transition to former students. Many of these 1,162 graduates already have jobs lined up, or plan to go on to graduate or professional school in the fall. Others, like Marlowe, don't have a clear idea where they're headed. I told them in my Class Day speech that, as our 47,500-plus alumni can show them, the path beyond College Walk may be straightforward or circuitous or surprising, but I have no doubt that it will lead to success.

As I've written in this magazine, alumni are models for our current students, helping them to envision their futures, to recognize that life is not linear and to understand that accom-

plishment can happen even in the face of obstacles. The alumni featured in CCT this month, including Marlowe, represent this. They show how the same Core Curriculum, the same education, can lead to many different careers — to being a bariatric surgeon who helps former pro athletes, to being a member of a vintage folk revival group or to being the executive producer of PBS' *NewsHour*. They also show how one can achieve success following tragedy, as in the case of Phil Satow '63, a successful entrepreneur and corporate executive who, with his wife, Donna Satow GS'65, founded a leading charity committed to promoting emotional well-being and preventing substance abuse and suicide among college students. The Satows' remarkable story is one that can inspire all of us.

One of the College's goals is for each of you to be involved in the Columbia College Alumni Association, and one way to do so is to share your stories and experiences with students. You can interview prospective students through the Alumni Representative Committee, conduct mock interviews through the Center for Career Education, or serve as a mentor, adviser or career advocate in so many other ways. You can read about how to get involved on the new Columbia College Alumni Association website: [college.columbia.edu/alumni/serve/students](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/serve/students).

I hope you will consider returning to campus for the Alumni Procession at Convocation in late August, or the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day next May, to help our incoming students or graduating seniors move to the next phase of their lives.



President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini offer congratulations to members of the Class of 2015.  
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO



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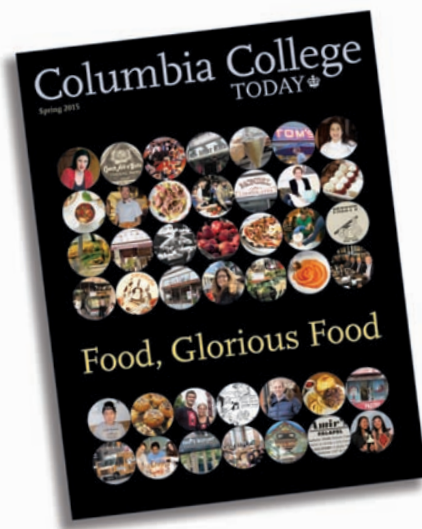
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# Letters to the Editor



## Food, Glorious Food

The food issue of *CCT* [Spring 2015] was absolutely magnificent — and I ate up every word. (Bad pun, great magazine.)

Thanks so much. *CCT* is world-class.

David Andrusia '78  
LOS ANGELES

You put together some really great Morningside eating reminiscences ["So Where Do You Want To Eat?", Spring 2015], which brought back many memories indeed.

My favorite daily eatery for dinner was the Campus Grill on Amsterdam for a reliable budget meal, and it was always packed. It was called by the un-PC abbreviation of "the Japanese" — which we can't repeat these days — but it was great. It was run by Toru, always pleasant, and his somewhat more irascible sidekick grillman, Tony, plus one or two other Japanese compatriots. And it was always crowded, with several stools and four booths in back.

A regular dinner had a plate of meat/chicken, two veggies and side of bread/toast, all for (I think) around 90 cents. There were abbreviations for everything

*CCT* welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please direct letters for publication "TO THE EDITOR" via mail or online: college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus.

to speed things up: A veal cutlet was, naturally, a VC. Veggies were numbers: 1=mashed; 2=French fries, on through 3, 4 and 5 which were (unsure of the order) peas, string beans and corn. Bread was lettered: A=white, B=wheat and C=rye. Having it toasted was "down." So if you shouted upon entering, "Gimme a VC, 2, 5, C down," it would appear in a few minutes! Some desserts were cryptic, too. A "Torpedo" was strawberry ice cream with chocolate sauce. Then came the "Reverse Torpedo," which was (of course) chocolate ice cream with strawberries on top. Ah, youth!

Remember Riker's cafeteria on Broadway? Crossroads of all the schools for coffee and a toasted English.

Loved The West End, and friends here in the Boston area who are from that era or a little later recall the large oval bar and the camaraderie, plus the budget beers and pretty good food. Instructors and small organizations had ad hoc meetings there. Last year I found a place of the same name in Midtown, on Sixth Avenue.

Ta-Kome — of course! Great for a late-night sub (my Boston later life calls them subs, not heroes, which they were). I still crave the knockwurst sub, 55 years later! When at John Jay Hall on a late evening, the tall wrought iron gates to West 114th Street were locked, so to avoid the long walk up to West 116th and Broadway, we climbed the high spiky fence and got to Ta-Kome just in time.

The Hungarian Green Tree Restaurant on Amsterdam was a date night place, too, showing your elevated Continental awareness. And a fine kosher deli somewhere on Broadway toward West 107th introduced me to both Dr. Brown's Cel-Ray tonic (which I still love), pastrami on rye and nonsense middle-aged waiters who would correct your choices; example: I, a goy, once asked for a corned beef sandwich on rye with mayo (!).

Anyway, thank you for your terrific article, and keep up the great work!

Steve Kokkins '62, SEAS'63  
MARION, MASS.

Thank you for the culinary trip down memory lane ["Food, Glorious Food," Spring 2015]. A favorite restaurant from my time at Columbia was the Hungarian Green Tree Restaurant at the corner of West 111th Street and Amsterdam. The menu included

goulash, stuffed cabbage and (if I remember right) brains with eggs. My friend Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80 and I got a chuckle out of the fact that a menu choice was "two eggs and style," which we ordered thinking that "style" was some little-known Hungarian specialty. We quickly learned that, corrected for the typo, the line would have read "two eggs any style."

On another note, I was lucky enough to take Art Humanities with the late David Rosand '59, GSAS'65 — great course, superb teacher ["Obituaries," Winter 2014–15 issue].

David Lehman '70, GSAS'78  
NEW YORK CITY

I loved the "Food, Glorious Food" issue [Spring 2015]. Please, I want some more?

Two other places deserved mention, especially for those who lived south of West 110th Street. La Rosita De Broadway, a funky little Cuban restaurant on West 108th Street, had a big helping of yellow rice and black beans for a couple of bucks — unbeatable value for impoverished students. Szechuan West, on West 102nd, had cold sesame noodles that were to die for. They delivered hundreds, if not thousands, of orders to Cannon's Bar. My mouth is watering just thinking about them.

Tim Clune '80  
RHEINECK, SWITZERLAND

Though the end of March had not yet brought spring to New York, your Spring 2015 issue tickled my nostalgia for days long gone by, when my wife and I used to enjoy local dinners until she left her lab at Chandler Hall to post-doc at P&S in January 1951. Tasty and inexpensive dinners during our early engaged and married years, from about the 1946 Spring term until then, were found at the Morningside Tea Room on its eponymous Drive near West 118th Street, for 99 cents each; a large bowl of spaghetti drowned in thick meat sauce nourished one for 65 cents at the University Bar and Grill on Broadway near West 112th Street; the Great Shanghai across Broadway charmed us with pressed duck with chopped walnuts at a very low price that I cannot recall, but matchless in its flavor and never since encountered anywhere; and in a pinch there was always Chock Full o' Nuts for a quick, tasty, cheap bite in a hurry. For a student on the GI Bill, married to a graduate student on scholarship plus, in her research years, a teaching assistantship, these were lifesavers.

Those are among my fondest memories of Columbia at the time, when cooking time at home was brief and commuting consumed more time than one liked. And I needn't remind you about the price of a glass of beer or a cup of coffee in those days. They were wonderful days indeed; thanks for stirring the memories!

Joe Russell '49, LAW'52  
NEW YORK CITY



IMAGES: COURTESY COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR DIGITAL ARCHIVES

I read the article "So Where Do You Want to Eat?" in the Spring 2015 issue with a combination of nostalgia and righteous indignation. Nostalgia because it brought back so many fond memories of my favorite regular eateries during my Columbia years — The Gold Rail, Ta-Kome, Forlini's, Symposium, Moon Palace and, as a native New Yorker habituated to its charms, Chock Full o' Nuts. As Alex Sachare '71 noted, Butler Terrace [as it was known] was reserved for occasions when my parents were picking up the tab, usually to meet a new girlfriend of mine.

But I was crestfallen to see three of my favorites overlooked, as they offered some of the best food in the neighborhood. First was the Inner Sunset, an organic macrobiotic restaurant on West 113th Street that evoked a weekend on a Vermont commune. Every meal involved a pot of weak green tea, brown rice and a mass of grains and vegetables. It was always an adventure to venture into this dimly lit, exotic retreat, but it usually took forever

to get one's check, as the entire staff often gathered in the back for prolonged chanting and meditation. I believe it opened in 1969, spread its yin and yang hither and yon, and closed within a year.

Second was the Ideal, an excellent Cuban diner which opened on Broadway at West 109th Street in 1970, offering hearty and tasty Cuban homestyle cooking and was a beachhead on the UWS as Cuban restaurants started spreading north from Midtown.

But third was probably my all-time favorite, Oro de Pavo Real (the Golden Peacock), which opened on Broadway between West 110th and 111th Streets around 1971. It served 'comida criolla' (Creole cuisine), a combination of Cuban and Chinese dishes, brought to the United States by the many Chinese who'd settled in Cuba and then immigrated to New York when Castro came to power. Yes, it was a greasy spoon, but the food was robust and savory, and it was in the vanguard of such restaurants that soon blanketed the UWS and the rest of the city. The restaurant is long gone, but it's immortalized in the 1974 Paul Mazursky-Art Carney film *Harry and Tonto* (much of which was shot around the Columbia neighborhood) in a key scene in which Carney contemplates his future while sitting on a bench in the middle of Broadway.

Peter Levitan '72, LAW'84  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIF.

"So Where Do You Want To Eat?" [Spring 2015] brought back memories of the old and sadly now gone The West End, featuring a counter sandwich man who wielded a scarily fast-moving knife.

My favorite was the earlier version of V&T on Amsterdam between West 113th and 114th. "Big George" moved in the crowded space with amazing speed, delivering pizzas deftly with good banter, and talked many of us into having his favorite dessert — hot apple pie Parmesan, a big improvement on New England's cold apple pie with Cheddar!

The fanciest restaurant with the best food (other than the expensive Butler Terrace) was the predecessor of the Greek restaurant Symposium, but in the '50s and '60s it was named Symphony, and wasn't Greek.

Martin S. Kaplan '61  
NEW YORK CITY

Let me add a small memory to your panoply of Columbia dining spots of yore: Aki



Dining Room, a Japanese American-run restaurant on West 119th Street, between Amsterdam and Morningside. Aki's claim to fame was dinner for less than a dollar (99 cents, actually). The object was to stay under a dollar so as to avoid the New York City restaurant tax, a relic of the Great Depression when it was felt that if you could afford a dinner that cost a dollar or more then you could afford to pay tax.

Cost increases being the way of the world, before I graduated the Aki dinner no longer included a scoop of ice cream, thus keeping the price still under a dollar.

Paul S. Frommer '57  
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

The tiny Campus Dining Room, or CDR, off Amsterdam on West 119th Street, merits only half a sentence in the article, yet was the kitchen and social center of choice for me and other residents of the long-gone Columbia-owned apartment building at 400 W. 118th St. Among its many attractions, aside from large portions of chili served over rice, were inexpensive draft beer, the decent likelihood of running into and chatting with comedian George Carlin sitting at the small bar and the first Pac-Man machine I ever saw. I wish my memories of some classes was as vivid.

Mark Turco '73  
MCLEAN, VA.

Jack Greenberg '45, LAW'48's cookbook, *Dean Cuisine: or The Liberated Man's Guide to Fine Cooking*, published in 1989 during his tenure as dean of the College, may mark the beginning of the College's preeminence in the world of food.

Deborah M. Greenberg LAW'57  
NEW YORK CITY

(Editor's note: The author is the wife of former Dean Jack Greenberg '45, LAW'48.)

Your food issue [Spring 2015] brought back wonderful memories of Jupiter-sized slices at Koronet Pizza and world-class dumpings at the now-defunct Shanghai Café.

But no food discussion should lack an examination of those who go hungry. Nationwide, 49 million Americans — including 16 million American children — live in food-insecure households, unable to afford enough food.

Even though New York City now has 53 billionaires, with a combined net worth of about \$180 billion, fully 1.4 million city residents — and nearly half a million children — suffer from food insecurity. Because expenses outstrip wages for many, one in six New Yorkers, and one in four children,

struggle against hunger. Despite the gentrification in Morningside Heights, there are still 15 soup kitchens and food pantries in the 10027 ZIP code alone, but most don't have enough resources to meet the immense need.

Meanwhile, federal cuts enacted by the President and Congress recently reduced the average household SNAP (food stamps) benefit in New York City from the paltry level of \$1.70 per meal to an even smaller \$1.60 per meal. Due to that reduction, as well as a declining caseload, low-income New York City residents received an estimated \$426 million less in federal SNAP funding in 2014 than in 2013.

The most heartbreaking fact about hunger in New York and America is that it's entirely preventable by creating more jobs, raising wages and ensuring an adequate safety net. While our nation knows exactly how to end it, we are doing precisely the opposite.

Joel Berg '86  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

(Editor's note: The author is the executive director of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger.)

To read more food letters, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/ect](http://college.columbia.edu/ect).

### Roar, Lion, Roar

I enjoyed the letter from CCAA President Douglas R. Wolf '88 [Spring 2015] on the Columbia lion. This reminds me of a portrait by Michael De Santis in the early 1930s of chemistry professor Henry C. Sherman, who was an expert in food and nutrition. As you can see in this photo, a striking feature of this portrait is the inclusion of a Columbia Lion sculpture on Professor Sherman's desk.

Arthur Thomas '50  
GREENWICH, CONN.

### Eighty Years of Service

During the last four decades, there have been two important constants for Columbia Athletics: Associate Athletics Directors Ken Torrey and Al Carlson. Earlier this year, both of these tremendous Columbians announced their retirement, effective at the end of the 2015 academic year.

Together, they provided an incredible 80 years of service to Columbia. Al and Ken's wonderful contributions cannot be underestimated — and are not unnoticed.

As chair of the Physical Education program, Ken provided lifelong skills for thousands of alumni. Ken is also the greatest champion of Columbia squash, as the former coach of the club team and a huge



proponent of the launch of our two varsity programs. Even better, his infectious enthusiasm has been vital for our department.

Under Al's leadership as head men's golf coach, Columbia won its first Ivy League championship, and he successfully launched our women's golf program, which despite being the newest team in the Ivy League, has become one of the top teams in the conference. As an athletics administrator, Al did it all, from fundraising and selling T-shirts, to managing the athletics program budget and ensuring our financial stability.

Most importantly, both are parents of Columbia College alumnae, ensuring that they and their families will forever be associated with Columbia.

I am proud to have worked with Al and Ken during the past 11 years. They have my admiration and respect. I am sure that generations of Columbians share my sentiment, and join me in saluting them on their retirement.

Roar, Lion, Roar!

M. Dianne Murphy  
NEW YORK CITY

(Editor's note: The author is Columbia's former director, Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education.)

### Dean Pollack

Thanks for the "Alumni Corner" by Robert Pollack '61 on Charles McKim's learned (yet quirky) architecture in Low Library [Winter 2014–15]. I will always remember the author of this piece not as Dr. or Professor or Bob, but as Dean Pollack, and I'm delighted the article has put us back in touch.

Dean Pollack recruited me to attend Columbia College during a Dean's Day visit

(Continued on page 95)

# AROUND THE QUADS



## Cheers to the Class of 2015



More than 900 members of the Class of 2015 gathered on May 5 under a tent on South Lawn for the annual Senior Dinner, which marks the transition of each year's graduates into the Columbia College Alumni Association. Class of 2015 President Kareem Carryl '15 welcomed the students, Dean James J. Valentini congratulated them and Senior Fund Chair Grace Kim '15 encouraged them to give.

PHOTOS: JUSTUS HENRY (LIFETOUGH PHOTOGRAPHY)





Professor Brent Stockwell has joint appointments in the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Chemistry. Raised in Bayside, N.Y., Stockwell earned a B.A. in economics and chemistry from Cornell and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Harvard. His book, *The Quest for the Cure: The Science and Stories Behind the Next Generation of Medicines*, was published in 2011 and he received a 2014 Lenfest Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award. Among other roles at the University, he directs the Stockwell Laboratory, which uses small molecules and genomics tools to discover mechanisms underlying cellular processes.

#### How does that intersect with the work in your lab?

There had been a lot of work on one kind of regulated cell death called apoptosis. And my lab members and I thought there could be other cell death mechanisms that were not known ... So we went looking, and in 2007 we found the first hints of this alternative mechanism of cell death. We discovered it and characterized how it worked; we call it ferroptosis, because it's dependent on iron. In recent years it's become increasingly appreciated to be involved in some cancers and degenerative diseases. And

#### Does your lab focus on other things?

Yes, we are also interested in the problem of what I call protein druggability. About 2,000 drugs have been discovered in the history of humanity, and all work by interacting with specific proteins in cells. It turns out that all these known drugs work on only about 400 proteins, which is about 2 percent of all human proteins; there are about 20,000 proteins encoded in humans. So you say, 'That's fantastic; there are all these other proteins out there, which means there are huge numbers of therapeutics

new strategies, new tools, new technologies, maybe we can make inroads.

#### What's the most important thing a professor can do for students?

Try to change the way your students see a body of knowledge. It's not the details, but have they absorbed it in a way such that they are permanently altered and they will never go back to the other way of seeing things? And you have to ask yourself, what is the important thing in my course that I want them to do differently? Then you've got to really think about what you're doing in the course to achieve that.

I teach biochemistry to 170–180 undergraduates, and I've made a lot of changes during the past few years, trying to bring in new technologies and more student-centered learning, and move away from the classic lecture approach.

#### What's your favorite place to be?

I love spending time with my family. I've been fortunate to be invited to speak in interesting places. So once the kids got old enough to travel, my wife and I brought them along; they're 7 and 10 now. In recent years we've been to Italy, China and Japan. It's exciting to see different places through their eyes.

#### Any guilty pleasures?

My wife and I gave up cable and got an Apple TV, so we tend to find a new series and watch it all the way through. We recently watched *Continuum*, then *Orphan Black*. Now we're back to *Downton Abbey*.

Interview: Alexis Tonti SOA'11  
Photo: Eileen Barroso

## Five Minutes with ... Brent Stockwell

Much of your research has focused on cell death. Can you explain in layman's terms what that is and why it's important?

Living systems are made out of discrete units called cells. Cells can replicate; that's how a mouse or a human forms from a single fertilized egg. But it's also critical that certain cells die at particular times in development. As your fingers form, there's initially some webbing and then cells in the webbing have to die on schedule in order to sculpt your fingers. The same goes for all the tissues in the body, and for nearly every organ, so there's a regulation of cell death that's necessary for normal human development. We also see that these mechanisms that govern cell death go awry in different diseases and cancers, including some degenerative diseases. So that's the motivation to understand it.

now we have various ways of activating it and inhibiting it, so we're looking to see if those can be developed as therapeutic strategies.

we could discover if we just started tapping into all of these other proteins.'

But proteins fall into different families, or classes, based on their shapes. The problem is that the proteins that have already been targeted with drugs are in the classes that are amenable to drug targeting, whereas almost all of the other ones look — and historically have been — much more difficult to target. So a lot of people have given up on these other proteins and said, 'We're just going to work on the 2 percent, because those are the ones we know we can make drugs against.' But we're running out of strategies for making new medicines based

on this 2 percent. So we thought we should revisit the rest of these proteins and see if by trying



# Heard On Campus

#### MARCH 27, PUPIN HALL

"Stars are what you see when you think of a galaxy; I'm going to convince you there's so much more. ... When you look at a galaxy, mass-wise it's mostly not stars; there's dust, and gravity and gas. How do they cook? How do you make a galaxy with those ingredients?"

Columbia Astronomy Outreach stargazing and lecture series: *How to Build a Galaxy*, led by MUNIER SALEM GSAS'15

#### MARCH 24, CASA ITALIANA

"If you're going to be a playwright, you have to know what came before you — you have to read every Greek play, Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen. You need to know what's been done so you can break all the rules."

Playwright and screenwriter BEAU WILLIMON '99, SOA'03, in conversation with Annette Insdorf, director of undergraduate film studies

#### APRIL 29, LOW LIBRARY

"There is something profoundly wrong when African-American men are still far more likely to be stopped and searched by police, charged with crimes and sentenced to longer prison terms than are meted out to their white counterparts."

HILLARY CLINTON at the 18th Annual David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum

#### APRIL 20, CASA ITALIANA

"[Women] can be excelling academically in high school and in college, and then why does that screech to a halt? It's because it's a completely different set of rules in the real world. You have to be willing to fail, and take risks, and not be perfect and just get things done and move on."

CLAIRE SHIPMAN '86, SIPA'94 led a CCW discussion on a book she co-authored, *The Confidence Code*

#### MAY 1, ALFRED LERNER HALL

"There's more than what you see/ Columbia is more than a degree/It's you and me/And one thing's for sure/ Alma matters more!"

The 121st Varsity Show (*Almageddon*)

#### APRIL 15, HAMILTON HALL

"Chekhov gives us all manner of creeps, and we are invited to hate them. But it's a little more complicated; it's not all black and white."

Columbia Mini-Core: Chekhov Unstaged: The Art of the Short Story, led by the Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities CATHY POPKIN



# Alma Honors

Faculty and alumni were honored this past spring with awards given by members of the University community. Listed below are the College recipients.

## Columbia University Alumni Medal

AWARDED BY: Columbia Alumni Association  
FOR: Distinguished service of 10 years or more to the University

- Honorees**  
**William V. Campbell '62, TC'64**  
**Robert L. Kahan '69**  
**Roxann Sherri Smithers '99, LAW'02**



## Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching

AWARDED BY: Columbia College Student Council's Academic Awards Committee  
FOR: A faculty member's humanity, devotion to truth and inspiring leadership

- Honoree**  
**Austin E. Quigley**  
**the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature and Dean Emeritus of Columbia College**



Dean James J. Valentini with Austin E. Quigley (third from left), recipient of the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching; Kim Benzel GSAS'13 (second from right), associate curator with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, who accepted the Lionel Trilling Book Award on behalf of Zainab Bahrani; and members of the Columbia College Student Council's Academic Awards Committee.

PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN GS'98

## Lionel Trilling Book Award

AWARDED BY: Columbia College Student Council's Academic Awards Committee  
FOR: A faculty member whose book was published in the previous year and upholds a level of excellence commensurate with the work of Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38

- Honoree**  
**Zainab Bahrani**  
**the Edith Porada Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology, for *The Infinite Image: Art, Time and the Aesthetic Dimension in Antiquity***

## Great Teacher Award

AWARDED BY: Society of Columbia Graduates  
FOR: To honor outstanding members of the faculty

- Honoree**  
**Brent Stockwell**  
**professor of biological sciences and chemistry**

## Gershom Mendes Seixas Award

AWARDED BY: Columbia/Barnard Hillel  
FOR: Those who have made outstanding contributions to Jewish life at Columbia

- Honoree**  
**Michael Lustig '86**

## CAMPUS NEWS

■ **CLASS OF 2019:** The College and Engineering admitted 2,228 students into the Class of 2019 — an admissions rate of 6.1 percent, down from last year's rate of 6.94 percent and the lowest in Columbia history. The group hails from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 76 countries. A total of 36,250 applications were received by the two undergraduate schools, including 3,373 early decision applications. The latter was a 2.3 percent increase over last year and the largest early decision applicant pool in Columbia history.

■ **BERICK CENTER:** Columbia's Center for Student Advising has been renamed the James H. and Christine Turk Berick Center for Student Advising in recognition of the couple's dedication to and support for the University. James H. Berick '55, a retired partner with Squire, Patton & Boggs in Cleveland, received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1999 and is an emeritus member of the Board of Visitors, on which he served 1981–87, 1990–96 and 2010–14. The center is located on the fourth floor of Alfred Lerner Hall, a fitting connection given Berick was a close friend of and adviser to the late Alfred Lerner '55. The center serves all undergraduates in the College and Engineering. The formal dedication took place on May 28.

■ **UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR:** Michael W. Doyle, an expert on democracy, has been appointed a University Professor, Columbia's top faculty rank and highest academic honor. Doyle joined the faculty in 2003 as the Harold Brown Professor of U.S. Foreign and Security Policy, a three-fold appointment among the Law School, SIPA and the Department of Political Science. Co-director of the Law School's Center on Global Governance, his research interests include international relations theory, international law and international history; civil wars and international peace-building; and the United Nations.

Doyle, who also directs Columbia's Global Policy Initiative, was from 2001 to 2003 assistant secretary-general of the UN and special adviser for policy planning. He also chaired the UN Democracy Fund, which promotes grassroots democratization around the world, from 2006 to 2013.

Doyle previously taught at Johns Hopkins, Princeton and the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom.

# Students, Faculty Recognized

As the academic year neared completion, Columbia students and faculty earned an array of honors. A selection follows:

■ **Brian Trippe '16**, a biochemistry and computer science major from Massachusetts, won a Goldwater Scholarship, the premier undergraduate award in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. Trippe's research explored the intricacies of complex cell systems, specifically the molecular factors and processors that allow a variety of neuronal types to develop from a single fertilized cell. The federally endowed Goldwater Scholarship program provides up to \$7,500 per year in scholarship support.

■ **Harmann Singh '16**, an economics-mathematics joint major from New York, was selected for a prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship — one of 58 recipients at U.S. colleges and universities this year and the first Columbian tapped for the award since 2008. Among other things, Singh has been an intern at the White House; was a student editor for a book on human rights violations in India that sold more than 4,500 copies worldwide; and created Project Identity, a mentorship program that connects Columbia students with youth in Harlem, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and The Children's Village. Truman Scholars receive up to \$30,000 for graduate study.

■ Thirteen College and Engineering students received Presidential Global Fellowships in support of plans to study abroad this summer at or near one of the Columbia Global Centers. The fellowships, funded with a seed grant from University President Lee C. Bollinger and established in 2014, cover the program fee and come with a stipend to cover round-trip airfare and living expenses. They are Kiran Aida '18, who will study in Jordan; Laura Cadena '18, Turkey; Hyun Joo Cho '18, Italy; Christina Clark '18, France; Juan Pablo Fernandez Herzberg '18, Jordan; Veniamin Gushchin '18, China; Amsal Lakhani '18, Turkey; Mabel Luo SEAS'18, Brazil; Chelsea Miller '18, Turkey; Matthew Rivera '18, France; Talia Rubin '18, China; Sophia Stadler SEAS'18, France; and Linh Tang '18, France.

■ **Shriya Samavai '15** and **Lauren Field BC'16** won first place in the Columbia Venture Competition's Undergraduate Challenge for their artwork-inspired clothing line, Academy Of. The award comes with \$25,000 in funding. The challenge invited students to compete for cash grants by presenting a business model; seven finalists pitched to a panel of six judges, composed of faculty and alumni. The top three teams were selected based on their innovative ideas and the viability of their proposals.

■ Eight Columbia faculty members were named 2015 Guggenheim Fellows by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. The fellows will each receive a grant from the foundation to pursue his or her work; they are among 175 scholars, artists and scientists chosen from more than 3,100 applicants this year. The fellows include Rivka Galchen, an adjunct associate professor of writing at the School of the Arts; Meghan Daum SOA'96, an associate professor at the School of the Arts; Kristoffer Diaz, adjunct professor of theater at the School of the Arts; Brent Hayes Edwards, professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature; Carmela Viricillo Franklin, professor of classics; Cathy Park Hong, adjunct professor of writing at the School of the Arts; George E. Lewis, the Edwin H. Case Professor of American



Columbia Venture Competition winners Shriya Samavai '15 (left) and Lauren Field BC'16 with a jacket from their clothing line.

PHOTO: KRISTEN SCHNEIDER

Music; and Jonathan Rieder, the former chair and a current professor of sociology at Barnard.

■ Five Columbia professors were elected members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: David Albert '76, the Frederick E. Woodbridge Professor of Philosophy; Jane Ginsburg, the Law School's Morton L. Janklow Professor of Literary and Artistic Property Law; Philip Hamburger, the Maurice and Hilda Fried-



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# Roar, Lion, Roar

## Baseball Three-Peats, Wins Record 34 Games

**C**olumbia baseball won the Ivy League Championship for the third consecutive year in 2015 and compiled a 34-17 record, the 34 wins being the most in program history, breaking the mark of 29 set a year ago. The Lions capped their memorable season by winning three games in the NCAA Regional, the first Ivy League team to post three NCAA Tournament victories since Harvard in 1974.

Outfielder Gus Craig SEAS'15, who batted .403 in Ivy League action with 22 runs, four homers and 18 RBI, was named Co-Player of the Year, sharing the honor with Penn catcher Austin Bossert. Randell Kanemaru '18, who batted .306 and compiled a .411 on-base percentage, was chosen Rookie of the Year. They also were among 11 Lions to earn All-Ivy status.

Brett Boretti received the inaugural Ivy Coach of the Year award for baseball after leading the Lions to the Ivy title for the fourth time in his 10 seasons at Columbia. He won his 200th game in Columbia blue at Brown on April 6.

Craig was a unanimous choice for the All-Ivy first team, as were designated hitter Joey Falcone GS'15 and third baseman David Vandercook '15. Also named to the first team was first

baseman Nick Maguire '16, while five Lions earned second team honors: starting pitcher George Thanopoulos '16, relief pitchers Harrison Egly SEAS'18 and Ty Wiest '17, catcher Logan Boyher '16 and outfielder Jordan Serena '15. Kanemaru and starting pitcher Mike Weisman '15 earned honorable mention.

Columbia beat Penn 4-2 in a one-game playoff on May 2 to win the Gehrig Division crown, after beating the Quakers 8-6 in 10 innings in the second game of a doubleheader on April 26 to force the playoff. Boyher's solo home run in the seventh inning snapped a 2-2 tie, while Serena and Vandercook also hit solo home runs and Craig had a sacrifice fly for the other Columbia runs. Thanopoulos and Kevin Roy '16 limited Penn to six hits to pitch the Lions into the best-of-three championship series against Dartmouth at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium.

The teams split the opening doubleheader on May 9. Dartmouth won the first game by building a 7-1 advantage and hanging on for a 7-6 victory but Columbia stayed alive by taking the night-cap 7-2 as Falcone drove in three runs and Maguire hit a two-run homer. That set up a wild deciding game in which Columbia got four home runs from three players to defeat Dartmouth 10-7 and become the first Ivy team to three-peat since Harvard won three in a row from 1997-99. Falcone belted a two-run home run in the first inning and a three-run homer in the second to stake the Lions to a 6-1 lead, and although the Big Green twice pulled within two runs, homers by Boyher and Vandercook kept Columbia in front.

"It's an incredible feeling," said Egly, who came on in relief in the fifth inning and limited Dartmouth to just one run the rest of the way to earn the victory. "We wanted this all year, and it's great to finally have gotten it."

The victory gave Columbia a berth in the NCAA Regional in Coral Gables, Fla., where it began play with a 6-3 upset of East Carolina. Following an 8-3 loss to Miami, the sixth-ranked team in the nation, the Lions — their backs to the wall in the double-elimination tournament — bounced back to edge Florida International 4-3 and then stunned Miami 3-0, allowing only two hits and handing the Hurricanes their first shutout of the season. That set up a third game against Miami, with the winner advancing to the NCAA Super Regional, and this time it was Miami that bounced backed as the Hurricanes scored four runs in the first inning and eight more in the fourth en route to a 21-3 victory that ended Columbia's season.



Coach Brett Boretti (No. 7) and the Lions celebrate winning their third consecutive Ivy League baseball crown.

PHOTO: MIKE McLAUGHLIN/COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

## Lin Leads Men's Tennis to Ivy Repeat, Second Sweet 16

**F**or the second consecutive year, Columbia men's tennis, led by two-time All-American Winston Lin '15, swept through the Ivy League season unbeaten and won its first two matches of the NCAA tournament before being ousted in the Round of 16, this time by Virginia 4-0.

Lin, who was ranked 17th nationally, then competed in the NCAA singles championship and won his first three matches, including a 7-5, 6-4 upset of fifth-ranked Sebastian Stiefelmeyer of Louisville, before bowing in the quarterfinals to Virginia's No. 19 Thai-Son Kwiatkowski 4-6, 7-5, 5-7.

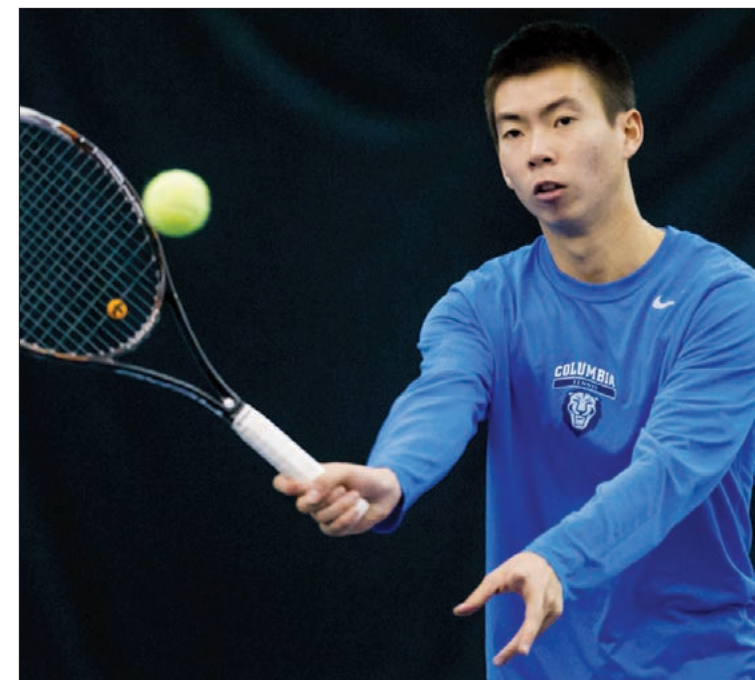
Lin was a unanimous choice for the All-Ivy first team in singles for the fourth consecutive year. He was joined on the singles first team by Dragos Ignat '16, with Ashok Narayana '15 and Max Schnur '15 earning first team doubles honors. Narayana was named to the second team in singles along with Mike Vermeer GS'16, and Ignat and Vermeer were named to the second team in doubles.

Columbia climbed as high as 11th in the national rankings, defeating nine consecutive opponents late in the season en route to the 12th Ivy championship in program history. It was the 10th crown in the 33-year tenure of coach Bid Goswami, who won the inaugural Ivy Coach of the Year award in tennis and described the season as "a highlight year."

After last season's success, Goswami scheduled a number of tough early-season matches, including two against top-rated Oklahoma, to get his team ready to defend its Ivy crown. The strategy paid off, because by the time the Lions opened Ivy play against Cornell on March 28, they were more than ready. They beat the Big Red 6-1 and went on to beat their seven Ivy rivals by a combined score of 40-6.

Columbia opened play in the NCAA tournament on May 8 against No. 42 Georgia Tech, a team it had beaten four months earlier. The Lions dropped the opening doubles point but then won four straight singles matches to clinch the victory at 4-1. The next day the Lions faced No. 14 Mississippi, which was hosting the NCAA Regional in Oxford, Miss. This time Columbia captured the doubles point, and even though each of the singles matches was close, the Lions won three of the first four to be completed to post another 4-1 victory.

It was on to Waco, Texas, for the NCAA Sweet 16 on May 14, where Columbia ran up against a tough Virginia team that was



Winston Lin '15 led men's tennis to Ivy League championships in 2014 and 2015 and was a four-time All-Ivy first team selection.

PHOTO: MIKE McLAUGHLIN/COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

ranked third in the nation and subsequently defeated Oklahoma for the national title. Virginia took the doubles point against Columbia as well as the first three singles matches to be completed for a 4-0 victory that left the Lions disappointed, but assistant head coach Howard Endelman '87 put the season in perspective.

"Our players were terrific. I have never been around a team with so much heart," he said. "Our guys have always ignored every obstacle thrown their way, and that quality will help them later in life. This senior class finished their careers by winning 18 consecutive dual matches against Ivy League opponents. This is the best Columbia tennis team ever."

The squad included five graduating seniors: Lin, Narayana, Schnur, Bert Vancura '15 and Eric Jacobs '15. During their tenure the Class of 2015 helped Columbia to a 69-19 overall record, a 24-4 mark against Ivy opponents, a 31-1 record at home, two Ivy League titles, three appearances in the NCAA Tournament, including program-best Sweet 16 runs in 2014 and 2015, the highest ITA Ranking and the program's first appearance in the ITA Team National Indoor Championships in two decades.

"I think they'll leave their prints on the sands of time, these five guys," Goswami said. "And I think if other guys can emulate them, we'll be really good for some time. I will tell stories about these guys as long as I'm here."

### SAVE THE DATE!

**SEPTEMBER 26**  
Football home  
opener  
Columbia vs.  
Georgetown

**OCTOBER 17**  
Homecoming  
Columbia vs. Penn

*For the latest news on Columbia athletics, visit [gocolumbialions.com](http://gocolumbialions.com).*

### SCOREBOARD

**10** Ivy League tennis championships won by coach Bid Goswami

**4** Columbians who were Ivy League Players of the Year in 2014-15 (Christina Freibott '16, field hockey; David Jakl '15, men's swimming; Ramit Tandon '15, men's squash; Gus Craig SEAS'15, baseball)

**3** Highest national ranking achieved by men's squash team

**53** Columbia All-Ivy League first team honorees in 2014-15

**11/52** Home runs and runs batted in by Joey Falcone GS'15, both best in the Ivy League

**34** Wins by baseball team in 2015, most in program history



# Men’s Squash Achieves Ambitious Goal of “5 in 5”

In just five years, men’s squash has become a Columbia Athletics success story.

By ranking fourth nationally after the 2015 season, Columbia achieved its ambitious goal of “5 in 5,” attaining a ranking among the top five programs in the nation within five years of becoming a varsity sport. And the women’s team is not far behind, ranking as high as seventh nationally last season.

Columbia won the 2015 Men’s College Squash Association Barnaby Award as the most improved team in the nation. The Lions compiled a 13–4 record, were ranked as high as third in the nation, played in the Potter Cup (A Division) of team championships for the first time and climbed six spots in the final national rankings from the previous season.

“I always saw the potential in Columbia squash,” says Jacques Swanepoel, who was named Columbia’s first varsity squash coach on September 1, 2009, and has guided the team in the five seasons since it was elevated from club status. Swanepoel is a former member of the South African national team and was a two-time All-American at Trinity, which he helped to four consecutive national championships.

Taking the sport from club to varsity status was part of the attraction for Swanepoel, who had the backing of a devoted group of squash alumni. “It definitely felt like a great opportunity to put my name on something,” he says. “Columbia alumni were talking about ‘5 in 5,’ making it to the top five in the nation in five years. They truly believed.”

Crucial to Columbia’s success has been Swanepoel’s global approach to building the team.

“The sport of squash is still growing in the United States, but it has a much larger presence around the world,” he says. “Players in the U.S. didn’t necessarily want to go to a start-up program, so we did more international recruiting. Internationally, we had an edge on established programs because Columbia University and New York City are well known everywhere.”

Echoing that thought is Peter Lasusa ’79, BUS’90, who heads the squash alumni advisory committee and is a former president and chair of US Squash, the sport’s national governing body. “I played squash and enjoyed it and saw that Columbia had the potential to excel,” Lasusa says. “Squash is a truly international sport and tends to be played by true student-athletes. We hired Jacques knowing he understood the network and value of global recruiting, and he’s demonstrated that he gets it. Given the [global] appeal of Columbia, given the coaching that’s available in New York, we saw the potential.”

One of Swanepoel’s first key recruits, and a cornerstone of Columbia’s success, was Ramit Tandon ’15, winner of the 2015 Skillman Award, which is given annually to a senior men’s squash



Coach Jacques Swanepoel guided men’s squash to as high as No. 3 in the national rankings in 2014–15.

player who has demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship during his career; the award is considered one of college squash’s top honors. Tandon, a native of Kolkata, India, was a four-time All-American and All-Ivy first team player who compiled a 59–7 record in his four years of competition for Columbia, capping his career by going 13–1 as a senior when he became the first Columbia squash player to win Ivy Player of the Year honors.

“Getting a player like Ramit Tandon was very important,” says Swanepoel. “He’s such a standout player and personality. A lot of people knew he was here and wanted to play with him. He helped raise the standard of the program.”

One such player is Osama Khalifa ’18, who compiled a 20–2 record in his first season at Columbia, finished second in the CSA

Individual National Championships and earned All-America honors. The native of Cairo, Egypt, says coming to Columbia was like “a dream come true for me. I’ve been following this team and many of their matches the past couple of years. To now be part of this team and be able to contribute to the team is an amazing feeling and something I’m very proud of.”

Off the squash court, Khalifa’s reasons for choosing Columbia are familiar. “I’ve always been obsessed with New York City, especially because I came from an urban city,” he says. “All the books we read, all the parts of the Core — that completely attracted me. Columbia has been a dream for me since I started learning about schools in the U.S.”

Having played junior squash tournaments with Tandon helped seal the deal for Khalifa. “We are very good friends,” says Tandon. “It’s good if the players know me, it makes it easier for Jacques to recruit them. Osama is a very talented player who has improved as we’ve gone along, and I’m looking forward to watching him play college squash over the next few years.”

Columbia’s 13 wins this season included victories over two teams ranked in the top five at the time, Yale and Rochester. Despite the graduation of three seniors, including Tandon, Columbia will go into next season with a strong roster headed by Khalifa. Seif Attia ’18, Rishi Tandon SEAS’17 (Ramit’s brother) and Joshua Sekhar ’17 all will play larger roles, too.

“People are starting to see what’s happening with our program,” says Swanepoel. “Our players have set a good standard, a good vibe on the team that people have picked up on. It’s very realistic to say we want to compete for the national title in the next two to three years.”

Adds Ramit Tandon, “When I spoke to Jacques as a freshman, that was his goal and he was very confident about it. He’s built a team that is capable of winning the national title, and I’m proud to be part of a program that has made such a big change in such short time. It’s been great the way I’ve seen the whole team grow.”



Ramit Tandon ’15 compiled a 59–7 record in four years of competition for Columbia squash and was a four-time All-American.

PHOTOS: MIKE McLAUGHLIN/COLUMBIA ATHLETICS



Columbia’s archery team jumps for joy after winning gold medals in the recurve and compound divisions at the 2015 National Outdoor Collegiate Archery Championships.

PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

## Archery Wins Two National Titles

Columbia’s archery team captured the gold medal in both the recurve and compound divisions at the 2015 National Outdoor Collegiate Archery Championships, held in Harrisonburg, Va., on May 23. The Lions, who defeated Texas A&M in the gold medal finals round of both divisions, won their fifth national title in the recurve and the first in program history in the compound.

Julie Hoffmann ’16 led the Lions in the compound division with a silver-medal finish. Although Hoffmann was edged in the finals round by South Carolina’s Carli Cochran, her second place was the highest individual compound finish in program history. Elizabeth Gunawan ’18 competed in the bronze medal match for Columbia before falling to Claire Estrada of Emmanuel College to finish fourth.

In the recurve, Jenny Han ’18 led Columbia and collected a fourth-place finish after facing off against Cassandra Pelton of Georgia Southern in the bronze-medal match.

Six Columbia archers earned All-America honors, with Sarah Bernstein BC’15 (recurve), Joy Chang ’17 (recurve) and Judy Zhou ’17 (compound) joining Gunawan, Han and Hoffman.

Earlier in the year, Columbia coach Derek Davis was named National Coach of the Year in balloting by USA Archery members who are certified Level 2 and above instructors and coaches. The National Coach of the Year is defined as “a coach of an Elite Level Club, Collegiate, Pan-Am, World Championship or Olympic Games coach or the coach of an elite athlete who competes at the highest level.” Davis is also a Junior Dream Team coach and an International Team staff coach.

## Lightweight Crew Places Second

Columbia’s lightweight varsity eight took the silver medal at the IRA National Championships on Lake Mercer in New Jersey on May 31, finishing just over two seconds behind Cornell and less than a second ahead of third-place Harvard, with Princeton, Yale and Penn completing the top six.

It was the third consecutive year that Columbia’s lightweight eight has medaled at the IRAs. The Lions took the bronze medal in 2013 and 2014.

## Varsity C Dinner Celebrates Student-Athletes

Winston Lin ’15 of men’s tennis, Ramit Tandon ’15 of men’s squash and Nadia Eke ’15 of women’s track and field were each presented a Connie S. Maniatty Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete Award at the 94th Varsity C Celebration, held on April 28 at Levien Gym.

Eke is a three-time All-American in the triple jump and has nine Ivy League Championships under her belt. Lin is a two-time All-American and four-time All-Ivy tennis player who twice led the Lions to the NCAA Sweet 16. Tandon is a four-time All-American and winner of the Skillman Award, the highest honor in college squash.

A new award was given this year, the William V. Campbell Athlete of the Year for one male and one female student-athlete who each demonstrate superior athletic ability. The inaugural recipients were Jake Hoyle ’16 and Margaret Lu ’16 of the NCAA champion men’s and women’s fencing team. Hoyle won the NCAA Individual Epee Championship, becoming Columbia’s first epeeist to win a national title since 1993, and Lu was the runner-up in the women’s foil at the NCAA Championships and took gold at the NCAA Northeast Regionals last winter.

The event, which honors all Columbia student-athletes, also featured the presentation of the Athletics Alumni Award to Joseph Simone ’79, who played golf at Columbia, chairs the Golf Advisory Committee and is a past president of the Varsity C Club.

In addition, the Varsity C Club and The Women’s Leadership Council honored M. Dianne Murphy for her work as director of intercollegiate athletics and physical education (2004–15).

Columbia and Cornell both won their preliminary heats. In the final, the Lions, Big Red and Princeton broke away from the pack in the opening 500 meters, with Cornell holding a one-seat advantage. The Big Red opened up a three-seat cushion at the midway point and pulled away for good with about 750 meters to go. Harvard rallied at that point and went neck-and-neck with Columbia down the stretch, but the Lions held off the Crimson’s charge.

Meanwhile, Columbia’s heavyweight varsity eight finished its season with a sixth-place finish in the petite final.





Class Day on May 19 brought smiles from the 1,162 members of the Class of 2015. Gathered under tents on South Field, the graduating seniors laughed as the keynote speaker, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93, delivered a light-hearted speech listing the top 15 commencement address clichés before offering his own counterpoint to each. Garcetti did pause during the jokes to encourage students to fight for equality and social justice, and to commend them for their activism.



Senior Fund Chair Grace Kim '15 presented the Class Gift to Dean James J. Valentini, noting that more than 500 members of the Class of 2015 donated. All told, the class raised more than \$13,000 and, because it met its participation goal, secured a \$100,000 gift from Charles Santoro '82.

Class Day also gave alumni a chance to reconnect with the College, as 161 former students, representing 57 classes, marched in the annual Alumni Parade of Classes.

The next day, nearly 15,000 graduates from Columbia's 18 schools and affiliates participated in Commencement, with an address by University President Lee C. Bollinger. William V. "Bill" Campbell '62, TC'64, former chair of the Board of Trustees and one of 10 Alumni Medalists, was presented an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Above: College Class Day keynote speaker Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93; upper right, Engineering Dean Mary C. Boyce and College Dean James J. Valentini; lower right, no selfie stick needed. Opposite: Scenes from Class Day, the Alumni Parade of Classes and Commencement.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO





Special Achievements

Presented by Dean of Academic Affairs  
Kathryn Yatrakis

**HARRY J. CARMAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Grace Catherine Greiner '15

**CLASS OF 1939 SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Robert Jack Gross '16  
Junghoon Kim '16  
Jee Min Lee '16  
Daniel Multer '16  
Vincent Peng '16  
Christa Shen '16  
Tara Mohtadi '17  
Ariana Ray '17

**JARVIS AND CONSTANCE DOCTOROW FELLOWSHIP**

Alyssa Menz '15

**HENRY EVANS PRIZE**  
Khamal Clayton '15

**SOLOMON AND SEYMOUR FISHER CIVIL LIBERTIES FELLOWSHIP**

Erika Holmberg '16  
Mayia Kapelnikova '17

**ALBERT ASHER GREEN MEMORIAL PRIZE**  
Daniel Listwa '15

**EURETTA J. KELLETT FELLOWSHIP**

Benjamin Gittelson '15

Jack Klempay '15

**RICHARD LEWIS KOHN TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP**

Kevin Choi '17

**DAVID B. TRUMAN ALUMNI AWARD**

Rajan Gupta '15

**SALUTATORIAN**

Stephanie Gergoudis '15

**VALEDICTORIAN**  
Robert Lin '15

Prizes in the  
Core Curriculum

Presented by Professor Julie  
Crawford, Department of English  
and Comparative Literature

**JOSHUA A. FEIGENBAUM PRIZE IN LITERATURE HUMANITIES**

Maria Mavrommatis '17

**WALLACE A. GRAY PRIZE IN LITERATURE HUMANITIES**

Emma Stodder '15

**DEAN HAWKES MEMORIAL PRIZE IN THE HUMANITIES**

Elena Goldstein '16

**JONATHAN THRONE KOPIT PRIZE IN LOGIC AND RHETORIC**

Rebecca Arteaga '18

**JAMES P. SHENTON PRIZE IN CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION**

Lu Zhou '16

Prizes in the Creative  
and Performing Arts

Presented by Professor Julie  
Crawford, Department of English  
and Comparative Literature

**ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS POETRY PRIZE**

Ethan Plaué '15

Academic Awards  
and Prizes

Dean James J. Valentini and Dean of Academic Affairs  
Kathryn Yatrakis were on hand to congratulate the  
students at the 2015 Academic Awards and Prizes  
Ceremony, held on May 19 at Faculty House.

To view photos of the ceremony, as well as of the  
Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony, go to  
facebook.com/columbiacollege1754/photos\_albums,  
select “Albums” and then select “2015 Academic  
Awards and Prizes and Phi Beta Kappa.”

**SEYMOUR BRICK MEMORIAL PRIZE**  
Ethan Plaué '15

**KAREN OSNEY BROWNSTEIN WRITING PRIZE**  
Rosa Inocencio Smith '15

**GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS PRIZE IN ORATION**

*Informative:* Sebastian Startz '18

*Persuasive:*

Jonathan Max Etra '15

*Persuasive:* Rachel Sommers '18

**ARTHUR E. FORD POETRY PRIZE**  
Jenny Xu '15

**PHILOLEXIAN PRIZE FUND**  
Serena Solin '16

**AUSTIN E. QUIGLEY PRIZE**  
Hari Neff '15

**RICHARD AND BROOKE KAMIN RAPAPORT SUMMER MUSIC PERFORMANCE FELLOWSHIP**

Fernanda Douglas '16

Martin Jaffe '16

Eleanor Kirk '16

Javier Llaca '16

Hannah Murphy '16

Paul Bloom '17

Mari Funabashi '17

Jacob Gelber '17

Yong Murray '17

Anne Pace '17

Emily Shyr '17

Zara Ali '18

Bronwen Chan '18

Timothy Diovanni '18

Alec Hon '18

Joseph Morag '18

**LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS**

Meaghan Elyse Lueck '15

**MARIANA GRISWOLD VAN RENSSELAER PRIZE**

Kailee Pedersen '17

Prizes in the Humanities

Presented by Professor Jenny  
Davidson, Department of English  
and Comparative Literature

**SENIOR THESIS PRIZE IN ART HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

Martha Scott Burton '15

**CHARLES PATERNO BARRATT-BROWN MEMORIAL PRIZE**

Eric Wohlstadter '15

**BUNNER PRIZE**  
Jackson Arn '15

**DOUGLAS GARDNER CAVERLY PRIZE**

Verity Walsh '15

**JAMES GUTMANN PRIZE IN PHILOSOPHY**

Daniel Listwa '15

**JOHN VINCENT HICKEY PRIZE**

William Noah '15

**ADAM LEROY JONES PRIZE IN LOGIC**

Diana Flanagan '15

**HELEN AND HOWARD R. MARRARO PRIZE**

Alyssa Cannizzaro '15

**ERNEST STADLER PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE STUDY OF CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY**

Tyler Rhode '15

**DEUTSCHER VEREIN PRIZE IN GERMAN**

Maya Rosmarin '15

**SUSAN HUNTINGTON VERNON PRIZE**

Camille Allamel '15

**RICHMOND B. WILLIAMS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP**

Anya Josephs '16

Emma Miller '16

Dennis Zhou '16

Prizes in Science  
and Mathematics

Presented by Professor Brent  
Stockwell, Department of  
Biological Sciences

**RICHARD BERSOHN PRIZE**  
Bert Vancura '15

**COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AWARD**

Robert Lou '15

Theodore Marin '15

**HERBERT DERESIEWICZ SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Helen Yang '17

**THOMAS J. KATZ PRIZE**

Leila Musavi '15

**ALFRED MORITZ MICHAELIS PRIZE**  
Robert Lin '15

**PROFESSOR VAN AMRINGE MATHEMATICAL PRIZE**

*First-Year:* Nguyen Dung '18

*Sophomore:* Hardik Shah '17

*Junior:* Samuel Nicoll '16

**BRIDGES AND STURTEVANT PRIZE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Kun Leng '15

**JOHN DASH VAN BUREN JR. PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS**

Zoe Woodbury High BC '15

Yifei Zhao '15

Prizes in the  
Social Sciences

Presented by Professor Thomas  
DiPrete, Department of Sociology

**CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN HISTORY**  
Anika Havaldar '15

**CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Long Viet Tran '15

**CARL B. BOYER MEMORIAL PRIZE**  
Rachel Belfer BC '15

**CHANLER HISTORICAL PRIZE**  
Christopher Meyer '15

**TARAKNATH DAS FOUNDATION AWARD**  
Tanvi Bikhchandani '15

**ALBERT MARION ELSBERG PRIZE**  
Jacob Hamburger '15

**MYRA KRAFT PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY**

Anna Jessurun '17

**MYRA KRAFT PRIZE FOR SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Brooke Burrows '15

**GARRETT MATTINGLY PRIZE**  
Isabel Genecin '15

**SANFORD S. PARKER PRIZE**  
Rishab Guha '15

**SANFORD S. PARKER SUMMER RESEARCH PRIZE**

Sama Asali '16

Chate Khemakongkanonth '16

Omeed Maghzian '16

Eitan Neugut '16

Hainian Shi '16

**EDWIN ROBBINS ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP**

Devin Bergstein '16

Nicholas Lyon '16

Ian Trueger '16

Jonah Weinstein '16

**ROMINE PRIZE**

*Seminar Paper:* Ricardo  
Rodriguez '15

*Honors Thesis:* Harrison  
Wheeler '15

**PHYLLIS STEVENS SHARP FELLOWSHIP IN AMERICAN POLITICS**

Daniel Brovman '16

Jonah Reider '16

**CAROLINE PHELPS STOKES PRIZE**

David Silberthau '15

**ALAN J. WILLEN MEMORIAL PRIZE**

Hahn Chang '15

Senior Snapshots

Members of the Class of 2015 traveled many paths to graduation.  
Here are seven of their stories.

