



**ANDRES ALONSO '79
REFORMS BALTIMORE'S
SCHOOL BUREAUCRACY**

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HISTORY PROFESSOR
MAE NGAI '98 GSAS**

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**CHARLES ARDAI '91
BRINGS PULP FICTION
TO TODAY'S READERS**

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Columbia College

TODAY

March/April 2011

**Neil
Shubin '82
Brings Out
the Fish in
All of Us**

*Shubin, a paleontologist
and evolutionary biologist,
co-led a team that discovered
evidence of the pivotal shift
from aquatic to terrestrial life.*



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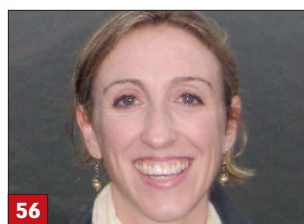
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OUT IN THE FIELD

View a slideshow of Neil Shubin '82 in the field digging for fossils.

WISDOM AS BUNNY

Watch Robert Wisdom '76, as Bunny Colvin, lecture police officers on the acclaimed HBO show *The Wire*.

AN EARLY LISTEN

Hear a track from Erik Friedlander '82's album *Bonebridge*, which will be released in June.

FIVE MORE MINUTES

Mae Ngai '98 GSAS discusses the fascinating family spotlighted in her latest book, *The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America*.

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
Alex Sachare '71

MANAGING EDITOR
Lisa Palladino

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Ethan Rouen '04J

FORUM EDITOR
Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Shira Boss '93, '97J, '98 SIPA

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS
Samantha Jean-Baptiste '13
Atti Viragh '12 GS

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING
Taren Cowan, 212-851-7967

ADVERTISING CONSULTANT
Bruce Ellerstein, 917-226-7716

DESIGN CONSULTANT
Jean-Claude Suarès

ART DIRECTOR
Gates Sisters Studio

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Eileen Barroso
Diane Bondareff

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Address all correspondence to:
Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
212-851-7852

E-mail (editorial): cct@columbia.edu;
(advertising): cctadvertising@columbia.edu.
Online: college.columbia.edu/cct

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Letters to the Editor

Thank You, Mr. Kluge

I remember John Kluge '37 not as a beneficiary of a scholarship but as the recipient of an act of kindness that changed my life. I met Mr. Kluge at a function at Columbia in fall 1958. When he heard of my interest in WKCR he offered an invitation to visit "my" radio station, WNEW, and to tell them that John Kluge sent me. When a group of WKCR people arrived and told the receptionist that John Kluge sent us, the general manager of the No. 1 station in New York personally conducted the tour.

A thank-you note I wrote to the general manager resulted in the offer of a job writing traffic reports on weekends. I held that job and summer jobs covering vacations in the news and production departments until my third year of medical school, when I no longer had time to do it. It also led to the media portion of my medical career, which included a stint as medical reporter for Channel 9 news in Los Angeles and as on-air medical editor and anchor on *Physicians' Journal Update* on Lifetime Medical Television.

When I left WNEW I was able to pass along the job to a succession of Columbia students, some of whom parlayed that job into outstanding media and broadcasting careers as they continued the tradition of passing the job on to a successor WKCR member.

I wish I could have told Mr. Kluge how many Columbia students benefited from his kind act. Thank you, Mr. Kluge.

Dr. Arthur L. Wisot '61

FORMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF WKCR
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, CALIF.

How Sweet the Sound

My wife and I attended the sold-out annual Barnard-Columbia Candlelight Concert at the Union Theological Seminary chapel on December 11. I am a College graduate and my wife is a Barnard graduate. The performance far exceeded our expectations; it was truly magnificent. It led off with my favorite carol, *Veni Emmanuel*, followed by a Mozart solemn vespers and a Beethoven mass, and concluded with an organ performance by masterful conductor Gail Archer. To the best of my knowledge of the classical music canon, these works are relatively obscure and rarely presented. How adventurous of Ms. Archer to dust off these neglected



treasures and give them life.

It was uplifting to see these vibrant young people perform with such dignity, grace and skill. It is inspiring to see that the classical music repertoire is being embraced by new generations and that that embrace can include liturgical works not often heard. I am grateful that political correctness did not limit the repertoire to the likes of *Jingle Bells* and that the University supports such a muscular music program.

I did not grow up in a classical music household but was fortunately introduced to classical music when I worked for a summer for the then-president of Barnard, Millicent McIntosh. The family was very much enamored of classical music. It immediately resonated with me and continues to do so. Exposure to classical music and appreciation of it are not gifts given to everybody. I have the University to thank for bringing me to a long arch of musical enjoyment, yesteryear and today.

Arthur E. Lavis '61, '65 Business
MONTVALE, N.J.

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WITHIN THE FAMILY

A Bridge of a Building

President Lee C. Bollinger has called it “a bridge — both across areas of scientific knowledge and from our history to our future at Columbia.” He thus has set a lofty agenda for the new Northwest Corner Building, the interdisciplinary science center that rises 14 stories above Broadway and West 120th Street.

By the way, don’t be confused by the fact that the Northwest Corner Building is on the southeast corner of the intersection. It’s name is geographically correct because it sits at the northwest corner of the rectangle that forms the core of the Morningside Heights campus: Broadway to the west, 120th Street to the north, Amsterdam Avenue to the east and 114th Street to the south.

For years, the site had been an eyesore. There was an emergency exit from Levien Gym on West 120th Street, a nondescript wall along Broadway and a forlorn patch of grass with a couple of trees near the corner that was gated off from the public, barring direct access to the campus. If you stood on that corner, you had to go down Broadway to the Earl Hall gates or along West 120th Street to the Schapiro Center if you wanted to get onto campus.

Now, all that has changed. The site now belongs to the Northwest Corner Building, which had its formal opening in December. Faculty have moved in and classes are being held there this semester. And activity in the building has been increasing by the day.

There’s a modern glass entrance at the corner, a marble-clad lobby and stairs to a mezzanine café that overlooks the street through floor-to-ceiling windows and is the home of the newest branch of Joe, a six-store chain of New York coffee houses. Sandwiches and other light fare are sold along with beverages, and there are chairs and tables that invite patrons to linger and observe the street scene below. More and more

are accepting that invitation each week.

From there, an escalator leads up to a spacious campus-level lobby, 35 feet above the street and opening onto Pupin Plaza. All these spaces are open to the public and send a far friendlier message of access than the walls and gates that had been there. This is reinforced by a broad staircase to the east of the building that allows direct access from West 120th Street to Pupin Plaza, allowing people in a hurry to bypass the new building entirely.



The Northwest Corner Building offers access to campus from Broadway and West 120th Street.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

In a glowing appraisal that appeared in the February 9 issue of *The New York Times*, architecture critic Nicolai Ouroussoff called the building’s entrance “a means of reinforcing the university’s public mission. By easing you through the transition from one level to the other in just three quick turns along the stair, [architect José Rafael] Moneo has fused two disparate worlds — the campus and the street outside — and created places of intense social communion.” He goes on to call the new building “a work of healing. Seen in the context of Columbia’s often tense relationship with its Harlem neighbors, including recent battles over its plans to build a new 17-acre campus in West Harlem, the building is a gleaming physical expression of the university’s desire to bridge the divide between the insular world of the campus and the community beyond its walls.”

The building also is the closest point

on the core rectangle to what will become the Manhattanville campus, hence Bollinger’s “bridge from our history to our future.” Just as the Northwest Corner Building was opening, excavation and construction in Manhattanville was heating up. In a few years, there will be a steady stream of people making the 5–10 minute walk from this new interdisciplinary science center to facilities such as the Jerome L. Greene Science Center in Manhattanville.

Ouroussoff raves about the design of the Northwest Corner Building.

“Its muscular steel-and-aluminum frame is a vivid example of how to fit into a difficult historical context without slavishly kowtowing to it,” he writes. “The building’s base, which is made of the same rose-colored granite as the buildings that flank it, is conceived as an extension of the existing street wall ... The upper floors are clad in what may be the most elegant aluminum siding in America: a taut steel grid filled in with an irregular pattern of diagonal steel braces and aluminum louvers.”

To me, “most elegant aluminum siding in America” is a backhanded compliment. I’m not a fan of these metal walls on Broadway and West 120th Street, which a friend describes as a giant cheese-grater, and much prefer the clean glass sheet that faces the campus (much the way the glass wall of Alfred Lerner Hall faces campus).

But I’m not the architecture critic of the *Times*, who concludes by writing, “In short, this is a building conceived in opposition to our contemporary culture, with its constant visual noise and unforgiving pace. Mr. Moneo aims to lift us, if only momentarily, out of our increasingly frenetic lives — to slow us down and force us to look at the world around us, and at one another, more closely. It’s a big, tough building, but it’s tenderhearted too.”

Alex Scharre

AROUND THE QUADS

Northwest Corner Building Opens

BY ALEX SACHARE '71

More than a century after Columbia moved from midtown to Morningside Heights, the last piece of the campus' core rectangle has been completed with the opening of the Northwest Corner interdisciplinary science building at West 120th Street and Broadway.

The 188,000-square-foot structure, which officially opened in December and is being used for classes this semester, houses classrooms and laboratories for faculty and students in biology, chemistry, physics and engineering as well as a science library, lecture hall and café. Built above Leven Gym and supported by a 129-foot-long, three-dimensional truss, the 14-story facility accommodates seven double-height lab floors designed to mitigate vibration and allow for flexible layouts as scientific research priorities evolve.

The building was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect José Rafael Moneo in collaboration with the architects at Madrid's Moneo Brock Studio and New York's Davis Brody Bond Aedas.

Elevated, enclosed bridges to Pupin Hall and Chandler Hall were designed to encourage interaction among faculty and students from the University's science and engineering departments. The facility also includes a 164-seat lecture hall and a two-story integrated science library. Interior lobbies flow from the sidewalk level at West 120th Street and Broadway to a publicly accessible, 1,400-square-foot café above, and are connected to the campus-level lobby, adding a public portal to the campus. An exterior stairway connects the sidewalk at West 120th Street to Pupin Plaza, permitting direct access to campus.

"The connections to the neighboring buildings guarantee activity and life, reinforcing the interdisciplinary program needed in state-of-the-art research," Moneo said about his first building in New York



The Northwest Corner Building includes classrooms, laboratories (right), a science library and a café and provides access to Pupin Plaza from Broadway and West 120th Street.
PHOTOS: DAVID SUNDBERG

City. "It has been very exciting to create a building in New York that uses this unique site to draw people together in new ways while respecting Columbia's great campus architecture."

President Lee C. Bollinger said, "What Rafael Moneo has created here is literally a bridge — both across areas of scientific knowledge and from our history to our future at Columbia. As the final addition to the original perimeter of our Morningside Heights campus, this building completes one of the greatest academic settings in the world and also performs an important task of opening up a new, transparent pathway between



campus and community on a street corner where there had long been only a blank wall."

When fully occupied, the Northwest Corner Building will provide research, teaching and study space for a community of faculty members and students working in 21 labs.

Rose, Jones Join College Senior Staff

Laura Rose and Sherri Jones have joined the Columbia College senior staff, effective February 14. Rose was named senior executive director for development and Jones was named senior executive director for alumni relations and communications.

Rose came to the College from the University of Chicago, where she was the senior director for its Global Regional Offices, including the New York office, which represents the undergraduate college, four graduate divisions and various other schools and units. A Wellesley alumna, Rose worked closely with academic and alumni leadership at Chicago on major gift and annual fund solicitations.

Jones, who has spent more than 20 years in alumni affairs, most recently was director of alumni affairs at Lafayette College. Her background includes successes in alumni relations, volunteer management and strategic planning, including work at her alma mater, Cornell.



Laura Rose
PHOTO: DAN DRY



Sherri Jones
PHOTO: RANDY MONCEAUX

Both will report directly to Dean Michele Moody-Adams. In announcing their appointments, Moody-Adams said, "Laura and Sherri will be spearheading the College's development and alumni outreach efforts, working in tandem on volunteer management, fundraising and alumni relations and communication strategies. Their wealth of experience and expertise will help us move the College to

new levels, both in the areas of alumni engagement and financial support for Columbia College priorities."

In another transition, Susan Birnbaum has stepped away from day-to-day leadership of the Columbia College Fund to do more project-based work and direct work with volunteers as executive director of the Columbia College Fund and dean's special initiatives. As part of this new role, Birnbaum, who has overseen the fund's growth during the past nine years, will continue to work with the Dean's Alumnae Task Force and help plan a broader and more robust fundraising program for College parents.

"We are all aware of the consistent growth of the College Fund and of its importance to the College," said Moody-Adams. "Susan's hand in guiding it upward in creative and energetic ways is especially apparent in the breadth and depth of volunteer engagement and a well-organized, professional staff."

Alex Sachare '71

DEAN'S DAY • SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011 • NEW YORK CITY



Columbia College and the Columbia College Alumni Association are proud to sponsor Dean's Day 2011. Scheduled for Saturday, June 4, the program provides the opportunity for alumni and parents to participate in thought-provoking lectures and discussions with some of Columbia's finest faculty.

Dean's Day 2011 is particularly noteworthy, as we are proud to announce that the Public Intellectual Lectures will be delivered by Michele Moody-Adams, dean, Columbia College and vice president for undergraduate education; Feniosky Peña-Mora, dean, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science; Nicholas Dirks, executive vice president for Arts and Sciences and dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and Peter Awn, dean of the School of General Studies.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens — <i>Alfred Lerner Hall</i>
8:30–10:15 a.m.	Dean's Continental Breakfast with Opening Address by Michele Moody-Adams, Dean, Columbia College
9:30 a.m.	Camp Columbia for Kids
10:30–11:45 a.m.	Public Intellectual Lectures
Noon–1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00–3:30 p.m.	Core Curriculum Lectures
3:30–5:00 p.m.	Affinity Receptions, including <i>Columbia Daily Spectator</i> , Varsity Athletics and a special performance by the Columbia Alumni Singers



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Creed To Address Class of 2011 at Class Day

Alexandra Wallace Creed '88, senior v.p. of NBC News, will address the Class of 2011 at Class Day, Monday, May 16, on South Lawn. Creed is only the second female Class Day speaker; Claire Shipman '86 spoke in 1999.

Creed was named senior v.p. in December 2008. In what is an expanded version of the role that she held from January 2006–March 2007, when she was executive producer of *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams*, her responsibilities include overseeing *Nightly News*, news production, staffing and, in partnership with V.P. David Verdi, newsgathering. She is chief deputy within the news division for Steve Capus, president of NBC News.

In March 2007, Creed became executive producer of *Nightly News*, making her the first woman to lead a weeknight network evening newscast in a decade and one of only a small group of women who have served in the top post of a Big Three daily newscast. She was first named v.p. of NBC News in January 2006. Prior to that, she was executive producer of *Weekend Today* and senior producer of *Today* beginning in March 2005.

Creed came to NBC News from CBS News, where she was a senior broadcast

producer for *The Early Show* starting in May 2000. Before that, she was a senior producer for both *The Early Show* and *CBS This Morning*, a producer for *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather* and an associate producer for *CBS This Morning*, *48 Hours* and the CBS foreign desk. Creed began her network career at the CBS News London bureau.

Creed has been honored with 11 News and Documentary Emmy Awards as well as a Gracie Award and a Peabody. She was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2008 from the College, where she earned a B.A. in English literature. She is a member of the College's Board of Visitors, is on the Council on Foreign Relations and is a member of the Board of Visitors of the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C.

CCT featured Creed on the cover of the November/December 2007 issue (college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/nov_dec07).

Class of 2011 President Sean Manning Udell '11 noted in an e-mail to the College



Alexandra Wallace Creed '88

that "we were particularly impressed that ... Ms. [Creed] is also the mother of young children and an extraordinarily active alumna who hosts several Columbia College events every year and serves on the Columbia College Board of Visitors."

Alumni from all classes have a chance to participate in Class Day by marching in the Alumni Parade of Classes, carrying their class year banners in the procession that also includes

graduating students, faculty and administrators. The parade underscores the transition the graduates will be making from students to alumni, while emphasizing that their Columbia connection is lifelong.

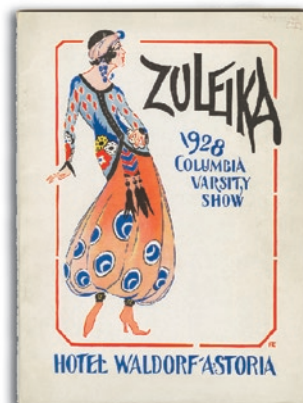
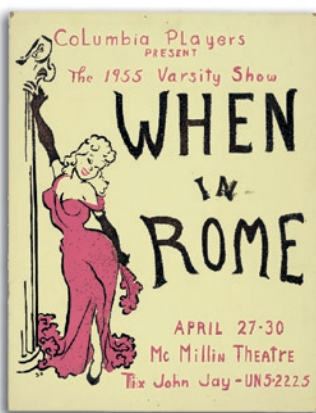
Alumni marching in the parade are invited to a champagne breakfast in John Jay Dining Hall that begins at 8:30 a.m. The parade is scheduled to begin at 9:45 a.m. Alumni interested in participating should contact Nick Mider, events coordinator, College events and programs: nm2613@columbia.edu or 212-851-7846.

Lisa Palladino and Atti Viragh '12 GS

Web Exhibit Celebrates *The Varsity Show*

The Columbia University Archives has created an online exhibit celebrating the history of *The Varsity Show*. The site (columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio8225262) is an expansion of a physical exhibit — *The Varsity Show: A Columbia Tradition* — that was mounted by the University Archives in 2004 in honor of *The Varsity Show's* 110th anniversary and includes images of programs, posters, photographs and other printed matter that help relate the history and highlights of what is recognized as Columbia's oldest performing arts tradition.

The student-run comedy, which premiered in 1894 as a show to benefit the Columbia College Athletic Union, has left its mark on the Columbia community and has included a number of alumni who went on to success in the entertainment industry. For example, *Roar*,



Lion, Roar originated in the 1923 show, *Half Moon Inn*, and famous *Varsity Show* alumni include Oscar Hammerstein II '16, Lorenz Hart '18, Richard Rodgers '23, Herman Wouk '34 and I.A.L. Diamond

'41, who wrote four consecutive shows.

The 117th Varsity Show will take place in April. Tickets will be available at thevarsityshow.com.

Atti Viragh '12 GS

ROAR, LION, ROAR

■ **1,000 POINTS:** Noruwa Agho '12 surpassed the 1,000-point mark in career scoring in a 66–45 win over Dartmouth on January 29, becoming the 24th men's basketball player in school history to reach that milestone. Through games of February 12, Agho had 1,061 career points to rank 17th on Columbia's all-time scoring list. The last Columbia junior to reach the 1,000-point mark was Craig Austin '02 in 2001, and the last Lion to notch 1,000 career points was John Baumann '08.

■ **RECORDS:** Several school records were set early in the indoor track and field season.

In the Penn State Invitational on January 29, QueenDenise Okeke '13 set a record of 12.43 meters in the women's long jump, Justin Holloman '12 set a record of 22.12 seconds in the men's 200-meter dash and Sharay Hale '12 set a record of 24.15 seconds in the women's 200-meter dash.

The following weekend, at the New Balance Invitational, Jeff Moriarty '11 won the 1,000-meter run in a school-record 2:20.77, which was the second-fastest time in the

country this year and the second-fastest time ever by an Ivy League runner. In the same race, Byron Jones '14E finished in 2:25.95, the fastest time by a first-year athlete in the country. Also, Jason Marks '12E tied the school record of 4.75 meters in the pole vault.

■ **FOOTBALL:** Columbia will play six of its 10 football games this fall at Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium, including the Lions' first meetings with Albany and Sacred Heart and a Homecoming game against Penn on October 15.

Following is the complete 2011 Columbia football schedule (home games in capitals; all are Saturdays and start at 12:30 p.m.):

Sept. 17	at Fordham
Sept. 24	ALBANY
Oct. 1	at Princeton
Oct. 8	SACRED HEART
Oct. 15	PENN (Homecoming)
Oct. 22	at Dartmouth
Oct. 29	YALE
Nov. 5	HARVARD
Nov. 12	at Cornell
Nov. 19	BROWN



Students Meet Donors at Dean's Scholarship Reception

Scholarship donors met many of the students who benefit from their generosity at the annual Dean's Scholarship Reception on February 3 in Boone Arledge Auditorium in Alfred Lerner Hall. Approximately 500 people attended the festive event, which gives students and donors a chance to meet face-to-face, often for the first time, and perhaps establish lasting connections. Speakers included (from right) Dean Michele Moody-Adams, who also met with many students and donors personally; Bradley Collins '11, recipient of the Ida Rosenberg Scholarship Fund; and Peter Hatch '92 and Hilary Hatch '92, who endowed the Peter and Hilary Hatch Scholarship Fund.



PHOTOS: DIANE BONDAREFF



“For the majority of us who will not be creating or collecting rare books for future generations, planned giving to Columbia Libraries is a meaningful way to support their sacred role in the continuum of education, research, and collection at our University.”

MICHAEL GARRETT, ESQ.
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THE 1754 SOCIETY

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mollie Andreae '11 Gains Health Care Experience by Volunteering

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

Mollie Andreae '11 has suffered 13 broken bones throughout her life while playing tennis, basketball and lacrosse and practicing gymnastics. These injuries, and their treatment, have kindled her passion for the health care field, which she has cultivated through extensive volunteer work at home and abroad.

In January, Andreae made her third weeklong trip to Honduras as a member of Global Brigades (globalbrigades.org), a student-led organization that promotes global health and sustainable development. The Columbia chapter, which comprises medical, public health, dental, business and water brigades, has approximately 50 undergraduate members from the College, Engineering and Barnard, and more who help fundraise through Facebook and empowered.org.

As president of the Columbia chapter's public health brigade for the 2010–11 academic year, Andreae oversaw the logistics of her brigade's trip, which took her and five other students to a community located an hour outside the capital city of Tegucigalpa. The community is run by a local nonprofit, Sociedad Amigos de los Niños (Friends of the Children Society). The Columbia brigade teamed up with volunteers from UC Berkeley to form a group of about 20 public health volunteers, all of whom stayed at a boarding school that was out of session.

As she did during her previous trip in January 2010, Andreae helped construct water storage units, concrete floors, latrines and stoves for local families. She also led games and lessons designed to educate children about the importance of hygiene.

"It's a really fun experience," says Andreae. "It helps me practice my Spanish a little bit. The kids make fun of our Spanish, but we have fun with them."



Mollie Andreae '11 holds a newborn boy she helped deliver during her summer in South Africa.

PHOTO: LYNDSEY FOUSHEE

Honduras is among the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere. Andreae first traveled there in January 2009 with the Columbia Medical Brigade. On that occasion, she staffed a health clinic that saw approximately 400 patients a day.

Andreae switched brigades after taking "Social History of American Public Health" with David Rosner, the Ronald H. Lauterstein Professor of Socio-medical Sciences and professor of history. The course focused heavily on the history of sanitation. "It was a completely different way of looking at health issues," says Andreae.

Andreae has since sought exposure to varying approaches to health care. Last summer, she volunteered at the Eerste River Hospital in South Africa through the NGO Child Family Health International (cfhi.org). She spent time in all the departments and in mobile clinics in remote communities. She also assisted midwives in delivering babies and became heavily involved with the hospital's Kangaroo Mother Care program, which promotes skin-to-skin contact between premature infants and their mothers in order to help the babies develop.

Andreae provided the mothers with much-needed respites by "kangarooing" the newborns while they took breaks.

Dr. Paulus Steyn, head of the pediatrics department at the hospital, was impressed with the quality of Andreae's interaction with the mothers.

"Mollie was quick with a joke and managed to ease some of the inevitable tension that arises when 12–14 uncertain and tired new mothers stay confined in such space for weeks," he says. "One can see without much effort that Mollie is devoid of prejudice. She harbors an *agape* kind of love for the patients in her charge. She is practically minded and would make a great surgeon."

Andreae was impressed by the way doctors at the hospital make do without the latest technological advances.

"They are forced to be better doctors because they don't have all these machines to rely on," says Andreae. "They have the ability to diagnose people by just using their hands."

During her stay in South Africa, Andreae lived with an empty-nest couple near the townships where many of the hospital's patients reside.

"I wouldn't have had it any other way," she says. "We didn't have heat in the houses where we were staying. I was always freezing, but I had a roof over my head that didn't leak. You were grateful for what you had because you could tell that [the patients] didn't have anything."

Andreae, who is from Alexandria, Va., spent the summer before her junior year shadowing doctors and observing surgical procedures at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. From October 2008–October 2009, she spent many a Friday night — roughly five hours a week — volunteering at St. Luke's Hospital in Morningside Heights, where she triaged patients in the Pe-

diatric Emergency Department and assisted doctors in the Ambulatory Surgery Unit.

In addition to those who tended her sports injuries, Andreae also attributes her interest in medicine in part to the orthopedist who treated her when she fell from a tire swing as a kindergartener and broke her wrist. "The hand specialist who worked with me was amazing," she recalls. "She showed me the X-ray and the break. It was very interesting to me because I loved seeing what was wrong. I've remembered that."

Andreae, a defender on Columbia's lacrosse team, has been named to the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Academic Squad each of her four years. Her former teammates played an important role in her decision to attend the College.

"I talked to some players on the team when I came on a visit. A lot of them had done cool stuff in the city, whether it was volunteering or interning," says Andreae, who majors in psychology. "That was something I was interested in and wanted to take advantage of."

At press time, Andreae had applied to several post-baccalaureate programs in order to complete requirements for medical school and was awaiting responses.

"Almost all my volunteer experience has been dealing with kids. They're such amazing patients," she says. "Adults can be very whiny, but you'd be surprised how little kids complain. They have a high pain tolerance and heal so quickly. I see myself as a pediatrics specialist when I'm older."

Nathalie Alonso '08 is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer of *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball's official Spanish language website. She also writes a career blog for women, herfabcareer.com.

IN MEMORIAM

■ **BELL:** Daniel Bell '60 GSAS, one of the greatest post-WWII academics and a Columbia professor from 1959–69, died on January 25, 2011, in Cambridge, Mass. He was 91.

A prolific writer, Bell authored two of the 20th century's most influential books on social science, *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism* (1978) and *The End of Ideology: On the Exhaustion of Political Ideas in the Fifties* (1960), which was published while he was teaching at Columbia. In much of his work, Bell, who earned a Ph.D. in sociology from GSAS, predicted trends and outcomes that would come to fruition decades later. *The End of Ideology* addresses the fall of communism, and he also wrote about the shift to a service-based economy and the creation of "a national information-computer-utility system, with tens of thousands of terminals in homes and offices 'hooked' into giant central computers providing library and information services, retail ordering and billing services, and the like."

Bell also was an influential editor of periodicals, starting with *The New Leader*, a small social democratic publication that he referred to as his "intellectual home." He joined *Fortune* magazine as its labor editor and in 1965 helped found and edit *The Public Interest* with City College classmate Irving Kristol, who died in 2009.

Bell left Columbia in 1969 for Harvard, where he became the Henry Ford II Professor of Social Sciences in 1980. He is survived by his daughter, Jordy; son, David; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

■ **HABOUSH:** JaHyun Kim Haboush '78 GSAS, the King Sejong Professor of Korean Studies, died on January 30, 2011. She was 69 and lived in New York City.

Haboush, who had a reputation for treating students and junior faculty with the same respect and interest as well-known researchers, earned an M.A. from Michigan and a Ph.D. in East Asian languages and cultures from GSAS. She had taught at Rutgers and Illinois and in 2000 returned to Columbia, where she taught 16th- to 19th-century Korean cultural history in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

Haboush is survived by her husband, Bill.

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ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ **Peter Mendelsund '91**, a book cover designer, was interviewed by *The New Yorker* in December. As associate art director at Knopf, Mendelsund has designed the covers for many well-known books by classic and contemporary authors. He describes his creative techniques and goals in the interview, which also showcases several designs he created for Jo Nesbø's novels *The Snowman* and *The Redeemer*. An avid reader, Mendelsund says his goal is to "tease out the ... authorial impetus" behind the manuscript after a

careful reading of the whole text. CCT profiled Mendelsund in 2008. See Alumni Profiles, college.columbia.edu/cct/nov_dec08.

■ **Dr. Arthur "Archie" Roberts '65** was featured in a *New York Times* article in November for his efforts to stem an alarming trend of sudden heart attacks and other cardiac problems in N.F.L. players. A star quarterback at Columbia, Roberts briefly played with the Miami Dolphins before becoming a heart surgeon. He launched a nonprofit, the Living Heart Foundation, in 2001 to fight cardiac problems in professional athletes through regular screenings. Roberts mentioned in the article that several of the athletes he has screened required immediate treatment — including at least two needing coronary bypass surgery. CCT profiled Roberts in 2007. See Features, college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/nov_dec07.

■ **George Templeton Strong (Class of 1838)** was profiled in a *New York Times* article in December, "The

Diary of a New York Lawyer." Strong practiced law in New York City, became a Columbia trustee and was involved in philanthropic projects. For 40 years, he wrote in his diaries on a regular basis. They offer a unique, personal account of the Civil War unfolding through the eyes of a northern lawyer who strongly supported the Union. When South Carolina seceded, Strong recognized it as "a grave event, [that] may well bring tremendous calamity upon the country."

■ **Benjamin Lawsky '92, '95L** was appointed chief of staff for New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in December. Lawsky served as general counsel on Cuomo's campaign while also fulfilling his duties as deputy counselor and special assistant in the attorney general's office. Prior to joining Cuomo's office, Lawsky was a federal prosecutor and was chief counsel to Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Atti Viragh '12 GS



Benjamin Lawsky '92, '95L (right) and then-Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo during testimony in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PHOTO: COURTESY OFFICE OF GOVERNOR CUOMO

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CAMPUS NEWS

■ **WEBSITE:** A revised and redesigned version of Columbia.edu, the University's homepage, was launched in January. Designed by the Office of Communications and Public Affairs in partnership with Columbia University Information Technology, it contains several aesthetic, technological and organizational changes including simplified navigation, an enhanced search function and social media tools. To learn more, go to news.columbia.edu/home/2266.

■ **SCIENCE:** Four Columbia professors have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a prestigious scientific society established in 1848. They are Wallace S. Broecker, the Newberry Professor of Earth and Environmental Science and a researcher at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; Shi-Fu Chang, professor and former department chair of electrical engineering at Engineering; Peter Schlosser, the Vinton Professor of Earth and Environmental Studies at Engineering and professor of earth and environmental sciences, and as-

sociate director and chair of faculty of the Earth Institute; and Saul J. Silverstein, professor of microbiology and immunology at P&S. They are among 503 inductees who were honored on February 19 at the AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

■ **GREEN NYC:** Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced a new center to promote the development and commercialization of green building technology in New York City at a news conference in Columbia's new Northwest Corner science building on January 20. The NYC Urban Technology Center is a partnership between The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Polytechnic Institute of NYU, the city's Economic Development Corp. and CUNY. It will be managed by Engineering's Center for Technology, Innovation and Community Engagement.

■ **CAMPAIGN:** The Columbia Campaign achieved a milestone on February 7, surpassing its original fundraising goal of \$4

billion nearly 11 months ahead of schedule. An expanded goal of \$5 billion recently was announced for the University-wide campaign, along with a new closing date of December 31, 2013.

■ **LEED GOLD:** The Columbia Alumni Center recently received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold Certification, the second-highest certification in the green rating system administered by the United States Green Building Council. LEED recognizes achievements in areas such as water efficiency, energy and indoor environmental quality. The Center, built in 1908 and formerly known as McVickar Hall, was extensively renovated in 2008-09 and boasts a recycled heating system, self-adjusting lighting and occupancy sensors that control energy use. It is the second Columbia building to recently receive the LEED Gold certification, after Faculty House, which was renovated last April. To learn more about the Alumni Center, go to <http://alumni.columbia.edu/alumni-community/columbia-alumni-center>.

Mae Ngai '98 GSAS is the Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies and professor of history. She is the author of *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* and *The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America*. She also has written about immigration for many major newspapers and magazines. Ngai has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was a union organizer and educator before becoming a historian. She earned her B.A. from SUNY Empire State and M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in the Bronx. I grew up there and in Teaneck, N.J.

What did you want to be while growing up?

I wanted to be an architect. I was very close with my aunt, who is an architect. I loved to draw houses and make plans. Then I learned you had to know engineering. It wasn't just an aesthetic. You had to know about building and physics, and that kind of ruined it as a career path.

What did you do after college but before graduate school?

I was in high school during the civil rights era and the Vietnam war. I was very concerned about issues of racial inequality and social justice. I thought I

wanted to be a sociologist, but the events of the day made it seem that going to school was a waste of time when getting involved was more urgent. I did community work for a long time. I ended up working for a

labor union in New York City, District 65 of the United Auto Workers (which represents the clerical workers here at Columbia.) I was on the staff of the education and political action department. We were involved in the anti-apartheid movement, protests against racial violence, Jesse Jackson's presidential campaigns and David Dinkins' mayoral campaign. I was on staff during his second campaign.

Why did you decide to go back to school?

I was still interested in many of the same issues, especially those facing immigrant workers. By that time, I realized I was more suited for historical studies.



Five Minutes with ... Mae Ngai '98 GSAS

History is not really about studying the past just to know about the past. It's about understanding historical change and why and when things change. That helps us understand our own time.

How did you come to teach at Columbia?

I got my Ph.D. here and then went to Chicago to teach. Then Columbia invited me back. I was very flattered.

You just published a book, *The Lucky Ones*. Are you taking a break from research?

We don't take breaks. I'm working on a study of Chinese gold miners in the 19th century during the rushes in the period in California, Victoria, Australia, and South Africa. It's a wide-ranging comparative study about how social practices and ideas among Chinese and among Europeans traveled across the greater Pacific world in the late 19th century. The circuit of labor includes not just Chinese but also miners from Cornwall, Belgium, Ireland, France and the United States as well. They all crisscrossed the globe and carried with them experiences and political and racial ideas. I'm interested in how these ideas and practices traveled and interacted in different settings.

What classes are you teaching this spring?

I'm teaching the senior essay seminar that started in the fall, and I'm teaching a graduate course on citizenship and national identity in U.S. history.

What's your favorite food?

Taiwan beef noodle soup.

Where do you live?

On West 116th Street. We also have a house in Maryland that we recently bought (my partner works in Washington, D.C.). It's a contemporary round house.

Do you have children?

I have one son who is a civil rights lawyer in San Francisco. He recently got married.

How do you recharge?

Playing the piano, reading without a pencil and sailing.

What's your favorite spot in New York City?

Biking down Riverside Park from campus to Chambers Street.

What on your resume are you most proud of?

My first book. It won a few prizes.

*Interview and photo:
Ethan Rouen '04J*

*To watch a video of Ngai discussing the fascinating Tape family, the subjects of *The Lucky Ones*, her most recent book, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.*

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GO FISH

Neil Shubin '82 brings out the fish in all of us

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

Paleontologist and evolutionary biologist Neil Shubin '82 delights in recounting how a fortune cookie foreshadowed the journey that resulted in his most important discovery.

Shubin and Ted Daeschler, then his student at Penn, had spent several years on a quest for fossils that would yield new insight into the evolutionary transition from fins to limbs. Their search was limited to the state of Pennsylvania until one morning in 1998, when, in an attempt to settle an unrelated debate, they stumbled across a map that showed where rocks of the type and age they sought were exposed. The region was in the Canadian Arctic and was previously unexplored by paleontologists.

Reveling in the unexpected breakthrough, Shubin and Daeschler decided to make plans over Chinese food. That's when Shubin opened his fortune cookie and was startled by the message it contained.

"It said, 'Soon you will be at the top of the world,'" recalls Shubin, his voice rising before descending into laughter. "Ted looked at me and said, 'We have to go.'"



Whether it was coincidence or fate, the fortune cookie could not have been more accurate. After months of arranging logistics (the region is only accessible by helicopter), Shubin and Daeschler co-led the scientific team that discovered a 375-million-year-old fossil fish called *Tiktaalik roseae*, which is long-desired evidence of the pivotal shift from aquatic to terrestrial life. Unearthed approximately 600 miles from the North

Pole (literally the top of the world), *Tiktaalik* is considered a crucial "missing link" in the study of evolution because it has features that liken it to both fish and four-limbed animals.

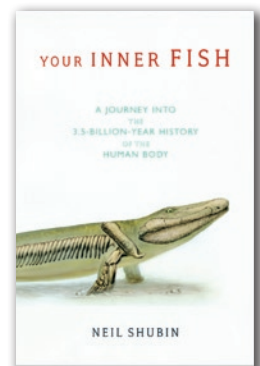
"If I were to hold one in front of you, what you'd see is like a fish. It has scales on its back and fins with fin webbing. But then you look at it and it has a flat head with eyes on top like an early land-living animal. And it has a neck; no fish has a neck," explains Shubin, the Robert R. Bensley Professor and associate dean for organismal and environmental biology at Chicago and provost at the Field Museum. "It's a real mix of fish and amphibian found at just the right time in the fossil record."

For Shubin, whose expertise and primary interest is in the development and evolution of limbs, the most thrilling revelation took place upon examining the bones found in *Tiktaalik*'s pectoral fins.

"When we open up the fin, it has bones that correspond to our upper arm, forearm, and even parts of our wrist," he says.

Though it is unlikely that *Tiktaalik* was able to walk, its fins allowed it to prop itself up on the ground and do "push-ups." Their function fell in between walking and swimming, making them transitional in their use as well as in their form.

In April 2006, the journal *Nature* formally introduced *Tiktaalik*, which means "large freshwater fish" in Inuktitut, a language spoken by the Inuit people of Canada. In the same week, *Tiktaalik* made the front page of *The New York*





(Above) Paleontologist Neil Shubin '82 with a model of *Tiktaalik roseae* in the Dinosaur Collection Room at the Field Museum of Natural History, where he serves as provost.

PHOTO: JOHN WEINSTEIN



(Above) The valley in Bird Fiord where the team camped and made its discovery.

PHOTO: © TED DAESCHLER

(Right) Shubin (right) and Ted Daeschler in the Canadian Arctic in 2008.

PHOTO: © JASON DOWNS



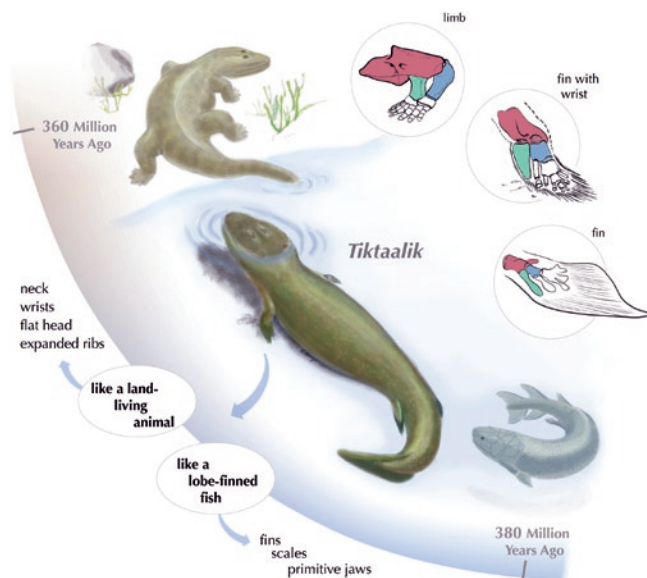
(Above) The skull of *Tiktaalik roseae* provides evidence of how life transitioned from water to land.