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

PHOTOS: CHAR SMULLYAN GS'98

Allie Carieri '15 Stars Behind the Scenes

On the third day of her internship this past spring at Manhattan's landmark Public Theater, aspiring theater producer **Alexandra “Allie” Carieri '15** had what she calls a “spiritual” moment when she found herself on the stage where *Hair: The American Tribal Rock-Love Musical* premiered in 1967. “This is my Notre-Dame cathedral,” she recalls thinking.

*Hair* was the first show Carieri produced at the College, for the Columbia Musical Theater Society (CMTS) in fall 2012. Though she began acting in commercials at a young age and was cast in a few shows on campus, that producing experience made Carieri realize that she prefers being behind the scenes. “The things no one thinks about — schedules, contracts, budgets, making sure actors have everything they need and that everyone’s happy — that’s what I like,” says Carieri, who also produced *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* for CMTS in fall 2013.

Carieri’s other producer credits include two of the King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe’s annual outdoor spring shows — *Cymbeline* in 2013 and *Much Ado About Nothing* this year — and the group’s 2015 *Egg & Peacock: A 24-Hour Play Festival*, an anthology of student plays created, rehearsed and performed within a 24-period. After two years as a writer/lyricist for the extravaganza, this year she stepped into the more central role. “You’re amped up on adrenaline and everyone is tired, but it’s so much fun to see the audience laughing,” says Carieri.

Carieri, who is from Southern California, considers it a dream fulfilled to have been twice part of the Varsity Show. (She was an ensemble member for V118 her first year and a producer for V120 her junior year.) During summer 2013, Carieri worked with other V118 alumni on *Lydia & Tom: A New Musical*, written by Solomon Hoffman '14 and Nick Parker '14, which was accepted at the New York International Fringe Festival. Her role as general manager and marketing director afforded her valuable exposure to New York City’s entertainment scene, as did internships with *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, advertising agency Kirshenbaum Bond Senecal + Partners, and Roundabout Theater Company.

In her senior year, Carieri, an American studies major and a member of the sorority Kappa Alpha Theta, was president of the



Allie  
Carieri '15



## Hahn Chang '15 Values Service, Community

“Service has always been my passion,” says **Hahn Chang '15**, who devoted himself the last few years to making a difference in ways large and small, from taking a gap year to volunteer at an underserved Los Angeles middle school to hosting a dinner for fellow Columbia students spending Thanksgiving on campus.

Chang, who grew up outside of Minneapolis, deferred admission to the College to join City Year, a national AmeriCorps initiative that places people ages 17–24 in high-need public schools, where they serve as tutors and mentors. For the past three years, he also was a summer teaching fellow with the Minneapolis affiliate of Breakthrough Collaborative, a national program that prepares low-income middle school students for college. In that



Hahn Chang '15

role, he developed and taught computer science, physics and chemistry curricula.

At the College, Chang volunteered with Columbia-based nonprofit Community Impact (CI). In his first year, and again as a senior, he planned field trips for elementary school students from Harlem as a coordinator for the organization's Columbia Youth Adventurers program. In his sophomore and junior years, he was one of CI's student executives and played a key role in planning the organization's first two Not-for-Profit and Public Service Career Fairs. “Being a part of the community, building the community and then leveraging the community to make people's lives better — that's the big takeaway I got over the last few years,” says Chang.

Chang's emphasis on community-building also has informed his work as an RA in East Campus the last two years, during which he became known for baking banana bread for his residents. As the RA-on-duty during Thanksgiving break last year, he organized a dinner in his suite (he was responsible for the turkey) and invited any student who was spending the holiday on campus to stop by; about 25 students did. “I figured I could do my part to give students who might not have a place to go a fun environment to celebrate,” says Chang, who received a 2014 RA of the Year Award from the Columbia chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary, an honor society that recognizes student leaders for contributions to their residential communities.

Chang, who was near *Scholar's Lion* on a campus visit when he realized the College was the right fit — “There's a special energy there,” he says of that spot — majored in political science. Intrigued by the troubled launch of Healthcare.gov, he used his senior thesis to examine the factors that affect a state government's ability to make use of technology. “One of the conclusions I came to is that governments have had a difficult time leveraging technology to provide services,” says Chang. “I tried to figure out which states have been more successful and why.”

After graduation, Chang will return to Minneapolis to be an analyst for McKinsey & Co., a global management consulting firm. He hopes to one day run a nonprofit that works with youth, ideally in Minnesota. “It's a place that afforded my family and me many opportunities,” says Chang.

## Benjamin Gittelsohn '15 Is Hooked on Language

An introductory course in linguistics was all it took to hook **Benjamin Gittelsohn '15**.

Having arrived at the College with a vague interest in “writing and words and languages” but intrigued by plenty of other fields, Gittelsohn was fascinated by linguistics' overlap with psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, education and computer science, and he saw an opportunity to explore all of them “through the common theme of language.”

Ultimately, Gittelsohn designed an independent major in linguistics and pursued summer research to supplement his coursework. His most valuable research experience came last summer, as an intern at the Center for the Study of Language and Information at Stanford, where he led a 1,300-participant study that gauged how extraneous information affects a person's ability to

make accurate inferences in conversation. It was the first time he designed and conducted a linguistics experiment from start to finish. “It was cool to formulate a research question, execute it and analyze the data,” he says.

As a linguistics major, Gittelsohn was required to study a non-Germanic, non-Romance language. He chose Swahili and enjoyed it so much that he sought a U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, which allowed him to further study the language in Kenya during summer 2013. “[Swahili] developed more recently than English and is more structured and logical,” says Gittelsohn. “English has a lot of exceptions. It was a very interesting point of comparison.”

The previous summer, as a research assistant at the Polinsky Language Sciences Lab at Harvard, Gittelsohn traveled to Toulouse and Strasbourg in France, where he interviewed more than 30 chil-

dren who learned English from Anglophone expatriate parents. The goal was to see how the grammar and pronunciation of these “heritage language learners” differed from native English speakers and those who acquire English as a second language.

At the College, Gittelsohn, who has played the violin since he was 5, took individual lessons and performed with the Columbia University Bach Society orchestra. From his first year, he also was involved with *Spectator*, where he rose through the ranks to become deputy news editor as a senior. “*Spectator* has been kind of a home base for me; it has a really strong community,” says Gittelsohn.

Though not committed to one career path, Gittelsohn, who was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in May, has envisioned himself as a professor since high school and will take a step in that direction this fall when he pursues the first of two successive master's degrees in linguistics at Cambridge. A Eureka J. Kellett Fellowship from the College will cover his tuition as well as travel and living expenses. “If I enjoy that, then I'll look into Ph.D. programs,” he says.



Benjamin Gittelsohn '15

## Alyssa Menz '15 Dives into Global Sustainability

**Alyssa Menz '15** found sustainable development a fruitful avenue for exploring environmental issues and international relations, interests she honed beyond the classroom through fieldwork, conflict studies and language immersion.

A recipient of several fellowships from The Earth Institute, Menz initially adopted a scientific approach. In 2012, she spent five weeks in Jordan through a Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates program, which involved hiking and snorkeling while learning about local ecology and sustainability challenges. “That was a region I wanted to get to know, especially in terms of water scarcity,” says Menz, who spent the following Spring Break in Bermuda through a weeklong Earth Institute program that focused on coral reefs.

The most pivotal of Menz's experiences abroad, however, came during summer 2013, when she returned to Jordan and

also visited Israel and the West Bank on an 18-day trip offered by The Earth Institute and the Porter School of Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv University. The program, which highlighted transboundary environmental issues vis-à-vis conflicts in the region, gave her a new focus and “helped me determine my professional aspirations,” says Menz, who will begin master's studies in the Nature, Society and Environmental Governance program at Oxford in the fall, fully funded by a Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Fellowship. She hopes to start a consulting firm that helps countries, regions and communities overcome discord by having the parties work together to address common environmental problems.

In the course of her travels, Menz became aware of Africa's bushmeat crisis — the unsustainable hunting of wildlife for food — and was inspired to spend the Spring 2014 semester learning about fauna and farming practices in Kenya through the Columbia-Princeton Tropical Biology and Sustainability Program. Afterward, she spent a week at home in Binghamton, N.Y., before traveling to Turkey, where a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Program covered her expenses while she studied Turkish for two months during the summer.

Menz's only hesitation to spending a semester abroad was being away from the swimming and diving team, to which she devoted 30 hours a week. A diver since she was 7, Menz qualified for NCAA Zones each of her four years and was team captain as a senior. She says having been a college athlete improved her time management skills. “It ensured I was always on time with my work,” she says.

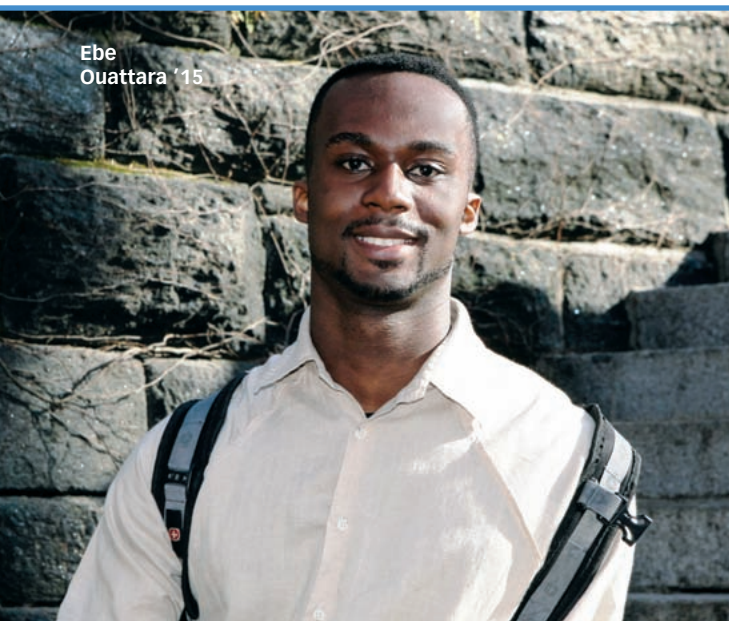
Menz also was on the executive committee for Columbia College Student Ambassadors, created in 2013 to better connect alumni and students, and volunteered with the Undergraduate Recruiting Committee. “Every day I wake up thankful to have had the opportunity to come to Columbia,” says Menz. “I really want other people to know how fantastic Columbia is and to share my experiences with them.”



Alyssa Menz '15



## Ebe Ouattara '15 Seeks To Help Ivory Coast Youth



Shortly after a Columbia admissions officer visited **Ebe Ouattara '15's** high school in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in 2010 and encouraged the then-aspiring aeronautical engineer to apply to Engineering, a violent power struggle broke out in the West African country for the second time in 10 years. Ouattara's senior year was disrupted and, with banks and agencies closed, he had a hard time gathering documents for college applications. "It was really difficult to think about college at the time," says Ouattara. "I wasn't sure I was going anywhere."

The turmoil prompted a shift in Ouattara's goals. He'd once envisioned returning to the Ivory Coast, degree in hand, and exploring ways to make commercial flights within Africa more affordable. But that dream, he realized, required political stability.

"I started to think, 'Am I going to be able to do that if my country is fighting?'" says Ouattara. Seeing the value of majoring in political science, the SEAS admit transferred to the College before his first year even began.

Ouattara, who dreams of an Ivory Coast where "youth play a more constructive role in politics, economics and society," credits his College education with affording him a more critical understanding of the country's problems. "Coming to Columbia has given me the opportunity to look at things from international and regional perspectives, and to understand why different actors in the crisis made certain decisions," says Ouattara, who lists "Democratization and Regime Change in Developing Countries" with assistant professor Kimuli Kasara and "The Evolution of Civil War Mediation Strategy" with SIPA lecturer Thomas Hill among the courses that have most influenced him.

Born in Alabama, Ouattara was 9 months old when he moved to his parents' native Ivory Coast. His father passed away when he was 6, and he moved back to Alabama with his mother in 2003, when he was 10, at the beginning of the first Ivorian Civil War. The fighting had ended by the time they returned to Abidjan in 2007 and the situation remained stable until the post-electoral crisis that rattled the country from November 2010 to April 2011. Ouattara remembers that period as one of "fear and uncertainty"; it was unclear from one day to the next whether staples like bread or cooking gas would be available.

Empowered by a College education that has given him new perspectives, Ouattara wants to do the same for other Ivorian youth by "creating a platform within the next 10 years that enables students to think critically about the information they are getting." Looking to turn that vision into an actionable plan, he has deferred admission to the master's program in peace and conflict studies at the University of Manchester to spend a year at home; he hopes to find work during that time with an organization that promotes post-conflict development and make connections with youth leaders. "The coming year will help me determine which avenue I believe is more effective," he says.

## Shondrea Thornton '15 Stays Committed to Social Justice

A commitment to social justice guided many of **Shondrea Thornton '15's** choices at the College, from her academic trajectory to where she lived on campus to the student organizations she joined.

An African-American studies major, Thornton received a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF), awarded each spring to five sophomores from underrepresented minorities who demonstrate potential for doctoral study. Fellows receive support for research, meet weekly to discuss their work and learn about the graduate school application process. Citing race, gender and class among her research interests, Thornton says that through MMUF she "realized how important academia can be to activism," adding, "We talked about scholar activism — how can your paper on feminism change how young girls view themselves?"

For her MMUF research, Thornton looked at black political culture as reflected in and influenced by the careers of entertain-

ers Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Beyoncé. "My paper is about resituating the popular culture created by black women as having integral importance to political culture and the way we think about identity, race, gender and sexuality," Thornton says. Starting this fall, she intends to explore "contradictions between popular culture and political culture" more broadly at UCLA, where she will pursue a Ph.D. in gender studies.

Thornton began pondering that relationship following the December 2013 release of the album *Beyoncé*, which she discussed with her housemates at the Intercultural House, the residential component of the Intercultural Resource Center. The IRC, which occupies two brownstones on West 114th Street and also offers a library and meeting space for student groups, promotes dialogue about diversity and social justice. Residents receive training meant to foster understanding of societal oppression. "It's an intentional space for exploring questions about identity and it is a brownstone, so you get that homey feel," says Thornton, who

lived in the IRC beginning with her sophomore year.

In 2014, Thornton, who hails from Durham, N.C., received a King's Crown Leadership Excellence Award for Civic Responsibility in recognition of her involvement with several student groups, including Columbia University Students Against Mass Incarceration, and Black History Month. Thornton also participated in rallies and protests with the Columbia University Black Students' Organization and, as the group's senior chair this past year, helped plan Black Graduation, one of several multicultural ceremonies organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. As a senior, she co-chaired the Black Family Tree, a component of OMA's Columbia Mentoring Initiative, which pairs first-years with upperclassmen mentors of their own ethnicity.

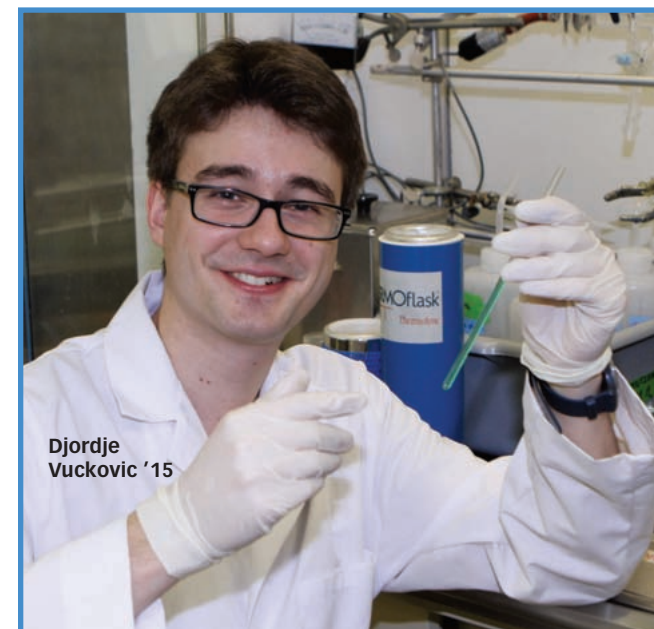
Though at times Thornton found herself at odds with the administration as a result of her activist work on campus, she is proud of all of her undergraduate pursuits, which she says were fueled by a desire to make the black community at Columbia stronger. "When you are doing the right thing for the right reasons, you will get the results you want," says Thornton. "My life and my trajectory have been helped by being brave and taking a stand. I'm leaving happy."

## Djordje Vuckovic '15 Uses Chemistry To Do Good

A chemistry major with an interest in environmental science, **Djordje Vuckovic '15's** research at the College yielded a new material that he hopes will eventually be "used in factory and power plant filters to help clean the atmosphere."

Vuckovic worked in the lab of Jeffrey Koberstein, the Percy K. and Vida L.W. Hudson Professor of Chemical Engineering, where he investigated carbon sequestration — the capture and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as a way to mitigate climate change. There he designed a molecule that, depending on its temperature, has the ability to absorb and release carbon dioxide. "It has a fairly high absorption capacity," Vuckovic says.

Vuckovic was one of a handful of incoming students who are admitted to the College each year as Science Research Fellows, which guarantees two summer research opportunities, facilitation of research during the academic year, access to a \$10,000 stipend across four years and other benefits. "I knew research interested me and that I wanted to major in a science," says Vuckovic, who



was born in and spent his early years in New York City before moving to his parents' native Serbia, where he attended middle school and high school.

Last summer, through a National Science Foundation-funded program at the European Center for Research and Education in Geosciences and the Environment in France, Vuckovic studied the possibility of using elemental iron nanoparticles to purify groundwater. In his final semester at the College, he turned his attention to improving atom transfer radical polymerization, a technique used to synthesize small molecules to form long chains of repeating units, called polymers.

Vuckovic, who was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in May, hopes to begin a Ph.D. program this fall to continue his research on polymers, which have potential applications across a range of scientific fields. "I'm interested in chemistry that has an environmental application but also possible biomedical applications, such as drug delivery and tumor imaging," says Vuckovic.

Throughout his time at Columbia, Vuckovic could often be found training with the Columbia University Ballroom Dance Team. Vuckovic, who first attempted ballroom dancing in high school but did not begin competing until he joined CUBDT, found that the hobby brought balance to his undergraduate years. "As soon as I'd hear that music and we'd start moving on the floor, I'd realize, 'Wow, this is amazing. Maybe research isn't the only thing. There are other things in life that are also important.'"

Vuckovic's favorite dances are the foxtrot and the quickstep, and he is particularly proud of a mentorship program he spearheaded as president of CUBDT his junior year, which pairs beginner dance couples with more advanced members of the club. "It's shown everyone that anyone can learn how to dance," says Vuckovic. "We noticed that dancers improved faster and team spirit grew."

**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.



# King of His Castle

*From blockbuster movies to top-rated television, Andrew Marlowe '88 has built a career telling stories that channel pop culture as well as the classics*

BY PHIL WALLACE '04

It's 8 p.m. on a Friday at the Raleigh Studios lot in Hollywood, and Andrew Marlowe '88 is in the zone. The creator and showrunner of ABC's hit *Castle* is filming what may be the series' last episode.

Despite the late hour it looks like broad daylight on Stage 12, which is the set for the show's NYPD Precinct 12. In the main area are four of its stars: Nathan Fillion, Stana Katic, Seamus Dever and Jon Huertas. The group has just shot a scene from a side that faces Fillion and Katic, who play the leads, novelist Richard Castle and detective Kate Beckett. Now it's time to shoot it all again from the other side.

In a corner of the set rests a movable area called "The Village" where Marlowe is clearly in charge, standing alongside his wife — and the show's executive producer — Terri Edda Miller, near a cluster of director's chairs. In front of them is this episode's director, Paul Holahan, a few crew members and several cameras and monitors. This particular scene will be shot nine times on each side.

Dever, who plays Detective Kevin Ryan, says a line on an early take that isn't quite right. He's providing information to Castle and Beckett about a woman whose murder is eerily similar to one they are investigating now. "He should know that's going to have an emotional impact on Castle," Marlowe says to Holahan.

They take a quick break and the director goes up to Dever, relaying what Marlowe has said. Another take is filmed, and Dever's delivery is more solemn and sympathetic. Marlowe puts two thumbs in the air and looks excited.

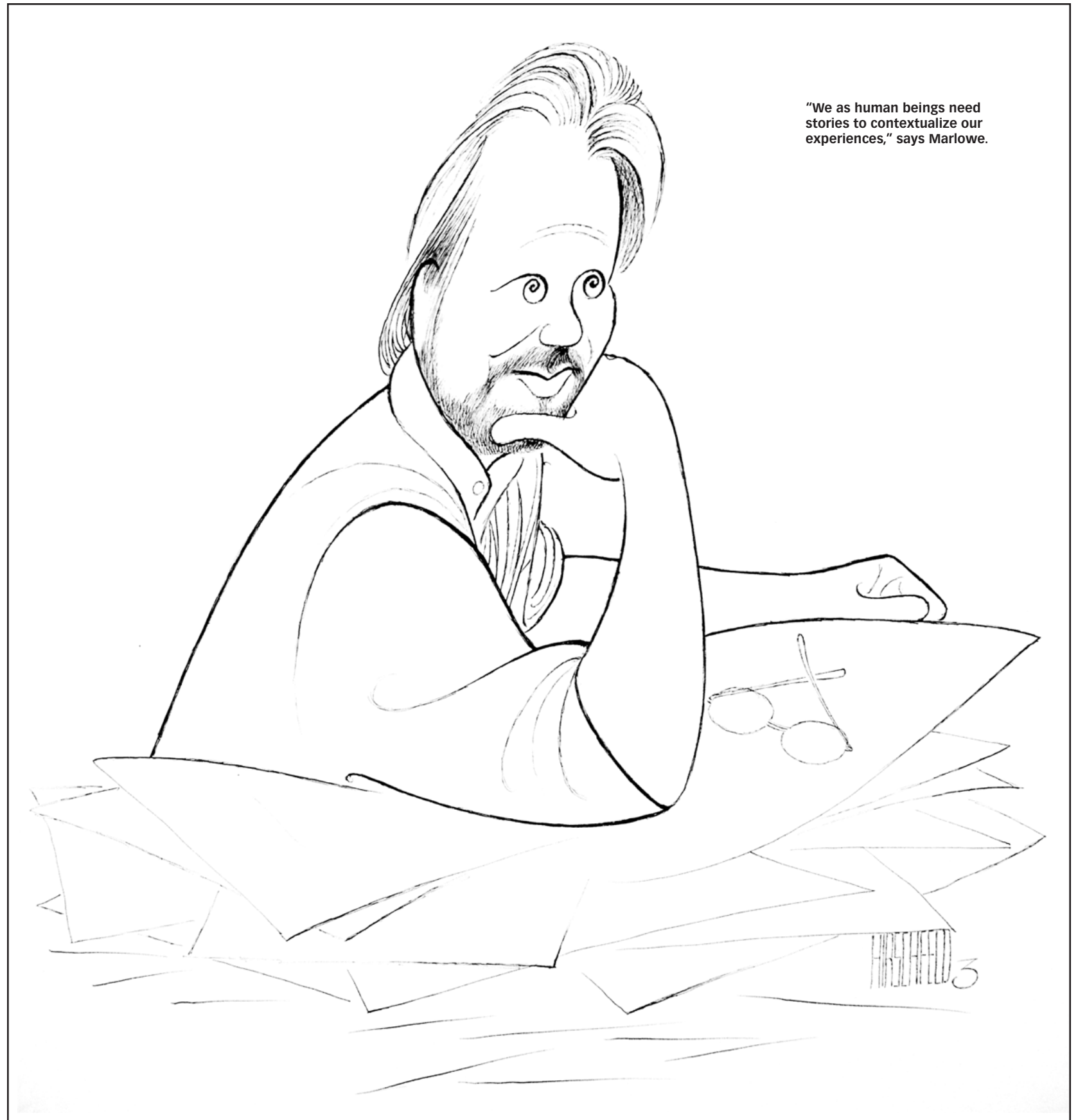
"That's great!" he shouts.

After the scene finishes shooting, Marlowe explains his thinking.

"In this case, Ryan gave information that was sensitive to Castle. So the actor made the adjustment. Hopefully that made the storyline more interesting," he says.

Marlowe would return to filming more scenes that night, and the crew would remain on set until nearly 1 a.m. Just a normal day's work for one of Hollywood's busiest showrunners.

"We as human beings need stories to contextualize our experiences," says Marlowe.







Marlowe (left) and producer-director Rob Bowman on the *Castle* set in 2012.

PHOTO: MARTA EVRY

It's been a long but steady road to success for Marlowe, whose career has advanced from Columbia to writing blockbuster films to producing one of television's most popular shows.

Marlowe grew up in Silver Spring, Md., and had a love for film at an early age. His parents had a regular movie night and he devoured films on a 16 mm projector at the Prince George Library. Marlowe enrolled at Columbia in 1984 and soon took advantage of all the city had to offer cinematically.

"New York is such a great town for movies. It's not relevant to today's students because everything is digital on demand, but back in the day you couldn't see something unless someone was showing it," he says. "New York offered so many great screens and revival houses."

Marlowe took numerous film classes at the College, including one with Annette Insdorf, director of undergraduate film studies, who sees Marlowe every year when she moderates a panel at the Telluride Film Festival. Marlowe also upheld a long undergraduate student tradition of sneaking into legendary movie critic and film professor Andrew Sarris '51, GSAS'98's class.

An English literature major and a philosophy minor, Marlowe fenced foil on the Light Blue varsity team. He and friends Andy Rotman '88 and Matt Murabito '88 loved exploring New York and regularly hung out at jazz clubs in the West Village.

"He was a philosopher-in-training," Rotman says of Marlowe. "But if he wanted to do something, it was going to get done. He loved learning. We took philosophy classes together and he took great pleasure in thinking."

Recalls Murabito, "Even back in the day, Andrew was a rare combination of high-brow intellectual and popular culture/sci-fi aficionado. He could talk about the intricacies of Shakespeare or Joyce as easily as the minutiae of the *Star Trek* or Marvel universes — or combine the two ends to let you see how popular culture

borrowed from the classics."

While Marlowe was a student, he interned at Lancit Media Entertainment, the company that produced the popular children's television program *Reading Rainbow*. After graduating, his first job was at the literary agency Rosenstone/Wender. There, he read numerous scripts that came through the office and realized that he might have the ability to write quality screenplays himself. When not working at the agency, Marlowe freelanced as an assistant on low-budget film projects in New York City, often arriving on location at 4 a.m. to prepare for a morning shoot.

Wanting a change of pace from the New York lifestyle, Marlowe relocated to Seattle in 1989. There, he took theater courses at the University of Washington and was accepted into the University of Southern California's graduate screenwriting program in 1990. He says that his Columbia education gave him a leg up on his peers.

"The Core Curriculum, in terms of its exposure to storytelling across 2,500 years of human history, allowed me to see the patterns emerge," Marlowe says. "It felt like it gave me a huge advantage walking through the door in terms of understanding story, having read Aristotle's *Poetics*, having seen the emergence of these patterns in things like *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*."

Marlowe earned his M.F.A. in screenwriting in 1992 and later that year won a Nicholl Fellowship from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his script *The Lehigh Pirates*. The fellowship provides a cash prize for up-and-coming screenwriters. Another of the five winners that year was Miller. The couple married in 1997.

"My stepdaughter says that Mommy won Andrew in a contest," Marlowe jokes.

The fellowship set Marlowe off on a successful screenwriting career that included blockbusters such as *Air Force One* (1997) starring Harrison Ford, *End of Days* (1999) starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and *Hollow Man* (2000) starring Kevin Bacon. Through it all, Marlowe's Columbia education manifested itself in his work.

"My biggest Hollywood movie, *Air Force One*, came out of what is called the 'Die Hard' genre, the guy in trouble trying to save his family," Marlowe says. "That is straight out of the end of *The Odyssey*, when Odysseus comes home and finds his house is overrun by suitors and has to strap on the bow and arrow to save his family."

*"Marlowe has a powerful sense of story, a sense that, as I've witnessed, has no boundaries or specialization. He is a storyteller through and through," says Rob Bowman.*

While on the *Castle* set, one of the show's producers, Arman Bernstein, recounts how he met Marlowe in the mid-1990s. Bernstein was a successful Hollywood producer who oversaw Beacon Pictures; Marlowe was meeting with Beacon's development team about getting *Air Force One* produced.

"I'm on the phone with Kevin Costner, and my head of development is trying to interrupt me. I say, 'What is it?'" Bernstein recalls. "He says to me: 'You've got to hear this: the President of the United States' plane gets hijacked ... and he fights back!'"

"Costner overhears it and says, 'That's a good idea! Can I play the president?' I said, 'Maybe it would be better if it was the Vice President?' But Andrew says, 'No, it's gotta be my way or no way.'"

"That's what it's like to work with Andrew. [Usually], when you're a young writer, you say 'OK' and you go along. But Andrew knew what he was and what he wanted, and I've found it's a wise thing to let him do what he wants."

Unfortunately for Costner, a scheduling conflict prevented him from making the movie. But Ford filled the role quite nicely.

"Any time you're successful with an audience, it's amazing," Marlowe says. "*Air Force One* was a home run. Working with Harrison Ford was a dream, having grown up in the *Star Wars* era."

Marlowe pitched *Castle* to ABC in 2007 and it debuted in 2009 as a midseason replacement. The show is founded on the premise that a mystery writer, Castle, has killed off his popular main character, Derrick Storm, and subsequently uses his friendship with the mayor of New York City to start shadowing NYPD homicide investigations for research. Beckett is the officer he's paired with. Eventually *Castle* bases a new character, Nikki Heat, on Beckett.

Rob Bowman, a longtime entertainment producer/director who was a producer for *The X-Files*, among other things, fell in love with Marlowe's script. He had been close with ABC executives and he insisted on directing the pilot. Bowman became a producer on *Castle* and he's been close friends with Marlowe since they started working together.

"Marlowe has a powerful sense of story, a sense that, as I've witnessed, has no boundaries or specialization," Bowman says. "He is a storyteller through and through, which has been quite helpful in making almost 150 hours of entertainment."

Marlowe knew right away that he wanted his wife to be involved with *Castle*. His experience had primarily been in action, but Miller's expertise was in writing romantic comedies.

"I was looking for the *Moonlighting* genre. When I wanted to have that spark of a romantic comedy, I know that I wanted her to be part of it. I trusted that voice. She is the heart of the show," Marlowe says.

Says Miller, "We have enormous respect for each other's talents. I love his work and he loves mine. All partners have points in their career where they're in sync, or where they're at loggerheads. We just do it more intimately."

Marlowe says that he was a fan of romantic comedy films in the 1930s and '40s with actors like Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn, or *The Thin Man* with Myrna Loy and William Powell.

"I always liked that repartee, so I tried to build off of that. You have this fun-loving mystery writer who doesn't take death seriously. Who do you put him with? A female cop who takes death very seriously because she's personally affected by it [her mother's murder prompted her to join the force]. And I thought those two different world views colliding would be very interesting at the top of the show," Marlowe says.



Marlowe, who was presented a 2015 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in March, at the awards dinner with his wife, Terri Edda Miller.

PHOTO: DAVID DINI SIPA '14

The dramedy became an instant hit. Having completed its seventh season, *Castle* attracts more than 12 million viewers weekly and has won four consecutive People's Choice Awards for Favorite TV Crime Drama. The show's ratings increased in each of its first six years on the air, and it ended 2014 as ABC's highest-rated series.

Unlike many other crime procedurals, *Castle* is fun and light-hearted; the show thrives off the banter between Fillion's and Katic's characters.

"When I grew up, there were a lot of great character-based procedurals, like *The Rockford Files* or *Columbo*, where the character was at the heart of it. It felt like procedurals had moved away from that," Marlowe says. "I thought ... 'What about a mystery writer who came at the crime from the point of view of story? Would that person be of any value?'"

One thing that's clear with *Castle* is that there's always more to the show than what one initially sees. Marlowe says he's proud of the show's meta narratives.

Beckett's character is named for both Katharine Hepburn and the playwright Samuel Beckett. "Hepburn to me represents the pinnacle of the strong, smart woman in films," Marlowe says. "And 'Beckett' was a nod to the playwright, a favorite of mine. His gallows humor and often bleak, tragicomic outlook seemed worth a reference in a dramedy about murder."

As for the title character, his last name was partially a play on Stephen King's last name (both are chess pieces). When



*“When I was at Columbia, I remember always wanting to be on The New York Times bestseller list. I didn’t make it, but my fictional character did.”*

asked about the full name Richard Castle, Marlowe says, “It was a name that I thought was a lot of fun. Our guy is a bit of a wise-ass, and if you take the ‘c’ off his name, there’s a bit of fun to be had.”

*Castle* also has spawned the successful Nikki Heat book series, which has appeared on *The New York Times* bestseller list. While Marlowe contributes to the books’ storylines, he insists that he doesn’t write them. He won’t say who the true author is, though, apart from noting that Richard Castle has the official byline.

“When I was at Columbia, I remember always wanting to be on *The New York Times* bestseller list. I didn’t make it, but my fictional character did.”

Marlowe puts great consideration into every detail of the show, and cares deeply about how it is shot.

“Some shows have a flat feel, but we pride ourselves on our rich cinematic look,” Marlowe says. “We like texture.”

Marlowe has incorporated Columbia into the show in various ways. Although the show films in Los Angeles, the pilot had a scene that was shot in the SIPA library. He made Castle a fencer, in part based on his own experience on the Light Blue fencing team. And one episode started with a murder based on a real-life 1984 on-campus incident, when students found a rug on the street, brought it up for dorm room decoration and were shocked to find a dead body inside.

Additionally, Castle’s daughter, Alexis, played by Molly Quinn, attends Columbia.

“We very much wanted to keep her a part of the show, so we didn’t want her going to some school out of state. I considered having her go to NYU, but come on! It had to be Columbia, right? She’s a smart cookie,” Marlowe says.

Being a showrunner is quite grueling, and Marlowe’s days can be long. When *Castle* is in the middle of a 24-episode season, Marlowe typically gets less than five hours of sleep a night. He might arrive on set as early as 6 a.m. to look at new cuts from the editing team. Then he will work with writers on creating storylines and on preproduction for episodes that are about to be filmed.

During the day, Marlowe deals with issues on the set. He answers questions about props and costumes and is alongside the crew while scenes are shot. He also works with the editors on upcoming episodes that have been shot. A typical episode takes eight days to film, five on set and three on location. (In addition, there are eight days of pre-production and

eight days of post-production.) Marlowe often comes home at 11 p.m., only to review music cues and go over plans for upcoming shoots before going to sleep by 2 a.m.

“I need to have seven to eight episodes in my head on any given day,” he says.

“Being a showrunner is one of the most difficult and complicated jobs in show business,” Miller says. “Andrew is the boss of all these people — and there are more than 300 people. He’s like a CEO.”

Even while admitting he’s “exhausted,” Marlowe appears energized on set.

“Being able to do this is an amazing thing,” Marlowe says. “You work for a really long time for a moment of grace, and when you have it, you want to ride it out as long as you can. It’s a magical thing.”

Marlowe’s friends and colleagues all remark that he’s one of the best people to know and work with.

“In my 30 years of doing TV, he is by far the most generous and creative executive producer I’ve worked with,” says Penny Johnson, who plays *Castle*’s Captain Victoria Gates. “He is really a wonderful man, and it’s why the tone of the set is the way that it is.”

“He has a clarity to his creative voice,” Bowman says. “There’s no shyness with Marlowe. He’s tough as nails, which you have to be as long-term showrunner. The burden of duty is enormous. Some creatively wither, but Andrew has not. It requires incredible creative agility and the sturdiness of a rhinoceros. It’s a mind-blowing schedule that you have to maintain.”

Several weeks after the seventh season finale had been filmed, ABC announced that *Castle* would be renewed for an eighth season. Still, after careful consideration, Marlowe and Miller made the difficult decision to leave the show. While the couple will remain involved as consultants, ABC will hire a new showrunner.

“After seven years, Terri and I have decided to move on and focus on other projects,” Marlowe said nearly a month after filming his last episode.

Through their company Milmar Pictures, Marlowe and Miller have been working on several new scripts that could find their way onto the screen. Marlowe has written a pilot script based on the Derrick Storm character from *Castle*’s books, and he has a deal with Marvel to do a comic strip about Storm.

He’s also working to revitalize the private detective character Philip Marlowe, created by author Raymond Chandler. Marlowe said that it was difficult to work on these new projects while simultaneously overseeing *Castle*, so that is why he has opted to step aside. But whatever Marlowe does next, his Columbia experience undoubtedly will come out.

“One of the big conversations that is going on in Hollywood right now is how technology will affect the future of storytelling. One thing that is clear to me is that storytelling isn’t going away. We as human beings need these stories to contextualize our experiences,” Marlowe says.

“There’s a reason why Aristophanes still works today. There’s a reason why Euripides still works today. Human beings haven’t changed that much throughout our history. We’re still obsessed with all the same things.”

**Phil Wallace '04** is the head of business development for *Reigning Champs*, a portfolio company of *The Raine Group*, and a freelance journalist in Los Angeles.





# Building a Lifeline

**AFTER THE TRAGIC LOSS OF THEIR SON JED, PHIL AND DONNA SATOW WENT ON A MISSION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM**

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

Sometimes, tragedies can lead to good works. When Jed Satow died by suicide at the end of 1998, at 20, his parents, Phillip M. Satow '63 and Donna Satow GS'65, wanted to understand what went wrong in his life and what could have been done to save him. They met with the president of the University of Arizona, where Jed had been a sophomore. With more than 30,000 students on campus, the president asked earnestly, "What would you want me to do?"

"In those days there was little discussion about the risk of suicide among young adults," Donna says. "When we walked out we realized, here was a closed system — a college campus — and even they weren't sure how best to prevent this from happening."

The Satows went on a mission to obtain answers to the president's plea and find what could be done to prevent other families from enduring the same loss. It became clear that no organization existed that specialized in preventing suicide among college students, despite it being the second leading cause of death in that population. So in 2000, backed by the expertise of an extensive advisory board, the Satows established one themselves.

In the 15 years since, the Manhattan-based nonprofit The Jed Foundation has matured into the country's leading authority on the prevention of college student suicides. It has developed and honed its "Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention on College and University Campuses," a set of recommendations that have influenced hundreds of schools. With a \$3.8 million budget and a staff of 12, including CEO John MacPhee '89, PH'12, as well as a psychiatrist and two clinical psychologists, the foundation now partners with the nonprofit Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation to influence changes in school policies and practices at colleges nationwide. It is also partnering with MTV and Facebook to extend a helping hand directly to college students in the form of media and social marketing campaigns.

"They went to the right places and asked all the right questions and took time to develop a long-term and comprehensive program to prevent young people from suicide and self-harm," says Rain Henderson, CEO of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, part of the Clinton Foundation. "The Satows are incredible people. You know the minute you meet them these are people on a mission."

"It's a really sound, evolving, deep and meaningful model," says Joe Behen, executive director of counseling, health and disability services at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. "The Jed Foundation has had an incredible impact in higher education. It's the best model out there to enhance student well-being and save lives."

The Satows met in 1962 in the main reading room of Butler Library. They married in 1964 and soon began moving around — including Boston, Brussels and Washington, D.C., as well as New York City, their eventual home — as Phil was a naval officer and then worked his way up in the pharmaceutical industry. Donna worked in publishing, including as co-founder and publisher of *The Women's Newspaper of Princeton* — "No diet or fashion!" she notes — in the '70s and '80s, and later as publisher of *Columbia College Today*. The couple raised three children: Jed and his older siblings, Michael '88 and Julie '96, SIPA'01.

The Satows describe their family as tight-knit and happy. Jed was outgoing, with many friends and a lively sense of humor, but in high school he sometimes was sullen, angry or impulsive, or wanted to be alone. His parents worried about his behavior but when they mentioned it to others, they were told he was being a typical teenager and not to worry. Jed also had a learning disability; he chose to attend Arizona in part because of its specialized program for such students.

What the Satows now know is that depression can look different in young people than in adults. Rather than withdrawing, young adults can appear outgoing. Sadness might come out as anger. And, Donna emphasizes, they are impulsive, which can lead them to a drastic response to problems they don't see as temporary at their inexperienced age.

The Satows also discovered that learning disabilities in young people often are accompanied by emotional and mental health

issues. In Jed's case, they believe he might have had undiagnosed depression. At the time of Jed's death, Phil had just announced his retirement from Forest Laboratories, a move he says he made in part to spend more time with his youngest child.

"You think that your son or daughter is in college, everything is fine. You don't want to see certain problems," Phil says. "So you say, 'That's typical behavior, versus troubled behavior.' We'd rather say it's typical and hope and pray it is, versus saying it's troubled." He now cautions parents to err on the side of getting help.

Phil adds that in their case, compounding his guilt — a feeling he says haunts all parents of children who die by suicide — is that he had worked

with psychiatrists on products to treat depression. "I had learned something about it," he says, "and still I didn't save my son."

Before The Jed Foundation was created, campuses generally focused their mental health programming on services offered at the counseling center. Yet only a minority of college students (typically 10–15 percent, according to MacPhee) make their way to centers like that, even though emotional problems are widespread. According to the Spring 2014 report, the most recent available, of a twice-a-year survey by the American College Health Association, a quarter of college students said they were "very lonely" within the past two weeks and a quarter said they were "very sad" within the past two weeks. More than one in six reported being "so depressed that it was difficult to function" sometime in the past year, and 1 in 20 had "seriously considered suicide" in the past year.



Donna Satow GS'65 and Phillip M. Satow '63 with their children (left to right) Michael '88, Julie '96, SIPA'01; and Jed.





"We believe promoting emotional well-being is an important part of higher education and life readiness," says John MacPhee '89, PH'12 (left), The Jed Foundation CEO, with Donna Satow GS'65 and Phillip M. Satow '63 on campus this past spring.

PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

"There's a large population of students on campus dealing with all kinds of issues that can become severe if not attended to," says Phil, who is also chairman of the board of the foundation.

To formulate a model of what should be done on college campuses to address the problem, the Satows began by researching what other closed systems were doing. They found a successful model in the Air Force, which uses a mental health and suicide prevention program that has reduced rates of suicide, homicide, domestic violence and accidental deaths, and set about adapting it to colleges.

Eventually, the Satows created the Jed-Campus program, a multi-point plan of action that could be applied to colleges nationwide. It takes mental health services and suicide prevention beyond the counseling center, helping college administrators put a safety net in place for students. The goals extend to seven areas: developing life skills, promoting social connectedness, identifying students at risk, increasing help-seeking behaviors, providing mental health services, following crisis management procedures and restricting access to potentially lethal means. They encompass

a range of recommendations, from making sure students have access to healthful foods and a free gym to preventing easy access to roofs.

"We believe promoting emotional well-being is an important part of higher education and life readiness," says MacPhee, who joined The Jed Foundation in 2011 following 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry. "Sleep deprivation, anxiety and depression are among the top reasons contributing to academic failure and dropout."

One practice the foundation advocates is the creation of behavioral intervention teams, aka "campus care teams," comprising individuals in an array of positions — faculty, academic advisers, RAs, coaches, chaplains — trained to recognize students of concern and get them help. "They didn't exist widely a decade ago, and now it's the rare school that doesn't have a care team," Behen says. "The Jed Foundation has been a major

influence on that."

Because so few students go to counseling centers, The Jed Foundation also has designed campus-based social marketing campaigns to reduce the feelings of isolation, despair, anxiety and



helplessness that can lead to a suicide attempt. "We affect people suffering in silence, like my son was," Donna says. "We want to help students feel more connected and to know it's OK to speak up and get help for themselves or a friend, and we want them to know how to get that help."

The JedCampus Program is now run in conjunction with the Clinton Foundation as The Jed and Clinton Health Matters Campus Program, launched in 2014. The Clinton Foundation leaders initiated the partnership when they were working on a program to curtail prescription drug misuse and overdose on college campuses. "When we talked to people in the field — small nonprofits, large nonprofits, the White House — it came up again and again that there's one organization we should really look at: The Jed Foundation," Henderson says.

Colleges and universities pay \$1,950 for a four-year process to implement the Campus Program. A team from The Jed Foundation and the Clinton Foundation visits the school to do an assessment and identify opportunities to improve. An interdisciplinary team at the school is formed to work on changes, with technical assistance and advice, as well as periodic evaluations, from the foundations.

Eighty-eight schools are in the program, with a goal of 1,500 by 2020. Schools that complete the four years and successfully implement the recommendations will receive a certification (some schools, including Columbia and Barnard, received this certification before the current program debuted). Phil hopes parents helping their children select schools during the application process will start to take the certification into account.

From its start, The Jed Foundation has also reached out directly to students, and continues to expand on those efforts. ULifeline, for example, has been in operation since the foundation's inception. The mental health and suicide prevention website (ULife line.org) is provided free of charge to all colleges by the foundation, which then helps schools customize it — for example, creating links to connect students with the resources available at their school. The website gets 440,000 individual visitors per year and 40,000 students take its confidential online quiz every year; the "self-evaluator" helps them recognize a problem in themselves or a friend and point them toward help at their school.

Since 2006, The Jed Foundation has partnered with MTV on Half of Us (halfofus.com). The educational campaign uses video and other tools to raise awareness of the mental health problems, stresses and pressures common among college students (e.g., break-ups, anxiety, "digital drama," money problems) and to encourage them to seek help. The title refers to the more than half of all college students surveyed who report severe problems with anxiety or depression.

The videos, which have won Peabody Awards, feature celebrities such as Mary J. Blige, Pete Wentz and Brittany Snow discussing their own struggles with mental health issues. The videos have been aired at 900 colleges and universities on mtvU, the largest television network for college students. The videos are also free to use by schools during orientation and at other events and programs (some schools have aired them before the main feature on movie nights) for purposes of education and discussion. "Depression, alcohol, loneliness, social media — it covers wide ground," MacPhee says. A key message to students: You are not alone.

"The campaign reaches millions of students with information about how to recognize when someone is struggling and the actions you can take to help yourself or a friend," MacPhee says.

Last year, The Jed Foundation launched another outreach



Satow, a past president of the Columbia College Alumni Association, received the 2014 Alexander Hamilton Medal in November; here, he is congratulated at the dinner by CCAA President Douglas R. Wolf '88.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

campaign, with Facebook and Instagram. The "Help a Friend in Need" guide helps 18–24-year-olds recognize posts of concern in social media and suggests what actions can be taken.

The extension of The Jed Foundation's programming to social media is an indication of how comprehensively it tries to reach college students in need. "Those at The Jed Foundation, including the Satows, are very in tune with the demographic they represent and really understand social media and how it's used," says Rita Fabi BUS'05, manager, Safety Operations, Facebook.

Since their work began, the Satows have inspired and witnessed real changes on college campuses. "In the past, senior officials have focused on academics, prestige and development," Phil says. "More and more, they are now focusing also on the quality of student life, with some emphasis on wellness and emotional wellbeing. That's been a great gift of The Jed Foundation: the recognition of this problem and the need for change so this problem is dealt with."

The Satows' goal is, by 2020, to see half of all college students in the United States attending a school that has implemented their model and been certified by The Jed Foundation.

"We work primarily with the university administration but it's for the kids," Phil says. "How many kids will be under our umbrella of protection? It's the kids we're protecting and they're what matter."



Shira Boss '93, JRN'97, SIPA'98 is an author and contributing writer to CCT. She lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, two sons and two whippets.

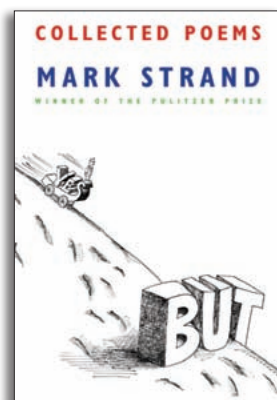


# Into the City of Souls

A selection of the work of Mark Strand (1934–2014), U.S. poet laureate, Pulitzer Prize winner and Columbia faculty member

Poet Mark Strand was known for writing about death, but not necessarily in a tone that was tragic. “I feel myself inching towards it. So there it is in my poems,” he told *The Paris Review* in 1998. “But I don’t think of myself as gloomy at all.” His well-known poem “2002” shows Death daydreaming of his final rendezvous with the poet; the occasion seems natural and casual, almost like the prelude to an elegant party. “One of these days I’ll be out back, swinging my scythe/Or holding my hourglass up to the moon, and Strand will appear/In a jacket and tie, and together under the boulevards’/Leafless trees we’ll stroll into the city of souls.”

On November 29, 2014, Strand walked away with Death; he was 80. He had taught in the Department of English and Comparative Literature since 2005, and also at the School of the Arts. A number of his Columbia students have posted tributes to him online ([arts.columbia.edu/writing/news/2014/mark-strand-obituary-p2](http://arts.columbia.edu/writing/news/2014/mark-strand-obituary-p2)). The U.S. poet laureate from 1990 to 1991, he received the Pulitzer Prize and the Bollingen Prize, and was also a MacArthur Fellow.



Strand trained as a visual artist in the 1950s and some of his poems are as spare, abstract and luminous as a late Rothko. In his *Paris Review* interview, Strand admitted: “The reality of the poem is a very ghostly one. It doesn’t try for the kind of concreteness that fiction tries for.” But that lack of concreteness is what gives his verbal canvases their strange, simple power. “It’s this ‘beyondness,’ that depth that you reach in a poem, that keeps you returning to it.”

In honor of Strand, and his contribution to American poetry, on the following pages is a selection of his work, chosen from *Collected Poems* (Knopf, 2014).

Rose Kernochan BC’82



Mark Strand’s obituary in *The New York Times* declared that his “spare, deceptively simple investigations of rootlessness, alienation and the ineffable strangeness of life made him one of America’s most hauntingly meditative poets.”

PHOTO: SARAH SHATZ

## THE GREAT POET RETURNS

When the light poured down through a hole in the clouds,  
We knew the great poet was going to show. And he did.  
A limousine with all-white tires and stained-glass windows  
Dropped him off. And then, with a clear and soundless fluency,  
He strode into the hall. There was a hush. His wings were big.  
The cut of his suit, the width of his tie, were out of date.  
When he spoke, the air seemed whitened by imagined cries.  
The worm of desire bore into the heart of everyone there.  
There were tears in their eyes. The great one was better than ever.  
“No need to rush,” he said at the close of the reading, “the end  
Of the world is only the end of the world as you know it.”  
How like him, everyone thought. Then he was gone,  
And the world was a blank. It was cold and the air was still.  
Tell me, you people out there, what is poetry anyway?  
Can anyone die without even a little?



KEEPING THINGS WHOLE

In a field  
I am the absence  
of field.  
This is  
always the case.  
Wherever I am  
I am what is missing.

When I walk  
I part the air  
and always  
the air moves in  
to fill the spaces  
where my body’s been.

We all have reasons  
for moving.  
I move  
to keep things whole.

THE MARRIAGE

The wind comes from opposite poles,  
traveling slowly.

She turns in the deep air.  
He walks in the clouds.

She readies herself,  
shakes out her hair,

makes up her eyes,  
smiles.

The sun warms her teeth,  
the tip of her tongue moistens them.

He brushes the dust from his suit  
and straightens his tie.

He smokes.  
Soon they will meet.

The wind carries them closer.  
They wave.

Closer, closer.  
They embrace.

She is making a bed.  
He is pulling off his pants.

They marry  
and have a child.

The wind carries them off  
in different directions.

This wind is strong, he thinks  
as he straightens his tie.

I like this wind, she says  
as she puts on her dress.

The wind unfolds.  
The wind is everything to them.

THE COMING OF LIGHT

Even this late it happens:  
the coming of love, the coming of light.  
You wake and the candles are lit as if by themselves,  
stars gather, dreams pour into your pillows,  
sending up warm bouquets of air.  
Even this late the bones of the body shine  
and tomorrow’s dust flares into breath.

THE END

Not every man knows what he shall sing at the end,  
Watching the pier as the ship sails away, or what it will seem like  
When he’s held by the sea’s roar, motionless, there at the end,  
Or what he shall hope for once it is clear that he’ll never go back.

When the time has passed to prune the rose or caress the cat,  
When the sunset torching the lawn and the full moon icing it down  
No longer appear, not every man knows what he’ll discover instead.  
When the weight of the past leans against nothing, and the sky

Is no more than remembered light, and the stories of cirrus  
And cumulus come to a close, and all the birds are suspended in flight,  
Not every man knows what is waiting for him, or what he shall sing  
When the ship he is on slips into darkness, there at the end.