PHOTO: © TED DAESCHLER



The fossil site where *Tiktaalik roseae* was discovered is in the northernmost part of the Canadian Arctic on Ellesmere Island in Nunavut territory.

GRAPHIC: KALLIOPI MONOYIOS



Tiktaalik roseae is an intermediate between fish that lived in water and animals that evolved to walk on land. Its fin is like that of fish but it was capable of propping the body of the animal up, much like a limb.

ILLUSTRATION: KALLIOPI MONOYIOS

Times and Shubin was named the ABC News Person of the Week as a result of the groundbreaking find.

"One minute you're a fish paleontologist and no one is really all that interested in you," says Shubin with a laugh as he recounts the morning of the announcement when he found himself surrounded by news trucks at Chicago. "Then there were microphones being shoved in my face. It was really weird."

He adds, "It was fun while it lasted, but I'm glad it's not there right now. I'm back to work."

Based on his work in Pennsylvania and existing knowledge about species that preceded and followed *Tiktaalik*, Shubin was able to determine the type and age of rocks in which an intermediate species would be found: 375,000 million-year-old stream bed rocks from the geologic period known as the Devonian. He also had been able to predict with accuracy the physical features of a transitional creature. Shubin substantiated his theory in July 2004 on Ellesmere Island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

After six years of excavating in the region and coming up empty-handed (or, as Shubin point outs, six years after the fortune cookie), he, Daeschler and fellow paleontologist and co-leader Farish Jenkins of Harvard, Shubin's former adviser, were on the verge of quitting when they uncovered the snout of a fish sticking out of the rock. To date, Shubin's team has dug up partial skeletons of 20 *Tiktaalik* individuals that range 4–9 feet in length. He plans to revisit the site every other year with the hope of finding more individuals or other transitional species.

Shubin also has led fossil expeditions to Greenland, China, Argentina, South Africa and Morocco. Under the guidance of Paul Olsen, currently the Arthur D. Storke Memorial Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia, Shubin led his first expedition to Nova Scotia while a graduate student at Harvard, where he earned a Ph.D. in organismic and evolutionary biology in 1987. That expedition yielded one of the first major finds of his career: a fossilized trithelodont, a 200-million-year-old reptile-mammal hybrid that had previously been found only in South Africa. His specimens also have shed light on the origin of mammals, frogs, crocodiles and lobe-finned fish.

Shubin's interest in evolution was kindled as a student at the College and cultivated inside and outside the classroom. He cites a comparative anatomy course taught by biology professor Walter Bock that played an important role in developing his interests.

"He taught anatomy from fish to cats to humans. It was the structure of the body in an evolutionary perspective, looking mostly at muscles and bones but also guts and everything else. That was a really important course for me," says Shubin.

In addition, he finds Core Curriculum texts relevant to his understanding of scientific principles.

"I'm often tracing the history of our science," Shubin says, "and much of the history of our science goes back to some of the people we read in the Core — Plato and Aristotle on the one hand, and Adam Smith and Karl Marx on the other. Historically, our views of natural history, from the workings of the earth to those of life, have roots in Greek philosophy. Also, market and economic factors can structure social systems in an analogous way that natural selection does for biological ones."

Some of Shubin's formative experiences as an undergraduate took place at the American Museum of Natural History, where he began volunteering while he was a freshman. There he had access

Tiktaalik roseae is considered a crucial “missing link” in the study of evolution because it has features that liken it to both fish and four-limbed animals.



Shubin, associate dean for organismal and evolutionary biology and the Robert R. Bensley Professor at Chicago, holds part of a fossil from *Tiktaalik roseae*, a species that fills in the evolutionary gap between fish and land animals.

PHOTO: DAN DRY

to the collection, a privilege granted by the late Malcolm McKenna, curator of vertebrate paleontology at AMNH and professor of geological sciences at Columbia. It was precisely the access to world-class institutions such as the AMNH that drew Shubin to Columbia.

“I liked the fact that it was a small college, but also that we had the resources of a big city. That proved to be hugely important to me,” explains Shubin, who was born and raised in Philadelphia.

McKenna invited Shubin to Wyoming on a field dig, which had a lasting impression on the aspiring scientist and cemented his fascination with fossils.

“It was a remarkable experience to catalyze my own interests,” Shubin says. “Having someone show faith in me was a very big thing. Now that I’m a teacher, I try to return the favor.”

For Shubin, however, fossils tell only half the story. Daeschler, associate curator of vertebrate zoology at the Academy of Natural Sciences, notes that Shubin has been at the forefront of evolutionary developmental biology, a revolutionary approach known as “evo-devo”

that consists of examining the role of genes in development in order to establish common ancestry among species.

“Neil was at the right place at the right time and had the right background, but at the same time he’s helped drive that revolution,” says Daeschler.

Shubin became interested in evo-devo during a course on developmental biology at Harvard. Fascinated by the similarities between embryos of radically different species, Shubin, who had enrolled in graduate school with the intention of studying early mammals, decided instead to focus on fish and amphibians.

“It’s hard to not be impressed by how much of our evolutionary history is captured in development,” Shubin says. “Then it became a hunt for the best system to work on where I could bring together both evolutionary biology and developmental biology, particularly the love for fossils that I gained at Columbia with the love of embryos that I gained at Harvard.

“It became clear that the best animals to do that are fish and amphibians. There were lots of important questions in the fossil record that were wide open for people who wanted to make important discoveries.”

Shubin’s dissertation on the evolution of limbs and their re-



The 2008 field crew (left to right): Jason Downs, Daeschler, Andrew Gillis, Randall Dahn, Shubin and Farish A. Jenkins Jr.

PHOTO: © ANDREW GILLIS



The crew excavates fossils in Bird Quarry in 2004. Several specimens lie encased in plaster, waiting to be shipped back to the labs for preparation.

PHOTO: © NEIL SHUBIN '82

relationship to fins drew from his work with fossils and embryos. He is one of a small number of scientists that apply both paleontology and developmental biology to the study of evolution. In his laboratory at Chicago, whose faculty he joined in 2000 from Penn, he continues to investigate the transition from fins to limbs through *Tiktaalik* and other primitive fish.

In 2007, Shubin and fellow researchers announced that through experiments on paddlefish — a primitive living fish bred for caviar — they had determined that ancient fish were genetically capable of producing limbs with digits. Their conclusion corroborated with genetics what *Tiktaalik* had demonstrated morphologically.

“Neil’s constantly on the boundaries between deep time evolution [evolutionary events put in the context of the Earth’s vast history] and a profound understanding of modern biology. He sees things that other people don’t and puts them in a cutting-edge biological context. That’s where his real strength lies,” says Olsen.

After graduating from Harvard, Shubin completed a two-year postgraduate fellowship at UC Berkeley. He began his teaching career at Penn in 1989. In 2008, Shubin published his first book, *Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body*, in which he describes the evolution of the human body for a

“I’m often tracing the history of our science, and much of the history of our science goes back to some of the people we read in the Core.”



A model of *Tiktaalik roseae*, depicted in what scientists believe to be the animal's environment about 375 million years ago.

MODEL: TYLER KEILLOR; PHOTO: BETH ROONEY

non-scientific audience in a conversational, often humorous, tone.

Your Inner Fish is a product of Shubin's experiences teaching human anatomy at Chicago for three years, an unlikely undertaking for a fish paleontologist, prompted by faculty departures.

"It became clear that being a paleontologist — and not just any paleontologist, but a fish paleontologist — is actually a really powerful way to teach human anatomy," says Shubin. "Many of the basic roadmaps to our bodies are found in other creatures. If you want to teach the structure of human limbs, it is often easier to look at the simpler state of affairs in fish."

Your Inner Fish earned the Phi Beta Kappa Science Book Award and scored Shubin an appearance on Comedy Central's *Colbert Report* in 2008. (See the video at college.columbia.edu/cct.) The following year, it was awarded the National Academy of Sciences' Science Communication Award for Best Book.

In his spare time, Shubin enjoys being outdoors, engaging in activities such as fly fishing and hiking. He also relishes family time with his wife, Michele, and his children, Nathaniel and Hannah.

"My kids are 9 and 5, so we enjoy museums and pretty much anything to do with water or snow," he says.

Shubin, however, does not allow himself to get too relaxed when it comes to his work. In fact, in *Your Inner Fish*, he describes himself as having "ants in his pants." Accordingly, Daeschler notes that his former teacher always has his eyes set on new frontiers, a voraciousness he points to as one of Shubin's greatest strengths as a scientist and as a mentor.

"Neil is always asking, 'What do we do next after we complete this piece?'" says Daeschler. "His ability to look at the big picture keeps you moving forward."

To see a slideshow of Shubin and his team working in the field, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.



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

[COLUMBIA FORUM]

Soccer and the Jewish Question

Franklin Foer '96 explains how one soccer club's destiny was shaped by European anti-Semitism

Franklin Foer '96 was the editor of *The New Republic* from 2006–10. Currently TNR's editor-at-large, he is working on a book about the birth of American liberalism — partly inspired, he says, by a long-ago seminar with the Allan Nevins Professor of American History and Provost Emeritus Alan Brinkley.

Foer's previous effort, *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization* (HarperCollins, reissued last year) became a national bestseller and was named one of the "Five Most Influential Books of the Decade" by *Sports Illustrated*. "I suck at soccer," Foer announced cheerfully in that book's first sentence. But despite his childhood failures on the field, he grew to love the world's most popular sport. As he followed soccer, Foer began to think of it as a political phenomenon, perhaps even a bellwether of international change. "From the perspective of my couch," he remarks in his prologue, "the game seemed much further along in the process of globalization than any other economy on the planet."

Seizing on this thesis, Foer took an eight-month leave from TNR to travel the globe. He

interviewed Serbian soccer fans (the Ultra Bad Boys) in Belgrade. He marveled at the workers'-collective idealism of FC Barcelona, known in the sporting press as Barca, a Spanish club with its own museum (complete with paintings by Dalí and Miró). He looked at the ways in which a nation's political corruption is mirrored on its soccer fields, and he studied — in countries from Iran to Brazil — the conflicts between tribalism (soccer's usual form of loyalty) and larger forms of identity.

"The game has all sorts of political subtexts ..." Foer told *TheAtlantic.com* in an interview. And that seems to be what he likes about it. "Soccer matches usually signify a clash of religions, classes and castes. To me, that's what makes the game so thrilling to watch. There's always some elevated stake to the game."

In the following excerpt from a chapter called "How Soccer Explains the Jewish Question," Foer examines the way that one early soccer club's destiny was shaped by the forces of European anti-Semitism.

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard



Franklin Foer '96

PHOTO: TAISIE BERKELY

"Do you want something to read?"

"Yes, do you have something really light?"

"How about this short leaflet: *Famous Jewish Sports Legends*."

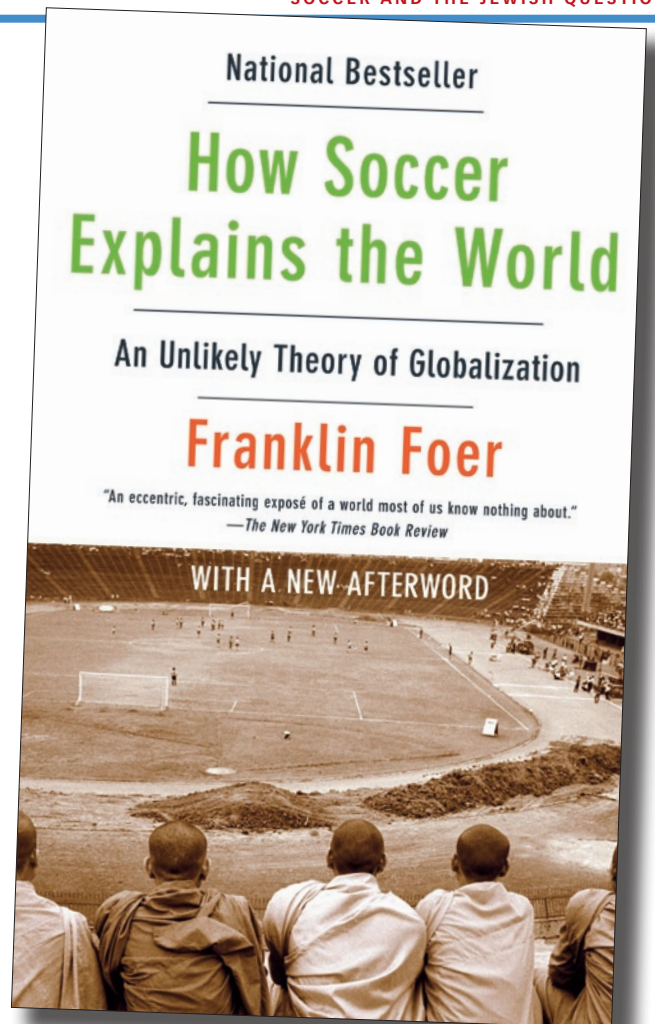
—The movie *Airplane!*, 1980

I had grown up thinking that great Jewish athletes come around about once in a decade, if the gene pool gets lucky. There was the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Sandy Koufax in the sixties; the swimmer Mark Spitz in the seventies; and then many fallow years. At home, my father and I would imagine that various athletes were quietly Jewish, like the Marrano survivors of the Spanish Inquisition. My father was especially adamant that Sid Bream, a lanky, energetic first baseman with the Atlanta Braves, was a person of the book. And, to be fair, the name, both first and last, made him a plausible member. But in retrospect, there were biographical details that probably should have negated our analysis. Sid Bream liked to talk about his love of hunting, and he drove a pickup truck. Yes, he wore a Mark Spitz moustache, but that was twenty years after its vogue within our community. The simple truth was that we were too apprehensive to go looking for Bream's real ethnicity.

Before Bream captured the imagination of our household, I had stumbled across the soccer club Hakoah of Vienna, winners of the 1925 Austrian championship. Hakoah's great triumph came at a time when Austrian soccer represented the world's gold standard of style and strategy. Although they had only a few scarce encounters with the other great teams of the era, Hakoah usually triumphed in these matches. Based on all the evidence we have, the Jewish all-stars were, for a short spell, one of the best teams on the planet.

Hakoah first came to my attention in a book that I found rummaging through my uncle's old bedroom, in my grandparents' house: *Great Jewish Sports Legends*. It had a frayed blue spine that could be lifted to reveal the naked binding. Sepia photos filled its pages. When this volume came into my possession at age eight, it quickly became a personal favorite. Because it had been written in the early 1950s, it wasn't so far removed from the mid-century American renaissance of Jewish athletes, which consisted of giant figures such as the Chicago Bears' quarterback Sid Luckman ['39] and the Detroit Tigers' first baseman Hank Greenberg. Like so much of Jewish life at that moment, the book was schizophrenic about its ethnic identity. As I remember the book, it was both a paean to Jewish achievement and to assimilation, but mostly to assimilation. There was no Star of David on the title page and no anecdotes about Greenberg skipping a crucial season-end game to attend Yom Kippur services. That's why Hakoah sprung at me from the pages. There was nothing self-effacing about the Jewishness of the Hakoah players. The team had a Hebrew name and advertised its Judaism on its jersey.

From the start, in other words, Hakoah had seemed chimerical to me. My search for the team made it even more so. I traveled to Vienna with promises of help from academics and community leaders. From them, I began to compile the names of Viennese Jews in their eighties and nineties who might have some memory of the championship season. Since 1940, Viennese Jewry has dwindled from approximately 200,000 to 7,000. Some of these remaining few include immigrants from the old Soviet bloc and a smattering of Israelis who have moved to town for business. The bulk consists of aging natives. Many of them have children in the U.S. and even spent years abroad themselves. But they've come back to the city of their youth for their last days so they can



live a familiar lifestyle. Because so many Austrians enthusiastically welcomed the Nazis, they often apologize for continuing to reside in Vienna. A retired professor of economics told me in a perfect American accent, "What can I do? I know the Austrians are the worst. Maybe they would do it all over again. But I have interests here and friends. It's comfortable."

These elderly Jews wanted badly to talk about the past, about politics and their love of the United States, to buy me a meal at a Chinese restaurant and a pastry at a coffee house. Unfortunately, for my purposes, these conversations didn't have anything remotely to do with soccer. None of them had played the game. Their parents considered it too scruffy, violent, and proletarian for their children. Viennese Jews were among the most bourgeois of the bourgeoisie. And even these old Jews were too young to remember Hakoah's glory years during the twenties. "Maybe there's someone in New York you could talk to," they told me. I had gone all the way around the world only to be told that the answers to my queries might be found in the smoked-fish line at Zabar's on Broadway. Sadly, in New York and Florida, where I had more names to contact, I didn't make much more headway. I couldn't. Anyone who might remember Hakoah at its best is too superannuated to remember, or no longer around. As far as I can tell, the historical memory of the club now resides with a gentile Swedish sportswriter from the town of Hässelby called

From the book *HOW SOCCER EXPLAINS THE WORLD: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization* by Franklin Foer. Copyright © 2004 by Franklin Foer. Reprinted by arrangement with Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Gunnar Persson who has obsessively tracked every shred of evidence vaguely related to the club. With his help, I began to cobble together the story of the wonder Jews.

Although it seems so strange now, the idea of a professional Jewish soccer club, it is only strange because so few of the Jewish soccer clubs survived Hitler. But, in the 1920s, Jewish soccer clubs had sprouted throughout metropolitan Europe, in Budapest, Berlin, Prague, Innsbruck, and Linz.

Jewish teams cloaked themselves in Jewish, not Hungarian or Austrian or German, nationalism, literally wearing their Zionism on their sleeves and shirts. Decades before Adolf Eichmann forced them to don the yellow star, some of these clubs played with King David's logo stitched onto the breasts of their jerseys. They swathed themselves in blue-and-white uniforms, the colors of Israel. Their unabashedly Hebrew names, Hagibor ("The Hero"), Bar Kochba (after the leader of a second-century revolt against the Romans), and Hakoah ("The Strength"), had unmistakably nationalist overtones.

If all this seemed exceptionally political, it was because these clubs were the products of a political doctrine. An entire movement of Jews believed that soccer, and sport more generally, would liberate them from the violence and tyranny of anti-Semitism. The polemicist Max Nordau, one of the founding fathers of turn-of-the-century Zionism, created a doctrine called *Muskeljudentum*, or muscular Judaism. Nordau argued that the victims of anti-Semitism suffered from their own disease, a condition he called *Judendot*, or Jewish distress. Life in the dirty ghetto had afflicted the Jews with effeminacy and nervousness. "In the narrow Jewish streets," he wrote, "our poor limbs forgot how to move joyfully; in the gloom of sunless houses our eyes became accustomed to nervous blinking; out of fear of constant persecution the timbre of our voices was extinguished to an anxious whisper." To beat back anti-Semitism and eradicate *Judendot*, Jews didn't merely need to reinvent their body politic. They needed to reinvent their bodies. He prescribed *Muskeljudentum* as a cure for this malady. He wrote, "We want to restore to the flabby Jewish body its lost tone, to make it vigorous and strong, nimble and powerful." Jews, he urged in articles and lectures, should invest in creating gymnasia and athletic fields, because sport "will straighten us in body and character."

Muscular Judaism wasn't an egghead's pipe dream. Nordau's high-toned words trickled down to the leaders of Central Europe's Jewish communities. Of the fifty-two Olympic medals captured by Austria between 1896 and 1936, eighteen had been won by Jews — eleven times more than they would have won if they had performed proportional to their population. And while much of the achievement came in individual events, especially fencing and swimming, Jews thrived in soccer, too. During the 1910s and 1920s, a healthy portion of the Hungarian national soccer team consisted of Jews. For a brief moment, Jewish sporting success mimicked Jewish intellectual achievement.

There is something creepy about Max Nordau's description of the sickly, effeminate Jewish body. And the creepiness lies in its similarities to the anti-Semitic caricature.

Perhaps it's not a coincidence. Zionism and modern European anti-Semitism dripped out of the same fin-de-siècle intellectual spout. Both movements were born at the turn of

the last century, in the midst of another wave of massive globalization and discombobulating social change, when the European intelligentsia reacted strongly against the values of the enlightenment. They embraced a scientific concept of race, an almost homoerotic obsession with perfecting the body, and a romantic idea of the motherland. Neither placed any emphasis on the universal brotherhood of man, the ideal of the French Revolution.

But that counter-enlightenment phase passed long ago, defeated in war and intellectually discredited. The last fifty years of European politics has run hard in the opposite direction, a return to the celebration of reason and universalism. Certainly, that's the theory behind the European Union, which assumes that conflicts can be avoided with dialogue and that commonality of interest can transcend even the deepest enmity.

This liberalization of thinking hasn't purged anti-Semitism from the European system. By most counts, continental anti-Semitism is as pervasive as it has ever been in the postwar era, or even more so. It certainly exists within European soccer. But that doesn't mean that European anti-Semitism is the same now as before the war. It's an entirely different beast, one not nearly as likely to kill, that has been made less pernicious by globalization's transformation of Europe. Thanks to the immigration of Africans and Asians, Jews have been replaced as the primary objects of European hate. These changes can be seen in microcosm in the history of Jewish soccer.

But before explaining the present, it is necessary to go back and tell the story of Vienna's Hakoah.



At the beginning of the last century, revolutionary movements, of the left and the right, understood the political mileage to be gained from soccer. Socialist youth clubs sponsored teams, and aspiring fascists tried to hitch themselves to popular clubs. In Vienna, a small circle of Zionist intellectuals saw the same potential in the game. This group included a dentist, a lawyer, and Fritz Beda-Löhrner, the cabaret librettist who wrote "Yes, We Have No Bananas." They, too, wanted the game to propagandize on behalf of their movement.

In 1909, this group created the Hakoah athletic club in the spirit of Max Nordau. Its name translates from Hebrew as strength, and that was the Nordauesque point of the club: to project strength. The team was meant to burst stereotypes, but in one important respect it confirmed them. Before any other club in the world, Hakoah thoroughly embraced the marketplace. It paid its players and paid them well — about three times the salary of the average worker. These higher wages, along with the ideological mission, helped Hakoah assemble an all-star team of Jewish players recruited from across Austria and Hungary. While the club only fielded Jewish players, it brought in the best gentiles to coach them, including Englishmen who instilled the latest in strategy.

There was a danger inherent in the Hakoah concept. Viennese anti-Semites generally didn't need a pretext to shout bile or pick fights, but Hakoah gave them a perfect one. Common shouts from opposing fans included *Drecksjude* (dirty Jew) and the oxymoronic *Judensau* (Jewish pig). To give their fans some confidence that they could escape this environment alive, Hakoah plucked a corps of bodyguards from the wrestling and boxing clubs that it also ran. The most iconic Jewish self-defender was the wrestler Mickey Herschel. In photos, he looks like a Charles Atlas character, in a bikini brief with a musculature that seems impossible in a world before protein shakes and anabolic steroids. Herschel



Hakoah, which translates from Hebrew as "the strength," was among the world's best soccer clubs in the 1920s.

and his corps evolved into a community security force that sometimes stood outside synagogues and neighborhoods, casting appropriately goonish glances at prospective pogrom participants.

From the newspaper accounts of the period, it's not at all clear that the Jewish team possessed superior talent. But the clippings do make mention of the enthusiastic Jewish supporters and the grit of the players. The grittiest performance of them all came at the greatest moment in Hakoah history. In the third to last game of the 1924–25 season, an opposing player barreled into Hakoah's Hungarian-born goalkeeper Alexander Fabian as he handled the ball. Fabian toppled onto his arm, injuring it so badly that he could no longer plausibly continue in goal. This was not an easily remediable problem. The rules of the day precluded substitutions in any circumstance. So Fabian returned to the game with his arm in a sling and swapped positions with a teammate, moving up into attack on the outside right. Seven minutes after the calamitous injury, Hakoah blitzed forward on a counterattack. A player called Erno Schwarz landed the ball at Fabian's feet. With nine minutes remaining in the game, Fabian scored the goal that won the game and clinched Hakoah's championship.

In a way, Hakoah achieved just what its founders had hoped for: A victorious team trailed by a bandwagon of Jews. The same Jewish elites who dismissed the game as the province of working-class ruffians began to bankroll Hakoah, believing that the respect of gentiles it acquired might rub off on them. Assimilated Jews who didn't like to acknowledge or flaunt their identity in front of gentiles began filling Hakoah's 18,000-seat stadium in Vienna's second district. They told each other tales of how a gentile—who wanted Hakoah to beat a rival of his own club—shouted "Go Mr. Jew," a massively respectful cheer relative to the rest. As Edmund Schechter, an American diplomat, recounted in a memoir of his Viennese youth, "Each Hakoah victory become another proof that the period of Jewish inferiority in physical activities had come to an end."

Just as they built their squad using the methods of modern management, Hakoah exploited their successes with a marketing plan that could have been scripted by a Wharton MBA. In the off season, Hakoah toured the world, the same way that Manchester United now builds its brand with jaunts to the Far East and America. Instead of selling jerseys, however, Hakoah sold Zionism. Preparing for visits, Hakoah would send ahead promoters to generate buzz for *Muskeljudentum* and distribute tickets to companies stocked with Jewish employees. They lured overwhelming crowds to watch this curiosity. In New York, Hakoah pulled 46,000 fans into the Polo Grounds. Lithuanian Jews bicycled through the night to see the club. Such audiences lifted Hakoah's game to levels far above its natural talent. Against the London outfit West Ham United, the Jews ran up a 5–1 victory. Naysayers rightly point to the West Ham lineup on that day. And it's true, the Hammers didn't take the traveling Jews very seriously, playing a mostly reserve squad. Nevertheless, the achievement stands: Before Hakoah, no continental team had beaten an English club on English soil, the same soil on which the game had been created.

There was, however, an unintended consequence of this success. On the team's 1925 trip, Hakoah players caught a glimpse of New York City, a metropolis seemingly uninfected by European anti-Semitism. It replaced Jerusalem as their Zion, and, over the next year, they immigrated there en masse. Deprived of nine of its best players, Hakoah attempted resurrection but only achieved mediocrity. For the rest of its brief life, it struggled to hold down a place in the top division of Austrian football, occasionally plummeting out of it. And then, its players struggled against death. With the 1938 *Anschluss* and German rule of the nation, the Austrian league shut down Hakoah, nullified the results of any games played against Hakoah, and it handed over the club's stadium to the Nazis.



Reform School

BY ALEX KINGSBURY '04J

Andres Alonso '79 shakes up Baltimore's dysfunctional educational bureaucracy

It takes a certain type of man to correct the President of the United States. But that's just what Andres Alonso '79 did when President Barack Obama '83 inadvertently maligned the results of Alonso's life's work.

Last March, while announcing a new education initiative, Obama said that in school districts in Detroit, Indianapolis and Baltimore, the student graduation rates "hover around 30, 40 percent — roughly half the national average."

Not so, Alonso, CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, told an audience during a conference a few days later. The district has improved that rate to more than 63 percent in the past two years. He called the President's words "a kick in the stomach."

It was more than just semantics to Alonso, who has pushed and prodded the ailing school district to coax kids back into the public schools and ensure they graduate. Indeed, 900 fewer students dropped out in 2010 than when Alonso took the reins of the system two years earlier. In July, he celebrated three years as CEO of the city's school system, making him the longest-serving schools head in recent memory.

The changes to the Baltimore schools during Alonso's tenure have been profound. Teachers and principals have been fired, staff jobs cut and authority simultaneously centralized in the office of the CEO and decentralized to principals. Positive outcomes are the only goal.

Baltimore is the latest example of a trend in school reform that has played out in cities such as Atlanta, Boston, New York and Washington, D.C., for the past decade. They all follow a similar script: a powerful superintendent (in Alonso's case, CEO), an entrenched bureaucracy and a fight to turn around schools caught in a cycle of failure and malaise.

"Mr. Alonso is changing the prospects for city schoolchildren not only through the force of his personality — he's demanding, responsive, impatient with excuses and can rankle some of his subordinates — but he's transformed the landscape by shaking up a

dysfunctional educational bureaucracy that has been failing kids for decades," gushed an editorial in *The Baltimore Sun* last year.

Joining his mentor and one-time boss Joel Klein '67, former New York City schools chancellor, as one of the country's foremost educational reformers is a surprising turn for the Cuban immigrant who was raised in Union City, N.J., and dreamed of being a lawyer.

Alonso was born in Jovellanos, Cuba, two years before Fidel Castro marched his victorious revolutionary army through the streets of Havana. Alonso's family was opposed to the communist regime and begged the government for permission to leave; that permission was granted eight years later, and the family fled Cuba for Union City, home to many Cuban immigrants at the time.

It also was home to numerous textile and embroidery factories, which is where Alonso's mother found work. His father got a job as an auditor for Merrill Lynch. A precocious student, Alonso remembers rewriting his father's notes for work into English. During his high school years, Alonso worked at a dry cleaner to earn money.

"It was an immigrant neighborhood where everyone was conscious of the fact that their parents had worked hard to get here and that a better life was possible," says Alex Valella '79, '82L, a lifelong friend who, like Alonso, took their Union Hill H.S. French teacher's advice and applied to Columbia.

Mrs. Brown, their influential *professeur*, might just as well have suggested attending school on the moon. "We'd only been into New York City in big groups," Alonso recalls. "It was another world for us."

Maybe so, but neither seems to have been too intimidated. The interviews went well, and both were offered nearly full scholarships. The friends skipped out on the freshman orientation, however, to watch the U.S. Open, the national championship of tennis, a sport both played and relished.

Alonso majored in English and history and had an interest in the French Revolution and the American New Deal. He counts John Romano, who taught courses on the novel, and Andrew Sarris '51, who taught film, as his favorite professors. He lived at home and read through his father's modest library of Spanish language history books to supplement his studies. To make ends meet, Alonso cleaned offices and worked shifts at a paint factory.

"I remember enjoying studying the New Deal, with its lessons about what is possible for a nation that is tested and challenged and what it can achieve," he says. "The city that I grew up in was architecturally shaped by the 1930s, so the reminders of the New Deal were everywhere."



Andres Alonso '79 heads a Baltimore City Public School System whose graduation rate improved by more than 63 percent the last two years.

PHOTO: ALEX KINGSBURY '04J

Valella and Alonso excelled at Columbia. Valella went on to the Law School, while Alonso, after graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, headed to Harvard, where he earned a J.D. in 1982. "Education, for me, was about acquiring social capital — that's what I thought it was and what I still think it is," Alonso says. "It was an antidote to some of the vulnerabilities of the immigrant experience and spurred on by an understanding of sacrifice — to see your mother working in a factory and to see your father vulnerable by not speaking the language perfectly."

Whatever his motivations, by the early 1980s Alonso had reached his goal: a job with a corporate firm in Manhattan, a pair of Ivy League sheepskins, financial security.

Two years later, bored by the drudgery of corporate law, Alonso quit. He lived off his savings and traveled to Europe and around the United States. Soon enough, he was back in New Jersey and, on the advice of his sister, applied for a teaching job. (Interestingly, notes the CEO famous for ousting insufficiently certified teachers, it was the fact that teachers in those days didn't need certificates that allowed him to get a foot in the door.)

Assigned to teach special education to emotionally disturbed students, Alonso spent 12 years in the classroom, adopted a student he took a special interest in and now concedes that "every day was a crisis.

"There is a perverse pride about staying in the classroom. It is endlessly engaging. But, in the end, I began to feel that I was becoming less effective," Alonso says. So, he headed back to the ivory tower, earning a master's in education in 1999 from a new Harvard program designed to sculpt education reformers.

From there Alonso headed to New York and was chief of staff for teaching and learning at the New York City Department of Education under Klein, who was then fast becoming one of the country's foremost education reformers, and among its most controversial.

Under the mayoralty of Michael Bloomberg, Klein had reined in the notoriously unwieldy New York Department of Education. Klein shuttered the Livingston Street headquarters, partnered with private education groups, slashed waste, and replaced underperforming teachers and principals. It worked. Graduation rates climbed and the achievement gap between white and minority students began to shrink, if ever so slightly.

"Being a great teacher is a form of theater, and being a superintendant is the same way."

In 2006, Alonso was named deputy chancellor, at the same time as he earned a doctorate from Harvard. Klein calls his time working with Alonso "a privilege" and holds no hard feelings that his No. 2 struck out on his own to take the reins of the Baltimore school district a year later. "He is a dynamic educational leader with a commitment to equity and excellence," Klein says. "The students in Baltimore and New York City whom he has served, and will serve, are the beneficiaries."

Not surprisingly, Alonso's formula in Baltimore has echoes of Klein's effort in New York. "Baltimore reminds me of Brooklyn in the 1990s, before the fashionistas arrived," Alonso says. He replaced a third of the city's principals and fired more than 200 ill-qualified teachers. He cut 300 of the 1,500 jobs at the school system's North Avenue headquarters, a symbol of its calcified bureaucracy, and moved many of them into the schools. Another 150 headquarters jobs were axed outright.

It has been a hard grind. "I'm in early and I expect my staff to be, too," Alonso says during an interview in his North Avenue office. Glancing down at his BlackBerry, he grins and adds, "and this thing is never off." Valella says that Alonso's commitment to the job is intense. "We haven't had a chance to get out and play tennis for about eight years. Some people, like me, work a day job. For others, their job is their life."

But it has paid dividends for Baltimore students. "Being a great teacher is a form of theater, and being a superintendent is the same way," Alonso says. "The lighting and the script are important; so are a reliable group of actors who can be counted on to do their jobs. My job is to help convince all the players in the cast that they have a stake in the outcome of the performance."



Alex Kingsbury '04J covers the intelligence community, national security and the Iraq war for U.S. News & World Report.

Charles Ar dai '91 Keeps Crime Fiction Fresh

Hard Case Crime brings lost noir classics and new novels to today's audience

BY GRACE LAIDLAW '11

A

uthor, publisher and Internet guru Charles Ar dai '91 has been devouring crime novels since elementary school. The child of Holocaust survivors, he uses his parents' influence to explain his passion. Because he grew up hearing stories about the extremes of human evil, Ar dai always has been drawn to the dark world of hardboiled fiction — a world where heroism has its place, but cruelty and betrayal are the norm.

As an adult, Ar dai seeks to revive the pulp genre with his publishing company, Hard Case Crime (hardcasecrime.com), which releases mass-market editions of mystery novels ranging from lost noir masterpieces to new novels. Ar dai and his co-founder, Max Phillips, started the enterprise in 2004. "We were both passionate about mystery novels, and we thought publishing would be an interesting challenge," says Ar dai.

Before going into business together, the two were colleagues at Juno, an Internet provider that spun off in 1996 from worldwide financial firm D.E. Shaw & Co. Ar dai was hired by Shaw shortly after he graduated from Columbia and came up with the idea for Juno in 1994. He oversaw the start-up's development, and Phillips assisted him by doing graphic design work. Juno merged with NetZero in 2001, and Ar dai returned to Shaw but soon began looking for an outside venture to occupy his extra time. After the merger had been finalized, Ar dai and Phillips went out to dinner to discuss possible business plans. The result was Hard Case Crime (HCC).

Ar dai also writes mysteries of his own. He has published four novels to date, the latest in 2009. A native Manhattanite, he writes stories set in New York and uses New Yorkers as characters; in fact, the protagonist of his first two novels, *Little Girl Lost* and *Songs of Innocence* (2004 and 2007, Hard Case Crime), is an NYU dropout. In *Songs of Innocence*, he has enrolled at GS and taken a job as the departmental administrator in Columbia's writing program; much of

the plot takes place in Morningside Heights, including a dramatic chase scene through Columbia's famed tunnel network. The titles of Ar dai's first two novels are taken from William Blake poems that he studied with the late Karl Kroeber '56 GSAS.

Ar dai's work has been reviewed in *Publishers Weekly* and *The Washington Post*, among other publications. *Little Girl Lost* was nominated for the Edgar Allen Poe Award by the Mystery Writers of America in 2005, and his short story "The Home Front" received the award in 2007.

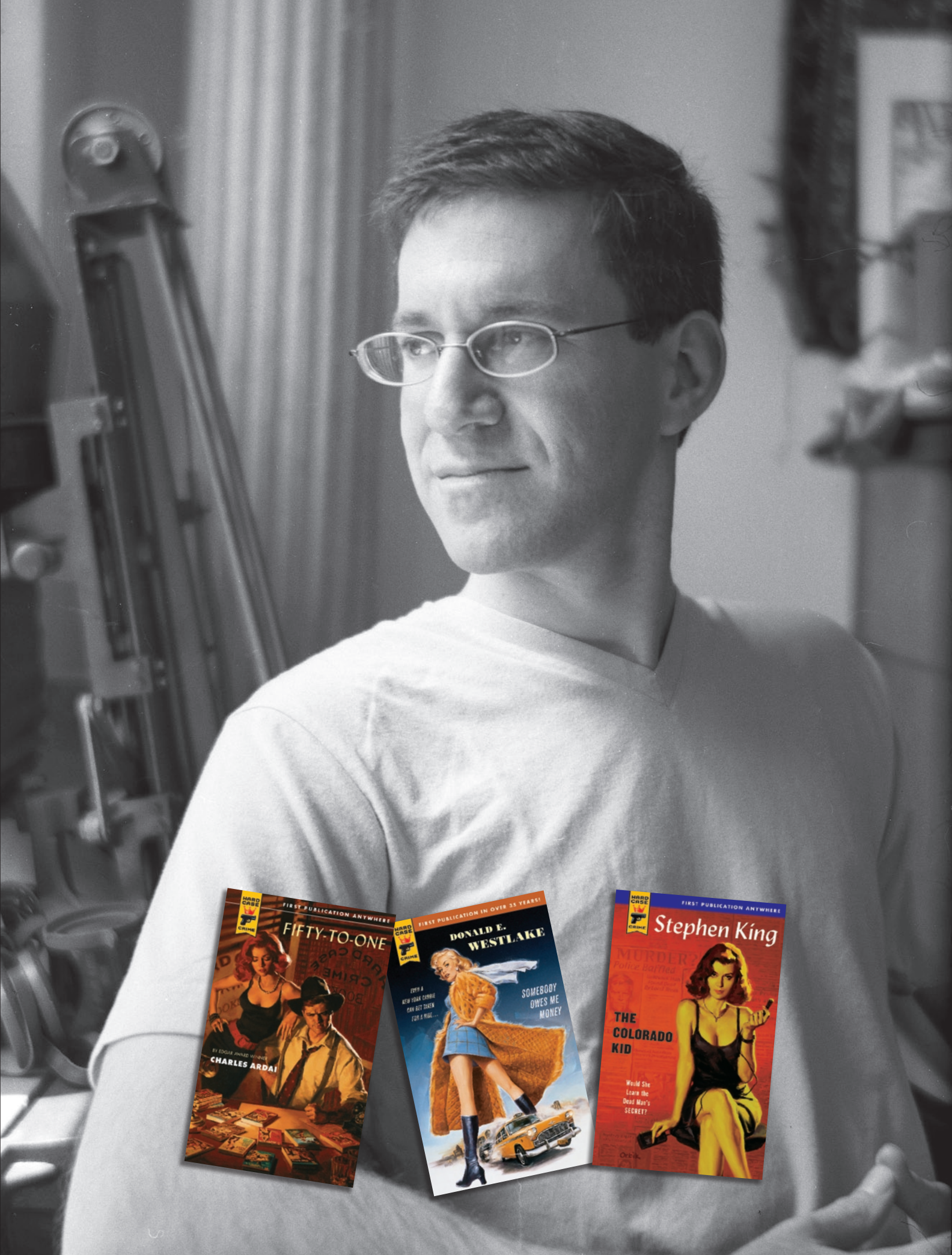
Ar dai published his first two novels under an anagrammatic pseudonym, Richard Aleas. The choice was not intended to conceal his identity from readers, Ar dai explains; many of the original pulp writers used pen names, and he adopted the convention as a "tip of the hat" to the genre that inspired him. "It was more of a symbolic gesture than anything else," he says. "I wanted to maintain separate identities as writer and editor."

During the past six years, HCC has published dozens of works by both established mystery authors and unknown talents, averaging one release every two weeks. The majority of the books are reprints, but the company also takes on new manuscripts, including Ar dai's novels as well as several written by his co-founder.

Until recently, HCC was affiliated with Dorchester Publishing, the oldest independent mass-market book publisher in the country.

(Opposite) Charles Ar dai '91 turned his passion for pulp fiction into a publishing business.

PHOTO: MELANIE KING



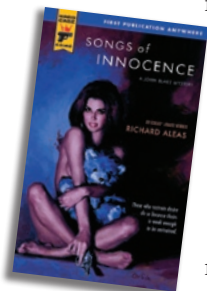
In 2010, however, Dorchester began to shift its priorities toward digital book production, and HCC developed a partnership with a London-based company, Titan Publishing Group. Arдай explains that the group seems like a good match for HCC because its releases already have a pop culture slant and visually striking cover art — two essential elements of the lurid hard-boiled crime genre.

Ardai has begun exploring new avenues outside of publishing. He recently finished negotiations with Universal Pictures, which plans to make a feature film of *Little Girl Lost*. Jonathan Levine, best known for his work on *The Wackness*, has signed on as director, and Michael Bacall, who created the script for *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*, will be writing the screenplay. Arдай is thrilled by these developments. At 15, he had a role as an extra in the Woody Allen movie *Radio Days*, but in his mind, the job hardly qualifies as a film career. "I'm glad to have a second shot," he says. "To a kid from midtown Manhattan, Hollywood just seems unbelievably glamorous."



Arдай enjoys a rare moment of leisure touring Beijing.

PHOTO: NAOMI NOVIK '00E

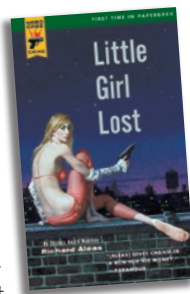


Arдай also is trying his hand at television. In 2005, HCC published a novel by Stephen King, *The Colorado Kid*. Arдай originally approached the author about reprinting one of his books in mass-market format, but King responded with an offer to write a new mystery. A program called *Haven*, based on *The Colorado Kid*, premiered on the Syfy network last summer, airing Fridays at 10 p.m. The network renewed the series, for which Arдай is a writer and producer, for a second season this summer.

King is not the only well-known author with whom Arдай has collaborated. Since founding HCC, he has published books by mystery genre living legends such as Jason Starr and Lawrence Sanders. Sanders attributes much of HCC's success to Arдай's determination. "Charles picks the books, selects and inspires the cover artists, puts the whole package together and generates brilliantly effective publicity for it all," Sanders says. "He's apparently tireless, and the whole business gains from his presence in it."

Arдай's business partner agrees. "To talk about Charles personally is to talk about him professionally," says Phillips. "Work is fun for him, and he thrives on stress that would kill most people."

Asked if he sees his work in publishing as a digression from his career path, Arдай explains that he thinks of it as a return to his original plan. "I started out defining myself as a writer before reaching double digits," he says. "People always ask, 'How does an Internet entrepreneur wind up as a mystery writer?' A better question is, 'How does a guy who sees himself as a writer end up as an Internet entrepreneur?'" Before starting work at Juno, Arдай had been pursuing a career in writing for years. He began as a teenager by reviewing video games for an entertainment magazine, and remembers himself as a merciless critic. "I was the Frank Rich of video game reviewers," he says with a laugh. "In all seriousness, though, that job was a terrific proving ground."



SOMEBODY OWES ME MONEY: COVER PAINTING BY MICHAEL KOELSCH
THE CONSUMMATA: COVER PAINTINGS BY ROBERT MCGINNIS
THE COLORADO KID; FIFTY-TO-ONE; SONGS OF INNOCENCE: COVER PAINTINGS BY GLEN ORBIK

Arдай also showed an early interest in editing. Before finishing high school, he was an intern at Davis Publications, where he helped to compile short story anthologies, including some in the mystery genre. He was a commuter student in college, and when he wasn't on campus, he was downtown, haunting various publishing offices in search of work and advice.

Arдай chose Columbia because he wanted to stay in the city after high school and was impressed by the University's academic reputation. He majored in English and graduated summa cum laude. He distinctly re-

members classes with Kroeber, the Mellon Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, who taught British Romantic poetry, and John Rosenberg '50, '60 GSAS, the William Peterfield Trent Professor Emeritus of English, who lectured on Victorian verse.

It was actually because of his excellence in English that Arдай was recruited by Shaw. The firm was founded in 1988 by David Shaw, a biochemist and former Columbia computer science professor, whose idea was to recruit top graduates from liberal arts fields in order to get outside perspectives on the financial industry, assuming that the technical skills required for the work could be taught if candidates were highly intelligent and sufficiently motivated.

Arдай brought with him to Shaw not only a strong background in English but also an eclectic knowledge of many other subjects. While at Columbia, he made a point of taking as many courses as possible outside his major. "If I was interested in writing about a topic, I took a class on it," he says. In addition to his poetry courses, Arдай recalls American history lessons with Walter Metzger '46 GSAS, professor emeritus of history, and classes on Chinese culture with the late Barnard professor Irene Bloom '76 GSAS. The author is emphatic in his praise of the Columbia faculty and expresses his admiration as only a hardboiled mystery writer could: "I had countless outstanding professors. They'll pry your brain open with a crowbar and stuff things inside if they have to, but in the end, it works."

Ironically, Arдай's interest in writing originally made him hesitant to attend the College. When he applied to Columbia, it did not have an undergraduate creative writing major — a lack that made him consider going to NYU. Though he did take creative writing classes while at Columbia, Arдай feels that the College had a much more significant impact on the content of his writing than on its style. "You can learn to write on your own," he says. "Learning about life is where Columbia helped me out."

To read the first two chapters of Arдай's hit novel *Songs of Innocence*, which takes place at Columbia, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.



Grace Laidlaw '11 majors in creative writing and psychology. She is director of Columbia's peer counseling hotline and contributes regularly to CCT.

Obituaries

1944

Kenneth G. Englar, retired engineer, Newport Beach, Calif., on March 2, 2010. Englar entered with the Class of 1944 but earned a B.S. in 1943 from the Engineering School. He was born on June 19, 1923, in New York City. During WWII, Englar was drafted into the Army and assigned to help purify plutonium for the top-secret Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, N.M. After the war, he moved to California to join the burgeoning aerospace industry. Englar helped design airplanes, satellites, space stations and rockets for 39 years at McDonnell Douglas. His final project for McDonnell Douglas was the successful design, creation and test launch of a missile interception for the Strategic Defense Initiative. After retirement, Englar served for several years on a NASA safety commission and traveled the world as an aerospace consultant. He received a NASA Public Service medal. Englar is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jane; children, Bruce, Russell, Barbara and Janet; eight grandchildren; and a sister. Memorial contributions may be made to KUSC or the Pacific Chorale.

1945

Donald W. Johnson, radiologist, Bloomfield, Conn., on May 7, 2010. Johnson was born in Hartford, Conn., on January 3, 1923, and grew up on Staten Island. After earning an M.D. from P&S in 1948, he did his internship and residency at Presbyterian Hospital. From 1952–54, Johnson served in the Air Force as radiologist at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Fla. In 1955, he joined the radiology staff at Presbyterian, leaving in 1961 to join a group in private practice at Hartford Hospital. In 1963, Johnson and three other young radiologists formed Jefferson X-Ray Group, a practice that now numbers more than 40. A longtime member of the Universalist Church of West Hartford, Johnson served on the Boards of Education and Finance, chaired the Scholarship Committee and taught in the church school for 31 years. Together with his wife, Dorothy, whom he met at P&S, he received the Distinguished Service award in 1990. Johnson retired in 1987. He enjoyed playing the piano

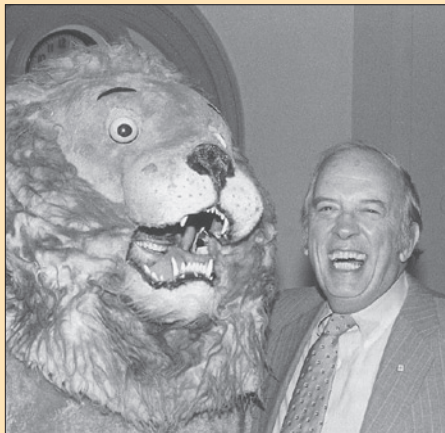
Joseph D. Coffee Jr. '41, Devoted Alumnus

Joseph D. Coffee Jr. '41, a retired academic administrator and longtime involved College alumnus, died on January 23, 2011. He was 92 and lived in Lakewood, N.J.

Born on December 8, 1918, in Glens Falls, N.Y., Coffee served from ensign to lieutenant commander in the Navy during WWII and, along with five other members of the Class of '41, was profiled in *Columbia* magazine's Fall 2005 feature "Six Who Served" (columbia.edu/cu/alumni/Magazine/Fall2005/index.html).

Coffee began his distinguished career in college administration in 1947 at Columbia. He was assistant to the president for alumni affairs when he left in 1967 to join Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls, N.Y., as a founding administrator, and retired in 1983 as chancellor of Eisenhower College of Rochester Institute of Technology following their merger. Coffee also was the director of the Educational Fund of the Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry for more than 40 years, administering college scholarships for union member's children, and co-developed the nation's first residential educational program for union members.

Deeply dedicated to the College, Coffee is widely credited with originating many of its most cherished alumni traditions,



among them the John Jay Associates program, Dean's Day, the Alexander Hamilton Medal, the Columbia College Fund and CCT. He is an honorary permanent member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors, served as a University trustee, served as a Columbia University Club Foundation trustee, was a longtime member of the Society of Columbia Graduates and was a Nacom. Coffee also was heavily involved in the Columbia Undergraduate Remembrance Committee. He was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1998 and an Alumni Federation Medal in 1957.

Coffee also was involved in his local communities, serving as a trustee of the Board of Education of Teaneck, N.J., for six years, during which time Teaneck became the first town in the United States to voluntarily desegregate its schools. He was

named Teaneck's first Citizen of the Year in 1967. Coffee also served on the board of directors of the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls. After retiring, he and his wife, Margaret Jennings, moved to Red Bank, N.J., where he was active in the Red Bank Rotary, the Shadow Lake Village community and the St. James Catholic Church choir. Coffee began his love of Rotary International in Seneca Falls, where he

served as president. Coffee devoted himself to the Ambassadorial Scholarship, which provides scholarships to study abroad, and started the Honorary Rotarian Award in 1988. He received the Paul Harris Award in 1988 and in 2002.

Coffee was predeceased by his wife of 56 years in 1998 and by a son, John, in 1993. He is survived by sons Jim and his wife, Betty, and Matt and his wife, Michele; daughters Mary Joyce, Barbara Wolf '73 Barnard and her husband, Steven '73, Erin Giovannini and her husband, David, and Ann Beach; and 19 grandchildren, including Daniel Wolf '05, '10L and his wife, Elizabeth '05. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia College Fund (college.columbia.edu/giveonline). A memorial service will be held on campus on Thursday, April 28, at St. Paul's Chapel.

Lisa Palladino

1949

Theodore O. Prounis, attorney and management consultant, New York City, on May 22, 2010. Prounis entered with the Class of 1949 but earned a degree in 1950 from the Business School. He graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and at Columbia was president of Sigma Nu and v.p. of the PNYX Hellenic Society. He was a founding board

and organ, hiking, skiing, and traveling with his family. He is survived by his wife and sons, Richard and Theodore, and their wives. Memorial contributions may be made to Hartford Hospital Development Fund, 80 Seymour St., Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102; or National Parkinson Foundation, 1501 N.W. 9th Ave./Bob Hope Rd., Miami, FL 33136-1494.

member of the Hellenic Studies Program at Columbia. A WWII veteran, Prounis served in the Army Air Corps, flying on B-17 and B-29 bombers. He earned a J.D. from Fordham, was a "Cold War warrior" in Washington, D.C., and received the Distinguished Service Medal. Prounis practiced law for more than 30 years and returned to being a management consultant.

Garland E. Wood '65, Financial Executive

Garland E. Wood '65, a retired financial executive and member of the College's Board of Visitors from 1987–94, died on November 15, 2010. He was 66 and lived in Weston, Conn. Wood, an innovator in the municipal bonds market, rose through the ranks at Goldman Sachs during a two-decade career, becoming the first black partner at the firm and one of the first in the financial services industry. He was renowned as a leader and innovator in public finance and is widely recognized as being instrumental in leading Goldman's advanced refunding efforts in the late '70s and early '80s.

Wood was born in New York on December 29, 1943. He moved with his family to Prairie View, Texas, in 1948, where he attended public schools, excelling both in academics and athletics. After earning a B.A. in economics, Wood earned an M.B.A. from the Business School in 1972 and joined Goldman Sachs that same year. Goldman named Wood a general partner in 1986, making him the first black professional to reach Goldman's top tier of leadership. He was featured in *Black Enterprise Magazine* in 1992 as among the top 25



black professionals on Wall Street. He retired from Goldman in 1994 but for many years was an adviser to the firm.

Wood was a longtime supporter of the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Garland E. Wood Foundation supported numerous causes and charities, including scholarships at the College, and Wood established a scholarship in his name at the Business School. He was a founder of Columbia's Black Alumni Council.

Wood is survived by his children, Michelle, Cynthia and Scott; mother, Lou Lee Wood; brothers, Curtis Jr. '64, '67L and Craig; and sisters, Barbara Wood Harrison '79 TC, Beth Setrakian and Gina Hector.

Lisa Palladino

He was an Archon Deputatos of the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate, had served as an officer of the Archdiocesan Council and was president of the Board of Trustees of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York 1984–94. Prounis is survived by his wife, Lila '50 GSAS; son, Othon '83, '86L; daughter, Amelia '87 SIPA; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Holy Trinity Cathedral or to Columbia University, Program for Hellenic Studies, Attn.: Gerry Visco, 1130 Amsterdam Ave., MC 2861, 617 Hamilton Hall, New York, NY 10027.

1 9 5 2

Marvin L. Yates, chemist, Port Angeles, Wash., on March 4, 2010. Yates was born in Des Moines, Iowa,

on January 27, 1931, and served in the Navy during the Korean War 1952–55. He was in the Naval Reserve from 1955–77, retiring with the rank of commander. Yates earned a B.A. in chemistry and then a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Indiana University. He was employed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey Division, for 28 years, and worked in water quality control laboratories in Washington, D.C., Denver, and Menlo Park and Sacramento, Calif. A music aficionado, he had a special affinity for Mozart. Yates was fascinated with airplanes and air shows, especially those featuring WWII vintage aircraft. He was a 50-year emeritus member of the American Chemical Society and a longtime member of the American Association for the

Advancement of Science. Yates is survived by his wife, Janice Adcock Yates; son, Stephen; daughters, Alison Dixon and her husband, James, and Laura Fujita and her husband, Masahiko; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Clallam County, 540 E. Eighth St., Port Angeles, WA 98362 or to Northwest Parkinson's Foundation, 400 Mercer St., Ste 401, Seattle, WA 98109.

1 9 5 8

George N. Braman, retired physician, professor, Riverdale, N.Y., on June 23, 2010. Braman was born in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn on April 30, 1937. He earned a B.A. in English and then an M.D. from SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn in 1963. Braman had practiced internal medicine for nearly 40 years, including at the New York State Department of Health and as director of quality management at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. He returned to SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn in 1998 to teach in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health and the master of public health program and contributed to the development of the School of Public Health. For his work at SUNY, Braman was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Public Health Society and given the Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award. Braman was an avid reader and a poet, and his poetry was frequently featured in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. He also enjoyed taking walks in his North Riverdale neighborhood. Braman is survived by his wife of 34 years, Joan '64 Barnard; and sons, Leonard '02 and Donald.

1 9 8 0

Joseph V. DiGiuseppe, retired deputy city solicitor, Philadelphia, on May 24, 2010. DiGiuseppe was a lifelong resident of Philadelphia. He attended St. Thomas Aquinas Parochial School and graduated from Central H.S. His College degree was in journalism, and he earned a J.D. from Temple Law School in 1989. DiGiuseppe was a former president of the Columbia Club of Philadelphia and a member of the Alumni Representative Committee. In Philadelphia, he was on the board of the Friends of the Free Library and a member of the Sons of Italy. DiGiuseppe played piano, coached in his son's T-ball league and enjoyed hiking. He is survived by his wife, Theresa Timlin; son,

Joseph Ruslan; mother, Carmella; and sister, Joanne Banecker. Memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Attn.: Amy Dougherty, 1901 Vine St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, libraryfriends.info.

1 9 9 4

Mildred E. "Millie" Niss, poet and web artist, North Tonawanda, N.Y., on November 29, 2009. Niss was born on May 6, 1973, and graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the College, where she was named a Rabi Scholar in Mathematics and attended two National Science Foundation summer programs in computational algebraic geometry. In her freshman year, the Association of Women in Mathematics awarded Niss Special Recognition for the Alice Shafer Prize for "outstanding achievement in mathematics so early in [her] career" for a paper, *Inversion of Pascal-Like Triangles*, in the *Journal of Undergraduate Mathematics*, Spring 1993. In 2005, Niss' illness of many years was diagnosed as Behcets Disease, an autoimmune disease that attacks blood vessels anywhere in the body. Her treatment led to complications that left her bedridden and wheelchair-bound for the last three years of her life. Niss continued writing poetry and doing web art either alone or in collaboration with her mother, Martha Deed. Niss' web installations, poetry and links to publications may be found at <http://sporkworld.org>. To view her blog, designed as a journal, visit <http://sporkworld.tumblr.com>.

Lisa Palladino



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, but 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 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, New York, NY 10025.

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

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

- 1930** Leonard Lazarus, attorney, New York City, on January 15, 2011.
- 1931** Fred W. Farwell, retired geologist, Stamford, Conn., on February 1, 2011.
- 1934** Herbert P. Jacoby, attorney, New York City, on January 12, 2011.
- 1936** Zachary B. "Bert" Friedenberg, physician, professor of orthopedic surgery, Philadelphia, on January 27, 2011.
- 1938** Robert P. Hopkins, psychologist and educator, Ventura, Calif., on December 21, 2010.
- 1939** John F. "Hoke" Hokanson, retired professor of veterinary sciences, Salt Lake City, Utah, on December 8, 2010.
- 1940** Alan D. Kattelle, retired engineer and business executive, authority on amateur cinematography, Hudson, Mass., on December 8, 2010.
- 1942** Clarence C. Eich, retired e.v.p., Decatur, Ga., on January 8, 2011.
Werner D. Rahmlow, retired engineer, Camden, Maine, on January 3, 2011.
- 1943** Warren C. Meeker, retired business executive, Naples, Fla., on January 18, 2011.
Walter J. Sassano, business owner, West Harrison, N.Y., on December 28, 2010.
- 1945** Carter H. Golembe, financial author and economic historian, Delray Beach, Fla., on December 19, 2010.
Jack E. Oliver, Ithaca, N.Y., on January 5, 2011.
- 1946** Ralph L. Horst Jr., engineer, Pittsburgh, on December 31, 2010.
Carlos M. Suarez, San Juan, P.R., on January 2, 2011.
- 1947** Christopher A. Guarino, retired orthopedic surgeon, Tucson, on December 14, 2010.
Edwin T. Stitt, attorney, judge, oil company owner, Fairmont, W.V., on November 18, 2010.
Robert H. Young, retired television broadcaster, Ridgewood, N.J., on January 19, 2011.
- 1948** Richard M. Hill, professor emeritus of business administration and professor of industrial distribution, Urbana, Ill., on December 12, 2010.
David H. Horowitz, attorney, entertainment and media executive, Santa Fe, N.M., on December 14, 2010.
Alex Katzenstein, farmer, insurance agent, Greensboro, N.C., on November 23, 2010.
- 1949** Allan H. Levy, physician, Champaign, Ill., on September 29, 2010.
Michael Manheim, professor of English, Strafford, Vt., on January 5, 2011.
- 1950** Joachim J. "Joe" Adamczyk, retired business executive, Madison, N.J., on January 4, 2011.
George C. Finch, construction supervisor, New Bern, N.C., on November 27, 2010.
John E. Silverberg, Long Island City, N.Y., on December 16, 2010.
- 1951** John B. Morris, minister, Atlanta, on December 28, 2010.
Howard N. Ross, economics professor, New York City, on November 16, 2010.
- 1955** Don Grillo, ob/gyn, retired military servicemember, Jackson, Miss., on December 16, 2010.
Jay R. Novins, pediatrician and psychiatrist, Ardsley, N.Y., on January 21, 2011.
- 1956** Herbert J. Baumgarten, Jupiter, Fla., on January 15, 2011.
- 1957** Ralph J. Knight, business owner, Westerville, Ohio, on November 27, 2010.
- 1959** Stephen M. Remen, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, New York City, on January 20, 2011.
David G. Trager, federal judge, Brooklyn, N.Y., on January 5, 2011.
- 1962** Eugene V. "Vic" Wolfenstein, professor, psychoanalyst, writer, Beverly Hills, on December 15, 2010.
- 1967** John A. Shayner, college administrator, Allamuchy Township, N.J., on September 23, 2009.
- 1968** Harris "Buzz" Baumgold, Palisades, N.Y., on August 15, 2010.
- 1969** Arthur M. Rubin, Westfield, N.J., on October 16, 2010.
- 1971** Lawrence J. Thomases, translator, interpreter, immigrant rights advocate, Medford, Mass., on December 10, 2010.
- 1973** Jesse L. Parks III, Atlanta, on August 7, 2010.
- 1979** Jonathan M. Kayes, chief learning officer, Vienna, Va., on August 5, 2010.
- 1987** Edward S. Fettman, ESL teacher, Bridgeport, Conn., on June 21, 2010.
Gregory C. Giraldo, stand-up comedian, New York City, on September 29, 2010.
- 2002** Irina Shekhets, financial executive, Brooklyn, N.Y., on August 24, 2010.
- 2007** Jonathan E.S. Brilliant, Mill Valley, Calif., on January 20, 2011.

Bookshelf

The Demon at Agi Bridge and Other Japanese Tales translated by *Burton Watson* '50 and edited by *Haruo Shirane* '74, the Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature. Shirane has selected 38 early and medieval Japanese anecdotal stories that give insight into Japanese culture and literary style (Columbia University Press, \$22.50).

Your Personal Power-Up: Five Steps to Take Control of Your Life and Career by *Brenda McGlowan-Fellows* and *Claudewell S. Thomas* '52. This book helps busy professionals take control of their emotions and gain professional and personal success (Executive Excellence Publishing, \$25).

Aging Head in the Clouds by *Alan Holder* '53. In this collection of poems, Holder explores the reality and emotions of old age with precision and clarity (Finishing Line Press, \$14).

Unmanned Combat Air Systems: A New Kind of Carrier Aviation by *Norman Friedman* '54. Friedman examines the X-47B unmanned aircraft and its ability to transform naval aviation. The book also describes general tactics and unmanned aerial vehicle technology (Naval Institute Press, \$52.95).

The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: A Translation with Commentary by *Robert Alter* '57. In this new translation, the author captures the style and narrative of the original Hebrew Bible while bringing modern readers closer to the

moral and philosophical meaning (W.W. Norton & Co., \$35).

The New Brazil by *Riordan Roett* '59. Roett traces the beginning of Brazil's economic crisis to its current status as a regional powerhouse while discussing the challenges with which the country is dealing (Brookings Institution Press, \$29.95).

Astronomical Photometry: Past, Present, and Future edited by *E.F. Milone* '61 and *C. Sterken*. The authors discuss how experts in the subfield of astronomical photometry provide accurate and precise measurements that are then used to test astrophysical theories (Springer, \$129).

DNA: A Graphic Guide to the Molecule that Shook the World by *Israel Rosenfield*, *Borin Van Loon* and *Edward Ziff* '63. Exploring the history of DNA, the authors provide insights into the philosophical and current use of the double helix in the health and science fields (Columbia University Press, \$19.95).

The Works of James M. Whitfield: America and Other Writings by a Nineteenth-Century African American Poet edited by *Robert S. Levine* '75 and *Ivy Wilson*. Levine and Wilson gathered and annotated all of Whitfield's poetry and prose, highlighting not only his influence on Black Nationalism but also the importance of black writing during the 19th century (The University of North Carolina Press, \$26.95).

A Sloan Product: A Memoir of a Lost Boy by *Neil Selinger* '75. Sel-

inger's revealing memoir tells the story of his childhood in New Jersey and of the family business run by matriarch Olga (World Audience, Inc., \$20).

The Hippocratic Myth: Why Doctors Have to Ration Care, Practice Politics, and Compromise Their Promise to Heal by *Gregg Bloche* '77. Bloche examines the tension that doctors face by providing the utmost care for their patients and the pressure put on them by courts of law, insurance companies and government officials (Palgrave Macmillan, \$27).

Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters by *Barack Obama* '83. President Obama highlights 13 Americans for their ideals that helped shape America, complemented by illustrations by *Loren Long* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, \$17.99).

Stories that Listen by *Priscilla Becker*, professor of creative writing. In this, her second book, Becker uses her poems to show the feelings and thoughts of heartbreak and suffering after the fact (Four Way, \$15.95).

After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement edited by *Courtney Bender*, associate professor of religion, and *Pamela E. Klassen*. The essays in this volume describe how religious differences can be solved by looking at how they have been historically and ideologically produced (Columbia University Press, \$29.50).

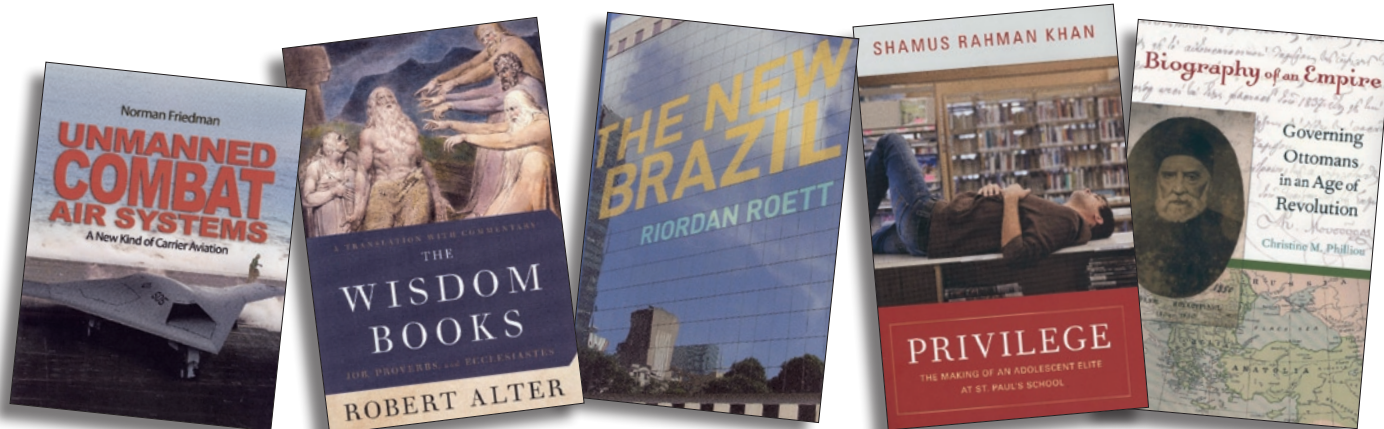
In the Demon's Bedroom: Yiddish Literature and the Early Modern by *Jeremy Dauber*, the Atran Associate Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture. This book focuses on the relationship between Yiddish literature and its readers by examining the skills and abilities of its audience (Yale University Press, \$85).

Economy, Difference, Empire: Social Ethics for Social Justice by *Gary Dorrien*, professor of religion. Using essays, Dorrien focuses on the ethics and politics of economic justice, racial and gender justice, and antimilitarism (Columbia University Press, \$35).

The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos by *Brian Greene*, professor of physics and mathematics. Using science and analogies, Greene explains the science behind the theory of our universe being one of many universes (Knopf, \$29.95).

The Encyclopedia of New York City: Second Edition edited by *Kenneth T. Jackson*, the Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences. This encyclopedia has more than 5,000 entries, including 800 new ones, and offers a comprehensive look at New York (Yale University Press, \$65).

Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School by *Shamus Rahman Khan*, assistant professor of sociology. Khan returns to his alma mater in Concord, N.H.,



Adam Gidwitz '04 Reinvents the Brothers Grimm

BY GRACE LAIDLAW '11

Adam Gidwitz '04 turns classic folklore on its ear with his new children's novel, *A Tale Dark & Grimm* (Dutton Juvenile, \$16.99). His debut book follows two familiar characters — Hansel and Gretel — through a series of unfamiliar situations. The young protagonists run away from home, defeat a dragon and rescue a family trapped in a cave, among other adventures. Gidwitz rewrites the original Grimm stories, mixing up plotlines and inserting a wisecracking narrator. The result is a distinctly modern fairy tale targeted toward children aged 10 and up.

As a child, Gidwitz delighted in the works of Roald Dahl and Jerry Spinelli. He loved these authors for their quirky, sometimes morbid humor and their deadpan way of describing unbelievable events. Gidwitz would later come to identify and appreciate these same elements in classic fairy tales.

The author also grew up hearing various versions of the Grimm brothers' more famous stories. He played Prince Charming in a high school production of *Into the Woods*. It wasn't until he got to Columbia, however, that Gidwitz began to think of fairy tales as literature. He read much of the Grimm canon in translation from German as homework for a seminar on children's books led by the late Karl Kroeber '56 GSAS, the Mellon Professor Emeritus in the Humanities. Kroeber taught Gidwitz to look at Grimm — and other children's literature, including *Winnie the Pooh* and the *Harry Potter* series — from an academic standpoint.

"I learned to take the stories for what they were rather than imposing my own structure on the text," Gidwitz says.

Columbia has had a profound impact on the way Gidwitz thinks and writes. An English major, he was inspired not only by his classes but also by the literary history and culture of the city. "The intellectual passion that I encountered at Columbia and in New York has been very influential in my life," he says.

Gidwitz spent his junior year in England, taking part in the University's Oxford/Cambridge Scholars Program. While there, he was largely responsible for his own studies, meeting with a tutor only twice a week. During his year abroad, Gidwitz says, he developed the self-discipline necessary to become a productive writer.

Columbia also fostered Gidwitz's love of teaching. As a freshman, he volunteered for the East Harlem Tutorial Program, working with underprivileged elementary school children. By his sophomore year, he was helping to run the program. Gidwitz became deeply invested in his pupils and has stayed in touch with one student for nearly a decade. The boy, who was in the third grade when he met Gidwitz, now is a senior in high school.

Gidwitz continued to teach after college. When he graduated



PHOTO:
COURTESY PENGUIN

from Columbia, he took a job at St. Ann's School, a private K-12 academy in Brooklyn, while attending the Bank Street College of Education in the evenings. He graduated from the Bank Street program with master's in both general education and special education. Gidwitz stayed on at St. Ann's after finishing his graduate work. In the past seven years, he has worked with elementary, middle and high school students and has taught everything from basic math to advanced literary theory.

Although he has been fascinated with the brothers Grimm since college, it was only after he started teaching at St. Ann's that Gidwitz decided to write a new version of their stories. He hit on the idea for the novel while substituting for one of the school librarians. In an effort to entertain groups of second- and third-graders, he read aloud from his own copy of *Grimms' Tales for Young and Old*. The children were captivated.

Gidwitz strayed a bit from the text, pausing in strategic places to amuse and reassure his audience. He cracked jokes, offered comfort during tense moments and heightened his listeners' interest by dropping hints about what would come next. This running commentary became the inspiration for his novel's narrator.

"I think about my students while I write, and I imagine their reactions to every new chapter," says Gidwitz. "How I tell them stories is how I try to write stories."

Despite his training as a teacher, Gidwitz insists that his novel is not meant to be didactic. One feature that distinguishes a fairy tale from a fable, the author explains, is the lack of a distinct moral. Like any true fairy tale, his story was not written with a specific lesson in mind. "The Grimm brothers don't moralize," Gidwitz says. "Instead, they use symbol, magic and laughter to help children discover and navigate their own interior lives. My goal is the same."

Gidwitz has continued teaching at St. Ann's since the release of his book, and he has no plans to quit. In his spare time, he promotes the novel by doing just what inspired it in the first place: reading to children. The author's publicity tour has taken him to schools, libraries and bookstores throughout the five boroughs and beyond. When he isn't teaching or traveling, Gidwitz is working on his latest project, another novel-length fairy tale. This next book won't be a straightforward sequel, however. Instead of carrying on the saga of Hansel and Gretel, Gidwitz is writing about two of their descendants — Jack and Jill.

Grace Laidlaw '11 majors in creative writing and psychology. She is director of Columbia's peer counseling hotline and contributes regularly to CCT.

to show how the prestigious school educates its boys and girls so that they embody privilege and are still able to do well in a diverse environment (Princeton University Press, \$29.95).

Biography of an Empire: Governing Ottomans in an Age of

Revolution by Christine M. Philliou, assistant professor of history. Philliou explores the influence of Phanariots and Christian elites on the Ottoman Empire and sheds light on the imperial crisis and change in the 1820s and 1830s (University of California Press, \$24.95).

Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance by George Saliba, professor of Arabic and Islamic studies. Drawing on the account of scholar Ibn al-Nadim, Saliba argues that Islamic scientific thought began well before Greek sources were translated into Arabic (The MIT Press, \$22).

Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World by John Szwed, professor of music. Szwed captures the life and music of Lomax, a pioneering folklorist, writer, producer and oral historian (Viking Adult, \$29.95).

Samantha Jean-Baptiste '13



Class Notes

25
40

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

Your fellow Lions want to hear what you are up to. Please send updates on your life, travels, work, retirement and family to the postal or e-mail address at the top of the column.

41

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

Dick Greenwald, who had just reached his 90th birthday, died on November 21 at his home in Valhalla, N.Y. Dick and Rhoda, his lovely wife of 65 years, were regular attendees at our annual Arden House reunions. After a year of graduate studies in economics and statistics at Teachers College, Dick spent almost four years in the Army during WWII in China, Burma, India and the Pacific Theatre.

Dick was v.p. of underwriting and sales at Lumber Mutual and CEO of the Consolidated Insurance Group. He was an honored member of the Westchester Senior Hall of Fame and board chairman of St. Vincent's Services. He also was the first president of the Westchester Meadows Resident Council.

In addition to Rhoda, Dick is survived by two daughters and three granddaughters.

Ted de Bary, the John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University and provost emeritus, sent the following update on his continued service to the College and University:

"Your *cri de coeur* in the November/December issue pricks my conscience enough so that I am sending you this update on myself.

"I continue to teach pro bono in the Asian Core Curriculum, Asian Humanities on the basic level and a colloquium called 'Nobility and Civility, East and West' on the more advanced undergraduate level. I also am active in conducting a series of workshops on Asian classics for graduate students to help prepare them for teaching in general education for undergraduates.

"I also have helped organize such workshops and conferences for other colleges both in the United States and Asia ('Classics for an Emerging World'). Much of this activity is based in the Heyman Center for the Humanities, the Society

of Fellows and the Society of Senior Scholars, which I helped to establish before my 'retirement.' "

After reading about Ted's lazy life, my only comment is "Wow!"

Ted also reminded us of the May 2009 death of his beautiful wife, Fanny. Four classmates attended the service in St. Paul's Chapel:

Len Shayne and **Art Weinstock**, who have since passed away; **Ray Robinson**; and myself.

We recently learned of two other classmates who are no longer with us.

Ed Amontree, a retired dentist, passed away in February in Sarasota, Fla., and **Doug Gruber**, who owned a talent agency, died in October in Sun City Center, Fla.

The *Forward* published a short autobiography of **Sherwin Kaufman**. He retired from his medical practice almost 20 years ago and began a new career as a songwriter, winning awards for both music and lyrics. Sherwin's late grandfather, the great writer Sholem Aleichem, and Sherwin's 99-year-old sister, Bel, are significant parts of his life. A sample limerick:

"Now Bel has one brother, it's I
"I didn't say 'me', you know why?
"Bel's grammar is pure
"But mine is unsure,
"And that's just between you and I."

By the time this issue appears, your reporter will have returned from my Christmas week private tour to Costa Rica with my friend, Fran Katz, and her family, a group of 17. I also will have returned from Club Med in Ixtapa with Fran and my family, a group of 26. No further travel until June, when Fran and I go to Spain and Israel.

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

On December 11, **Gerald Klingon**, his daughter, Karen, and his son, Robert, held a memorial gathering at their apartment in New York City for Gerald's beloved wife, Judith, who died earlier in the year. Among the friends who came to honor Judith and Gerald was Avra Mark, the widow of our former distinguished class correspondent, Dr. **Herbert Mark**, who died in January 2006. Judith was a gracious hostess at many gatherings of Columbia classmates at the Klingon apartment in Manhattan. Frequent guests included this writer,

Dr. Mark, the late **Jack Arbolino**, **Donald Seligman**, **R. Stewart McIlvennan** and our famous author, the late **Gerald Green**. We send our condolences to the Klingon family, and we will cherish our memories of Judith's intelligence, good humor and loyalty to Columbia.

On December 15, our Alumni Office notified me of the death of Dr. **Alan Baum** (89) at a hospice facility in Stuart, Fla. Dr. Baum obtained his M.D. from P&S in 1945 and served in the Navy during the Korean War. He then had a long and distinguished career as a board-certified radiologist, with private practice offices in Westbury, Hicksville and Huntington on Long Island, while residing in Oyster Bay, N.Y. Dr. Baum served a term as president of the New York chapter of the American College of Radiology and was a professor of clinical radiology at the State University Medical School in Stony Brook, N.Y. He also was chief of radiology at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Northport, N.Y. At Columbia, Dr. Baum won numerals and a Varsity 'C' for freshman and varsity wrestling, and was a member of the Grapplers Club, Dormitory Council, Newman Club and Pre-Medical Society. He is survived by his wife, Cecelia Jane; sons, Gregory, Douglas '81E, Alan Jr. and William; and daughter, Reyne Brezinski, as well as granddaughter Stephany Baum '07, and three great grandchildren. We send condolences to Dr. Baum's family and pay tribute to them for their three generations as Columbia alumni.