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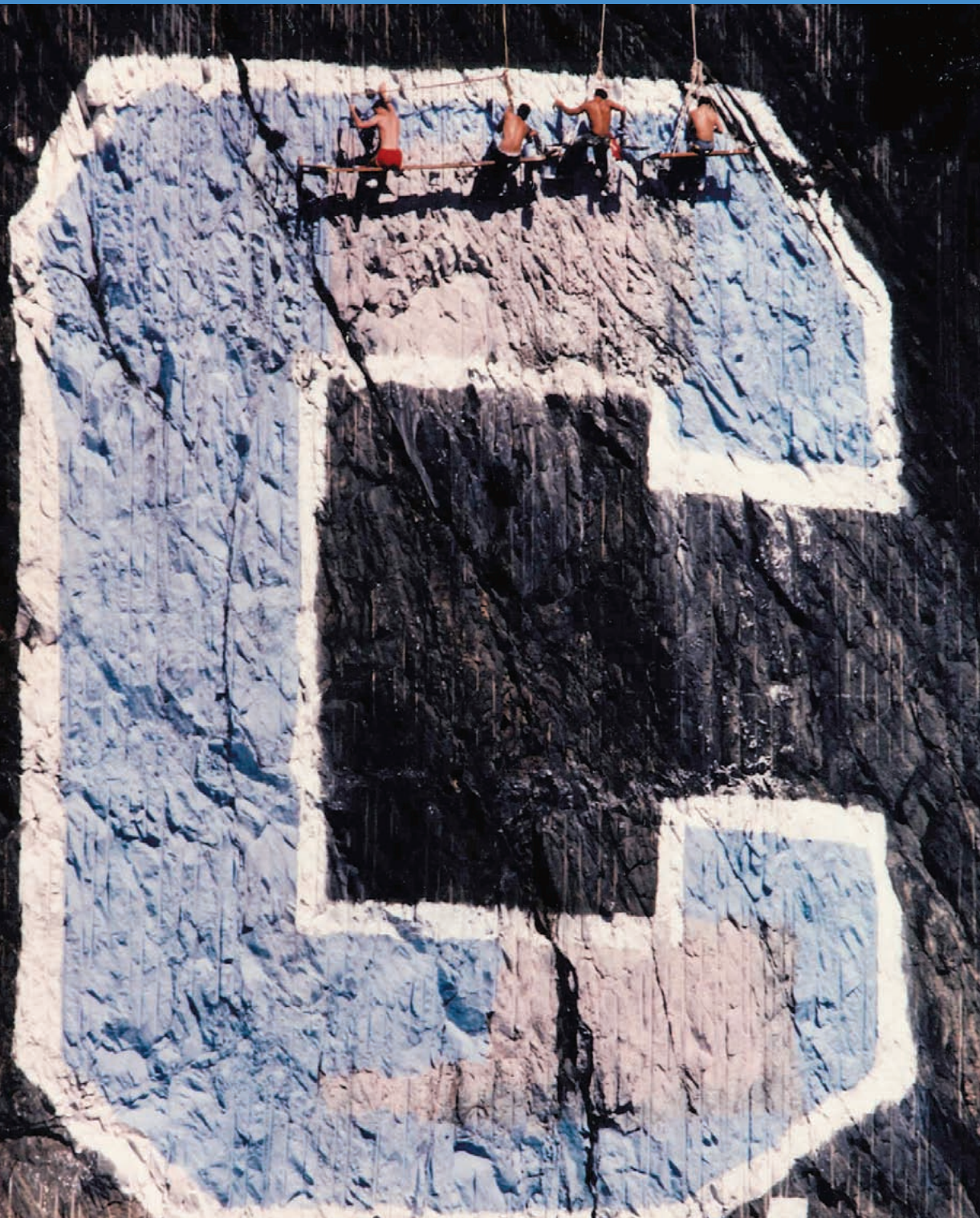


# Alumni News

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Students take nature for their canvas on the Bronx shore of the Harlem River.

PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



MESSAGE FROM CCAA PRESIDENT DOUGLAS R. WOLF '88

## Building a Vibrant CCAA Community

Summer greetings from the Columbia College Alumni Association. In my hometown of Boston, the warm weather could not have come soon enough. I hope everyone has a wonderful season.

As I look back on the school year, we at the CCAA accomplished much to be proud of, and we look forward to continued success this fall when the newest students arrive and embark upon their Columbia College adventure. I hope you were able to be a part of some of the past year's activity:

- the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner, which honored Phillip M. Satow '63, and the John Jay Awards Dinner, which honored Kyra Tirana Barry '87; Abigail Black Elbaum '92, BUS'94; Ira Katznelson '66; Nicholas P. Leone '88; and Andrew W. Marlowe '88 — both had incredible attendance and successful fundraising;
- Columbia College Women (CCW)'s exciting relaunch, featuring Claire Shipman '86, SIPA'94 and CNN's Poppy Harlow '05 in conversation with an energized group of alumnae and women students;
- the CCAA's new brand launch, which showcased our noble lion as well as our redesigned website: [college.columbia.edu/alumni](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni);
- more programing outside the Tri-State area, including
  - a Columbia filmmakers panel in Los Angeles;
  - a reception with young alumni and Louis Rossetto '71, BUS'73, founder of *Wired* magazine, in San Francisco; and
  - a reception for alumni in the Miami region, hosted by Eric Mendelson '87, BUS'89; and
- two student events featuring entertainment heavy hitters Beau Willimon '99, SOA'03 (creator of *House of Cards*) and Dede Gardner '90 (a producer of *12 Years a Slave*).

**Let's keep this momentum going.** The energy is building, and I hope even more of you will step up in the year ahead to join this community endeavor to support the College, its students and one another. Consider the following volunteer opportunities:

- Interviewing high school seniors as an Alumni Representative Committee member was my entry into becoming an active alumnus. It only takes about one hour of time per student, including interview and write-up. Many of our peer institutions are interviewing close to 100 percent of their candidates. Help us raise our number to at least 50 percent so we can get closer to ensuring all top-notch candidates hear more about Columbia in their application process.



*House of Cards* creator Beau Willimon '99, SOA'03 in conversation with Professor Annette Insdorf.

PHOTO: DAVID DINI SIPA'14

- Serving as a Class Agent is a great way to keep in touch with classmates and to generate energy and commitment while raising peer-to-peer gifts for the Columbia College Fund, which assists many students who might not otherwise be able to attend the College (Columbia is a leader in first-in-family collegians).
- Being a Reunion Committee member is essential to building a memorable program that brings classmates and friends back to campus to celebrate their Columbia experience and see what the College is like now. Options include helping to design programming, reaching out to classmates for support of the Class Gift and helping with outreach to build enthusiasm among classmates through targeted communications.

**Grace Kim '15, Senior Fund chair,** and Jackson Tse '15, Columbia College Student Alumni Ambassadors president, beautifully articulated the student perspective when they spoke to the CCAA Board of Directors at our final meeting of the school year. Their message: Students at Columbia today view alumni as an important part of their college experience; they crave interaction with alumni, and seek opportunities for mentoring and guidance as well as a sense of community.

To address this need, the CCAA will work to improve its communications with students so that they are better aware of the many student-alumni programs offered.

Check out the CCAA website ([college.columbia.edu/alumni](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni)) to learn more about the many ways to get involved and let me or the Alumni Office ([ccalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:ccalumni@columbia.edu)) know of other ways you want to show your pride and love of our school and our people. I welcome your ideas so we can continue to build a vibrant CCAA community.

Roar!

*Douglas R. Wolf*



# Lions



Fuller Condon '00 (left) and Andy Bean '01 bring humor and sophistication to the vintage folk revival group The Two Man Gentlemen Band.

PHOTO: COURTESY THE TWO MAN GENTLEMEN BAND

## Duo Shows Flair For Vintage Sounds

BY LAUREN STEUSSY

**Between them there are just eight strings, and sometimes a kazoo.** But Andy Bean '01 and Fuller Condon '00, who make up the vintage folk revival group The Two Man Gentlemen Band, have a way with hooks and a knack for showing their listeners a good time.

The Gentlemen write songs about great beards of the Civil War, tikka masala and the agony and ecstasy of one's love being like "the square root of two." Their music, at once silly and sophisticated, tips its hat to the stringed music of the 1920s and '30s — hot jazz, early country and western swing.

For the last decade, their songs have been played everywhere from the walkways of Central Park to stadiums of people awaiting the music of Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson (the band opened for Dylan's and Nelson's dual summer tour in 2009). Nowadays, the band is mostly heard in living rooms across the country, punctuating Disney's animated show *Wander Over Yonder*. The Gentlemen wrote the theme song for the show, which follows best friends and intergalactic travelers as they battle the galaxy's many forces of evil. Bean, who studied mathematics and lives in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter, is also the composer for the series. Condon, a music major who lives in Folly Beach, S.C., performs with several other local bands when not touring with Bean.

Frank Angones '05, SOA '11, *Wander Over Yonder*'s co-writer, says the theme song and Bean's scoring have given the show depth in its musical storytelling.

"A lot of times, especially in kids' cartoons, music is an afterthought. Andy's work definitely feels like it's part of the show. As much as it could not exist without the creators, the writers, the artists, it definitely couldn't exist without Andy's work."

**When The Two Man Gentlemen Band performs, showmanship is front and center.** Condon's upright bass and Bean's tenor guitar are almost accessories to their bowties, suspenders and bowler hats. The pair's banter is its own brand of improvised comedy. Listeners might realize only later, humming an upbeat ditty about pork chops or Palm Springs, how memorable their music is.

Bean and Condon met in their early days at Columbia while auditioning for a different band. Both were heavily involved in the music scene, which was seeing the beginnings of the early millennium's indie rock movement in New York City. Condon spent much of his time performing in other bands, including several with Bean. Bean was active with WKCR, where his 1940s and '50s rhythm and blues show aired Saturday afternoons, right before Phil Schaap '73's *Traditions in Swing* show. Just in his short interactions with Schaap, the obsessively encyclopedic jazz historian, Bean says he learned more about jazz music than he ever could have on his own. Schaap's influence was among the reasons he and Condon began listening to records of the genres they now imitate.

Bean earned a master's in mathematics from Boston College and Condon continued performing in bands. The two remained friends, though, and formed the Gentlemen in 2004. Jaded by the rigmarole of landing spots in clubs and venues around the city, the two staked



### TWO AT A TIME The Two Man Gentlemen Band

Pork Chops / Please Don't Water it Down / Panama City Beach / Pool Party  
Shut That Gate / Two Star Motel / Poolside / Cheese & Crackers / Tikka Masala  
Let's Get Happy Together / Prescription Drugs / Two at a Time

ALBUM COVER: COURTESY THE TWO MAN GENTLEMEN BAND

out a place in Central Park, often playing for several hours each day during the summer. Performing for donations may not be the typical path of an Ivy League duo, but Condon says his and Bean's education was helpful in their success.

"The reality is we could have just graduated from high school and done this, but there is a certain intelligence to the act and the songs," Condon says.

After about four years in the park, the band began touring. Between 2008 and 2012, they played as many as 200 shows a year, usually in small towns but often as the main act. More than 10,000 Facebook users track the band's goings-on. They've gained a following so loyal that once, when Bean's antique tenor banjo broke, a fan immediately offered his own as a replacement.

Bean says he likes to think of his and Condon's relationship, both on stage and off, as similar to the 1960s-era folk-comedy duo The Smothers Brothers — they build off each other's humor in a fraternal kind of way. Neither can describe it, nor script it; they once tried writing their dialogue before a show but the humor fell flat. "We're both terrible actors," Bean says.

The band has eight full-length albums, all of which channel the early and middle parts of the 20th century — bands like Milton Brown and His Musical Brownies or The Mills Brothers. In 2012, they produced *Two At A Time*, an album entirely free of any digital elements. From the analog recording to the hand-pressed album covers, it is a tribute to the aesthetic they aim to recreate.

Also in 2012, Bean and Condon were invited to submit a sample theme song for *Wander Over Yonder*, created by Craig McCracken, the same mind behind the shows *The Powerpuff Girls* and *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends*. McCracken says he liked "the idea of this twangy, organic folk instrument set against the backdrop of an epic space adventure," and was looking not just for a sound effect, but for a "soundtrack [to] showcase the visual gags" of the show.

"Just by listening to their music you can hear how much fun they had writing and performing it," says Jay Stutler, Disney's television animation VP in charge of music. "If the musicians enjoy



playing it, most likely our audience is going to enjoy absorbing it.”

Bean scores *Wander Over Yonder* from his home studio, and though he and Condon live on opposite sides of the country, they perform together when the show’s production schedule permits. It’s a way for them to preserve the lighthearted spirit captured in their music, Condon says.

“Maybe the ‘fun’ element is more apparent in the live shows, as we have a great time playing the music,” Condon says. “But that hopefully comes across just listening to it.”



To view a video of *The Two Man Gentlemen Band* in concert, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

**Lauren Steussy** covers *Staten Island* art and culture on for the *Staten Island Advance*. Her work has appeared in *San Diego Magazine* and the *Orange County Register*, among other publications.



## Turning Former NFL Players into Weight Loss Role Models

BY ETHAN ROUEN JRN’04, BUS’17

**To have the body of a professional athlete might** seem unattainable to the average couch potato, but once jocks retire from the playing field, they can become obese, too.

Hearing about their weight loss through diet, exercise and even surgery can be inspiring for fans, on par with hearing about the game-winning catch. Former Columbia athletes **Dr. Henry Buchwald ’54, PS’57** and **Dr. Archie Roberts ’65** are working with retired National Football League players to create these inspiring health stories and then have the athletes share them with people in inner cities and other areas plagued by obesity.

“In our country, we are living in a pandemic of obesity,” says Buchwald, a bariatric surgeon at the University of Minnesota and former varsity swimmer for the Lions. “Nobody really listens to doctors about obesity, about diabetes, about lifestyle changes. Who do people look up to? Their sports heroes. Who are the sports heroes in our country who have a tendency to get obese? NFL players.”

In 2011, Buchwald gave a talk on obesity in Japan, and as he finished, the “white coats” filed out and thousands of people moved in to hear a former professional sumo

wrestler tell his story of losing 300 lbs. This insight into fandom led Buchwald to reach out through mutual friends to Roberts, a cardiovascular surgeon who played quarterback for Columbia before going pro and earning his medical degree while playing for the Cleveland Browns.

Roberts had founded the Living Heart Foundation (LHF), which had already been working with NFL players suffering from obesity-related illnesses, more than a decade ago. (NFL players are at a significantly higher risk of these diseases than the general population.)

“That I was one of them in my youth helps,” Roberts says. “We have a shared experience. They now know they can trust me and that I have their best interest at heart.”

Buchwald went to Roberts with the idea for the Heart, Obesity, Prevention, Education (HOPE) program, which would build on LHF’s work by sharing the athletes’ weight-loss success stories with those suffering from and at risk for obesity-related diseases. By 2012, the organizations were merged into LHF HOPE ([livingheartfoundation.org/hope.html](http://livingheartfoundation.org/hope.html)).

The mission of LHF HOPE’s more than 20 volunteers is to work with local chapters of the NFL Players Association to treat former players who need to lose weight and then recruit them to work as emissaries, traveling the country to talk to people about the importance of health and the options for weight loss. Already, more than 3,500 former players have been screened at 80 hospitals, and 65 have participated in full studies geared toward improving health. Among them are offensive tackle Corey Louchiey, who played on conference-winning teams with the Bills and the Falcons, and tight end James Thornton, whose physique during his playing days earned him the nickname “Robocop.”

For the past 2½ years, LHF HOPE has been an itinerant organization, with Buchwald and Roberts reaching out to academic institutions interested in hosting screenings. But thanks to successful fundraising, the organization now has a Center of Excellence (a brick-and-mortar facility) in Charlotte and will have one in Los Angeles within a year.

As players continue to complete the program, LHF HOPE’s army of athlete-speakers continues to expand — and that is where the exponential impact of the program on communities at high risk for obesity-related illness can truly be seen. When Buchwald, Roberts and former players go to schools to talk to children, or host events at inner-city community centers (minorities and the poor suffer from obesity-related illnesses at higher rates than the general public), the audience patiently listens to the doctors, but only because they know what’s to come.

“Archie gets up, makes a speech, and people listen,” Buchwald says. “I get up, make a speech, people listen. Then two players get up, 6’10”, 6’11”. They played professionally at 320 lbs., then blew up to 500. One by diet, and one by bariatric surgery, they each lost 200 pounds and now are living successful, healthy lives. The audience doesn’t let them leave. The program is supposed to end at 5. We don’t get out until 8.”



**Dr. Henry Buchwald ’54, PS’57, co-founder of LHF HOPE, in his office.**

PHOTO: COURTESY DR. HENRY BUCHWALD ’54, PS’57



**Sara Just ’88 helms the control room as PBS *NewsHour* executive producer.**

PHOTO: DAN SAGALYN FOR PBS NEWSHOUR

## Sara Just ’88 Leads *NewsHour* Through Changing Times

BY KIM MARTINEAU JRN’97

**Despite the high stakes and intense pressures that** come with producing PBS’ iconic *NewsHour*, **Sara Just ’88** leads the newsroom with a calm and deliberate air.

In late November, from a conference room at *NewsHour*’s offices in Arlington, Va., Just sipped from a can of soda as she and her staff batted around headlines for the evening’s show. Features on climate change in Alaska and the abuse of painkillers by players in the NFL were cued up, along with several shorter pieces. After, they brainstormed stories for the slow Thanksgiving weekend ahead. Notably absent: the yelling, object-throwing and off-color language of some newsrooms.

“Sara has always been remarkably mature and steady in a newsroom where everyone is always wrought up and often in a state of outrage,” says Tom Bettag, executive producer at *Nightline* from 1991 to 2005 when Just worked there.

Just joined *NewsHour* as its executive producer in September during a time of historic upheaval for print and broadcast media. Though the program depends on a mix of public and private funding, it faces many of the harsh realities of its for-profit peers. The rise of the social web, where everyone is a publisher, has created heaps of content to compete against. Shrinking attention

spans and declining ad revenues are only part of the fallout; professional journalists and established media no longer hold the authority they once did.

When *NewsHour* shuttered its last bureaus, in San Francisco and Denver, in 2013, critics charged that the quality of its journalism had been slipping for years. Now all eyes are on Just. Can she remake one of TV’s premier newscasts for a digital age?

The last six months have brought a whirlwind of changes. With a \$30 million budget and an 85-member news team, ranging from on-air talent to support staff, Just has worked hard to recruit new viewers. Content-sharing deals with *The Atlantic*, the Center for Investigative Reporting and Ozy, an online news site targeted to a younger audience, have added fresh reporting. She has shortened *NewsHour*’s segments to fit more topics into the 60-minute broadcast and beefed up field reporting to give viewers a greater sense of immediacy.

Seizing opportunities brought by the mid-term elections last November, Just secured extra funding to expand *NewsHour*’s coverage on election night, featuring on-the-road dispatches from co-anchors Judy Woodruff and Gwen Ifill. “There’s a greater chance for

audiences to sample you than any other night,” Just says.

Perhaps most significantly, *NewsHour* has upped its game on social media, where even Just admits to getting her news first, via Twitter, when she awakens at 5 a.m. The show’s director of audience engagement works with web and social media editors to aggressively push news out over social networks, with an emphasis on graphics and video.

The changes have started to bear fruit. In December 2014, 950,000 people watched the newscast — a 12 percent jump from the year before albeit still down from 1.2 million in 2011, according to the most recent Nielsen ratings. The number of 25–54-year-olds, a key demographic for advertisers, also saw an 11 percent gain, though *NewsHour* declined to give total numbers.

The biggest growth came online. The website drew 4.1 million users in January, up 70 percent from the same period in 2014, and its biggest audience ever.

On the web, radio and TV, *NewsHour* has improved substantially in a short time, says former *NewsHour* executive Lester Crystal. “It’s still the traditional *NewsHour* and all that stands for,” he says. “But it’s also a faster-paced and more interesting program.”

Journalism is not a career that Just stumbled upon. She came to Columbia knowing where she wanted to go. “I put my suitcase down and walked over to *Spectator* before I even unpacked,” she says.

Growing up in the Boston suburb of Westwood, Mass., Just looked around at the adults she knew, including her uncle Max Frankel ’52, GSAS’53, a former editor of *The New York Times*, and realized something important: The journalists were having the most fun. An avid reader of the sports pages, especially all things Celtics and Red Sox, Just figured she would become a sports writer.

Still, she never forgot her mother’s advice to read the front page, too, because fascinating news also appeared there. After graduating from the Winsor School, a private all-girls day school





Just cites landing a Bruce Springsteen interview among her proudest moments. Second from right is Ted Koppel.

PHOTO: COURTESY SARA JUST '88

in Boston, Just left for Columbia, where her father, Harold '56, her mother, Marion Brown BC'63, GSAS'69, and grandfather Harold Brown '25, LAW'27 had all gone.

There, Just audited a class with Fred Friendly, the legendary CBS News producer, and learned about America's culture wars from historian Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69. Like most of her classmates at *Spectator*, however, her defining college experiences unfolded in a shabby office on Amsterdam Avenue, where five days a week they reported, hand-assembled and published a daily newspaper. At the end of her junior year, Just was picked by the outgoing editorial board to become executive editor — the first woman to hold that role.

Her classmates remember a tireless leader who was graceful under pressure. "She used her good humor and passion for journalism as motivation. It wasn't by cracking the whip," says former *Spec* colleague Stan Sagner '88, BUS'94, now executive editor of video at Rodale and a restaurant critic for the *New York Daily News*.

Just also showed a flair for management. Amid the football team's epic losing streak, she had the paper pull back on its disparaging coverage after realizing the players were constituents, too. To boost circulation, she and publisher Alison Hockenberry BC'88 expanded coverage of local events and businesses to attract readers beyond Columbia. "Even then she was thinking about building new audiences," says Hockenberry, now a freelance journalist in Brooklyn.

After graduation, Just moved to Boston to work for *The Patriot Ledger*; dozens of other papers had turned her down. "I hung rejection letters across my room in Fernald," she says. When the chance to return to New York for a job at *ABC News* came up a year later, in 1989, she grabbed it. She instantly took to TV, from the collaborative production process, to the power of images to tell stories — an appreciation she realized later she had developed in her art history classes at Columbia. From a desk-assistant job on Ted Koppel's *Nightline*, she advanced to researcher, producer, chief booker and senior producer in 2000.

Along the way, Just developed a reputation for championing controversial topics, from race to AIDS to America's booming prison population. If you couldn't talk about important issues on late-night television, she argued, when could you?

She and her colleagues went on to win numerous awards,

among them Emmys for a 1995 Israeli-Palestinian town meeting in Jerusalem, after Israeli prime minister's Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, and a 1999 broadcast from Jonesboro, Ark., just after the school shootings in Columbine. They received a Peabody for ABC's coverage of the 9-11 terrorist attacks and an Emmy for a series profiling the Marines of Fox 2/5 Company, one of the first units to cross into Iraq during the Iraq War.

One of the proudest moments of Just's career is marked by another trophy of sorts: a harmonica played by Bruce Springsteen on *Nightline* in 2002, now hanging in her home office. Just had spent years trying to land the interview and finally, as Springsteen's 9-11 inspired album, *The Rising*, was about to come out, he agreed. Against her doctor's orders, Just traveled to his home in New Jersey to produce the show three weeks before delivering her second son. Springsteen later sent the harmonica to Koppel as a gift, but Just intercepted it.

When she had arrived at *Nightline*, at 23, colleagues warned she would never hear a wedding march; burned out by the long hours, young journalists tended to leave after a few years. But Just stayed, married and upon becoming a manager, instituted a "date-night" policy to allow staff to leave at a reasonable hour with three days' advance notice. (Her husband, Ray Treacy, is a schoolteacher and coach.) As dates led to weddings, *Nightline* evolved into a family-friendly workplace. "Sara was a huge part of setting that tone — your personal life counts," says Bettag. "If you're stressed at home, you're not going to be good at work."

Just was sought out for advice and support, and her humility made her an uncommonly good colleague. "Unlike so many others in our business, Sara never had to make sure others knew she was smart and clever," says Mark Nelson, a former senior producer at *Nightline*.

In 2006, Just moved to ABCNews.com and led ABC's online and TV presidential campaign coverage through the 2004 and 2008 election cycles, culminating in the election of George W. Bush and Barack Obama '83. As the news business went into a tailspin after the financial crisis, Just also had a chance to reflect on the changing economics of journalism. In 2012, as a fellow with the Journalism School's Punch Sulzberger Program, she joined other media executives for a week each quarter to share survival strategies.

For the first time, she thought wistfully about getting an M.B.A. "Technology and innovation keep coming," she says. "Some companies will survive. Some won't. It's how nimble you are in responding to the challenges."

If anyone can raise *NewsHour*'s visibility it is Just, say those who know her best. "*NewsHour* is a national treasure. They're lucky to have someone as gifted as Sara at the helm," says former *Spec* writer David Kansas '90, now chief operating officer for Minnesota Public Radio.

"Anyone who is paying attention to the way journalism has changed knows how essential it is to reach out to new audiences," echoes Ifill, the *NewsHour* anchor. "Sara gets that. But she also knows that there are plenty of other places to go for bite-sized information, and that *NewsHour* occupies a unique perch, with the responsibility to tell the stories no one else will, and to do it well. It's a sweet spot, and Sara has found it."



To view some of Just's award-winning work, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

**Kim Martineau JRN'97** handles media relations at Columbia's Data Science Institute.

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

A March 14 *New York Times* article focused on **Robby Mook '02**, Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign manager, and his work to develop and implement modern campaign techniques in Clinton's campaign. The article stated: "It falls largely on Mr. Mook, and the band of young operatives he has assembled (called the Mook Mafia), to move the grievance-laden Clinton machine into the modern political age. The success of Mrs. Clinton's campaign will rest in part on whether this younger generation of earnest, data- and social-media-savvy operatives can prevail."

■ ■ ■

**Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91, PS'00** hosts the newly launched ABC Radio show *Your Body*, a daily report covering topics such as nutrition, fitness, beauty and parenting with the goal of helping women achieve better health and wellness. Ashton, an ob/gyn, is ABC News' senior medical contributor and reports on health and wellness issues across all ABC News platforms. The show debuted on May 26.

■ ■ ■



Burton Watson '50

The 2015 PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation was awarded to **Burton Watson '50** for his work with Chinese and Japanese literature. The lifetime achievement award, given every three years, highlights Watson's dedication to translating a variety of classical Chinese and Japanese works in genres such as poetry, prose, histories and sacred texts. Watson received the award on June 8 at the PEN Literary Awards Ceremony, held at The New School in New York City.

■ ■ ■

**Victor Margolin '63** was featured in the *Chicago Tribune* on March 23 following the release of the first two volumes of his three-volume *World History of Design* book series. The two volumes, which total nearly 1,600 pages and have almost 1,000 illustrations, cover the history of design in all parts of the world (including Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa) from prehistoric times to WWII. Margolin is professor emeritus of design history at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

■ ■ ■

On March 3, the New York City Fire Department swore in **Ann Kansfield '98** as the organization's first female chaplain and first openly gay chaplain. One of eight chaplains serving the FDNY, Kansfield is pastor of the Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn. In her role as an FDNY chaplain, she will provide counseling to firefighters and their families and perform blessings and invocations for departments.

**Gloria Johnson-Cusack '88** has been named president and CEO of the National Human Services Assembly, a D.C.-based umbrella organization composed of nearly 85 national human service nonprofits such as the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and AARP. In a press release announcing her appointment, she said: "I lived in de facto segregated D.C. and attended tough public schools, and later thrived at Sidwell Friends and Columbia (both on full scholarship) in what seemed like another world. I've had a burn about creating more opportunities for more people ever since."



Gloria Johnson-Cusack '88

■ ■ ■

**Sarah Maslin Nir '08, JRN'10** appeared on CBS *This Morning* on May 8 to discuss her landmark investigation into the treatment of nail salon workers in New York, which ran in three parts in *The New York Times*. As a result of the investigation, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo created a multiagency task force to combat wage theft and health hazards facing nail salon workers and implemented multi-language programs to inform salon workers about their rights.

■ ■ ■

Two alumni have been tapped to serve as presidents for historically black colleges and universities. **Ronald Mason Jr. '74, LAW'77** has been named president of the University of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.'s only public university, effective July 1. **C. Reynold Verret '76** was elected by the Xavier University of Louisiana Board of Trustees to the role of president, also effective July 1.

■ ■ ■

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo nominated **Jerry Boone '76** to the role of commissioner of the Department of Taxation and Finance (the nomination requires State Senate confirmation). Boone, who currently is president and commissioner of the Civil Service Commission, will oversee the collection of tax revenue for New York State should he be appointed.

■ ■ ■

**Mark Minghao Xue '06** received a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, a grant for immigrants or the children of immigrants "who are poised to make significant contributions to U.S. society, culture or their academic fields." A math major at the College and a former Marine, Xue will receive up to \$90,000 in funding toward further study; he plans to pursue a master's in computer science at Stanford.

Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09



# Bookshelf

**Voices Against Silence** by *Alan Holder* '53. Holder's collection of poetry ranges from the serious to the humorous, examining life's small details as well as the large questions that arise from the human condition (Anaphora Literary Press, \$15).

**Bitter Bronx: Thirteen Stories** by *Jerome Charyn* '59. Novelist Charyn's short story collection focuses on middle-class families and down-and-out individuals living in a borough devastated by "master builder" Robert Moses (Liveright, \$24.95).

**World History of Design Volumes 1 and 2** by *Victor Margolin* '63. In the first two volumes of this three-volume work, the author catalogs design since the time of the earliest cave paintings, examining the artistic and professional endeavor as both a human and cultural practice (Bloomsbury Academic, \$575).

**Periphery: Israel's Search for Middle East Allies** by *Yossi (né Joseph) Alpher* '64. The author explores Israel's changing relationship with its neighboring states and allies in the Middle East (Rowman & Littlefield, \$34).

**Alone and Not Alone** by *Ron Padget* '64. Padget's collection of poetry addresses themes of friendship, love and domesticity, humble pleasures and mortality (Coffee House Press, \$16).

**Concrete Jungle: New York City and Our Last Best Hope for a Sustainable Future** by *Niles Eldredge* '65 and *Sidney Horenstein*. The authors use New York City as a microcosm to explore the relationship between cities and the environment, demonstrating that cities represent the last hope for conserving the world's ecosystems and species (University of California Press, \$34.95).

**Enabling Acts: The Hidden Story of How the Americans with Disabilities Act Gave the Largest US Minority Its Rights** by *Lenard Davis* '70. Twenty-five years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Davis recounts the bill's history, reflecting on its successes and shortcomings as well as the unique coalition that brought about the bipartisan bill (Beacon Press, \$24.95).

**The State of the Art: A Chronicle of American Poetry, 1988–2014** by *David Lehman* '70. This book is a collection of Lehman's forewords written for the annual publication *The Best American Poetry*; the author surveys cultural developments facing poetry, poets and readers in an increasingly technological and social world (University of Pittsburgh Press, \$24.95).

**Adventurism and Empire: The Struggle for Mastery in the Louisiana-Florida Borderlands, 1762–1803** by *David Narrett* '73. The author shows how the United States

succeeded Great Britain in the history of empire, focusing on the role of American frontiers in shaping the modern Atlantic world (The University of North Carolina Press, \$45).

**Guide to Intangible Asset Valuation** by *Robert F. Reilly* '75 and *Robert P. Schweihs*. Written for intellectual property experts in law, accounting and economics, this reference book details the process of identifying assets that have clear economic benefit while also providing the framework within which to value them (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, \$142.50).

**That Train Again** by *Mark Statman* '80. This collection of poems explores the multiple worlds in which people love, work and dream (Lavender Ink, \$16).

**The House Tells the Story: Homes of the American Presidents** by *Adam Van Doren* '84. This book features images of the residences of 15 presidents, past and present, painted by Van Doren in watercolor en plein air, along with essays about his experiences creating them. Historian David McCullough wrote the foreword (David R. Godine, \$40).

**Inventing Exoticism: Geography, Globalism, and Europe's Early Modern World** by *Benjamin Schmidt* '86. The author studies how our modern understandings of exoticism and globalism are products of the ages of exploration

and global empire (University of Pennsylvania Press, \$85).

**Escargotesque, or, What is Experience?** by *M.H. Bowker* '96. In this memoir, the author meditates on experience, engaging with the writings of philosophers such as Michel de Montaigne and John Dewey to find that the quest for experience may be more melancholy and destructive than people care to admit (Dead Letter Office, \$15).

**Vaccine Nation: America's Changing Relationship with Immunization** by *Elena Conis* '96. The author demonstrates how cultural acceptance of vaccines and vaccination policies depends as much on political and social concerns as on scientific findings (University of Chicago Press, \$27.50).

**Deep Code** by *John Coletti* '97. Coletti's poetry portrays the contemporary urban experience, from power relations and personal loss to nights among city dwellers (City Lights Publishers, \$15.95).

**Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture** by *Natalia Mehlman Petrzela* '00. Drawing on policy documents, personal letters, student newspapers and oral histories, the author charts how California and its citizenry responded to the social changes of the 1960s and '70s to shape education (Oxford University Press, \$35).

## Kelly Link '91 Creates Worlds of Trouble

*It's an end-of-the-world sky, a snakes-and-ladders landscape: low emerald trees pulled lower by vines; chalk and apricot anthills (the demon lover imagines the bones of a nudist under every one); shallow water-filled declivities scummed with algae, lime and gold and black.*

The Florida lakeside setting in "I Can See Right Through You," **Kelly Link '91's** favorite among the nine works in her short story collection *Get in Trouble: Stories* (Random House, \$25), showcases her ability to create dreamy, extraordinary worlds. These stories defy easy categorization or summarization, each existing in its own carefully crafted universe that pushes against expected boundaries: a hotel convention center hosts simultaneous conferences for dentists and superheroes ("Secret Identity"); pocket universe travel is as casual a conversation topic as the latest diet ("Light"); a rural summer vacation destination attracts all sorts of guests, some of whom aren't entirely human ("The Summer People").

"When I started out writing, my aim was to write stories that could be published in pulp science fiction magazines," says Link. "I can't say that the way I write, and the kinds of things that I want to write, have shifted all that much."

*Get in Trouble* is Link's first book for adults in 10 years — previous works include *Stranger Things Happen: Stories* (2001), *Magic for Beginners: Stories* (2005) and a collection of young adult stories, *Pretty Monsters: Stories* (2008) — although the stories have been published individually during the last decade. In 2013, "The Summer People" won an O. Henry Award Juror's Favorite designation and was featured in *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, an annual collection of 20 top short stories published in U.S. and Canadian magazines. Other works in *Get in Trouble* have been featured in distinguished literary magazines such as *McSweeney's* and *Tin House*.

Link, along with her husband, Gavin Grant, is the cofounder of the independent publishing company Small Beer Press and lives in Northampton, Mass., with Grant and their daughter, Ursula (6). Link majored in English — she cites a series of writing workshops with Raymond Kennedy as being particularly influential — and earned an M.F.A. from UNC Greensboro. In 2006 she received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in the Creative Writing category and has won three Nebula Awards and a Hugo Award (the top prizes for writing in the sci-fi/fantasy genre).

Link says that she thinks about "how we assign meaning and, inevitably, build narrative or patterns even out of the most random elements of our lives, and what the stories that we make up tell us about ourselves" — a theme that is reflected throughout *Get in Trouble*. Events deftly jump from the mundane (in "The New Boyfriend," a high school girl becomes jealous

when her best friend gets a boyfriend) to the fantastical (the "boyfriend" in question is a life-sized, animatronic Ghost Boyfriend doll, which might also be possessed by a real ghost), and the reader is brought along for the ride. Link has assembled a cast of complicated, emotionally damaged characters; the protagonists may not always be motivated by altruistic purposes but they are compelling.

"If the people in the story don't feel real, then there's no hope that the ghosts — or the spaceship A.I. or the vampires — will have any real weight to them. It's the characters who lend verisimilitude to the fantastic elements," says Link. "It's the intersection of the two things that I'm interested in exploring, which is to say: How do people behave when they encounter things that warp their lives out of shape? How do we deal with the things in our lives that we don't understand?"

While answering those questions, the characters usually find themselves facing unexpected dilemmas. The Ghost Boyfriend provides the teen girl with more than she bargained for in the relationship department, while a fad for building authentic Egyptian-style pyramids in "Valley of the Girls" becomes a little too historically accurate for the unnamed narrator. In "I Can See Right Through You," a middle-aged movie star, known for his portrayal of a vampire on the big screen, retreats to Florida to meet with an old flame (who now hosts a ghost-hunting reality TV show) in the wake of a sex tape scandal. Although the actor doesn't find the ghosts the reality show is searching for, neither does he escape the trip untouched by the

supernatural as the story delves into the murky waters of guilt, love and aging — all wrapped up with a ghost story on top.

Each story in *Get in Trouble* is self-contained, yet taken together they create a larger picture. As Link points out, "[It was] hard not to notice, as I was assembling the stories and beginning to think about them as a body of work, that these characters were a bunch of people with poor impulse control and a tendency to drink to excess.

"Which, I suppose, is why they were fun to write about."

*Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09*



PHOTO: © 2014 SHARONA JACOBS PHOTOGRAPHY



**Cubed: A Secret History of the Workplace** by *Nikil Saval* '05. Saval chronicles the evolution of the white-collar office space, investigating its effects on work life and examining alternative approaches to organizing the modern office (Anchor Books, \$26.95).

**Freedom's Right: The Social Foundations of Democratic Life** by *Axel Honneth*, the Jack C. Weinstein Professor for the Humanities. Honneth grounds Western liberal democratic ideas of normative and abstract theories of justice in morally legitimate laws and

institutionally established practices (Columbia University Press, \$35).

**Deaths in Venice: The Cases of Gustav von Aschenbach** by *Philip Kitcher*, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy. The author considers how the novella *Death in Venice*,

and its theater and film adaptations, treat the question of self-sacrifice in the pursuit of lasting achievements (Columbia University Press, \$30).

*Karl Daum '15*





# Alumni Reminisce, Relive Their College Days at Reunion And Dean's Day

**G**orgeous weather set the stage for Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2015, at which almost 2,100 College alumni and almost 800 guests convened on campus and at venues throughout New York City May 28–31. Classes celebrating this year were those that end in 0 and 5, as well as the Class of 2014, and all alumni were invited to Dean's Day, which featured lectures and Mini-Core Classes.

The weekend also included class-specific panels, receptions and dinners; the Young Alumni Party, held at a new venue, Stage 48; the Dean's Breakfast, at which Dean James J. Valentini presented an update on the College; film screenings; campus and neighborhood tours; and traditional favorites like the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception.

Reunion Committees, comprising alumni volunteers, took the lead in planning many of the weekend's activities; Mike Cook '65 was announced as the recipient of the President's Cup, awarded annually to an alumnus/a for contributions to his or her class' reunion, at the Class of 1965's Saturday lunch.

 To view more photos from Alumni Reunion Weekend and the Young Alumni Party as well as to view class photos and the list of Dean's Pins recipients, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).



This page: Clockwise from top: Alumni and their student guides strolled down Broadway during a neighborhood tour; the Class of 1965 reception at the Metropolitan Club of New York; a closer look at the Sam Steinberg 2015 exhibition; relaxing on the Low Steps. Opposite: Associate Professor of Psychology Valerie Purdie-Vaughns '93 delivered the keynote lecture on Dean's Day; Dean James J. Valentini chatted with alumni throughout the weekend.



This page: Clockwise from top: Solo moment at the Columbia Kingsmen performance; backstage tour at the New York City Ballet; Needle Dik played at the Class of 1980 dinner at Dinosaur BBQ. Opposite, top: a break from dancing at the Young Alumni Party; bottom: scenes from the Starlight Reception.

PHOTOS: BARBARA ALPER; CHRIS BALMER '07, SOA'14; MICHAEL DAMES; DAVID DINI SIPA'14; AND SCOTT RUDD





# Class Notes

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**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
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New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

Happy summer! CCT hopes you'll consider sending in news; it could be about yourself or your family; fond memories from the College; recent travels; everyday pastimes or just about anything else that you'd like to share. Write to either address at the top of the column or submit a note via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Be well!

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**Robert Zucker**  
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**Wm. Theodore de Bary** GSAS'53 writes, "At 95, I still teach two Asian Core courses, and if my health holds up, I plan to do it again next year (2015–16 academic year). I live alone in the house I built in 1950 in the Hickory Hill Cooperative, Tappan, Rockland County, N.Y., and keep up an organic vegetable garden. My best to classmates."

I'm saddened to report that **Arthur Friedman** passed away on December 23, 2014. He was born one month before me, in April 1921, and we both came to Columbia from Horace Mann. Art earned a degree in printing engineering from Carnegie Tech and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. on December 2, 1943, the same day he married Cynthia Rittenband BC'44. He served in Europe from March 1944 to March 1946, when he was released as a captain.

Art joined Carey Press, the family printing business, where he became director of sales and engineering. He left in 1973 at 52 to set up Spindex, which used unique printing machinery that he designed. At 61 he started ASF Lightware Solutions. He patented Beam n Read Hands Free Lights for low vision problems.

Art and Cynthia have three children and six grandchildren. Art was an active member of the Class of '41. He attended football games at Baker Field and every Arden House class reunion. He was one of five who attended the 70th reunion in 2011 and was proud of the fact that eight members of his

immediate family are Columbia graduates.

If you would like to share news, please write me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). And to all, be well and enjoy the summer.

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**Melvin Hershkowitz**  
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The *New York Times* of March 2 had an obituary, with photographs, for Orrin Keepnews '43. Orrin, a world-famous jazz record producer, essayist and historian, was a friend of this correspondent. We played in intramural softball games on South Field and both wrote occasional columns for *Spectator*. After graduation I didn't see Orrin until many years later, when he came to one of our reunions; we compared notes on our WWII service. When I told Orrin I had been stationed in Gifu, Japan, as a medical officer with the 27th Infantry Regiment, he exclaimed, "Mel, I bombed Gifu!" Orrin, who served in the Air Force in the Pacific, never told me whether he was the pilot or bombardier. [Editor's note: See the CCT feature on *Keepnews*: [college.columbia.edu/cct\\_archive/nov04/features2.php](http://college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/nov04/features2.php).]

I had a sad telephone call on March 5 from longtime friend Judge **Leonard Garth**, informing me of the sudden death of his beloved wife, Sarah, on March 4 at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Len and Sarah had celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary last September. They were living at Evergreen Woods, an independent and assisted-living facility in North Branford, Conn., where Len has continued to work, as he did for many years, as chief judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. (The federal government created a special chambers for Len at Evergreen Woods after his formal retirement.) Len is certainly one of the most distinguished members of our Great Class of 1942, esteemed among colleagues and respected by classmates. Among his law clerks was Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, who recently visited Len and Sarah at Evergreen Woods. We send condolences to Len on his grievous loss of Sarah, and we will retain many positive memories of their contributions to our class and to Columbia.

As I write these comments in

March, Columbia has recently appointed Al Bagnoli as its next football coach. Bagnoli, 62, retired as head coach at Penn at the end of the 2014 season, so his appointment at Columbia has elicited a lot of controversial comments. In his long career at Penn, Bagnoli won nine Ivy League titles; however, Penn had a losing record in the past two years. Some alumni wonder whether younger, qualified coaches did not want to come to Columbia in the face of its historical and recent lengthy losing streaks, thus making Bagnoli's appointment an easier decision for President Lee C. Bollinger and his staff. I have had comments about Bagnoli's appointment from Dr. **Gerald Klingon**, **Robert J. Kaufman**, Dr. **William Robbins**, **Stewart McIlvennan** and Dr. **Arthur Wellington**. Ironically, Columbia's Homecoming game this fall will be against Penn on Saturday, October 17. As they say on the radio, stay tuned.

Dr. **William Robbins** called me on March 9 from Mount Dora, Fla., to report that he and his wife, Dagny, and their son John drove from their home in Mount Dora to East Orlando on March 8 to watch the Columbia baseball team play a preseason game against Central Florida. Our Lions lost the game, along with two other preseason contests versus UCF, but Bill reported that our team played well, looked good and, in his opinion, would be a contender for the Ivy League Championship this year. Bill, 93, was a 1945 honors graduate of Cornell Medical School, a distinguished rheumatologist in New York City and a research investigator at Rockefeller. He is a loyal alumnus who closely follows our athletic teams and the College's academic issues.

Columbia junior point guard Maodo Lo '16 was a unanimous All-Ivy first team selection for the 2014–15 basketball season. Lo made 11 3-point shots in a game versus Princeton on March 7, an Ivy League record, while scoring 37 points in the game. With Lo returning next year, and with the expected return from a leg fracture of All-Ivy forward Alex Rosenberg '16, we can be hopeful that Columbia will contend for the Ivy League Championship in 2015–16.

Having been a freshman cross country runner, and later track manager, I am pleased to note the extraordinary successes of our men's and women's track

and field teams under new coach Daniel Ireland. Columbia men were dominant in the middle and long distance events at the IC4A Indoor Track and Field Championships, while the women excelled in sprints and the long jump event. Compliments to Ireland for his skillful recruiting and coaching.

Best wishes to all classmates. In addition to writing me at either of the addresses at the top of the column, feel free to call: 413-586-1517.

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**Bernie Weisberger** reports, "Hello, fellow Class of '43 tough guys (we have to be to have survived this long). Here is my report for the last few months, the short and simple annals of a retiree. Well, no; writers almost never retire, as a friend of mine — who is one of them — put it. Never as long as they can totter to the keyboard and tap out a little trivia of some kind. (He used a coarser word than 'trivia'.)"

"My only written project of any consequence late in the year was a memoir looking forward to the celebrations at the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I was one of the 'witnesses' who went there at Dr. King's call, spent a few days in protest marches and returned home without having been jailed or suffering any harm. I went back for the final demonstrations on the grounds of the Alabama state capitol in Montgomery with a group of American historians. It's an experience that makes me very proud — to have been there and participated with the genuine heroes of the entire Civil Rights 'revolution' of the 1950s, the African-Americans who faced and often suffered death, beatings, bombings, fire hoses, police dogs and economic reprisals but persisted until they won their civil and political rights as citizens.

"The memoir was mostly personal and just written for friends and family, but if any Columbia grads reading this would like to see it, email me at [bernardaw@earthlink.net](mailto:bernardaw@earthlink.net) and I'll send you the document. I hope this doesn't fall under the heading of self-promotion but I'd be especially happy if it flushed out someone else who was there.



Glee Club members en route to a concert, ca. 1950s.  
PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

"Anyway, 2014 wasn't all work. As a longstanding baseball fan I watched the playoffs with interest and pleasure — I almost never have a team involved because, for my sins, I have been made a Chicago Cubs follower. But the pleasure was there anyway, and the final game that gave the championship to the San Francisco Giants was a masterpiece.

"As you're aware, winter's bite was hard everywhere in the northern part of the United States this year. We in Chicago had plenty of freezing temperatures but for some reason were spared a lot of the snow and ice that bombarded the East Coast. It was a considerable blessing for those of us who need to walk with canes, and in a very gingerly fashion at that. My wife, Rita, and I did our usual escape for 10 days of cruising in the West Indies at the tail end of January. Other than that, there is little to report, no life-cycle events — weddings, births, graduations or the like. It's nice to think that when this note appears it will nearly be summer. I wish you all the fullest enjoyment of it."

My report: In February my wife, Audrey, and I suffered the worst bouts of flu in all our (more or less) 90 years. (Yes, we had our flu shots.) The illness took about two weeks to taper off. We emerged sound of wind and limb, however. March was an eventful month.

Audrey turned 90 on the 6th and there were several celebrations organized by others for that landmark date. There was also the Philadelphia Maneto Award for her having started the Ronald McDonald Houses. She received among other tributes a Philadelphia civic flag. It bears the city motto, "Let Brotherly Love Continue." If only ...

We must run one of the better hostels along the Delaware Valley offering the "American Plan" (three meals a day included in the room rate). We had visitors galore during the winter: two from Bristol, England; one from Memphis; my son and his companion from Kentucky, twice; and another old friend is coming soon from Brisbane, Australia.

Audrey and I had been interviewed and filmed for the Ken Burns television series *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, based on the book of nearly the same title, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, in which we both had been mentioned. Audrey's clip survived the editorial revisions; I wound up on the cutting room floor (what else is new?). The series was excellent and ran on PBS the latter part of March through April 1.

In June we were in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at a meeting of the Pediatric Radiation Oncology Society. I was a founder of that society and have now been voted an honorary

member. One good part of that: no dues. It is the second such honorary membership accorded in the recent past, with similar financial advantages. Slovenia is a lovely country, more Middle European in culture and architecture than the more southern countries of the Balkans. We took a few extra days at the end of the meeting to travel along the Dalmatian Coast, visiting Split and Pula, both in Croatia. They had been outposts of the Roman Empire and, later, of Venice when it was a dominant maritime power in the Mediterranean.

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In the absence of communication from classmates, I will invoke random reminiscences of Columbia College during WWII.

I note the remarkable contrasts of life in the '40s with the present day. As a student commuter, I rode the subway daily to Morningside Heights, never giving thought to possible danger from terrorists (was that word even in our vocabulary?). Yet today, in a so-called peacetime environment, many of us shun the subway as an obvious risk to life and limb.

I remember with a smile the ignorant inquiry of a contemporary

after hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor — to wit, "Who is she?"

I recall the campus on December 8, 1941, the day after The Day of Infamy. Our spirits were patriotically aroused with thoughts of prospective battles, the imminence of casualties, the uncertainty of graduation, animosity toward our suddenly new enemies, the urge to volunteer and perplexity over the fact that it was only 23 years after The War to End All Wars.

We looked to General Eisenhower to lead us to victory, never imagining that he would later assume the presidency of Columbia.

We were oblivious to the fact that one of our professors, John Dunning, and his colleagues, including Harold Urey and Enrico Fermi, were hard at work in our Pupin Physics Laboratories creating the bomb that would end the war.

In a welcome respite from the

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.



war, Sid Luckman '39 and his Chicago Bears came to New York to play the Giants in 1943. In leading his team to a resounding win, Sid threw seven touchdown passes, a record that has been equaled but never surpassed.

I am proud that I was one of 60-odd students who squeezed in enough points to gain a degree in three years and receive my diploma in an intimate ceremony presided over by President Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) in October 1943.

If these recollections stir similar thoughts for any of you, or if you have news to share, write me at either of the above addresses or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Be well.

**45** *Columbia College Today*  
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CCT wishes everyone in the Class of 1945 a happy summer! Alumni Reunion Weekend, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the class' graduation, took place May 28-31 — too late to be included in this column. But for those who turned out, we hope you'll send a note telling us about it. Reports will be published in the Fall issue.

As for those who didn't make it back to campus, it's not too late to connect — or reconnect, as the case may be — with classmates. The Class Notes column provides a great opportunity to share news of your lives, whether about family, travel, work, retirement, cultural outings or everyday pastimes. You can write to either address at the top of the column or submit news via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. We look forward to hearing from you. Be well!

**REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 2-5, 2016**  
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**46** **Bernard Sunshine**  
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A new book penned by **Lawrence Jukofsky** is *Borne to Die*, a tale of murder and mayhem that takes place while a group of doctors is on safari in Kenya. The plot revolves around medical care in

Africa and includes descriptions of African wildlife.

Herb, who lives atop San Francisco's Russian Hill, makes the observation: "Both New York and San Francisco have carnivalesque street life for a committed flâneur." He insists that a circumflex be placed over the 'a.' "Columbia men are careful about such things," he says.

**John McConnell** brings balance to the recent media criticisms citing problems and slow improvement at Veteran Administration hospitals. His article, which appeared in the *Coeur d'Alene Press*, commends both the personnel and the VA facility he counts on. And let's not forget that **Norman Cohen** for many years gave high marks to the medical services he received at the VA facility in the Bronx. Nice to know the picture is not all grim.

In a 2010 Class Notes column, I reported on our class luncheon and walk on New York's well-trafficked High Line, which was led by widely read author Kevin Baker '80. A visit to my neighborhood

**Lawrence Jukofsky '46's new book is *Borne to Die*, a tale of murder and mayhem that takes place while a group of doctors is on safari in Kenya.**

library turned up his novel *The Big Crowd*, set in NYC in the 1920s and featuring well-known public characters. Among them was Toots Shor, a famous Prohibition-era restaurateur and saloon keeper whose speakeasy was located at 51 W. 51 St. Fast forward, today it is the address of Columbia University Medical Center / New York Presbyterian Hospital's Midtown offices, where a different medicine is now dispensed.

The founding fathers of the Columbia Society of Left-Handed Tennis Players met at the home of its president, **Herbert Hendin**. **Malvin Ruderman**, **Bernard Sunshine**, Thomas Silbiger SEAS'59 and their wives enjoyed Herb and his wife Jo's hospitality, food and drink. Statistically, 10-12 percent of the population is left-handed, which suggests the possibility of adding another dozen '46ers to the society. Membership is easy. No proof necessary. Just let me know.

Of interest to our generation: 30 percent of people older than 85 are targets for Alzheimer's disease. Columbia's *The Record*, which is published by the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, in February featured an interview with Scott Small, director of the University's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, who cautioned that memory loss may not be due to Alzheimer's

but rather "the normal wear and tear of the aging process that causes memory loss." (Incidentally, the impetus for the article came from the Academy Award-winning film *Still Alice*, which tells the story of a Columbia professor afflicted with the disease. The campus settings bring back memories.)

I look forward to more updates for the fall. As always you can reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**47** *Columbia College Today*  
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**Ed McAvoy**, who lives in Turners Falls, Mass., wrote the following a number of years ago but thought classmates might still enjoy it today.

Ed says he "thinks green these

One villager even bought a hearse and built in extra seats for added income — of course, gas was only 25 cents a gallon then.

"Residents also started a successful coop food market that helped feed the community. With the limited monthly GI benefits check of slightly more than \$99 this was a necessity! It all helped solve the problem.

"Rockland County had been probably 90 percent Republican at that time and the heavy influx of Democrats and Liberals caused entrenched politicians to be worried. New voter registration was hampered by the demand for these newcomers to produce high school diplomas. Ph.D.s and others were forced to take literacy tests. Stan Wyatt '43, GSAS'47, a professor of art at City College, became the resident artist for the Shanks newspaper, *The Villager*, and did dozens of cartoons about life at Shanks. His son Greg '71 is now the noted artist-in-residence at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine [and sculptor of the *Scholar's Lion* on campus]."

Thank you to Ed for getting in touch. CCT, and your classmates, 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 the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Enjoy the summer!

**48** *Columbia College Today*  
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Dr. **Samuel Hoch** PS'52 writes, "The lure of California living became irresistible and drew us to San Francisco in 1958, after P&S, a tour in the Army, residency and marriage. A fulfilling psychoanalytic practice lasted the next 42 years, enriched by a lively three-sibling family grown into adulthood and by travel adventures to seven continents. Retirement in 2002 expanded leisure activities and has been graced by the pleasures of an emerging fourth generation. Still lots to do in an excitingly transforming Bay Area. As our grandson now ponders his college choices, I am reminded of those inspiring years at Columbia, of their enduring influence. And I join with others in recent letters to the editor happily recalling productions of the Columbia Players and Varsity Show, 1946-48. Great

"At almost any hour of the day riders would be waiting at street corners in Shanks and at 116th Street for the half-hour drive. Sometimes several empty cars might be awaiting passengers.

fun staging them all."

Thank you to Samuel for getting in touch! CCT, and your classmates, 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 the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Enjoy the summer!

**49** **John Weaver**  
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OK, now; we are looking at summer and this is the last Class of 1949 Class Notes column you will read before the start of the 2015 football season. From the perspective of our class, having had the experience of "The Game" and knowing the great pride we all feel as we remember that event and **Gene Rossides'** role in it, there is renewed excitement and anticipation. Here we go with a new coach coming to us from a state that sent us to the showers all too often with heads hung low. Turnabout is fair play, the saying goes. In that light let us all send our thoughts and prayers to coach Al Bagnoli for renewed success hopefully "echo[ing from] the Hudson Valley!"

**Bill Lubic** caught us up on his travels and shared his wishes for the football Lions. But first, he congratulated **Marvin Lipman** "on having produced a major health article for *The Washington Post*. 'Avoid falls,' he advises (especially you shrinking group of aging Forty-Niners). The article comes from the irrepressible Consumers Union, [the policy and action division of Consumer Reports] and Marvin has been its medical stalwart forever and a day (officially, chief medical adviser)."

Bill continued: "What's happened to the Lubics? Here we are in D.C., having survived the same tough winter that many others did. ...

"As you may know, my wife, Ruth, is a midwife, and it seems that the practice has favorably been turned on its head (after 40-plus years of her frustrations and efforts). Safety, satisfaction and savings are now the buzz words and everyone is all over her like a glove. We recently returned from a round-trip journey on the QE 2 to a London commemoration of the PBS TV series *Call the Midwife*.

"I am here formally requesting Marvin to set up some effective physical standards for the 2015 Columbia football program and

new coach. If everybody helps a little, it might just work. One last try? Mere respectability is all that is desired. How hard it is.

"On the other hand, it is nice to be on top. The women's and men's fencing teams this year are each rated nationally as No. 1, immediately ahead of such competitors as Notre Dame, Duke, Penn State, Northwestern and Harvard. So put that in your pipe and smoke it (now allowable in D.C., but no more than 5 oz.)."

Grace and charm, along with Bill's significant contribution to the advancement of Ruth's outstanding work, is a source of pride for all of us '49ers. And thanks also to him for reminding us of Marv's continuing contribution to the health of the nation.

I'd not heard from anyone else during the winter months. Here's hoping the warmer days put some renewed strength in your writing hand. You can reach me at the addresses at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**50** **Mario Palmieri**  
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Though I am writing this column in March, it will be June by the time you read it, and another Alumni Reunion Weekend will have passed. I'm sure that all who attended had a wonderful time, and I encourage you to write me about it. What were the highlights? With whom did you reconnect? Any surprise encounters? Stay tuned for the Fall issue for a full report.

**Norman Dorsen** has devoted his career to the preservation of civil liberties and in that regard has been active with the American Civil Liberties Union on both the local and national levels [college.columbia.edu/cct/spring13/alumni\_news2]. The NYU School of Law, where Norman had long been a faculty member, has memorialized his endeavors and achievements by establishing a faculty chair, the Norman Dorsen Professor of Civil Liberties. Our congratulations to Norman on this significant recognition.

**Rudy Weingartner** GSAS'59 is still "going strong" in Mexico City and publishes a blog on a variety of topics. He invites one and all to check it out: rhweingartner.blogspot.mx.

Enjoy your summer, be well and don't forget to write!

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news via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/submit\_class\_note.

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JUNE 2-5, 2016**  
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On March 28 a memorial service was held at the Columbia University Club of New York, in Manhattan, commemorating the life of **Robert T. Snyder** LAW'55, our class president, who died on December 10, 2014. As a representative of our class, along with **H. Elliot Wales** LAW'54, class VP, I made the following remarks:

"It's interesting how the letter 'C' played such an important role in the life of Bob Snyder. I never thought much about it until I sat down to write these notes about our relationship as Class of 1951 officers down through the years. Bob was a great organizer, and he was responsible for most of the planning for our 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th class reunions. There were the meetings at the law offices of Skadden, Arps, the selection of speakers

and special guests, the [choice of] setting for class luncheons and dinners, hospitality, budgets and just so much detail that Bob effortlessly accomplished. The letter 'C' in Bob's life stood for Columbia and he gloried in his relationship with alma mater.

"I can recall many a Saturday, in all kinds of weather through the years, when Bob encouraged me and my wife, Peg, to be at Baker Field to root for the not-so-ferocious Lions. We shared times in the gym with the basketball team, even though the glory years of Columbia's conquest of Holy Cross are faint memories now.

"Bob never missed a Dean's Day, either. We always had those great breakfasts with Dean Austin Quigley and the huge number of Columbia grads who came back to campus for the annual day in the classrooms. Bob always represented the Class of 1951 in [the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day] and in the end-of-spring sessions with one kind of festivity or another. So, the letter 'C' stood for something in Bob's life and it meant Columbia.

"Those of you who are here today are well aware of another letter 'C' in Bob's life. His clarinet! I honestly do not know what attracted Bob to this instrument. Historically, the clarinet evolved from pipes that shepherds used to keep control of the sheep in the meadows, not unlike the way

## Columbia School Designations

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SCE	School of Continuing Education
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary





Paul Vitek '52 (middle) passed away on November 6, 2014. In this photo sent in recently by football teammate Howard Hansen '52, the former Lions football player is seen with, left to right, teammates Tom Federowicz '52 and Vern Wynott '52 (both also deceased), former football coach Ray Tellier and teammate Bill Wallace '52 at a 2003 rendezvous in South Carolina.

Bob guided our class through its many years of activities on and off the Columbia campus. My own experience with music was limited to a kazoo, a piece of wax paper on a comb, so I will refrain from saying anything that might tarnish Bob's big letter 'C' for the clarinet other than to applaud him for his dedication to this instrument.

"Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Bob's great affection for that arduous sport opportunity called croquet. If you were lucky enough to have been invited to Bob and [his wife] Elaine's summer home at Sag Harbor on Long Island, you may have had an opportunity to participate in the final letter 'C' on my list. When I was a kid I used to whack at a spheroid with a lump of wood on a stick and try to get it through a wire stuck in the ground, all for no significant purpose. I learned that when you visited the Sag Harbor estate owned by Class President Bob, croquet was seriously played on a well-manicured carpet of green grass with mallet, a wooden ball and wickets embedded in the grass. And one had better let the host be victorious if the supper invitation still goes!"

Bob, we'll miss you.

A search of *Spectator's* archives produced an article published on February 15, 1954, describing an agreement between the Ivy League and Penn. In the agreement, Penn, which had been playing a lot of "big football schools," stated that it would abandon those opponents and instead play a schedule "geared to the Ivy League standards." Thus, Penn rearranged its schedules, other schools in the Ivy League did likewise and athletics became a bit more competitive for all. As for today's football

program, when *The New York Times* on February 24 announced the hiring of Penn's former football coach Al Bagnoli by President Lee C. Bollinger, happy Lions fans like Columbia booster Rich Forzani '66 jumped 10 ft. high! Let's see what happens this fall.

News from the NROTC: As of March 1, **B. James Lowe** RADM, USN (ret.) has moved to the following address: St. Maarten, 2403 S. Atlantic Avenue, Unit 1108 DBS, Daytona Beach FL 32118. His email address remains the same: jloweabq@aol.com. Jim says, "I am directly on the ocean. Lots of room. Come visit!"

**Willard Block** is proud of his grandson, Noah Block-Harley '07, who graduated cum laude with a major in German literature and cultural history. Noah is a filmmaker and has produced a documentary about mining in Bolivia. Last spring, the pair appeared together in the Alumni Parade of Classes.

Please keep in touch. Every bit of news helps to keep this column alive. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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

**Claude Thomas** writes, "Time flies whether or not you are having fun — and getting old isn't fun. My wife, Carolyn, and I saw **Henry Kramer** and his wife, Carol, last year, and also Bob Vidaver '53 and his wife, Virginia. We had lunch with **John Benfield** about two

years ago. Have lost track of **Artie Shane**.

"We are looking forward to our 58th anniversary in reasonable health. I'm having fun with my website, theoctogenarians.com, in which Bob also participates. (There are a number of Yale-involved types associated with it!) Haven't capitulated to the new technology yet!"

**Howard Hansen** shares, "Sad to report that we have lost an outstanding classmate and football teammate in **Paul Vitek**, who passed away on November 6, 2014.

"Paul was an honors graduate of Lansford H.S., in Pennsylvania, where he starred in football, baseball and track. He was class president his senior year and inducted into the Carbon County Sports Hall of Fame. He is survived by one son and three daughters.

"Paul ended his long career at Rutgers as associate athletic director and compliance officer.

"**Stu Spizer** said it best — "The only good thing is the reminder of many Columbia memories of special people that we all still have." Paul was surely one of them!"

CCT wishes the Class of '52 a wonderful summer and encourages everyone to send in news. We can be reached at either of the addresses at the top of the column or use the webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Be well!

**53** **Lew Robins** 3200 Park Ave., Apt. 9C2 Bridgeport, CT 06604 lewrobins@aol.com

Sad to report, the wonderful **Jules Ross** passed away on December 4, 2014, after a long illness. In the class directory we published in honor of our 50th reunion, Julie wrote, "One of the most memorable lessons of my years at Columbia was the importance of keeping one's mind active and receptive to new ideas and challenges. In 1978, I experienced a rebirth of energy, intellect and life itself. I attribute this transformation to my wife of the past 25 years. I will always cherish my Columbia years. They were some of my life's most empowering experiences. Columbia embedded within all of us a fount of intellectual energy and curiosity that continue to ignite our daily lives."

In addition to his wife, Caroline Corwin, Julie leaves a daughter, Jennifer; sons, Peter and David; and grandchildren, Larry, Josh, Jacob and Steven.

I received the following from **Allan Jackman** regarding Julie: "He was indeed one of Columbia's great characters and a TEP

fraternity brother of mine. As our class treasurer in our junior year, he underwrote the 'Long Playing Lemon' of Glee Club fame. See you at our 65th reunion."

I know that classmates who knew Jules will miss his vibrant personality, his unrivaled enthusiasm and the wisdom he brought to every discussion.

**Peter Carbonara** writes, "I have been retired from the practice of orthopedic surgery for some time. When I am asked if I miss medical practice, the answer is, 'yes and no.' I do miss my patients and the operating room. However, I have a couple of jobs that keep me busy. I volunteer as the orthopedic consultant at the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, where I see our less fortunate citizens with untreated medical issues for lack of medical insurance."

Of **Henry Villaume**, Peter continues, "Have been in touch with Hank and I hope we can ease him back into political sanity. Good wishes to all classmates."

I'm sure our classmates admire Peter for his efforts to spend his "retirement" years using his orthopedic expertise to help patients who cannot afford medical help.

After reading the "Food, Glorious Food" articles in the Spring 2015 issue of *Columbia College Today*, **John Plate** sent the following mouth-watering comments: "The last CCT, [which covered, among other topics,] the culinary attractions around Columbia, brought to mind a few restaurants many of us might remember. One of them was Somerset Restaurant, which I recall being on 113th or 114th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam. Its 'Romanian tenderloin' was a favorite of **Herb Mark** when, as he claimed frequently, he needed high-quality protein. **Dave Edwards** and I were glad to accompany Herb there from time to time.

"Prexy's was the place a bunch of us went for breakfast after long games of hearts, usually held in the Student Board Office in John Jay Hall. They were known for good burgers and eggs over easy.

"Bob Simmonds GS'54 discovered a Chinese restaurant around 125th and Broadway that he claimed had the most food for one's dollar in the area. It was unsurpassed for, as he put it, 'bulk.'"

Interestingly enough, **Seymour Hendel**, his wife, Patty BC'53, and I used to have a delicious dinner every Friday at the Shanghai Café.

John continues, "I remember the cafeteria at Johnson Hall (does it still exist?) as having some of the best on-campus food. Rumor had it that the reason was because JH was a graduate women's dorm, but I have no idea why that would be so.



*Spectator* staff, hard at work in the office of Editor in Chief Max Frankel '52, GSAS'53 (seated, left) in the early 1950s.

PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

"I forgot the gem (in many ways) that was the Lions Den in the basement of John Jay. The \$.35 cheeseburgers were memorable, but the darkness and mystery that one met upon entering that space was priceless. I don't remember if (but seriously doubt that) beer was sold there, but it exuded the atmosphere of a beer hall, which is just what it should be. More power to places that are just what they should be!"

**54** **Bernd Brecher** 35 Parkview Ave., Apt. 4G Bronxville, NY 10708 brecherservices@aol.com

First, thanks to all of you who responded to my 11th-hour blast for news items, which are included in this issue. From now on, you will be hearing from me at least a month before my deadline, although you can send me information at any time, which I will then hold for the next issue. Note: These Class Notes keep us connected between reunions, and those who are active responders will get your activities, occasions and events included as often as you wish. You control the flow, I just keep it moving. Here goes, for a spiffy ride ...

**John Timoney** writes, "We have a grandson who can now claim both my name and alma mater, John Timoney SEAS'15.

"The last time Ana and I were in London, I had lunch with **Jon Mirsky**. We keep in touch with **Bob Viarengo** and his wife, Del, either in New York or in Princeton, N.J. We moved to a retirement community near Princeton called Princeton Windrows, but we keep a small place in New York to be with our four children and 10 grandchildren."

**Fred Schlereth** SEAS'56 reports, "My wife and I are well here in Syracuse, N.Y. I'm no longer teaching but lead a team (chemists and mechanical and environmental engineers) in developing a detector I invented. It is used in biological instrumentation and air quality monitoring. Working with students is terrific and keeps me on my toes, but seeking funding for the research can be a drag.

"I'm still running the 400m in our 'noontime runners league' at the university. No running records but several years ago I was 400m and 800m national champion for my age group, and last fall three of us 80-plus guys got together and won the national 5K team championship. I'm getting to the

middle of my current age group, so I won't be competitive again for a couple of years, 2018. The curious thing about competing in these age groups is that it engenders a yearning to get older. Hope to see you all at the 65th."

**Joel Belson** GSAS'64's Columbia family tent keeps getting larger. His grandson Ross Goluboff '15 recently joined the ranks of alumni and will pursue a Ph.D. in math. Ross' dad and mom are Erik Goluboff '86 and Nicole Belson Goluboff '87, LAW'90, and Joel's other daughter is Gaby Belson Rattner BC'80, whose husband is Don Rattner '79. Joel's wife is Abby Belson (née Avin) BC'56, GSAS'59. I was an usher at Joel and Abby's wedding but had no idea what they were planning.

**Sheldon Cherry** PS'58 writes, "Life is good in Florida, where my wife and I relocated four years ago [so that I could] help start a medical school," the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University. Sheldon was appointed last year as its associate dean of clinical affairs, serving also since 2011 as professor of ob/gyn, founding medical student ombudsman and, more recently, medical director of the

Physician Assistant Program. Sheldon has built a national reputation as a clinician in the reproductive and women's health field, has published numerous papers on reproductive medicine and is the author of several lay books on women's health.

Congratulations on your continual self-renewal, Doc!

**Bruce King** and his wife, Adele, celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in December in Paris, where they have lived for 14 years in an apartment overlooking the Canal Saint Martin. Adele writes book reviews and online articles on literature. Bruce's third book on Indian literature in English, *Rewriting India*, was published in 2014. They continue to spend a month each year in New Orleans listening to and dancing to jazz, and two summer months in Hvar, Croatia. Adele reports that Bruce is in discussions with his publishers about reprinting his essays and the possible publication of his autobiography.

We'll always have Paris, Bruce, but we can't wait to get the skinny on Hvar.

**Saul Turteltaub** reports, "After having two sons and four grandsons, my wife, Shirley, and I finally





**Ganesh Betanabhatla '06 (left) was honored with the 2015 Gerald Sherwin '55 Young Alumni Service Award at the annual Young Alumni Spring Benefit, held at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers on April 24. Here, Sherwin looks on during the award presentation; the benefit raised almost \$10,000 for the Columbia College Fund.**

PHOTO: SCOTT RUDD

were blessed with a granddaughter on February 3. She is the daughter of [our son] Jon and his wife, Amy, and her name is Arabella Rose Eldon Turteltaub. She weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. and was 2 inches shorter than her name.

"Also, we had a nice visit from **Stan Swersky** and his wife, Louise. She still looks 30, and he looks glad. When I turned 82 last year I had a sign made for my office that reads '82 is the new 90.'" (To which your correspondent replied that I reversed that senioritis challenge years ago by deducting one year each year after hitting the big 6-0 — and I'm now in my early 40s. Polite people believe me.)

**Jack Bloom** TC'72 reminds us that he is a rabbi and a clinical psychologist and that he "has become known as a rabbi's rabbi." In addition to his private psychotherapy practice in Fairfield, Conn., he is director of professional career review for his Reform colleagues, for whom he created a program to "assist rabbis seeking to shape their futures." He also works with Conservative rabbis, whom he mentors and teaches at the Rabbinic Training Institute sponsored by his alma mater, the Jewish Theological Seminary, just a couple of blocks north of Columbia.

One of Jack's favorite memories

of the College is "doing the Core Curriculum and not realizing what a gift I had been given until years later."

Jack has been widely published and invites us all to learn more on his website: [jackhbloom.com](http://jackhbloom.com).

By the time you read this, several members of our class will have joined me in Battery Park City to help celebrate the 65th anniversary of our graduation from Bronx Science, among them **Alvin Hellerstein**, **Jack Blechner** and **Philip Shelton** (né Schwartz).

A final note: The Bicentennial Ladies Club (knew that would catch your eye), which I have been developing in conversations with several widows of members of our Class of Destiny, I hope will soon get off the ground. The goal is to help keep in the Columbia fold these longtime, close, consistent and loyal members of our '54 family. I am discussing the project with College officials to get their input and support. We are speaking here of women who want to continue their association with the College and our class, and whose late husbands were mainstays of our alumni reunions and outreach. Of course all will be welcome into the club. You will hear more from me in future issues of CCT, and for now please let me hear your ideas.

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Our favorite school of higher learning in Upper Manhattan continues to make news in academia as well as athletics. With President Lee C. Bollinger's and new Athletics Director Peter Pilling's support, Columbia hired former Penn head football coach Al Bagnoli to lead the program. Bagnoli won nine Ivy League titles during his tenure in Philadelphia. **Beryl Nusbaum**, **Dick Carr**, **Bob Mercier**, **Neil Opdyke** and **Jim Larson** (who set the standard for football managers) should be pleased with this development. The trustees definitely were.

To bolster the "bench strength" of Arts and Sciences, Alondra Nelson, a professor of sociology, and Sharon Marcus, the Orlando Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature, have come on board to oversee faculty searches and hires and set budget priorities. They also are the divisional deans (social sciences and humanities, respectively) in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and report to EVP David Madigan.

Espied at various basketball games on campus and away this past season were **Chuck Solomon** (who does good work at the Dental School), **Dick Ascher** (another dentist) and **Dick Kuhn**. We thought they were getting ready to don their shorts.

The coveted 2015 John Jay Awards for distinguished professional achievement were handed out in March at Cipriani 42nd Street in Midtown. The overflow crowd was made up of alumni, students and family, faculty, friends and business acquaintances of the honorees, each of whom was introduced by a John Jay scholar — a nice touch that made the event feel warm and giving.

Our 60th reunion no doubt lived up to the hype (and then some!), and the next issue of CCT will include a more extensive write-up on the big 6-0. At the time I submitted this column for deadline, we were still trying to entice some of the guys from the West: **Bill Cohen**, **Bill Langston**, **Jack Stuppin** (and his paintings), ex-patriot from Northern California **Abbe Leban**, **Lew Sternfels**, **William Kronick**, **Matthew Loonin**, **Sid Sheinberg**, **Harvey Solomon** and **Jeff Broido**. We were also waiting for word from some who live closer to New York, such as **Bernie Schwartz**, **Bob Brown**, **Ralph Wagner**, **Berish Strauch**, **Igou Allbray** and **Alfred Gollomp** (both from Brooklyn), **Peter Pressman**, **Alan Sloate**,

**Mike Vaughn**, **Bob Schiff** (another dentist) and **Anthony Viscusi**. We guess **Ben Kaplan** couldn't get **Jerry Catuzzi** to attend.

Key classmates who played a role in reunion program development were **Bill Epstein**, **Eliot Gross**, **Don Laufer**, **Alfred Gollomp**, **Lew Mendelson**, **Jim Berick**, **Henry Weinstein**, **Herb Cohen**, **Lew Sternfels**, **Marty Dubner**, **Allen Hyman** and **Stanley Lubman**, among others.

Oh! So wondrous classmates of 1955!

You guys are the best in so many ways!

Stay with the program! There's no group better!

Love to all! Everywhere!

#### REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 2-5, 2016

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During the winter and spring, our monthly class lunches were held on a fairly erratic basis due to the weather and availability of class members. We look forward to increased turnout for our summer luncheons/outings at Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, N.Y., hosted by **Danny Link**.

Other events, however, have gone forward without disruption. On February 12, **Al Franco SEAS'56** and **Ron Kapon** attended the annual Dean's Scholarship Reception on behalf of our class' scholarship. They report that, as usual, the recipients of our class' scholarships are bright and committed students. The current group consists of Daniel Shi '15, from Clarksville, Md., who is interested in engineering and space-related activities in addition to investment banking; Gregory Rempe '16, from Albuquerque, N.M., who has an interest in history and business management, and belongs to the Columbia University Sailing Club; Alex Jastrzab '17, who hails from Bronx Science and New York City, is a bio and chemical physics student, and also plays for the men's rugby team; and Alexa Giuliano '18, from Hackettstown, N.J., who plays on the women's varsity basketball team and is interested in biology and business management.

On February 27, **Frank Thomas** was honored for his outstanding basketball success at Columbia

(setting many scoring records, some of which still stand) and his continued activities for Columbia as an alumnus. **Ron Kapon** represented our class, meeting with Frank for a photo op at the Lou Gehrig Lounge prior to his award presentation at Levien Gym. Among other things, Ron said they discussed how Frank was treated as a minority in some of the Columbia games he played in tournaments in the South. We hope things will continue to change for the better in that regard for this nation.

The next night, Ron and I — I'd just returned from Mexico — attended the basketball game between Columbia and Harvard. This was the last home Ivy League game of the season for Columbia and we all expected the Lions to have a good chance of winning. Unfortunately, Columbia was not up to the Harvard challenge but played a very good second half. Wait 'til next year; we should have a team with promise for finishing high in the Ivy League.

On March 10, our Florida luncheon reunion was held in Boynton Beach. In attendance were **Lee Seidler** and his wife, Gene; **Marty Mayer** and his wife, Susan; **Mike Spett** and his wife, Lisa; **Lou Hemmerdinger** and his wife, Anita; **Stan Manne SEAS'56** and his wife, Fern; **Dan Link** and his wife, Elinore; **Gershon Vincow** and his wife, Dina; Ed Lewison SEAS'55 and his wife, Connie; George Burton '59 and his wife, Barbara; **John Garnjost** and his wife, Janet; **Don Roth** and his wife, Jackie; **Murray Eskenazi** and his wife, Doris; and Allen Klein '59 and his wife, Carol. Lindy Gallagher, from the Columbia University Club of Palm Beach, was our guest speaker.

Lou reports, "On a beautiful, sunny day, 12 alumni and their spouses met at the Prime Catch restaurant to revive old friendships and meet new people. The class luncheon was expanded to include two alumni from the Class of 1959 and one from the Class of 1955. As it turned out, a few spouses were from Barnard and P&S.

"Going around the table, each person described the activities he or she pursued at Columbia, what jobs they had through their careers and what they were currently doing. What came out was that we have an amazing class of highly skilled professionals, many of whom became professors and deans in schools as well as business executives and business owners.

"No one could believe that next year will be our 60th class anniversary, and this is because very few of us feel that we are 80. The socializing continued until 3 p.m.

Everyone thought the venue and the food were excellent and was already looking forward to meeting next year. We would like to further expand (however slowly) to include other alumni from classes in the '50s."

**John Garnjost** reminds me that part of his 80th birthday celebration included the mayor of Stamford, Conn., designating the day as John Garnjost Day. As all of us will have reached that magic number by the time we have our 60th reunion, we should all have stories about how we have celebrated this milestone year. Share them in this column, if you like! It would be a fun way to start getting us in the spirit for reunion.

**Hillel Tobias** writes: "Sitting here on the beach in St. Bart's during the first week in March, my thoughts turn to you retired, golf-playing, country-clubbing, Floridian émigrés from NYC whom I read about in Class Notes.

"When our week in the sun is over, my wife, Wendy, and I will be back at work, myself as the medical director of liver transplantation and the hepatobiliary service at NYU Langone Medical Center, and Wendy as director of anesthesia at the KBEC ASC. So far, no one has tried to push us into 'early' retirement, so we push on and continue to enjoy our work.

"It has been a big year in the 'liver business,' with new meds for hepatitis C, and the practice continues to boom. ... In addition, the Concorde Medical Group, which I founded in 1996, continues to take a lot of my time and is still growing. This year, we should hit 50 physicians, making us one of the largest, if not the largest, private multispecialty medical group in NYC.

"In between, I hang out with my Phi Sig brothers **Robert Cabat**, Munro Levitzky '57, Myron Stein '57 and Ira Jolles '59. We are looking forward to the 60th reunion and hope to see a lot of classmates we haven't seen in decades. Incidentally, as we spend every weekend in our house in the Hamptons (Water Mill, N.Y.), aren't there any '56ers in the Hamptons, summer or winter?

"One last note, I was saddened to learn of the passing of **Arthur Bank**, a world-renowned hematologist and fellow member of the '55-'56 *Spectator* managing board with me and **Bob Sirotz**."

**Newt Frohlich** shares, "My book, *The Shakespeare Mask*, has been awarded the Ben Franklin Gold Medal for Best Historical Novel by the Independent Book Publishers Association. [In April] my wife and I attended the London Book Fair, where my agent presented the book for international contracts."



**At the February 27 men's basketball game against Dartmouth, Frank Thomas '56 (left) was honored at halftime for his achievements as the Lions' career rebounding leader and for his activities as an alumnus. Ron Kapon '56 (right) represented their class at a pre-game ceremony in the Lou Gehrig Lounge in Levien Gym.**

The Reunion Committee has set the 60th reunion gifts: a Columbia cap (no beanie) and mug, both commemorative and both I hope beautiful. In addition, we have designated that three Columbia ties, whether you like to wear them or not, will be awarded on a predetermined basis, to three lucky class attendees.

If anyone has read the recent *Wall Street Journal* article on Ed Gerson, the 100-year-old Dartmouth alumnus and writer of his Class Notes (he started at 87), he will know where yours truly's future lies, if I should live so long. Really, serving as class president, and writer and coordinator of our Class Notes, though sometimes a challenge, is always rewarding.

Wishing you all a healthy summer season. I will celebrate my 80th birthday, as will many of you. Let us hope that we all have many more years to look forward to.

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Yours truly attended the Dean's Scholarship Reception on February 12 as a guest of Kassie and **Carlos Muñoz GSAS'61**.

The reception, which is held annually, brings together donors of named scholarships and recipients thereof. For the 2014-15 academic year, 765 named scholarships were awarded to 1,181 students, and almost 425 donors and students attended the event. Columbia

College students are eligible to receive a named scholarship if they received a Columbia grant as part of their financial aid package.

According to a brief article about Carlos in the event's program booklet, he created the Gladys H. Muñoz Scholarship "to honor the memory of his mother ... 'one of the primary motivating factors' in his life '[who] made a lot of sacrifices so [that he] could achieve what [he] did.' The scholarship benefits College students of Hispanic descent from Stuyvesant H.S. who demonstrate financial need. It may also be awarded to Hispanic students from other New York City public high schools if none from Stuyvesant qualifies. One or two students receive the scholarship each year; to date, there have been 12 recipients."

The following day, yours truly met Kathleen and **David Kinne** for lunch.

I hope all classmates enjoy a lovely summer. Write me for future issues. I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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Short column this time!

Here's **Charlie Goodstein's** letter reacting to an article in New Jersey's *The Record*, left over from



last Thanksgiving (or early for next). He writes, “Regarding ‘NJ’s wild turkeys have made huge comeback,’ I have discovered that when stalked by these creatures, especially this time of year, a suitable response is to hold in front of their faces a can of cranberry sauce. They get the message quickly.”

Congratulations to **Bernie Nussbaum**’s daughter, Emily, the television critic for *The New Yorker*, on winning the 2014 National Magazine Award for Columns and Commentary.

Our 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. (\$31 per person). It is essential that you email **Art Radin** if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radinglass.com.

I encourage you to send news. You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Enjoy the summer!

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**Norman Gelfand**

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I hope this column finds you all well. Let me begin by encouraging you to submit contributions to our Class Notes. The fact that you are reading this means that you are interested in what is happening with the members of the Class of 1959. In that same way, the other members of the class are interested in what you are doing, so please share with them by sending an update.

A sad note: **Alan Kahn**’s father passed away on February 24, 2015. Irving Kahn was 109 when he died and was working right up to the end. Our condolences to Alan and his family.

**Steve Trachtenberg** has hardly slowed down. His tenure as president of The George Washington University was discussed in an article published in *The New York Times* on February 6. It described his accomplishments thusly: “The university was an inexpensive commuter school when Stephen Joel Trachtenberg became president in 1988. By the time he was finished, two decades later, it had been transformed into a nationally recognized research university, with expanded facilities and five new schools specializing in public health, public policy, political management, media and public affairs and professional studies.”

The article goes on to question

whether the changes to the American university typified by the evolution of GW, or I might add Columbia, really represent progress.

Steve, who is now president emeritus of The George Washington University and University Professor of Public Service, has joined the law firm Rimon as a partner in its Washington, D.C., office.

**Gil Wright** wrote from his second home in Fort Myers, Fla., where he and his wife, Diane, “enjoyed the warm weather before heading back to Gaithersburg, Md., on March 22 on the Amtrak Auto Train. The weather in Fort Myers was in the 80s in February. We are already looking forward to returning in early November.

“Spring training baseball games in Florida are in March. Two teams train in Fort Myers, the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins. As I write, I plan to ride my bike two

“I became a member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, and became familiar with motion-picture technology and much of its history. (I’m now a SMPTE life member, but still a film person. A motion-picture dinosaur.)

“Among other things, I learned that the early base medium of motion-picture film was cellulose nitrate, a close relative of guncotton, and highly flammable. (Early theaters had, instead of take-up reels, a bucket of water that the just-projected film was fed into to cool off immediately.) In time, the industry developed cellulose acetate film, called ‘safety film’ when introduced.

“By the time I got actively involved, motion-picture equipment comprised a ‘mature technology.’ There were advances, to be sure, but for decades it remained es-

but hardly anything that the average viewer would notice, much less necessarily agree with.

“One way or another, I’ve been associated with film and film technology for more than a half-century. Yet the few contributions I’ve made in the state of the motion-picture art are not irrelevant to today’s technology. One involved multichannel sound for 16mm film; another, for generating control tapes for motion-picture processing laboratories’ color-additive optical printers — both involving *film*.

“I still have my faithful production equipment but even if I were to make a ‘film’ today, trying to use any of my cameras would be a cumbersome and highly expensive project. There are still a few places where I can buy film, at quite a price, and a few laboratories left where the exposed film can be processed, also at quite a price. The only place where my equipment might find a safe home once I pass would be a museum of some sort. Rather sad, but far better than being thrown into a junk pile.”

Finally, we get some advice from **Gene Appel**: “I wrote this originally to my family and just went back to review it. As I reread my message it occurred to me that it meant enough to me to suggest that you print it in *CCT*, since it was very significant to my performance while at Columbia.

“I am a Jew. This is a simple statement. It is not a religious statement but a simple fact. For historical context, I was born in 1937, at the height of Nazi influence in Europe, and being a Jew has left me with a lifelong driving incentive to make something significant of myself. It has planted deep into my soul the need to make this world a better place to live, even if in a very small way. I hope in some way I might influence you, the reader, to excel in whatever way you can find through your inherited genes. They are the starting point but their development is up to you!

“As I approach 80, it becomes more compelling to not let what I have observed sink to the bottom of the sea of personal experience, only to be covered by the sands of time. Rather, I’d like to share the influences in my life that have molded my inspiration to excel. We all need some driving force that takes us beyond the mere desires to eat, to find comfort and to just exist. Thus my statement, ‘I am a Jew,’ is a core influence for me to leave a legacy that my family and civilization would be proud of!

“The last decade has made me realize that my physical capability has long peaked. At this point I can only reflect, but I don’t want

all the labors lost. Also, it places me in that stage of life where I can look at the present and place some judgment on the potential for the future. It presents the spark of hope that, perhaps with only a little influence, I can water that seed of talent I see in others that — if turned in the right direction — will root itself into a sturdy tree, or a beautiful flower ...

“And so I wish to put together and describe the influences on my puzzle of life. Influences from people and experiences, which have given me emotional as well as exemplary guide posts to help me find my way. In each case, the words or the actions that each of us experiences is not what’s most important but rather, how we interpret those experiences and, most important, what we take forward from the specific experience. The actions, reactions and mental gymnastics we choose control our future!

“Let me start with some trite statements like, ‘May you never reach your goal,’ Emerson’s definition of success, and my own concoction, ‘Stay hungry, don’t hesitate, be tenacious!’ All of those are guidance for life, and for the struggles we face no matter how fortunate or unfortunate we are at the beginning ...

“Life will always have tumbles, pain and bruises. Most we live through, but the most important part is how they influence us afterward and that usually is determined by our reactions. So let’s learn how to control reactions. Let’s start with ‘May you never reach your goal.’ Think about that statement. Once you’ve accomplished a goal, don’t stop. Look at where you go from there. One goal should be a stepping stone to the next goal. The direction is not always ‘up’ but rather ‘out.’ Open your vision.

“Again, my advice is not to start totally new but rather branch off or let a seed drop off to sprout an interest that you have or recently found, which can utilize your talents and physical/mental capabilities. As you start new efforts, don’t hesitate, stay hungry and be tenacious (sound familiar?). And be ready to learn new technology. Don’t let yourself be left behind. No matter how high up you are in whatever knowledge or activity you are involved with, remember there will always be something new and better.

“Life is too short and opportunities are too vast! Let yourself feel unleashed! Grasp the moment, make the best of it, enjoy the effort and contribute. You are the only one who will make your life. Find your driving incentive. For me, it’s

‘I am a Jew’ and ‘Make this a better world to live in!’”

I hope that everyone has a healthy and a pleasant summer.

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Last year was a long, busy one for **Paul Nagano**. Forty-seven years ago Paul established his career as an artist in Boston, spending almost 30 of those years at Fenway Studios. In 2014 Paul resolved to leave Boston behind and return to Hawaii, where he grew up. Packing, shipping and moving was, Paul writes, an arduous task that consumed almost two months of labor and delayed his departure until Christmas Eve.

Paul has established a working studio at his home on Palolo Avenue in Honolulu. His first major work in watercolors at the new studio is a commission from an old friend and Punahou School classmate; the friend now lives in San Francisco, where Paul will prepare sketches.

In days to come, sitting on a sun-soaked beach, surely Paul will have spasms of regret that he missed the record-shattering 100.8 inches of snow that blanketed Boston in this year’s wintry embrace.

**Vince Russo** writes, “My son Joe was remarried 1½ years ago to a lovely lady, Jacqueline, with a teenage son, so we now have 16 grandkids. I recently completed 10 years with The Joint Commission, which handles hospital accreditations, and will continue working one week per month. **Dan Schwartz** actually has been there with me; we reconnected during orientation 10 years ago, after not seeing each other since college graduation.

“I was sad to read that **Serge Angiel** passed. He was my first of many ski instructors; I still enjoy the sport, primarily in Bethel, Maine. My wife of 51 years, Sheila Kay, travels with me on European excursions as well as local Porsche road trips. In 2004, in Stuttgart, Germany, we took factory delivery of a 911, which I recently sold in anticipation of buying a 2015 911 Targa 4 for some retirement travel throughout the United States.”

A personal aside about grandchildren: Just as I thought I might be staging a rally in the competition for most grandchildren, with seven grandkids — and my upcoming star player, son Ethan, in reserve and a year away from his teens — Vince takes the ball and buries a jumper from beyond the 3-point line.

On a sad note, Vince advised that **Elliot Olstein** SEAS’61 died on Thanksgiving morning surround-

ed by family members: wife, Joan; sons, Erik and Jon; daughters-in-law, Kathleen and Laura; and five grandchildren.

**Orlin Trandahl**, who roomed with Elliot, offered this remembrance: “Elliot first impressed me when at our young age (18 or 19) he knew exactly what he wanted to do: study engineering and then go to law school and become a patent attorney. During Vietnam I believe he was working in the patent office and was declared ‘essential’ and exempt from the draft. He also had a (sometimes devious) sense of humor. Practical jokes could occur at any time. **Wayne Case** bore the brunt of one of them: Elliot had Wayne ‘thrown out’ of Columbia by forging a letter written on Dean’s Office letterhead; I must admit that I was complicit. Elliot used to like to run, and lamented when his brother, Bob, passed him in a race after all of Elliot’s years as the faster one.”

Elliot practiced law as a partner in the firm of Carella, Byrne, Cecchi, Olstein, Brody & Agnello, in Roseland, N.J. He had broad experience in intellectual property law and was an expert in chemical and biochemical inventions, with emphasis on their medical applications. Elliot’s second bachelor’s was in chemical engineering, and he earned a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1965 and an LL.M. in taxation from NYU in 1977.

The class extends its deepest condolences to Elliot’s wife, Joan, and their family.

Remembering another of our late classmates, **Sidney Hart** writes, “I was very saddened to learn of **Steve Brown**’s death this winter. When Steve was general counsel for Champion International, his office in Stamford, Conn., was situated between my office in Greenwich and **Irwin Sollinger**’s in Westport. The three of us shared lunch several times — regrettably, in retrospect, not often enough.

“Several years ago when I read that Champion was planning to divest itself of land in the St. Regis region of the Adirondack Park and that it had not decided as yet whether to donate it to the park or sell it for development, I contacted Steve. The Adirondack Park has always been very important to me.

As a boy I vacationed there with my parents and learned to swim in Lake Flower near the village of Saranac Lake. More recently, my family and I have returned often to the Adirondacks to swim, hike, kayak and climb. The St. Regis portion of the park is a pristine landscape of lakes, streams and forest. Paul Smith’s College is located there. That this parcel might be sold for development was an

upsetting prospect and I communicated this to Steve, sending him several issues of *Adirondack Life* magazine, an award-winning monthly devoted to current and historic stories about the park. I lobbied him to have the company donate the land to the park.

“I was not clear about what Champion had decided to do with its land until at our 50th reunion Steve told me Champion had donated it to the park.

“‘You convinced me it was the right thing to do,’ he said.

“I am grateful I had his support for the conservation of a beautiful woodland in upper New York State’s Adirondack Park. Knowing of his commitment to his community in South Hampton on Eastern Long Island, I think Steve was an environmentalist at heart.”

**REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 2-5, 2016**

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**Nick Papadopoulos** BUS’69 moved back to Greece after many years in international banking and business for American companies in Asia, including China. He is now the supreme governor of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, an international Greek-American advocacy organization, responsible for its 44 chapters in Europe.

As a follow-up to his update in the spring issue, **Norm Solberg** LAW’64 and his family have relocated to Albuquerque, N.M., and he had his first client commit to sheltering assets through the South Dakota Trust Company. The CEO of a successful American hedge fund in Tokyo has signed on to the program and indicated his Japanese co-chairman will likely be interested too. Norm believes this validates that the concept is going to work for him.

**Bob Soltys** and his wife moved to Hilton Head Island, S.C., from Alexandria, Va., in 2010. Their son, Andrew, graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts (film and TV) in 2013 and started Deverge, a Manhattan based interdisciplinary production company specializing in short form content. After two years in business, Bob says, Andrew is keeping the lights on and paying the rent.



**Morris Dickstein** has published a memoir, *Why Not Say What Happened*, which includes some good mentions of the Columbia campus. [See “Columbia Forum,” Spring 2015 CCT.] In a March 12 *Tablet Magazine* article about the book’s release, the authors write: “It would be easy to group the literary critic Morris Dickstein under the catch-all ‘New York intellectual’: He’s from New York and has never lived anywhere else, except New Haven, for graduate school; and he’s a career professor who wrote for the famous small magazines of the New York left, like *Partisan Review* and *Dissent*. But that would make it sound as if Dickstein, born in 1940, were a peer of, say, Lionel Trilling, his Columbia teacher, born in 1905. In fact, if Trilling was the oldest of the New York intellectual crowd, Dickstein was the youngest. He was also, as he notes dryly in *Tablet*’s original documentary *The Last of the Morris*es, pretty much the last Lower East Side boy to be named ‘Morris’—although the name could always come back in a retro way, as Sadie, for example, already has.

“Dickstein, who began as a Keats scholar, was also one of the only members of the gang to take seriously the 1960s as something other than an epoch of cultural decline. As he made clear in *Gates of Eden: American Culture in the Sixties* (1977), he liked rock music. He even, as you can see in this film, had long hair, for a little while. He never moved rightward in his politics, as some New York intellectuals did, never dropped hankies for Washington politicians, to paraphrase an old Christopher Hitchens line about the neocons. He still goes to the movies, still thinks that there’s good stuff being made.”

Read more about Morris and see a short film featuring him: [tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-](http://tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-)

[culture/books/189536/the-last-of-the-morris](http://culture/books/189536/the-last-of-the-morris).

In January, **Ed Schneider** went on a strategy retreat in Accra, Ghana.

**George Kalbouss** GSAS’61 writes, “I am working with a retirement village, putting together a concert [with performances by] people with dementia, singing together with their grown children. I’m also interviewing high school applicants to the College.”

**Dick Roberts** retired on March 1, 2007, from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), where—having never lost the humanitarian vision inspired in him by the Core—he coordinated the California state and federally funded afterschool programs. These programs, presently delivered by more than 30 community-based agencies across the city, help roughly 160,000 students on a daily basis at more than 550 elementary, middle and high schools. Among other things, Dick helped form LAUSD’s branch of Beyond the Bell in October 2000, which now manages all extended day programs in the district. Prior to Beyond the Bell, he worked in LAUSD’s Northeast San Fernando Valley to help establish Project GRAD Los Angeles. Dick also spearheaded systemic efforts in LAUSD for service learning and school-based mental and physical health services.

As he approached retirement from LAUSD, Dick says, he felt optimism for a renaissance in public education and, after his retirement, he became active in various in-school and afterschool reform efforts. Dick is the chairman of the Sally and Dick Roberts Coyote Foundation, served on the advisory board of Children International (2012–15), belongs to the California Afterschool Network Leadership Team and is a founding member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Youth Orchestra Los Angeles task force. He served on the boards of the Los Angeles County Educational Foundation (2007–12) and Camerata Pacifica (2009–2013).

Dick holds master’s degrees in counseling and English literature and credentials in secondary teaching, special education, counseling and administration. Paul Heckman, professor and associate dean of Education at UC Davis, guided Dick through the large amount of research (stretching from behavioral and cognitive psychology, to clinical and experimental psychiatry and neurology, to the study of information systems, to brains scans themselves) that shows not only why the learning environments in educational systems are not creating success but also what

a learning environment for youth should look like that would deeply motivate kids to succeed.

While learning these concepts, Dick was approached by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra to help support and guide it in implementing El Sistema (an international music education program) in schools and communities. The more he studied and involved himself in this effort, the more convinced he became that El Sistema is a real-world model for the theories expressed in research on ideal learning environments for children. As he watched El Sistema at work in an elementary afterschool program in Pasadena, Calif., that the Sally and Dick Roberts Coyote Foundation supports, Dick experienced children learning quickly and with joy.

More recently, in January, through his work with the foundation and also Children International, Dick helped bring El Sistema to two poverty-stricken communities in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic; it was a four-day music education retreat and final concert featuring 120 children. Dick says that he has never seen such excitement on the part of youngsters or such involvement of musicians and staff or such support by parents. Here, he says, were children from neighborhoods of great poverty living in tiny shacks with sometimes dirt floors and leaking corrugated metal roofs, coming to a large retreat center, practicing with their musical instruments morning, noon and night for four days and then presenting a final concert—they could not have been more proud of themselves, and deservedly so.

My wife, JB, and I completed our second season as ski ambassadors at Copper Mountain in Colorado. **Alex Liebowitz** and his wife, Denise, skied with us for a week in February as part of long-standing tradition.

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**Harvey J. Goldschmid** SIPA’64, LAW’65, scholar, humanist, professor, warrior for the average investor and dear friend to so many of us, passed away on February 12, 2015. Harvey was the Dwight Professor of Law at the Law School, where he twice won its foremost teaching award. From 2002 to 2005 he was a member of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. From 2005 to 2012 he was an advisory board member of the Millstein Center for Corporate Governance and Performance at the Yale School of

Management. As a teacher, regulator and gentle, loving man, Harvey touched and improved the lives of countless others. Just search the Internet and ask any of our classmates. His wife, Mary, and sons, Charles ’99, LAW’04; Paul BUS’06, LAW’06; and Joseph BUS’14, LAW’14, survive him.

Sadly our class has lost another member: **Anthony “Tony” J. Forlano**. Tony was born in Manhattan on June 20, 1940, and passed away in Mount Pleasant, S.C., on December 13, 2014. He was an NROTC cadet and was commissioned by the Marine Corps, along with **Pete Russell**, at graduation. Tony served in Vietnam and saw action in Operation Starlight, Chu Lai and, to a lesser degree, Huê. After four years’ service, by which point he had achieved the rank of captain, Tony resigned his commission to obtain a master’s at the Cornell School of Hotel Administration. Till the moment of his death he was a fiercely proud Marine.

After Cornell Tony worked for several hotel management companies and then joined Holiday Inn, working in Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky and finally California. He reared his family in San Diego. Tony was also an ordained brother in the Grey Robe Monks of St. Benedict, an ecumenical religious order established in 2002 that is devoted to the disciplines of prayer proscribed by St. Benedict in the fifth century.

Tony is survived by his wife of 12 years, Leslie Graham Forlano; son, Anthony Jr.; daughter, Danielle Nicole Forlano Galluccio; and grandchildren, Genevieve, Emma, Adelaide and Nicholas. Tony and Leslie knew each other from the time they were 22 and 19. The war sent them on separate paths until 2000, when they found each other single again. They moved to South Carolina to be near their grandchildren, and Tony joined the Patriots Point (where the *U.S.S. Yorktown* is stationed, in Charlestown, S.C.) volunteers and became an instructor at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command. He enjoyed interacting with young sailors and taught them about WWII and its implications in current geopolitical events. In January the U.S. Marine Corps and Navy honored Tony with a memorial service aboard the *Yorktown*.

Although Tony was never wounded in combat, he was exposed to Agent Orange while conducting infantry operations in Vietnam and for 25 years battled serious cancers, Leslie writes.

**John Mortensen** wrote, sending this summary of his life’s travels: Following graduation he worked at Macy’s for the summer and

then went to the Officer Candidate School at Newport, R.I., from October to March. He then attended the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Ga., for seven months and was commissioned an ensign in October 1963. John’s first command was the *U.S.S. Georgetown* AGTR-2, which took him through the Caribbean and to Trinidad, Uruguay and Brazil. He recalls seeing “Brasilia just after it was designated as the new capital of Brazil. It was totally modern and beautiful; no slums like in Rio.” He then sailed to Valparaíso, Chile, the port city for the capital of Santiago; Lima, Peru; and twice through the Panama Canal.

After returning to his base in Norfolk, Va., John was ordered to the Navy Subsistence Office at the Washington Navy Yard. His next stop was Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Schenectady, N.Y., where he was a program planner doing classified work. “While I was in Schenectady,” John writes, “I trained as a reservist for 18 months, but missed navy travel so much I chose to be stationed at NAS Atlanta. I stayed there for 18 months, then volunteered for Vietnam and was sent to the Mekong Delta.”

John was awarded a Bronze Star for Combat and four South Vietnamese medals and then was transferred to Rota, Spain, which, he says, “was great for me because I spoke Spanish quite well. Subsequently my unit, VR-24, was transferred to Naples, Italy, where I remained for 3½ years. Next I was transferred to NAS Cecil Field, where I was the project officer in charge of transitioning the anti-submarine program from propeller-driven aircraft to jets. I completed the final five years of my naval career at NAS Jacksonville.

“When I retired in June 1983, a former commanding officer of mine asked me to work for Grumman in St. Augustine, Fla., where I oversaw the conversion of old A6-C medium bombers to KA-6D air refueling tankers. When I left there after 3½ years, [I was able to get] 100 percent medical disability because my bipolar disorder made me incapable of program management. I worked for a couple of years as a salesman and manager in two local pet stores, and we moved to a gated community called Eagle Bend Island on the north side of Jacksonville on the Nashville River. We were on a canal, from one oxbow to another. I had a dock constructed, as fishing is my passion, and caught all kinds of fish. Each night I caught about half a dozen blue claw crabs, some so big they had barnacles,

and netted all the shrimp we could eat! I used to push wheelbarrows of sand down to the canal to fix where it had eroded. As a result I crushed the cartilage in my right knee and right hip and had to get them replaced.

“I now live in an assisted living facility. Anyone wishing to contact me can reach me at 904-554-9405 or 1248 Kingsley Ave., Rm 52, Orange Park, FL 32073.”

It is not easy to persuade busy classmates to take a few minutes to write about themselves. And not until now has anyone written a major piece about a fellow classmate. But that is just what **Andy Smith** ([asmith240@aol.com](mailto:asmith240@aol.com)) has done about **Leo Swergold** ([leo@lsanvers.com](mailto:leo@lsanvers.com)):

“An October article in *Columbia’s The Record*, ‘Columbia Cares for a Museum’s Worth of Cultural Treasures,’ mentions some

**Leo Swergold ’62 was instrumental in cataloguing the more than 2,000 works of Chinese art donated to the University by Dr. Arthur M. Sackler.**

of the work of Robert E. Harrist Jr. GSAS’81, the Jane and Leopold Swergold Professor of Chinese Art History, and Dr. Arthur M. Sackler’s gift of more than 2,000 Asian artworks to Columbia. But it fails to mention the enormous contribution of **Leo Swergold**. It was Leo who uncovered these pieces in the basement of Avery Hall and brought them to light. That story begins more than 30 years ago during a Class of 1962 reunion.

“Leo and his wife, Jane, usually attend our reunions, and on this occasion they slipped away to visit some Manhattan art dealers. The Chinese art they saw that day caught their fancy, although they resisted taking anything home. Some months later, Leo wanted to get Jane a special gift. He called on a well-known dealer of Chinese art and found what he wanted, but thought its price was excessive and so made an offer. The dealer accepted Leo’s offer and presented him with a dated but fairly comprehensive catalogue of Chinese art. Seeing the look on Leo’s face, the dealer told him he knew when someone was hooked.

“And hooked Leo was. He and Jane began searching for fine Chinese art, and their collection was begun. When Leo and Jane endowed a chair in the Department of Art History and Archeology in 2001, Harrist was named the first Swergold Professor of Chinese Art History.

“Knowing that Leo’s passion

and knowledge of Chinese art was growing, Harrist asked him to write an inventory and catalogue of the pieces donated by Sackler. Due to the size of Sackler’s donation and the fact that it was scattered throughout the University, Leo’s job was daunting. Beginning in January 2005 he worked on the project two to three days a week for nearly 15 months.

“First he created a gigantic, handwritten spreadsheet that listed each piece based on shipping manifests and any other documentation he could find. Then he undertook a relentless search to locate each piece. One day while in the basement of Avery Hall, Leo met Larry Souci. For more than 30 years Souci had been Columbia’s official art handler, the overseer of the huge collection of art objects in University storage. With Souci’s help Leo found nearly all the

Sackler pieces, even those that had strayed into professors’ offices, and established the provenances for most of them!

“As Leo’s work began to produce results, it spawned another project: to plan and hold an exhibition of the most important Sackler pieces and to prepare a book of photographs and descriptions of many of them. Leading and inspiring a herd of experts scattered about the country, Leo organized an exhibit of the Sackler Collection that was displayed March 26–June 7, 2008, at the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery in Schermerhorn Hall. During the same period Leo wrote *Treasures Rediscovered: Chinese Stone Sculpture from the Sackler Collections at Columbia University*, which was released when the exhibit opened. In the book Leo wrote a history of the collection and how it came to Columbia. Subsequently the exhibit traveled to other institutions, including the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia, the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Fla., and the Nassau County Museum of Art on Long Island.

“Museums and art organizations soon took notice of Leo’s knowledge, interest and passion for Chinese art. He joined several boards to help widen and deepen interest in Chinese art. And last August Leo published his second book, *Thoughts on Chinese Buddhist Gilt Bronzes*.