On December 22, I was happy to receive a holiday card and news report from **R. Stewart McIlvennan** and his wife, Marie, who live in Lakewood, Colo. Stew was asked to give a talk on Veterans Day in honor of his 90th birthday on January 24. He reviewed his 36 months of active duty in the Navy during WWII, when he served as a gunnery and radar officer aboard the destroyer *USS C.K. Bronson*. His ship was part of the Fast Carrier Task Force in the Pacific, composed of battleships, cruisers, large aircraft carriers and a squadron of destroyers. The *C.K. Bronson* was the flagship of the squadron, supporting the Marines in nine major operations against the Japanese and was in Guam in August 1945 when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The *C.K. Bronson* then provided escort for the battleship *Missouri* into Tokyo Bay, where General Douglas MacArthur

signed the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945. In December, the *C.K. Bronson* returned to Brooklyn Navy Yard, where Stew concluded his tour of duty. He then entered the Law School, after which he served for five years in the F.B.I. and then embarked on a long career in the national trucking industry. At Columbia, Stew was a star halfback on the football team and a valued member of the basketball team. I remember sitting near Stew in Hamilton Hall in Professor Boris Stanfield's class on economics of the Soviet Union. Other notable classmates listening to Professor Stanfield were the late Dr. **Herbert Mark** (professor of medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine), the late **Gerald Green** (prominent novelist, television producer and author of *Holocaust*) and the late **J. Robert Cheneff** (sports writer and public relations executive). In adjacent seats in that class also were friends Ray Robinson '41 (magazine editor, author of Lou Gehrig '23's biography and prominent fundraiser for ALS) and the late I.A.L. Diamond '41 (author of four consecutive *Varsity Shows* and co-author with Billy Wilder of several successful Hollywood films, including *Some Like It Hot*). Just a typical random Columbia College class, right?

We send Stew and Marie congratulations and good wishes for many more happy years together.

As I write these notes, our Columbia basketball team has scored a notable win over the University of Maine-Orono, on December 30, followed by a last-second loss at home, 70-69, to Elon College on January 3. Coach Kyle Smith leads the team into Ivy League competition with excellent prospects to finish high in the final standings and a chance to win the championship. By the time this issue of CCT reaches you, March Madness will be imminent and we will know more.

Meanwhile, good wishes to all classmates.

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G.J. D'Angio
Department of Radiation
Oncology
Hospital of the University of
Pennsylvania, Donner 2
3400 Spruce St.
Philadelphia, PA 19104
dangio@uphs.upenn.edu

The Class of 1943 is silent. Let me hear from you. When I do receive

word, the notes always are interesting. We are exceptionally healthy to have lasted this long and still are active in various pursuits. Let me help you get started: Where did you spend Thanksgiving and the December holidays?

My wife and I had a splendid Thanksgiving Day in the Pocono Mountains with my second son and his companion at the opulent and gracious Skytop Lodge. My other son and his daughters were tied up with their own family celebrations. I have known the Lodge for about 80 years because, when I was in grade school, I spent two or three summers in nearby Canadensis, Pa., with my parents and brother.

A few days after Thanksgiving, my wife, Audrey, and I journeyed to Boston for the second time this year to attend medical meetings. We were put up at the fine old Parker House Hotel and were surprised to learn that Ho Chi-Minh of Vietnam had worked there as a pastry cook. We were struck by the many changes for the better the city has undergone in the 60-plus years since our time there as trainees.

We stayed home on Christmas Day. We had had enough traveling for 2010.

Gene Sosin '41, of Radio Liberty fame, kindly wrote to correct my note in the November/December issue. He states, "... you mentioned Harold Dietz '40 as the collaborator with Arthur Schwartz on the lyrics of many famous songs. But the source you quoted was mistaken: It was Howard Dietz, who was born in 1896 and briefly studied journalism at Columbia before going into show biz in the 1920s." Gene goes on to say, "When Howard Dietz joined MGM, he introduced the famous lion logo and the words '*Ars Gratia Artis*.' These were borrowed from the Columbia *Jester*, which had featured the laughing lion and the Latin expression translated 'art for art's sake' that was based on a 19th-century French poet's writing. Harold ('Hal') Dietz '40, a fraternity brother of mine in Beta Sigma Rho, was a talented actor and played the lead in G.B. Shaw's *Androcles and the Lion* in Milton Smith's Columbia Players dramatic group. Arthur Schwartz also attended Columbia, where he received a master's degree in law. He later teamed up with Howard Dietz to write such enduring songs as *Dancing in the Dark* and *That's Entertainment*." Gene also mentions that he, Gene Sosin, was the co-author of the book and lyrics for the 1942 *Varsity Show*, "Saints Alive."

Sad news: **Albert W. Cayot**, a sales manager in Boxford, Mass., died on November 22.

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Henry Rolf Hecht
11 Evergreen Pl.
Demarest, NJ 07627
hrh15@columbia.edu

This past Veterans' Day, Albert Burstein '47 was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for his wartime exploits in France. Despite his '47 designation (and graduation), we of '44 really consider Al one of ours and recall his membership on our fabulous freshman basketball team, led by Les Martens '45 and **Harry Allison**.

Your class correspondent's close junior high buddy Henry Imshaug, who entered Columbia with us in 1940 but after WWII got his degree from Hofstra, passed away just before Thanksgiving. Henry was a retired professor of botany at Michigan State. His earlier research endeavors in Antarctica got the Imshaug Peninsula named after him on that continent.

Another farewell: **Harold Polton**, long active in North Jersey business before retiring to Florida, left us earlier in 2010.

And now, dear classmates, a fervent appeal: It is fitting that we pay tribute to our friends who have left us, but let's also fill these columns with news about us statistically "old-olds" who are still around. To achieve that means, all of you *please* let me know what you're doing.

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Dr. Enoch Callaway
1 Mt. Tiburon Rd.
Tiburon, CA 94920
enoch_callaway@msn.com

Bill Able is in good health. He retired from work as a breast cancer specialist in 1993 and is enjoying the many pleasures afforded by the sound and the sea, which are easily accessible from his home in East Hampton. He says his high points were his years at Stony Brook and his low points were more recently when rules and regulations became so onerous that he would not suggest medicine as a career for young people, unless they chose some narrow high-tech specialty.

Harry Rhodes has moved to a nursing home in Silver Spring, Md. He has been battling Alzheimer's-type dementia for about six years but recognizes family and reminiscences about Columbia, where he also earned a Ph.D.

Leonard Garr is well except for some gout and a fractured wrist, which is unfortunate for a professional piano player. (He has promised to send me one of his CDs.) Leonard left Columbia to serve in the Air Force, then returned to graduate. He moved to San Francisco 50 years ago and into the apart-

ment where he still lives. He made a fortune in real estate, so he hasn't had to worry about his "day job" while playing piano in bars. Leonard became upset with Columbia College during the protests of '68. His chief discontent now is with the way the United States is going, with what he calls a ruling plutocracy looking down on an ignorant, uneducated and largely nonvoting electorate.

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely

jf2261@columbia.edu

212-851-7438

DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller

ps2247@columbia.edu

212-851-7494

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Bernard Sunshine
20 W. 86th St.
New York, NY 10024
bsuns1@gmail.com

Healthcare and Medicare continue to be hot issues in the national debate. I asked Dr. **Richard Friedenberg**, FACR, professor emeritus of radiology at UC Irvine, to share his thoughts. Dick wrote:

"The drastic changes that have occurred in the practice of medicine started in 1929 in Elk City, Okla., where the first medical cooperative was established to provide medical care through prepaid insurance. In the 1930s and 1940s, several large managed healthcare organizations were formed. Medicare and Medicaid were created in 1965 at a time when politicians were concerned with healthcare, not costs. In 1970, a Minneapolis physician, Paul Ellwood Jr., coined the term 'Health Maintenance Organization,' or HMO, as an alternative to the fee-for-service system.

"I believe that healthcare is a fundamental right of citizenship, the responsibility of government and not a for-profit commodity. Medicaid and Medicare are expensive programs supported by the tax base. Medicaid supports the very poor with low-level healthcare while Medicare supports the elderly with a well-run, well-managed successful program, but overuse has produced excessive costs. The number of examinations and tests has increased, particularly CT and MRI exams, endoscopies and coronary artery exams including stents, dilatations and bypasses. The problem is hard to correct unless we are willing to modify our policies and insist on guidelines for diagnosis and treatment that physicians must accept. Politicians have been unwilling to enforce guidelines that would limit costs. Their reluctance is understandable, as every family wants every effort made to cure any sick member, even if the chance for cure is less than 1 percent. Many

doctors hate to admit defeat and will attempt costly and sometimes painful therapies to add a few weeks of life. Almost 50 percent of Medicare funds are spent on the last year of life, often a poor quality of life.

"In the late 1980s and early 1990s, we physicians made a fundamental mistake. We were so busy trying to protect the fee-for-service system that we were not major players in the establishment of managed healthcare policy. We became recipients of the rules established by the entrepreneurs, which in many cases were slanted more toward profit than patient care. In our present system of almost 100 separate plans competing with each other and trying to make a profit, in most cases 25-30 cents of each dollar goes for administrative costs and profit. With appropriate cost-controlling guidelines, Medicare should be able to allocate more than 90 cents of each dollar to healthcare and could be extended to the total population. Most of the developed countries have socialized government supported programs for their entire population, many providing better care than we are. In many cases their costs are less than ours. Medicare, which is working well, could be turned into a single-payer system, although costs must be trimmed.

"What would I like? I would attempt to construct a social program with capitalistic fringes. I do not believe the United States is ready for a totally socialized program. I strongly feel that any program must start with a single-payer system supported by tax dollars that will service all of our population and be run by the government. To satisfy those who want diversity and the involvement of private enterprise, I would propose a layered system. The prime layer would be universal coverage, Medicare, with strict guidelines to control costs and some reductions in services that would apply to the total population. Other layers could be added that would be run by insurance companies and would provide options appended to the basic program, allowing for more sophisticated plans for a price. I do not

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.

feel I am significantly diluting the program with the layered options because these would probably affect less than 20 percent of the population. Enormous savings in total costs would occur from the efficiencies of running a single plan. Additional savings would occur by removing government from all costs incurred by optional plans.

"The cardinal features are that the bulk of our population will be totally supported by universal coverage and that guidelines, which apply equally to all, are necessary to control costs. Although healthcare is important, today jobs, financial security, food on the table and a roof overhead take priority. When these are provided, health care becomes the next essential."

Join the debate. Send me your views from this column.

From Post Falls, Idaho, **John McConnell** sent greetings at the holiday season. He wrote: "Today is Thanksgiving, a day near or below zero degrees and continuing snow. My wife, Pearl, is preparing lunch/dinner with all the fixings for those families and friends who wander in. Grandson Calvin announced that just this morning he had shot a four-point buck. He and his friends are presently skinning the carcass in our back shop."

Then: "Well, we finished a great meal. The deer has reportedly been skinned and is now hanging. Quartering and butchering will follow in a few days, then the freezer to follow other elk, deer, fish and game from previous seasons, mostly the compliments of Calvin."

John, thanks for giving us this view of life at the McConnells' during the holiday season. Sorry this didn't appear in an earlier CCT, but we submit well in advance of publication.

Dr. **Alan Berman**, in Crown Point, Ind., replied to my letter announcing the Saturday, June 4, celebration of the 65th anniversary of our class, saying he had a long-term interest in actuarial data. When told the class began with 425 men and that we number 194 at last count, Alan wrote: "It is remarkable. Based on current American mortality tables, I would have predicted the number of survivors would have been 118. Although I am in good health and still rather active, my computer tells me that at my age I only have a 94.4 percent probability of survival next June (written December 3)."

Alan, if the survival probability holds true, potentially 183 men (not counting wives and friends) can turn up at our reunion. It would be wonderful, and I can only hope. Details about our celebration are en route to all. Block out June 4 on your calendars for attending the

luncheon at Columbia in celebration of our 65th anniversary.

On a sad note, I report the passing of **Wayne J. Hallenbeck** of Mansfield, Ohio.

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

Albert Burstein was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for his wartime exploits in France.

The Class of '47 is looking for a class correspondent to write a bimonthly column for *Columbia College Today*. If you want an open platform and a chance to reconnect with classmates, please contact Associate Editor Ethan Rouen '04J at ecr2102@columbia.edu. Until then, please send notes about your life, thoughts, travel, family and experiences at Columbia to the address at the top of the column.

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Eric Schellin
2506 N. Harrison St.
Arlington, VA 22207
schellin@schellin.com

CCT welcomes **Eric Schellin** as the new Class of '48 correspondent. Classmates are encouraged to send notes to him at the postal or e-mail address above.

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John Weaver
2639 E. 11th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11235
wudchpr@gmail.com

The New Year has arrived. The old one left its mark on the city with near-record snowfall. It brought to mind the storm in 1948 that laid a thick blanket across the city. I recall a small but stalwart group of Columbia College Players, of whom I was one, seizing the opportunity to take the subway downtown and find available seats at a hit play on Broadway. So few ticket holders could make their way to town, we were able to get good seats and enjoy Judy Holiday, Paul Douglas and Gary Merrill in *Born Yesterday* at (I hope my memory is correct) the Lyceum Theatre. I remember skis in the coat check room!

After the show, we wandered around and watched horse-drawn sleighs gliding up and down Fifth Avenue.

Since the last writing, I received several notes from **Basil Shanahan** with his thoughts and concerns regarding the plight of the "new kids," the Class of 2014, their initial impressions and reactions to the campus, and the extraordinary

event represented by their arrival and the commencement of their Columbia College years. His reflections seemed to echo my own in the sense of understanding how those first "moments" set the tone for the coming days and months that determine how they will grapple with the wonderful four years to come.

Once again, the note from **Bill Lubic** lights up my inbox, and just in time for this writing.

"You all:

"A note at the beginning of the New Year.

"Appropriate to those among us acknowledging our octogenarianism, I noted the op-ed page of *The New York Times* of December 31, wherein appeared a respectful reference to our own (now departed) **Bob Butler**.

"Having been asked about the premise that the age of 90 might well become the age of 50, he replied: '... A scientist always hopes for a big breakthrough.

"The trouble with expecting 90 to be the new 50 is it can stop rational discussion (on a societal as well as individual level) about how to make 90 a better 90.

"This fantasy is a lot like waiting for Prince Charming, in that it doesn't distinguish between hope and reasonable expectation."

"I think those of us who can appreciate these practiced words of wisdom from our classmate are deserving of some sort of major award."

As you read this in March, we will have survived whatever more the winter has brought to test our mettle, and spring is soon to come. Let me hear from you and know with certainty your notes are welcome. And think forward to Dean's Day (Saturday, June 4) and another chance to gather on campus.

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Mario Palmieri
33 Lakeview Ave. W.
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
mapal@bestweb.net

Rudy Weingartner has completed and published what he calls "a nutty little book" devoted to the idea of helping writers of short stories to get a start. The book, published by University Press of America, is *What's the Story? Try Your Hand at Fiction and Learn the Art of Writing*. It consists of 20 characters with a descriptive paragraph for each, all in different places and at different times, and all wittily illustrated. A detailed look at the book, and a review of it, can be found at univpress.com/isbn/076185276x. Rudy has another writing project under way, this one at the request of the publisher of a book he wrote in the

early '90s, *Fitting Form to Function: A Primer on the Organization of Academic Institutions*. His task now is to bring it up to date for a revised edition.

Sadly, we have two deaths to report. **Joachim (Joe) Adamczyk** of Madison, N.J., died in January. **Desmond J. Nunan Sr.** of Ocean City, N.J., died last May.

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely
jf2261@columbia.edu
212-851-7438
DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller
ps2247@columbia.edu
212-851-7494

51

George Koplinka
75 Chelsea Rd.
White Plains, NY 10603
desiah@verizon.net

By now, all members of the class have been contacted by mail, phone and e-mail regarding our 60th Alumni Reunion Weekend, to be held on the Morningside campus and throughout New York City Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5. Additional information appeared in the previous issue of this magazine. Questions about the reunion can be answered by Jennifer Freely, assistant director of alumni affairs, at 212-851-7438 or jf2261@columbia.edu. The last step is to sign up and attend and have a great weekend.

You may recall that we are going to publish a *Class of 1951 Reunion Yearbook and Directory*. This is the final call for information. The page size is 8½" x 11" and will be divided to provide four photos and biographies per page, each 3½" wide x 5" tall. Even if you are not planning to attend the reunion festivities, please send class correspondent **George Koplinka** a photo and bio. Be creative!

Here is some news about classmates. In June, **Nathan Kase** will give a ceremonial address to Yale's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, where he spent some 20 years, with 10 years as department chair, before coming to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Congratulations, Nathan, as you participate in this special event at Yale. By the way, in his recent e-mail, Nathan indicated that his eagerness to attend our 60th reunion was prompted "by his lifelong indebtedness to the College for its ability to convert a school-yard urchin from Brooklyn into someone who could read and write effectively."

Two sad notes: Mary Jo Kloeze-man notified us that her father, **Robert J. Archer**, passed away on September 4. Robert attended GSAS, received a Ph.D. in 1954 and

continued his career with Hewlett-Packard. He lived in Portola Valley, Calif. **Jerome K. Chase** died on October 29. A resident of Wayland, Mass., Jerry was president and chairman of the Ford dealership in Framingham.

Martin Katz sends news and best wishes from both Freehold, N.J., and Puerto Rico. The retired professor and his wife, Olga, are looking forward to visiting nieces and nephews in Colombia this winter before attending our 60th reunion in June. *Muchos saludos, Marty.*

Michael W. Mangino recently passed his 85th birthday. Congratulations, Mike! We remember your WWII naval experiences and your distinguished career with the nation's moon exploration programs. Perhaps of equal importance was your comment years ago that "Much of the knowledge that I gained from Columbia's Core Curriculum has been passed on to my four children in our many discussions throughout their education years. I now get feedback from them on many contemporary and diverse issues and ideas."

B. James Lowe plans to be with us for the big reunion but admits that two knee operations and some lingering effects of his asbestos poisoning from years of exposure during his shipbuilding years have slowed him down. Jim has asked **Leonard A. Stoehr** to assume responsibility for the NROTC participation in the reunion activities. Jim completed an up-to-date listing of surviving NROTC CC '51 members. There are currently 21 survivors, and Len, with help from his wife, Jan, is exchanging information to see if all of them can help to make the 60th a memorable reunion. A big thank you is due to both Jim and Len for their loyalty to the Navy and to Columbia College.

Larry Malkin, before his retirement as a correspondent for *Time* magazine, wrote that years ago, *The New York Times* employed him indirectly as the New York bureau chief of the *International Herald Tribune*. Now his daughter is employed by the *Times* as a correspondent in Mexico City. Small world! Larry hopes to vacation in May at his home in Spain.

Quick note: **Gonzalo Pardo** hopes to come to the reunion. He acquired a D.D.S. from NYU but is equally proud of his wife, Winifred, whom he met at UCA in Earl Hall, for celebrating her 60th Barnard anniversary last June.

Please note this new e-mail address for **Dave Berman**: sberman@verizon.net.

Here is an update on Columbia's expansion plans to the north of the present site. As reported in *The New York Times* on December 14, New

York courts and the U.S. Supreme Court (by refusing to hear an appeal from an objector) have given approval for New York State to use eminent domain to take property for Columbia's new 17-acre adjunct campus. Seventeen new buildings for science, business and arts education and faculty housing will be built north of West 125th Street. In his message to the Columbia community, Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger proclaimed, "For anyone who cares about creating new knowledge and conveying the knowledge we have to the next generation, as well as being engaged in the seemingly endless challenges facing our global society, there is no better place to be than here at Columbia."

Planning a reunion incorporates substantial expenses for all kinds of things too numerous to detail here. Whether or not you plan to attend, please send a contribution to **Willard Block**, class treasurer. Every check for \$25 helps a lot. Make your check payable to Columbia College Class of '51C Reunion and send to Willard at 54 Cornwall Ln., Sandy's Point, NY 11050-1345.

Also, please note the correct address for your correspondent is at the top of this column. Inadvertently, some mail has been going to Vermont, where I only vacation in the summer. Keep in touch. There is a lot happening!

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Sidney Prager
20 Como Ct.
Manchester, NJ 08759
sidmax9@aol.com

"Beware the Ides of March" was the famous warning by the soothsayer to Julius Caesar on his way to a Roman Senate meeting in 44 B.C. Caesar, as you know, was assassinated. Therefore, this admonition incorporates a dangerous and dark foreboding of things to come.

However, the ides of March was actually just another day of the year. The ides was simply a division of the Roman calendar based on the phases of the moon. The ides was the 15th day in March, May, July and October and the 13th day in the other months.

March has more positive things to offer. There is St. Patrick's Day, the beginning of Daylight Savings Time and the beginning of spring. March is a month of rebirth and renewal of life. Don't let the ides frighten you.

Ralph Holcomb has been happily retired amid the sand dunes and shrub oaks of eastern Long Island for the past 15 years. Ralph spent most of his career in book publishing, associated with companies including McGraw-Hill, John Wiley and Van Nostrand Reinhold, where

he was v.p. in charge of advertising and promotion. He and Ruth, his wife of more than 50 years, have three daughters: Laurie, a nurse, Robin, a teacher, and Susan, an artist. One of their five grandchildren, Jacob, was married in a military wedding in June.

Dudley Ferris sent the following: "I've read messages in CCT from others of my class, but not one rings a bell. It was a large class! Now it's about time I say a few words as to my whereabouts and what I've been doing. But to start off, I must say, I've always resented that Dwight Eisenhower was president of our university when we were freshmen but left in our senior year without signing our diplomas. Who wants Grayson Kirk? I always meant to send Eisenhower my diploma and ask him to sign it. Would I have obtained his signature? I should have tried. He wasn't a bad president for a Republican!"

"I was in the tail end of the Korean War and was a war correspondent trying to dig up stories for soldiers' hometown newspapers. In Korea, I fibbed about being a journalist and that lie probably saved my life, for I was trained in heavy weapons but deposited in a regiment behind the war zone.

"I'm still married after 53 years and have spent 30 years in education, secondary and junior college. It's been an ideal existence compared with the stress and strain of many in business, medicine and law. My four children are all married and provided my wife, Jean, and me with 14 grandchildren. After celebrating my 80th birthday in London with a return trip across the Atlantic, my children, from different parts of the country, surprised me by turning up at Keens Steakhouse in NYC. It was the biggest surprise of my life. For three days, we were happily together as a family of yore without spouses or children.

"I've lived and taught in Japan many times, and I travel about the world often.

"I live in Scottsdale, Ariz., but return to New York City twice a year for museums, theaters and concerts. My wife and I always return to the Columbia neighborhood for old time's sake. She lived on West 104th Street off West End Avenue. I met her on a blind date. I contribute to the Columbia crew, as I went out for crew as a freshman for a few months but had to give it up as I commuted. I regret that choice. I became a Fiji in my last years at Columbia and donate to Phi Gamma Delta for the wonderful experience I had with my fraternity brothers.

"Now I have measured out my life with a few words. For those who

remember me, write to dudjean@juno.com. And for those I never met, who knows what I've lost? Godspeed!"

This from **Jack Edwards**: "My main contact with Columbia is through CCT and a number of classmates. Your call, Sid, and a conversation with **Cliff Simpson** in New York City, prompted me to get back into print. Cliff recently suffered a heart attack and now is at home after protracted hospital stays and a long rehabilitation. He received a call from **Arnie Martin**, who lives in the San Diego area. Cliff is doing well and welcomes calls from old friends. Arnie is retired after a career in real estate and an entrepreneurial venture in furniture manufacturing.

"My life since leaving Columbia has been peripatetic: five years in the Navy during the Korean conflict, three on sea duty in the Atlantic and Mediterranean after graduating from OCS and two in Naval Intelligence with a counterintelligence unit in the Pentagon. I attended law school at Georgetown and joined an MIT think tank in Washington, D.C.. I became increasingly involved in war gaming and consulting at the Pentagon. I left the defense consulting business and joined the Polaroid Corp. in its heyday as v.p., information systems. I returned to government during the second term of the Nixon administration as a senior executive in the Treasury Department. These were tough times on the Washington, D.C., scene. Like many of my friends, I returned to private industry. I spent the balance of my career as a senior executive at several major corporations before retiring as s.v.p. at Household International in the Chicago area.

"I moved to a tiny seaside town in Rhode Island where I have lived ever since, with my wife of 57 years. I took up teaching as an avocation at the University of Massachusetts, giving core curriculum courses on science topics to adults in the continuing education program. I still teach.

"None of my three sons attended Columbia. Among them, I have an attorney (litigator), a geologist who runs his own oil and gas exploration company and an investment banker who lives in London.

"My recollections of all this experience dims with age. I wonder if this is true for us all as the years pass. I am looking forward to our 60th reunion and joining my co-survivors for a celebration."

Thank you all for your contributions. I am in Florida now, but my e-mail address remains the same. My telephone number is 561-498-7888. Please feel free to call or send updates via e-mail. Best regards from your reporter.



Members of the Class of 1956 and Alumni Office staff gathered at the Columbia Alumni Center in December to prepare for their 55th reunion. Taking part were (top row, left to right) Peter Klein '56, '62L; Bob Sirotky '56; and Jerry Fine '56; and (bottom row, left to right) Len Wolfe '56; Kimberly Peterson, director, College events and programs; Stephen Easton '56; and Paul Staller, director, class giving.

PHOTO: NICK MIDER

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Lew Robins

1221 Stratfield Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06825

lewrobins@aol.com

Talking to **Bill Frosch** by telephone, I learned that our classmate still is vigorously active as an emeritus professor of psychiatry at Cornell. For many decades, Bill was the vice chairman of the department and after he retired, they hired him back to perform various administrative duties. In addition, he spends one or two days a month at Rockefeller University, where he serves on a committee to evaluate whether various proposed psychiatric research projects involving human beings are safe enough to be pursued. Bill told me that learning new things about ongoing science projects makes him feel young.

He still is enthusiastically playing his oboe, and as a matter of fact, he plays in a quintet, a trio and a duo. Every so often they give concerts. Bill believes that playing the oboe forces him to concentrate on the music and clears his head. He and Paula were married in December 1953. They have two children who are doctors who are married to doctors, and they have four grandchildren. "All is well!" Bill told me. He and Paula are hoping to attend our 60th reunion.

Gus Fulk is another of our still "hard working" classmates. For the last 50 years, Gus has been advising people in Little Rock, Ark. on how to make money in the options business. He and his wife, Anne, have a daughter and three sons. Interestingly enough, he and his daughter work together. "I'm afraid to quit," Gus told me. "I might get bored." He's given up playing tennis, however, he runs 2¼ miles every day.

As an undergraduate, Gus used to hitchhike to Vassar to see Anne. When I expressed amazement at his hitchhiking ability, he told me, "Hitchhiking to Vassar was nothing. I used to hitchhike back and forth to Little Rock."

Unfortunately, three of our classmates have passed away.

Richard Deets, who was a Sachem, a member of Alpha Delta Phi and a member of the varsity wrestling team, died in March 2010. His wife, Annelly, told me by phone that Dick worked as a financial consultant until the day he died. He also continued to be an active wrestling coach and mentor to Atlanta's inner city youth. His goal was to help prepare inner-city teens for college and life beyond college.

John Valuska, who was a varsity football player, died in December 2004. He had been the president of Mingo Bank, which was a small-town bank in Mingo Junction, Ohio. He and Shirley were married in June 1953 and had four children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Philip Wilson, who died in July 2004, will be remembered as a hard-working member of the varsity crew. He and Mary were married in June 1954 and had six children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In 1993, Phil retired from the Moore Business Form company. However, after spending four months living the life of a new retiree, Phil and a friend founded a new small candy business, Elegance Confections. Via mail order, they sold personalized chocolate candy favors across the country. In our 50th reunion directory, Phil wrote, "Looking back on my life and career, I have few regrets and mostly gratitude for: choice of parents,

choice of college, choice of wife and children (the youngest of which, Peter, graduated from the College in 1986) and choice of career. I do regret how swiftly my five years at Columbia flew past. Had I had a benefactor, I think I would have become a professional student."

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Howard Falberg

13710 Paseo Bonita
Poway, CA 92064

westmontgr@aol.com

Things have been very happy since my recent wedding. I was so pleased that a day after our wedding, my wife, Deborah, and I were able to get together with **Herb Wittow** and his lovely wife, Sandra. They were visiting friends in San Diego whose marriage coincided with ours.

Brian Tansey is civically active in Cincinnati. I am certain that other classmates have been active and would like to share their experiences. Please drop me a note.

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Gerald Sherwin

181 E. 73rd St., Apt. 6A
New York, NY 10021

g5481@juno.com

A bevy of activity has been taking place on the Columbia campus and beyond during the past several months. The school dedicated its new interdisciplinary science and engineering building, better known as the Northwest Corner Building, on West 120th Street and Broadway in December. In addition, now on track to reach its original \$4 billion goal nearly a year early, the University has extended the current campaign to support its mission of teaching, research, patient care and public service, with a new goal of \$5 billion by the end of 2013. Late last year, city officials from around the world, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Joel Klein '67 (before he stepped down as chancellor of the NYC Board of Education) discussed innovative ways to meet the challenges of managing public schools in the 21st century. It's always gratifying to hear what others have to say when speaking on the school's campus.

Manhattanville is moving ahead with great alacrity. Among the various issues, Columbia worked with Dinosaur BBQ to coordinate a new home for the popular restaurant on West 125th Street. Reservations are definitely necessary. In Park City, Utah, Columbia's creative achievements were celebrated at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival at a Columbia event hosted by Carol Becker, dean of faculty, School of the Arts, and Donna MacPhee '89, v.p.

of alumni relations and president of the Columbia Alumni Association. Traveling further west, Dean Michele Moody-Adams made her annual pilgrimage to Los Angeles and San Francisco, where she was received royally by alumni and friends in these areas. Coming up in late May is a special visit to Barcelona that will feature key Columbia faculty. This exciting trip will include an exploration of the art, architecture and history of this acclaimed Spanish seaport. Other tours coming up will be Israel: Timeless Wonders — a visit to Tel Aviv, Upper Galilee, Tiberias and Jerusalem; and Journey of Odysseus: Retracing the Odyssey Through the Ancient Mediterranean. Put your Humanities/CC knowledge to work up close and in person.

What is happening with our class, you may ask? **Harold Kushner** had the privilege of being one of 300 invited to the White House by the President to be part of Jewish American Heritage Week. Harold, who has written 12 books, met ex-Brooklynite Sandy Koufax, one of the highlights of the program. We heard from **Al Momjian**, who is involved in activities other than lawyering in Philadelphia — honorary consul, Republic of Haiti; board member, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; and v.p. of the First Regiment Infantry of Pennsylvania (referred to as "Major"). Al's biggest achievement: He has been married for 51 years.

When the Columbia men's basketball team traveled to Washington, D.C., to play American (and won by 2 points), we espied **Lew Mendelson** cheering on the boys in blue. **Don Laufer** has been doing a splendid job in coordinating the class dinners where, from time to time, we see **Anthony Viscusi**, **Allen Hyman**, **Dick Kuhn** and **Marty Dubner**, among others. Other '55ers we are looking for are **Peter Pressman**, **Steve Rabin** and **Bob Bernot**. (Maybe we can convince **Bob Schoenfeld** to come in from Long Island for one of the happenings.) With the increase in applications to the College and Engineering, **Larry Balfus** has been putting in major hours in the alumni interviewing process covering Nassau County.

Affinity groups have become an important part of alumni activities at reunions. The Marching Band, led "way back when" by **Elliot Gross** and **Herb Gardner**, is looking forward to the June get-together. Following up on the success of the various singing groups last June, we hope to see former Glee Club members **Stu Kaback** (New Jersey) and **Mike Pybas** (Dallas) return. Stu and Mike also were members of the Notes and Keys, as was **Bob Teichman** (Sausalito,

Calif.). **Bill Kronick** (of Hollywood fame) was a former member of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and now is a film and TV writer and director. The famous Kingsmen were well-represented as undergrads by **Mike Liptzin** (North Carolina) and **Jim Amlicke** (Beaufort, S.C.). Jim, for those who don't remember, was an outstanding swimmer, along with **Peter Martin**, **Wally Previ**, **Al Sacknoff** and **Burnell Stripling**.

The school's radio station celebrated its 70th anniversary in late February. For those in our class who couldn't make it, your loyal correspondent will send you any written material on the history of the station. Key personnel from our class were **Doug Lasher** (Lakewood, N.J.), **Peter Oden** (Ossining, N.Y.), **Henry Roth** (Bethesda, Md.), **Harvey Greenberg** (Haji lives on the fashionable West Side in Manhattan) and **Guy Kevin Whitfield** (Cambridge). Add **Harold Kushner** to this list, and you'll see why the station became so popular.

Don McDonough called us recently looking for the whereabouts of **Michael Standard** and wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Don, we will do our best to track down our lawyer friend.

Some sad news to report, the passing of two of our classmates: **Bede Sullivan** in Washington, D.C., and **Gary Berry** in Westlake Village, Calif. Our sympathy goes out to their family and friends.

My nearest and dearest classmates, be proud of what Columbia has been achieving not only in academic leadership but also in athletics as well (yes, that is true). Come back to the campus. The students are the best, the faculty is second to none. Don't wait for the 60th to see what is going on at one of the leading schools in the world. We all helped lay the foundation for one of the finest institutions in the world. Be part of it! Love to all, everywhere!

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Kimberly Peterson

knp2106@columbia.edu

212-851-7872

DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller

ps2247@columbia.edu

212-851-7494

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Stephen K. Easton

6 Hidden Ledge Rd.
Englewood, NJ 07631

tbball8000@earthlink.net

As I write this, we are buried in almost a foot of snow, the third storm of the season in the New York area. My wife, Elke, and I missed the first one, as we were on a cruise through the Caribbean. However, the fates have repaid us.

I hope that by the time you read this, the winter weather is well past, and we can look forward to spring weather and the return of many of our classmates from their Florida or other warm-weather vacation retreats. In that vein, **Don Roth** will host a Tuesday, March 8, get-together of our Florida alums at his club, Ibis Golf and Country Club, in West Palm Gardens, Fla. Helping him to organize this event were **Danny Link**, **Lou Hemmendinger** and **Mike Spett**. Based on prior year's events, we were looking forward to a good turnout.

Our last class luncheon was held at Faculty House, on the Columbia campus, on December 15. The food, service and ambience were excellent, so I encourage all to make it back to the campus for our bi-monthly luncheons. Attending, in addition to me, were **Mark Novick**, **Ron Kapon**, **Peter Klein**, **Len Wolfe**, **Maurice Klein**, **Bob Siroty** and **Al Franco '56E**. After lunch, we walked to Casa Italiana. The library, on the fourth floor, is where we are planning to have our Saturday afternoon Alumni Reunion Lunch. The space is air conditioned, warmly appointed and accommodating for the 80 or so alums and their spouses and significant others we anticipate will attend. Our remaining lunch party was joined by **Jerry Fine**, and we all met with Alumni Office staff members **Kimberly Peterson**, director of College events and programs, and **Paul Staller**, director of class giving [see photo] for a 55th reunion planning session. The plan was for the 55th Alumni Reunion Weekend schedule to be finalized in early February and notices to go out in early March.

A number of classmates gathered at the Francis S. Levien Gymnasium on January 15 to watch Columbia start its Ivy League schedule by defeating Cornell in a very satisfying game for Columbia, which held off a late Cornell rally. It was gratifying to see so many of our classmates honored in the Columbia program as having earned basketball letters, such as **Herb Kutlow**, **Charlie Brown**, **Mort Levine** and **Fred Lane**, along with **Frank Thomas**, who captained the team in our senior year. Lots of good memories.

Class news: **Al Poussaint**, who like myself and about 35 other classmates, is a Stuyvesant H.S. graduate, was awarded the 2010 Herbert W. Nickens Award by the Association of Medical Colleges for his work in psychiatry. He also is one of our class' most active authors, writing or co-writing more than five books, including one in 2007 with **Bill Cosby**. I look forward to seeing Al at our 55th.

Alan Press, who writes regularly



It may have been cold and icy on campus, but in Long Beach, Calif., in December (front row, left to right) Ken Silvers '57, Gene Wagner '57, Ken Bodenstein '57 and Mike Gold '57, and (back row, left to right) Lew Schainuck '57, Herb Sturman '57, John Taussig '57, Jonathan Lubin '57 and John Ahouse '57 enjoyed the sun during an informal reunion.

for *The Insurance Forum*, has a recent article on some of the abuses of two major insurance companies taking advantage of recruits and policyholders in charges and fees without full disclosure. Interesting stuff.

Giora Ben-Horin, who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., has had a successful career in the real estate investment business. He has turned the running of the business to his children but was helpful to me recently regarding a question that I had on a property that I was involved in. Thank you, Ben.

Reunion news and events: Our 55th Alumni Reunion Weekend will be Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5. Thursday will be for meeting and greeting and for classmates who want to make an extended weekend of it. There will be available theater tickets to shows that otherwise may not be available, so those interested should start planning now. Friday night, we are planning a get-together, a wine tasting provided by **Ron Kapon** together with a buffet dinner and some form of entertainment. Saturday will be Dean's Day, with choices of lectures given by Columbia faculty. As a reunion class, we do not pay for lectures even though we share Dean's Day with the whole College. For all of us who have come to like and look forward to Dean's Day, this gives us a double dose, so let's take advantage of it. Saturday also will feature a lunch at Casa Italiana with, we hope, an appearance by **Dean Michele Moody-Adams**, and a cocktail party and formal dinner.

I am working with the Alumni Office as to the cost, which I pledge to make reasonable. There is a 10 percent discount for registering by Sunday, May 1.

Len Wolfe, our class historian, has written the following observations on our 55th: "For the past several months, a good friend and I were discussing our upcoming 55th college reunions and how we were looking forward to returning to campus to see old friends and enjoy the company of classmates

we see all too rarely. My friend graduated from Yale in 1956.

"[As I write this,] two days ago I attended his memorial service along with several of his classmates, who were as shocked and saddened as was I was at his sudden and unexpected passing. He had been an alternate on the Yale crew that represented the United States and won Olympic gold in 1956 and was the picture of good health and someone we all felt would outlive us all.

"My point is that life is short, and we can't always expect that there will be a next time to do those things we hope to do.

"If Columbia didn't mean much to you when you were a student then there is no reason to read any more of what I have to say. But if it did, and if the friendships you made during those four important years that shaped and developed you are ones you cherish and appreciate, you might want to consider coming back this spring.

"Reunion isn't just about reminiscing about football games and parties we attended so many years ago. It is an opportunity to revisit the place that molded and developed us as bright and enthusiastic young men, a place that prepared us so well for the challenging new world that lay ahead of us. Reunion provides us with an opportunity to remember not only who we were but also to recognize and appreciate who and what we've become.

"I've attended every reunion since graduation and have thoroughly enjoyed each one. I hope that there will be many more reunions I'll have the pleasure of attending, but at this stage of the game I'm not about to assume that a next time is something I can count on.

"I'll be there and I hope you will be, too."

College fundraising activity: As of the end of the year we had raised, through contributions and pledges, \$85,000 toward our goal of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2011, which ends Thursday, June 30. As your class president, I am asking every

one of you to do as much as you can to make our goal a reality.

I hope this is a year where the stock market continues its recent rise, our 401ks are getting back to better than ever and our feeling about giving to Columbia increase with our age. It also will be a continued blessing to the students whom we support.

I again ask all class members who want to keep in touch to update their e-mail addresses by contacting **Lou Hemmerdinger** at lhemmer@aol.com. This seems to be the best way to stay in touch with the majority of our class members. Please keep in contact with Columbia in whatever ways you feel appropriate, as I believe that it has been a force and power in our lives.

Until my next column, wishing that the winter snows subside, Columbia teams keep winning, and health and good fortune find all our class members.

If you have news to share, please e-mail me at tball8000@earthlink.net, and I will make sure it gets in a future Class Notes column.

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Herman Levy
7322 Rockford Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22043
hdleditor@aol.com

Martin Brothers noted, "A '57 luncheon was scheduled for March 3 in the Columbia Alumni Center. More information will follow in the May/June issue. As of this writing, the list of expected attendees was as follows: **Bob Lipsyte**, presenter; **Sal Franchino**; **Stanley Barnett**; **Alvin Kass**; **Paul Zola**; **Arthur Meyerson**; **Joe Diamond**; **Larry Boes**; **Mike Lipper**; **Carlos Muñoz**; **Alan Rosen**; **Bob Klipstein**; **Mark Stanton**; **Al Fierro**; **David Kinne** and **Martin Brothers**."

Mac Gimse, professor emeritus of art, St. Olaf College, Dundas, Minn., reports: "Six classmates came to KGB Gallery (West Chelsea district, NYC) in November to visit and see and hear my sculpture exhibit and poetry. It was very exciting to visit with them after more than 50 years, and they were kindly receptive to my art and poetry. Each had comments about what they witnessed here, as is customary among Columbians." The classmates were **Stanley Barnett**, **Joe Diamond**, **Sal Franchino**, **Steve Fybish**, **Steve Ronai** and **Ed Weinstein**. **Steve Ronai** brought a friend, **Otto G. Obermeier**, a former U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Steve Ronai tells us, "I can attest to Mac's wonderful and diverse talent; he is a noted sculptor who accompanied each of his works, devoted to love and peace, by a

wonderful work of his complementary poetry." A Google search of Mac will reveal some of his poetry. He reports that a "recording studio in Wisconsin is putting together a CD of my recitations and images, which they plan to release this spring."

Mac continues to show his deep appreciation of his Columbia experience: "Lionel Trilling '25's *The Liberal Imagination* challenged me in the 1950s to tackle subjects larger than myself. Columbia invested me with the notion that I should dedicate my life's work to the supra-mundane. I was a graduate student in philosophy when I secretly did a pencil portrait of my wife, Jackie, for our first anniversary. Immediately, she encouraged me to take an art course, so at age 27 I dropped everything and studied art. Forty-eight years later, art and poetry are still pouring out of me.

"St. Olaf asked me to take NYC alumni on a lecture tour of the Collection of Asian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, so 35 of them came, and we had a wonderful morning together. I'd love to do that with the Class of '57 next time. Then I could go on Dr. **David Kinne**'s docent tour of the Met. There is so much to do."

Gene Wagner: "December 18 was the fifth Class of '57 Columbia College luncheon held in Long Beach, Calif. Present were **Ken Silvers**, **Gene Wagner**, **Ken Bodenstein**, **Mike Gold**, **Lew Schainuck**, **Herb Sturman**, **John Taussig**, **Jonathan Lubin** and **John Ahouse**. [See photo.]

"**Mike Gold**, who has experience as a committee chairman in state politics, prepared an agenda for discussion that was both challenging and fulfilling. Essentially, the idea was to facilitate discussion rather than allowing 'the more verbally aggressive of us to take up too much of our limited time. I suggest Gene or John serve as moderator and call on each of us going around the table to say what's on our mind before opening up the discussion generally. People should be encouraged to bring up any topic, comment on the comments of others or both.' Mike then suggested a number of topics, including '57's political evolution since graduation, how well President Barack Obama '83 is performing, economic stimulus, healthcare legislation, taxes, the START treaty, Afghanistan, Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and predicting the 2012 presidential election.

"We all agreed that we were apolitical in our undergraduate years at Columbia and were now concerned for the future of our country.

"For that reason, we have all taken positions today from various political spectrums. We are all de-

sirous to help make a better future for those who come after us."

Gene then reported that "**Paul Frommer** was in town so **John Taussig**, **Ken Bodenstein** and I had a nice lunch with him on December 30 at Parkers Lighthouse in Long Beach.

"Paul is retired and living in Alexandria, Va., and celebrating his 75th birthday."

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Barry Dickman
25 Main St.
Court Plaza North, Ste 104
Hackensack, NJ 07601
bdickmanesq@gmail.com

We are sorry to report the deaths of three classmates.

George Weinstock died on December 19. He is survived by his wife, Lorna; daughters, Andrea and Pam; and two grandchildren. Born in Vienna, George came to the United States as a child and later attended Stuyvesant H.S. He earned a B.S. in electrical engineering, worked for ITT and RCA, and helped found one of the first software companies to go public. He eventually embarked on his final career, as a financial adviser (at which, based on your reporter's having worked with him, he excelled; he was remarkably knowledgeable and diligent). George, who lived in Wyckoff, N.J., was a man of many interests. He was a bridge Life Master, a world traveler (he and Lorna especially enjoyed cruises) and a Civil War buff. At his funeral, his daughters did mention his one unkind act: He used to accompany them to Columbia football games!

Retired Col. **Donald Festa**, a career military officer, died on October 14. A native of Paterson, N.J., Don graduated from Eastern Military Academy, enlisted in the Air Force and was a radar operator in the Korean War for four years. Upon his return, Don entered the College, then enlisted in the Marines. He graduated first in his class, with the rank of second lieutenant, from the Marine Corps training center. He received a Bronze Star for outstanding leadership during a conflict in the Dominican Republic. In 1966, Don landed with the Ninth Marines in Vietnam, where he was based behind enemy lines, and returned with the Gallantry Cross, Purple Heart and Silver Star. His later assignments included the Pentagon, as strategic planning officer and later as senior war planning officer for the Marine Corps; operations officer for NATO stationed in Denmark; and senior planning officer for the U.S. Pacific Command Center in Okinawa. Don earned a master's in accounting from the U.S. Army War College. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1989 and

lived in Oakland, N.J., at his death.

John Rothschild died on November 4. He was a cardiologist practicing in Manhattan. John had been affiliated with Mount Sinai Hospital from the start of his career, first with his internship, then joining the faculty as an attending physician. The medical school recently created the John J. Rothschild Visiting Master Clinician Lectureship to honor him as a "model clinician-teacher." John is survived by his wife, Barbara; and their daughter, Juliet.

Turning to happier news, congratulations to Carol and **Art Freeman** on the marriage of their daughter Susan '00 to Gabriel Kaufman. Susan earned a master's in social studies education from Teachers College. She teaches history to middle and high school students at Winston Preparatory School in Manhattan and is dean of student life and coordinator of the history department. Her husband is the associate publisher for marketing and sales of Bearport Publishing in Manhattan, which publishes nonfiction books for children; he also is the author of five children's books. Art and Carol are retired. Art was the director of interagency affairs in the State Department's Bureau of Information Management, supervising international telecommunications policies and programs involving American embassies and foreign governments. Carol was a staff lawyer at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, advising judges on cases that involved parties without lawyers. They also have a son, Peter '96. Joan and **Mark Weiss** and Clara and **David Londoner** were guests at the wedding.

Penny Vann makes his debut as a contributor to this column. After graduation from the College, he reports, "I received a B.S. and an M.S. in civil engineering from the Engineering School. Then, after a few years in private practice and the armed forces, I received a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Rice in 1966. I taught at Rice for several years and then for 32 years at Texas Tech University here in Lubbock. I retired from Tech as a professor emeritus in 2004."

Penny has received several honors for his accomplishments, including the John A. Focht Jr. Citizen Engineer Award for community service from the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Most recently, in November, a former student endowed a Texas Tech scholarship in Penny's name. He continues, "I have not gotten back to the campus very many times, but I did for the Friday class reunion dinner in 2008 and then on September 26 of this year for the annual baseball team alumni reunion at the new baseball field. My swing

was way out of calibration, though. I missed every pitch in batting practice and in the game!"

Our eloquent class language maven, **George Jochowitz**, appeared in *The New York Times*, but on the features pages rather than his accustomed spot among the Letters to the Editor. In a piece by reporter Sam Roberts, "Unlearning to Tawk Like a New Yorker," George said that despite the resonant local accents used on TV by fictional characters Edith Bunker and Tony Soprano, and actress Fran Drescher, and the lyrics of a 1946 classic, "Who is de toughest goil in dis whole woild? Moitle from Thoidy-Thoid and Thoid," "that [accent] has vanished without a trace." George is a professor emeritus of linguistics at CUNY's College of Staten Island. Nevertheless, the article concluded that enough of the classic city tone lingers to provide plenty of work for "New York accent reduction" specialists.

Roger Castiglione remains active in retirement. For the last two years, he has been teaching English at the Berlitz Language Center in Ridgewood, N.J. His recent students have included business professionals from 12 countries. Roger is a trustee of the Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum in Teterboro, N.J., where he keeps in touch with other aviation history buffs.

The Class Lunch is held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Grill Room of the Princeton/Columbia Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). E-mail **Art Radin** if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radinglass.com.

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Norman Gelfand

c/o CCT

Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025

nmgc59@gmail.com

Our classmates have been busy, and most of the news, but not all, has been good.

Pat Mullins sent an interesting essay that must wait to be printed in its entirety, but he passed on some sad news. "The past 16 months have been some of the most interesting, exciting and depressing times in my life. In June, I lost Jackie, my bride of nearly 47 years. We had been told this spring that she had three months to three years to live and while we were mentally prepared for her loss, you are never fully emotionally prepared."

David R. McNutt writes, "I'm pleased to say that we are well and very happy in Santa Cruz, Calif., living among the redwoods near the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Yes, only eight miles from the San Andreas Fault, but also only

four miles from the beautiful ocean beaches!

"My wife of 41 years, Kristen, and I relocated to Santa Cruz from the Chicago area in 2000, accompanied by our two mini-Schnauzers, Hansel and Gretel. I was 'retired' at that time and happened to see a job posting for health officer/medical services director of the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency/Health Department. The Santa Cruz attraction was based in part on pleasant memories from a week spent at a national public health training event at the Santa Cruz Chaminade Resort & Spa in 1994, and we were married while in our fellowships in San Francisco and Berkeley in 1969. We had fallen in love with each other ... and with the Bay Area! So I applied for the position and was hired. The position provided administrative and medical management for detention medical services (four jails), two Federally Qualified Health Centers, Environmental Health Services, Emergency Medical Services, the county's indigent health insurance program, and the usual public health functions such as maternal and child health, communicable disease control, health education and so on. It was the best position I ever had, largely because of the wonderful professional and lay people I encountered in both public and private sectors. Santa Cruz County is small enough (pop. 260,000) that it is easy to know almost everyone connected to the health/public health fields, and it is geographically isolated so that there is great interconnectedness and interdependency.

"I remained in the health officer position for five years — the longest job I ever held. No, I didn't get fired from every job or any job. Kristen and I both enjoy travel and new experiences, and without children to support, we planned to relocate every three or four years. We have had wonderful experiences living and working on three continents and in 14 cities, including three different times in Chicago. One six-month residence was on a hospital ship, Project HOPE in Brazil, where I was chief of internal medicine. My wife is a doctoral level nutritionist-biochemist, attorney and polyglot, and has worked out of our home for more than 20 years in various teaching and consulting fields, hence our maneuverability.

"Retirement was quite a bore yet again in 2005, so I joined our local Red Cross chapter as medical adviser, board member and trained disaster responder. While our Red Cross chapter has 140 registered nurses and 60 or so behavioral health volunteers, the insurance coverage limits its scope of practice to first aid and limited counseling functions. It soon became appar-

ent to me through our disaster exercises that it needed broader scope nursing, behavioral health and medical support in its shelter operations. Previously, as health officer, I had tried to establish a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit through our local medical society. The structure was put into place, a national charter was obtained from the Office of Surgeon General, but the first recruitment yielded only four volunteers. The enterprise floundered for nearly three years. In 2006, the medical society asked me to volunteer as coordinator for the Santa Cruz County MRC and to build its capacity for emergency response. We obtained small grants and conducted widespread recruitment, after the first of which we had grown from four to 180 volunteers in two months! An advisory board was developed, bylaws formulated, training programs developed and more recruitment. We now have more than 450 volunteers and are the fifth largest MRC Unit in California, behind Los Angeles (1,405), Orange County (1,020), San Diego County (875) and Kern County (569). (New York City's MRC covers five counties, with more than 9,500 volunteers!) We participate in disaster exercises with numerous partner agencies including the Red Cross, local hospitals, health departments, fire and law enforcement agencies and so on. Our last effort was to administer up to 1,500 seasonal flu shots/nasal mist to hard-to-reach farm workers and their families at a farmers' market, flea market and rural community service center in early November. In early 2011, we will partner with the Red Cross and our local health department to set up a mock Alternate Care Site with 40 medical/nursing beds to decompress our hospitals in a simulated disaster situation.

"I retired as MRC coordinator at the end of 2010 and will spend more time developing joint training programs for our Red Cross and MRC volunteers, and maybe a little travel. But we much prefer to entertain friends and family at our mountainside home on Old Up Yonder Road, just below Heavenly Way, in Happy Valley — yes, we're still on earth — rather than face airports, traffic and the like. Can you blame us? We are fortunate to have many family members nearby in Sacramento and many friends locally, while other friends and relatives from around the world visit and vacation here with us. Our welcome mat is out to all, but 'reservations' are required! I appreciate hearing from classmates through dmcnutt@aol.com and will reply to all. Best wishes!"

Josh Fierer reports, "One reason I did not join ROTC in college is



Even across oceans, Columbia alumni find a way to meet up. Norm Solberg '61 (left) and Stu Sloame '61 had a chance to talk about old times and really old times at Ishiyamadera Temple near Kyoto, Japan, in December.

that I get seasick. This also is one reason why I never took a cruise until last June. Amazingly, I have been married to one woman (Norma Damashek '60 Barnard) for 50 years. We talked about a good way to celebrate the anniversary with our three children and three grandchildren ages 3–7. We rejected a number of options and finally decided on a late June cruise to Alaska on the inland passage, reasoning that the waters would be calm, the scenery spectacular, the meals prepared by someone else and the ship big enough so that we could chose to be separate or together as our moods dictated, and I could bring along scopolamine patches just in case. (Also, we were able to tell Sarah Palin jokes the whole trip.)

"I count myself lucky that my children like each other and each other's spouses. Consequently we spent a lot of time together. The best idea we had was to get a walkie-talkie for each couple, which allowed us to connect easily without making elaborate plans to rendezvous on a deck or lounge. The scenery did not disappoint us. The highlight for me was taking a helicopter ride to the top of a glacier and walking around on this enormous pile of ice. We were disappointed not to see whales, but there were at least four cruise ships playing tag for the whole trip, which was probably enough of an intrusion to scare off the whales. Living in San Diego, we are privileged to see gray whales migrate off the coast every winter, but I was looking forward to seeing orcas. The organizational skills of the cruise line were impressive; they did not lose anyone even with four stops to do touristy things on shore. So for those of you approaching your big anniversary, I can recommend this as a very pleasant way to spend

about a week with family or friends. I found that our plan was not too original — there were at least three other families doing the same thing on our trip."

From **Allen Rosenshine**: "In early October, seven members of our class met with Dean Michele Moody-Adams in an informal lunch on campus to discuss various subjects regarding Columbia College life today. Of particular encouragement to me was her support of efforts to bring ROTC back to campus, which we featured as a topic during our 50th class reunion last year. For me, 2010 was something of the summer of my discontents, having had back surgery after five months of sciatic pain. On a brighter note, the surgery was a success, and I expect to be skiing this winter, avoiding that most dangerous part of the sport, known as 'Follow me, Dad!' I did manage to drag my aching leg to Israel at the invitation of IDC University to lecture on the subject of Israel's declining reputation, my message being that its government's right-wing alliance with Jewish orthodox fundamentalism is going to bury the country in world contempt that not even the United States can dig it out of. For those who may think I am tilting toward the views of **David Horowitz** (with whom I grew up in New York City and who graciously took part in our reunion presentations despite Columbia's generally shabby treatment of his notoriety), you can find my far more liberal Democratic rants on my blog, *My Two Cents* (and *Worth Every Penny*), at allenrosenshine.com. (Sorry for letting my advertising background get the better of me.) Anyway, it was off to Egypt and Morocco at the turn of the year and then Scotland and France in the spring. *Vive la retraite!*"

Congratulations are due **Gene Appel** who says, "On January 22, I was inducted into the Mercer County (All Sports) Hall Of Fame. This is in response to my athletic activities at Sharon H.S., Columbia College and my recent high school football coaching here in Oregon. I really have to emphasize this is more because of the driving force I felt I was representing: my family/extended family; being a Jew (post-Holocaust); and first-born American (America's melting pot immigrant)."

"Recently my wife, Linda, asked, 'Did you really think about that at every game you played in?' I had to smile and replied, 'No, not every game; it started the first time in eighth grade when I went out for football, and every practice or time I stepped on the field or mat from then, I felt I was the 'Jew Boy' and I had to do my best.'"

My wife, Yona, and I were fortun-

nate this summer to have Gene and Linda stay with us for a few days. It was not long enough, but it was a real pleasure to spend time together.

Clive Chajet writes, "Since I am over 40, I can't accurately remember what I have written in my previous Class Notes, so if you find the following comments repetitious it means that your memory is better than mine."

"I still live in Manhattan and Bridgehampton most of the time and remain active as a branding consultant but am not as busy as I used to be. My book, *Image by Design: from Corporate Vision to Business Reality*, still sells a few copies a year, I play tennis most weekends with the same group of 11 players as for the last 22 years and am active on the 92nd Street Y board as well as some company boards."

"I have been married to Bonnie for 44 years, have two wonderful daughters, one of whom lives in Manhattan and the other in Brooklyn, and have two divine granddaughters whom I see weekly because they live in Brooklyn."

"I could continue writing for another three or four hours, but I suspect that I have already bored you, so I'll conclude by saying that I hope you have written something about yourselves that I would find interesting to read."

Lew Roth writes, "I usually don't want to bore classmates with my travel adventures, but maybe a trip to Egypt will be worth reading about. My wife, Leslie, a Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing graduate (how we met on West 112th and Amsterdam at the pizza place, which I believe is still there, is a whole different story) and I spent a week in Egypt recently. It was more than 100 degrees every day, the food was atrocious, the accommodations terrible and the tour company so petty that even bottled water served at mealtime was extra. Of course, you can't drink the tap water, but I'm not sure they don't bottle the water right out of the Nile. At any rate, both my wife and I got a little sick but not too bad. With all that said, it was an experience of a lifetime. The pyramids, the Sphinx, the temples at Karnak and Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and the Egyptian Museum are not to be missed. They should be on everyone's 'Bucket List.'"

If anyone else has been there and feels differently, I'd love to hear about it.

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Robert A. Machleder
69-37 Fleet St.
Forest Hills, NY 11375
rmachleder@aol.com

I gratefully acknowledge having received holiday and New Year

greetings from **Nathan Gross**, **Paul Nagano** and **Bill Tanenbaum**. I was delighted to receive a phone call on Christmas Day with season's greetings from **Michael Wolk**. Michael, who resides in California, had not been able to attend our 50th, so it was a special pleasure to hear from him, as we have not seen each other since graduation.

Our peripatetic artist, **Paul Nagano**, describes his activities during the past year and provides an interesting reflection on our 50th in his annual newsletter:

"Two-thousand-ten turned out to be a tiger of a year, so I am hopeful," writes Paul, "that the docile rabbit will bring us a year more calm, quiet and peaceful than the last. For me, it was a year full of exhibitions, from Honolulu to New York to Groton, Mass., and finally, Boston."

"I graduated in 1960 from Columbia, so at my 50th reunion there in June, I showed, with two of my classmates, a number of paintings in the most wonderful gallery: the rotunda of Low Library. It's a McKim, Mead & White neo-classical centerpiece of Columbia's Morningside Heights campus, built in 1895 and modeled after the Pantheon, with other classical touches. It's topped by the largest freestanding granite dome in the United States. On the steps in front of Low is a sculpture of Alma Mater by Daniel Chester French (who did the bronze relief doors of the Boston Public Library, too). A fateful connection: On the day I received my B.A. (in literature) at Columbia, an honorary degree was presented to the 60-year-old artist Hobson Pittman, who would, three years later, become one of my teachers at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia."

It is with sorrow that I reprint the following note, received in December from William Heinbach '67:

"It is with the utmost sadness that I report the death of my cousin **Henry Schoenfeld** '63L on September 21, after a series of lengthy illnesses. Henry was born April 28, 1940, and grew up in Manhattan, the oldest of three children. He was the son of William Schoenfeld '28, '32 Dental and Frances Schoenfeld. While in high school, Henry made Eagle Scout."

"Shortly after law school, Henry joined the Peace Corps. He served in Tanganyika (now Tanzania), where he taught law in Dar-es-Salaam to Tanzanian students. He remembered this experience with much fondness. Upon his return, Henry lived in Washington, D.C., then later in Takoma Park, Md., with his family. He worked at first in government, then as a criminal defense attorney for more than 35 years. Henry is sur-

vived by his wife, Lucy; their sons, William and Mike; and their wives, Debbie, and Ashley, respectively."

"A very handsome man, Henry also was blessed with one of the sharpest, best informed minds. He was not afraid to express and defend unpopular views on any number of the issues of the day, sometimes with a twinkle in his eye, so I was not always sure if he just might be kidding. He also was very funny and had a great, distinctive laugh, which was often heard."

"He handled his extensive physical illnesses with grace and much courage, as did his family. I will miss him very much."

I remember Henry as one of the cadre of classmates who had attended Stuyvesant H.S. The class sends its deepest sympathies to Henry's family.

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely

jf2261@columbia.edu

212-851-7438

DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller

ps2247@columbia.edu

212-851-7494

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Michael Hausig

19418 Encino Summit
San Antonio, TX 78259

mhausig@yahoo.com

We are now less three months away from our 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend, which will take place Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5. The Reunion Committee is planning the event with the help of the Alumni Office. Any suggestions should be forwarded to **Tony Adler** (awadler@spartacommercial.com) or **Burt Ehrlich** (burtterlich@gmail.com).

George Reithoffer has started a new company, Baker Martin Capital (bakermartincapital.com). It is enjoyable, and he has kept it within the Columbia family. He told his partners to get out there quickly and earn lots of money since the term of his lease is a lot shorter than theirs.

Ed Hotchkiss wrote that as we approach 50 years since our graduation from Columbia College, he asked himself what he received from the Core Curriculum liberal arts experience that was unique. He suspects he would have had many achievements in life had he gone to another college with a different educational formula. However, the Columbia years, incredibly enjoyable and challenging at the time, left him with a residual of lifelong friendships and a professional direction that pointed toward success in his chosen medical career, but most of all, an education in great critical

thinking and a realization that the intellectual world and the world that housed great thinkers had challenges and rewards that he could profit from, a little then, but more so later in life. That's held true for him. Thinking critically has served Ed well professionally and personally, giving him perspectives that have enhanced his abilities in his medical practice. An appreciation for the arts developed relatively late for him, and he thinks in no small part from his having had such a favorable series of memories of Music Humanities and fine arts. The passion he has for music was seeded 50 years ago, but flowered 20 years later. Ed's successes in his personal life, with wonderful marriages (widowed from a first) and children, life's accoutrements, complement very self-satisfying professional recognition and honors. Ed is the senior partner in a medical group in Lynbrook, N.Y., where he has practiced for 38 years. He has been involved in medical education at many levels all these years. He splits his time among Long Island, the Berkshires and visiting five children and seven grandchildren spread around the country. Much of his social life involves long-lasting relationships that started at Columbia, and he's looking forward to seeing classmates at our reunion with whom he has lost contact and hearing about how their Columbia years influenced their lives.

Norm Solberg and Stu Sloame met on December 9 at Ishiyamadera Temple, near Kyoto, the place where much of *The Tale of Genji* was written more than 1,000 years ago. [See photo.] This is said to be the first written novel in history. Stu and his wife were on their first visit to Japan, on the occasion of a traveling museum exhibit of ancient Japanese art from the collection of a family member. Although they hadn't seen each other since our 30th reunion, Norm and Stu recognized each other instantly!

On a sad note, **Chuck Johnson's** wife, Ann, died on November 2. Norm learned this from Chuck's Christmas letter. Chuck and Ann both worked most of their lives at Smith College in Northampton.

Also, **Donald Roesch**, a retired attorney who lived in Woodside, Calif., passed away on September 19.

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John Freidin
1020 Town Line Rd.
Charlotte, VT 05445
jf@bicyclvlt.com

Many thanks to each of you who wrote. If your words are not in this issue, I promise they'll be in the next.

Larry Loewinger is making a documentary film whose working

title is *Not for the Dead*. The film tells the story of a quietly heroic man, Bogdan Bialek, who lived in Kielce, Poland, site of Europe's last Jewish pogrom, in 1946. The pogrom has haunted the city for more than 60 years. Now Bialek has taken on the burden of leading people through a painful process of reconciliation. This is a film about today and about issues that remain hidden. After five years, Larry and his team have completed filming in Poland, Israel and New York. They are now raising money to begin the daunting challenge of reducing 170 hours of material into a dramatic 90-minute film. Larry writes: "I recently returned from a market in the Czech Republic where I pitched the film to commissioning television editors from across Europe. The response there was positive. Making this film has been the creative journey of my life." You may reach Larry at sohoaudio@earthlink.net.

After unsuccessfully trying to visit Cuba on a goodwill mission with a jazz ensemble and then again as part of a medical group, **David Brothers** (bros180@optonline.net) and his wife, Janet, recently returned from South America. They found Rio de Janeiro smoothly integrated with awesome beaches, exciting dining opportunities and high-quality accommodations. Iguassu Falls in the southern jungle near Argentina was their first encounter with South American jungle and offered everything the word jungle implies: malaria, dengue fever and big cats. Their visit to Iguassu Falls made them appreciate Eleanor Roosevelt's remark when she first saw the falls: "Poor Niagara."

David reports that Machu Picchu was splendid, a brief CC course, if you will, that somehow escaped the evil machinations of Pizarro, who apparently was not good in geography or interpersonal relations. He attempted to ship booty back to Spain from the Pacific coast of South America rather than the Atlantic, hence requiring the dangerous voyage around Tierra del Fuego and then north through the Atlantic. In exchange for Incan crafts and jewels, Pizarro gave the Indians smallpox and then with his guns, unknown to Incas, enslaved them and forced them to build Christian churches atop their brilliantly constructed stone walls, which remain technological marvels and a reminder of man's inherent psychopathology.

Buenos Aires felt militaristic from the moment David and Janet passed the machine gun toting border police. Their camera was clearly pick-pocketed from David's zippered waist bag, apparently a not uncommon happening in Buenos Aires. But the steak was superb, and one order

generously fed both of them. The Malbec grape and associated wines were special. The Tango, irrespective of whether one is inclined to dance, is something everyone should at least see if not do, assuming they are orthopedically cleared to do so, David writes. "It's too bad Columbia did not offer a Tango course! Can you imagine the line in the gym to register for that one? Still, Columbia was an awesome experience that in no small measure made us who we are."

Crawford Kilian continues to write for *The Tyee* (thetyee.ca), a Vancouver online magazine. "It's a dream job. I can write about books, politics, media, just about anything. We get a large and very involved readership, and *Tyee* stories tend to go viral — readers e-mail them everywhere," Crawford says.

In addition, Crawford has been blogging a lot. "My main blog is *H5N1* (crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/), which is now focused on infectious diseases and the politics of public health. At the moment I'm covering the cholera outbreak in Haiti, as well as dengue in South America, India and Pakistan. It's fascinating to see that at any given moment I may have visitors from France, China, Nigeria, Romania and Qatar."

The third edition of Crawford's book, *Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy*, will be out in the spring, and he's planning another one based on his blog, *Ask the English Teacher*. (crofsblogs.typepad.com/english). "It's going to be a kind of FAQ on English grammar, style and usage." He says close to 1,000 people visit the site daily. "This is not an outcome my Columbia English teachers would have foreseen," Crawford says.

Replying to an inquiry about how he felt about approaching 70, **Martin Kaufman** (mkskaufman@yahoo.com) vigorously replied: "Seventy? I'm not yet 68, and sometimes feel like a teenager. (My wife says I act like one.) Free days? In addition to my day job — I filed three appellate briefs in the two weeks before December 6 — family, three children, four grandkids and civic affairs occupy most of my time."

The big news from **Stephen Cole** is that, as of December 31, he officially retired from the Department of Sociology at the State University of New York. He writes: "My health has not been too good, and I thought it was a good idea to throw in the towel while I still could. Since my wife also has retired, this gives us the opportunity to do a lot more traveling. We have a beautiful apartment in Warsaw. Yes, my wife of 23 years, Maria, is Polish. We shipped one of our cars (a Maxima) to Poland and

now have a good way of getting around Europe. Given the taxes in Poland, it definitely paid to ship the car rather than buy one there. My son Robert had a daughter, my first grandchild. Her name is Miriam, and it is enjoyable to see her develop. My son Richard is engaged to an attractive and smart woman who is a research scientist at New York-Presbyterian. In retirement, I will be doing pretty much the same things I did when I was working except I won't be constrained by a university calendar. That means I will be reading and writing and listening to music. Is there anyone out there who is interested in hi-fidelity equipment? If so get in touch with me at stephen.cole@stonybrook.edu."

From Honolulu, **Thavanh Sveng-souk** writes that Hawaii has been his home since 2000, when he retired from the U.S. Foreign Service. Thavanh and his wife, Malichanh, have two sons: Jefferson '91 is an emergency room doctor at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., and Franklin is a senior graphic designer for Disney in Los Angeles. They keep themselves busy with community activities in Hawaii, three grandchildren (from Jeff and his wife, Lisa) and travel. Thavanh concludes: "We are both without major illness. I drive a sports car (Honda S2000) and go swimming at Hanauma Bay about four times a week." Thavanh's e-mail is thavanh.svengsouk@yahoo.com.

Jim Fasano writes a letter too good to summarize: "I entered with the Class of '61, but due to fieldwork with the American Museum of Natural History, didn't finish until 1962. So I guess that is my 'official' class, and I will answer your request for some information."

"In summer '65 I completed my tour of active duty with the army, in Heidelberg, Germany. With nothing to dodge, avoid or evade, I still felt increasingly dissatisfied with life in the United States. So in 1971, we migrated to Canada, settled in Montreal and I am now a Canadian citizen. It is far from perfect, especially since the Expos left, but it feels a lot more sane."

"I proposed to my Australian-born wife, Julie, the day we met in Innsbruck, Austria. In February, we celebrated our 45th anniversary."

"My athletic son Erik was lured by Notre Dame, where he ran track, majored in math and met his wife, Claudine. They live in Connecticut with their beautiful daughters, Isabella and Sophie."

"Our daughter Louise has intelligently remained here in Montreal, so far, and works with very young children in a local Anglophone school. She pursues many interests and does volunteer work for Dix Mille Villages."



Alumni Reunion Weekend wasn't only about dancing and lectures. During their 45th reunion in June, (left to right) Larry Guido '65, Bob Johnson '65, Jay Woodworth '65, Bob Henn '65, Don Bachman '65 and Mike Bush '65 gathered for a Blue Key Society lunch.

"My last visit to NYC was last spring to see *Lulu* at the Met. My last trip outside of North America was to run the Nuuk Marathon in Greenland. I have not been to Columbia in nearly half a century.

"Ten years ago, I retired from the anthropology department of Dawson College, and several years later, Julie retired from *Reader's Digest Canada*. She has been able to make yearly visits to beautiful Sydney, Australia, and I have made shorter trips: hiking in Alberta's Rockies, attending The Santa Fe Opera, going to baseball games and museums in Toronto, visiting Florida beaches and so on.

"At present we're waiting word that Erik and the girls have completed their visit to Claudine's family in Panama and are ready to navigate the winter highways of Vermont to visit us for Christmas. We also want to wish all the class, and their families, a very happy 2011!"

You can reach Jim at fasano@videotron.ca.

Stuart Pellman (stupell@msn.com) recently celebrated the 21st anniversary of his move to San Francisco from Manhattan. He says: "It's one of the best decisions I have ever made: the ease of living; outdoor activities; and cultural venues (symphony, ballet and opera) are a wonderful change after 40-plus years in NYC. I live on Telegraph Hill with my wife, Elyse, who is active in her business career. We often visit our children and grandchildren in Chicago and Long Island and travel once a year to Europe (usually Paris). In 1992, I stopped practicing law and moved to the business side, including work as CEO of a public company. For the past several years, I have been an independent consultant to national and regional law firms to train and coach attorneys to succeed at business development. This occupies about 50 percent of my time and lets me spend the balance enjoying life. My only regret is not becoming a golfer so I can spend mindless hours drinking and throwing the ball with other 70 year olds (just kidding?). Life is good and turning

70 this August is a mix of genuine contentment and disbelief."

The saddest news is last. My dear friend **Vic Wolfenstein** died on December 15. He had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer six months earlier; he was 70. Vic and I were close friends at Columbia and saw each other often while we were in graduate school — Vic at Princeton and me at Yale. After he moved to California, we got together much less frequently than we would have preferred. But whenever we did, or spoke by phone, Vic was always the caring, interested, insightful man he had been since we were 18. We've truly lost a man of consequence, kindness and modesty. Please send me memories of him so I may forward them to his wife and children. I cannot write more through the flood of my tears. Here are some words from Judy, who was married to Vic for the past 42 years:

"Vic was a professor of political science at UCLA, a psychoanalyst, and an expert on Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, W.E.B. DuBois, Friedrich Nietzsche and Malcolm X.

"Vic received his Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1965. His dissertation formed the basis of his first book, *The Revolutionary Personality: Lenin, Trotsky, Gandhi*. He spent his entire academic career at UCLA, where he published many articles and books, including *The Victims of Democracy: Malcolm X and the Black Revolution* and *Inside/Outside Nietzsche: Psychoanalytic Explorations*. His final book, *Talking Books: Toni Morrison Among the Ancestors*, is available at www.talkingbookswolfenstein.com.

"But Vic's greatest academic love was teaching. One has to look no further than the last week of his life to appreciate how important teaching was to Vic. Despite the progression of his cancer, he completed his fall seminars and submitted his grades five days before his passing. In 1991, he received the UCLA Mortar Board Faculty Excellence Award and in 1994 UCLA's Harriet and Charles Luckman Distinguished Teaching Award. He was instrumental in establishing race, ethnic-

ity and politics as a field in political science at UCLA.

"Vic also was a practicing psychoanalyst. He received his second Ph.D. in psychoanalysis in 1984 from the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute, where he also taught from 1988–2002. For 25 years, he saw on average 20 hours a week of patients on top of his responsibilities at UCLA. For Vic, work in political theory and the practice of psychoanalysis were complementary fields, each offering tools to understand and explain human experiences."

Vic had four children: Laura, Lenny, Gabriel and Moses. Lenny was named for **Lenny Pullman**, who was killed in an automobile accident as he was driving to Mississippi to register black voters in summer 1964. There will be a public memorial for Vic at UCLA in the winter quarter. The UCLA Department of Political Science is establishing an award in dialectal thinking in Vic's name.

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Paul Neshamkin
1015 Washington St., Apt. 50
Hoboken, NJ 07030
pauln@helpauthors.com

Tom O'Connor, Walter Stein and I attended a Bridge Class event with a group from the Class of 2013 (our Bridge Class) at the Columbia Alumni Center last November. As I mentioned when these started last year, these events are a unique chance to meet the undergraduates and find out more about them and their interests. If you are in the New York area and would like to join me the next time Columbia arranges one of these gatherings, let me know.

I know that a lot of us are having more fun now than we ever imagined we could, but I recently saw **Bob Kraft** honoring Tedy Bruschi during halftime of his team's game against the Jets (which the Patriots won with ease), and I saw Bob smile, and realized he wins, hands down, on the coolest job that any of us could imagine.

Congratulations, Bob. And now it's your time to tell me why your life is just as cool.

Steve Clineberg writes, "I retired as regional general counsel of Boston Properties (Washington, D.C., office) in December 2006 and have literally not looked back. My wife, Lin (a graduate of St. Luke's Nursing School on West 114th Street), and I have relocated to our vacation home in St. Michaels, Md., on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Since then, I have gotten involved with the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit that builds homes for working families in this area. In fact, I am so involved in this organization that I

was made president, meaning that I get to 'herd the cats' on the board of directors for a two-year term and help to assure that we have enough funding and able volunteers to continue our mission. I actually am looking forward to this since our affiliate is still growing, building five or six homes a year and filling a vital need for housing in our area, similar to the work that Habitat does around the world. I find that this work taxes the skills, such as they are, that I developed over my working career, and am having fun with it.

"In our 'spare' time, Lin and I like to travel. We recently returned from a three-week safari trip to southern Africa and are looking forward to our next trip, probably to Italy or maybe Egypt. We also have been spending a good deal of time with family, especially our three children (all girls) and seven grandchildren. The highlight of our summers has been our visits, with all of the children and grandchildren, as well as spouses, to Family Camp on a lake near Portland, Maine. If that's not enough, Lin volunteers with Master Gardeners and our local chamber music festival (held in these environs every June) as well as other volunteer activities.

"It was great seeing everyone at our 45th in New York. We are certainly looking forward to seeing many more of you at the next one and catching up on what you have been doing for the last 50 years!"

Bennett M. Rackman is the Jewish chaplain at JFK Airport.

Patrick McDonnell '66 writes, "During freshman orientation week for the Class of 1966, someone, I think from the Class of 1963, conducted a 'Nighttime Walking Tour of New Midtown Architecture.' As you might guess from my memory of the title after 45 years, it was an important event for me. I have had a lifelong interest in new architecture ever since. I do not remember who conducted the tour, but I would certainly like to get in touch with him and thank him for his interest and tour. I think that maybe he said he was going into advertising. Any help you could give in finding out who this was, such as asking in this column, would be most appreciated."

Any of you know who this might have been? Let me know.

Michael Hassan writes from Cabo San Lucas, "Life couldn't get any better down here. The weather is terrific ... wearing all short sleeves/pants during the day and climbing into long sleeves and pants at sundown (or *atardecer* in Español.) I've rented a beautiful luxury apartment in Cabo for the next few years while I develop property one lot off the

beach up the Pacific Coast about 30 miles from Cabo in a place called Cerritos Beach, internationally known for its great surfing. We expect the first spec house to be done mid next year and are quite excited as this is our first development project (I have a partner from the United States). I had hoped to spend Christmas and New Year's riding a 45-ft. ketch through the Panama Canal. This is the same boat and friends that brought me from Los Angeles to Cabo last year. I guess it helps to have an extra set of hands during the crossing, even a muddled, not quite as strong, bony pair.