“Jane and Leo display their Chinese art in their Connecticut home. During the past six years they have established their permanent residence in Florida and begun collecting Cuban paintings. Leo’s passion for Cuban art grows naturally from his having lived in Cuba for six years in the 1940s, when his family was relocating from Belgium to the United States.

“When you see Leo and Jane at the next reunion, be sure to ask him to tell you the many funny stories about his experiences finding and cataloging the Sackler Collection.”

Bravo, Andy, and congratulations, Leo, for your devotion to Columbia and Chinese art!

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Thank you for sending such a flood of news! So much so that I must apologize to some of you for only including a sample of your long notes. I’ll also hold back some for the next issue, but you can find everything you sent at [cc63ers.com](http://cc63ers.com). I have finally updated our website.

**Sid Kadish** writes, “When we arrived for our freshman orientation in September 1959, we were addressed by a sophomore greeter who famously said, ‘Welcome Harvard rejects!’ Well, it’s taken many years but since retirement, I applied to and was accepted at the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. Full of retirees, including some older retirees, we attend lectures and take classes given by HILR members. I’m taking ‘Modern Japanese Novel’ and ‘Passages of Discovery: A History of Navigation.’ I’m back in college again, and it’s a lot of fun. **Don Putnoi** is also a member. This occupies me on Mondays and Tuesdays, and I mentor medical students from BU med school on Fridays. I am plenty busy and reasonably stimulated. Retirement is fun!”

**Daniel Perl**, who is a professor of pathology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, reports that the cover story for the February 2015 issue of *National Geographic* is about traumatic brain injury and the military. He says, “Although this is not the usual NG topic (birds of Borneo, orchids in the rainforest, etc.), they did an excellent job. There are photos of patients and their families that are haunting, and I think this article will finally put a human face on the problem for the American public. In the piece

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they talk about my research and why it is so important (no photo of me, except for one of my hand picking up a slide to go under the microscope). You can find it on the NG website, along with poignant audio from some of the servicemen photographed in the article.” Daniel’s research, for those who may not know, is aimed at discovering the unique results of blast-related injuries to the brain.

**Frank Sypher** GSAS’68’s latest book, *Charles Anthon: American Classicist*, was listed in the Bookshelf section of the Spring 2015 CCT. Frank writes, “Charles Anthon [(Class of 1815)] (1797–1867) was the most widely known American classicist of the 19th century, thanks to the success of his ‘Classical Series’ of school texts, begun in 1835, and his *Classical Dictionary*, published in 1841, which became the standard work of its kind in the United States. I became interested in Anthon while studying Virgil with Gilbert Highet, who was the Anthon Professor of Latin Language and Literature at Columbia.

“What made Anthon’s books attractive was the wealth of detailed information that he provided. His texts of standard authors such as Homer, Cicero, Horace and Virgil contained not only notes about grammar and vocabulary but also comments relating to the general historical and literary context.

“Anthon was one of the most memorable teachers at Columbia, which he had graduated from in 1815 with highest honors. He joined the faculty in 1820 to teach classics, and remained until his death. This is the first scholarly biography of Anthon.”

**Joe McPhee** writes, “I have never written to Class Notes before, primarily because I never thought I had anything profound to add. However, your prompt asking whether any of us has discovered ‘something worthwhile to do in retirement’ made me realize that I do have something to contribute. When I was at Columbia, I had the privilege of taking one of my Humanities courses with Professor Moses Hadas, a man who appeared to be a cross between Col. Sanders (please excuse the anachronism) and a Talmudic scholar (which he was). He was so charismatic that I almost decided then and there to give up my study of the sciences for the classics. I didn’t, but in the back of my mind I reserved the thought that someday, when money was no longer an issue, I’d return to the classics.

“Well, time marched on and I never got around to it; until I retired. Then, with my retirement fund in place and time on my hands, I began my long-delayed

course of study in the classics at UNC Chapel Hill. I majored in classical archaeology. I learned to read Homer in the original Greek and Virgil in Latin. And I went to Greece on several archaeological digs. I can truly say that I have now realized my secret ambition and am having a ball. I have not retired. I have transitioned!”

**Zev Bar-Lev** (né Rob Lefkowitz) writes, “I will be giving workshops for the elderly, called ‘Tune Up Your Brain — with the Global Alphabet.’ The ‘global alphabet’ is my theory of language universals, which will allow participants to comprehend unknown words and classic sayings/verses in foreign languages, from Italian, Latin, Greek and Russian to Sanskrit, Hebrew and Arabic.”

**Charles Bremer** writes, “Nothing exciting or interesting to report. I lead a dull, quiet existence, which suits me just fine. After traveling all over the world for 20-plus years negotiating trade agreements, I need a break.”

**Harry Saal** GSAS’69 led a \$10 million investment round in a Silicon Valley pharma startup, Retrotope, and has now joined the

“You could say that in my retirement from teaching at Sonoma State University I have written more than ever before, including my 14th book, *A Terrible Beauty: The Wilderness of American Literature*, in which I go back, reread and rethink the books — like *Moby-Dick* — that I read in literature classes at Columbia.”

**David Alpern** reports, “As 2014 ended I sent off the last (I should say earliest) of 30-plus years of *Newsweek On Air* and *For Your Ears Only* weekly radio and Internet broadcasts on cassette and CD to the nonprofit Internet Archive, where the full collection is being preserved and posted for public browsing at [archive.org/details/foryourearsonly](http://archive.org/details/foryourearsonly).

“In thanking many of my frequent guests over the years, I received from one of them — former *New York Times* and CBS News foreign correspondent David Andelman — the offer of a new gig. David is editor/publisher of *World Policy Journal* at the nonprofit World Policy Institute, for which I now host a new series of weekly *World Policy On Air* podcast interviews with authors of articles in

website and cell phones and yet profits. Fifteen years ago we ‘old guys’ were out of favor; we wore collared shirts — just not cool. Today, the entrepreneurial cohort seems more respectful of advice. Either that or I have come to appear so old that no one wants to give insult.

“If you are interested in keeping track of developments in some of these technologies, and the atmosphere for venture finance, try following my posts at The Law and Other Anomalies, [honiglawblog.com](http://honiglawblog.com). Fans of Red Sox Nation will also find my frequent although errant analyses of the team.”

**Carey Winfrey** sent a picture (check [cc63ers.com](http://cc63ers.com)) of himself and his wife, Jane, in front of their house in Key West, Fla., where they spend six months of the year and where he says he plays “geezer tennis (which uses the same rules as the Wimbledon version but otherwise bears little resemblance to it), does a bit of writing (mostly emails) and walks Bodhi (our yellow lab). Happy daze.”

**Frank Partel** has published a book, *Down in Laos: Heroism and Inspiration During the Vietnam War*. He writes, “I think this is my best work yet and I’m pleased to share a blurb from Kirkus Reviews:

“‘*Down in Laos* is a war story set in Southeast Asia during the seizure of U.S.S. *Pueblo*, the Tet Offensive and the Battle of Khe Sanh in 1968. It is a classic suspense, action-thriller about a naval ship, an air wing, and a pilot who is shot down and becomes a prisoner of the Pathet Lao. The result is a ripping, visceral read.’

“Please buy it, read it and write a nice review for Amazon.

“My wife, Mary Ellen, and I are doing well and are headed back to the Loire Valley in June.”

**Bob Shlaer** wrote a not-so-little story of an adventure he had on a piping cruise to the Caribbean this past January. The highlight of the cruise was that he wound up solo piping for the captain of the ship. If you are interested, you will find it on [cc63ers.com](http://cc63ers.com).

**Pete Gollon** missed two weeks of miserable weather on Long Island by escaping to Arizona, where he spent a week on a Road Scholar trip hiking in the Superstition Wilderness east of Phoenix. He says the temperature was fine for the hikes, which were mostly six or seven miles. However, the final nine-mile hike was a bit too long for him to keep up with the others and still be able to take a decent number of photos. After that, his wife, Abby Pariser BC’67, joined him for a week visiting friends in Tucson. Now he’s back working with the Sierra Club in an effort to

bring more renewable energy, especially from a proposed offshore wind farm, to Long Island.

**Bruce Kaplan** writes, “Who is talking about retirement? I practice law full-time and still enjoy it. My firm, Friedman Kaplan, which I helped start 29 years ago, has 50 lawyers specializing in commercial litigation, corporate transactional and white collar/investigations matters. Last year I led a successful two-week jury trial in Atlanta dealing with failure of artificial turf for sports stadiums. (For those who require proof that I can still try a case, copies of the transcript of my devastating cross-examination of Kenny Gilman are available, gratis, upon request).”

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are always a great place to reconnect. Try to make the next one, scheduled for July 9, and then, after our August break, on September 10; it’s always the second Thursday. Check out [cc63ers.com](http://cc63ers.com) for details.

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

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My recent news of classmates focuses on travel and food.

**Beril Lapson** has been traveling to China and Mexico on business. Since 2000 he has been in China 15 times, and through the years he has noted two major changes: Air pollution is “demonstrably worse” and there is now a level of consumerism — shopping malls and so forth — he had not seen before. By comparison, he says, the air in Mexico is “clean.”

**Allen Tobias** has been on the road to Kathmandu, Istanbul, Çeşme (Turkey) and Tel Aviv in search of funding for the production of his screen adaptation of Henry Roth’s novel *Call It Sleep*.

CCT’s Spring 2015 food-themed issue prompted the following from **Joel Magid**:

“Food at Columbia? I don’t remember any foodies at Columbia 50-plus years ago, but my greatest eating experiences came when a group of us (Paul Reale ’63, Peter Belfiore ’63, **Steve Rock**, **Joe Prijatelj** and I) decided to invite faculty for dinner every other week or so during the ‘63–’64 academic year.

“I can’t remember whose idea this was but we invited about a dozen of our professors — including some of the most famous, such as Lionel Trilling ’25, GSAS’38 — to climb the stairs to our fifth-floor

walk-up on 113th for some experimental home-cooked student food (we took turns cooking and the results were quite unpredictable although almost always edible). Some of our older guests arrived huffing and puffing. One who shall remain nameless suggested in advance that we might only do cocktails (had he heard about our occasional culinary catastrophes?), so — West End beer drinkers that we were — we looked up how to make Manhattans and prepared two pitchers that were consumed in their entirety.

“Among the many highlights of our years at Columbia, these dinners stood out as incredible fun and offered a chance to get to know some distinguished faculty outside of class. It was, I think, a pretty unusual experience for them, too, and except for one, all those we invited accepted the invitation and were very polite about the quality of our cooking.”

Best to all in the summer ahead. Don’t forget to tell me about it. You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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Submission deadlines and publication dates mean that I am writing this column in late March, before our 50th reunion, yet you will be reading it in June, after the big weekend. As a result, news about the reunion will be in our next column. Meanwhile, here’s the latest.

**Joe Beckmann** ([joe.beckmann@gmail.com](mailto:joe.beckmann@gmail.com)) responded to one of my pleas for news with this update on his life following graduation and two years at Brown studying history: “I floated in publishing for a while but within a few months was working with a consortium of historically black colleges and universities, based at the Education Development Center in suburban Boston, helping with curriculum, innovations and alternative teaching methods across the South.

It was 1968, and by the time Columbia blew up that spring I was getting bored being the white-boy intellectual. By September I’d begun a transition to the Harvard Graduate School of Education, when I was recruited to teach at Dillard University in New Orleans in a creative, interdisciplinary curriculum that converted much of what I learned through Columbia’s general education into projects with teams of students working together.

“Two days into that job, I was recruited for the next year to join the faculty of UMass-Amherst for another doctoral vector and teaching job in interdisciplinary higher ed curriculum design. That lasted about two years, when I was drawn into the Massachusetts Office of Leasing and State Office Planning to create a ‘minority intern work-study program’ for UMass and others. ... Discovering that ‘planning’ meant primarily going to a lot of meetings, and aware that, as we were entering the 1970s, recruiting ‘inner-city’ interns might be a little more disruptive than the sponsors intended, I jumped again — to Abt Associates — where, again for a year, I evaluated innovations in higher ed.

“That scattered foundation led me to teach interdisciplinary studies at Emerson for a few years, under Irene Alinsky, writer Saul Alinsky’s widow. ... When the program lost momentum, I [began working] with a former teaching peer, Elaine Noble, who was the first gay person elected to the Massachusetts legislature after coming out, and well before coming out became accepted. She was a freshman state rep and shared her desk on the Education Committee with Mel King, a prominent black politician and the first African-American to run for mayor of Boston.

“Politics were a lot more fun and led to several cycles of consulting in education and social policy. I worked with small and large foundations, government agencies, nonprofits, media and a long list of fancy contacts. It was about that time I discovered I was beyond bisexual, and found friends — in Paris, New York, theater and insurance — whose work and activism went far beyond my already stretched academic boundaries (which themselves were getting increasingly vague).

“We created new insurance programs, developed new kinds of small theater productions and developed new and/or distinctive teaching programs. Queer stuff became very stylish, as did that kind of hybrid of policy, program, advocacy and academia. Ultimately, as HIV emerged as both a threat and a challenge, we helped create prevention, treatment and anti-discrimination resources that crossed lines of sex, drugs, language, race and sexuality.

“My current phase, already more than 10 years old, has been hyper-local, involving politics and programs in Somerville, Mass. At 4.2 square miles with 80,000 people, this is the densest city in New England; 57 languages are spoken in its high school. The city is now involved in dramatic change stem-

ming mostly from a \$2.3 billion transit project that’s finally beginning after 40 years of planning as well as associated developments of housing, commerce and industry totaling about 10,000,000 sq. ft. and costing \$3 billion–\$5 billion. ...

“I also recently finished editing the 2015 *Massachusetts Political Almanac*, the authoritative directory of state officials and agency capacities. And I host a monthly dinner of young and old, patterned after what roommates and I did at Columbia a half-century ago with faculty guests. Only this time the guests are the kids.

“So, I’m pretty busy but am having a hell of a good time.”

**Mike Cook** (Michael.Cook@srz.com) appeared at the Practising Law Institute’s conference Bankruptcy & Reorganizations 2015: Current Developments, April 27–28. Mike discussed “Debtor in Possession Financing and Other Lending Issues” and “The Automatic Stay and Avoiding Powers.” The conference brought together a distinguished faculty of bankruptcy judges and leading practitioners (including Mike) to provide a thorough review and analysis of hot topics in restructuring, bankruptcy and reorganizations, and to discuss relevant recent cases and trends.

**Niles Eldredge** ([flumpet@earthlink.net](mailto:flumpet@earthlink.net)) was recently “back from a one-week escape from ice, snow and cold in San Francisco. Returned to find advance copies of my magnum opus, *Eternal Ephemeria*, waiting for me. A relief and *schmerz* that the book is over and done with.”

In a previous column, I mentioned Niles’ theory of “punctuated equilibria,” which he developed with paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould. Well, *Eternal Ephemeria* — a 416-page work published by Columbia University Press — is a history of scientific inquiry into adaptation and the origin of species from the 19th century though punctuated equilibria and beyond. As the publisher’s website states,

## What’s Your Story?

Letting classmates know what’s going on in your life is easy. Send in your Class Notes!

ONLINE by clicking [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://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.



“All organisms and species are transitory, yet life endures. The origin, extinction and evolution of species — interconnected in the web of life as ‘eternal ephemera’ — are the concern of evolutionary biology. In this riveting work, renowned paleontologist Niles Eldredge follows leading thinkers as they have wrestled for more than 200 years with the eternal skein of life composed of ephemeral beings, revitalizing evolutionary science with their own, more resilient findings.”

**Tom Gualtieri** PS’69 (ctgualtieri@ncneuropsych.com), who was a member of the psychiatry panel at reunion, filled us in on his doings since graduation: “I’ve been in the South since 1970, when my draft board didn’t have room for me in Vietnam and sent me to the next worst place. I was a general doctor in Mound Bayou, Miss., and delivered 500 babies in two years. I’m proud to report I didn’t lose one, but I also learned I couldn’t do without sleep. So I came to Chapel Hill, N.C., and became a psychiatrist. My wife, Frances, whom I met in pottery class, and I have been here ever since. (We flunked the class.) Frances owns a restaurant, La Residence; if you bring this note with you, she’ll give you a free dessert.

“Dieter, our oldest, runs the restaurant. It’s said to be the most romantic restaurant in Chapel Hill. If it is, it has nothing to do with me. John, our second, runs the late-night scene. At 11 p.m. the place is a dead zone but by 11:30 it’s packed with Tar Heels who party until 2 a.m. How can they do it? I had 9 a.m. classes all four years at Columbia.

“Tony, our third, is at P&S. His father went there and his grandfather, too, so he was a legacy and they had to take him. He wants to be an orthopedist.

“The boys are mostly like their mother, but they have enough of my traits to have convinced Frances and me not to procreate further. We adopted a little girl, Geni, from China in 1997. She was such an angel that we went back for Nora, and then again for Dia. They are our special blessings.

“Of course, they aren’t so little anymore, and most blessings come with a price. Geni is at Lehigh and the other two are likely to choose equally exorbitant colleges. So, I’m not about to retire anytime soon. Not that I care to. I’m a neuro-psychiatrist and my patients are children with learning disabilities, adults who have had brain injuries and old coots like you and me who may be developing the first signs of dementia. You can test yourself, your mate or the guy who pro-

poses to represent you in Congress at atonc.com. [My colleagues and I] have clinics in Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Charlotte; we do research; and I’m working on a couple of books.”

**Bob Kolodny**, who collaborated with Masters and Johnson for many years, was interviewed for a segment about them as part of *CBS Sunday Morning’s* Valentine’s Day show on February 15. A fitting topic!

In a previous column, I reported that **Jim Murdaugh** and Gary Smith were married last summer on Nantucket. They held a celebratory party at their home on March 7, and **Bob Kronley** sent the following: “Jim and Gary’s home in Houston reflects some of its owners’ attributes — warmth, openness and graciousness prominent among them. It was an appropriate venue for celebration of their recent marriage. Among the many delighted guests were **Ben Cohen, Robert Kronley** and **Allen Steere**.”

**Neil Smith** SEAS’66, LAW’69 (neilsmith@comcast.net) writes: “I was a patent attorney at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, then a law clerk to Judge Giles Rich on the predecessor to the Federal Circuit (the patent court), all in Washington, D.C., but then moved west and for decades was a partner in San Francisco law firms.

“I was fortunate to have been in Silicon Valley as the Internet and new technology developed. I litigated, for *Playboy*, the first case dealing with metatags as trademark infringement. I also brought, for Sega, the first case involving indirect copyright infringement on the Internet, even before the Napster case.

“In 2012, I was appointed as the first administrative patent law judge for the new Patent Trial and Appeal Board in the Silicon Valley satellite office of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Unfortunately the government changed the location of the office, putting it hours away from where I live, and I resigned. Not wanting to retire, I continue to write and teach, and I joined a technology law firm, Rimon, as a partner doing high-level intellectual property law consulting, and am a mediator and arbitrator for the courts and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

“I live near San Francisco with my lovely wife of 46 years, Karla TC’68.”

**Allen Steere** PS’69 writes, “I feel great gratitude for how my college experience shaped everything that followed, particularly my medical career. I am happy to still work full-time as a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and as a rheumatologist at Massachusetts General Hospital. My research is focused on infection-induced

autoimmunity (immune responses directed inappropriately against self) in patients with Lyme arthritis or rheumatoid arthritis.

“In Lyme arthritis, it is a novel idea that autoimmunity may develop as a part of the immune response to the tick-borne bacterium that causes the disease. Conversely, in rheumatoid arthritis, it is well established that autoimmunity is an important component of the disease, but it is a newer idea that certain infectious agents in the mouth or intestines may play a role in the disease. With both diseases, the work has implications for how these diseases are treated. My greatest pleasure comes from mentoring many talented, younger colleagues.

“Music remains an important part of my life. Years ago I developed a focal dystonia affecting my left fourth finger, which made it impossible to play the violin. I now sing in our church choir and play the piano for young singers, both at church and at the music school in Chautauqua, N.Y., where we have a summer home. Moreover, music has served as a backdrop for many long-term friendships, including with Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukelman, who were Juilliard students and good friends during my Columbia College days.

“My wife, Margaret, and I are blessed with four children, three of whom live with their families in Boston; the other lives in New York with his family. We get to see all of them frequently and take part in their lives.

“Travel often relates to where I am speaking. My wife frequently goes with me and we take a few days longer to see the sights. In March, I spoke at the UT Health Science Center at Houston. As part of the trip, we got together with **Jim Murdaugh** and **Ben Cohen** and their spouses.”

REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 2-5, 2016

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Gentlemen: Due to a dearth of contributions for this issue, I resorted late in the column to an exploration of my memory banks as filler. I hope you enjoy it. When I run out of nostalgia, I will begin creating general Hospital. My research is focused on infection-induced

**Harry Kresky** LAW’71 shares, “This fall, Cathy Stewart and I got married after 25 years together. We live in Hell’s Kitchen with our dogs, Samantha, a Great Pyrenees we raised from a puppy who will be 2 in April, and Willow, a Corgi.

“Cathy and I have been active for many years in building a developmental postmodern progressive cultural community and working in independent politics. My solo law practice has enabled me to participate in cutting-edge litigation challenging two-party control of our electoral process. It’s an uphill fight, a little like Columbia football — an occasional victory and lots of challenges.

“I am working with a team of lawyers on an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals from dismissal of our lawsuit seeking to declare New Jersey’s closed primary system unconstitutional. The state pays for and administers an election from which 47 percent of the state’s voters who choose not to align with a party are barred.”

**Tom Chorba** writes: “‘Hold fast to the spirit of youth. Let years to come do what they may.’ These words, inscribed over the mantle in John Jay Hall, were the inspiration for a trip to California by my wife, Celeste, and me this February.

“We were met at LAX by wine maven and tour guide **Bob Klingensmith** and his wife, Nancy. We sped (as much as one can) on the California freeway system to San Diego, where we met with a number of Columbia alumni: Bill Mitchell ’64, the intellectual muse of Beta Theta Pi fraternity; Dave Morash ’67; and **Barry Nazarian**.

“Those who attended our 25th reunion might remember Barry clutching the secret envelope announcing the award of Most Valuable Classmate, which he opened amidst great suspense in Low. This self-made and self-awarded honor ‘shocked’ Barry, but upon the urging of his fellow classmates, he graciously self-accepted the aforementioned. Barry wants all of you to know that he invented the Internet. Little has changed in 25 years.

“Come to Homecoming this year on Saturday, October 17. Put our 50th reunion on your schedule: Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5, 2016.

“Speaking of our 50th, I have heard from two class poets so far, **Joe Albeck** and **Jim Rosenberg**. I know there are more of you. Contact me at tachorba@aol.com. We want your poetry to be a part of this celebration. **Michael Garrett** also replied as a class poet and his work is being scrutinized for possible inclusion.”

**Mack Schlefer** writes, “I belated-

ly got around to reading the Winter 2014–15 issue of *CCT* and noted that people are still talking about **Stefan Rudnicki** (profiled in the Summer 2014 issue). Well might they talk! Anyone who has heard his voice, speaking or singing, would never forget it. I haven’t heard it in 48 years but would know it in a minute. We were involved in several shows together as undergraduates, through Barnard’s Gilbert & Sullivan Society as well as the Columbia University Players, and he was always a striking feature of them.

“Stefan was also a poet and provided me with four poems to use as texts for a song-symphony for soprano and orchestra. I am delighted to report that it has never been performed, and if I ever find it among the mountain of paper that engulfs my apartment I shall make certain that it will not see the light of day. This, however, has nothing to do with his work but solely my own. What crimes one commits at 18! In 2012 I retired from my position as a staff pianist at the New York City Ballet but I still orchestrate, in case anyone is planning a Broadway show, nightclub act or ballet.”

I understand that a number of you may not have interest in sports but those who do might appreciate this information. Two years ago, I and other alumni who were concerned with the state of athletics founded the Committee for Athletic Excellence at Columbia and I am proud to inform you that we have achieved our goals. We have a new and dynamic athletics director in Peter Pilling, a new and accomplished football coach in Al Bagnoli and arguably the most talented supporting football staff in Columbia history. President Lee C. Bollinger has publicly stated his complete support for a competitive squad and has backed his statement up with impressive action.

We congratulate the University, Bollinger, Bagnoli and his staff, and the Lions football team, and wish them great luck. And we thank the many of you who supported this effort. Go Lions! A change is gonna come.

Speaking of sports, I recall an episode that happened soon after most of you graduated but I was still in school thanks to a previous appointment with Uncle Sam, who had caught me playing hooky when I should have been in class. It was winter of 1967–68, the year Columbia won its last basketball title. Some of you may recall the names Heyward Dotson ’70, Jim McMillian ’70 and Dave Newmark ’69, who led us to the Holiday Festival Tourney championship and the Ivy title that season. We finished ranked in the top 10 nationally.

Captain **Ken Benoit** had graduated one-and-a-half years earlier, followed soon after by most of you.

Well, we were a dead lock for the Ivy title going into our last game, facing Princeton away. We’d already beaten them at home. But a few days before the game, Newmark (our All-American 7-footer) put his hand through a glass door in Hartley so we had to go without him. Now the game was problematic. And if we lost, we would be tied with Princeton.

Princeton, in its typically classy and respectful manner, sent Columbia all of 100 tickets for the sell-out at Jadwin Gym. Since these were going to well-heeled alums and friends of the administration, it was obvious to all on campus that no undergrads would/could be present. However, at a Friday night keg party immediately preceding the Saturday game, I had an epiphany. Which was, I was going to that game.

I recruited four volunteers willing to come along and told them to report Saturday at noon to the Sigma Chi house, wearing blazers and rep ties. The next morning I caught an early bus to New Jersey and returned to campus with the family car. At noon we convened, the four of them mystified as to how we would penetrate Jadwin security, but still suitably attired. My first request was that we get five pledge function name cards, which were long white cardboard inserts for a jacket handkerchief pocket, embossed with a light blue “C” in the background and bearing lines on which to write your name, etc. We put these in a typewriter, and put our names on one line and WKCR-FM on the next line. Then I had one of the guys run down to the basement and get a 50-ft. extension cord. Thus equipped, we departed for Princeton.

Arriving, having endured a constant stream of negative doubting commentary regarding our chances, I went through the main gate and stopped at the security guard. I asked him directions to campus police headquarters and then drove there. (Bravado is all.) Entering the building, I went to the desk and told the officer on duty that we were the WKCR crew, down to cover the game, and asked him how and where we should park. The sergeant was extremely courteous and accommodating. He asked, “Is the big guy [Newmark] playing?” (This was a huge event there, and everyone was conscious of it.)

The sergeant provided us a police escort to the gym and put us in the first spot next to the entrance. Amazing! Then he escorted us inside, past security.

Since it was around 3 p.m., no one questioned anything, and the sarge told gym security we were cool. There was a wrestling match going on between Princeton and Cornell, so we just kicked back and watched it for a couple of hours. We had carried the extension cord in with us (proof of our technical competence) but after the first few hours I put it back in the car.

During the interregnum between wrestling and basketball, I circulated among the gym staff and security and made friends with everyone. We hung out and waited for the game. A while after, the team arrived. We greeted them, and a number of guys who knew us asked how we got in. When we told them, the WKCR crew (who actually came down with the team) got all paranoid, but we just told them to cool it.

After that, it was anti-climax. We sat in the stands until we were forced to take standing positions near one of the baskets. We lost the game but that wasn’t the important piece. What was important is that we got back to campus at 11 that night, barged into a party and told everyone how we crashed Jadwin. One of my favorite college memories!

Oh, we crushed Princeton by 18 points in the playoff at St. John’s, with Newmark back. We also went to the Sweet 16, lost in overtime but beat the season-long and previously (until the tournament) undefeated No. 2 St. Bonaventure, in the consolation game, by a wide margin.

Great days, and I promise they will come again.

67

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**David Galinsky** wrote, “Last June, I retired from my practice of geriatric medicine, bid adieu to my elderly patients, wished my partners luck and spent the next six months reading, running, traveling, playing the guitar (not too well), playing with grandchildren and generally recharging after 43 years of 50-to-60-hour work weeks. Then a friend asked me to cover for a woman in his practice who was taking maternity leave. After I agreed to work two days a week for her, another friend told me about an opportunity in state government and I am now the chief medical officer of the Department of Aging for the state of Pennsylvania. I’m working five days a week again and it has been a lot of fun doing things that I hadn’t done before.

“While I was retired, I reread *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. I urge

all of you to read the section of *The Odyssey* that describes Odysseus’ returning home as an old bum in rags after all of his tribulations. It is a commentary on growing old and on how elderly people are treated. Not that any of us are approaching elderly-hood.”

**Brant Fries** wrote, “It’s hard to catch up on 48 years of news. I earned a Ph.D. from Cornell in operations research but I now work in health services research on better ways to make decisions about the health care for vulnerable populations (from clinical to policy). I have taught at Columbia, Yale and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and am now at Michigan.

“I married Marilyn Sibley in 1973 and had two children: Kyra (34) and Lorin (31); Kyra has two children. Marilyn died in 1995 of cancer. I have since remarried to Max Gibson.

“My research designed the federal system that is used to pay all nursing homes under Medicare (\$33 billion per year) and another that is used to assess all persons in all U.S. nursing homes. I am also a founder and president of interRAI, an international research consortium of 93 members from 35 nations focusing on cross-national research into the care of vulnerable populations, including older adults and persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with mental health issues. The assessment systems we develop are now in use in more than 40 nations. I do a lot of international travel as consultant to governments on designing health care systems.”

**Bill Brown** also filled in a few blanks: “What has happened to me since we left school would probably fill a couple of pages, assuming I could remember most of it, and while some of it is too boring to share, a fair amount of it was not boring at all.

“I’ve been married twice (both

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alumni news, learn  
about alumni events and  
College happenings,



women were named Donna ... saves money on the initialed bath towels) and I have two grown sons, three stepchildren, two grandsons and four step-grandchildren. I would be remiss if I did not mention the newest arrival, a great-granddaughter!

"After a long career in the insurance industry I was able to transfer all my knowledge and experience into the most logical opportunity: I went into the railroad business. Not a misprint. I now operate three railroads in the Cleveland area and it is one adventure after another. The business has grown from 1,500 cars to almost 5,000 (we get paid per car load) and our motto is 'just imagine if we knew what the heck we were doing?!' The best part is I get to run the locomotive!

"All in all, I am content with life, my health is good (lucky) and I wish the Lions would win at least one football game this fall.

"Would love to hear from roommates, classmates, teammates or any other reprobates."

**Bill Hiney** contributed to this month's column: "I began as a member of the Class of 1966 but, for personal reasons that got extended to '67. Since then so much has happened. It was the '60s, and even after having been an athlete (football and track and field) and an economics major, I got caught up in music. My friends Barry Nazarian '66 and Paul Lenart '67 taught me to play bass guitar. Much to my parents' chagrin, I continued to play everything — folk, folk rock with John Burrows '66, rock 'n roll and finally jazz, all over the country, until I was 29.

"I then moved my family back to Long Island from New Hampshire, got a master's in education from Adelphi and began teaching in Rocky Point, N.Y., in the very elementary school where my sisters and I went. I also began coaching soccer and track and field. I still coach but retired from the classroom in 2003. During that time I divorced and became a single dad to two boys. Twelve years later, I remarried and found myself with two more boys, my wife's son and one we created, now 19 and studying graphic design.

"Somewhere in there I earned a black belt in karate, played a bit more music with a great blues band and began throwing discus again. I've won two National Masters Outdoor Championships and came in second at the 2011 World Masters Athletics Championships held in Sacramento, Calif. This summer we're traveling to Lyon, France, to compete again in the World Masters Athletics Championships. I'll be the kid in the 70-74 age group. Right now

I'm semi-retired and enjoying watercolor painting and seeing my three beautiful granddaughters."

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I hope good weather has finally arrived for all of us; winter in the city seemed to have been too long this year.

I recently had lunch with **Andy Herz** at a wonderful Greek restaurant off Fifth Avenue. Andy, as always, was full of good humor and good wisdom, a dose of which I can always use. His son, Michael, is a junior at Vanderbilt and is back after spending a year at the London School of Economics.

**John Roy** reported on my own recent trip to see him and other classmates in Florida. He writes, "The corps of 1968 Columbia College alumni of Naples — **Neil Anderson**, **John Roy** and **Greg Winn** — were delighted that Arthur, our diligent and energetic correspondent, arrived here on February 13 for a visit that was too brief."

John continues (and now I will blush), "His three-hour flight and 45-minute drive from the airport didn't deter him from being full of startling vivacity and other good stuff, the same as our first meeting in September 1964."

Thanks, John. What were you drinking when you wrote this good stuff?

As part of the trip, Greg and his wife, Vera, John and I went to see **Neil Anderson** and his wife, Donna, at their fabulous home on the water at The Village on Venetian Bay resort in Naples, Fla. John says, "Arthur led the conversation to our 50th reunion and, through some careful nudging, was able to get Neil to commit to attending in 2018 — his first reunion in many years. Later, we all had dinner outside at a great Italian restaurant. Neil and Donna hosted and the wine was endless and Neil, seemingly with an unending supply of jokes, lit the mood; it seemed everyone around the table glowed."

I might add that Greg, Vera and John were charming, in wonderful humor and cheerful — it was great fun! There was some serious talk, too; we may have solved certain foreign and domestic policy issues. The next day, I enjoyed the beach and swam with Greg and Vera (I was staying at their home). We went to John's on Saturday night and then off to another great restaurant, where we laughed and regaled each other with good stories and

good cheer.

John went deep sea fishing the next day and I was off to Sarasota, Fla., to see my sister, Freda, who lives there with her husband. (Freda, who attended Vassar, arranged for some of us to take a bus trip there our freshman year. We Columbians won the day and hearts of many women across campus, so Freda should be awarded an appreciation note at some point! **Bill McDavid**, who was in a rock and roll band, played a gig there that some of you may recall.)

All in all, Greg looks great, as do John and Neil. We talked a little about investment strategy, probably a common discussion for our age group. It was a kick to see these quick-witted, bright, sunny spirits in Naples. The three of them were hardly suffering from the snowy winter up north. I much appreciated Greg and Vera's hospitality in having me stay at their home for two nights, and I had a chance to chat about serious things with Greg, who is thoughtful on so many topics.

**John Roy** also included a line from *Beowulf* in his note for the column: "Behavior that is admired is the path to power among people everywhere."

Sounds like a good thought.

Columbia introduced me to many special people. I talk to **Paul de Bary** regularly; he is always so thoughtful. For those who are thinking about going to a football game this fall, it should be a grand season. Paul and I will be there, and **Ira McCown** will come up from Miami and is excited about the season.

I am happy to report that basketball should be fabulous, too. Coach Kyle Smith is superb; the team had injuries last season and still played well. Next year, seniors Maodo Lo '16 and Alex Rosenberg '16 will bring a dynamic duo of great talent to Morningside. Lo was All-Ivy First team in 2015 while Rosenberg, who was out with an injury for the year, was All-Ivy First Team in 2014. Lo averaged 18.4 ppg in Ivy Conference play and led the league in scoring, while Rosenberg averaged 19.5 ppg in his 2014 season.

Just amazing, and they will complement a strong returning team.

On March 29, Columbia baseball beat Harvard in a doubleheader; we will see soon enough if they can become Ivy League champions for the third time. What a great team they have, and a superb coach, too, in Brett Boretti. Meanwhile, Columbia's men's and women's fencing teams won the NCAA national championships in fencing in March.

Congratulations to all the student-athletes. Go Lions!

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For this issue, several items came to me while I was watching television. Let's start with the Oscars.

**Hart Perry's** wife, Dana Perry, won an Academy Award for the short documentary *Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1*. As I was watching the broadcast, I saw Hart when the camera scanned the nominees and then again when Dana gave him a shout-out. I asked Hart for details of what the evening was like and who he was wearing. He shared a photo of Dana with Julianne Moore, Best Actress award winner for *Still Alice*. Hart said that Dana and Julianne "are basketball moms who have sons who compete against each other. What are the odds they would both get Academy Awards the same year?"

Hart and Dana went to the after-parties, "the best being the *Vanity Fair* party where you could only get in if you won an Oscar. Dana had a good moment with Meryl Streep."

Hart also shared, "About 'The Tux.' A friend from my YMCA basketball game had a connection with Baldwin Tux so I was loaned one for free. Fair exchange. They are getting some mileage out of Oscar pictures."

I must say that Hart looked like an A-lister.

This was not Hart's first Oscar celebration. His first paying job was as a cameraman on the documentary *Woodstock*, about the festival, which won an Academy Award for Best Documentary. With his ex-wife (Barbara Kopple), he shot and helped produce two feature documentaries that won Academy Awards — *Harlan County, USA* and *American Dream*. Congratulations to the Perrys.

I saw **Jerry Avorn** on *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*. As part of that episode's main segment, Jerry commented on marketing by pharmaceutical companies. I followed up to ask Jerry for news, and he replied, "God knows why Harvard Medical School took me in 1969 after my writings in *Spec*, the '68 movement and *Up Against the Ivy Wall: A History of the Columbia Crisis*, but somehow they did, and I haven't left. I am a professor of medicine here (again, against all odds), and lead a 50-person research division that looks rigorously at the benefits versus risks versus costs of prescription drugs. Our goal is to help guide doctors, patients and policymakers in their

decision-making about medications (drugepi.org). I guess this is a long cry from the days when CCT called me a 'puerile student journalist' in 1969. (On *Spec*, we referred to this publication, then much more of a brain-dead administration mouthpiece, as *Columbia College Toady*.)

As I continue trying to fight the good fight, I sometimes get public attention when I call out the pharmaceutical industry for its episodes of egregious excess, as in the John Oliver segment and, years before that, on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. But the bulk of our ongoing work at Harvard deals with making careful assessments of data on enormous numbers of people to measure medication use and outcomes, in order to help doctors make better prescribing choices, and studying ways to improve the way patients and doctors use these drugs.

On the latter front, I continue to do unpaid work with my wife, Karen Tucker BC'71, through our nonprofit, Alosa Foundation (named after the genus of fish that swim upstream). We set it up in 2004 to engage in 'academic detailing' — an approach I developed that uses the marketing savvy that the drugmakers are so good at, but turning it around to instead encourage doctors to use medications



The men's crew team practices in 1952 in its tank in Low Library.  
PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

more appropriately and cost-effectively (alosafoundation.org).

"Son Andrew '08 is thinking about what to do next with his law training; his New York firm (K&L Gates) allowed him to spend six months in Los Angeles doing pro bono work on behalf of abused Central American immigrant kids, to help them fight deportation. In that, he has been temporarily following in the footsteps of **Oren Root**, who's been doing important work on this front via the Vera Institute.

"I've been reading with interest about all our classmates who are easing into retirement. My bow to that will be a six-month half-sabbatical this summer to update my book on drugs, *Powerful Medicines: The Benefits, Risks, and Costs of Prescription Drugs*; to write a new one on medication use and policy; and to start my long-postponed novel about a kid who went to Columbia in the late 1960s."

I received three items from classmates. One came via the CCT website, the first time I received news this way (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note). **Art Durbano** writes: "Contentedly retired, I'm finally doing what I should have done (at least a little of) while I was in college: serious reading. The reading list I've embarked upon is inspired by Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38, one of my professors in 1967, and as a result I have lately worked my way, with the greatest pleasure, through Tacitus' histories, Flaubert's *Bouvard and Pécuchet* and the complete works of George Orwell, guided all the way by the brilliant common sense and the exquisite literary taste of this most exceptional man.

**Jerry Nadler** is often on the news, but I saw him on one of the coldest days of this very cold winter, breaking ground on Coney Island's long-awaited beach protection project. Funded by the Hurricane Sandy Relief Bill, the project will provide

shoreline protection against future storms.

**Judd Gregg** was a guest recently on *Morning Joe*, appearing with another former senator, Evan Bayh, promoting their initiative to have candidates for President present a "first budget" that outlines how he or she would address the nation's fiscal issues. The two former senators also co-chair Nuclear Matters, a national campaign designed to educate lawmakers and the public about the need to preserve existing nuclear energy plants in the United States.

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"Which brings me to this: Trilling wrote a novel, and I recently finished it. Called *The Middle of the Journey*, it was published in 1947 but was certainly something he worked on for more than a decade because it's set, albeit in America, during the turmoil of the Spanish Civil War. A more political novel you couldn't wish for: its most indelible character, Gifford Maxim, is an American Communist Party apparatchik who, in a crisis of conscience (believe it or not) breaks with the party. Trilling later admitted that Maxim was based on Whittaker Chambers '24. I daresay, the novel isn't easy to find these days — I located it at Swarthmore, where I have ancient privileges — but I encourage all of you to make the effort, especially given how politically charged our own undergraduate years were.

"Here's the point, though. Trilling was the most memorable professor I ever had. I should have taken the trouble to find out that he had also written a novel, bought it and at least tried to read it. I should have approached him during regular office hours, asked him about it — 'Professor! You published this the year I was born! What has changed?' — and asked him to autograph the flyleaf. And, of course, I didn't. I was a 19-year-old idiot. Thanks to God, though,



I'm not 19 anymore; and, in a large part, thanks to Columbia, I'm not an (at least total) idiot anymore."

**Bill Stark**, for the third time, shared a reminiscence of his College days: "Though I was not in my high school's in-crowd, high school friends visited me because I was in New York. There was a crazy old lady walking around Morningside Heights who held a newspaper beside her head and shouted in a foreign language. Freshman year when Lt. Gen. Lewis Hershey, national director of the Selective Service, visited campus, protesters repeated the chant 'Bar Hershey' which transitioned to 'Hershey Bar.' "Just when you thought you should study for finals, there were 'finals flicks' in the basement of Carman, and everyone was nostalgic to see Davy Crockett, shouting out the numbers from the 1950s Davy Crockett bubble gum cards throughout the movie. Carman was new, true, but halfway through freshman year, shower walls up and down the hall were caving in. For a high-class date, there was a bar in midtown called Hawaii Kai with cocktails served in a coconut or pineapple with an umbrella toothpick holding the cherry and orange slice.

"As we rode the IRT downtown, we would peer out the window for the ghost station at 91st Street dimly lit by only the subway lights. The guys of Columbia would get together with gals from the Fashion Institute of Technology for a mixer. Underground shortcuts connecting basements of buildings still live in my memory. One near the gym had the original rowing machine. Long oars went into two tubs of water with the sliding seat between. Columbia men needed to swim three lengths of the pool (wearing nothing). We needed to take three (I think?) semesters of PE and, for me, one was bowling at Riverside Church, where I would take my turn as pin boy. We would check out standard issue gym clothes and lock our belongings in

a cage-like basket.

"In freshman orientation, sophomores told us, with every four-letter word we had ever heard, that we were the most pathetic slobs they had ever seen. But, on a serious note, they let us know we would be expelled if we threw anything out the window, a real no-no in NYC with its tall buildings. 'Save water while there's water to save' quickly became 'save water, shower with a friend.' The most awesome place in the neighborhood was the Cathedral of St. John the Unfinished."

**Bob Rabinoff** shared some sad news: "With a breaking heart I am writing to tell you that the love and light of my life for the past 26 years, Marie Smallow, has gone to her eternal rest. She passed away

**David Lehman '70's book *Sinatra's Century: One Hundred Notes on the Man and His World* will be published this fall, just in time for Sinatra's 100th birthday.**

peacefully at 5 a.m. on 9 December 2014 / 17 Kislev 5775 after a gallant 32-year fight with chronic-progressive MS. Whatever degree of *mentchlichkeit* I have attained is due to her constant love and support.

"This summer I'll head to Maryland for a memorial with Marie's family. Around that I'll be visiting all my children in their various haunts, for the first time ever, now that I'm able to leave Fairfield, Iowa. To wit, older son Joseph and his wife, Kirsten Wickelgren, in Atlanta, where they are on the math faculty at Georgia Tech; daughter Eve and her partner, Eric Sanday, in Lexington, Ky. (they are both philosophers), with Eve to take up an appointment at Minnesota in Duluth in the fall; then to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where daughter Shoshannah and her husband, Erik Wilkerson, and my two grandchildren will finish 10 years of service in the USMC and then head to Stanford, where Erik will work toward a Ph.D. in clinical psychology; then to Maryland, New York, Boston and finally Toronto, where younger son Daniel and his partner, Elena Derksen, are studying philosophy. Then home to absorb, integrate and attempt to figure out what the next direction will be. I feel very much in cocoon mode at the moment, and expect that I still have some more pupation to do before my next incarnation."

Classmates: As we approach fall, we will mark the 50th anniversary of our arrival on campus. I invite — even implore — you to send me a memory or an anecdote about coming to the College (like

Bill has done). It would be fun to have a collection of experiences, which surely would help refresh each of our recollections of those long-gone days. And, to be sure, current news or views are always welcomed.

**70** **Leo G. Kailas**  
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As the class was preparing for its 45th reunion, I received notes from several classmates. Our next edition will include a full report from the big weekend, which took place too long after deadline to be featured here.

My good friend **Frank Motley** LAW'74 wrote about his retirement after a long and distinguished career: "Following 37 years of connection with Indiana University, I will retire in June from my position as assistant dean for admission at Maurer Law School. After years of friends telling me 'don't give up your day job,' I plan to devote my retirement to qualifying for the Senior PGA Tour and imparting my nascent basketball skills to my 19 grandchildren."

My seventh-floor Fumald counselor, **Andy Kiorpes**, wrote, "To recap the last several years, I left corporate life ('retired') in 2011 after a two-year assignment in China but remain active as an independent consulting toxicologist working mostly in drug and medical device safety. Last year I was named editor in chief of the journal *Toxicology and Industrial Health* and I am an adviser for the technology transfer unit at Minnesota. This year completes my third year on the Council for the American College of Toxicology and I remain active in several other scientific societies.

"On a more personal note, my daughter, Kelly, is (finally) getting married this year, so along with our class reunion, this will be a year of milestones."

**Michael Braun** LAW'73 reported: "I have two granddaughters, Paiki (5) and Effie Fae (3), both enrolled in the Rudolf Steiner School pre-K. Their mother, my daughter, Keetch, has a successful photography business in Brooklyn, where they live, focusing on maternity, newborns and preschool

children (keetchmillerphotography.com). My son, Jake '09, moved to Nashville to finish his novel. He was accepted to the Yale Writers Conference, a workshop for aspiring fiction and non-fiction writers. Bartending three times a week (night job) pays for living and allows him time to write (day job). After 35 years as a partner at three firms, I chose to slow down (sort of) and become senior counsel at Morrison + Foerster (MoFo), where I have been since 2002."

**David Kornbluth** noted, "My wife, Soching Tsai BC'70, and I are happily ensconced in the Department of State as rehired annuitants working in the office that reviews State Department records for declassification. The office has about two dozen employees of whom half are 80 or older. Some of the staff have been working for more than 20 years, all after retiring from full careers as Foreign Service Officers. Why? The work is intellectually stimulating (reading diplomatic records connected to all the major issues of the last 50 years). We work with people of the same background, training and interests as ourselves. We work at our own pace, with flexible schedules we set ourselves. The work involves moderate physical exercise. And our work is valued, as evidenced by the salary the government pays us. Gerontologists stay awake nights thinking of ways to keep old folks alert and alive. The State Department has achieved it by accident!"

**Jeffrey Rudman** reported, "I have retired from the practice of law. My contact information is jeffreybrudman@gmail.com and 617-721-4243."

**Lewis Siegelbaum** says, "A recent visit to Columbia to speak at Barnard (which unfortunately was canceled owing to an early March snowstorm!) brought me serendipitously to Book Culture on West 112th Street. What a wonderful place — so stimulating to the mind, so itself, so ... Columbia. 'Where shall we retire?' my partner-in-life and I ask ourselves constantly. I think we have found a place at or at least near the top of our list."

**David Lehman** GSAS'78 reported, "My *Sinatra's Century: One Hundred Notes on the Man and His World* will be published this fall, just in time for Frank's 100th birthday."

**Steve Boatti** wrote, "I've been retired for a number of years from my legal posts at Nielsen Media and, earlier, Dun & Bradstreet and Merck. My wife, Linda, and I have been married almost 40 years — hard to believe. We have lived in Riverdale in the Bronx for almost 37 years and have two grown sons.

One has followed my footsteps into the legal profession and the other is a software engineer. Last fall our first grandchild, a girl, came into our lives — such an adorable blessing. We spend our time visiting with family and friends, theater-going, traveling, gardening and enjoying our weekend place in Connecticut. We try never to miss our Columbia reunions and hope that anyone who missed this year's but passes through New York later will give us a call." Steve can be reached at ittaob@aol.com.

**Larry Rosenwald** GSAS'79 shared, "I am grief-stricken over the death last December of my doctoral adviser and close friend, Saki Bercovitch, who taught at Columbia for many years. I met Saki in summer 1970, in Hamilton Hall, casually and with no sense that I was meeting someone I'd become close to. He wore tennis shoes, he didn't put on airs and I couldn't figure him out — and maybe I never did — but I came to love him, and I miss him, and wanted to let others know that he was gone."

**Ed Rutan** reported, "It has been almost two years since I retired and I've managed to keep myself busy and challenged as [my wife], Lynne, and I enjoy life in Park City, Utah. In March, I self-published my regimental history of the 179th New York Volunteers, *If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing*. I did it as an e-book in order to provide more and higher-quality maps (30) and Civil War-era photos and illustrations (180) than the print medium would have allowed (179thnyvolunteers.org). I'm now scheduling presentations on the book at history conferences and local historical societies. I think I will do a second history book, but I don't have a new topic yet.

"Travel continues to be a priority. Lynne and I spent five weeks in England last fall and five weeks in New Zealand the year before. Washington and Oregon will be our long trip this year. Denver is a regular destination to visit our nearly 2-year-old grandson (and his father and mother, of course!). It was a disappointing year for skiing; we would have killed for those storms that pounded the East Coast. At least we have summer hiking, gardening and golf to look forward to. I visited Columbia last summer during a research trip to the New York branch of the National Archives. Lots of good memories as I walked around campus."

**Richard Hobbie** wrote, "After 22 years as president and CEO of the Water Quality Insurance Syndicate and 21 years as a commissioner on the Board of Commissioners

of Pilots of the State of New York, I am retiring and moving to Dorado, P.R. Goodbye, winter."

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**JUNE 2-5, 2016**  
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**John Mazziotta** GSAS'72 shares, "I've been appointed dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, vice chancellor for Health Sciences and CEO of the UCLA Health System. Prior to this role I had been chair of the UCLA Department of Neurology for 13 years, nine of which the department was No. 1 in the nation in research funding from the National Institutes of Health."

A check of the UCLA website shows that John, an M.D. and Ph.D., "has published more than 260 research papers and eight texts. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Oldendorf Award from the American Society of Neuroimaging, the S. Weir Mitchell Award and the Wartenberg Prize of the American Academy of Neurology, and the Von Hoesy Prize from the International Society of Nuclear Medicine. [He] also has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and he is a member of the Royal College of Physicians."

**Francis Lu** writes, "An M.D., I retired from the University of California in 2013 and am now the Luke and Grace Kim Professor in Cultural Psychiatry, Emeritus at UC Davis. I will co-lead two film seminars at Esalen Institute, in Big Sur, Calif., July 5-19; 'Social Inequality and Justice in Film' and 'Love in the Families Among Us.' I have co-led 30 film seminars at Esalen since 1987. Go to gratefulness.org, then search 'films.'"

**George Quintero** reports, "I am the U.S. consular agent in Maracaibo, Venezuela, as well as the owner of a small insurance brokerage firm. I am a past president of the Maracaibo Consular Corps; serve on various boards, including the American school EBV and U.S./Venezuela bi-national center CEVAZ; and have received several awards from the state and city governments for my work as U.S. consular agent.

"My father is George Albert (Jorge Alberto) '45, PS'48 and my

mother is Jean Louise BC'44, PS'48. She did one year of nursing school before deciding to become a doctor, and met my father at P&S. He passed away in 2000, 10 months after she passed away in 1999. Their careers as doctors began in Maracaibo, Venezuela, after they both completed their specializations at Pennsylvania and had moved there with me (born in Philadelphia) and Pancho (our Boxer). I've edited a book about my dad. Its title in English is *Jorge Alberto Quintero Atencio: Doctor, Teacher and Philosopher*.

"I am married to Eugenia Padrón and have five children: My oldest son is Jorge Alberto PH'05, and he graduated as a doctor from La Universidad del Zulia (LUZ) last year. My third son, George William, is in his second year of medicine at LUZ. My second son, Juan Atilio, works in the production of a TV show in Miami and has written and published a science fiction book, *Omega Empire*. He has completed a second book and is working on a third; these last two are part of a series in science fiction fantasy. My older daughter, Emily Cristine, is in her last year of industrial engineering at Universidad Rafael Urdaneta, doing her thesis at Chevron in Maracaibo. My younger daughter, Camille Marie, graduates from high school in June."

George mentioned that he is eager to attend the next CC'71 reunion, less than a year from now. The dates are Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5, 2016. It's never too early to mark your calendars!

Remember back 48 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

**72** **Paul S. Appelbaum**  
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*Fordham Law Review* selected **Jerry Lynch** LAW'75's 1998 article, "Our Administrative System of Criminal Law," as one of the six most influential pieces published in its 100-year history and reprinted it recently in a special centennial issue.

Of greater importance to posterity, Jerry's first grandchild, Olivia Wilson Lynch, was born on November 9. The only hitch, reports Jerry, is that the beautiful and accomplished Olivia lives with her parents in Los Angeles, where her father, Chris '02, is an associate at the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson. Jerry decides cases as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit and teaches criminal law at the Law School, while his

wife, Karen Marisac BC'72, a clinical psychologist-psychoanalyst, still tries to keep him sane.

**Amram Shapiro** sent an update and some recollections. First the news: In 2014, HarperCollins published *Book of Odds: From Lightning Strikes to Love at First Sight, the Odds of Everyday Life*, which Amram wrote with two colleagues, including his wife, Rosalind Wright. Since its publication he has founded Calibrated Risk, which provides services to those in need of ways of using information about uncertainty and risk. He and his collaborators are also working on a new book and several apps, and pitching a game show based on their approach to odds.