"But what I wanted to say is how great life is right now. I hope my classmates can say the same. No more striving for tough goals (if the beach house doesn't sell, I'll own a beach house), no health issues to worry about, no more stress and strain unless voluntarily created, and to paraphrase Dr. King, 'Freedom at last.' There is something inspirational in having a free spirit in a free body and mind. I feel like I'm going to live to be 100."

Barry Jay Reiss writes, "I'd like to share info on an incredible vacation my wife and I took this past summer. We had talked off and on with another couple who are sailing buddies about wanting to do a canal boat vacation. We had looked at the canal boats in France and the United Kingdom, then someone asked us 'Why are you going overseas when we have one of the world's most famous canals right here in New York, the Erie Canal?' When we checked it out on the New York State website, we got a ton of material on all sorts of options, including a beautiful large-format canal 'cruising' guide. We contacted one of the companies listed in the guide, Mid-Lakes Navigation, and rented a 42-ft. canal boat. While we weren't expecting much, we were delighted to find a wonderful boat built to travel the canal with two double bed staterooms, each with its own head (bathroom), shower, fully equipped galley with gas stove and oven, refrigerator, dining area, a large canopy-covered cockpit and air conditioning! We picked up the boat at their marina in Macedon, N.Y., on the canal about five miles east of Rochester. After two hours of training on how to operate the boat (top speed, 5 mph) and how to enter and leave a lock, we were off heading east to our first lock and port of call, Palmyra (we eventually traveled through about 20 locks). The scenery was spectacular, and we eventually turned off the Erie on to the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, which runs through the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, where we saw hundreds of wild birds, herons, eagles and so on,

winding up at the mouth of Seneca Lake at Seneca Lake State Park. We eventually headed back west, stopping at Pittsfield and Fairport and heading back home to Macedon. It was an extraordinary week, and we highly recommend it."

Rich Juro writes, "Going down the coast of West Africa (Ghana to Namibia) for three weeks on a small, 100-passenger (several of whom are also Columbia alums) ship, catching up on magazines that I haven't read, and there's a big, nice, complimentary article on **Bob Kraft** in the November issue of *Fortune* (you can Google it). You've probably heard about it, even written about it, but just thought I'd mention it on the slim chance you missed it."

And so that brings us back to **Bob Kraft**. Write me about the wonderful things you are doing. I probably won't get it into *Fortune*, but I can certainly see that it's published here, where it really counts.

Our regular second Thursday lunches continue to be a wonderful place to reconnect. If you're back in NYC, try to make the next Class of '63 lunch, scheduled for March 10, and then again on April 14. It's always the second Thursday. Check out 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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Norman Olch
233 Broadway
New York, NY 10279
norman@nolch.com

Columbia is always with us. Writing this column shortly after New Year's Day and shortly after New York was hit with two serious snowstorms, I was reminded of our freshman year in January 1961 when the University was closed after a snowstorm and President Kennedy was inaugurated. A hopeful time.

For some, 2011 started with travel. **Nick Rudd** was off from Connecticut to California to visit his grandchildren, while **Beril Lapson** was traveling to Mexico and China on business.

Gary Schonwald practices law in New York City and works with developing technology companies in the United States, England and Israel. He, too, is traveling a lot between New York and London. Gary has lots of good news about his children: "During the past year, my oldest child, Matthew, received an M.B.A. in sustainable resources, which I hope gets him out of his prior profession of professional mountain climber. My second oldest child, Carrie, directs the social services side of international AIDS vaccine trials

conducted by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Institute in Seattle. No. 3, Carter, graduated from Yale as a theoretical math major and now is in a 'mathy' computer science Ph.D. program at Dartmouth. No. 4, Rosalind, is a junior at Brown, majoring in urban studies and enjoying her third year as the vocalist for the Brown Jazz Band. Finally, No. 5, Hannah Rose, is a sophomore at Brown, majoring in environmental engineering and one of the five women who are coxswains on the Brown men's varsity crew team. Apparently a number of crew teams now have woman coxes."

Our congratulations to Gary on his *naches*. Gary can be reached at 212-495-9207.

Gary's note brought back memories of my roommate, the late **Jack Lipson**, who was coxswain for the heavyweight crew.

Allen Tobias and **Pete Donaldson** continue a friendship that began during Freshman Week. Pete is the Ford Foundation Professor and former head of literature at MIT. He was in New York to review *Throne of Blood*, a theatrical adaptation of the Kurosawa film. Allen writes that over brunch in November, he and Pete discussed their favorite professors and they both "came to the conclusion that the distinguishing feature of a distinguished Columbia College faculty in humanities in those days was, beside its excellence generally, the learning environment: There was absolutely no competition between the (brilliant) undergrads and the (still more accomplished) faculty. No jealousy. I felt also that there was not enough real encouragement or intimacy. I especially regret not studying with Gilbert Highet, after recently reading his terrific book, *Poets in a Landscape*. I also am disappointed in Allen Ginsberg '48 for not recommending Lionel Trilling '25 more highly to me."

Allen is hoping that his play, *How to Write Like a Beatnik*, about the lives of Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac '44, will open in the fall.

Allen, Pete, Craig Karpel '65 and **Herb Goldstein** are trying to find **Mark Sindeband**. Any sightings?

Clark Hoyt, former public editor at *The New York Times* [Editor's note: See the feature in May/June, college.columbia.edu/cct/may_jun10.] was interviewed by Richard Heffner '46 on *The Open Mind* on PBS. Clark won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for his reporting, which uncovered vice presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton's electroshock treatments for depression. After the disclosures, Eagleton withdrew as George McGovern's running mate. Clark's motto as a newsman: "I have never been told it was wrong to ask a question."

My wife, Jacqueline, and I traveled in France in October. After touring Alsace, we drove from Strasbourg to Nuits-Saint-Georges, and for several days enjoyed the beautiful Burgundian countryside and the superb food and wine. A train from Dijon then brought us to Paris. A memorable journey.

Write me. Your classmates want to hear from you.

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Leonard B. Pack
924 West End Avenue
New York, NY 10025
packlb@aol.com

My last column was devoted to reports from classmates who attended our 45th reunion last June. As a postscript, **Mike Bush** has provided the nearby photo of participants in a Blue Key Society lunch held at the reunion. Pictured are **Larry Guido**, **Bob Johnson**, **Jay Woodworth**, **Bob Henn**, **Don Bachman** and **Mike**.

Harmon (Hank) Fields, moved by my repeated pleas for news, sent the following courageous submission: "I am sending my first entry to CCT because I want to begin to heal my Columbia experience and hopefully reconnect to my classmates and alma mater in a positive way. My Columbia years were difficult, owing to my issues of insecurity, self-esteem and dependency, which were mostly unknown to me at the time. I sought help from Columbia's counseling service, but the assigned psychiatrist seemed less sensitive to my needs and more distant and analytic than empathetic and supportive, and the treatment didn't last long. My issues were surely not of Columbia's making, but I wish that Columbia's help had been more engaging although perhaps I was also resistant to and defensive about exploring my feelings. I did go on to graduate, albeit a semester late due to an 'academic problem.' Since then, I have been a teacher and administrator in special education, a social worker, a supervisor and director in that field, and more recently, an attorney, having returned to law school at a later age and received my J.D. in 2002. I have been unemployed for a few months, mostly by choice, a time to relax, refresh and reflect on what kind of work would bring me the most satisfaction while helping others in a meaningful way."

Since Harmon lives in New York City, I arranged to meet him after receiving his submission. Friendly, optimistic and a profound thinker, he would be a rewarding person for his old friends to reconnect with. Harmon can be reached at hp919@earthlink.net.

Paul Hyman provided an update on his last dispatch combined with

an irresistible offer: "I had the privilege, in 1969, of working with Paul Rabinow, then a Ph.D. student, and noted anthropologist, Clifford Geertz, in the Middle Atlas Mountains of Morocco. The funding for my work was a small grant for photography from Chicago. When Geertz died in 2008, Susan Slyomovics, a professor of anthropology at UCLA, organized the Geertz conference 'Islam Re-Observed: Clifford Geertz in Morocco' and sponsored a one-man show of my photographs at the Fowler Museum. Routledge, a British Academic Press, has since published the papers of the conference attendees in a double issue of *The Journal of North African Studies*, Vol. 14, Nos. 3 and 4. Initially, Susan asked me to write captions for my photographs that were being used in several of the essays. Somehow, this idea grew into my writing my own chapter; in addition to the photos and captions. As the photog has picked up a pen, anyone interested can access the following link: informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a917362037~frm=titlelink. Susan's essay, which also deals with my work, is called 'Perceptions, not Illustrations, of Sefrou, Morocco: Paul Hyman's Images and the Work of Ethnographic Photography.' Those so inclined can access her essay at informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a917363254~frm=titlelink.

"I have a limited number of copies of the journal that I will sign and number for anyone willing to contribute \$100 to the Columbia College Annual Fund (college.columbia.edu/giveonline) for this purpose."

Paul can be reached about this generous offer, or for any other purpose, at paul.hyman@phnyc.com.

Last year, **John McDougall** contributed a piece about his amazing and arduous hike on the John Muir Trail. He followed up with these further reflections: "Looking back over the year recently ended, my greatest accomplishment has been to not regain any of the 30 pounds I lost in 2009 when I spent 21 days trekking the entire John Muir Trail. My health remains excellent in other respects as well. My body still tolerates running reasonably well, and I run or bicycle at least half an hour five or six days a week. I practice law and in March 2010 renewed my certification with the California Bar as a criminal specialist for an additional five years. Last summer, I revisited a section of the JMT with my wife during a weeklong excursion, and I'm looking forward to doing so again in 2011. This year, I plan to hand off my present volunteer role in the Boy Scouts as a district roundtable commissioner. Learning to read, write and speak German continues to

challenge me intellectually.

"A few issues ago, Leonard, you suggested that class members recall their undergraduate days, so I have on and off. I have concluded that the greatest influence on my life may have resulted from the examples of two residence hall counselors, law students who were veterans of service in the armed forces. Would I have chosen the Platoon Leaders Course program leading to a commission in the U.S. Marines upon graduation otherwise? Who knows. My experience in Vietnam has affected my views about the military very differently from those who didn't serve.

"As far as classes, the one I enjoyed most was a history of the English novel taught by former College Dean Steven Marcus '48, '61 GSAS, now the George Delacorte Professor Emeritus in the Humanities. Second and third were medieval history and 'History of British Constitution,' both taught by Norman Cantor '67L. First semester of Lit Hum, we had a classics professor (or maybe technically an instructor), so we got a lot of background on the works. Although I had played the trumpet in high school, mastering Music Hum proved a struggle but worth it."

Do John's recollections stimulate any of your own? If so, share!

Steven Millhauser, about whom I wrote last year on the publication of his short story collection, *Dangerous Laughter: 13 Stories*, has a new story, "Getting Closer," published in the January 3 issue of *The New Yorker*. I read it in one gulp, unable to stop. Without risk of spoiling the experience for anyone, I can tell you that the story includes a reference to "Grandma's apartment on West 110th Street."

Dr. **Arthur (Archie) Roberts** was the subject of a *New York Times* article by Harvey Araton on November 3, "For N.F.L. Players, Another Risk: Heart Disease." There has been a lot of publicity lately about head injuries and brain concussions in football. But cardiovascular disease seems to be another long-term risk. According to the article, after retiring as a heart surgeon, in 2003 Archie created a cardiovascular screening program for retired N.F.L. players at the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in southern New Jersey. The program was originally financed by the players union and private donations, but it has since expanded and moved under an umbrella group called the NFL Player Care Foundation, which includes the union, the league, a player alumni group and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. In the article, Archie notes that the issue of concussions in football has overshadowed the risk of heart disease to retired players. "The dan-

ger of concussions has exploded as a national issue because it has such a powerful effect on society. Our kids play sports and suffer concussions, not just gladiators playing professional football. But the reality is that cardiovascular disease is the leading killer of men."

The article cites an examination of 201 player screenings from Archie's program in 2006 and 2007 which found ailments in retired players of all sizes that harden arteries and can increase the risk of stroke and death by up to four times, putting them in the same risk category as obese, non-athletic men.

According to the article, Archie quit professional football after the 1967-68 season and became a heart surgeon, performing thousands of operations until he had a stroke at 58 that ended his surgery career.

"The doctor wasn't listening to the advice he was giving his patients," Archie said. "I neglected regular exams and follow-ups that I insisted my patients get. I wasn't exercising or eating right. I should have known better. But when I had my stroke, it started a new phase of my life." Archie noted that a fair number of the screened players were told they needed immediate care. He recalled that at least two, one of whom he knew from his playing days, soon had coronary bypass surgery. "I score what we've done as far from perfect, but after six years I do feel good about the effect we've had guiding players to procedures and helping them understand the risks. I believe we have saved some lives," Archie said.

After a hiatus, New York-area classmates got together for a class lunch on December 16. Attending were **Dan Carlsinsky, Michael Cook, Andy Fisher, Brian Fix, Stephen Hoffman, Paul Hyman, Michael Krieger, Barry Levine, Leonard Pack, David Sarlin, Michael Schlanger, Stephen Steinig, Rick Stuart and Jay Woodworth**. We're planning more such get-togethers. Please e-mail me at packlb@aol.com to be added to the notification list.

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Mia Gonsalves Wright
gm2156@columbia.edu
212-851-7977
DEVELOPMENT Heather Hunte
hh15@columbia.edu
212-851-7957

66 **Stuart Berkman**
Rua Mello Franco, 580
Teresopolis, Rio de Janeiro
25960-531 Brasil
smb102@columbia.edu

Pat McDonnell sent us his news in late autumn, pointing out that this was the first time he had written

to the CCT correspondent for our class. "I am retired. After getting a Ph.D. in sociology, I only worked in the field for six years and then drifted into market research and programming. I did get a chance to work in Australia for six years and while there did a national survey on social class and wrote a book that no one has ever read. I live in New Jersey and occasionally get to NYC, often for the *Prairie Home Companion* show at Town Hall. Most of my friends from the class were those six or so who went on to Stanford for graduate study at the same time as I did. I would especially like to contact **Pete Adams**, who I last heard was driving a cab in the city."

You can contact Pat at pjm@na2k.net.

67 **Albert Zonana**
425 Arundel Rd.
Goleta, CA 93117
az164@columbia.edu

Gregory A. Markel, partner and co-chair of the litigation department at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, was elected to the Board of directors of the Legal Aid Society, a nonprofit legal services organization based in New York City.

Jenik Radon writes, "I saw **Justin Malewezi** in January 2010 and was the first Columbia classmate to visit him in Malawi. Justin has had an accomplished, exemplary and inspirational career. He has dedicated himself to public service and the development of his country. He is a person who has made a difference. He has been married for about 40 years and has five children. Justin served as v.p. of Malawi and helped steer his country to democracy from a long post-colonial authoritarian rule, helped establish the policy and strategy for economic reform, focused on AIDS education and prevention, and now is concentrating on sustainable agricultural development/practice. As a former teacher and educator, it is hard to meet a Malawian who does not know and respect him. He has dedicated himself to making education central to the development of Malawi. As he noted, the youth is the future and everything depends on them. Justin is as modest and unassuming as ever and still has that sparkle in his eye. He also had the honor of being at President Barack Obama '83's inauguration."

Jenik also shared some of his own news: "I recently was honored as one of the top five teachers at SIPA. I returned from a trip to India, where I lectured at the Indian School of Business on the natural resource curse and role of corporations; Nepal, where I lectured at Tribhuvan University Law School on the impact of natural resource development

and the Nepali banker's association on the U.S. financial situation; and Bhutan, where I lectured to the business and government officials on joint ventures. In Nepal and Bhutan, I also met with public officials on hydro development, joint venture formation and operation. I also hosted a Mexican Bicentennial Independence conference at Monterrey Tech in Queretaro where the keynote was the human rights activist Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú Tum. I also was recently on Chinese television as part of a series on the power of corruption. More people saw me than live in the United States!"

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Arthur Spector
271 Central Park West
New York, NY 10024
abszzzz@aol.com

I have been looking high and low for news, but you all seem to be hiding. Please help me make this job easier by sending me an e-mail about yourself. Your classmates want to hear from you.

69

Michael Oberman
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
moberman@kramerlevin.com

Last column, I led with the news of **Judd Gregg's** retirement from the Senate, mentioning that "I tried to learn of Judd's plans for retirement, but his plans were not announced by my deadline." In one of the few acts of pure journalism that I've engaged in as class columnist, I checked in with Judd's office from time to time looking for an update. And then, on January 3, I was scooped by AP, which reported on Judd's announcement that he "plans on using his political clout to advocate for putting the nation's fiscal house in order," bypassing the chance to become a lobbyist in order to associate with groups focused on reducing the nation's debt. So there you have it. You read it here, probably last. But I do have some other items that, to the best of my knowledge, have yet to be picked up by AP.

From **Lee Percy**: "I'm now semi-retired, teaching part-time at The Episcopal Academy in Newtown Square, Pa., where I've been for the past 26 years, and occasionally teaching a course at local colleges. I have more time for research and writing (mostly on ancient medicine and on classical receptions), and for hiking, cycling, birding and grandchildren — all good

things. Some of the pictures that I took in 1968 appeared in *Harlem vs. Columbia University: Black Student Power in the Late 1960s* by Stefan M. Bradley (2009), and I'm thinking of putting together an exhibition about those 'interesting times.'"

Jack Schachner writes: "My last day of work for New York State was on November 23, ending a 33-year career. December 20 was the Dutchess County Bar Association's luncheon to celebrate my retirement, which was attended by about 100 guests. Two retired judges spoke, Judge Albert Rosenblatt from the NYS Court of Appeals and Judge Samuel Fredman from the Supreme Court, along with two local matrimonial attorneys who appeared before me a number of times and a Law School (1972) classmate who has been my friend since we met in kindergarten in September 1952. I spoke last.

"My career with the state began with a two-year clerkship in the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department in Rochester in 1972 and resumed after six years in private practice in 1980 with a two-year clerkship in New York County with Justice Bentley Kassal. I then clerked for Judge Rosenblatt in Poughkeepsie for 5½ years, worked as his special counsel for the two years he was this state's chief administrative judge and clerked for Justice Fredman in White Plains for 10 years. The past 12 years, I was a court attorney referee working as a judge in Poughkeepsie. I settled 1,021 of the 1,032 (98.9 percent) cases assigned to me, 875 of which were matrimonial matters. The challenge I created for myself was to settle every case I received, which I came very close to doing.

"My retirement plans include longer walks with my Golden Retriever; hiking with my wife; visiting our daughter who is completing her senior year at Syracuse; catching up on my reading; traveling, including an upcoming trip with my wife to visit our son (a 2008 College graduate) who teaches in Vietnam; playing tennis, pickle ball and golf; and working as a mediator/arbitrator retained by parties primarily in matrimonial cases. My first four weeks of retirement have been relaxing, though I seem to be as busy as I always was. I never thought I would retire this early in life, but the State's offer was too good to turn down."

I checked in with **Bill Stadiem**, who writes: "Finishing my newest book, *Moneywood*, about Hollywood in the age of Reagan, or how movies went from auteur theory to corporate paradigm. Next up will be a book about the surreal coming of age of the daughter of Meyer Lansky, which is like *Girl, Interrupted*, in the Mafia. Preparing a one-man

Broadway show based on my book, *Mister S.: My Life with Frank Sinatra*; the one man would be Sinatra's super-hip black valet George Jacobs, who also could sing like the master. Still working on a long-term Harry Winston opus, traveling the world meeting the superrich who bought these baubles, engendering many nostalgic '60s radical thoughts. How could Columbian Barack Obama '83 countenance those evil tax cuts? Lion, where is thy roar?"

Jerry Avorn continues to study the benefits, risks and cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs as a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. His social marketing approach of sending 'un-sales reps' to visit doctors to give them the truth about medication benefits, risks and cost-effectiveness, known as academic detailing, has now been adopted by several states and the Veterans Administration to improve prescribing and to counter pharmaceutical industry hype (rxfacts.org). Jerry's book on doctors and drug companies, *Powerful Medicines: The Benefits, Risks, and Costs of Prescription Drugs*, is becoming a cult classic among medical students. (I can personally recommend it. As a consumer, I found it fascinating.) Speaking of books, fans of the good old days will be pleased to learn that *Up Against The Ivy Wall: a History of the Columbia Crisis*, originally authored in 1968 by Jerry and fellow *Spectator* editors **Rob Friedman**, **Oren Root** and **Andy Crane** as well as Mike Stern '70, Paul Starr '70, Rob Stulberg '70 and Mark Jaffe '70, has just been made available for free via open access on the Internet Archives (archive.org), ending a 40-year shortage. Jerry's son, Andrew '08, is a second-year student at NYU Law, trying to figure out how to combine his progressive family heritage with the realities of the 21st-century legal profession.

Don Schenk writes: "On Memorial Day 2010, some good rowing friends from Columbia and I celebrated our 40th time paddling in the General Clinton Canoe Regatta on the Susquehanna River. Our first time was in 1968 when we escaped the chaos on campus and sent a 10-person Columbia team to paddle in the 35-mile canoe race. We have been doing this every year since. Our families spend the weekend at our summer house in Starlight, Pa. Our teams now include our children and grandchildren. For our 40th celebration, we fielded four teams captained by Jerry Botha '67, Eric Dannemann '67, Jack Probolus '70 and me."

Marc Rauch finished a two-year phase-out from his commercial real estate law practice at Arent Fox on December 31 and moved to Egypt, where his wife, former SIPA dean

Lisa Anderson, was named president of the American University in Cairo, in January. Marc has been traveling back and forth to Cairo for the last 2½ years, while his wife has been serving as provost at AUC while on leave from her chaired professorship at Columbia. In contemplation of a career change, Marc has been taking courses for the past two years in the urban planning program at the Architecture School. He says it has been an amazing experience to be in classes with 25-year-olds, not to mention taking midterms, writing term papers and sitting for finals again. He adds that it also appears to have been quite an experience for the 25-year-olds to be taking classes with someone like him. Marc says that there has never been a female president of AUC in that university's 90-year history and that the exact nature of his role as a male spouse of the university's president will evolve. Meanwhile, Marc adds, he has one good career left, and he finds the prospect of doing urban planning in Cairo, a fast-growing and dynamic megalopolis of 16–20 million people that is facing numerous and diverse challenges, tremendously exciting.

After the last two columns, I've received a bit of news and only had to beg half as often to round out the column. For those who have not shared news or views in a while, it is your turn (if not your obligation). My inbox is open 24/7. When I ask classmates why they have not sent me news, I am told either a) "my news is not interesting enough" or b) "I do not want to appear to be bragging." No need for concern on either front: I am constantly told by readers of the column that they are in fact interested in learning about their classmates, and members of our class are not easily impressed. Still, to stimulate submissions of views, here is a question. I have started to read Sarah Bakewell's book, *How to Live or A Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts At An Answer*. I bought the book because of its sterling reviews and because I remember really enjoying the Montaigne readings in Literature Humanities, even though I could not recall the details of the readings or exactly what I enjoyed. Alumni constantly speak of the value of the Core Curriculum: In 250 words or less, what specific reading can you recall, and has it shaped your thinking?

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Leo G. Kailas
Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt
885 Third Ave., 20th Fl.
New York, NY 10022
lkailas@reitlerlaw.com

I have been trying to set up a dinner with **Peter Sugar** and **Vic-**

tor Hertz to no avail. I started a month-long-plus trial in Greenbelt, Md., federal court on January 11 and moved down there. I am representing the good guys for a change: a defense contractor who is suing a large insurance company that refused to pay on a marine casualty.

Paul Rosen, who practices medicine in the Bronx, is working with me on our 45th Bronx Science reunion. He got a nice long e-mail from our Science classmate David Politzer, a Nobel laureate in physics. David was at Science a few months ago for an awards ceremony. Maybe we can get him to speak at our next reunion.

I also heard from **Bob Douglas**, who has been unstinting in his work for Columbia. Bob writes about coming full circle! His daughter, Mary Martha '11, is in her third year as a resident adviser. "After stints as an RA in the Living and Learning Center in Hartley Hall and then in John Jay, she is now in Furnald. It was 43 years ago (1967) that her mom and I met at a mixer (now there's a word you don't hear around Columbia anymore) in Furnald lobby. Mary Martha has been accepted into the graduate program for political science, adding '12 GSAS' to her name. This year, she is co-chair of the Undergraduate Recruitment Committee and a vice chair of the Senior Fund. We are very proud."

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely

jf2261@columbia.edu

212-851-7438

DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller

ps2247@columbia.edu

212-851-7494

71

Jim Shaw

139 North 22nd St.

Philadelphia, PA 19103

jes200@columbia.edu

Paul Jamieson passed away on October 8. His wife, Pam, wrote me: "Paul and I had been sweethearts since we were 15, and I feel very fortunate to have had the experience of knowing what the 'real deal' is all about for nearly 45 years. The Columbia years are prominent in our relationship (I commuted from Duke to visit frequently). Paul was nothing if he wasn't joyfully irreverent, a sharp critic, dear friend to those who cared for him, and a fabulous father, master chef, husband ... He always was a thinker, questioning everything. In his way, he was one of Columbia's best, in his capacity to relate to others in a way that made them glad to count him among their friends."

Paul and I were among 14 fresh-

men on Furnald 8. When **Howie Selinger**, his roommate, broke his wrist playing for Furnald 8 in an intramural touch football game, Paul came up with the idea of getting Knicks tickets for Howie as a token of appreciation and a get-well gesture. We chipped in, and it meant a lot to Howie.

Pam forwarded to me an obituary written by a "dear family friend" (not mentioned in the obituary):

"**Paul Clement Jamieson**, 'Des-tined to be Philosopher King,' of Stamford, Conn., died early Friday morning, October 8, in Baltimore. He was surrounded by his wife, Pam, children, Katie and Andrew, friend, Karen, and Golden Retrievers, Nicky and Cody. Paul was 61.

"While at Columbia, Paul was a member of the ice hockey team and crew. Alpha Delta Phi fraternity provided Paul and Pam with compatible cohorts. Together, they would leave at nightfall and drive the eight hours to ski Sugarloaf in Maine. For a time, he added to his worldly knowledge by being a New York 'cabbie.' After graduating, he and Pam traveled around Europe for a year. Their romantic home base was Brynisiencyn on the Isle of Anglesey off Wales. Later, he was to attend the New England School of Law, graduating in 1976.

"When their children, Katie and Andrew, were born, Paul left the practice of law to stay home, developing the fathering skills for which he is well known. He was unfazed by the endless drives for Katie's swimming practice at ungodly hours and 'Purple Dragons' soccer league, as well as ballet class and *Nutcracker* performances for Andrew.

"Paul's legendary culinary magic came to him honestly. His Danish grandfather, Matthew Bach, owned and operated the Melba Inn in New Canaan, Conn. And his own father, Paul Jamieson Jr., of Scottish and Irish descent, was the family's cook. Paul called upon many heritages of cooking to create memorable meals nightly. He was not an 'occasional' cook but rather, he took pains to invest with equal ardor in each and every meal. He shopped daily. For him, leftovers were unacceptable. Each meal was new.

"He generously donated his skills. For the Long Ridge School, which he attended at age 5 and with whom he maintained a lifelong connection, he hosted a Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon on an annual basis. Each themed meal was an extravagant and elegant event. A lifetime of summers at the family cottage on Spruce Head Island in Maine inspired Paul to donate and host a lobster bake, which was auctioned at the Long Ridge School fundraiser. Many regulars

anticipated this annual auction item, and the bidding was hot and heavy. For many of Paul's lobster bakes, the lobsters, clams, mussels and seaweed were supplied by his Maine connection. On one occasion, he met the trucker carrying these goods at a rest stop on I-95 at 3 a.m.

"Paul is survived by his wife of 39 years, Pam, daughter, Katie, son, Andrew, and brother, Matthew, and missed by friends for his wonderful combination of elegance and irreverence.

"Instead of flowers, donations may be made to The Long Ridge School, 478 Erskine Rd., Stamford, CT 06903-1599, or The Cancer Institute at St. Joseph's Medical Center, 7601 Osler Dr., Towson, MD 21204."

Len Renery: "Saddened though I am to hear of Paul's passing, I recall with a smile and incredible delight our trips on the IRT to the Bronx to play ice hockey games in the freezing cold of winter.

Since we could only get the ice at midnight or later, these subway trips proved fabulously entertaining, in part due to Paul's irreverent sense of humor, terrific smile and warmth. Paul never had a bad word to say about anyone or anything and, though our paths crossed only briefly in the post-Columbia years, it doesn't surprise me at all that he was a wonderful father and husband. When I need some 'uplifting,' I'll think of you, Paul. Thanks for your friendship. My sympathy to your family."

If you have reminiscences of Paul, send them to me. I will assume that they are for the eNews and Class Notes unless you indicate otherwise.

In a happier look to the future, I always have a great time at Alumni Reunion Weekend, with both old friends and new. Our class always has a strong turnout. See ya there, Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5. Mark your calendars now.

On February 11, to kick off our way to reunion, we had (after this column was written) Burgers and Basketball, with dinner at Havana Central at the West End, followed by Columbia versus Princeton at Levien Gym.

Last reunion had a lot of great events, and this one looks to have as many or more.

It was my great pleasure at the last one to organize and lead a freewheeling class discussion about Spring 1968 and how it affected us. It was basically non-political, but deeply personal, and spouses and partners also told me afterward that they were fascinated to hear (and for some to partake in) this discussion of an event pivotal for many of us but that we don't discuss much with people who weren't there. Adding to the effect was being

packed into an old classroom with probably the same wooden seats that were there when we were.

Anyway, the Reunion Committee would like to have another class discussion at this reunion. As of this writing, the events subcommittee is looking for a time slot and location for it — with Dean's Day now moved to the Saturday of reunion, you can attend lectures by leading current Columbia professors, but there are fewer open time slots. We on the Reunion Committee look eagerly toward the events subcommittee's successful scheduling efforts.

Among the topics that have been proposed for a class discussion are (and if you have other ideas please propose them):

a) Oscar Wilde said that "Life is far too important a thing ever to talk seriously about." Someone or other once said that we spend our lives trying to be the person when young we imagined we'd become. Did we? Should we have? What did we learn along the way? What do we wish we'd known when we were in the College? Or, perhaps, looking forward, what are our expectations and desires and fears and hopes?

b) Economic meltdown: causes and effects.

c) Music: Perhaps with Arno Hecht '72 as a participant or speaker, eager to attend reunion if his touring schedule permits. I've been privileged to be friends with Arno beginning in high school. (And having any Sha Na Na current performers or alumni would be great, too.)

How would you like to be out front soloing at the 25th Anniversary Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum concert, performing with Dion on "The Wanderer" with Paul Simon singing backup? In addition to his individual work, Arno is part of a four-man horn group, the Uptown Horns, which has done a ton of studio and touring work. They were the horn section on the Rolling Stones' Steel Wheels Tour and played in at least two top dance songs, "Hot Hot Hot" as done by Buster Poindexter (ne David Johansen) — you hear it at maybe every wedding and bar/bat mitzvah and so on, and "Love Shack" by the B-52s, both big hits. A biography of the Uptown Horns (probably from mid-'90s) is at stereosociety.com/uhbio.shtml.

Regardless of the class discussion topic, here's some legendary Arno music to get your day, week, or maybe even life going:

The following YouTube search information will help you search for clips and find them easily, unless they have been removed. The times given in parentheses are to help locate particular clips, as there

may be more than one version.

I have deleted links because in the eNews version you maybe don't want an inadvertent click to send the Stones and so on blasting through your office (or maybe you do, try it) and if you are reading this in the CCT print edition, it's a pain to type random letters and digits into your browser. Also, in case the posters remove the link, but they are reestablished by someone else, these search terms might still get you there.

First, so you can get a better look at Arno and find him and his shades and tenor sax more easily in other clips — 25th Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Concert (2009), Arno up front (and soloing at 2:12) — search “paul simon dion” (3:29).

B-52s' (with Uptown Horns as studio musicians, not in this music video shoot to the recorded music) “Love Shack” — search “b-52s' love shack” (4:19).

Buster Poindexter's “Hot Hot Hot” — search “buster poindexter hot” (4:12).

E Street Band (yes, often Springsteen's players) and Darlene Love (with the Miami Horns), music video for movie *Home Alone 2*, “Alone on Christmas” — search “alone on christmas darlene love” (4:25).

Rolling Stones IMAX movie, *Live at the Max* from the Steel Wheels Tour — As posted on YouTube, this is Part 6, consisting of the finale, “(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction” (which really gets going when Keith Richards starts his guitar solo and the horns turn it up) and then everyone taking a bow together. High energy, great video and audio. Crank it up, then go buy the DVD. (In case anyone is looking at the movie in one piece and wants to find this, note that each part (except the last) as posted is 15:01 — search “rolling stones live at the max part 6” (9:43).

Ray Charles, “Mess Around,” solo by Arno at 1:44 — search “ray charles legends mess around” (3:01).

Arno, and Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, Ray Charles, B.B. King, James Brown, Fats Domino, Bo Diddley, Dave Edmunds, the rest of the Uptown Horns and others jamming together (Rome 1989, that's Italian in the beginning) — search “lewis richard charles king” (8:50).

J Geils Band's “I Do” (another great up-tempo) — search “j geils i do live” (3:08).

And here are two questions for you as you reflect: What song defined our generation? What song was your favorite while at the College?

In 2010, **John Borek** released his latest album, *The Professor of Rap*. It has some thoughtful, literate lyrics. Among others I like is:

“Andy Warhol, what did you do
“To all the young people entrusted to you

“They danced off of buildings and o.d.'ed on junk

“So you could do silkscreens and prefigure punk.”

You can download the album free at theprofessorofrap.com. The beats are by Brandon McNeil.

John is a conceptual artist. You can read an entertaining profile in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* at rocnw.com/article/arts/20105230315, which includes John's conceptual art credo as, “Think the illogical through to the logical.”

Maybe we can get Arno and John to jam together. Now *that* would be meta-conceptual.

Remember back 44 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. We are still connected. See ya at reunion!

72 Paul S. Appelbaum
39 Claremont Ave., #24
New York, NY 10027
pappel1@aol.com

Jerry Lynch writes, “The biggest news here is that this August, my wife, Karen, and I celebrated the wedding of our son, Chris '02, to Katie Wilson, in Townsend, Tenn., in the Great Smoky Mountains. It was a delightful occasion, further enhanced by the presence of **Brian Rosner** and **Bob Hymes**. Chris, a recent graduate of Yale Law School, is dealing with much the same transition I am: He clerked last year for a federal district judge and this year is clerking for a court of appeals judge in Pasadena. Like me, he finds the appellate job intellectually stimulating but misses the action of a trial court. The only downside to any of this is that the happy couple are now transferred across the continent to Los Angeles.”

Jerry continues as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and as the Paul J. Kellner Professor of Law at Columbia.

Arnold Horowitz retired from the State Department in 2005. He lives in Arlington, Va., and works on terrorism issues on the Beltway. Having gotten a late start in raising a family, his boys are now 13 and 14. “The younger is interested in making the NBA, the older in philosophy, but both career choices are likely to change several times in the years ahead. Our family enjoys visiting Manhattan. Rucker Park in Harlem was the highlight of our last visit. We are happy to see the many ways Manhattan has changed for the better and rejoice that Tom's Diner still is there. I mourn the demise of the Green Tree. I am in touch occasionally with **Warren Cook**, **Henry Herfindahl** and **Steve Hirschfeld**.”

Prior to embarking on his State

Department career, Arnold earned a Ph.D. in history from Yale and an M.P.A. in international affairs from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Shep Hurwitz sent greetings at the New Year “from a snowy North Carolina. Here in Chapel Hill, they call Columbia blue ‘Carolina blue.’” After many years at the University of Virginia, Shep moved in 2008 to UNC, where he is professor of orthopedic surgery. He also is executive director of The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

73 Barry Etra
1256 Edmund Park Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
betra1@bellsouth.net

Another decade, another column. Perhaps that *is* as it should be ...

Joel Pfister is the Kenan Professor of the Humanities and chair of the Department of English at Wesleyan, and from May to July this year will be a visiting scholar at the John F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin; he hopes to complete his book on American literature from Ben Franklin to the Modernists while there.

Marc Gross married his college sweetheart (Susan Ochshorn '75 Barnard); 30 years hence, they share four 20-somethings: three artists and a doctor-in-training. Marc is senior partner at Pomerantz, Haudek, Grossman & Gross; he's been there since his graduation from NYU Law in '76. His specialty is securities class actions against corporations on behalf of U.S. and foreign pension funds that have been defrauded, and class actions against insurance companies on behalf of undercompensated doctors. They lived in Brooklyn for years (Sunset Park) but now live 10 blocks from the campus. Marc enjoyed “seeing Columbia students spill out into the streets celebrating Obama's victory, a fleeting reminder of when we took to the streets for quite other reasons.”

The redoubtable **Michael Shapiro** is in his eighth season as music director and conductor of the Chappaqua Orchestra. His latest accomplishments are writing a score for a new NBC crime series that should be airing as you read this, working on his second symphony, having the Western premiere of his orchestral piece *Roller Coaster* last summer and having his *Peace Variations* for solo violin recorded by violinist Tim Fain, which will be out this year.

James Minter's flight path is like being in a travelogue: Russia, Ukraine and Georgia in the spring; Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Hali-

fax, Toronto, London, Paris, Istanbul, Athens and Monaco in the fall, all in the service of “spreading the gospel according to Columbia.”

James especially enjoyed London because he got to see **Mitch Freinberg** and his daughter, Charlotte '10. The word from our Alumni Office is an expected 30,000-plus (!) applications this year, so James will not have eaten or slept from December (when his e-mail arrived) until April. 'Tis a non-consumption devoutly to be ... avoided. Let's wish him sanity.

74 Fred Bremer
532 W. 111th St.
New York, NY 10025
f.bremer@ml.com

Please note my new abbreviated e-mail address. Why not try it out by, say, sending me an update on what's going on in your life? Subtle?

It recently occurred to me that there has been a strange reversal in our cosmos during the past four decades. Most of us remember the ever-present war protest chant, “One, two, three, four. We don't want your ‘friggin’ war!” (This is a family publication, after all.) Some of you might recall the second line: “Five, six, seven, eight. Organize and smash the state!” (Extra credit if you can stimulate your synapses to bring back the *third* line: “Three, five, seven, nine. Do it again if you have some time!” But I digress.) These were phrases exclaimed by the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and other “leftist” students. Somehow “smashing the state” seems now to be one of the central themes of the far-right Tea Party. Well, at least the left and the right can agree on something, even if it takes nearly half a century!

A press release arrived late last year announcing the latest career evolution of **Larry Silverman**. Formerly a partner of the Covington & Burling law firm, Larry has joined

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New York, NY 10025.

Bracewell & Giuliani, an international law firm with more than 470 lawyers, as head of its New York civil litigation practice. The focus of his work is on representing corporations and investment firms in commercial litigation (including securities class actions, derivative suits and antitrust litigation). Larry also has an active entertainment law practice.

Among Larry's high-profile achievements have been his representation of real estate giant Brookfield Asset Management in the successful takeover of the World Trade Center and his defense of the Henson family when Disney was trying to commandeer the rights to the Muppets following Jim Henson's death. Larry also has handled litigation for French film producer Luc Besson (*La Femme Nikita*) and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (in a defamation case involving Ivanka Trump).

We wish Larry well in this exciting new phase of his legal career!

If there is one classmate who can best be called a "serial entrepreneur," it might be **Will Willis**. Following graduation, Will earned an M.B.A. at Columbia and then went on to head (and often turn around) companies as diverse as Jeno's Pizza (the national frozen foods company) and sewer pipe retrofitter Insituform (a listed company). Along the way, he wrote two well-received books and is working on a third ("not going as fast as I would like ... day job keeps getting in the way of my writing"). The day job he refers to might be the new ventures housed under the Willis and Associates Law Group umbrella. This is a collection of environmental companies in four "green" industries (wind energy, surface disinfectants for the food industry, truck fleet oil management and — don't even ask me what this involves — "Eco-Tabs Grease Trap Tabs." Somehow, it doesn't seem right to mix careers involving sewers, grease traps and frozen pizza!

Seems like it was five or more years ago that Will wrote in that he was hunting for a retirement home in Costa Rica. Well, he still lives (and works) in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Score retirement as one of his few failures. However, Will should earn an offsetting point for being a proud parent. A recent e-mail ended with, "Last September, **Paul Marino** and **Kevin Ward** joined me in Vermont to see me marry off my third daughter."

Sometimes I find postings from classmates on Facebook about the achievements of the children that they might be reluctant to send in. For example, I learned that Nicole Amy Rabbat, daughter of **Al Rabbat** (retired managing director of

Nationsbank Capital Management, living in New Jersey), launched a fragrance called Stiletto (it comes in a shoe-inspired bottle) and recently was featured in *Seventeen* magazine. **Barry Klayman** (partner of the Cozen O'Connor law firm in Wilmington, Del.) was teasing of the coming documentary of "the iconic Chinese contemporary artist Ai Weiwei," that was produced by his daughter, Alison Klayman. (I also liked that Barry listed, on his Facebook page, *The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test* — a '60s book about Ken Kesey and LSD — as one of his favorite books). Feel free to send in news of what your kids are up to. Your old College friends would love to hear.

Ralph Coti (partner at Coti & Sugrue in downtown New York) posted a Facebook note in the waning days of the past year: "Two-thousand-ten is almost over. The century is 10 percent toast. It seems like only yesterday that we were worrying about the world-wide computer/communication meltdown which would result from 'Y2K.' And when we were kids, the year 1999 was synonymous with some time in the far distant future which for all practical purposes was never going to come."

I still am trying to deal with the fact that 1984 was written about a far away time that is now more than a quarter-century ago.

A last amusing Facebook item came from the surprising entry in early January from **Tim Marcovy** (partner of Willacy, LoPresti & Marcovy law firm in Cleveland). I read from his posting: "Timothy is married." Divorce and remarriage is certainly nothing unusual among our generation, but the lack of any further details made me suspicious (as did the "ha ha" comments from other Facebook members who addressed him as "Dad"). Ever vigilant, I called Tim and learned that he had only recently joined Facebook in order to see the European vacation pictures of one of his kids. In haste, he had neglected to check off the "married" button on his profile. After months of ridicule from his offspring, he finally went in to correct this, little knowing that a change in his profile would create a posting on "the wall." Tim confirmed to me that "My marital status hasn't changed in 35 years — and still married to the same woman." Good to have that cleared up!

Well, there you have it. The Tea Party borrowing a page from the SDS, classmates — and their children — launching new careers, and "social media" infiltrating the hallowed pages of *Columbia College Today*. Just don't expect me to send you daily updates via Twitter!

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Randy Nichols
734 S. Linwood Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21224
rcn16@columbia.edu

Richard Einhorn wants to let you know about his latest release, excerpts from *The Origin*, a large multimedia celebration of the work and life of Charles Darwin. The music is performed by the incredible singers of Kitka, an all-female Balkan vocal ensemble. While it may seem like an unusual pairing, Charles Darwin and the Balkan musical tradition, Richard felt certain that they were the perfect choice to represent Darwin's personal side. They met the challenge of using Balkan vocal techniques while singing in English with tremendous enthusiasm and total commitment. Richard took immense pleasure doing the research for *The Origin*. Paraphrasing time for a bit: "Darwin was an exceptionally fine writer, with a well-honed, but little-noticed, sense of humor including a propensity for puns and in-jokes, even in his most abstruse scientific writing. Musicians are notorious punsters so this was a wonderful thing to discover — *A Taste For Collecting Beetles*, which retells a hilarious anecdote from Charles' autobiography, literally wrote itself. Darwin could also be a seriously moving writer, as the memorial he wrote after his beloved daughter Annie died at 10 shows." Richard goes on to say that as a CC student, he learned not only how to research a subject in depth, but also that he enjoyed researching a subject in depth! His major vocal pieces including *The Origin* are an opportunity to indulge his desire to ferret out unusual, and unusually beautiful, texts. Since he lives near Columbia, Richard frequents the music library on occasion to read through scores and magazines. Without the pressure of a final exam or paper looming, he claims it's an incredibly pleasurable experience. For more, point to richardeinhorn.com.

Continuing his commitment to the rural, poor and underserved community of Zamora-Chinchipe Province, Ecuador, **Serle Epstein** has spent several weeks of each of the last 10 years working at the Clinica Misional Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. When not there, he continues to recruit and raise funds for and provide advice to them from afar. For more information about the clinic, go to guadalupeec.org. And, of course, if you can contribute funds, volunteer time or support the clinic in any other way, he wants to hear from you! Serle is a private practitioner of internal medicine and primary care and associate professor of internal

medicine at the Yale School of Medicine.

I have not heard from **Dore Gold** recently, but do know from the media that the former Israeli U.N. ambassador attended the Hague hearings in October.

William McGuinness was co-author of a recent article in the *New York Law Journal*. He is the chair of the Litigation Department for Fried Frank in the New York City office.

Not ones to miss a good Homecoming, **Bob Schneider** and his wife, Regina Mulahy, also attended the Homecoming Weekend at Penn last fall. Bob is a Quaker by way of his Wharton M.B.A. (1979). Because daughter Meg is an undergrad at Penn, they had even more reason to attend. Bob is the class correspondent for his class for *Wharton Magazine*. (Of course, you know he should be listed as co-author of these notes as well, but he always has demurred!)

And, of course, you know what time of year it is. If you received a call from a classmate in 2010 and made a donation to the Columbia College Fund, thank you! If not, expect a call or follow-up before June. Please be as generous as you can. You also may give online: college.columbia.edu/giveonline.

And, send me some stuff yourselves, so I don't have to always rely on Bob!

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Taruna Sadhoo

tds2110@columbia.edu

212-851-7849

DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller

ps2247@columbia.edu

212-851-7494

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Clyde Moneyhun

Boise State University
Department of English
200 Liberal Arts Building
1910 University Dr.
Boise, ID 83725

clydemoneyhun@boisestate.edu

Gordon Bock writes from Northfield, Vt., to announce the birth to his wife, Kathleen, of their third daughter, Samantha Israel, born on July 1 at 9 lbs., 6 oz. Samantha joins sisters Hadarah (9), a violinist with the Green Mountain Youth Symphony as well as a budding ballerina, and Gabrielle (2), who, unable to pronounce "Samantha," is the author of her sister's official nickname, Minty. Congratulations, Gordon and Kathleen, and welcome to the ranks of other '76ers having children somewhat later in life.

Keep those cards and letters (and e-mails and Facebook updates) coming, folks.

Actor Robert Wisdom '76 Brings Depth to His Roles

BY AMANDA ERICKSON '08

Robert Wisdom '76 got his big break in the form of a misdialled phone number.

He was trying to make it as an actor in Los Angeles when he received a call from a casting director, who had accidentally called Wisdom about an open part. "I didn't have an agent or anything," Wisdom says. "I didn't know what kind of film it was. But I called her back and said, 'Look, I'm an actor, I heard you're looking for someone.'"

She brought him in, and he got the part in *Clean Slate*, a 1994 mystery that starred James Earl Jones and Kevin Pollak. It would be the first of many serendipitous breaks for Wisdom, who from 2003–08 played Bunny Colvin, a Baltimore cop who grows increasingly frustrated with his city's war on drugs in the critically acclaimed HBO series *The Wire* and who has appeared in the films *Ray*, *Storytelling*, *Barbershop 2* and *The Forgotten*, among others.

Wisdom didn't set out to be an actor. He discovered performing during his senior year at the College, when he signed up for a theater class on a whim. "My professor [Aaron Frankel] said, 'You know, you could be good at this,'" Wisdom says. "But I didn't take it seriously."

Instead, he began a career in banking, although he kept up with acting classes as a hobby (and even starred as Nat Turner in a summer stock production). A few years later, Wisdom returned to his hometown of Washington, D.C., and took a job with National Public Radio as a producer for *All Things Considered*.

Wisdom then shifted gears again, producing music and theater festivals for art museums.

That job took him to London, where a director friend encouraged him to pursue acting more seriously. He began auditioning for shows on the side, though he still didn't consider performing a full-time profession. "How to break in was the farthest thing from my imagination," he says. "It was just something that I loved to do."

Wisdom landed his first gig in 1990 as the star of a new show at the Bush Theatre in London. The hitch was that rehearsals conflicted with his day job at London's Institute of Contemporary Art. So he called his staff to tell him he was rethinking his hours — he would come to work at the end of the day and work until the middle of the night.

That show turned Wisdom into a full-time aspiring actor. During the next several years, he performed in regional theaters throughout England and Scotland. Family pressures eventually brought him back to the United States, and he settled in Los Angeles in 1993 to help a friend plan a music festival. It was there he received that fateful phone call for *Clean Slate*, which led to roles in *The Heist*, *Mighty Joe Young* and *That Thing You Do!*

One of Wisdom's first film parts was as a waiter in the British television series *Agatha Christie's Poirot*. Though he had only a few lines, Wisdom says he did serious preparation, hanging out at restaurants and developing a back story. He so successfully brought the character to life that a friend told him he thought Wisdom was a major character.

"It meant that human being I was playing came alive," Wisdom says. "I'm always trying to figure out how to bring life to



Robert Wisdom '76 turned his hobby of acting into a fulfilling career.

what's on the page."

When considering parts, Wisdom says, he looks for compelling characters and good stories. "With a lot of parts, you're given a last name and that's it. You can't really make that part colorful," he says. He attributes this passion in part to the focus on humanities at Columbia and St. Albans, his Washington, D.C., high school. "I learned how to read and how to take in narratives and stories," he says of his education.

Wisdom turned down athletics scholarships for track at other colleges and chose Columbia because of the focus and depth of the education. He majored in history and sociology and feels lucky to have had his education shaped by deans Peter Pouncey '69 GSAS and Harry Coleman '46. But it was a course he took for the light workload his senior year, "Acting 101," that most shaped his future; the professor encouraged him to reach beyond the easy grade and really work at

becoming an actor.

To that end, one of his best-known roles was that of Colvin on *The Wire*. "Bunny was one of the most fulfilling characters of my career," Wisdom says. "There was so much depth to him."

Wisdom has continued to work steadily since that series ended in 2008, guest-starring in television shows such as *Supernatural*, *How I Met Your Mother* and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. He was a regular last summer and fall on *Burn Notice*, a spy thriller in which he played Vaughn, a CIA handler.

"More than anything, I would say Bob knows how to be present as a man, with all the complexities and contradictions that come with that," says Academy Award-nominated director Oren Mover, who is working on a movie with Wisdom. "To me, he is a very emotional actor, someone who can show you an interior life in surprising ways, mostly because he never seems to be trying too hard to do that. It just pours out of the depths of his experience and talent."

Though Wisdom has chosen a notoriously challenging field, he says he tries not to obsess about career security. "An actor always worries whether they'll work again," he concedes. But Wisdom says he welcomes the challenge of finding new parts to inhabit. "I like to finish work and go into that empty space and begin again. I like looking at the world through different lenses."

To see a clip of Wisdom as Bunny Colvin on *The Wire*, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.

Amanda Erickson '08 has reported for *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. She traveled to Azerbaijan in September on a Fulbright.

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David Gorman
111 Regal Dr.
DeKalb, IL 60115
dgorman@niu.edu

Supplementary to last column's David Friend report, I received an

interesting item that appeared in the December *Broadcasting & Cable* newsletter about how the s.v.p. for news at CBS is going about hiking the ratings of the radio and television stations belonging to the group. If I understand correctly,

this involves keeping track of what works best in particular markets and venues, and attempting to translate that success elsewhere: We're talking about a lot of monitoring, resource-, content- and talent-sharing, and in short, networking

within the network. I enjoy finding out nuts-and-bolts stuff like this, which I would otherwise never hear about.

Otherwise, though, no news is something less than good news for this forum. In 2011, as always,

I aim to share with our classmates your plans (and for that matter hopes, dreams and anxieties) as well as your accomplishments. So keep us posted.

78 **Matthew Nemerson**
35 Huntington St.
New Haven, CT 06511
mmemerson@snet.net

The big snow we had in Connecticut in January (22 inches in New Haven) brought to mind for all the weatherman on TV the famous blizzard of 1978, which certainly impacted us on campus long ago. I remember I had driven back from winter recess and my car (a lovely 1967 Fiat 124 Spider) was snowed in on West 114th Street for two weeks. How wonderful to have free parking in New York — even if I couldn't see my car under the snow banks.

Chuck Callan was inspired to send this very touching piece: "I had the great fortune of visiting our dear Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig. Thanks to a submission to the November/December Class Notes by Lou Orfanella '82, I was able to track down the Quixote maestro.

"He asked me to convey to our class that, although he is slowed physically by health concerns, his mind and devotion to intellectual pursuits are as keen as they were 30 years ago. Upon seeing him for the first time since 1978, I reminded Professor Selig that the last thing I did when leaving the campus after graduation was to ask him for a suggested reading list.

"At the time, he recommended I read the works of Mann, Stendhal, Flaubert, Balzac, Joyce, Dafoe, Marquez, Proust and James, among others. Then I told him that the purpose of my current visit was to let him know that I finished the list and, as a result, I was back for more. He said simply, 'That's marvelous, now read them again.' I was humbled but not altogether surprised. Wisdom, I suppose, is like happiness: It's there right in front of us. We need only open our eyes to find it. He then added, 'Don't just "read" the works, encounter them!' He also wanted me to convey to the class how very much he would enjoy seeing you.

"If any of you would like to visit Professor Selig, send me an e-mail (chuck.callan@broadridge.com), and I will forward his contact details. New Year's resolution: Make time for people and, as he said, do it soon."

Thanks, Chuck. That's great. Sometimes your humble scribe has reasons to be extra humble. A few columns ago I misread an organizational masthead and ended up marrying off a classmate to his deputy at work. What made it worse is that he mentioned his wife in his

note to the column. Shall I just say sorry? Yale fills in the details himself: **Yale J. Reisner**: "Grateful as I am to you for not only having published what I wrote, but also for having made a favorable comment in response, I'm afraid I must nonetheless quibble just a bit with the version you published.

"You see, I don't actually have two wives simultaneously, as your version would make it appear. Much as you might think that my life is not as dull as I claim, neither it is quite as exciting as you make it out to be!

"My one and only wife remains Helise E. Lieberman. My lovely and highly capable work colleague Anna Przybyszewska Drozd, however — although I probably spend as much time with her as with Helise — is actually someone else's wife.

"In this age of Google and such, published accounts of my apparent bigamy are not likely to do me much good. You might want to set this straight in your next column.

"I assume that it was the automatic signature that might have misled you, but not every ampersand is a *shidduch*!"

Don't let this mistake keep you from writing. I promise to be more careful from now on.

Did you see where Columbia trails only Harvard as the alma mater of Fortune 500 CEOs? I am waiting for us to join the list soon. Happy spring and be in touch soon.

79 **Robert Klapper**
8737 Beverly Blvd., Ste 303
Los Angeles, CA 90048
rklappermd@aol.com

Glen Savits updates us with performing arts news. His son, Gabriel Gavrin-Savits, graced the stage during the holiday season having "completed another successful run in New Jersey Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. He played Clara's envious brother Fritz and was reviewed by *The Star-Ledger* as having 'led the boy's dance elegantly.' "

Congratulations to the Savits family!

Rediscovering Mathematics is the title of a new textbook by **Shai Simonson**, a mathematics and computer science professor at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass. The text is written for a general audience, particularly those interested in math or those who want to try math all over again. The book also is aimed at teachers who want to create a new generation of mathematically literate students. Shai's new text, published by the Mathematical Association of America, is based on his experience teaching in middle school.

Shai also is co-author of *Java Pro-*

gramming: From the Ground Up, a college-level introduction for computer science and Java programming, published in 2009.

On the homefront, Shai lives in Sharon, Mass., with his wife, Andrea, and their children, Zosh, Yair and Yona. He adds, "My two older sons are starting to look at colleges. Life is too fast. Best to all."

News from **Robert Richman**: "My oldest daughter, Emma, bought me a duvet in navy blue."

Robert C. Klapper: "This month's column is about Rodney Dangerfield. Just to get you started, he's the guy who said, 'I just joined Alcoholics Anonymous ... I'm still drinking... but under another name.' I mention this comic genius because my financial struggles as a college student involved rubbing two nickels together in hope that a dime would pop out. Somehow in my four years I managed to scrape enough together to take some poor unsuspecting Barnard girl to Dangerfield's newly opened club in Manhattan. What I experienced was one of the greatest two-hour laugh-a-thons that is still near and dear to my heart, including my date, who tried to throw an ashtray (remember those?) at the stage during one of Dangerfield's classic one-liners. Since I've now discovered the magic of YouTube, I recently got to go back in time to our tenure and hear those lines all over again: 'My wife's cooking is so bad... we pray after the meal.'

"I not only hope this column shakes some nouns from your memory of our years at the College, but also that you check out YouTube to brighten up your day."

80 **Michael C. Brown**
London Terrace Towers
410 W. 24th St., Apt. 18F
New York, NY 10011
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

Spring is in the air, and we cannot wait till the melting snow gives way to buds on the trees in Central Park. I trust you all had a productive start to the new year. I commend basketball coach Kyle Smith on the start of his first season, as the boys have played with enthusiasm and passion. They have been exciting to watch. Baseball, under Coach Brett Boretti, got under way with trips to Alabama and Florida, and we are looking for another big season from our team. Robertson Field at Satow Stadium is a thing of beauty and definitely worth taking a trip to Baker Athletics Complex to see. In addition, in mid-April, we will honor longtime baseball advisory member **Eric Blattman** by naming a new locker room after him — a well deserved honor for a great guy.

The pros from Dover (remember the original M*A*S*H), **Scott Ahearn**, **Joe Ciulla**, **Shawn FitzGerald** and I, traveled to Kiawah Island for some golf and mayhem. The golf courses and setting are spectacular in South Carolina, but you really need to bring your A game. We did our best to keep the ball in the fairway and make the occasional putt, but in the end, the course won! Hopefully, we will dominate the football golf outing once again as we take on our teammates from 1979 and 1981.

Chris Mesnooh practices international M&A and technology law in Paris, where he has lived since 1989. Admitted to the Paris Bar, he counsels American companies seeking to enter France and the EU through acquisitions and sophisticated licensing transactions; his client base includes many of Silicon Valley's best known tech companies. Chris is a partner at the London-based firm of Field Fisher Waterhouse. He appears frequently on both French television and the international business press (*The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *The New York Times* and *Le Figaro*) as a commentator on issues relating to business and the law. He also sits on the boards of directors of the European-American Chamber of Commerce and Human Rights Watch (France). His business takes him frequently to both London and Northern California.

On a personal note, after 30 of working for large Wall Street firms, I decided to establish an independent practice as part of Dynasty Financial Partners, a firm that is in the business of providing support to large registered investment advisers. I am joined by Charles Britton '05 and Amanda Carlson-Kerley '04.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Kimberly Peterson
knp2106@columbia.edu
212-851-7872
DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller
ps2247@columbia.edu
212-851-7494

81 **Jeff Pundyk**
20 E. 35th St., Apt. 8D
New York, NY 10016
jspundyk@gmail.com

Can't you feel it? Be honest. You can feel it. You're getting all tingly at the prospect of coming back to campus for our reunion this spring. **Erik Jacobs** sure is feeling it. Erik is even willing to put aside his avocation as "budtender" for a few days to join us. So we got that going for us. Need I say more? Perhaps it's better if I don't. Rather, here's a roll call from far and near:

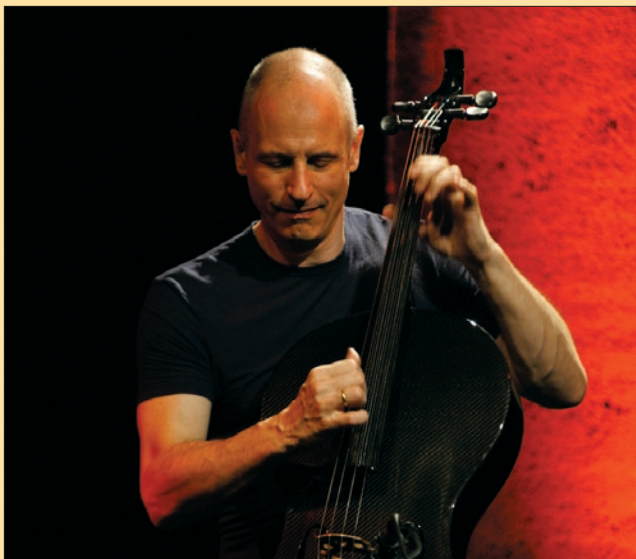
Cellist Erik Friedlander '82 Plays an Uncommon Tune

BY MARYAM PARHIZKAR '09

Cellist **Erik Friedlander '82** has much to tell about how his life as a musician has progressed since his years as a student, and he speaks with the same excitement and nostalgia that can be heard in his cello playing. "With New York it's touch-and-go because I think, here, I'm kind of a home-boy," he explains. "The greatest influences I have were people I worked with along the way, and I made a point to learn as much [as possible] from them."

Friedlander has become a major player in New York's downtown experimental music scene, recognized for his innovative work as a cellist and frequently sought as a musician across genres. He has collaborated with the likes of John Zorn, John Darnielle's Mountain Goats, Courtney Love, and most recently, Marty Ehrlich's Rites Quartet at Columbia's Miller Theatre.

Friedlander's independent projects deserve their own praise, exemplifying how he has taken the cello and redefined the sound that it is capable of producing. His 2007 album, *Block Ice and Propane*, inspired by the long cross-country summer trips he took with his family as a child, was reviewed by *The New York Times* in 2007 as "the avant-cello album of the summer." Heavily inspired by American roots music, the compositions elicit the nostalgic road trip experience with unconventional string tunings and plucked strings. Friedlander turned to his experience with the guitar as a child and his performances with jazz bass players as inspiration. "I feel I have an understanding of how to shape music when I'm using pizzicato [plucking the strings with fingers] in a way that I maybe don't have with the bow," he says. He has applied the same techniques to his Broken Arm Trio, a project inspired by bassist Oscar Pettiford's own experiments with pizzicato.



Erik Friedlander '82 puts the cello bow down for his *Block Ice and Propane* project.

PHOTO: ROLAND ROSSBACHER

Despite his success, Friedlander speaks humbly of his beginnings as a musician. Raised in Rockland County, he began playing the guitar at 5 and picked up the cello at 8, through his public elementary school's music program. At Columbia, he studied in the music department with cellist Mark Shulman and played in the University Orchestra as well as several student-led "fringe" groups and at the Aspen Music Festival in the summers.

"In the beginning, I used to wonder why he wasn't in a traditional music school," says P.D. Villarreal '82, his freshman roommate. "But, in time, I came to see that Erik was benefiting from his time at Columbia just as much as I was. He didn't want to be just a musician; he wanted to be an educated human being who also was a great musician."

Friedlander's excitement for music rose after he fell in with an older group of jazz players in downtown New York. "It was such an exciting experience for me to play with these musicians that I was always petering on, declaring to myself that

I would become a musician in my professional life," he says.

Halfway through his Columbia degree, Friedlander decided to dedicate himself to music. He dropped the basketball team and declared music as his major.

"Although Erik was a good basketball player, especially in clutch situations, I don't think basketball was ever a serious threat to music in his life," Villarreal says. "Basketball was fun. Music is a basic part of who Erik is."

Friedlander began a long, "exciting and painful" process of "tearing down old technique and building it back up again — you know, a lot of hours practicing." After graduation, he spent a large amount of time reworking his technique so that he could become a working musician.

"I ended up not being good enough at the time to continue playing with the kind of jazz players I was playing with," he explains, so he sought work as a classical freelance musician. For many years he played in pick-up orchestras, studios and Broadway gigs. "As it turns out, it was 'be careful what you wish for,'" Friedlander explains. "I wasn't

keeping track of where my heart was and what I needed to do to stay creative."

With this realization and his new technique, Friedlander began improvising with greater effort, performing with groups at the Knitting Factory and other New York venues. After meeting Zorn and playing on several of his projects, including the Masada String Trio, Friedlander began experiencing greater visibility on the scene, as he did under several other band leaders. "That's the trajectory that has continued," he says. "I started out being a sideman, and gradually started to lead my own bands and learn about that as well."

Friedlander lives in Manhattan with his wife, choreographer Lynn Shapiro, and daughter, Ava. He has been busy with several projects lately, including a tour with the Broken Arm Trio and a performance with Zorn again at the Abrons Arts Center in the past year. *Block Ice and Propane*, his biggest breakthrough to date, was reincarnated at the Spoletto Festival in Charleston, S.C., in June. The multimedia performance included a film made for the project by Bill Morrison and old photographs taken by his parents, including his father, celebrated photographer Lee Friedlander. His latest CD, *Fifty Miniatures for Improvising Quartet*, was released in September by Skip-Stone Records.

Looking back at his career, Friedlander explains, "The path I took as a musician was trying to become relevant — I don't think I conceptualized it back then, but I see it now, and I wanted to be busy."

Maryam Parhizkar '09 is a program assistant at Turtle Bay Music School in East Midtown Manhattan. She also is violist and founding director of fourbythree (fourbythree.org), an ensemble of Columbia-based musicians.

According to the latest Wikileaks, **Phil Frayne** is a foreign service officer serving as the director of the Office of Press and Public Diplomacy in the Near East bureau of the State Department. He recently returned from a year as the embassy spokesman in Baghdad. He and his family live in Bethesda, Md. Phil sends greetings to former WKCR sports colleagues John Metaxas '80, **Mark Becker**, **Barry Waldman**, **Gary Cohen** and George Stephanopoulos '82.

Daniel Gordis has good news/bad news. His daughter Talia was married in March in Jerusalem, where they live. That's the good news. Unfortunately, Daniel had to put up with a visit from his Carman roommate, **Lewis Horowitz**, who flew out for the occasion. Talk about a crises in the Middle East. Happily, through the years Daniel has perfected the art of appearing to listen when Lewis speaks.

Other news from Daniel: Stanford University Press is publishing his next book, *The Politics of Jewish Identity: Conversion, Law, and Policy in 19th and 20th Century Orthodox Responsa*, which he co-authored with Professor David Ellenson.

Joseph Sbiroli reports a welcome stability: "I own and operate a NYC real estate development and management firm, Ventura Land Corp., and live in Locust Valley, Long Island, with my wife and two young sons. The most interesting development is that, after 29 years, there now is another Sbiroli roaming the campus. My niece, Emily, started the post-bac pre-med program in January. Time marches."

Joe's buddy **Michael Strauss** and family are celebrating the acceptance of Michael's son, Matthew, to the Class of 2015. Michael writes: "Matthew has wanted to attend the College since he started going to basketball games with me at 10. After all the anticipation and waiting, he can finally take a deep breath. My wife, Marianne '87 Wellesley, and I couldn't be more proud. He's really a great kid. As for me, after attending the Law School and a brief stint at a Wall Street law firm, I moved back to Port Jefferson in the mid-1980s and have had my own law practice ever since. I am mostly involved in real estate, development and zoning work. I've also developed a golf addiction during the past 20 years. My wife has raised our three children — aside from Matthew, Elizabeth (19) studies theater arts and Caroline (14) is an artist/writer in training. Caroline and I spent Thanksgiving in Paris."

Georg Schwartz is practicing architecture in New York. Georg, who is self-employed, notes that "the hours are good but the boss is a problem. I do not specialize, but the work that

comes my way tends to be private apartments and small houses, with an occasional office space. I share my life with fashion designer Yeohlee. In the last year, we've had the pleasure of working with the CFDA and the Design Trust for Public Space to chart a new future for New York's Garment District."

Athol Morgan has added a faculty position at Maryland to his already voluminous resume. Athol is president and CEO of One Heart LLC in Baltimore. What follows is just a small excerpt from Athol's CV:

"Dr. Morgan is the interim chief of cardiology at Bon Secours Hospital in West Baltimore. He also is an instructor in the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins and also serves on the admissions committee, where he helps ensure that qualified minority students are given a fair chance in the admissions process. He also teaches cardiology to the residents in the Department of Family Practice at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He regularly gives lectures in cardiology at medical conferences, meetings and grand rounds. Dr. Morgan is a past president of the Baltimore affiliate of the American Heart Association. He is the co-host of the popular radio show *Health Talk* on the Caribbean Exchange on WEAA 88.9 FM. He is a member of the Caribbean Cardiac Society and the Association of Black Cardiologists. He has recently been working with the government of Jamaica on health-care initiatives involving Jamaica, the Jamaican Diaspora and institutions here in the United States. Dr. Morgan is a longstanding member of the Jamaica Association of Maryland. He is married and resides in Ellicott City, Md., with his wife, Lisa, and sons, Justin Winston and Miles Athol. His hobby and absolute passion is breeding and racing thoroughbred horses. He can often times be seen at Pimlico and Laurel Park cheering on his charges."

You know, all the usual stuff.

Noam Marans has been named director of interreligious and intergroup relations at the American Jewish Committee, an international Jewish advocacy organization. Rabbi Marans previously was associate director of interreligious and intergroup relations at AJC.

Rich Peltz reports that no less of an authority than his sister has volunteered that he's aging well. So, we know for sure that he's aging. Rich, who is an organist, made it through the holiday season without organ damage (ba-dum-bum).

Kris Kowdley writes from Seattle, where he has lived since 1993: "I attended Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and then moved to the Pacific Northwest for residency. Following

training in Boston and a couple of years in Cleveland, I moved to Seattle. I was on the faculty of the University of Washington for many years and since 2007, am based at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, where I am director, Center for Liver Disease, and director of research, Digestive Disease Institute. I am married and have a daughter (12). I am an avid cyclist and wine collector in my spare time. I would be very interested in hearing from any classmates who remember me."

And finally, kudos to **Kevin Bilms**, who upheld the Columbia tradition of sports excellence by beating Jared the Subway guy in the NYC marathon. Kevin, who trained on little chocolate donuts, files this update: "Well, I did it, and I finished, final time 5:11 (that's hours and minutes, not days and hours)! The world record holder for marathons dropped out of the race in the 16th mile, so I am claiming that I beat the world record holder. I also passed Jared Fogle (the Subway sandwich pitchman) at around the 22nd mile. I guess all of those subs slowed him down. I wore a Columbia shirt while running the race. The Columbia blue stood out in the crowd."

See you all in June. Meantime, send updates, empty promises and threats to jspundyk@gmail.com.

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Andrew Weisman

710 Lawrence Ave.

Westfield, NJ 07090

weisman@comcast.net

Gentlemen, I am delighted to discover that my threat to inflict the malevolent auditory violence of a neophyte violinist has paid dividends. My son, Henry, nonetheless, sits in wait patiently applying rosin, while down-tuning his E string a quarter tone for maximum effect. Thankfully, our talented and thoughtful classmate **Ira Tattelman** wrote in with news of both his, and our other accomplished classmate **William Megevick's**, half-century birthdays. In Ira's words:

"Two-thousand-ten is the year I turned 50. November 15 to be exact. I'd been looking forward to it — a milestone for someone who lives a fairly privileged life with a good amount of emotional, intellectual and financial success. I'm an architect, artist and writer in Washington, D.C."

"The celebration started with a trip to Provence in September. My close friend **William F. Megevick Jr.** also turned 50 in November. He's a lawyer in New York City, and we took off for a five-day bike trip, self-guided, from Avignon to Arles and back. We took in the scenery, food and our enjoyment in having a chance to spend time together.

We are the same as we were back in college and yet, quite different. Our friendship is the constant through the various jobs, relationships and cities we have experienced.

"November was my month of learning — exhibits, lectures and movies at the Kennedy Center, Building Museum, Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Goethe House, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Phillips, DCJCC, even a street corner in Adams Morgan. I also took in a performance of Steve Reich music, a play at Signature Theatre and mojitos at a new bar on the birthday itself. Indeed, I went out almost every night and realized that while I miss aspects of New York, Washington, D.C., can keep me busy. Of course, November ended with a Thanksgiving weekend with my sisters and their families, the first year we have feasted without either of our parents alive. It's always nice to spend time with my siblings.

"The celebration culminated in January when Brett Abrams, my domestic partner of 19 ½ years (he turned 50 in December), and I celebrated our 100 years with a party in downtown D.C. — live music, drink and food.

"It's been a great 50."

Incidentally, I've done that bike ride and it's extraordinary. It should be on everyone's bucket list. So should the bulk of Ira's month of November. To all of you turning 50 this year, I wish you the very best. Take heart; after all, 50 is the new 47.

83

Roy Pomerantz

Babyking/Petking

182-20 Liberty Ave.

Jamaica, NY 11412

bkroy@msn.com

Steven Greenfield published his list of top 100 albums for the decade (only a year late). I am noting the top 50 as follows: Arcade Fire, *Funeral*; Zuko 103, *Whaal*; Broken Social Scene, *You Forgot It In People*; Mundo Livre S/A, *Por Pouco*; Stars, *Set Yourself On Fire*; Zero 7, *The Garden*; Arcade Fire, *Neon Bible*; Radiohead, *Hail To The Thief*; Natalia Y Las Forquetina, *Casa*; The Fiery Furnaces, *Bitter Tea*; Animal Collective, *Merriwether Post Pavilion*; Portishead, *Third*; Lcd Soundsystem, *Sound Of Silver*; Juana Molina, *Un Dia*; Brian Eno, *Another Day On Earth*; Tom Zé, *Jogos De Armar*; Ozomatli, *Street Signs*; Blur, *Think Tank*; Aterciopelados, *Río Regina*; Spektr, *Begin To Hope*; School Of Seven Bells, *Alpinisms*; Lila Downs, *Una Sangre/One Blood*; Gnarls Barkley, *St. Elsewhere*; Battles, *Mirrored*; Brazilian Girls, *Brazilian Girls*; Herbert, *Scale*; Burial, *Untrue*; Fanfare Ciocărlia, *Queens And Kings*; Alicia Keys, *The*

Diary of Alicia Keys; Gorillaz, Demon Days; Metric, Live It Out; Interpol, Our Love To Admire; Broadcast And The Focus Group, Broadcast And The Focus Group Investigate Witch Cults Of The Radio Age; Gomez, In Our Gun; Peter Gabriel, Up; Yo La Tengo, I Am Not Afraid Of You And I Will Beat Your Ass; Justice, †; Datarock, Datarock Datarock; Palms, It's Midnight In Honolulu; Radiohead, Kid A; Stars, In Our Bedroom After The War; Kate Bush, Aerial; Tinariwen, Aman Iman (Water Is Life); Zero 7, Yeah Ghost; M83, Saturdays = Youth; Forro In The Dark, Bonfires Of São João; Animal Collective, Strawberry Jam; Peter Bjorn And John, Writer's Block; Zuco 103, After The Carnival; and Sigur Rós, Ágætis Byrjun.

Kevin Chapman: "Two-thousand-ten was a busy and momentous year in the Chapman household. We were been busy and then some! Our family photo is from our August trip to Ocean City, Md. It was nice, relaxing quality time for the family. Ross is thriving as a high school freshman. He finished the fall marching band season and is one of only two freshmen to audition into the jazz band. Last spring, he traveled to Lacrosse, Wis., to participate in the Future Problem Solvers International Competition, where his middle school team came in eighth place out of 66 teams! Connor is a high school senior and is in the midst of applying to college. He plans to study computer science with a specialty in game design. He took a course for college credit on this topic last summer at Marist and received an A. Samantha is a senior at NYU, majoring in medieval and Renaissance studies. She plans to move to Massachusetts after graduation in May. Kevin is busy at work, still enjoys golf and is the umpire coordinator for the West Windsor Little League. Kevin and Sharon are keeping up with the construction of new Major League Baseball stadiums and took Ross to Minneapolis to see Target Field in May. Sharon kept her New Year's resolution by running the 2010 New York City Marathon! It took 6:12:20, but she did it. What's more, she raised \$6,214 for the Tug McGraw Foundation as a member of Team McGraw. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and a great one. We hope that you and your families are well and that everyone has a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2011! Ya gotta believe."

Ken Chin and I have been exchanging e-mails in anticipation of our 25th Harvard Law School reunion this spring. Ken is a partner at Kramer Levin.

Jack Abuhoff is the CEO of Innodata Isogen. Jack and I have been trying to schedule a visit with Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig. Jack

writes, "Brittany (14), Katya (11) and Alexander (9) are doing great. Yes, planning to attend the HLS reunion (with the family in tow). I made a reservation at the Charles. I would have thought you'd be the president, and I'd be on the court, but it doesn't seem to have worked out that way. Not sure if you remember Harry Thomas, head resident at Jay during our time. He's become the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines. I connected with him in Manila during my last visit there."

PR Newswire reports that **Ron Fiske**, former Fidelity e.v.p., joined Envestnet as managing director, strategic partnerships. At Envestnet, he will "focus on deepening the firm's relationships with its key distribution and technology partners as well as developing new relationships to broaden the capabilities and impact of the Envestnet platform, which recently has been enhanced with new features supporting more customized and comprehensive financial advice."

Wayne Root: "What a Thanks-giving at the Root home! Our daughter, Dakota, made a surprise visit from Harvard to join us. She had only four days off for holiday, and it made no sense to fly 3,000 miles from Boston to Vegas for only a two-day stay. But she missed her mom and dad and brothers and sister. And so she called and begged us to get her a ticket home. She arrived at our home at 1 p.m. to crying and hugging and her sister and little brothers mobbing her like a rock star! We didn't tell my wife Debra's mom, so it was a shock to her. What a reunion! The greatest Thanksgiving gift I've ever had."

Dr. Linus Abrams: "How about arranging a CC '83 event at the White House?"

Linus, maybe we can inquire about having the cocktail reception there for our 30th reunion.

Michael Weinsier is the partner and co-chair of the Private Equity Group at Hughes, Hubbard & Reed.