Amram's daughters "are accomplished in their domains. Elizabeth Shapiro is becoming a force in Los Angeles. Her screenplays are much sought after — one in production now, another written for HBO and so forth. So is her acting. And her voice? Check out her website, elizabethshapiro.com, or her band, Evensong, on YouTube or Vimeo.

"Luca, my considerable other daughter, graduated with a master's in communications technology from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She has a blog, This Way Home, that's focused on interior design.

"Our dogs — Scout, the Newfie rescue, Winnie, Luca's French bulldog, and Elizabeth and her husband, Zach's, Judah — give us hope that humanity may attain to their merits someday."

As for recollections of college days, Amram writes, "Times of significance, though long ago, seem to sharpen in the memory. Sometimes it is the way one felt then. Sometimes it is a precise, even Proustian memory, triggered by a crumb of one's personal madeleine. Do you remember the music in Fumald? The sound systems wreathed in incense and smoke. Mahavishnu. Dylan before he went Super Bowl. Jimi and Janis. And Charles Ives. And Scott Joplin rags played on the piano, such heart-racing music. Or **Armen Donelian**, the jazz great with the enormous hands, each an organ of genius.

"My trigger-crumb is having made contact with Howard Levy, who in 1972 could be heard playing his diatonic harmonica like a magic flute. I remember the sound from my window in Fumald. I was producing a radio play by the poet/author Robert Creeley and asked Howard to provide the music. It was in those years that he was inventing the technique of over- and under-blowing, which made him famous, and gifted us with a mouth harp of angels.

"Of course, to be fully Proustian,

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.



I would need many more pages to recall not only the formalized sounds of Levy arpeggios and ‘Nights in White Satin,’ but also the street sounds, the murmurs of couples on cots, the visitors turning on the cracked-leather sofas in the lounge, there by dint of living in the neighborhood and — when roused by a guard — protected by a student claiming kinship. ... So much amazing sound, and the silence between the notes was equal to the sounds, as valuable, memorable, and at this moment, remembered.”

Since everyone else is talking about their kids, my wife, Diana Appelbaum BC’75, and I are proud to report that our son, Yoni ’03, is now senior editor for politics at *The Atlantic*, where among the colleagues he works with closely is Leon Wieseltier ’74. With Yoni’s move to Washington, D.C., this winter, all three of our kids and all five of our grandchildren are in the D.C. area. See you on Amtrak.

The saddest part of writing this column is having to report the passing of a classmate. Rita Rack BC’73 was kind enough to send this note about the death of **Jamie Ireland** BUS’75: “James Duane Ireland III died on January 20, 2015. His early career was at Salomon Brothers, after which he returned to Cleveland, where he had been born and raised. As Chris Ronayne, president of Cleveland’s University Circle, noted, Jamie ‘came back to the city his grandparents had helped build to participate in the renaissance of Cleveland. ... His handprints are everywhere.’

“Jamie founded Capital One Partners, a private equity investment firm, in 1993. In 2001 he became the managing director of Capital One’s private equity fund, Early Stage Partners, which invested in the biosciences, IT, instrumentation/controls, advanced energy, advanced manufacturing and materials markets. He was on the boards of many Cleveland institutions and community groups, most notably the Musical Arts Association, which runs the Cleveland Orchestra, his first and most passionate interest. He is survived by two children, James D. Ireland IV and Annie F. Ireland.”

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Once again, not a lot to report. Need more correspondence! Reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT web-form college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

We learned, sadly, that **John Deri** PS’82 passed away last year. John did his psychiatry residency at UCSF and was a psychiatrist and an Ironman triathlete.

**Gregory Peterson** LAW’85 married Tommi Salmela in Stockholm last August; he is a lawyer and general counsel for the International Council of Shopping Centers in Manhattan.

**Bob Dillinger** received the William Reece Smith Jr. Public Service Award from the Stetson University College of Law. He is the public defender for Pinellas and Pasco Counties in Florida.

**Marc Lee** writes, “Following a 35-year post-Columbia road trip that took my family to Boston, Boulder, back to the West Side of Manhattan, then to Westchester County and San Francisco, I retired (not early enough) from the Episcopal ministry in Kansas after a 1998 triple bypass.

“We downsized to a Denver apartment just in time to lose my fundraising consulting practice to the recession. Faced with living among in-laws or in our car (the car seemed preferable), I founded FundraisingRegistration.com in 2010, which now employs 10, serves more than 150 nonprofits and continues to grow. Daughters Aurora and Maia work in the business, and my wife, Elisabeth, and I are finally grandparents to our first, sharing babysitting and water-coloring in our spare moments.”

And a long, strange trip it’s been. Hasta.

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Just as we were packing our bags and trunks to come to the College for the first time, the Rolling Stones gave us a send-off present. On September 4, 1970, they released the live concert album *Get Yer Ya-Ya’s Out!* (The first cut was a live version of “Jumpin’ Jack Flash,” a tune that seemed infused in our souls during our four years on campus ... and beyond.) Many of us grew up with the repressive societal mores of the early ’60s (the post-Eisenhower era), and were encouraged not to “color outside the lines.” Our arrival to Morningside Heights in 1970 brought a quick slap in the face. Each of us was suddenly his own person.

*The Urban Dictionary* defines the album’s title phrase as, “To escape the life dramas that wear on your soul. To be fearless and get through the b.s. life gives you.” That seems to precisely describe both what

our Class of ’74 learned in our four incredible undergraduate years and how we applied those lessons to create some of the remarkable biographies reported in this column through the years. We learned we could achieve more than our pre-Columbia communities had implied was possible. As the lyrics of “Jumpin’ Jack Flash” screamed, “I was born in a cross-fire hurricane ... But it’s all right now, in fact, it’s a gas! But it’s all right, I’m jumpin’ Jack Flash — It’s a gas, gas, gas!”

If music is any predictor, our lives could have been much different if we started college five years later. In 1975 Captain & Tennille topped the American charts with “Love Will Keep Us Together.” Thankfully we escaped that debilitating influence and instead blossomed during what has been called the golden age of the Rolling Stones, when they released *Sticky Fingers* (1971) and *Exile on Main Street* (1972).

Here are some examples of classmates who may have “overdeveloped ya-ya’s”:

In March, when wind chills were often in the negatives, a Facebook post from **Ken Wright** (president of Wright & Co. Construction in Bridgehampton, N.Y.) was quite startling: “In Reykjavik, Iceland. High winds and blowing snow reduced visibility to near zero. Ice on the road (we probably shouldn’t have driven past the ‘road closed’ sign). Planned hikes will have to wait. Iceland in March!”

When I emailed Ken to ask why he chose Iceland in the middle of winter, he responded, “We’ve seen very little clear sky with the result that we’ve seen no Northern Lights. This was one of the reasons we chose this time of year. It’s good to be challenged during one’s vacations, lest we start taking life for granted.”

Ya-ya!

We also got word from **Larry Silverman**, who retired at year-end 2014 from his almost 40-year legal career (most recently at Bracewell & Guilliani in its New York law office). Since he was already itching for an adventure, he decided to do a nine-day trek climbing the Thorong La in Nepal. At 18,700 ft. above sea level, this is the highest pass in the world. (Ya-ya!) This was Larry’s third trip to Nepal and his seventh trekking in the Himalayas. He may have also set a class religious site record: His flight to Nepal had a layover in Dubai, so Larry visited the Grand Mosque (Islam). Before starting the trek, he got into the Hindu shrines in the valleys of Nepal. Then while trekking in the mountains, Larry toured some Buddhist temples. As he quipped, “In two weeks I saw

some of the greatest religious sites of three great religions — and none of them mine!”

Does this qualify as a rare double ya-ya?

Moving from “ya-ya” to “a-ha,” a couple of mysteries have been solved. A recent column reported that **Leon Wieseltier** had abruptly abandoned his 30-year career as the literary editor of *The New Republic* due to a dispute last year with the publication’s then-new owner, Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes. Then, a few months back we received a press release from the Brookings Institution announcing that Leon had been appointed the Isaiah Berlin Senior Fellow in Culture and Policy. It said he will be “focusing on the influence of culture and the humanities on various realms of American life, society and international affairs.” While studying at Oxford (supported by a Kellett Fellowship awarded at our graduation), Leon had studied under Isaiah Berlin.

The other solved mystery dates to our 40th reunion, when many classmates were surprised not to see **Gerry Krovatin** (a partner in the Newark, N.J., law firm Krovatin Klingeman). By chance I came across a *New York Times* “Weddings/Celebrations” piece announcing the June 2014 wedding of his and wife Anna Quindlen BC’74’s son Quindlen just days after our reunion. (I guess Gerry was busy!) Son Quindlen is the deputy director of the Action Training Institute in New York and Washington, D.C. The firm designs and participates in simulations used to train federal law enforcement agents in threat assessment and interrogation techniques. Following in his mother’s footsteps, he is also a freelance writer. Quindlen’s wife, Lynn Shi Feng, is an associate in the real estate department at the New York law firm Paul Hastings.

Continuing the matrimonial theme, we learned that **Ed Kornreich** and his wife, Shirley, had two reasons to celebrate with their daughter, Davida, in 2014. After receiving her degree from the NYU School of Medicine in 2011, Davida completed a three-year residency in internal medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center in 2014. Then, in November, Davida married David Krupnick in NYC. For the past year she has been a research assistant to Dr. **Mark Lebwohl**, chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan. In July, Davida plans to start a dermatology residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. From Southern California we

hear from two classmates.

**Isaac Palmer**, co-founder and CEO of Qualia Legacy Advisors, a media and entertainment transaction advisory firm in Los Angeles, writes, “I have some happy news to report. My oldest daughter, Dora, was accepted to Barnard! It’s hard for me to believe that she’ll be traversing the same byways we did way back when.”

**Hank Lopez-Ona** shares, “After 22 years of directing a study center for middle school and high school students in Northern California (NoCal to us homeys), I became director for the Tilden Study Center for high school and university students in SoCal, right next to the UCLA campus. The center serves a wide-ranging population of high school and university students with academic support, career orientation and spiritual/character development.

“I changed careers and now am an administrator for two well-established foundations (Peninsula and Woodlawn) but continue to teach leadership seminars to high school students at the Tilden Study Center.”

Hank finds time to be the athletics director for youth football teams in the area and rightfully brags of his Santa Monica Vikings, which had a 53–3 season!

Dr. **David Mandelbaum** PS’78, GSAS’80 is a professor of neurology and pediatrics at Brown’s Alpert Medical School and director of child neurology at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. He plays intramural softball in the Brown summer league.

Dr. **Bob Wallen**, who lives in Stroudsburg, Pa., wrote, “I woke up one morning recently and realized I’m old enough to file for Social Security, which is sobering. Remember, ‘Don’t trust anyone over 30!’”

Bob says that after 20-odd years of cardiology private practice, he is now employed by the Pocono Medical Center. His wife, Annamaria BC’75, teaches high school and their daughter, Emily BC’11, works for USA Network at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Bob adds, “Luckily it’s only 84 miles from my driveway in Pennsylvania to my favorite parking spot in front of Fumal, so I get into the city quite often.”

With so few classmates inhabiting the Pacific Northwest, it is wonderful when word comes from that part of the country. From Spokane, Wash., **Tom Luciani** shares that he is “entering the twilight of my legal career.” He is a partner at Bohrsen Stocker Smith Luciani & Staub but sees retirement coming when his youngest, Dominic, graduates from Western Washington University in 2018. As

Tom puts it, “I plan to exit the job market as he enters.” He continues, “My oldest, Jon, is in the insurance business. Tara is a schoolteacher and the proud mother of our first grandchild, Sadie. Stephanie is a lead stylist and the Bumble and Bumble educator at a salon in Spokane. My wife, Theresa, teaches in the primary grades and because of her youth, we’ll be able to enjoy the lavish lifestyle teaching in a public school can fund.”

One last fun fact: I heard on the evening news that the average age of the Rolling Stones is actually greater than the average age of the U.S. Supreme Court Justices (or the “Supremes,” as they are sometimes

**Michael Gordon ’75 was named one of the *New Jersey Law Journal*’s first Lifetime Achievement honorees for his environmental law work during the last 35 years.**

known). Maybe there is something to that “wisdom of the years” stuff. And always remember the words of wisdom the Stones passed on to us in 1969 as we were leaving high school: “You can’t always get what you want, but if you try sometime, you just might find you get what you need.”

There you have it. Classmates watching their children continuing down life’s pathways while some of us are still making time to let our ya-ya’s out! Keep sending word of what you and yours are doing to find “Satisfaction.”

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What follows was submitted in March, almost three months before our 40th reunion. A group of classmates has been meeting since February 2014 to plan it and [as I write] we are now deep into the final push. We hope we saw you there. We know we’ll see many of the folks written about here and, in the next issue, I’ll write about those who attended. As the Sam Steinberg exhibition will also be over, I’ll probably have to stop writing about Sams but you never know. Keep reading, and keep sending!

After raising their family on a small farm near Washington Crossing, Pa., **Barry Concool** and his wife, Nancy BC’79, divide their time among South Beach and Pensacola, Fla., and New York City. Barry practices ophthalmology and Nancy teaches Hebrew and Latin. They have been together since Nancy’s junior year at Barnard and

Barry says, “She has been an incredible partner all of these years.” They recently were blessed with their first grandchild, “a beautiful girl named Ava Beth, daughter of Michela, who is a TV executive living on West 116th Street in New York City.”

Barry and Nancy’s other daughter, Shira, lives in Baltimore and is a behavioral therapist specializing in the LGBT community. Son Avie lost his battle to brain cancer last year; we send our condolences to Barry and Nancy. Barry says, “Life has been a remarkable journey. I am happy to say that early on I realized that what we are means nothing. Who we are is everything.

Columbia may have made it possible for me to achieve wonderful things, but by far the major gift the College gave me was the ability to constantly challenge norms and to think outside of the box.”

**Louis Cortelezzi** says, “The music industry kissed me on both cheeks.” After playing with the Stingrays while at Columbia, he went on to a touring and studio career; wrote jingles; and scored, arranged and produced for television. After going into semi-retirement and moving to Florida several years ago, Louis went back to the tenor sax. His first CD, *Only Child*, was released on April 1 and a website should be launched by the time you read this. Louis entered Columbia with the Class of ’74 but was hit by a truck on Amsterdam Avenue his freshman year and subsequently missed a semester and a half. When we chatted recently, we had an interesting discussion about coming to Columbia from small towns, and what an incredible experience the Core was for us both. Louis says hello and be healthy to all who knew him at Columbia and through the years.

Like many of our age, **Gene Davis** SIPA’76, LAW’80 and his wife, Stacey, dote on their granddaughters, 3-year-old twins who are the children of son Jordan ’05. Gene says they should be ready for admission to the College in another 14 years. We would not be surprised, as the sap in the Davis family tree runs Columbia blue: there’s Gene’s daughter, Kylie ’07; brother, Jeffrey ’79, SIPA’80; nephew, Jared ’08; and niece, Mira ’18. Stacey graduated from Teachers College. Gene completed two terms

on the College’s Board of Visitors last spring and was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Columbia College Alumni Association. Gene continues his work with post-bankruptcy distressed companies.

**David Goldberg** proudly displays the Sam he bought around 1973. He says, “My children must think I am nuts, but I am insistent that it hold a prominent place in my den.” David and his family live in New Orleans, where he is a member of the Certified Appraisers Guild of America. His website is appraisalgroupusa.com.

**Michael Gordon** was recently selected as one of the *New Jersey Law Journal*’s first Lifetime Achievement Award honorees for his environmental law work during the last 35 years; the *Journal* sought to select “noteworthy individuals who have helped shape the law in New Jersey.” Michael’s firm, Gordon & Gordon, pioneered New Jersey’s representation of individuals and communities harmed by industrial pollution.

Mike has been searching for his Sams and found and sent a whimsical piece, the central motif of which is a pair of Columbia gym shorts with legs, surrounded by cats and floating eyes. While damaged, it’s still a classic. He knows he had a Sam rendition of U.S. senator and presidential candidate George McGovern but can’t find it.

**Mike Flagg** chipped in with his Sam and Sam stories. “When I was a freshman, I used to bring my guitar down from Carman and sit on the grass in front of Ferris Booth Hall. Before long, Sam would wander by. Unfortunately for Sam, I couldn’t afford his art or a ‘Hoishy’ bar. But then he’d get around to what he really wanted: ‘Play ‘Over the Rainbow,’” he’d say. I was a hardcore Mississippi blues fan (despite being a very white boy from Boston, and not even the South End of Boston). While I could play Robert Johnson OK, I had no idea how to play ‘Over the Rainbow.’ I couldn’t afford a music book, and in those benighted days you couldn’t just look up the chords on the Internet, so I decided to teach myself. It took me several weeks, and I drove my suitemates in Carman crazy humming lines, scratching down chords and then erasing them and starting over (I wasn’t all that good of a guitar player). Finally I had a reasonable facsimile, as long as you didn’t listen closely. The next nice day I played it for Sam. He beamed as only Sam could, and from then on I always had at least one satisfied fan when I played on the lawn. I didn’t get my own Sam until my 30th birthday when Richard Hart ’80, with whom I was a newspaper



reporter in Raleigh, N.C., gave me his as a present. It has sat on my bookshelves since, been to Asia with me and, every once in a while, serves as a conversation-starter when somebody finds it on my shelves, faded as it is these many years later. ‘What the hell is that?’ the person usually asks. And I tell them, ‘It’s a Sam, of course.’”

Although he did not officially graduate until 1977, we’ve counted **Gavin Nichols** as one of us since he transferred in at the beginning of our sophomore year. Gavin spent his first couple of weeks living with Norman Nicholais SEAS’76 (now deceased) and me in a two-room corner suite on 9 John Jay. Do you remember dorm phones? We would answer ours, “Nichols, Nichols, and Nicholais — which ‘Nic’ do you wish to speak to?” Gavin and his wife, Sharon, live in San Antonio, where he is director of grants and programs for animal services programs and the Animal No-Kill Initiative at the San Antonio Area Foundation. Gavin’s love of animals is well known — those of us who knew him in College probably remember his sidekick, Tyrone, who Gavin got from NYC pet adoption program Bideawee. When you saw Gavin, you usually saw Tyrone, who was always decked out in a colorful bandana.

**Bill Ross** also has a Sam, “a beautiful lady, at least to Sam.” She is a bright blonde and has the classic Sam teeth, which we actually believe were done by Sam’s sister, Pauline. There is another beautiful lady à la Sam on Bill’s walls, this one a brunette done by Bill’s daughter, Janet, in honor of his 40th birthday.

Still living on West 113th Street, **Rick Shur** has been teaching ESL as an adjunct professor at LaGuardia Community College since 1979. During that time, he’s written two musicals that went nowhere. *Dave and Johnny* was written for Randy Jones, the Village People’s original cowboy. You can see a picture of Rick with Randy on the class Facebook page (facebook.com/Columbia NYC75) as well as a picture of Rick with Joan Rivers, taken at one of Michael Musto ’76’s parties.

Rick always did hang out with the most interesting people!

**Barry Sorrels** practices state and federal criminal defense law in Dallas, where he lives with his wife, Brenda. He says he feels that he is just about to hit his prime as a trial attorney. Barry played football and lived at the Nu Sigma Chi house for most of his College years and says, “I loved every second of my time at Columbia. It

was the best four years of my life. Go Lions!” Daughter Avery ’09 continues the family’s Columbia tradition.

It’s hard to know where to start when talking about **Mark Suozzo**. He describes himself as a film composer, and his credits include — to name a very few — *The Nanny Diaries* (2007), *American Splendor* (2003), *Barcelona* (1994), *The Last Days of Disco* (1998), five Whit Stillman productions starting with Academy Award nominee *Metropolitan* (1990) and most recently Amazon’s *The Cosmopolitans* (2014), and numerous documentaries. His work for television includes scores for the Hallmark Channel, HBO, PBS’ *American Experience*, *POV* and *Independent Lens*, and his original music has been performed at the Summer Olympics, the Goodwill Games and at major venues from Carnegie Hall to the Blue Note. He has arranged for Creed, Aretha Franklin, Britney Spears, Vanessa Williams and Jaheim, and his orchestrations for The New York Pops orchestra over many Carnegie Hall seasons have featured soloists such as Judy Collins, Reba McEntire, Bebe Neuwirth, Liz Callaway and Ann Hampton Callaway, Lillias White and the Boys Choir of Harlem.

Mark also is an educator, guitarist, orchestrator and conductor and is a visiting associate professor of film scoring in the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions of NYU Steinhardt. He has worked with **Louis Cortelezzi**, a fine woodwind player and composer, off and on through the years. Mark lives in NYC with his wife, Karen Mooney BC’74, a newswriter for ABC, and they are proud parents of Andrea, a journalist in Burlington, Vt., and Matt SEAS’15, who majored in computer science.

By the time you read this, reunion will be in the past. If you were there, we hope you enjoyed it. If not, you can still stay in touch with us at facebook.com/ColumbiaNYC75.

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**JUNE 2-5, 2016**  
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**76**

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I am assuming the role of class correspondent with this issue of CCT.

I am truly grateful to my immediate predecessor, **Clyde Moneyhun**, a professor at Boise State. Clyde served in this post from February 2000 until the Winter 2014–15 issue, a long tenure indeed. Speaking for the Class of 1976, thanks for a job well done!

Prior to Clyde, our class correspondent was **David Merzel**, who during his first year at Columbia roomed in 1014B Carman, right next door to me in 1014A. Dave served our class well during his stint, and I hope that I am able to bring a similar *je ne sais quoi*.

For those I haven’t been in touch with, I thought I’d help us get reacquainted by starting with an update of my own: On February 19, my wife, Karen, and I welcomed our first grandchild, Victoria Lennon Howitt (daughter of our son Patrick). I beat the NYC pavements as a sales representative of Office Depot’s B2B print services and I am on campus often, whether through my volunteer work with the Admissions Office or with the Columbia College Fund’s Class Agent program, to attend football or basketball games, or just to get my every-few-month’s fix of a V&T pizza. As a 26-year resident of Hoboken, N.J., it is a simple boat, bus and ferry ride to get to Columbia (about 45 minutes if I hit the connections right). On weekends, Karen and I sometimes bike over the George Washington Bridge to ride through campus.

As a curiosity piece, I dug out my bursar’s receipt from our first semester in September 1972. Tuition was \$1,520 for the first term. Amazing. Not quite what my wife and I paid for our daughter Katherine ’13’s first semester in September 2009. Our eldest son (that’s Patrick) attended Rutgers and our younger son, Francis, is completing his junior year at Oregon. Karen and I went with him to the first NCAA football championship game in Dallas last January.

My approach to this column will be easy. As I am at Columbia quite often, I run into a lot of my fellow “bicentennials.” For example, at the Yale-Columbia basketball game in February, **Bob Bressman**, **Bryan Alix**, **Vince Briccetti** and **Dan Baker** were in attendance. Vinnie and Dan plus their wives, Grace and Rebecca, respectively, even concluded the evening at V&T. Through emails and phone calls, I have heard from **Jon Kushner**, **Rich Scheinin**, **Leeber Cohen** (a third member of the 1014 Carman freshmen crew), **Frank Dexter Brown**, **Reynold Verret**, **Bob Wisdom**, **Steve Davis**, **Mike Yeager**, **Terry Corrigan** and **Richard Cohen** ... to name a few. My intention is to reach out to all of you to get updates, to

publish some Columbia news and to rally a good turnout for Homecoming this year (Saturday, October 17) and our 40th reunion, Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5, 2016.

Speaking of which, we need to form a Reunion Committee soon, and I am sure that **Steve Davis** will once again be at the helm. If you are available for brainstorming by phone or at committee meetings in person, shoot me an email as well as get in touch with the staff members listed in the reunion box at the top of the column.

To continue this column in a more traditional way, I have some news from ’76ers.

**David Merzel** has practiced pediatric anesthesiology and critical care in Fresno, Calif., since finishing training in 1988. He and his wife, Linda Hertzberg, have been married for 27 years and have a son and daughter.

**Robert Watson** lives in West Palm Beach, Fla., with his wife of 30 years, Sharon, and five horses, three dogs, two cats and two peacocks, Billy Bob and Bubba. He writes, “I worked in Silicon Valley for nearly 10 years, but for the past decade I’ve owned a corporate strategy consulting firm, working mostly with early stage companies on funding, corporate structure and growth.” Bob and Sharon have one daughter, a junior at Florida. Bob hopes that “she could attend a law school where the mascot isn’t a large prehistoric lizard.”

Maybe a lion would work for her?

**Richard Scheinin** JRN’78 is in California, writing away. He writes about jazz and classical music for the *San Jose Mercury News*. He also mentions having “three grown kids and a 2-year-old grandson.”

**Joseph Graif** BUS’78 welcomed a granddaughter in 2014. He is “co-founder and chief accounting officer of Staxxon, a domestic, start-up enterprise that owns intellectual property capable of transforming the international shipping industry.”

**Mark Abbott** has been a managing director of quantitative risk management at Guardian Life for 14 years. He has lived for more than 20 years in Cos Cob, Conn., with his wife, Christiane, and daughter, Brooke BC’17. Brooke is a dedicated synchronized ice skater and a member of Skyliners Senior Synchronized Skating Team representing the Skating Club of New York, a 2015 Senior National Bronze Medalist and has been selected by U.S. Figure Skating as a member of Team USA for international competitions. Brooke also coaches the Central Park Skyliners at Trump (aka Wollman) Rink and is a member of U.S. Figure Skating’s Sports Science and Medicine Committee.

**Richard Rohr** writes, “I took a new career direction in 2011, as I am part of Optum, a company devoted to making the health system work better. Moving to Philadelphia at that time was also beneficial, as the city is regaining its vitality. I look forward to attending our reunion next year and I also planned to be at Dean’s Day this year. I would like to see more people from our class there, as it is a great way to sample the great teaching at Columbia.”

According to the Class Notes guidelines, which are far more complicated than any assignment I received in CC, I can have up to double the space that I have used for this column. You all know that I can be persistent (which is being kind). I can write as well, so keep those updates coming.

More importantly, get to Morningside Heights. Columbia College is not only a memory that we all share. It is much more than that. For me, my involvement for more than 40 years has allowed me to watch constant change — some for the better, some maybe a little less so, but the College and University are always on the move and that is exciting.

I am hoping to last at least 15 years in this column, but I need all my classmates’ help. See you soon on Morningside Heights or at Robert K. Kraft Field, and keep those emails and calls coming.

**77**

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No news to report this issue; presumably this means people are just busy getting on with their lives, as they should be. Meanwhile, I hope and assume that the Fall column will be full of interesting and — why not? — amusing information on classmates’ activities, reflections and recollections. You can reach me three ways, so no excuses: use either address at the top of the column or the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Until next time, be well!

**78**

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We had a real winter this year in the Northeast — cold, and lots of snow. Now that I work for the city of New Haven, snow is a very big deal. Do a good job and life is good; let the storm get the best of the city and there is trouble.

Victory really does go to the well-prepared and well-drilled snow removal army.

So, even though summer is here, for this column’s theme I asked for memories from the Blizzard of ’78, which paralyzed New York for a week.

However, we lead off with sad news from one of our most respected and most liked classmates, Judge **Joe Greenaway Jr.** We all knew this intelligent, gentle and wise friend of many would do well and few were surprised when he became our first cohort to join the federal bench at a young age. So our hearts broke when we learned that Joe’s beloved wife, Veronica “Ronnie” Blake BC’78, LAW’81, passed away a few months ago. A wonderful eulogy by Joe is on the web, a few parts of which I excerpt here:

“Ronnie was a strong black woman. She was a force to be reckoned with throughout her life and left an indelible impression on everyone she met. Ronnie would do anything to help a friend, family member or newly introduced friend of a friend. However, she saved the keenest focus of her energy to support, guide, comfort and love her two children — Joey and Sam. No matter how busy, tired or overwrought, one could count on Ronnie’s brilliance, grace, compassion and loyalty.

“What is it that we shall say about our Ronnie? That she was like no other; yes. That it was our sincere privilege to know her; of course. Mostly, I will thank God, because my children and I are the luckiest people in any room we enter. Ronnie enriched our lives every day. She lifted us up and made us the best versions of ourselves.”

**Michael Forlenza**, a longtime resident of Houston, writes, “I attended the first game on the twin bill that saw our Lions baseball team take on No. 6-ranked Houston. Outside the gate beforehand, there was a Columbia alumni gathering with a light lunch and free tickets. The Lions were well represented by the time the game got under way, with supporters making up as many as 150 of the 500 spectators. There was a nice area of light blue behind the visitors’ dugout.

“The Lions held a 3–0 lead throughout most of the game but gave up three runs in the bottom of the eighth. The inning ended with a nice throw from deep right field, nailing the tagging UH baserunner at the plate and preserving the tie. The crowd thinned out considerably by the time the Lions prevailed in the 13th inning. It was an exciting game and a fun afternoon except for the unseasonably (for Southeast

Texas) cool spring weather. “Blizzard of 1978? I and three other Columbia students dodged it altogether by driving to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. It was an adventure catching the beads and taking in the ‘sights.’ When we heard that school was closed because of the snow, we knew that we would not have as much coursework to catch up on.”

**Bruce Steinberg** recalls, “One of my great Columbia memories is a vivid one of going to Downing Stadium on Randall’s Island to watch

**Richard Rohr ’76 took a new career direction in 2011 and now works for Optum, which is devoted to making the health system work better.**

the Cosmos play in the NASL [North American Soccer League]. An amazing team of international stars — Franz Beckenbauer, Carlos Alberto Torres and the best player in the world, Pelé — showed us how this beautiful game was played. At the time, soccer was not taken too seriously in the United States; but for me, it was the most exciting sport in the world. I had played throughout high school (and later at graduate school at Cambridge in England) and I was a keen follower of the European leagues.

“Recently, I was invited to see Liverpool vs. Manchester United, a key game that would shape the rest of the season. I arrived at Anfield, the Liverpool stadium, early and, entering the director’s box, was shocked to see Pelé sitting alone having a cup of tea! I don’t often approach famous people but couldn’t resist the opportunity to speak with a legend. For 15 minutes, I was mesmerized as I talked to him about seeing him play football when I was at Columbia; America; his grandchildren in New York; and of course, the game coming up. Pelé was amazing — kind, friendly, personable and modest. People say that you should never meet your heroes, and that inevitably they will disappoint you. Obviously, they have never met Pelé.”

**Chuck Meltzer** shares, “I am proud to be the recipient this year of Kaiser Permanente Northern California’s Sidney R. Garfield Exceptional Contribution Award in recognition of my creation of a regional multidisciplinary head and neck cancer tumor board. Head and neck cancer is unique in that it is not high volume like breast or prostate cancer, and is often so complex that the average medical center tumor board is unable to offer recommendations.”

**Anthony LaRocco** writes, “I’m

an infectious disease specialist with Sentara Medical Group in Norfolk, Va., and my Lit Hum and CC classes are my fondest academic memories; I’m still plowing through the canon. My daughter will apply to the College next year. Blizzard memories ... trudging through hip-high drifts to get to Ta-Kome and walking down the center of Broadway without a car in sight. Total white-out.”

**Richard Stuke**y writes, “*When Mountains Kiss the Moon*, one of seven novels I drafted and later

stored in a shed in my backyard, will be published in May on Amazon. The storyline: Carey Colvin, a high-power D.C. anchorwoman, takes some unscheduled R&R in the Adirondacks, where she had started her post-college broadcasting career as a love song DJ. While on vacation, she meets Nathan Holt, a lodge owner who can predict the weather just by looking up at the sky. She ends up having to choose between the handsome woodsman and her Wall Street lawyer fiancé. ...

“I realize the Class of ’78 is probably not the primary market for this novel. But my friend who used to write for *The Young and the Restless* told me that the novel’s concept is ‘very marketable,’ and at least I may get to live out my lifelong dream of becoming a published novelist.”

**Ted Faraone** writes, “I am now officially bionic. I have two plates and eight screws in my left ankle following a fall in January. During the Blizzard of ’78 I was in the Varsity Show. My parents came to town to see it. I think they stayed at the Hilton on Sixth Avenue. I remember getting into a cab with them with about six inches of snow on the ground. I don’t remember how I got back to campus.”

**Brian D’Agostino** GSAS’93 reports, “I am president of the International Psychohistorical Association and have recently published some short articles on public policy and political psychology. My book, *The Middle Class Fights Back: How Progressive Movements Can Restore Democracy in America*, was published in 2012.

“I have two consulting practices. Math Empowerment features K-to-adult private tutoring and statistical research consulting. Creative Intelligence features an innovative method for tapping dreams to develop unused creativity, intelligence and



human potential. Visit my website, [middleclassfightsback.org](http://middleclassfightsback.org).”

**Paul Phillips** GSAS’80 notes that his book *A Clockwork Counterpoint: The Music and Literature of Anthony Burgess* was released in paperback last summer. He adds, “My second CD for Naxos, *Music for Great Films of the Silent Era, Volume Two*, was released in April. I conduct the Ireland RTE National Symphony Orchestra on this recording, which features the music of William Perry. We recorded it in Dublin in June 2014. In fall 2014, the Brown University Orchestra and I recorded two more CDs for Naxos, one featuring music by Burgess, the other featuring pianist Jeffrey Biegel performing works for piano and orchestra by Duke Ellington, Keith Emerson, Neil Sedaka and George Gershwin.

“My blizzard memory is that the Brown University Glee Club (of which I was president) had just returned from a two-week tour of Europe. One of our members had been detained at JFK Airport when we returned and was not allowed back into the United States. In order to allow her to return to school as quickly as possible, in those pre-FedEx days, we had to get the necessary documents from Columbia and bring them in person to JFK, to an official of Japan Airlines, who would then hand them over to the pilot, who would deliver the envelope upon his arrival in Japan. Somehow, we managed to drive to JFK with those documents during all that snow.”

**Alex Demac** writes, “In March I attended a 50th anniversary commemoration of the Martin Luther King Jr.-led march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. Peter Yarrow led hundreds of us in singing ‘We Shall Overcome,’ ‘If I Had a Hammer,’ ‘Blowin’ in the Wind’ and other evocative songs.”

**Joseph Schifilliti** reports, “Although I continue to add time, experience and long working nights to my 30-plus years as an ob/gyn, I am now also a risk manager at Kaiser Permanente’s Atlanta medical group. The work is endlessly fascinating. My wife and family are well and my oldest has been accepted at many schools of art and design. My youngest is 10 (such are the wonders of adoption, which knows no age-related fertility failure), so it’s good to have work I enjoy because I foresee doing it a while longer. The older I get the more I cherish my college years.

“During the Blizzard of ’78, my good friend David Ma ’79 and I walked from the Morningside Heights campus to Times Square. It was one of the most serene and pristine travel experiences I’ve ever had in NYC. I very much miss David.”

**Carl Strehlke** GSAS’86 writes, “I’ve gone from being a full-time curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to curator emeritus. I live full time in Florence, Italy, and my catalogue of the Bernard and Mary Berenson Collection of European Paintings at Villa I Tatti should come out this summer. I’ve recently returned to Florence after three months in London, where I took a post-graduate course in Chinese art. Now I’m just thinking about how to transition into my 60s.”

**Mark Blackman** writes, “My family connection to the Columbia community continues. My daughter is Alyssa BC’17 and my step-daughter, Kelly, recently became an associate director of admissions at Barnard. My brother **Gary Blackman** and I still lead ArtsPower, the national touring theater company we started 30 years ago.”

**Jonathan Soffer** GSAS’92 writes, “I recently started as the chair of the Department of Technology, Culture and Society at the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering, where I’ve taught political and urban history for many years. I live in Fort Greene [Brooklyn] with my wife, Pamela Brown GSAS’98, who teaches Renaissance drama at the University of Connecticut Stamford.”

**Edward Rosenfeld** GSAS’80 writes, “I am looking for a two-bedroom near Columbia to buy. I still think back to how great it was to cross-country ski along the Hudson in ’78. It felt like being in another place and time.”

**Francis J. Collini** writes, “My daughter, Lauren, is getting married in June. The gala event will be at my home in Dallas, Pa., and my Columbia roommate, **Jaime Morhaim**, and his wife, Orna, will attend.”

Finally, “the Ambassador,” **Chris Dell**, sends word that “I rode out this winter in sunny Mozambique, except for being in NYC during New Year’s week and another time flying out of Newark in the midst of another snowstorm. Writing you from Torrey Pines, in California, where I’m at a Bechtel corporate meeting. Kids in London and Amman. Life is interesting. “Memories of the blizzard? Making a huge vat of rum and coke at the Fiji house. It lasted several days. Everything else a blur!”

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**David Silberklang** writes with two updates: “My book, *Gates of Tears: The Holocaust in the Lublin District*, was a finalist for the

National Jewish Book Award last year, and I was the Mandelbaum Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Sydney in Australia in May.”

**Glen Savits** “is still in New Jersey representing employees in discrimination, whistleblowing, harassment, contract and severance claims, to name a few. In November I was inducted into the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. I’m still trying to figure out what they do, but it is an honor. On a more personal level, I am a grandfather, which is ridiculous. My son, Reuben JRN’07, recently got engaged and my daughter, Juliet ’12, is on the planning and curriculum team of Success Academy.”

From me, **Robert C. Klapper**: On a recent trip to Hawaii — a high point in my life — while surfing and snorkeling in the clear blue waters on the south shore of Oahu, for a moment I could not help but remember one of the lowest points in my life, which happened to take place during our freshman year at Columbia.

It was the winter ending our first semester, on an awful 33-degree day (not cold enough to snow, but cold enough to create the vicious semi-freezing rain that cuts through you). I was walking up Broadway, lamenting what a low point in my life this was. Not only because of the cold, but also because I was completely lost in freshman chemistry, and knew that doing poorly on the final I was about to take would keep me from fulfilling my dream of becoming a doctor. I resented heavily my classmates who took AP chemistry in their high schools where no such offering had been available in mine (Far Rockaway H.S.). At that moment, I passed a newsstand and — like seeing the Holy Grail — I spotted my first *Surfing Magazine*. The bronze figure on the cover was naked but for his board shorts, standing on a wave in those crystal blue waters of Diamond Head, sun shining over all. The man turned out to be Gerry Lopez, living a life exactly opposite of mine at that moment. But seeing him gave me hope and drive that maybe someday, if I aced my chemistry final, I could be there.

Forty years later, I was. But the best part of this story is that, when I went diving below the turquoise surface, I encountered the largest sea turtle I’ve ever seen. He was sleeping in the reef, and was the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. It suddenly occurred to me that sea turtles can live to 80–100 and they don’t migrate — which meant that 40 years ago, this sea turtle was likely in this very spot. I then realized that if you were somehow able to look into the photograph

on that magazine cover in 1975, down through the surface of the water, this turtle could have been deep in that picture. As I stared at him, I could practically hear him say, “Aloha, Dr. Klapper, I’ve been expecting you. Nice job on the chemistry test.”

Our time at the College was a special time in our lives. We learned many things that have affected and shaped us for the rest of our lives. Who knew I knew how to speak sea turtle?

Roar, lion, roar! And keep the news coming. I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform at [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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We made it! Thirty-five years later and the Class of ’80 is still going strong. It seems like only yesterday that we were walking the halls of Hamilton. Fair to say, we’re a few pounds heavier and have a lot less hair! Yet, somehow, we’ve come to (or more accurately, just finished) another reunion. I’ll include news from the big weekend in the next issue but at this writing we had a terrific schedule in place. Needle Dik, with its rocking blues sound, was set to kick us off Friday night at Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. You can find more on the band at [collegeband.com/needledik80](http://collegeband.com/needledik80).

I thank our Reunion Committee for its work and for ensuring a successful weekend.

**Mark Statman**, an associate professor at the New School, published a new book of poems, *That Train Again*, this spring. It is his fifth book since 2008.

**Geoffrey Gordon**, a writer, performer and teacher, has written a play, *Three Middle-Aged Jewish Hipsters Try to Get Mexican Food*. It will open in August at the Hudson Guild Theatre in NYC.

**John Schutty**, super lawyer, won a major civil rights case against the City of New York. The case dated to 1985, with the wrongful conviction of a man for rape. John began representing his client in 2006 and, through DNA testing and the findings from the original rape kit, it was determined that the client was not involved. This meant the client spent 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The \$18 million verdict is believed to be the largest individual civil rights verdict ever rendered against the city.

Good work, John!  
The football golf outing was

especially eventful this year, as we met the new coach, Al Bagnoli. Bagnoli comes to Columbia after 23 years at Penn, where he compiled a 148–80 overall record and a 112–49 record in the Ivy League. His Penn teams won nine Ivy League Championships, including six undefeated conference marks (1993, 1994, 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010) and three perfect seasons (10–0 in 1993 and 2003, 9–0 in 1994). Just three years ago Penn went 6–4 overall, but 6–1 in the Ivy League to win the outright Ivy League title.

Now, Rome wasn’t built in a day, but with Bagnoli, defensive coordinator Paul Ferrarro and offensive coordinator Michael Faragalli, we have given our players a fighting chance. Expect good things to come and applaud President Lee C. Bollinger for taking action on the program.

Congratulations to Coach Brett Borretti and the baseball team on another great season. They have been playing at an extremely high level against some of the best in the NCAA and their success has been nothing short of amazing. Thanks to our players and coaches for making us proud.

Write with your news. I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

**REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 2–5, 2016**  
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Summer at last! Thanks to all who have responded.

I am proud to report that many of our classmates have kept Columbia a part of their family. **Douglas Lederman** is not only celebrating his 34th wedding anniversary this year with Audrey BC’81 but also their son, Peter ’07, is getting married this summer.

Doug ran into **Kirby Gookin** GSAS’90 and his wife, Robin Kahn BC’82, at Robin’s recent art show in NYC. Doug, like many of our classmates, keeps busy: “I continue to honor my own broad Columbia education by wearing many work hats at once: running a solo law practice (after ‘retiring’ from the general counsel position at the Cancer Prevention Research Institute a decade ago); selling real es-

tate in Greenwich, Conn.; working with my wife in her home renovation/design business; and advising on contemporary art collections for clients. My site for art advising is [schermerhorn9.com](http://schermerhorn9.com), named for the location of the Department of Art History where I spent so much of my undergrad years.”

Bravo to Doug for keeping alma mater at the fore!

**John Luisi** is an assistant commissioner in the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. He reports, “A few weeks ago, I strolled up Fifth Avenue to a reception at the French Consulate celebrating the 50th anniversary of Reid Hall in Paris, where I was joined by the always honorable **Paul Feinman**. Gil Bauer ’82, BUS’87 made it in from New Jersey and Larry Braverman ’82 from

tive cardiology and is president-elect of the American Society for Preventive Cardiology, CMO of MB Clinical Research in Florida, president of Preventive Cardiology and a member of the Board of Directors for the FH Foundation. He is also the author of two books and numerous articles, both scientific and non-scientific.

**Michael Strauss** LAW’84 is an attorney and lives in Port Jefferson, N.Y., where he has been practicing law with his wife, Marianne, for 28 years. Michael is also proud for his family to be following in the Columbia tradition. Their son, Matthew ’15, has joined the ranks of alumni while their daughter, Caroline BC’19, will soon begin her Columbia journey.

Congratulations to the Strauss family!

**Jason Zweig ’81, a financial journalist, writes the weekly column “The Intelligent Investor” for The Wall Street Journal.**

San Francisco for an impromptu reunion within a reunion. Our perfect subjunctions may be long forgotten but apparently spending a semester or two abroad has helped us all to keep our hair.”

**Jason Zweig** relates the joyous news that his daughter, Nina, was admitted to the College. With Jason as her father, I am sure she will represent CC’19 well! Jason reports, “I’ve been a financial journalist since a few months before the crash of 1987, working at *Time*, *Forbes* and *Money* magazines through bull markets, bubbles and crashes. In 2007, Simon & Schuster published my book *Your Money & Your Brain*, on the emerging science of neuroeconomics. In 2007 and 2008, I assisted psychologist Daniel Kahneman in writing his book *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. I’ve been at *The Wall Street Journal* since 2008, writing the weekly column ‘The Intelligent Investor.’ In 2003, I edited the revised edition of the classic book of the same name by Benjamin Graham (Class of 1914).”

Jason’s next book, *The Devil’s Financial Dictionary*, is a satirical glossary of Wall Street inspired by Ambrose Bierce’s *Devil’s Dictionary*.

My personal thanks to Jason for his column, which I enjoyed for years as a commuter on Metro-North.

**Seth Baum** PS’85 reports from Boca Raton, Fla., that he celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary to Laura Denson Baum BC’81. Their son, Jared Baum ’13, attends veterinary school at Florida. Seth practices preventive and integra-

Here in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, I had the pleasure of dining in one of Charleston’s finest establishments with **Barry Waldman** JRN’82. I had not seen Barry since that hot graduation day in May 1981 and am happy to report that he is still as charming — and handsome — as ever. We enjoyed Vietnamese tacos and agreed not to wait another 30 years before our next dinner meeting. Barry has been VP of communications at Trident United Way in Charleston but is soon to pursue his own freelance gig. He says, “Writing and I need to reconcile after years of near-estrangement. Look for my byline in local media brandishing a muscular verb, canoodling with a brash adjective or riding side-saddle atop a stately noun.”

Barry always had a way with words!

Please keep me posted on the latest developments, and I look forward to hearing from everyone soon.

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Greetings, gents! As I put digits to keyboard, QE (quantitative easing) has begun in earnest in Europe; meanwhile, we in the United States have stopped goosing the economy, the U.S. dollar has rallied to the point where it’s time to think about heading to France for café and a croissant and Canadian-

born Ted Cruz announced in April he’s running for the Republican nomination for President — truly an enigmatic moment ...

Checking in this period is the creative and accomplished **Max Dietshe** SIPA’83. After earning a master’s, he has been variously the director of marketing communications for the tri-state region for Deloitte, director of marketing communications for OppenheimerFunds, and SVP, integrated communications, for Addison. When I worked at Merrill Lynch, I had the pleasure of hiring Max’s firm and doing some work with him; he was a real pro, so it’s not surprising to me that he’s had such success.

Max writes, “My wife, Wendie, and I moved to California in April 2014; I work for Spring Studio, a research, strategy and UX (user experience) design firm based in San Francisco. Living somewhere other than New York, where I’d been based since arriving at the College on August 31, 1978, is a new and sometimes jarring experience, but we are gradually sliding into California life and enjoying all that the city and its surroundings have to offer. I’ve been to a few ‘young Columbians’ meet-ups here and can report that our fellow alums are much younger than I remember us being and are, actually, changing the world. We’re settled in North Beach for the time being. To my classmates: If your travels take you this way, don’t be a stranger! My email is [mdietshe@msn.com](mailto:mdietshe@msn.com).”

Max, thanks for checking in! On February 5, yours truly had the pleasure of hanging out with the erudite **David Cowen**. I was attending (along with investment pundit **David Filosa**) the annual Financial Engineer of the Year award dinner sponsored by the International Association for Quantitative Finance. Sure, it’s a bit of a nerd fiesta, but quite cool nonetheless! The dinner was held at the Museum of American Finance (MOAF), where David C. is the museum’s president and CEO.

For those who have not kept up with him, David C. spent more than 20 years on Wall Street as a trader, including in the foreign exchange groups at Bankers Trust and Deutsche Bank. He founded Quasar Capital Partners, a macro hedge fund. He earned a B.A. in American history and obtained an M.B.A. from Penn’s Wharton School and an M.A. and Ph.D. in American history from NYU. David has written extensively on U.S. financial history and is co-author of *Financial Founding Fathers: The Men Who Made America Rich* (2006). He is the co-chair of the International Federation of Finance Museums and sits on the Smithsonian Af-



filiales Advisory Council and the Federal Reserve Board's Centennial Advisory Council.

For those not familiar with MOAF, I urge you to check it out. It's a superb institution located right on the corner of Wall and Williams streets in lower Manhattan. Aside from the fact that it's a beautiful facility, it provides a collection of topical, captivating exhibits. There are also student educational opportunities (offered through its Center for Financial Education), periodic classes taught by industry luminaries and tours — all of which can help you become better informed about some of the most important issues facing us today.

By way of example, at this writing, Nobel Prize winner University Professor Joseph Stiglitz was scheduled to give a talk in April titled "Unequal Societies and What to Do About Them." There will be more cool things on the calendar by the time you read this column. Seriously, next time you're sitting around, trying to come up with something to do, go! You won't regret it.

Last but not least, **Skip Parker** was promoted to first VP, wealth management, at UBS Americas, serving third- and fourth-generation clients from the firm's office in Greenwich, Conn. He's celebrating his fifth anniversary with the firm in July and plans to spend the rest of his career there. If you're in need of some sage advice, Skip can be found on LinkedIn, which also includes a link to his website.

Skip is active with other Columbia rowing alumni, attending races and functions when he can. Last October, he and **Terry Waldron SEAS'82** raced in a four-oared shell for the King's Crown Rowing Association at the 50th anniversary of the Head Of The Charles Regatta (Massachusetts), finishing 23rd of 47. The other oarsmen were Mike McCarthy '83 and Jim Hammond '87, with Stone Cao '13 as the able coxswain. As a tune-up they raced at the Head of the Housatonic (Connecticut), finishing fifth of 11 boats in their class.

Still racing more than 30 years later — that's really excellent! I just put down a bag of Cheetos to go work out.

In early March, Skip took his daughter, Isabella (Convent of the Sacred Heart, Class of 2016), for an official tour of Columbia. Aside from attending a superb high school, Isabella has to be one of the strongest legacy candidates on record, with her father, mother, grandfather and aunts and uncles all having attended either Barnard or the College! During the second week of her March break, they visited Union, Colgate, Hamilton,

Middlebury and Williams. She also visited BU and BC during her February break and saw "snow-mageddon" in person!

I'm guessing UC San Diego is looking real good right now!

In August 2013, Skip and his wife, Harriet, moved to Riverside, Conn. (a section of Greenwich), so he can now officially be referred to as a "townie." Harriet's daughters are at UVA and the College of Charleston. Skip and Harriet enjoy traveling for business and live jazz in Manhattan. During the summer they take their boat to Martha's Vineyard as well as fishing in Long Island Sound.

Sweet!

Keep those notes coming! You can reach me at the addresses at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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#### Roy Pomerantz

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My sons, David (10) and Ricky (7), and I attended seven Columbia home basketball games last season. The team's star forward, Alex Rosenberg '16, withdrew from Columbia to rehabilitate a leg injury (although we did spot him in the stands), while teammate Maodo Lo '16 had a spectacular season and was unanimously selected to the 2014-15 All-Ivy first team. His 84 3-pointers led the conference and was the second highest single-season total in school history. Guard Kyle Castlin '18 also had a breakout season, averaging more than 10 points and four rebounds a game. The trio of Rosenberg, Lo and Castlin next year will lead a strong returning roster of players who will compete for the 2016 Ivy League title.

I saw **Richard Gordon** and his son at the Columbia vs. Harvard game. Richard is a volunteer basketball coach in West Windsor-Plainsboro, N.J., in the recreation, travel and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) leagues. He is a former high school All-American at Boys and Girls H.S. in Brooklyn and played basketball at Columbia, where he was a four-year starter and All-Ivy player. After college, Richard was a coach with the high school division of The Riverside Church AAU program in New York City. He is a graduate of the E.M.B.A. program at NYU Stern and works in the financial services industry. In 1982, while Richard was on the team, the Columbia basketball team entered the final week of the Ivy League season with a chance to win the

conference title; the Lions hosted and lost their last two games, finishing second. Other notable players on that team included **Darren Burnett, Eric Clarke, Tom Brecht** and **Brad Brown**.

**Kevin Chapman** and his wife, Sharon BC'83, also attended several basketball games last season. Their son, Ross '18, plays the trombone in the Columbia University Marching Band.

**Andy Gershon** had season tickets and I saw him at several games with his son, Alex, a talented pitcher who is even taller than his father. Andy and his wife, Gail, also have a daughter, Sophie, who is an excellent soccer player. Andy's father was Richard Gershon '53.

Jeremy Feinberg '92, LAW'95, adjunct professor of ethics and professional responsibility at the Law School, was seated behind us for all the games. (As a student, he announced the Columbia basketball games on WKCR.) Jeremy graduated from The Dalton School, where my son David will start in the fall. Jeremy's father, Gerald Feinberg '53, taught at Columbia for more than 30 years and headed the physics department 1980-82. He was also instrumental in Columbia's decision to admit women.

Also seated near us for the games was Diane McKoy, the senior associate director of admissions for the College and Engineering, who was on staff when we attended the College. Diane had to leave some of the games early because of the huge work involved in reviewing the number of applicants this year (36,223 — a 9.9 percent increase over last year).

Last fall, I had dinner with Larry Momo '73, a former director of undergraduate admissions. Larry is the director of college counseling at Trinity School in Manhattan. His son, Lucas Momo '10, is the assistant general manager at Fourth Wall Restaurants in Manhattan.

Linda Gerstel BC'83 and her husband, **Ed Joyce**, attended several games with their daughter, Sarah '19. Linda and Ed were the guests of honor at the Sharsheret Annual Benefit on May 3; Sharsheret is a Jewish nonprofit supporting women who have, or who have survived, breast cancer. Linda, a Sharsheret board member since 2011, is celebrating her 10th year as a breast cancer survivor. Ed and Linda have been repeat members of Team Sharsheret, competing in the New York City Triathlon and the United Airlines NYC Half together with their daughters, Kayla and Sarah. The couple can regularly be seen cycling along the Palisades in their pink Team Sharsheret jerseys.

Linda and Ed are both NYC attorneys and their community efforts extend to other prominent organizations, including ALYN Hospital, Children's Law Center, Columbia University Crew, Fordham Law Alumni Association, New York Center for Law and Justice, the Baron de Hirsch Fund (supporting Ethiopian Israelis) and The JCC in Manhattan.

I also spotted fellow class correspondents Dennis Klainberg '84 and Jon White '85 at the games. Time flies. Jon informed me that his son, Isaac '14, lives in Astoria, Queens. Dennis continues to play his trumpet with the Marching Band during games. In addition, I spent time with Mike Schmidtberger '82, Brian Krisberg '81, Geoffrey Colvin '74, Phil Milstein '71, Ken Howitt '76, Jerry Sherwin '55 and James McMnamin.

One surprise attendee at the final game of the season was Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76. A little-known fact is that Eric played freshman basketball at Columbia. Also, according to his Wikipedia entry, Eric was a member of the Student Afro-American Society, which staged a non-confrontational occupation of the ROTC lounge and demanded that it be renamed the Malcolm X lounge.

Eric spoke at the 2009 Class Day, where he shared that he lived in 301A Carman Hall his freshman year and said, "My time at Columbia was the most meaningful and formative of my life."

During the speech he also remarked, "I leave you with a few words written by Alfred Lord Tennyson, which are found handwritten in the diary of my most famous predecessor, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Tennyson writes: '*Ah, what shall I be at fifty,/Should Nature keep me alive,/If I find the world so bitter/when I am but twenty-five?*'"

Read the full speech: [justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-eric-holder-delivers-remarks-columbia-college-commencement](http://justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-eric-holder-delivers-remarks-columbia-college-commencement).

Last year, David and I (along with **Kevin Chapman** and his wife, Sharon) attended the first winning Columbia basketball game at Princeton in 21 years. This year, David, Ricky and I attended the Columbia win at Yale against a Yale team that had its most overall wins in more than 60 years. We had floor seats and wore our Columbia shirts, so many players gave us personal greetings.

**Kenny Chin** attended his 35th Stuyvesant H.S. reunion, and notes that our Columbia 35th isn't far behind. Ken retains his ranking on Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers, and was added to the Chambers USA guide for bank financing. He



Students perform at Dean's Day 1983.

PHOTO: CCT ARCHIVES

now chairs a subcommittee for the American Bar Association and continues to co-chair an annual seminar for the Practising Law Institute. His finance group at Kramer Levin numbers about 15 attorneys.

Ken is being inducted as a fellow to the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers this year. He is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, which provides medical services to 49,000 patients annually, including the underserved, regardless of their ability to pay.

After three years as senior counsel at Empire State Development and closing such prominent deals as Cornell Tech, Ken's wife, Lisa, has become a real estate partner at Akerman, a 600-attorney national firm. Her practice focuses on real estate finance and development, economic development and affordable housing. Their son Nicholas is a junior at Michigan where he is in the School of Information, one of 80 undergraduates in this new school; he will spend the summer working for GE in Michigan. Son Austin is a senior at Legacy H.S. and is considering several colleges; Ken writes, "Sadly for us, Austin helped lower the acceptance rate for Columbia this year."

James Dizdar '84 writes: "Several officials expressed a desire to attract and support a campus Presidential Library. In the interest of disclosure, I spent 2008 with a grown, growing and surviving regard for Sen. Hillary Clinton,

the candidate who was 'charming enough' yet very politically thrown about for practical purpose. That aside, please remember the silence of **Barack Obama** about his Columbia degree. He practically 'whistled Crimson' the whole election year and poor Columbia, [some] people still don't know he is an alumnus. There is no pride of place with this President, no matter his politics or legacy — it is just 'not a Columbia thing.' I believe the officials concerned should weigh their supports, before such an expression."

James, I respectfully disagree. President Obama wrote a memorable letter to our class commemorating our 25th reunion. The letter was read by **Dan Loeb** (who was the speaker for our 30th reunion) at our reception. President Obama also delivered the keynote address at Barnard's 120th Commencement on May 12, 2012, on Columbia's South Lawn, and he received the Barnard medal of distinction, its highest honor. President Lee C. Bollinger said, "All of us can be proud that President Obama, the first Columbia graduate to serve in the nation's highest office, has chosen to honor the importance of women's leadership by returning to campus at our historic sister liberal arts college for women in New York."

On February 6, Gothamist reported, "First Daughter and spirit animal Malia Obama was spotted near Columbia University just now — for a tour of her father's

alma mater, perhaps? Because she toured NYU with her mother this morning!

"According to NYU Local, 'Our tipster accidentally entered the elevator with the Obamas, who were joined by an admission ambassador and several members of the Secret Service for a private tour of Goddard Hall. They also reportedly visited Weinstein Hall.' The tipster added, 'Apparently everyone was told that the elevators were "shut down" for the 10 minutes they were in the building... but I knew the truth!'

"Then First Lady Michelle Obama, Malia and Sasha were spotted at Community, a Columbia-area restaurant on Broadway."

We are proud to have President Obama as our classmate and part of the Columbia family. Columbia would be honored to house his Presidential Library.

On September 20, Ricky and I attended the Fourth Annual Les Nelkin SEAS'87, LAW'87 Pediatric Cancer Survivor's Day at Eisenhower Park. The event was sponsored by Les' parents, Ruth and Harold Nelkin. Les was a founder of the Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life and his sister, Amy Nelkin '89, LAW'91, is also a huge Columbia supporter. Amy's husband, Mitchell Kase, is VP of sales for my company, Regent Baby Products Corp.

**Edward Koral** shares, "I'm happily living on the Upper West Side with my Yalie wife, Leah, and kids (14 and 11). We attend the Yale-

Columbia basketball games (I've lost too many bets to my wife) and I'm a specialist leader in the insurance industry practice at Deloitte Consulting.

"The Roach Motel League — the oldest continually operating fantasy baseball league in the galaxy, founded at Columbia in 1981 — held its 35th annual draft (aka 'RoachFest') in April. Roach Motel League members from our generation are **Robert Clarick, Larry Hardin, Tim Hughes**, Mark Allen '81, Francisco Navarro '82, Steven Georgeson '82 and me."

Several years ago, I attended a Senior Society of Nacoms initiation dinner at the Union Theological Seminary and sat next to and exchanged cards with Andrew Topkins '98, a managing director and founder of Brandgenuity, a licensing specialist company. Through this connection, my company has signed an agreement with Playtex (a Brandgenuity property) to be its first Playtex licensee of baby accessories. Adina Avery-Grossman, a managing director at Brandgenuity, is friends with **Stuart Levi**, who went to Harvard Law School with Adina's husband. Stuart is co-head of Skadden, Arps' Intellectual Property and Technology Group. Prior to joining Skadden, Stuart was director of intellectual property for Reuters American and a VP of Reuters Newmedia.

**Dr. Paul Hauptman** and I spoke recently by phone because he was lecturing in Queens near where I work. Paul is professor of internal



medicine, Division of Cardiology, and assistant dean at Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Homecoming on Saturday, October 17, to welcome former Penn head football coach Al Bag-noli as Columbia’s head coach.

**84** **Dennis Klainberg**  
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When I hear “Burning Down the House” by the Talking Heads, I remember the great excitement and energy of a fiesta hosted during our senior year by my most missed and dearly departed Sachem brother, **Jacques Augustin**, and his suitemates in Wallach. Jacques was quite the world traveler, known for his *joie de vivre*, so I am sure he is beaming his good karma down onto suitemate **Kenny Bernstein** LAW’89. Kenny shares, “No promo-tions, moves or noteworthy events to report. Just enjoying life. I have my solo law practice in a shared space with my wife’s optometry practice on Main Street in Irvington, N.Y. Our oldest, a daughter, is a freshman at McGill; in the middle, another daughter is doing a year of high school with a host family in Normandy; and my youngest, a son, is finishing middle school. Having kids in different countries does make for fun vacations.”

I can’t say I remember **Moshe Kestenbaum**, but it’s good to hear from him all the same. He writes, “I was blessed with a granddaughter (Ilanit Sarah), born to my son, Aha-ron, and daughter-in-law, Hannah. That makes four grandchildren, two boys and two girls. I am a software developer at Viewbix (Beit Shem-esh, Israel) and live in Jerusalem.”

**David Godfried**, whose wife, Diana, was a high school friend of

mine, and whose family lived quite close to ours in Manhasset, Long Island, has done a reverse *Green Acres*: “We moved back to NYC last summer (30 years after gradu-ation). Our daughter enrolled in Nightingale-Bamford School for ninth grade (contrary to her request: ‘just not an all-girls school and no school uniform’) . . . .”

“[As I write, I’m recently] back from a trip to Patagonia (30th national park in past 10 years) and Buenos Aires for New Year’s and am training for my first triathlon. I’m an associate professor of ortho-paedic surgery at NYU taking care of lots of kids and trying to mentor

**Neel Lane ’84** persuaded a U.S. district judge to enter an order striking down Texas’ same-sex marriage re-strictions as an unconstitutional denial of due process and equal protection under the 14th amendment.

our next generation of orthopaedic surgeons — they will be the ones taking care of us in 20 years.

“I’ve had recent encounters with Skip Parker ’82, **James Brett**, Joe Dryer PS’89, **Phil Donahue** and **Len Hersh**. Len’s wife helped me and Diana with the apartment/ co-op process and we recently went out for dinner. I saw **Peter Lunenfeld**, Mike McCarthy ’83 and Jim Hammond ’87 at a crew function at the boathouse last fall.”

Ninth floor Carman’s freshman-year social life centered around watching *Ugly George* on the com-munal TV at the end of the hall, in a “community room” as big as a closet. But in the suite just next door, one man, to the shock and / or envy of others, actually watched his own little television (I think he split into the cable box) while he studied away. And **Steven Saun-ders**, despite the best efforts of his party-hearty, ticket-selling room-mate, did — as only Larry David could put it — pretty, pretty well.

Steven writes, “I am happily married to Michelle and have two sons, Brian and Andrew. We live in Westport, Conn., and I am in full-time solo private primary care internal medicine practice in Milford, Conn., where I have been practicing for 18 years. I am involved in teaching medical students and hold faculty appoint-ments as clinical assistant professor of medicine at the Yale School of Medicine and as assistant clinical professor of medicine at Quinni-piac’s Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine.

“We are very proud of our sons. Andrew is in high school and Brian is in the midst of his freshman year

at Northwestern’s McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.”

**David Branner**, author, academ-ic, humanist and lifelong learner, writes, “Looking back, it seems to me that self-cultivation is the only personal goal I have ever taken seriously for long.” Having writ-ten seven books (his most recent: *A Comprehensive Manchu-English Dictionary*), served as the Willis F. Doney Member at the Institute for Advanced Study (where he worked on automated analysis of medieval Chinese prosody) and even found time to act as thesis adviser to a Columbia undergraduate, David is

14th Amendment. More recently, I argued in the Fifth Circuit for affirmance of that decision. Here is a link to the *Texas Monthly* post on the arguments: [texasmonthly.com /story /fifth-circuit-hears-texas%E2%80%9999-same-sex-marriage-lawsuit](http://texasmonthly.com/story/fifth-circuit-hears-texas%E2%80%9999-same-sex-marriage-lawsuit).

“In the meantime, I have also kept up my running and partici-pated in the New York City Mara-thon in November for the second time (the first time was 1991). I fin-ished in 3:48:52, and then felt like I was going to die. Never again. But I will still run half-marathons!”

I hope you enjoyed this edition of Class Notes, and please email me your updates. I can be reached at the addresses at the top of the column. Until next time, have a great summer!

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As you read this column, we will have just celebrated our 30th reunion. Please tune in next edition for a complete report. For those who were unable to attend, send me your updates as well.

A few important points should be made about reunion. First, big-time kudos to my Reunion Com-mittee co-chairs, **John Phelan** and **Leslie Smartt**. John secured a special “backstage tour” of the New York City Ballet, which features his daughter, Unity, in the company. Leslie did a terrific job overseeing and drafting the outreach effort to get classmates to attend. Also, hats off to **Joe Titlebaum**, who came up with excellent questions and helped to facilitate the Saturday evening discussion. For my part, it was a pleasure, and lots of fun, to work with my great Glee Clubbers again.

Second, I rarely (if ever) use this column to encourage participation in the Columbia College Fund. But if you have not yet had an opportunity to donate to our Class Gift in honor of reunion, please know that you have until Tuesday, June 30. Every gift, no matter what size, is critical — and we need as many gifts as possible to reach our participation goal. More impor-tantly, they are part of what allows Columbia to continue to attract the best students in the world, without regard to their ability to pay. To learn more and /or to make a con-tribution, go to [college.columbia.edu /alumni /give](http://college.columbia.edu /alumni /give).

**Greg Jarin** writes from Arizona: “My children are all doing well. Julian, the oldest, attends Yavapai Col-lege in Prescott, Ariz. He is quickly

becoming an accomplished actor and performs in a variety of school and community productions; he was one of the French students in *Les Misérables* last spring at the Prescott Community Theater. Luke is a freshman at Humboldt State in Arcata (northern), Calif. He’s majoring in wildlife conservation with hopes of attending veterinary school. Felicia is a sophomore in high school and wants to write novels and teach. Chloe, the young-est, is in seventh grade and plays basketball and the flute.

“My wife, Vanessa, a lieuten-ant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, is the quality man-ager on the leadership team for the Winslow Indian Health Care Center (WIHCC). She is up for a promotion and has her sights set on finishing her nurse practitioner degree at Gonzaga School of Nursing & Hu-man Physiology within a year.

“I am the WIHCC’s chief of surgery and was appointed as the surgical chief clinical consultant for the Indian Health Service. I have been with the IHS for almost 17 years.”

After stints at AXA and as an independent consultant, **Bryan Barnett** works for AFLAC, based out of Garden City, N.Y. He resides in Forest Hills, Queens.

**Judah Cohen** GSAS’94 was fea-tured in *The Boston Globe* this spring. Judah, a self-described “weather weenie,” is director of seasonal fore-casting for Atmospheric and Envi-ronmental Research, a Lexington-based weather-consulting company that counts NASA among its clients. He has presented long-range fore-casts on WCVB-TV (Channel 5). As the article indicated, Cohen’s big-gest claim to fame perhaps comes from the fact that he and his team’s seasonal forecasts of “tempera-ture and precipitation anomalies” have been right 75 percent of the time, a rate that tops those of the major government weather centers, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the federal government’s main weather forecaster. He relies on the snow cover in Siberia to predict wintry outcomes in America and Europe. The full story: [bostonglobe.com /lifestyle /2013 /03 /17 /snowpredic-tor /zPUrNt5fv7Waxwb04cRzK /story.html](http://bostonglobe.com /lifestyle /2013 /03 /17 /snowpredic-tor /zPUrNt5fv7Waxwb04cRzK /story.html).

Finally, yours truly attended the Columbia-Harvard men’s bas-ketball game in February. After a valiant comeback, the Lions lost to the eventual Ivy League champi-ons (who gave the mighty North Carolina Tar Heels all they could handle in the NCAA tournament). Also in attendance that night was Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, LAW’76 and my juggling John Jay greeter from my first days on

campus, Roy Pomerantz ’83. It was great to see the gym packed and full of excitement, although I must confess that I now have a view on how the “other half” lives: My wife’s and my middle son, Noah, a freshman at Duke, spent a month “tenting” outside to secure tickets to the Duke-North Carolina game. He was all decked out in blue and white wardrobe, albeit a different shade than the one preferred in Morningside Heights.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 2-5, 2016**  
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As we get older, the numbers be-come daunting. It was 29 years ago that we graduated from Columbia College. But we also realize that a decade ain’t what it used to be — the years feel like they pass faster now, and we sort of get used to these milestone numbers. I’m soft-ening you up before telling you to save the date for our 30th reunion, Thursday, May 26–Sunday, May 29, 2016.

**Philip Nevinny** sent an update from Los Angeles. He writes, “After two decades as a busy trial attorney and appellate advocate, I have pivoted to become general counsel to LMN Ventures, an early-stage venture capital firm that invests in entrepreneurs who are focused on creating groundbreak-ing businesses that are clean, green, and health-, wellness-, fitness- or education-oriented.

“This also means that I am able, once again, to get on the tennis court regularly and to travel, including an eye-opening trip last year to the Laikipia plains in Kenya, where the wildlife greatly outnumbers the humans. (We were 11 compatriots on the 50,000 acres of the Segera Retreat.) Cape Town, South Africa, followed, both stun-ning and moving, including as it did a trip to Robben Island, and the Cape of Good Hope. I celebrated my 50th birthday in Guadala-jara, Jalisco, with my companion, Aimee, whose beautiful daughter, Athena, I am helping to raise, and who happens to be the most cool, smart, fun and funny 4-year-old you will ever meet.

“Last summer, on Nantucket, I enjoyed fistfuls of lobster, along with restorative swims, bikes and

runs with John C. Kaehny, my Car-man 8 freshman floormate, and his beautiful family, who still reside at West 116th and Riverside. I also get out to Palm Springs, Calif., regu-larly to visit my father, Dr. Hans B. Nevinny (88).

“In Palm Springs last fall, I was honored to be a guest at the wed-ding of the Hon. David J. Cowan ’84 to the lovely Libby Kauper. Other Columbia intelligentsia in atten-dance were Paul Mallon ’85, Cary Berger ’85, Ed Leibowitz ’85 and Andrew Perchuk ’85. I am happy to report that the Left Coast contin-gent of the Lions is going strong with true gentlemen, scholars and loyal friends **Jack C. Merrick**, **John Murphy**, **Patrick McGarrigle**, **Steve Huskey** and **Adam Pergament** regularly in the mix. Well, who owns Los Angeles?”

Congrats to **Michael Lustig** on being honored by Columbia / Barnard Hillel at its annual Seixas Gala Dinner in May. Mike is presi-dent of its Board of Directors and has given generously of his time and money to Hillel since we graduated.

Keep the notes coming! I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu /cct /submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu /cct /submit_class_note).

**87** **Sarah A. Kass**  
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This column contains what we would call in England bits and bobs — little bits of lots of stuff.

We’ll start off with the happy news that my dear comrade-in-arms, **Cathy Webster** TC’91, has been promoted to professor of French at the University of Central Oklahoma in Oklahoma City.

*Félicitations, ma chère!*

**Madeleine Villanueva** wrote, “In an amazing coincidence, **Jen-nifer Bensko Ha** (who was my suitemate freshman year on Car-man 6), **Andrea Basora** and myself are all working on the 18th floor of 110 William St. What are the odds? Surely one of my brilliant cohorts may want to take a whack at that. **Farah Chandu** is mathematical and clever . . . .”

I received a wonderful note from the amazing **Deena Acker-man**, just to catch up: “Nothing is any different in the past 10 years since I reported that I had com-pleted my degree (Wisconsin at Madison, economics) and moved to Virginia. I am still married to the same guy (Chris Adams, Mel-bourne, commerce). I am still at the same job — U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis. I live in the same house in Arling-

ton, Va., and am raising the same child, CJ Adams, now 15 and a great kid. I still talk to **Lee Ilan** and **Sandy Asirvatham**. Sandy and I had a great visit last summer.”

In a world of chaos, your stabili-ty is a gift, Deena!

**Paul Verna** wrote, “A group of CC’87 alumni gathered at the Golden Jubilee celebration for Columbia’s Reid Hall program in New York on January 29. Techni-cally, the event was held on foreign soil, at the Consulate General of France, but let’s not quibble about the details!

“**Jennifer Berry**, **Stavros Zomo-poulos**, **Nancy Rabinowitz**, **Ralph Falzone** and **Daniele Baliani**, all Reid Hall alumni from the ’85–’86 academic year, attended. In ad-dition to reconnecting, these old friends chatted up College Dean James J. Valentini (who said ’87 was ‘the best class ever’) and Paul LeClerc, director of the Columbia Global Centers | Europe (Paris) . . .

“It was a magical evening that reminded us how enduring the Co-lumbia bond is and how integral Reid Hall was to our experience as Columbians. And by the way, no comment on whether Dean Val-entini told other alumni that their classes were the best ever!”

**Juliet Seymour** (née Nezhad) shares, “In January, I was so happy and proud to travel from my Pacif-ic Palisades home to La Jolla, Calif., for the opening night of my fresh-man (Carman 11) roommate **Liz Stein**’s play *The Darrell Hammond Project*. The one-man play, which Liz co-wrote, opened to fabulous reviews and may go on the road to other cities. Liz has had an amaz-ing career, first as a book editor and most recently as an in-demand ghostwriter for various celebrities. *The Darrell Hammond Project* is the culmination of her work with the *Saturday Night Live* comedian and impersonator, which began with her coauthoring his bestselling autobiography.

“Liz and I had a fabulous week-end catching up in sunny southern California. Liz finally got to meet my husband, Peter, who is the CFO of the Disney / ABC Television Group. Peter and I are celebrating both our 20th wedding anniver-sary and 20th Stanford business school reunion. I have retired from entertainment consulting and am now my sons’ biggest fan. We have two teenage boys who play baseball, football and basketball for Harvard-Westlake School and a 10-year-old son whose club soccer team was state champion last year. Can’t believe that college is just around the corner . . . .”

Remember, we are still looking for stories of how you are all celebrating milestone birthdays

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Alumni on Facebook



Check out the  
Columbia College  
Alumni page!  
[facebook.com/  
alumnicc](https://www.facebook.com/alumnicc)

Like the page to get  
alumni news, learn  
about alumni events and  
College happenings,





Several members of the Class of 1990 met in New York City this past spring for a pre-reunion mini-reunion. Back row, left to right: Arlene Hong Duffy, Betty Mar Tsang and Anita Bose; and front row, left to right: Joy Kim Metalios SEAS'90, Nancy Pak and Gloria Kim Pak.

this year. Please send them to me at the email address at the top of the column or find me on Facebook. I look forward to all your tales of wild parties!

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The Class of 1988 can feel justifiably proud that this year's five-person cast of recipients of the John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement included **Nicholas Leone** and **Andrew Marlowe**. This brings the total number of CC'88ers who have received the prestigious award to six.

Nick is a senior managing director in the Blackstone Group's restructuring and reorganization division. Having been with Blackstone for 20 years, he has figured in a variety of the firm's restructuring transactions and has advised companies in merger and acquisition deals. Nick, who was a stalwart wide receiver for Columbia's indefatigable football team, earned an M.B.A. from Chicago.

Andrew (see feature in this issue) is a Hollywood screenwriter who created the ABC series *Castle*, about a fictional author of crime novels. While he continues to have a day-to-day role with the show, last year he scaled back his involvement so he could develop new projects for ABC. He and his wife, Terri Miller, are now executive-producing a drama series based on the Derrick Storm mystery novels, written by Richard Castle, the title character of the other series.

**Tim Rood** wrote, "I guess I was remiss about reporting that I was elected, in February 2014, to a four-year term on the City Council of

Piedmont, Calif., a small residential community in the San Francisco Bay Area. I had previously served two years on the council-appointed Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee. I'm enjoying this local volunteer position, in addition to my ongoing urban planning consulting practice.

"As a council member, I also serve on the boards of the Alameda County waste management agency, recycling board and energy council, and serve as liaison to the Piedmont Planning Commission. It's been an educational and challenging experience, and I'm fortunate to be working with a great city staff and a collegial group of council members. I'd be interested in hearing from other Columbians who are serving in elected office."

**Jeremy Dickstein** offered a helpful update for those of us who, like me, are in our late 40s and watching our blood sugar levels. He says, "I am pleased to announce that I was recently named to the Community Leadership Board for the American Diabetes Association of Greater New York. Likely many of you are unaware that I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in 2011. I'm not obese and have no family history of it. It has been generally manageable until a recent scare.

"I urge all of you to look at your hemoglobin A1C level as part of your next blood test and to ask your doctor about it. I was pre-diabetic for years and ignored it, like many. There are roughly 33 million Americans with diabetes and an estimated 93 million Americans who are pre-diabetic. Many of them are unaware of it. There are also myths and stigmas tied to it, unfortunately. It is not contagious and it is not self-caused, although ignoring it can make things much worse. Though highly treatable, there can be complications over time and it is

the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. I attended the New York Expo of the American Diabetes Association in March and, literally, lives were saved on the spot. Stay tuned for the re-launch of America's Diabetes Challenge, which will include a video online with at least one familiar face."

Please keep sending updates and photos! You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

I look forward to hearing from you.

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A bright spot in the long Boston winter was a cocktail party hosted by married couple Sherri Pancer Wolf '90 and Doug Wolf '88. Of the gathering **Amy Bardack** writes,

"My husband, Jared Magnani '91, and I braved the snow banks to attend an event for our generation of local alumni. It was great to connect with other alums."

She continues, "It was a hard winter but we are still glowing from our son Ilan's bar mitzvah in January. **Sara Lesch**, **Joel Alter**, **Michael Paasche-Orlow** '91 and **Josh Machleder** '91 joined us in the celebration."

Amy is in her 13th year as Judaic studies director at Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton, Mass. She recently published a series of children's prayer books, *Halleli Nafshi*, which are being used in Jewish schools throughout the country ([hallelinafshi.org](http://hallelinafshi.org)). In addition to her "day job," she is president of the New England Rabbinical Assembly.

Also at the Wolfs' event was **Stephanie D. Neal-Johnson**, who recently was named undersecretary and COO for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Prior to this position, Stephanie was the undersecretary and interim chief of civil rights of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Stephanie writes, "I feel like I should have my head examined as I prepare for my sons' graduation from middle school and high school. Life is busy and crazy, especially as I combine all of that with a new position in the new administration in Massachusetts. But I guess that's life for me.

"I was so glad to have reunited recently with some Columbia alums, most especially **Rupert Burtan** SEAS'88, a great friend I've been missing and I hadn't seen in so long. I'm looking forward to checking in with many others of

you soon!"

I connected with **Marie-Alan Aladin**, who is the country director for One Egg Haiti — a chapter within the larger One Egg organization — which strives to provide better nutrition to children in Haiti and to encourage for-profit poultry farms throughout the country. During a recent visit to Haiti, Marie-Alan wrote, "The inspiration behind One Egg Haiti came from my parents' desire to return to Haiti in their retirement years and to give back to their homeland. When I visited Haiti for the first time in 40 years (I left at 3), I was moved by the resiliency of the people after having suffered a devastating earthquake, as well as the beauty of the country, which can be found in many forms. Seeing hungry children and parents struggling to feed their children properly moved me to find a solution, and One Egg's vision, philosophy and business model was a solution that I could implement in Haiti."

Marie-Alan earned an M.S. in mathematics from the Courant Institute of Mathematics at NYU and started working in investment management as a quantitative analyst. Her interest in corporate social responsibility started when she was a portfolio manager on a socially responsible equity fund at TIAA-CREF. To find out more, visit [oneegg.org/haiti](http://oneegg.org/haiti).

During the long winter I enjoyed reading *New Yorker* writer David Denby '65, JRN'66's *Great Books: My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf, and Other Indestructible Writers of the Western World*. It recounts Denby's experience when, at 48, he returned to Columbia and reenrolled in Lit Hum and CC. The book is funny and poignant, and both the literary discussion and Denby's observations of the students and professors evoke lovely, inspiring and sometimes awkward memories.

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Many of us recently enjoyed a wonderful 25th reunion celebration (disclosure: I am writing this in March to meet a deadline), full of interesting and fun events. Let's take a few minutes to recognize some of our hard-working classmates who, as part of the Reunion Committee, helped put the weekend together. In reverse alphabetical order.

**Noreen Whysel**: "I am the community manager for the OWASP Foundation, which funds web application security projects worldwide. I also serve on the board of GISMO and am working

on developing a public-private geospatial institute in NYC. We recently organized presentations and discussions between geodata startups and government agencies and hosted a breakfast for tech executives and senior members of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, including NSA director Robert Cardillo. I earned an M.S.L.I.S. from Pratt in 2014 and have started running Wikipedia editathons in my spare time. My daughters are in high school and the oldest has started receiving college acceptance letters."

**Carol S. Shahmoon** LAW'92 became a partner in Shahmoon & Ellisen, a New York City law firm focusing on corporate transactions, technology companies, hedge funds and civil litigation. Joining her brother, Eli Shahmoon '87, and Hays Ellisen, Carol spends the bulk of her time on shareholder representative litigation and consumer class actions.

**Jeff Rake** is executive producer/showrunner for *The Mysteries of Laura* on NBC.

**Paulette Light** is co-founder of Momstamp.com, a social recommendation platform that recently launched in Los Angeles. She and her husband have four kids, ages 9–16.

**Justin Abelow** LAW'95 has failed to kick the dust from this crazy old town off his feet and now lives on the Upper East Side with his family, including Mopsy the Wonder Dog, a possibly mildly deranged cockapoo that Justin fears might not get along well with Roaree the Lion. A meeting between the two seems somewhat possible, as Justin's two children have become avid Columbia basketball fans.

Because the Class of 1990 loves a reunion, several committee members hosted pre-reunion events to get the party started.

**Rachelle Selmon** shares, "The Los Angeles pre-reunion event on March 14 was a great success, with more than 60 attendees (including guests) from the CC, Barnard and Engineering Classes of 1988–1992. It was hosted by myself, **Dave Javdan**, **Rich Yaker** SEAS'90 and **Vicki Curry** BC'90. Our class was well represented with 13 folks!

"Dave's parents hosted the party at their beautiful Beverly Hills home, and the hosts provided endless food — passed hors d'oeuvres, tables of appetizers, tables of entrees and tables of desserts. Everyone had a great time catching up, and while the party was supposed to be 7–10 p.m., many lingered until closer to midnight!

"I hope I don't miss anyone in this list of classmates who attended! On hand were **Jeffrey Berk**, **Julie Bibb**, **Sheri Bonstelle**,

**Gina Fattore**, **Victor Fischberg**, **Marc Furstein**, **Chris Heck**, **Dave Javdan**, **Mike Knopoff**, **Peter Quiros**, **Claudine Wolas Shiva** and **Richard Weil**. Rather than walk around with a pen and paper, I passed around a notebook and asked people to write a couple of lines. Unfortunately, I wasn't relentless enough and didn't get everyone. But I'll start with myself; I last shared a Class Notes update after driving cross-country to settle in L.A. I quickly had job offers in hand and started at CGI, a technology consulting firm, in July 2013. A month later I bought a condo four blocks from the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., and basically, I've been living the dream ever since!"

Here's what others wrote in the notebook:

**Claudine Wolas Shiva**: "After going to an awesome school, I worked for the State Department, then became a photographer, then moved to electronics and developed and launched products for Epson. Now I have two beautiful children, Lella (10) and Taiya (8), and a fabulous husband, Nima, whom I met at business school. I now do strategic planning and marketing for Epson."

**Hyun Bae** SEAS'90: "Living in L.A. Raising three daughters with my wife and working at Cedars-Sinai."

**Michael Knopoff**: "Principal at Santa Monica-based Montalba Architects. Send a big shout-out to all my great classmates!"

**Peter Quiros**: "Neuro-ophthalmologist. My partner, Peter, and I are starting renovations on our home in Venice, and we have a home in Palm Springs as well. We have a dog named Sierra."

**Jeffrey Berk**: "Still living the life of a rock star producer. Oldest daughter (Emily) was bat mitzvahed in June and youngest (Francesca) is in fourth grade and an aspiring artist. I am happy to be very healthy and fitness-focused after being a couch potato watching his own TV shows for too long."

**Victor Fischberg**: "I'm an actor in L.A. and I recently appeared on an episode of *The Mysteries of Laura*!"

Victor shared a tidbit about **Elizabeth Rodgers**, who is gathering research for her next film project in Haiti (when she's not raising two kids in Idaho!).

**Richard Weil**: "I've lived in L.A. since 2004 and I'm lucky to have 12- and 9-year-old daughters. I regularly see some classmates (hi, **Peter Sheehy** and **Janice Min!**) and I keep in touch with many others."

**Gina Fattore**: "I'm a TV writer/producer currently writing an episode of the Showtime series *Masters of Sex*. I have many other

credits but I leave them off my resume so I don't seem ancient."

**Julie Bibb Davis**: "Attorney for the federal courts, live in the Bay Area and am a mom of two girls (16 and 13)."

On March 15, a small group of CC'90ers, including **Isaac-Daniel Astrachan** (orchestrator of the event), **Margaret Flynn Robison** and **Francis Phillip** and their families, braved the cold weather and gathered at Yankee Stadium to watch the inaugural home game of Major League Soccer's new team, New York City FC. Except for the chilly weather, it was a fantastic evening, with Spanish superstar David Villa scoring the first goal and assisting on the second as NYCFC won 2–0 against the New England Revolution in front of an enthusiastic crowd of 43,000.

At the end of February, Doug Wolf '88, CCAA president, and his wife, **Sherri Pancer Wolf**, held an alumni event at their Boston home. **Mike Cashton**, **Dave Terry** and **Christine Albertelli** SEAS'90 came to toast the upcoming 25th reunion. Local Columbians **Eli Neusner** '89; **Emily Miles Terry** '89; **Stephanie Neal-Johnson** '89; **Amy Bardack** '89 and her husband, **Jared Magnani** '91; and **Aimee Revengo** SEAS '89 also turned out to share some blue martinis. In addition, **Jonathan Bassett** '88, **Rupert Burtan** SEAS'88, **Nilesh Undavia** '88 and **Frank Schnur** '88 battled 7-ft. Boston snowbanks to be there.

In the non-reunion world, we welcome back to the US of A **Nancy Pak** BUS'95! For the last seven years Nancy had lived and worked abroad for Colgate-Palmolive, traveling all over Asia and Central Europe. She and her husband, **Jim**, and their kids, **Cece** and **Ryan**, lived in Thailand, then Poland, and in February moved to Maine (it's much colder than Poland, she reports); there she is leading Tom's of Maine as its new general manager. Nancy was looking forward to the reunion.

There I was, minding my own business on St. Patrick's Day, listening to my local NPR station, WAMU, when who do I hear being interviewed but **Steve Winick**, folklorist and musicologist extraordinaire, talking about bagpipes, their origins and St. Patrick's Day music.

Congratulations to **Blondel Pinnock**, who was promoted in September to chief lending officer of Carver Federal Savings Bank, the largest publicly traded minority-run institution in the country, and appointed in January by New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio to the Community Investment Advisory Board.

Thanks to all of my contributors to this column. Isn't it fun to see your name in print? Stay tuned for

news from the spring reunion in the Fall CCT's Class Notes.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 2–5, 2016**  
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Greetings to all! **Julie Mullen Cross** recently sold her first screenplay, though she isn't able to divulge details yet. She teaches English to adults in Los Angeles and is happily married to **Jeff Cross**, with whom she has one child.

**Jennifer Ashton** PS'00 writes, "I split my career time between my private gynecology practice and medical media; regarding the latter, I'm the ABC News senior medical contributor for *Good Morning America* and co-host of the Emmy-award winning medical show *The Doctors*. I am committed to improving women's health literacy via my media platforms and because of the widespread interest in the impact of food on health and disease, I am pursuing a master's in clinical nutrition at Columbia, alongside my father, Dr. Oscar Garfein '61, PS'65. I am also preparing to serve as the moderator of an American Heart Association's annual State of Women's Heart Health national webinar, featuring U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services **Sylvia Burwell**."

**Hylarie Kochiras** is a European Institutes for Advanced Study fellow at Istituto di Studi Avanzati di Bologna, having held a Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Fernand Braudel-IFER postdoctoral fellowship during 2014 at the host institution École Normale Supérieure de Paris. Her recent publications include "The Mechanical Philosophy and Newton's Mechanical Force" (*Philosophy of Science*) and "Causal Language and the Structure of Force in Newton's System of the World" (*HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science*). She was a speaker at the tercentenary symposium celebrating Newton's General Scholium, held at the University of King's College, and her associated article will appear in a book.

It was great hearing from these three classmates and I would love to hear from more of you! You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT



webform college.columbia.edu/  
cct/submit\_class\_note.

Until next time, cheers!

**92** **Olivier Knox**  
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Congrats are in order to two CC'92ers who wrote in this time around! And for our other classmates, please send me your updates. These Notes do not write themselves! You can always reach me at the addresses at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**Jennifer Fredricks** has been promoted to full professor of human development at Connecticut College. She specializes in motivation, adolescent development and extracurricular participation; her first book, *Eight Myths of Student Disengagement: Creating Classrooms of Deep Learning*, came out in March. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, Harvey, and boys, Jacob (10) and Dylan (7). In her free time, she swims with a local masters team and does long-distance running.

My old friend **Joe Schwartz** wrote in to finally reveal himself as a supervillain, or at least as "hacker in residence" at the Columbia Startup Lab. His announcement proclaims him "a true hacker at heart," which should have been obvious to anyone in the Columbia University Marching Band 20 (cough) or so years ago. This tidbit stood out: "For fun, I tinker with LEGO robotics and Google Chrome plugins; I also recently launched a mobile conch simulator for iOS and Android.

"I live in Brooklyn with my girlfriend, Natalie, the former president of Gotham Girls Roller Derby, and a slightly overweight cat named Wally."

**93** **Betsy Gomperz**  
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Classmates, I know it was a long, long, long winter for many of you — but take heart; it's nearly summer!

As for reports of how we whiled away those winter hours, skiing was a great escape for those of us on the East Coast, and I had the pleasure of having a handful of Columbia sightings while in Vermont at Okemo. During Christmas break I ran into George Takoudes '91, who was there with his family;

in February, my husband and I had a visit from **Thad Sheely** and his family; and most recently we caught up with **Krista Bassett Briano**, her husband, Juan, and their sons, Jack, Nicholas and Sebastian, while they were on vacation.

I wish I had more news to report but that depends on all of you — please submit updates! You can send them to either address at the top of the column or use the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**94** **Leyla Kokmen**  
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From the West Coast, a nice note arrived from **Paul Bollyky**, who is doing well and enjoys teaching at Stanford; his lab works on immune regulation in asthma and autoimmunity.

Paul recently got together with **Mason Kirby**, "who lives up the road in San Francisco. We watched the episode he starred in of the BBC car reality show *Mud, Sweat, and Gears*. In it, they rebuilt a Pontiac Aztek and took a Chevy Suburban on a series of end-of-the-world, Carmaggedon-type challenges."

As it turns out, Mason designed Paul's recent house remodel, "so we've had lots of time to hang out this past year."

**Steve Cohen** is a sports medicine orthopedic surgeon at the Rothman Institute in Philadelphia and an associate professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. In addition, he is a team physician for the Philadelphia Phillies, Philadelphia Flyers and Saint Joseph's University. He and his wife, Kathleen, have been married for 13 years and have three children: Alexa (10), Will (8) and Ty (6). Steve writes, "I am active coaching all of them in baseball and soccer, and couldn't be happier."

Sending in his first update is **Adam Brothers**. He and his wife, Caroline, recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary and welcomed a daughter, Alexis, who joins Zachary (7). They live in Hoboken, N.J.

Adam shared some of his journey since graduation. He worked in technology and product development for large and small companies until 2001, earned an M.B.A. from NYU in 2003 and then, after working in mergers and acquisitions and venture capital, decided to live an entrepreneurial life: "I co-founded an ad tech company called Cold Creek Technologies, and I'm a founding partner in a management consulting firm, the 614 Group,

which works with companies that grapple with digital content monetization business models (for example, publishers, ad agencies, ad tech vendors, ad networks and content aggregators). I lead the corporate development practice advising digital media and technology firms on strategic finance and operational issues."

He says the work gives him the opportunity to showcase what he learned in his M.B.A. program as well as to leverage his Columbia education by talking about a range of topics, including history, economics, religion and art.

Adam also took a moment to remember Henry Sieff '97, his friend and Carman 11 suitemate, who died five years ago. "He was simultaneously a truly superior intellect, a goofball and a great pal," Adam writes. "One of the things that I've come to appreciate from my time at Columbia was being able to walk into a room and be surrounded by a concentration of talented people who weren't insecure about their capabilities and thus took an expansive view of the world. Henry was another example of that. In my experience, that environment was unique to Columbia. It doesn't exist in the wild."

I'll leave you with Adam's thoughtful words about Henry and Columbia. Thanks to everyone for writing in. For the rest of you, please send your own news, remembrances or random thoughts. I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**95** **Janet Lorin**  
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By the time this column comes out, we will already have experienced our 20-year reunion. Watch for news from the big weekend in the next column. And if you've never written in to Class Notes, consider this a good time to send an update. You can reach me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Thanks to **Edgar Papazian** for filling us in on his architecture career, now set in the Hamptons. He lives in Sag Harbor, N.Y., with his wife, Michelle, and their daughters, Giovanna (4) and Beatrice (less than a year). You can see Edgar's work by Googling him. A house he designed was used as a set for the television show *Portlandia* and

was also featured on the British television show *Extreme Homes*. He won the Moleskine Grand Central Terminal Sketchbook Competition a few years ago and he teaches drawing at the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill, N.Y. "We are renovating a tiny A-frame house in Sag Harbor, using a progressive sustainable certification called 'Passive House,'" he writes.

Also in New York, **Ryan Poscablo** was recently promoted to partner at the law firm of Schiff Hardin. He earned a master's in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and a law degree from Fordham. "I clerked for two U.S. district judges and was an associate at Weil, Gotshal & Manges," Ryan writes. "I then became an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, where I worked for six years." He left the Southern District to join Schiff Hardin as a partner in the litigation and white-collar group. Ryan met his wife, Christine, at Fordham; they live in Brooklyn and have three kids, ages 6, 4 and less than a year.

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**96** **Ana S. Salper**  
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Greetings, classmates!  
**Stephane Gruffat** works at Credit Suisse in London, where he lives with his family (he has two sons, aged 8 and 4). He enjoys work, particularly now that the most difficult moments of European debt crisis are behind us. He sees **Nick Kukrika** occasionally in London and stays in contact with **Mark Levine**.

**Elie Levine** and **Jody Alpert Levine** have been working together at Plastic Surgery & Dermatology of NYC, their full-service plastic surgery (Elie) and dermatology (Jody) practice, for more than seven years. They have five children: Skyler (17), Jasmine (15), Caitlin (12), William (7) and Jack (4 months).

After graduation, **Chris Gwiazda** worked his way down Manhattan for business school at NYU then across the Hudson to Rutgers for law school. He spent eight years in finance at HBO and eventually left NYC for the West Coast. Chris has been the CFO of a number of media and entertainment companies and

he is currently at Tongal, a crowd-sourced video content creation platform company. He lives in Santa Monica, Calif., with his wife and two kids ("CC'31 and CC'33 for the admissions folks").

**Carter Burwell** lives in McLean, Va., with his wife and three kids and is counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Elena Conis** is an assistant professor in the history department at Emory. As a historian of medicine and public health, her research focuses on the history of disease prevention, medical research and the relationship between environmental movements and health in the 20th- and 21st-century United States. Her first book, *Vaccine Nation: America's Changing Relationship with Immunization*, was excerpted by *The Atlantic* and named a book of the week by *Nature* and *Times Higher Education*. She is working on a second book, on the history of the pesticide DDT and the evolution of health values and environmentalism in the United States.

Prior to joining the history department, Elena was a visiting assistant professor in Emory's anthropology department, a senior fellow in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory and an award-winning health columnist for *The Los Angeles Times*.

**Susannah Gopalan** (née Vance) and her husband, Arun, welcomed their daughter, Uma Jane, in October. Susannah and her family are having a great time with Uma. Susannah is a partner at Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell in Washington, D.C. She has been practicing there since 2011 and focuses on health care regulatory work. She and her husband have lived in the Capitol Hill neighborhood for many years.

That's all for now — keep the notes coming!

"Be the change you want to see."  
— *Mahatma Gandhi*

**97** **Sarah Katz**  
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**John Dean Alfone's** latest project, a 1950s period piece about two U.S. Marine veterans of the Korean War who wander aimlessly throughout the American South/Southwest in search of meaning, continues to pick up momentum and was recently featured at Dallas VideoFest, which he helped program; it was featured in *Houston Press*.

**Zaharah Markoe** moved back to South Florida about a year ago, reencountered a high school crush and married him in January. In attendance at the wedding were **Jennifer Feldsher**, **Rushika Conroy**

(née Richards), **Matthew Wang** and **Judy Choe BC'97**.

**Joel Finkelstein** is director of strategic communications at Climate Advisers, a policy and politics consulting firm working to deliver a low-carbon economy. In that role, he has been developing and executing campaigns that have transformed global agriculture, leading to commitments from major commodity traders to end deforestation across their supply chains. These efforts were profiled in *The New York Times* and in financial media around the world. Joel lives in Alexandria, Va., with his wife, two children and a growing unease about our political system's ability to address global warming without structural reform.

**Gabrielle Fulton's** film *Ir/Reconcilable* had its broadcast premiere on HBO and is now available on HBO GO. Her play, *Uprising*, will premiere this summer at Horizon Theatre Company in Atlanta.

**Lia Johnson** completed an M.F.A. in directing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Asia in Singapore. She lives in Washington, D.C.

**Jennifer Northrop** lives in upstate New York, in Saratoga Springs. She had twin girls in December who are doing wonderfully and are the light of her and her husband's lives. Jennifer is a gastroenterologist in private practice working part-time (she returned to work in April). Her husband is a private practice oncologist. Alums who are in the area should please say hello, she says. "It is wonderful here in the summer during the horseracing season."

**Shivali Shah** is running for city council in Mt. Rainier, Md. An immigration and women's rights attorney, Shivali has lived in Mt. Rainier for 10 years. The election was on May 4.

**Matt Wang** and Elizabeth Battista were married on June 29, 2013. Matt is a director and deputy COO at Evercore, a leading U.S. independent investment bank. He works on game projects in his free time and lives in downtown Manhattan.

I wish everyone a lovely summer, and keep the updates coming! You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**98** **Sandie Angulo Chen**  
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Happy summer, Class of '98. I hope you are all well and that you will consider sending photos and updates. You can reach me at either address at the top of the column

or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Congratulations are in order for the Rev. **Ann Kansfield**, who made New York history on March 3. On that day Ann was named the FDNY's first female — and first openly gay — chaplain during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new FDNY facility in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

According to a March 3 *Daily News* article, FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro said, "The old expression, 'Sometimes the best man for the job is not a man,' certainly suits us here. I could say it's a godsend for the department that Ann came to us. And we couldn't be happier that she's one of our chaplains now, our newest chaplain. And it's a great step for the department."

Ann is the pastor of the Greenpoint Reformed Church and was sworn in on a family Bible held by her wife, Jennifer Aull, as daughter Grace (4) witnessed the ceremony. Ann is the fire department's eighth chaplain. The FDNY has six other Christian chaplains and one Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Alvin Kass '57.

"It's also quite exciting to suddenly have a congregation of 16,000," Ann said at the ceremony. "I look forward to caring for all of them."

Also in work news, Dr. **Jeannette Jakus** has joined the private dermatology practice of Brody Dermatology in Manhasset, N.Y. Jeannette is a board-certified dermatologist trained in the treatment of a full spectrum of skin disorders, with specialized expertise in pediatric dermatology. She is board certified in both pediatrics and dermatology.

Jeannette and her husband, **Ben Kornfeind**, and their children, Sam and Lily, live in Riverdale in the Bronx.

Congratulations, Jeannette!

**99** **Adrienne Carter** and **Jenna Johnson**  
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Thanks to everyone who reached out with warm tidings during the recent chilling winter. Here are the updates. We hope you enjoyed a beautiful spring, wherever you are.

This issue, we have news from two CC'99 couples.

**Bryan Carlson** and his wife, **Amy Carlson** (née Wilk), recently welcomed a second child to their family. Bryan says daughter Sloane Harlow has "immediately stolen our hearts as well as her big brother's."

Congratulations, Bryan and Amy! Meanwhile, the Rossi household is marking an impressive anniversary. **Amerigo Rossi** and **Monica Ortiz Rossi** will celebrate 20 years together in October; they met on the 12th floor in Carman Hall their first year at college. They have added two future Lions to our ranks — Kofi (Class of 2029) and Lincoln (Class of 2032). Amerigo is a professor at LIU and Monica is the active design coordinator at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Another classmate is also now married through a romance sparked in college. During an internship in London the summer after her first year at CC, **Maya Gupta** met George Carless; they were married in June 2013. Maya reports that while they were planning their wedding, they "moved out of the city of Atlanta and into the countryside north of town, where we took on the challenge of completing a partially built house that had been left standing for years. Planning a wedding while building a house wasn't quite enough stress for my taste, so I also switched jobs: I'm now the executive director of the Animals and Society Institute, which promotes positive relationships between people and animals, and provides training and resources to clinicians on working with animal abusers." Maya earned a Ph.D. at Georgia, with degrees in psychology and clinical psychology. She is the training director and past chair of the American Psychological Association's section on human-animal interaction. She serves on the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Animal Cruelty Advisory Council and on the steering committee of the National Link Coalition.

In another bit of kismet, **Jane Yanagawa** recently ran into **Charles Newcomer** for the first time since they were in Lit Hum together 20 years ago. Jane is a thoracic surgeon at UCLA; she saw Charles at the UCLA hospital, where he is a pediatrics chief resident.

**Jen Lin-Liu** JRN'00's most recent book, *On the Noodle Road*, about her travels from China to Italy, recently came out in paperback. By the time you read this, she'll have embarked on yet another travel adventure, as she planned to move to Havana, Cuba, in May with her husband, a Foreign Service officer.

That's all the news we've heard this time around. Send more updates soon! Any address at the top of the column will work, or write via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. We know you'll have some free time to catch up as you make your way through the hazy days of summer.



**00** **Prisca Bae**  
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I hope everyone had a terrific time at Alumni Reunion Weekend! The festivities took place too late to include news of them in this column but stay tuned for a report in the Fall issue. You can also send your recaps with favorite moments and anecdotes; or, for those who couldn't make it back to campus, catch us up on what's been happening with you! I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

In the meantime, I do have one note to share. **Kim Fisher Warren** says she's excited to head back to campus to start her E.M.B.A. at the Business School.

#### REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 2-5, 2016

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I hope everyone is enjoying a restful summer!

**David Shapiro** and his wife, Amy Shapiro BC'98 (née Gansell), welcomed a daughter, Veronica Lia, on March 13. David is a fine art appraiser at Victor Wiener Associates, and Amy is an assistant professor of art history at St. John's. They live in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Let's aim for more news next time! As you can see from the top of the column, we are gearing up for a reunion year. Let's start reconnecting sooner rather than later. I'd love to hear updates on your vacations, adventures and other summer doings. I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

**02** **Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
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In December — on 12/13/14, to be exact! — **Albert Lee SEAS'02**, BUS'07 asked Cara Killackey, the love of his life, to marry him, and she said yes.

**Mick Kaplan** got engaged to

Lacy Forrest in January. They live in Los Angeles and have a cat named Houdini. Mick works in development for NBC.

**Josh Reich** and his wife, Linda, live in Berkeley, Calif., and are thrilled to add a third member to their family, Noam Joseph. After finishing a post-doc at Princeton, Josh was hired by AT&T Labs Research to be embedded at the new research center that AT&T and Intel are funding at UC Berkeley's Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Department. Josh and Linda would love to catch up with classmates in the area; he can be reached at [josh.reich@gmail.com](mailto:josh.reich@gmail.com).

**Agnia Grigas** (née Baranauskaitė) is set to release two books, *Rebuilding the Russian Empire: Compatriots, Information and Hybrid Welfare* and *The New Geopolitics of Gas*. She is also relocating to Washington, D.C., from L.A.

**Goutom Basu SEAS'02** and his wife, Yohanita, are proud to announce that they welcomed a daughter on March 7.

**Kate Polson** and her husband, Brian Wallace SEAS'00, had their first child, Griffin Cosmo, in July. He was one of (at least) five babies born to Carman 6 alumni between May and October 2014!

After 11 years working at NYU, Kate rejoined the Columbia fold in January as the senior director of accounting and financial planning at the Nursing School.

Thanks to those who wrote in, and I hope everyone has a lovely summer. Why not tell the class about it? I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

**03** **Michael Novielli**  
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For all those living on the Eastern seaboard who were pummeled by one of the coldest winters in history, summer is finally here. I hope that all of you are basking in the sun and enjoying your favorite summertime pastimes while the weather is nice. Please send me your updates.

**Nicole Kwock** writes, "I am a senior manager at Deloitte and married my soulmate, whom I met at work. It was really cute. I sat next to the printer, and so he kept printing until I got really annoyed and finally looked up. We have a 1-year-old daughter who is the

love of my life."

**Christina Wright** was married last July 26 in Milwaukee. She is the director of public relations, social media, at the Museum of Wisconsin Art.

**Steve Ling** shares, "After the sad tragedy of my sister Jean's passing from colon cancer, I am enjoying life as an improv comedian and dream of making the upper echelon of the profession one day. But in the meantime, as I build up my 10,000 hours of practice, I host various shows each week and perform regularly in NYC. I am looking to launch my own school soon, as teaching is the best way to learn. For work, I enjoy being an Airbnb host, hosting travelers from around the world, as well as investing in stocks. This summer I look forward to hanging out outside and playing in the occasional basketball game."

In May, **Blair Morris** graduated from Fordham with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. She and her husband, Michael, have a daughter, Whitney (2).

**Sam Arora** writes, "My wife and I recently moved to the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C., and in November we had our first child — a son, David Jagdish Arora. He's already got a Columbia onesie, and I've begun reading *The Iliad* to him. We are thrilled and getting far less sleep than before but loving it."

**Yoni Appelbaum** shares, "After a decade in academia, I've relocated to Washington, D.C., to become a senior editor at *The Atlantic*, overseeing politics coverage for theatlantic.com. I'd love to reconnect with other alumni in the area." He can be reached at [yaa4@brandeis.edu](mailto:yaa4@brandeis.edu).

**Francis Lora** SW'09 writes, "As I recently posted on Facebook and LinkedIn, I have become a certified financial social worker through the Center for Financial Social Work, so I can now help individuals having financial difficulties and concerns 'create sustainable, long-term financial behavioral change.' This new skill set helps me to empower individuals to take control of and improve their financial lives."

**Peter Neofotis** went to Charleston, S.C., to perform his new solo show, *The Aviatrix*, opening weekend (May 22-24) at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

**Deepak Shrivastava** recently joined an early stage start-up in the luxury hospitality space. He writes, "It's an exciting time for me and I'm ecstatic to join the management team of Porter + Sail. We provide curated insiders' guides on where to wine and dine for the guests of our partner hotels. Our co-founders, Caitlin Zaino and Momo Nakamura BC'04, are travel and food industry veterans and

have built a beautifully designed, guest-facing mobile platform to aid premium boutique hotels in enhancing their concierge services."

In Singapore I recently caught up with a few Columbians: **Keneth Sim**, who is the director of strategic planning at the Singapore Workforce Development Agency; Elaine Han BC'03, who came to visit me and Jee Young Kim BC'03 and who is a teacher at Singapore American School; **Shaun Ting**, who travels to Los Angeles often to visit his brother, Yan Ting SEAS'06, who is pursuing an M.B.A. at USC; and **Pious "Pio" Jung SEAS'03**, who is based in Seoul but travels to Singapore on business often.

In Beijing news, **Bill Isler** recently opened a *baijiu* bar, Capital Spirits. For those who have not tried it, *baijiu* is a potent liquor — often made from sorghum and with alcohol concentration hovering around 50 percent — that is the national drink of China. While it's not as well known in the United States, in 2012 an estimated 10-17 billion liters of *baijiu* were produced, making it the most popular liquor in the world and selling more than double that of its largest competitor, vodka. According to the bar's website, [capitalspiritsbj.com](http://capitalspiritsbj.com), it "is the world's first bar dedicated to *baijiu* and craft liquor" and was "a winner of *Time Out Beijing's* 2014 Spirits Specialist Bar and Editor's Choice of Best Newcomer Bar in Beijing."

On the topic of alternatives to vodka, **Carter Reum's** Veev (a spirit made from acai) continues to do well. He and his brother, Courtney '01, recently launched a clever promotional video: [youtube.com/watch?v=X5p5jsfdCbK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5p5jsfdCbK). Or search YouTube for "Caught Cheating, Veev."

**04** **Angela Georgopoulos**  
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Hello fellow CC'04 alumni!

I hope this fresh batch of updates finds you well. As usual, here's your reminder to send in news — don't be shy! Feel free to email me at [aeg90@columbia.edu](mailto:aeg90@columbia.edu) or via CCT's web submission form [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Now, onto the news!

Congratulations to **Alex Young**, who married journalist Katherine Davis last June in Santa Barbara, Calif., and is completing a Ph.D. in English at Southern California this June.

**Crystal Proenza** writes, "I recently moved back to the tri-state area after working for Colliers International South Florida for five



**Harmony Davis '05** married **Fareed Melhem '05** in San Diego last July. Columbians in attendance were, left to right: **Sam Morrell '06**, **Robbie Gorczyca '05**, **Nick Summers '05**, **Sam Goldberg '05**, **Yinon Ravid '05**, **Hubert Lin SEAS'05**, **Tim Chou SEAS'05**, **Joyce Kim '05**, **Larissa Brewer Garcia '05**, **Robert Gross '05**, **T.J. Morhouse '05**, the groom, the bride, **Anssi Halonen SEAS'05**, **Stephanie Bagley '05**, **Ruben Harutunian '05**, **Stephanie Benecchi '05** (née Katsigiannis), **Kevin Benecchi SEAS'05**, **Jennie Lin BC'04**, **Michael Camacho '05**, **Mark Maxfield SEAS'05**, **Alice Maxfield BC'05** (née Zhao), **Anil Kumar '05**, **Maia Sidon '05** (née Selinger) and **Stephanie Da Silva '12**.  
Not pictured: **Andreea Stefanescu LAW'07**.

PHOTO: KURT BOOMER

years. (Our son is 2, so my husband and I decided it was time to move home.) I was promoted from VP of marketing for South Florida to director of public relations for Colliers International. I work out of the New York office."

**Jessica Backus** was recently named director of the Art Genome Project at Artsy, an online resource for collecting and discovering art. The Art Genome Project is the classification system and technological framework that powers Artsy and maps the characteristics that connect artists, artworks, architecture and design objects across history.

**Nyia Noel** is in Boston doing a minimally invasive gynecologic surgery fellowship at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

**Sivan Kinberg** has been back at Columbia for three years. He is finishing his fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology as well as an M.A. in biomedical informatics. He says, "I am excited to be staying at Columbia as an assistant professor in pediatric gastroenterology and as the director of the pediatric intestinal rehabilitation program."

In February, **Ashley Cliff Jennings** sold her first venture, *Girmade*, a female-led accelerator program and media company that helps companies that have at least one female founder with branding and strategy. She has since started Parlor Shows, which focuses on empowering musicians to earn more money by serving as a marketplace that connects performers to people who have space for concerts in either their houses or backyards.

*L for Leisure*, an independent feature film by **Lev Kalman** and

**Whitney Horn**, was scheduled to have a theatrical run in New York in May.

**Adam Gidwitz** will offer a new take on a sci-fi classic in his book *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back: So You Want To Be A Jedi?* It's set to publish in July.

**Joshua Arthur** and his wife welcomed their first child, Fritz, in December. In May, Joshua graduated from Carnegie Mellon with an M.B.A. and with plans to join Deloitte Consulting in Philadelphia as part of its strategy and operations group.

**Natalya Hasan-Hill** and her husband, Egan Hill '03, LAW'06, live in Woodside, Calif., and welcomed their son, Atesh Emerson Hasan Hill, to the family in September.

Congrats, Joshua and Natalya! **Jonah Paquette** writes, "A few months ago I married Kelly on a beautiful beach in Kauai, Hawaii; **Patrick O'Grady** was one of my groomsmen. We bought our first home a few months ago as well and live in Marin County, Calif. I work in the Bay Area as a clinical psychologist at Kaiser Permanente and recently had my first book published; it's called *Real Happiness: Proven Paths for Contentment, Peace & Well-Being*. I have such fond memories of my time at Columbia and hope all my classmates are doing great!"

**David Kieval** sent his news as well: "After three years in Denver completing a clinical psychology internship at Children's Hospital Colorado and a fellowship at University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, my family and I made a momentous return

to the East Coast this past fall. We are excited to be closer to friends and family and also about my job as a psychologist in the Developmental Medicine Center at Boston Children's Hospital.

"My wife, Emily TC'12, and I welcomed our second child, Yonatan, last July, just a couple of months before the move. Our first, Mira (3), has become a sledding aficionado."

**Vivian Lim** and **Jonathan Liu** were married in 2009 at the New York Hall of Science at Flushing Meadows, with **Jane Paik**, **Kim Song**, **Jon Tse SEAS'04**, **Bernard Lin SEAS'04**, **Joe Choi** and **Yoku Kiuchi** in the bridal party. Also helping celebrate were **MiHae Song**, **Jing Cai SEAS'04**, **Michael Minkyu Lee '02**, **Kenny Ho SEAS'04**, **Kevin Ho SEAS'04**, **Tim SooHoo SEAS'04**, **Wonsoo Byun SEAS'04** and **David Lee SEAS'12**.

Vivian and Jonathan spent three years in New York and six years in Philadelphia post-graduation and are ecstatic to have moved back to the best city in the world a year ago. Viv taught high school math in Brooklyn with NYC Teaching Fellows and now is finishing a Ph.D. in education from Penn (degree expected this year). Jon works at PwC as a consultant/auditor focused on consumer finance/mortgage banking.

They add, "We recently moved to Prospect Lefferts Gardens in Brooklyn and welcomed our first child, Josslyn Eunbin Liu, on September 2. Now we have four girls in the family including our dogs, Darla and Mikayla."

Congrats, Viv and Jon! Thanks to everyone who sent

in news, and keep sending your updates!

**05** **Claire McDonnell**  
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The real story for the Class of 2005 is our recent 10-year reunion. Even though CCT's deadlines are such that I had to submit this column beforehand, I feel confident in saying it was a treat to catch up with classmates from around the world. Look for the full report in the Fall issue. I'm already looking forward to 2020!

In the meantime, here's the latest (babies and cool jobs seem to be a theme for us right now).

**Jonathan Treitel** is a portfolio manager for a mutual fund outside of Philadelphia. His wife, Stephanie Feldman BC'05, is the author of *The Angel of Losses*, a novel that will be released in paperback this fall.

**Michael Vary** and **Jaclyn Vary '06** (née Matayoshi) welcomed their third child, Michaela Anne, on February 11.

**Ben Harwood** has been in New Orleans for six years focusing on public, private and nonprofit Hurricane Katrina recovery housing. He is also the proud owner of the Historic Ursulines Cottage B&B in the heart of the Tremé neighborhood, the birthplace of jazz. In his spare time he produces free public music festivals like Jazz in the Park ([pufap.org](http://pufap.org)). Email [harwoodb@gmail.com](mailto:harwoodb@gmail.com) if you're planning a trip to NOLA!





Stef Spinelli '06 and Geoff Dolan were married on November 15 in New York City. Celebrating were, left to right: Courtney Robinson '06, Maggie Jenks-Daly '06, Michael DeFazio '06, Kelly Robinson '10, Carrie Anderer '06, Clare Mellet BC'06, Maria Cusick '06, Courtney Horwitz '06 (née Nasshorn), Shay Murphy '06, the bride, the groom, Andrew Walther '07, Michael McAndrew '06, Yooley Kim BC'05, Samantha Settembre '06, Alex Ehrhart '06, Colby Blitz SEAS'06, Michael Tamola SEAS'04 and Arun Ramachandran SEAS'06.

PHOTO: GLEN ALLSOP, CHRISTIAN OTH STUDIO

**John Zaro** writes, “My wife, Natalie BC’04 (née Leggio), and I are excitedly celebrating the first birthday of our son, Adrian.”

**Jennie Magiera** says, “I live in Chicago with my husband, **Jim Magiera**, an attorney at a firm downtown. I’ve been keeping busy as a digital learning coordinator in the Chicago Public Schools, speaking and working on the National Education Technology Plan for the U.S. Department of Education. I recently signed two contracts — one to write a book on innovation in the classroom and the other to become the chief technology officer at Des Plaines public schools. Exciting times!”

**Pedro Rivero**, who also holds a SEAS’04 degree, writes, “I’m married with two fun and intensely active boys (2 and 9 months)! Working for a metals/mining company in Mexico. Learning to fly helicopters and do aerial photography. Still trying to sell the concepts of Contemporary Civilization to our backward government.”

**Max Shterngel** reports, “I am a lawyer at Arent Fox, where I focus on complex litigation. I’m also an adjunct professor of legal writing at Brooklyn Law. I live in Williamsburg with my girlfriend, Lena. If you want to play Wednesday night trivia with Columbians, hit me up at iammaxim@gmail.com.”

**Natasha Shapiro** announces, “My husband and I welcomed our second daughter, Evie, in December.”

**Stephan Kadauke** says, “I went on to Penn for a combined M.D. and Ph.D., and I am a resident physician at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.”

**Allison Sturm Miller** says, “My husband, Jeffrey Miller, and I welcomed a son, Darren George, on November 21.”

**Eileen Lee** writes, “I’ve been working at and building Venture for America, a nonprofit startup, for more than four years and have been working closely with Columbia through career services and student organizations to source interns for our organization and future fellows for our program.”

**Alfia Muzio** announces, “I’ve joined the cannabis industry, leading business development efforts for the NYC-based cannabis startup iAnthus Capital Management.”

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**JUNE 2-5, 2016**

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Happy summer, Class of 2006! Here are some updates from our classmates.

**Andrew Liebowitz** recently assumed the position of manager, aviation financial services, at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

**Radha Ram** writes, “I’m excited to start my fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston this summer. Though four years in Chicago finally taught me that 20 degrees is balmy, I’m looking forward to reconnecting with my Texan roots.”

**Stef Spinelli** and **Geoff Dolan** were married on November 15 in New York City.

**Jonathan Ward** writes, “Recently returned to the United Kingdom after a year in China and India and am in the final year of my doctorate in China-India relations at Oxford. Spent a bit of time in mergers and acquisitions this winter in New York City and at International Petroleum Week in London, which was great fun and very informative.”

**Megan Browder** graduated from Yale Law School in May.

**I, Michelle (Oh) Sing**, and my husband, Alan, welcomed our first child, Katherine (Kate) Jiyoung, on January 5. We are amazed by how quickly time flies and are trying to savor every moment!

Write me with news of your summer highlights. As you can see from the top of the column, we are heading into a reunion year, and there’s no time like the present to start reconnecting. I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**07** **David D. Chait**  
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Thank you so much to everyone who has submitted notes during the past eight years! It has helped keep our class close, and congratulations to each of you on your successes.

For the Winter 2015–16 issue of CCT, I thought we could take a look back and talk about our favorite Columbia eateries. Send me a note sharing yours and describing why you liked it, at any time. And of course, keep the rest of your news coming as well! I can be reached at either of the above addresses or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Here are some exciting updates.

**Mark Keller** writes, “After two years in sunny Miami, I’ve moved to London to start a role as economist/editor, Latin America, at the Economist Intelligence Unit. I’m excited and grateful for this opportunity and for what life in this new city has to offer!”

**Jami Jackson** was awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in 2014 to support her pursuit of a Ph.D. in statistics at NC State. She is also planning to get married in Jamaica in July to the love of her life!

**James Mahon** reports, “I’m excited to be finishing my Ph.D. this spring. I’ve accepted a job with Deloitte and will move to New York City mid-summer. I look forward to catching up with old friends when I’m back in the Big Apple!”

**08** **Neda Navab**  
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It was quiet this past quarter; I have just a few updates to share.

During the past three years, **Naijun (Grace) Yang** has become increasingly involved in the team slam poetry scene in New York. Last July, her team, the California Underground New Troupe, placed second in the National Slam Poetry group contest, held in Oakland, Calif., with the following poem:

my hand  
satan’s blood is black with heaven  
a broken message  
rebecca’s chest is black with hell  
where have you gone  
darkness

**Alycia Cullen** (née Monopoli)

is a small-animal emergency veterinarian in Atlanta. She and her husband, Ralph Cullen, welcomed their first child, Everett, in October.

**Helen Juden** married Bradley Sherwood in New Haven, Conn., on October 31. The ceremony was performed at Battell Chapel on Yale’s old campus and concluded with a Halloween-themed costume ball at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale. Bridesmaid **Blakely Low** was in attendance with fellow Lions **Todd Fairbanks ’07**, **Allie Vespa**, **TJ DeFilippo** and **Alex Godshall ’11**, along with the groom’s parents, Roger and Diane Sherwood SW’79, and the groom’s former tennis doubles partner, **Akshay Rao ’06**. The couple honeymooned in Bali and resides in Stamford, Conn.

This column is in need of your news! You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**09** **Alidad Damooei**  
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Your Class Notes writer, **Alidad Damooei**, is proud to announce that he married **Lauren Gentry ’10**, BUS’16 in January. We had a multi-cultural wedding featuring both Catholic and Persian ceremonies over a warm southern California weekend. Many of our friends from Columbia joined us to celebrate, among them **Jill Byeff ’10**, **Jennifer Choi**, **Nicole Curatola ’10**, **Donna Desilus**, **Dave Gentry LAW’09**, **Raph Graybill ’10**, **Ashley Hauser ’10**, **Matt Heiman**, **Jon Hollander ’10**, **Kate Insel ’10**, **Sara Lebovitz ’10**, **Tina Loveland SEAS’10**, **Meagan Scales ’10**, **Phil Snyder SEAS’10** and **Ahmed Suria BUS’15**.

The Columbia Lion love child of **Anna Vlasits** (née Corke) and **Justin Vlasits ’11** was born on February 8. His name is **Arthur Rainier**. Anna and Justin continue to pursue graduate degrees at UC Berkeley in neuroscience and philosophy, respectively, so Arthur is technically also a Cal Bear love child, or at least a child of their staid, four-year-old marriage.

**Tom Faure** earned an M.F.A. in creative writing in January from the Vermont College of Fine Arts low-residency program. Meanwhile, he has continued to teach English and philosophy at the French-American School of New York. Tom recently scored a promotion at FASNY and will teach part-time while serving in an administrative role. A contribu-



Samantha Feingold '07 and Jonathan Criss were married on August 31, 2014, at The Pierre in New York City. Left to right: Brandon Arbiter SEAS'06, Caroline Camp, David Whittemore '06, the bride, the groom, Ricardo Calmon SEAS'06 and Emilia Allonso.

PHOTO: 4EYES PHOTOGRAPHY

tor to *Numéro Cinq Magazine*, he writes weird stories and fairy tales when not busy brainwashing high school students about the virtues of the liberal arts.

I hope everyone has a fantastic summer. Don’t forget to tell me about it! I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**10** **Julia Feldberg**  
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I hope those who attended our five-year reunion in May had a fantastic time catching up with classmates. Stay tuned for a full recap in the Fall issue!

I unfortunately couldn’t be there, and was disappointed to miss it, but Class Notes is the perfect forum to share some of my own news. This fall, I will move from New York back to my hometown of Boston to attend Harvard Business School. I’m excited to be near my family, and even more excited to be at school once again with my sister, **Allie ’08**, who is getting her Ph.D. in organization behavior at Harvard. We may even graduate on the same day! To add to the excitement of this year, I recently got engaged and will spend the summer traveling, relaxing, cooking and wedding-planning.

**Matthew Amsterdam LAW’13** is enjoying his new job at Marcus & Millichap, a commercial real estate firm, where he is a loan originator and financing specialist.

**Kevin Bulger** writes, “I live in my hometown of Chicago and work for the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. NFTE is a global nonprofit that teaches entrepreneurship to students in low-income communities. All alumni should think about getting involved by volunteering in a classroom to help students develop their business plans. Additionally, I have started doing stand-up comedy and improv. My group, N20, recently had a four-week run at The Second City, which was incredibly exciting!”

**Frank Nestor** lives in Los Angeles and is working toward becoming a screenwriter.

**Veronica Couzo** clerks for the Hon. Julia S. Gibbons of the Sixth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals. Upon finishing her clerkship, Veronica and her fiancé will move to Chicago, where she will be an associate for Jones Day. Veronica is looking forward to her wedding in July and says she is fortunate to have **Khadeeja Safdar** and **Alana Sivin** among her bridesmaids.

As always, we conclude with the latest from **Chris Yim**: “There are some things that time cannot mend. Some hurts that go too deep.” I have this quote emblazoned in my mind and scripted on my body. If you’ve seen *The Lord of the Rings*, Frodo says this at the end of the third film. After having ridded himself and Middle Earth of the ring, he finds himself back at the Shire (his home), feeling this weight, a gaping wound concealed by a scar. His journey revealed to him the order of his world, the truth about humans and the wretchedness in his own heart. These were truths so informative, devastating in some ways, and illu-

minating that he could not (spoiler alert) simply return to and live in the Shire. How could he after all that he had seen?

“Where I’m going with this is that sometimes you have an experience that is so impactful, so crazy, so ridiculous, so emotion-inducing that it jolts you at your very core. Your assumptions and beliefs about humanity are challenged, and the lens through which you view the world changes a little bit. In my own life, these experiences often have left me more jaded than I previously was. They usually have to do with the way I think about people and how we treat one another. The past two years, as I’ve started, developed and worked on UClass, I’ve had my lens change. I’ve lost a little bit more innocence.

“Yet, it’s not all bad. I’m getting married to the girl of my dreams. Quick skinny about finding Mr./Mrs. Right — you really need only evaluate them on two things: Do you share the same values and want the same things out of life? Do you enjoy hanging out with him/her? In the past eight months of co-habitation, I’ve learned how annoying I can be. Props to Grace, my awesome fiancée, for putting up with me. Sometimes, love is a matter of finding someone who can put up with you.

“My other partner is **Varun Gulati SEAS’10**. I have to give him a shout-out because, as much as I contend with the thought that people are really selfish and self-interested, I must also remember that I meet genuinely good people along the way who restore my faith in humanity and remind me why they make cheesy movies with feel-good endings. I sort of keep





Alidad Damooei '09 and Lauren Gentry '10 were married in January in Southern California. Front row, left to right: the bride and groom; second row, left to right: Tina Loveland SEAS'10, Ashley Hauser '12, Kristen Baus, Jill Byeffer '10, Meagan Scales '10, Elissa Wilson and Sam Yousefian; and third row, left to right: Jon Hollander '10, Adam Potischman, Joe Baus, Kiarash Darabi and Dave Gentry LAW'09.

PHOTO: ALEX NEUMANN PHOTOGRAPHY

him around because he'll laugh at all my jokes, but it's also because I couldn't have asked for a better bunkmate in an EC exclusion suite and hope to work with him for the rest of my life. Big thanks also to Justin Leung '09, who took a risk and made our first dream possible.

"Last tidbits: UClass was sold, and I now am a product manager for the organization that acquired us. I'm playing my first golf tournament in more than 10 years and will have a bachelor party in Colorado. I'm always keen to hear what interesting things people are working on, especially projects that build a better world and have a sustainable model. If your project is in need of support or collaboration, feel free to reach out: yim.christopher@gmail.com.

"Sorry for being so dark; the next one will be lighter!"

to keep your classmates updated by sending us email with announcements.

For example, **Dhruve Vasishtha** wrote that he and his girlfriend, Molly Spector BC'11, recently invited another couple to their Brooklyn Heights apartment to make mozzarella out of cheese curds. Dhruve wants it to be known that he profusely apologizes to his college self.

Switching gears to much less hipster announcements, several of our classmates are taking on new employment! **Katherine Duman** LAW'14 was recently admitted to both the New Jersey and the New York State Bar Associations. She began working at Debevoise & Plimpton, doing mergers and acquisitions, in October; it's her first legal job since finishing her law degree.

**Adina Rose Levin** became the executive director of the Catalan Institute of America, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization dedicated to strengthening the bonds between Catalonia and the United States. Adina is thankful for the Catalan language courses she took as an undergraduate. In her new role, she helps plan concerts, happy hours and large-scale events for anyone interested in Catalan language and culture in New York. Adina has made many contacts in Barcelona and the surrounding Catalan territories. If you're planning a trip around that amazing slice of land between the Mediterranean and the Pyrenees, or if you're at all interested in knowing more about what's going on in Catalonia, drop her a line at adina.rose.levin@gmail.com. *Fins aviat!* (Talk to you soon!)

Matthew Pruznick JRN'14 is an associate editor at NewBay Media in New York. There, he works with two magazines that focus on high-end audiovisual technology.

**Lauren Weiss** recently started as the director of PR and marketing communications at a start-up company, Divino, which makes gelato-filled fruits on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Much of Lauren's time is spent making sure Divino is at some of the biggest events around the country, including the Sundance Film Festival, Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week and the Armory Show (this also means Lauren got to participate in these events ... your correspondents are definitely jealous). If anyone is looking for a unique dessert for an event, feel free to get in touch: lauren@lovedivino.com.

While some of us started new jobs, **Bobby Brennan**, also SEAS'11, started a small software company in Boston. Called LucyBot, it was recently covered in an article on BostInno.streetwise.co; go there to read more, or check out the project at its source at lucybot.com.

**Nirav Chheda** completed his first year as an M.B.A. student at MIT Sloan School of Management. This summer, Nirav is working at Fiksu in Boston, where he will engage in product management.

A few of us are continuing to pursue the work that we started after graduation. **Mary Martha Douglas** is still at HBO managing new media and international research, so all of her political science

classes are now strictly applicable to *Veep* and *Game of Thrones* plot points. She thinks that the Class of 2011 should stop using their parents' HBO GO passwords and sign up for the new HBO NOW streaming service. (MMD says it's amazing, and she is not at all biased ...)

**Princess Francois** continues to teach chemistry at a Brooklyn public high school, which was her Teach For America placement school more than four years ago! Princess recently completed her second master's, in educational leadership, at Bank Street Graduate School of Education. She hopes to be a school leader in the near future, and is thrilled that education has become her passion since graduating.

**Annie Tan** still teaches in the Chicago Public Schools district, where she works with second- and third-grade students with autism and other developmental disabilities. Because she works with predominantly immigrant students — she would like to teach Cantonese-speaking students — Annie is working toward an ESL endorsement (essentially, a certification). That endorsement should be finished by the end of June, and Annie expects to complete her bilingual Cantonese endorsement by the end of 2017. She also works heavily with the Chicago Teachers Union on working conditions issues and special education. While she is always busy, Annie has made many friends in this new city that she calls home, and she welcomes CC'11 visitors with open arms.

**12 Sarah Chai**  
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I hope you are all enjoying these warmer months. I'm spending the summer studying for the bar exam, which means any and all CCT updates are welcome as a study distraction ... so please, send stories about your summer adventures!

Speaking of the bar exam, **Lizzy Foydel** and **Nida Vidutis** are both graduating from Stanford Law this year! Lizzy is excited to return to New York City for a fellowship at the Open Society Foundations, while Nida will be an associate at the San Francisco office of the law firm Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. They are still in denial about their 2012 graduation from Columbia and can't believe they'll be putting on caps and gowns again in June.

**Todd Nelson** and **Amirah Sequeira** recently connected in Cam-

bridge (where Amirah is studying) and traveled to Edinburgh as part of their blood pact to meet up wherever the other lives. Amirah already made the trek to Detroit, so Todd had to return the favor and go to the United Kingdom. He did so at the tail end of a three-month vacation, which he took after quitting his first job in Detroit. He writes, "Cheers, everyone!"

**Ian Scheffler** moved back to New York last fall after two years in Los Angeles. He's launched a career as a freelance writer, with bylines in *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian* and *The Los Angeles Times*. His first book, provisionally titled *Puzzling*, is due out in fall 2016 from Simon & Schuster. The book explores the world of competitive Rubik's Cube solving and the cube's cultural legacy. Ian lives in central Harlem and says he would love to connect with any Columbians uptown! Reach him at ian.f.scheffler@gmail.com.

**Connor Spahn** happily announces his engagement to Cecelia Brun Lie BC'11.

Congratulations!

**Stephanie Tecca**, who lives in San Francisco, started a job in February with Castlight Health, a technology company that works to make healthcare costs transparent to consumers. The weekend before Stephanie's new job began, she, **Rohit Iragavarapu**, **Kenny Durell**, **Anoushka Vaswani** and I got together for a delicious dinner at the family-style Italian restaurant Caffè Sport.

Stephanie, we all send you best wishes at your new job!

Remember, send in your summer stories! I can be reached at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**13 Tala Akhavan**  
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Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
talaakhavan@gmail.com

After a cold and lingering winter, I hope everyone is enjoying summer! With two post-college years under our belts, our class has been up to impressive things.

**Andrew Hitti** has launched a startup, Nibbly. Andrew describes it as a fast and fun mobile application that helps people find the best restaurants in their immediate vicinity "with the design of Tinder and personalization of Pandora." Users can swipe through cards of nearby restaurants to select a place to eat, simultaneously curating his/her personalized taste profile. Details such as location, hours of



Ali Hard '12 and Michael Weng SEAS'11 were married on July 4, 2014, in Groton, Conn. Back row, left to right: Ivy Fortmeyer '11, Samuel Beck '11, Louise Beck '11 (née Stewart), Kate Offerdahl '14, Brianna Morgan, Alex Lew and Nate Levick SEAS'12; second row, left to right: Ayo Alston-Moore '11, Markrete Krikorian '11 (hidden), Paul Lerner '11 and Jenna Lauter BC'13; third row, starting center: Zoe Lubitz '11, Kelly Sinn BC'11, Molly Conley '10 and Eugene Yao SEAS'11; and front row, left to right: Aviva Hamavid BC'13, Katie Hamm '12, Alyss Vavricka BC'12, the bride, the groom, Nikki Lugo SEAS'12, Melissa Bermudez and Carolyn Bykowski SEAS '11 (née Popplewell).

PHOTO: DON AND ROSIE JORGENSEN

operation, customer reviews and menus are included in the app.

Andrew originally planned to complete Columbia's 3-3 law program but after changing his major to computer science during his sophomore year, he joined a passionate group in founding the Application Development Initiative. After graduation, Andrew joined Venmo as a software engineer, then left in February 2014 to begin his entrepreneurial journey. He has taken advantage of many of Columbia's programs, such as the Columbia Venture Community and Columbia Startup Lab, where he attends events and discussions, to get Nibbly off the ground. Columbia's director of entrepreneurship, Dave Lerner, is an angel investor in Andrew's company and will enable Nibbly to hire an intern.

Andrew's work at Nibbly focuses on building and management. During time that he's set aside to code, he says, he builds more features into the product. Management days are those where the team sets up meetings, completes applications for competitions, sends cold emails and writes content for Nibbly's blog. Nibbly would appreciate peer feedback! Visit apple.co/1DgQBZD (the ".co" is correct!) and send your feedback within the app, if you're interested.

As we head into our third year out of college, it is important to stay connected to classmates and hear about what everyone is up

to. I encourage those of you who haven't submitted updates to Class Notes to do so, so our class and the Columbia community can hear about your accomplishments and experiences. Write me at either address at the top of the column or via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**14 Emily Dreibelbis**  
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I know that you are up to terrific things in your various corners of the world. Please write and tell us about them! I realize it's easy to stay in touch in many other ways, but this column offers us a little something different — the chance to stay connected as a class, to one another and to the Columbia community. I'm also told that Class Notes is the first-read and best-read section of CCT; let's do our part! As always, you can write me at either address at the top of the column or submit news via the webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

We did hear from one classmate this spring: **Aminadav Grossman** got engaged to Rachel Friedman '15 on January 19. At this writing,

they were set to be married on June 8 in Rachel's hometown of Teaneck, N.J., and planned to move to Israel in August. He promises, "Wedding pictures to come!"

**15 Kareem Carryl**  
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Congratulations to the newest Columbia alumni, the Class of 2015! After four years, we've made it here and I can't wait to see how far we'll go!

It has been my honor to get to know many of you through my role as the senior class president. Now, as your class correspondent, I'm thrilled to stay in touch and share all the happenings in our lives through Class Notes. Whether you're traveling around the world, starting a job, going off to do more schooling (as if Columbia wasn't enough!) or taking some time off to enjoy this new phase in your life, I want you to share with all of us in the Columbia family. Feel free to email me anytime, or simply provide an update via the CCT webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Have a safe and happy summer, wherever you are!





# Obituaries

1 9 3 2

**Saul D. Rotter**, retired physician, Palm Beach, Fla., on May 12, 2015. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on January 3, 1912, Rotter graduated from the Long Island College of Medicine and practiced in the Palm Beaches 1941–2002. A doctor of internal medicine, he set up a practice in the back of a Lake Worth drugstore one month before the attack on Pearl Harbor and opened his waiting room to black patients at a time when they typically were told to wait in the hallway. While chief of medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital in the late 1950s, Rotter advocated for the hospital to accept Medicare patients. In 2014, a 36-page biography of his history in health care, *Reflections on a Medical Career*, was published by Palm Beach Ghosts. In retirement, Rotter volunteered at The Gioconda and Joseph King Library / The Society of the Four Arts. In 2010, he was named one of Palm Beach’s Centennial Ambassadors as part of the town’s 100th anniversary celebration. Rotter’s wife of 39 years, Margaret, predeceased him in 1973. He is survived by his son, Stephen, and his wife, Janet; daughter, Patricia Rotter Barabas, and her husband, David; and one granddaughter. Memorial contri-

## 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.

butions may be made to MorseLife or Hospice by the Sea.

1 9 4 1

**Arthur S. Friedman**, engineer, Merrick, N.Y., on December 23, 2014. Friedman was born on April 17, 1921, in New York City. After Columbia, he attended Carnegie Tech and earned a degree in printing engineering. Friedman entered the Air Force in 1943, receiving his commission the same day he married Cynthia Rittenband BC’44. He served in England, France and Germany and was released with the rank of captain. Friedman rejoined Carey Press, the family business, becoming director of sales and engineering. At 52, he left to start Spindex, a company that used unique printing machinery he designed. At 61, he started ASF Associates Ltd. (dba ASF Lightware Solutions). The company produces the Beam n Read Hands-Free Lights, which he created and patented. Friedman received 30 patents during his career. Friedman was an active member of the Class of 1941: His family regularly attended football games and tailgated at Baker Field, and he and his wife attended every CC’41 reunion at Arden House through the 60th. Friedman was one of five alumni attending the 70th reunion in 2011. He is survived by his wife; children, Joan, Robert and Peter; and six grandchildren.

1 9 4 4

**Robert M. Palter**, retired professor, New Britain, Conn., on October 1, 2014. Palter was born on June 19, 1924, in Queens, N.Y. A graduate of Stuyvesant H.S., he earned a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1952 from Chicago, where he taught until 1964. Palter then accepted a tenured position at the University of Texas in both the philosophy and history departments. In 1983 he became the Charles A. Dana Professor of History of Science at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. His scholarly interests included art, food and literature. Palter retired from Trinity in 1992. He was a passionate lover of the arts and amassed a collection of more than 10,000 books, folk art from around the world, and more

than a thousand works on paper, contemporary prints in particular. Palter’s eclectic mix of published writings include *The Duchess of Malfi’s Apricots, and Other Literary Fruits* (2002), an 872-page work on fruit in literature and art. He is survived by his brother, David; children, Alex, Geoff, Jenny, Nick and Adam; one granddaughter; two former wives; and longtime companion, Sue Kamell.

1 9 4 7



Charles G. Wootton ‘47

**Charles G. Wootton**, retired diplomat, San Diego, on January 11, 2014. Prior to entering the Foreign Service, Wootton served in the elite branch of the Army Specialized Training Program and had received pre-med training at Yale and Bellevue / NYU. When WWII ended, he transferred to the College and studied for acceptance into the Foreign Service. He began his diplomatic assignments in 1949, serving in Stuttgart, Bordeaux, Manila and a year at Stanford. The State Department wanted some officers to have more economics training and upon earning a master’s in economics, Wootton was assigned to the Canadian Defence College for a year and then was appointed to serve with the first American delegation to the Common Market in Brussels. Subsequently Wootton served as the minister-counselor for economics and commercial affairs at the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany. His final six years of his 31 years in the Foreign Service were spent in Paris, where he served as the deputy secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The last 10 years of his working life were spent in advisory positions for Gulf Oil and for Chevron. Wootton also volunteered in education. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Elizabeth, and their six children.

1 9 4 8

**Ethan I. Davis**, retired insurance executive and consultant, Prescott, Ariz., on August 5, 2014. Davis was born in New York City and spent his childhood in Geneva and Paris. After returning to the United States in 1939, he attended the Lycée Français de New York and Lincoln H.S. His attendance at the College was interrupted by service in the Navy near the end of WWII. “Spot commissioned” as an ensign at 18, he was trained as a Japanese language interpreter. He earned a B.A. in political science and foreign languages. Davis was hired by Prudential Insurance and in 1989 elected early retirement, concluding 40 years with the firm. His first marriage ended in divorce. In 1981 Davis married Judith March Gamble and when they moved to Prescott in 1996 they helped found Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Davis sang in church choirs and community choruses for some 70 years. He is survived by his wife, Judy; sons, Malcolm, and Bruce and his wife, Lisa; stepdaughters, Jenny Smith and her husband, Pager, and Gretchen Hopkins and her husband, Peter; stepson Christopher Gamble and his wife, Dorothy; eight grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Samaritan Society - Prescott Hospice, 1065 Ruth St., Prescott, AZ 86301.



Ethan I. Davis ‘48

1 9 4 9

**Howard B. Radest**, professor, Caldwell, N.J., on October 11, 2014. Radest was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on June 29, 1928. He earned an M.A. in philosophy and psychology at the New School for Social Research and a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1971 from GSAS. Radest was a professor of philosophy and director of the School of Human Studies at Ramapo College of New Jersey, executive director of The American Ethical Union and leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, N.J. He was the founder and first chair of the University Seminar on Moral Education at Columbia. Radest sat on a number of boards and was director of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, a founder and dean of The Humanist Institute, a member of the National Council of Ethical Culture Leaders and co-chair of the International Humanist and Ethical Union. He taught medical ethics and comparative religion at the University of South Carolina. Radest authored nine books and numerous articles on ethics, philosophy and religion. He is survived by his wife of nearly 63 years, Rita; sons, Robert and his wife, Nora, and Michael and his wife, Karen; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Humanist Institute, for The Rita Radest Scholarship Fund.

1 9 5 0

**Milton L. Levine**, gastroenterologist, Elmont, N.Y., and Shelter Island, N.Y., on July 10, 2014. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Levine graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1954. He interned in surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital and then was for two years the medical officer and adviser to the Jewish Chapel Squad at West Point. Levine completed training at NYU and held a fellowship in gastroenterology in the Cornell Service at Bellevue Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering. He practiced internal medicine and gastroenterology on Long Island for nearly 50 years, including many years as chief of gastroenterology at Franklin General Hospital. Levine was on the faculty of Long Island Jewish Hospital and was a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Gastroenterology. He was an enthusiastic singer, from his days as a member of the Kingsmen to his years as a member of The Franklin Trio. He also was an avid tennis

player and outdoorsman, enjoying windsurfing, sailing, swimming and running. Levine is survived by his wife of 62 years, Eileen; sons, Benjamin and his wife, Mindy, Daniel and his wife, Myrna, and Arthur Levine Ferrante and his partner, Anthony; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the Perlman Music Program.

1 9 5 1



Gerald P. Brady ‘51

**Gerald P. Brady**, retired professor, Ridgefield, Conn., on April 16, 2014. Born on August 11, 1929, in Toronto, Brady grew up there and in New York. In attending the College, he followed in the footsteps of his brother, Joseph ‘41. Upon graduation, Brady enlisted in the Army, serving as a 1st. Lt. and an anti-aircraft artillery officer. He also taught fellow soldiers English, math and other academic subjects and thereby discovered his lifelong love of teaching. Upon discharge, Brady returned to Columbia, earning an L.L.B. in 1957 from the Law School and an M.S. in 1958 from the Business School. After graduation, he joined the Business School as a professor and taught business law and taxation for more than 30 years. He was a prolific author and wrote several books on law and taxation in addition to coauthoring seven editions of *CPA Law Review*, a leading publication in the field. Brady is survived by his wife of 44 years, Maude; sons, Joseph ‘92, BUS’97, and Peter ‘93, BUS’98, LAW’98; daughters-in-law, Amy May and Liza Brady; and four grandchildren.

1 9 5 3

**Daniel D. Epstein**, dentist, New York City, on September 1, 2014. Epstein graduated from the Dental School in 1956 and was a professor of prosthetic dentistry and

a clinician. He served as a USAF captain and had been stationed in England. Epstein was a resident of Jamaica Estates, N.Y., for 31 years. He was named an Alumni Medalist in 1990. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Ellen; brothers, Harold and Barry; children, Philip DM’90, Marian, Jon, Stephanie Epstein Sternbach, Risa, Scott Sternbach, Terri and Cathy; and 12 grandchildren.

1 9 5 4

**Stuart Karger**, retired physician, Bedford, N.Y., on April 15, 2014. Karger was born on August 7, 1933, in Brooklyn, N.Y. At Columbia, he rowed Freshman Lightweight Crew. Karger earned an M.D. in 1959 from the University of Geneva medical school. After an internship and residencies, he had a private practice in Manhattan until he was drafted. During the Vietnam War, he served as a captain in the Army, 1967–69, assigned to the Psychopharmacology Unit at Edgewood Arsenal in Edgewood, Md. Karger was discharged as a major and was then appointed medical director of education at Beekman Downtown Hospital in Manhattan until 1976; he was instrumental in establishing the HMO-Westchester Community Health Plan, White Plains, N.Y. Karger continued his career, working as an ER physician 1977–94 at New Rochelle Hospital. He was affiliated with the Cardiac Rehab Center in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., until his 2007 retirement. Karger is survived by his wife of 46 years, Betty; sons, Jeffrey and his wife, Gal, and James and his wife, Carolyn; daughter, Jennifer Karger-Lange and her husband, Kevin; and five grandchildren.

**Donald R. Pevney**, retired pediatrician, Riverhead, N.Y., on July 20, 2014. Born on January 21, 1934, and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Pevney was a graduate of the NYU School of Medicine. He served in the Navy 1960–63 before settling in Riverhead, where he was a pediatrician for many years before retiring from clinical practice in the late 1990s. Pevney was a lifetime fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the Suffolk County Medical Society, the Medical Society of The State of New York and the Suffolk Pediatric Society, of which he was a past president. In later years he was a consultant for the Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Co. of New York and was

a frequent lecturer on standards of care in pediatrics. Pevney is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Wargo Pevney; brother, Bruce; son, David ‘85, and his wife, Esther; daughters, Andrea, and Donna Masterson and her husband, John; and three grandchildren.

1 9 5 5

**Michael Standard**, retired attorney, Burlington, Vt., on July 2, 2014. Standard graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1959 and was a retired partner in the New York law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Elinore Hart Standard; son, Sam; daughter-in-law, Laura; and two grandchildren.

1 9 5 6

**Lewis H. Bernstein**, business consultant, New York City, on September 1, 2014. Born on April 27, 1935, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Bernstein earned an M.B.A. in 1957 from the Business School. He was a founder of the Gerald J and Dorothy R Friedman NY Foundation for Medical Research and was an officer on its Board of Directors for 18 years. He also was instrumental in establishing the Gerald J. Friedman Diabetes Institute at Beth Israel Medical Center (now part of Mount Sinai), the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts and the international Friedman Fellowship Program. Prior, Bernstein was a leading buyer of men’s clothing at Federated Department Stores and was president of Metro Wholesale Corp. and Eton Gifts. He is survived by his husband and partner of 46 years, George Serrano; cousins, Dorothy and Jane; sisters and brothers-in-law, Luz Maria, Hector Ruiz and Maria Bassett Serrano as well as their children and grandchildren.

1 9 5 8

**Irwin Sharkey**, physician, New York City, on September 1, 2014. Sharkey was a graduate of Durfee H.S. in Fall River, Mass., as well as of the NYU School of Medicine. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and AOA and was a proud Eagle Scout. Sharkey’s professional career was spent at NYU Langone Medical Center; he also was chief of medicine at Beekman Downtown Hospital. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Betty; children, Wendy Aronow, Jonathan and Jennifer



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.

- 1940 Paul I. Bookstaver**, ob/gyn, Hackensack, N.J., on March 29, 2015.  
**Lloyd Ulman**, emeritus professor of economics, Berkeley, Calif., on September 17, 2014.
- 1942 James J. Byrnes**, chemical engineer, Saint Petersburg, Fla., on February 18, 2015.  
**Don M. Mankiewicz**, novelist and screenwriter, Monrovia, Calif., on April 25, 2015.
- 1943 Orrin Keepnews**, record executive and producer, El Cerrito, Calif., on March 1, 2015.
- 1945 Herbert S. Peyser**, psychiatrist, New York City, on April 6, 2015.
- 1948 John H. Bottjer**, mortgage broker, Eastchester, N.Y., on March 28, 2015.  
**Edward P. DeBlasio**, television writer and producer, Studio City, Calif., on February 1, 2015.
- 1949 George N. Spitz**, political reporter, New York City, on March 27, 2015.  
**Robert J. Vellvé**, retired educational equipment exporter, Paris, France, on March 20, 2015.
- 1951 Frank Tupper Smith Jr.**, attorney, Dallas, on December 30, 2014.  
**Bernard Stollman**, attorney and record producer, Great Barrington, Mass., on April 20, 2015.
- 1952 Richard G. McGahren**, retired attorney, Katonah, N.Y., and Naples, Fla., on April 15, 2015.  
**Paul R. Vitek**, athletics director, Manasquan, N.J., on November 20, 2014.
- 1954 Richard J. Rudolph**, engineer, Houston, on January 30, 2015.  
**Norman Talal**, physician, New York City, on April 1, 2015.
- 1957 Jerome M. Stein**, insurance broker, West Orange, N.J., on January 21, 2015.
- 1961 George M. Perry**, attorney, Pacific Grove, Calif., on April 18, 2015.
- 1962 Harvey J. Goldschmid**, professor, New York City, on February 1, 2015.
- 1963 Josef S. Raboy**, retired synagogue director, Sanibel, Fla., on April 3, 2015.
- 1967 Jeffrey A. Newman**, attorney, New York City, on March 3, 2015.
- 1969 Howard W.H. Chan**, financial consultant, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on April 3, 2015.  
**Samuel P. Sprotzer**, ophthalmologist, Woodbridge, Conn., on April 3, 2015.
- 1972 James D. Ireland III**, investment banker, Cleveland, on January 1, 2015.
- 1974 Gary E. Atutes**, sales manager, Carnegie, Penn., on February 3, 2015.
- 1977 Howard A. Cohen**, surgeon, Augusta, Ga., on March 1, 2015.
- 1988 Andrew D. Hyman**, healthcare adviser, Princeton, N.J., on February 25, 2015.
- 1990 Tina Passalaris Sanfilippo**, attorney, Orange, Conn., on January 18, 2015.
- 2001 Jon W. Krug**, Long Beach, N.Y., on June 9, 2014.
- 2013 Hyoun Ju Sohn**, Ph.D. candidate, Providence, R.I., on March 31, 2015.

Sharkey Ull; and seven grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter, Marcy Sharkey Farkas.

1 9 6 1

**John O. Wall**, retired insurance executive, Enfield, Conn., on April 29, 2015. Wall was a native of Barrington, R.I., and a graduate of the Portsmouth (fka Priory) Abbey School. He earned a B.A. in economics and was a lifetime employee of Aetna Casualty and Surety Co., retiring in 1996 as director of property underwriting/marketing of national commercial accounts. Wall was a longtime sailor and racer on Long Island Sound, an ardent golfer, a fervent UConn Huskies basketball fan and a supporter of Greater Hartford Pro-Am basketball. At one time he was a serious jewelry designer and maker. In retirement Wall

became an avid gardener; traveled extensively with his wife, Donalyn Bogue; and was a volunteer cook at Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen. He was a Friend of Bill’s for more than 40 years. A communicant of Holy Family Church, Wall taught in the CCD program and at one time was a member of the Holy Family Men’s Club. In addition to his wife, Wall is survived by his daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, John Lampro; sister, Sara Jane “Sally” Savoia; eight grandchildren; and four nieces. He was predeceased by a son, Jeffrey.

1 9 7 2

**Francis X. “Buzz” Duffy Jr.**, writer, New York City, on May 1, 2015. Duffy was a writer, history buff, FC Barcelona fan, Pepsi lover, fighter and champion of social justice. A



Francis X. “Buzz” Duffy Jr. ’72

Lisa Palladino

longtime Chelsea denizen, he loved New York City. Duffy participated in theater, acted, created poetry and wrote stories. He found sanctuary on the sunny piers of the Hudson River and enjoyed dining with family at his local cafe. A polio survivor, he rolled around New York City in his wheelchair and, as he once wrote, “... moved past the stares.” Duffy earned an M.A. in 1973 from GSAS and an M.B.A. in 1987 from NYU. He is survived by his mother, brother and sisters. Memorial contributions may be directed to The Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine by check made payable to NYU School of Medicine and mailed to Erica Campbell, NYU Office of Development, One Park Ave., 17th FL, New York, NY 10016.

1 9 7 5

**John T. Griffin**, attorney, New York City, on July 28, 2014. Griffin earned a B.A. in political science and was awarded the College’s prestigious George William Curtis Medal, which is for excellence in public delivery of English orations. Griffin continued his education at Case Western Reserve, earning a J.D. in 1979 while simultaneously completing an M.B.A. from the Business School, also awarded in 1979. After working for a New York law firm, Griffin started his own real estate company, Griffin Realty Group, now in its 27th year. He is survived by his mother, Helen Barbara Griffin, and siblings. Memorial contributions may be made to the Central Park Conservancy (centralparknyc.org).

1 9 8 1

**Raymond J. Nisi**, bar owner, Las Vegas, Nev., on July 8, 2014. Nisi attended the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University and earned a doctorate in ophthalmology. But, as he told a friend, while that was his job, it wasn’t where his heart was. In 2008 Nisi moved his wife, Jessica, and the first of two sons to Las Vegas to open the Double Helix Wine Bar & Boutique, in the Palazzo. Following its success, Nisi opened the Double Helix Wine & Whiskey Bar in Town Square. Among his favorite things were Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, superheroes, comic books, playing golf, great food and drink, and a good laugh. Memorial contributions may be made to the Children’s Heart Foundation.



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**Deadline for Fall 2015 issue:  
Friday, July 24, 2015**

Letters

(Continued from 6)

to campus in 1986, and he put up with me during my years as a reporter and editor for *Spectator*. In fact, he always took calls (even at home, and late in the evening), did his best to explain complex issues and generally took me seriously as a student and journalist.

While my reporting days never made it past *Spec*, I did go to graduate school in history, embarked on an academic career and this past year became a dean myself, at Louisiana State University’s Ogden Honors College. Bob Pollack and Columbia College have stood me in excellent stead as I recruit, teach, advise and plan curricula for my own students. And I try to take them just as seriously as Dean Pollack took the teenaged me.

Jonathan Earle ’90  
BATON ROUGE, LA.

Professor Zito

Thanks for the excerpt from Morris Dickstein ’61’s *Why Not Say What*

*Happened* [“Columbia Forum,” Spring 2015]. It brought back happy memories of Professors Chiappe, Taubes and Zito. After several odd experiences — the circus of Charles Van Doren GSAS’59’s last class and an unfounded accusation of plagiarism by an ancient history professor who couldn’t be bothered to check with the English Department — the abrupt cancellation of a long-advertised senior seminar seemed the last straw. Following our protest, Jim Zito stepped in and provided an exciting end to my undergraduate experience.

Gregory Howe ’61  
PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

I was delighted to see that my classmate Morris Dickstein ’61, in the excerpt from his memoir about his junior year, paid tribute to his Shakespeare teacher, Jim Zito.

Professor Zito was my instructor for first-year English and I found him impressive in style and substance. His class was the only one where we could have been told that “short stories in *The New Yorker*

have no beginning and no end — they’re all middle.”

So I was happy to sign up when he took over the Shakespeare class while Professor Andrew Chiappe ’33, GSAS’39 was on sabbatical. That year the Barnard Shakespeare players performed *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*, the first time it had been staged in New York in half a century, and the editor of *Spectator* assigned me to review it. At intermission I spotted Zito and asked him what he thought. He declined to offer an opinion; I had to form my own judgment.

I panned the performance, and when class started the next morning, Zito wasted no time taking me apart. Pretending not to know me or notice that I was sitting right in front of him, he told the class that “the reviewer, a Mr. Lippman, has bitten the hand that overfed him.” No one could match his tone of faux contempt.

Who else could have explained the significance of the fact that the first word of *Antony and Cleopatra* is “Nay?” Jim Zito was one of the best teachers I had at Columbia, and I

FOR SALE

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Answers to Quiz on Inside Front Cover

1. John McCain P: ’07
  2. Robert K. Kraft ’63
  3. Brian Dennehy ’60
  4. Benjamin Jealous ’94
  5. Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, LAW’76
  6. Tony Kushner ’78
  7. Claire Shipman ’86, SIPA’94
  8. Terrence McNally ’60
  9. David Stern LAW’66
  10. Robert Rubin
- BONUS:** Dan Futterman ’89

have always regretted that he didn’t get tenure and moved on to Sarah Lawrence.

Thomas W. Lippman ’61  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(Editor’s note: Zito was on the literature faculty at Sarah Lawrence from 1965 until his death in 1981. He also was a guest lecturer at Oxford and the Royal University of Malta.)

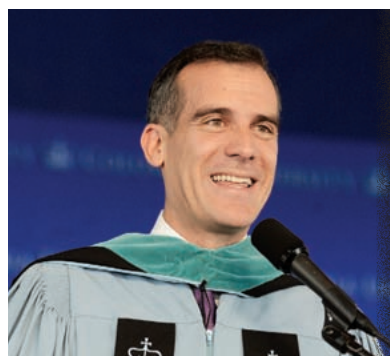




## ALUMNI CORNER

# Be Uncomfortable, and Other Thoughts for the Class of 2015

The diverse paths that a liberal arts education can lead to were in evidence this spring as four College alumni — a politician, a sound scientist, a screenwriter and an entrepreneur — were keynote speakers at Class Days across the University. Here are excerpts from their speeches.



"The greatest gift that a Columbia education offers is that you begin your years here looking for answers but you end them by becoming brave enough to accept that life means facing more questions. This education has complicated your sense of self, forced you to shake your habits, encouraged you to practice a radical empathy. And it's made you humble enough that you never stop fearing the next step, and facing it despite your fear... [A]bove all its many lessons, this university helps you be both an insider and an outsider, to be able to navigate the borders that are where life is. Each of us is a bundle of contradictions and that's the way it should be."

*Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93, speaking at the College*  
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

"I believe that curiosity is my core value. No matter where your life leads you, whether you have goals or not, whether you reach them or are frustrated — you can always try to maintain a sense of curiosity. It's a wellspring of pleasure and satisfaction which can be boundless ... Eleanor Roosevelt saw a great good in curiosity. She stated, 'I think at a child's birth if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift should be curiosity.' I cannot overstate the importance and value of curiosity. Curiosity is the gateway drug to creativity. It's just a small step from asking 'Why?' to asking 'Why not?'"

*Carl Haber '80, GSAS'85, speaking at GSAS*  
PHOTO: ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



"We tell ourselves lies all the time. If we didn't, there wouldn't be any need for art to combat our collective self-deceptions. Question what you think you believe, and see past what you think you're seeing. Trust your instinct above all else; instinct is the only thing that's impervious to belief and illusion. ... Be prepared to re-examine your reasoning. ... Never be precious, never presume, be prepared to fail, to start over, to question. This isn't about giving in to self-doubt, it's about searching. Art is a trial-and-error game, my friends. Reexamining your reasoning is at the heart of experimentation, and if you're not experimenting, you're not making art — you're making yourself comfortable. Be uncomfortable; it's far more fruitful."

*Beau Willimon '99, SOA'03, speaking at the School of the Arts*  
PHOTO: JOEL JARRES

"What I'd like to give is a few unconventional graduation thoughts and I'm titling them 'Do not follow your passion and the world is not going to hell in a hand basket and the Class of 2015 is not required to save it.' ... [F]ollowing your passion is a very me-centered view of the world. And when you go through life what you'll find is that what you take out of the world over time, be it whatever — money, cars, stuff, accolades — is much less important than what you put into the world. And so my recommendation would be follow your contribution. Find the thing that you're great at, put that into the world, contribute to others, help the world be better."

*Ben Horowitz '88, speaking at the Engineering School*  
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO FOR COLUMBIA ENGINEERING



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