From an article in the October 4 issue of *New York Magazine*, "Who Runs New York": "15 CPW: Hedge funder **Daniel Loeb** paid \$45.8 million for a 10,674 square-foot, five-bedroom combination of two apartment units when the building had just begun sales in 2005."

Andrew Barth is a recipient of a 2010 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. I planned to attend the Wednesday, March 2, dinner and will give a full update in the next issue. Andy is a tireless supporter of the College. Through his generosity, the first fully-endowed head coaching position was established at Columbia, the Andrew F. Barth Head Coach of Wrestling.

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Dennis Klainberg
Berklay Cargo Worldwide
JFK Intl. Airport
Box 300665
Jamaica, NY 11430
dennis@berklay.com

Last November, **James Sattloff** and a number of alums from other years had an extremely pleasant dinner with Dean Michele Moody-Adams and her husband, Jim. The night was arranged and hosted by Victor Lopez-Balboa '82 at Brasserie 8½. The dean engaged in lively conversation with the eight or so attendees about the challenges and opportunities facing Columbia. Jim also reports that his high school-aged son Dustin has been engaging in some sports photojournalism at Robert K. Kraft Field. In fact, some of Dustin's images have been published in *Spectator's* multimedia outlets, as well as some other Ivy League college papers that shall remain nameless. Dustin is looking for some on-field credentials in case any reader of this has pull with local teams.

Jim also advised that he is a supporter of the New York Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, on whose board of directors sits **Frank Sommerfield**.

Dr. Stephen Kaldor, former president and CEO of Ambrx, a San Diego-based biopharmaceutical company, has joined the board of directors of Furiex, a drug development collaboration company.

In honor of his statement (in an errant e-mail) that **Phil Segal**, super sleuth (discussed in a previous column), serves as my Boswell (albeit, in the singing my praises way, and not the professional cum Michael Jackson/Rockwell/Police "somebody's watching me" way), I've decided to go all Sylvia Beach-y and let professional writer **John Maggs** run amok: "First update in 24 years, OK, a little overdue. The big news is the birth of Ariel Alexander Maggs on December 29, gratefully between brutal blizzards which in Washington, D.C., were treated like the Last Judgment (thank you Art Hum for making that reference possible). I married his mom, Sarah Kennel '92 Princeton, the previous June. Sarah is associate curator of photography at the National Gallery, where she has organized many shows and written books on Kertész, the Forest of Fontainebleau and a beautiful handbook on photographic processes. Just this month, her detective work in uncovering the secret life of French photographer Charles Marville was the subject of an admiring story in *Le Monde*, which called it 'Un Scoop.' This was music to my ears, as I learned few life skills at Columbia and have been scraping by since then searching for scoops as a reporter. I worked for 12 years

at the weekly *National Journal*, then in September took at job at *Politico*, the new media phenomenon that has been an exciting place to be. I am a member of the White House team, specializing in the economy. We live in a nondescript neighborhood on the east side of Rock Creek Park, the traditional race and class divide for Washington. Nearly as happy as us for the advent of Ari has been his brother Luca (13), son of Aimee Imundo '85 Barnard, who had wondered whether he was ever going to get a sibling. Like Luca, who is towering over his mom and the short Mediterraneans on my side of the family, Ari seems destined to be a giant compared to his mother and father."

From the "We're most definitely getting older" file (and what's next, grandkids?), **Marc Friedman** and his wife, Sarah Batya, have announced the wedding of their son Zalman to Rivi Lichtenstein. The nuptials were held in Jerusalem in January.

At Art Basel Miami 2010, a convergence of the international jet-set of art, fashion and theater, the Columbia Alumni Association once again held the soiree of the week.

With special thanks to Executive Director for Events and Programs Ilene Markay-Hallack, this writer had the great fortune to pal around by the pool of the Raleigh with none other than **Bernardo Burstein** (lifelong Miami Beach bum) and his lovely wife (of only eight days), Lynne Sharkey; **Dr. Douglas Mintz** and his partner, Lloyd Chen (at that time living in South Beach, overlooking Government Cut, now living in North Beach, overlooking Biscayne Bay); and dear friend and music industry mogul, Seth Schachner '85 and Allison, his amazing wife (attorney and advocate for special needs children). Regrets were sent by **Raul Trillo**, who had to go out of town. Thanks to all these dear friends for coping with this near exhausted (three months working as a schlepper for the art world's greatest event — 10 simultaneous art fairs — is no piece of *gâteau* (!) and *muy borracho* columnist. Hey, the drinks were Columbia Blue, and potent, to boot!

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Jon White
16 South Ct.
Port Washington, NY 11050
jw@whitecoffee.com

This update can best be titled "News from Overseas and Promotions."

On the overseas front, **William Wilfong's** company, Golden Land Property Development (where he has been CEO since 2006), won the grand prize as "Best Developer" at the 2010 Thailand Property Awards in November. "The award was

brilliantly timed, as I had already informed my board that I would be stepping down at the end of the year, and this has allowed me to leave on a high note. It has been a wild ride here in Bangkok during the past five years (I certainly hope that last May's 'Red Shirt' protests will be the only time in my career that I need to barricade the office with barbed wire), and I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish at Golden Land under some very challenging conditions. As I approach the 20th anniversary of my arrival in Southeast Asia, I am looking forward to some well-earned R&R before deciding where life's adventure will lead next."

Kevin Sturr and family (Aminata, and daughters, Claire Khadidia, Hawa Jennifer and Rougui Angela) made their first move off the African continent in the Foreign Service (after four years in Mali, four years in Senegal and the past four in Zimbabwe), with their posting in August to Dhaka, Bangladesh. "We're feeling a little like fish out of water but are adapting to south Asia. Kevin is the democracy and governance officer at the Embassy."

Denis Seaby is on leave for three years from Stockholm University to be visiting professor of (classical) Greek at Uppsala University, Sweden. He is involved in running a couple of research programs, such as the Ars Edendi (Art of Editing texts, not Art of Eating — depends on the vowel length) Programme at Stockholm University, and the Swedish end of an EU project, SAWS = Sharing Ancient Wisdoms (digitizing manuscripts of Greek and Arabic popular philosophy). Kings College London and the University of Vienna, Austria, are the other partners. His part is based in Uppsala. He is "chair" of the Alumni Representative Committee in Sweden (not many active alumni) and keeps up his Columbia contacts that way.

On the promotions front, this past fall, Vermont Governor Jim Douglas (R) announced the appointment of **Tim Tomasi** '88L to serve on the Superior Court of Vermont. Douglas noted that Tim was "respected among peers and brings experience, commitment and a clear understanding of the law to the bench." Tim has been an assistant U.S. attorney for the Vermont District. He was in the Office of the Attorney General of Vermont from 1994–2007, serving as chief of the Civil Division from 1999–2007.

Joe Titlebaum has been named general counsel at ION Media Networks, which owns and operates the largest broadcast television station group in the United States. Joe brings 20 years of media industry experience to his supervision of all of ION's legal and compliance

areas, including matters regarding public and regulatory reporting activities. "Joe's background with media growth businesses involving programming, distribution and spectrum gives him a great base to hit the ground running at ION," said Brandon Burgess, CEO. "His expertise is a great fit with ION's assets, growth plans and legal needs."

Joe was general counsel and secretary of XM Satellite Radio for 10 years. While at XM, he led all legal matters throughout the company's run from venture funding and its launch to its merger with Sirius Satellite Radio. With an expertise in telecommunications, Joe practiced with Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton for eight years, splitting his time between New York and Tokyo.

Christopher Eoyang, who is China portfolio strategist in Hong Kong for Goldman Sachs, has been named a partner at the firm. Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein and President Gary Cohn said, "This appointment (Chris is part of the new class of 110 partners) recognizes some of the firm's most valued senior professionals and acknowledges their leadership and contribution to the firm's culture of excellence."

And finally, back to news from alma mater: Congratulations to two younger Columbians with a special connection to our class: Ian Zapolsky, son of **David Zapolsky**, was accepted to the Class of 2015 (Dave noted that he will have the pleasure of attending each of his reunions along with Ian, since their class years both end in 5); and congratulations to Isaac White '14, who has been named one of the page design editors of *Spectator* (earning him the privilege of one very late and fun night each week).

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely

jf2261@columbia.edu

212-851-7438

DEVELOPMENT Grace Lee '02

sl695@columbia.edu

212-851-7833

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Everett Weinberger

50 W. 70th St., Apt. 3B

New York, NY 10023

everett6@gmail.com

The Columbia students recently arrested for drug dealing should take heart from **Mitch Earleywine**, who shows that it is still legal to talk about drugs. "I had 15 seconds of fame on The History Channel's documentary, *Marijuana: A Chronic History*, where I get to badmouth the racism inherent in cannabis prohibition and show how badly I've aged. I also do the cannabis science segment every Wednesday on the podcast for the National

Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws: stash.norml.org. I also have a monthly column in *High Times* called "Ask Dr. Mitch," which generates some interesting mail. I got promoted to full professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. My new book, *Humor 101*, which cites the work of **Paul Spinrad**, should be out in early 2011."

Our 25th College reunion is fast approaching. If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. Stay tuned for further details and join our class' Facebook group: Columbia College Class of 1986.

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Sarah A. Kass

PO Box 300808

Brooklyn, NY 11230

sarahkassUK@gmail.com

While this issue's column does not make good on some of the promises of the last issue (those items will be in the May/June issue), I am excited about this column because it represents a real community effort — a great class response to my cry for help at the last minute. It just goes to show us/remind us how awesome we are as a class when we pull together!

Josh Silver is the v.p. of research and policy at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, an organization that advocates for consumer protection and anti-discrimination laws. Josh said they worked hard on the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 that passed last summer and now their task has shifted to focusing on how rigorously the new regulations are being implemented. Josh and his wife have a daughter (10), who appeared in a performance of *The Nutcracker*. They live in Bethesda, Md.

Andrew Brody '89 sent in the following update from Arlington, Mass.: "After graduate school at the University of Oregon, I moved to New England to practice architecture. There I've gotten to see a lot of **Dariusz Szwarcewicz** '87E, who is one of the few people who still calls me 'Chilly Willy.' His kids even call me 'Uncle Chilly,' which is a little interesting. I've also seen **Lloyd Lim**, while at a humanities conference in Hawaii. I teach interior design at a small college near Boston, Endicott. I also had a technical textbook come out earlier this year, *Electronic Workflow for Interior Designers and Architects*."

The Class of 1987 energy must be flowing in Massachusetts these days, as I received the following note from **Frances McLaughlin**: "Running into Michael Gilligan '86 recently at The Broad Prize was the nudge I needed to write in with an update ...

after 23 years! My husband, William Nourse, and daughter, Georgia (6), and I have been living in Amesbury, Mass., since Georgia arrived on the scene, and prior to Amesbury, I (and then Will and I) moved around, mainly between Boston and NYC, with a three-year-stint in London.

"I'm the COO for Education Pioneers, a young and rapidly scaling nonprofit focused on attracting and developing better managers and leaders in public education. We have programs and partnerships in seven cities, including NYC. I joined the organization after three years at The Broad Foundation, where I oversaw the foundation's investments in several school districts and entrepreneurial nonprofits (including Education Pioneers). Prior to that, I worked in international education for a long time (1992–2005), loved it and learned a lot. I'd love to hear from classmates who work in public education reform (my focus is K–12) or are interested in learning more about it."

This next note shows a kind of courage I only wish I had. **Paul Verna** and his daughters, Lily (10) and Alexandra (6), dove into the icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean in Coney Island on January 1 along with the Polar Bear Club and about 1,000 other brave souls. It was Paul's fourth polar plunge, Lily's second and Alex's first. Paul said it was by far the warmest, with air temperatures in the high 40s and water temps slightly below that. By contrast, two years ago temperatures were in the teens and the wind was whipping off the boardwalk. Paul and his young crew have also done polar dives in their hometown of Kennebunk, Maine!

Now that I've got most of you heading for a mug of hot chocolate — personally, I've been drinking a lot of peppermint hot chocolate this winter — or hot toddies, we can sit down and get ready for some movies. Thankfully, **Irka Seng** is providing the show. Irka was promoted to animation supervisor at Blue Sky Studios, which recently wrapped animation on the film *Rio*, due out in April. Voices include Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway, Jamie Foxx, Will.i.am and Leslie Mann.

And after the movies, we can reminisce about this past fall's Homecoming. **Dan Botich** noted some of the highlights. The Columbia Lions Football Alumni Pig Roast Committee, headed by its president, Dave Ortiz '86, held what he says was Columbia's largest tailgating party, with a double tent and a 38-ft. RV. Among the committee members who helped to plan the bash in 2010 and 2009 were **Bill Flick**, **Dan Botich**, **Tom Johnston**, **Jason Pitkin**, **Pete Von Schoenemarck**, **Joe Policastro**, **Rob Flaherty**, **Joe DeGaetano**, **George Stone** and **Greg Fondran**. Dan offers

a special thanks to alum and committee members **Kevin Townley '85**, our chef, and to Duke for donating the libations, plenty for all to enjoy as well as to everyone who donated to the Pig Roast Fund and stopped by the tent. According to the committee, the 2011 Pig Roast has been titled "Columbia's Largest Tailgate Party." Dan says, "It is going to be even bigger!" Make your plans for Saturday, October 15, now!

And Dan has news of his own as well. He has been promoted to executive with his firm, Cender & Co., which provides municipal financial advisory and economic development consulting services to public sector clients.

Also graciously answering my last-minute call was **Steve Abrahamson**, who in September, after more than four years at the ACLU, took a position as director, direct response fundraising, at Planned Parenthood Federation of America. He says, "Yes, I am the person responsible for all the mail, the phone calls and the canvassers."

Rima Jolivet took a new job in December as maternal health specialist with the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, an international coalition whose mission is to make pregnancy and childbirth safe for women and newborns around the world by pushing for change through grassroots advocacy that builds alliances, strengthens capacity, influences policies, harnesses resources and inspires action.

And like the blessing from heaven that she is, my dear friend **Cathy Webster** would never leave me high and dry with a blank column! She sent in *une historiette* on her summer vacation: "Thanks to your federal tax dollars, I spent the summer in Paris. Really! I received a highly competitive summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities that required me to undertake two uninterrupted months of study at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. With any luck, this work will result in a book that addresses the fates of three French playwrights who became filmmakers during the early sound period. I brought my kids, Meredith (10) and Thayer (5), with me, which made me a single mother for the summer as well. Thanks to their Parisian 'manny,' their French and their city smarts both are impressive. We returned to Oklahoma City just in time for school to start up again, exhausted and chubby, but happy and satisfied, as well."

Michel Taddei sent in the following "cool Columbia coincidence": "Here's a multi-generational Columbia College connection: I have been playing as double bass soloist with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra in a work by John Deak,

and another soloist on the program, our debut artist cellist Nathan Chan '15, who exclaimed with a 17-year-old's excitement, 'You didn't tell me you went to Columbia!'

"You never asked," I replied. Nathan is gung-ho about his early decision acceptance to the College and will be trying for the Columbia/Juilliard program (shouldn't be a problem — he's a whiz kid cello player). It is great to see that this program is thriving (it was instituted a few years after our time at Columbia) and that terrific musicians will be enrolled at the College."

Comedy great **Greg Giraldo** will be remembered during two nights of performances at Miller Theatre, Monday March 7–Tuesday, March 8. Many Columbia comedy alumni will be performing, including Lang Fisher '02, Gabe Liedman '04 and Cody Hess '06, as well as Reese Waters and Chowdah, Columbia's sketch comedy troupe. Proceeds from the event will go to supporting Greg's wife and three sons. Come out for great fun and support a good cause.

And stay tuned for a full recap of the event in the May issue.

Last, but by no means least, I am happy to report that I have company in the world of giving up your first career for a second career in psychology! Checking in from San Francisco, **Christopher Corey** says he is finally leaving the law firm world behind. After creating the Litigation Support Department at New York's Debevoise & Plimpton, Chris was lured to San Francisco to create a Litigation Support Department at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, and then O'Melveny & Myers.

That chapter has now closed, Chris said, as he has decided to move into the field of counseling psychology. He began his master's in integral counseling psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies in September, and is looking forward to a career of healing rather than the warfare of the litigation world.

I love our class!

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Eric Fusfield

1945 South George
Mason Dr.
Arlington, VA 22204
ericfusfield@bigfoot.com

As 2010 drew to a close, several of our classmates reached professional milestones.

Joel Ackerman was appointed CEO of Champions Biotechnology, a company dedicated to improving cancer-fighting drugs through advanced research. After majoring in physics at Columbia, Joel earned a master's in the same subject from Harvard and then spent 15 years at Warburg Pincus, a leading private

equity investment firm. He also serves on the board of two publicly traded companies in the healthcare field and is chairman of the board of One Acre Fund, a not-for-profit microfinance group.

Also taking on a new position was investment banker **Durc Savini**, who became managing director at Peter J. Solomon Co. Durc formerly held the same title at Miller Buckfire.

Several days before Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa won the Nobel Prize for Literature last fall, **Nicholas Birns** produced a timely book whose subject was the impending laureate. Along with Juan E. De Castro, Nicholas co-edited *Vargas Llosa and Latin American Politics*, which examined the themes of power, corruption and ideology in the writer's fiction and journalism. Palgrave published the collection of essays in October.

Please keep your updates coming! Feel free to send me an e-mail or to friend me on Facebook.

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Emily Miles Terry

45 Clarence St.
Brookline, MA 02446
eterry32@comcast.net

With all the goings on lately in the state of Arizona, I find myself often wondering about, and then madly texting, **Kim Harris Ortiz**, my suitemate and floormate from East Campus and Johnson (now Wien). Kim pursued a legal career out of Columbia and is an assistant district attorney in the Tucson area. Recently, she visited the East Coast because of a legal conference and visited Columbians in Washington, D.C., and New York. **Amy Weinreich Rinzler** writes, "Kim was in town en route to a conference in D.C. She stayed with Krissie Barakat '88 and had dinner with me. Kim also visited Jenna Wright '88."

From New York, Kim went to D.C. and, though she didn't get to Boston this time, I Skyped her when she was visiting **Jody Colens Fidler** in D.C., and caught up on her interesting legal cases and family life in sunny Tucson.

I also heard from **Gina Shishima**, who wrote, "My husband and I moved with our three kids to Midtown Manhattan in August. My husband had a year of paid leave (sabbatical) from being chair of the philosophy department at the University of Texas in Austin, so we decided to go someplace where my law firm (Fulbright & Jaworski) had an office so I could continue to practice patent law.

"We are enjoying getting to know the city under very different circumstances from my days on the Upper West Side in the late '80s! My freshman roommate **Laura Offutt**

(Carman 111B) visited us with her husband and two kids right before the holidays. It was great seeing her, as it had been some years since we last saw each other. I would love to catch up with other classmates before we return to Austin in August!" Gina and her husband have a 7-year-old and twin girls (4).

Hope to have more e-mail from you this year!

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Rachel Cowan Jacobs

313 Lexington Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20901
cowan@jhu.edu

Three cheers for **Alicia (Katz) Shems**, who read my recent column and heeded my call! She says, "I decided not to live my life in regret and am just writing to you! I married my high school and college sweetheart, Nessler Shems, in 1994. And to bring you up to date on the last 20 years, I earned a master's in English literature from the University of Chicago in 1993. I proceeded to teach, edit and write for a few years, then had my son, Matthew, in 1997 and my daughter, Leah, in 2000. We moved back home to the Boston area from the Midwest in 2005 and have been settled in Newton ever since. I am a freelance editor and a mixed media artist. I work from a studio in my home. Check out my art at akshems.blogspot.com."

Alicia hopes to catch up with us at our 25th reunion.

How about another cheer for **Francis Phillip**, one of our Class Agents and co-chair of the Class Agent Program? In soliciting donations from classmates, he also got an update from **Rizwan Akhter**. Rizwan has worked in the financial sector since graduating. He switched to the buy side a few years ago and manages a credit-focused hedge fund, DA Capital. He is married with two children.

With this roundup, I conclude by wishing everyone a happy spring. I hope to hear from you soon.

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Taruna Sadhoo
tds2110@columbia.edu
212-851-7849
DEVELOPMENT Eleanor L. Coufos '03
elc19@columbia.edu
212-851-7483

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Margie Kim

c/o CCT
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
margiekimkim@hotmail.com

As you can see from the heading on this update, our 20th reunion

Nina Willdorf '99: Learner-in-Chief

BY DINA CHENEY '99

Nina Willdorf '99, editor-in-chief of *Budget Travel* magazine, has never stopped learning. Instead, education, bolstered by an enterprising attitude, has driven her career trajectory.

Willdorf's career education began while in college. Having decided to major in English, she interned at her hometown *San Francisco* magazine the summer after her first year. During the second semester of her sophomore year, Willdorf became a columnist for *Spectator*; she contributed two articles a month through her senior year, filled with "vague campus-related musings." From the fall of her junior year until graduation, she worked one day a week as a correspondent and fact-checker for *The New York Observer*.

After graduation, Willdorf knew that she wanted to continue working in publishing and took a job at then-San Francisco-based *Health* magazine. However, she wasn't writing much, and — remembering the words of the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature James Shapiro '77, whose classes she'd taken at Columbia — she applied for a six-month fellowship at *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in Washington, D.C. "I went to the *Chronicle*

in part because of Professor Shapiro," Willdorf says. "Early on, he told me that you're going to be no good at writing until you get 10,000 words out of your system."

And, soon, she did. After her fellowship, Willdorf earned \$9.50 per hour as an assistant to the managing editor of *The Boston Phoenix*, an award-winning arts and entertainment weekly newspaper. She later became a features writer, covering everything from Bikram yoga to Jonathan Franzen. She also met her husband, Michael Endelman, then a staff music writer and currently senior editor at *Sports Illustrated*.

For the *Phoenix*, Willdorf began writing a column that "seemed to be connecting with the local community of post-collegiates," she says. Based on that success, she took a few weeks to write a proposal for a "service-y, how-to book about trying to live the best life I could with very little income." Willdorf landed an agent, and, after a few months, sold the project to Sourcebooks. Willdorf left the paper in June 2002 to write *City Chic: A Modern Girl's Guide to Living Large on Less* (2003), taking on freelance work with *Self* and *Glamour* to supplement her income.

Feeling that it was time to



Nina Willdorf '99, seen here in Maine's Mount Desert Island/Acacia National Park, says she wants to "keep learning and growing" in her professional life.

return to New York, Willdorf and Endelman, who hadn't yet gotten jobs, packed a car and found a two-month sublet. Willdorf became the assistant lifestyle editor at *Worth* magazine, where she assigned, edited and wrote high-end lifestyle articles, and, she jokes, "learned the definition of thread count." The publication folded a few months later, and Willdorf took a senior associate editor job at *Child* magazine, where she "learned that anything, even the subject of parenting (when you're not yet a parent), could be interesting," she says.

During her 1½ years at *Child*, Willdorf got married and wrote *Wedding Chic: The Savvy Bride's Guide to Getting More While Spending Less* (2005). She spent the first six months of her marriage working at *Child* on weekdays and writing three nights and one full weekend day each week.

By the time the book was published, Willdorf had changed jobs again. Having spotted a posting for a senior editor at *Budget Travel* magazine, she hand-delivered her resume the next day.

While at *Budget Travel*, Will-

dorf spearheaded the launch issue of *Girlfriend Getaways*, a spin-off magazine. During this period, she realized that she'd transitioned from being a writer to being an editor. "I think I got more into building pages as a whole, which I really, really love," she says. "What makes publishing so exciting is that you're working with other people to build an entire package."

Willdorf moved to *Travel & Leisure* Magazine 1½ years later, where she further honed her skills before returning to *Budget Travel* as editor-in-chief in 2008.

When she started, Willdorf was eight months pregnant (her daughter, Mimi, is now 2), and needed to prepare the magazine for her maternity leave. By the time she'd returned to work a few months later, the recession was in full effect, and the magazine climate had become much tougher.

During the process of retooling the magazine in tough economic times, Willdorf realized that she needed to revamp the format of the publication as well, which she did in concert with a new art director. She also helped with the sale of



Willdorf's travels have enabled her to see some unusual sights, such as this squash sculpture on Japan's Naoshima Island.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL ENDELMAN

Budget Travel from *Newsweek* to a private equity group in December 2009. "I had to manage a jittery team through a transition, and I tried to encourage them to do their best work in uncertain times," she says.

Now, Willdorf manages a staff of 18 and an annual budget of \$2.5 million, publishing 10 issues per year and overseeing online content. She is proud of what she and her team have accomplished: Since she started, circulation has risen 6 percent, and article readership scores and average page views on the companion website, budgettravel.com, also have increased.

Whole Living magazine editor-at-large Sari Lehrer '99 Barnard, whom Willdorf met in their first year of college, says, "Nina is known for coming into *Budget Travel* during a very challenging time — not just for this magazine, but for the industry in general — and putting out a consistently quality product. There's an energy to the magazine that is pure Nina: full of excitement for and deep knowledge of her subject matter, coupled with an abiding sense of joy in making a magazine each month."

Looking ahead, Willdorf says she does not have specific plans. "I'm very ambitious, but in the sense that I want to keep learning and growing," she says. "Right now, I feel strongly that I am continuing to do so. When I stop learning, I'll be interested in what's next."

Dina Cheney '99 is the author of *Tasting Club* (DK, 2006) and *Williams-Sonoma New Flavors for Salads* (Oxmoor House, 2009), as well as a regular columnist for *Everyday* with Rachael Ray magazine.

is fast approaching! Please make plans to join the festivities from Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. There is a "Columbia College Class of 1991" Facebook group if you want to reconnect and get more information. You also can sign up for some of the Reunion Committee subcommittees on this page.

Now, on to some updates! **Josh Machleder** was living overseas for the last 13 years doing international development work primarily in the former Soviet Union. He recently relocated back to the United States and lives in Washington, D.C., where he is Internews Network's v.p. for Europe and Eurasia Programs (internews.org). Josh is looking forward to reconnecting with folks in the area.

John Ehlinger wrote: "My wife, Sarah, and I live in the Boston suburbs with our three children, who are now approximately 7, 5 and 3. We have only recently emerged from the gun smoke of parenting our brigade of preschoolers, and are looking around to find that we've lost touch with just about everyone we know who isn't obligated by common ancestry to call us every other holiday. That said, I was looking forward to visiting **Patrick Flynn**, his wife, Kari; and their three beautiful children in Chicago in December. Patrick will have just spent about a year on the road raising a distressed debt hedge fund and, upon his return, can think of nothing better to do with his time than having me over for dinner.

Peter Mendelsund, an associate art director at Knopf, as well as an art director at Pantheon and Vertical Press, already has been profiled in *CCT* (college.columbia.edu/cct/nov_dec08) and recently was interviewed in *The New Yorker*. Peter is the artist responsible for some of today's most recognizable book covers. Having just finished reading the Stieg Larsson books, I was interested to learn that Peter had designed the book covers for these and many other books. You can view his many unique and striking covers at mendelsund.com.

Max Thomas and his partner, Gabriel, moved from NYC four years ago to San Diego to thaw out and enjoy the SoCal lifestyle for a while. In 1997, Max founded Thunder SEO, an online marketing agency that takes him back to the East Coast regularly. Drop Max a line at max@thunderseo.com. He'd love to hear from old friends.

Patrick J. Lannon lives in Aventura, Fla., with his wife, Valerie, and children, Meghan, Kelly and PJ. Patrick is an attorney in Coral Gables assisting families with their estate planning and administration needs.

Hope everyone is having a happy and healthy 2011! Cheers!

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Jeremy Feinberg
315 E. 65th St. #3F
New York, NY 10021
jeremy.feinberg@verizon.net

Hello again, and happy 2011.

Let me start with a piece of news that I received in time for the last issue, but somehow did not include, from first-time contributor Anna Winger (née Levine) '93. Since 2002, Anna has been living in Berlin with her husband and two daughters. She is a writer and a photographer whose novel, *This Must Be The Place*, was published by Riverhead in 2008.

Next, some great news for **Dane Holmes**, who was named a partner at Goldman Sachs. Previously, Dane had been a managing director and director of investor relations.

Congratulations!

More great news from the financial sector: **Frank Cicero** was named managing director and global head of financial institutions investment banking at Jefferies, a global securities and investment banking firm. Previously, Frank had been a managing director at Barclays Capital and Lehman Brothers.

I heard from one of my first-year floormates, taking me all the way back to the 13th floor of John Jay Hall in 1988. **Stewart Rosman** lives in Portland, Ore., where he is married with children (3 and 1). Stewart works for Iberdrola Renewables, a Spanish utility that Stewart described as a big wind power developer.

And then there's the news I really wish I didn't have to report. We lost one of our shining stars on November 18, as **Beth Dwyer** lost her courageous battle with cancer. A small space in this column (or even the slightly longer obituary in January/February) cannot come close to paying appropriate tribute to what Beth meant to Columbia and to our class. I will particularly remember the energy and enthusiasm she put into our class's 15th reunion, which we joked together was the "Jan Brady" of reunions because it didn't have the same draw as the 10th and 20th. Yet, through her efforts and those of her fellow committee members, we still had a fantastic time four years ago.

Beth, you will be missed.

Here's to a 2011 that brings more happy news and no more paragraphs like the one above.

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Betsy Gomperz
41 Day St.
Newton, MA 02466
Betsy.Gomperz@gmail.com

Well, it's 2011. Most of us turn 40 this year, an age that seemed so

far off back when we spent our days in Morningside Heights (our parents had turned 40 after all ...). Some of us already have celebrated. **Neil Turitz** celebrated his 40th with his annual Birthday Bacchanal in New York City on December 18 (as I am writing this column right before the deadline, I'll have to get details from Neil for my next column!). I hope that this year, many of you will share how you celebrate this milestone, particularly if you spent it in an exotic place, had a great party or shared it with College classmates, among other things. We should also remember those classmates who did not make it this far.

Speaking of milestones, in November, my husband, Mike, and I traveled to the Caribbean island of St. Barthélemy to celebrate **Robyn Tuerk**'s wedding to Ross Geisel for four sun- and fun-filled days in a beautiful location without our kids. Robyn and Ross live in New York City, where Robyn is the general counsel for Philips International, a real estate investment and management company, and Ross works in marketing for the Hearst Corp. Robyn and Ross delayed their honeymoon and went to Thailand for three weeks during the December holidays.

Congratulations to Robyn!

Jenny Hoffman also made the trip from Rome, and we all enjoyed the fabulous festivities and weather. After nine years working for Ernst & Young in Rome, Jenny left last year to become the director of corporate risk management for Astaldi, an Italian contractor company that works on transport infrastructure, water and renewable energy, and civil and industrial building around the world, with headquarters in Rome. She too was in St. Barth's without her children, William (8) and Victoria (6), both of whom were in Rome. Also in attendance were Elizabeth Estrada '01 and Campbell Heath '07 Business.

November continued to be a great month for seeing Columbia friends, as I spent time the following week with **Patti Lee**, who lives in San Francisco with her husband, Paul Tomita. Patti does freelance work as a news reporter for a San Francisco television station. She and Paul regularly go sailing and have had some fun outings with **Ali Towle** in the Bay Area. Mike and I also caught up with **Thad Sheely** and his family in New Jersey after the Thanksgiving holiday.

I heard from **Paul Sangillo**, who is a partner with the law firm Florio Perrucci Steinhart & Fader working with clients primarily in the banking and commercial lending, and real estate/land use practice areas. In October, Paul was



Jaime Sanders Tarasov '00 married Glen Tarasov in November 2009 in Cinnaminson, N.J. Joining them were (left to right) Nikunj Shanti '00E, Nida Qadir '00, Kim Fisher '00, the bride, the groom, Pearl Wang '00, Ozlem Bankoglu Chung '00 and Maia Ridberg Gez '00.

recognized in *Negocios Hispanos*, or *Spanish Business Magazine*, for his incredible work and participation as lead counsel with the Newark Downtown Core Redevelopment Corp. Additionally, the article makes mention of Paul's assistance with the construction of the state-of-the-art Prudential Center Arena in Newark, N.J. Notably, in 2008, the *New Jersey Law Journal* named Paul to its list of "Top 40 Lawyers Under Age 40" in New Jersey. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Paul has been a commissioner representing Hudson County on the New Jersey Ethics Board and a trustee of the West New York Board of Education.

That's all for this column. Please send in stories of those celebrations.

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Leyla Kokmen
440 Thomas Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
lak6@columbia.edu

How sad it is to come upon a Class Notes deadline and find absolutely no news to report! I know we're all on Facebook and thus already stay up to date on each other's vacation plans and dinners out and super-cute kid photos, but Class Notes could use a little love, too.

Please, please save us from our heartbreak: Send news, and soon.

95

Janet Lorin
127 W. 96th St., #2GH
New York, NY 10025
jrf10@columbia.edu

Marie-Carmelle Elie left Newark, N.J., for a job on the faculty at the College of Medicine at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She is an assistant professor, teaching and working as an emergency room physician and intensivist.

"The move to the college town has been quite a transition, as I have been assaulted by the 'gator nation,'" she writes. Her son Na-

than (2) has even become a fan.

The decision to relocate was inspired by her trip to Haiti last January. Carmelle and her husband, Newton Turenne, joined in the earthquake relief efforts and were on the ground within 48 hours of the quake. They are both first-generation Americans whose parents and families are originally from Haiti.

"Having visited in the past, I can attest that the devastation was catastrophic," Carmelle writes. "The aftershocks were no less traumatic, occurring daily, causing further damage to structures that had not yet collapsed and serving as a constant reminder to the victims that the insult had not yet passed. We were fortunate to have assisted so many, though there was tremendous loss of human life."

The move to Florida allows them to participate in multiple networks dedicated to medical relief and rebuilding. Carmelle will be consulting with organizations working to prevent infection. Her husband, an army veteran, is enrolled in the business management program at the University of Florida as an aspiring sports management expert.

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Taruna Sadhoo
ttds2110@columbia.edu
212-851-7849

DEVELOPMENT Eleanor L. Coufos '03
elc19@columbia.edu
212-851-7483

96

Ana S. Salper
24 Monroe Pl., Apt. MA
Brooklyn, NY 11201
asalper@yahoo.com

Greetings, classmates. Only a bit of news to report this time around.

Jonathan Meyers recently accepted a job as v.p. of global business development at CNBC. Jonathan previously was the v.p. of business development and advertiser operations at *Forbes*.

After 10 years of practicing em-

ployment litigation at Morgan Lewis & Bockius in San Francisco, **Barbara Antonucci** joined the San Francisco office of Littler Mendelson as of counsel.

Congratulations to **Rick Shuart**, who married Julia Schmidt in November. Rick is an investment officer of a fund operated by Caltius Capital Management, a Los Angeles company that makes investments and provides loans to businesses. Rick earned an M.B.A. from UCLA. He and Julia live in Los Angeles.

What happened to all of you? Do I need to send out another mass e-mail? Please don't make me do that. Send in news! And remember, our 15th reunion will be held Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5. I hope to see you in Morningside Heights.

Here's a bold one for you:
"Do one thing every day that scares you."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

97

Sarah Katz
1935 Parrish St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130
srk12@columbia.edu

Emily Drabinski is a librarian at Long Island University, Brooklyn. She had an edited book come out in March, *Critical Library Instruction: Theories & Methods*. She writes, "Yeah, it has a pretty small potential audience. But we sold enough books that I got an actual royalty statement today. Exciting! Here's a link in case all of my classmates want a copy: libraryjuicepress.com/critlibinstruct.php. I'm also editing a book series for the same press, about gender and sexuality in librarianship. The first book will come out this year. Here's some info: litwinbooks.com/series-gender.php."

Michelle Caswell also has a library degree and is finishing a doctorate in archival science at Wisconsin. Emily writes that she and Michelle "turn out to have very similar research interests, kind of a trip since we met 17 years ago on the third floor of McBain. It's been great to have a reinvigorated intellectual connection with her. Go Lions!"

M. Omar Chaudhry '99 GSAS is practicing federal immigration law by representing clients seeking asylum relief in removal proceedings at New York Immigration Court at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan. Omar also is running a nonprofit legal clinic on Sundays at the Domestic Harmony Foundation in order to encourage survivors of domestic violence to seek legal remedies in Nassau County Family Court. Omar lives with his wife, Samiyah, and their toddler son, Humza, on Long Island. His e-mail

address is omaresq@gmail.com.

Erich Anderer started at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn as a neurosurgeon this past July after finishing a neurosurgery residency and spine fellowship at NYU. He also has maintained a faculty position in the department of neurosurgery at NYU. Erich writes, "Keep me in mind for anyone you know with back or neck problems!"

Joel Finkelstein writes: "I'm in the Washington, D.C., area. My wife, Lauren, and I have two kids, Max (5) and Rosie (2). I'm an s.v.p. at Fenton, the nation's largest public interest strategic communications firm. I work with the country's leading environmental and public health nonprofits on communications strategy and media relations. I support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, a wonderful organization that is the reason Max is still alive."

Rachel Adame Anderson is working on her first book, an account of a young man's struggle to finish school in the United States while his family in Juarez sacrifices to support him amidst the violence in Mexico.

Dr. Tracey Hammond, an assistant professor of computer science and engineering at Texas A&M, received a 2010 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Information Processing Techniques Office grant to design a remote system to assist in the rapid reassembly and reorganization of assault forces on the ground after airborne deployment. In addition, Tracey went to Ft. Bragg, N.C., early in September to work with the 18th Airborne Corps on a research solution to a paratrooper's drop zone challenge. To help her better understand a paratrooper's frame of mind, the Golden Knights arranged a tandem parachute jump for Tracey from 13,500 ft. above the Laurinburg-Maxton airport.

John Dean Alfone is gearing up to film a trailer for his first feature, *Substance*, in March, casting two-three speaking roles and possibly a few featured background spots. He is seeking business partnerships. More information about the project can be found here: imdb.com/title/tt1582264/ combined, and indiego.com/substance.

98

Sandie Angulo Chen
10209 Day Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Hello Class of '98. Apparently my repeated pleas are working, because here are a couple of updates.

Robert Travis and his wife, Jackie, live in Knoxville, Tenn., and have three children, Evangeline (6), Annalise (5) and Jack (1). He serves

as an Episcopal priest on the staff of a large church. In his spare time, Robert also keeps faithful to Columbia as an Alumni Representative Committee interviewer. He writes, "We like to go hiking in the nearby Smoky Mountains. I recently got to go with my wife to NYC for the wedding of Omar Sayed '96 and Sun Kim, where I saw **Derrick Nunnally** and other Zeta Psi brothers. We also visited the Columbia Alumni Center. What a lovely place!"

Beth Roxland also wrote with very exciting professional news. After working as a senior associate in the litigation department at Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, Beth now is the executive director of the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, the state's bioethics commission (nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/taskfce). The task force is an interdisciplinary group of experts that develops public policy on issues arising at the interface of medicine, ethics and law. Since arriving at the task force, Beth has been fortunate to work on a variety of complex bioethical issues, such as organ donation, human subjects research involving people who lack the capacity to provide informed consent and the allocation of ventilators in the event of a shortage due to an influenza pandemic.

In addition, because of her work with the state's stem cell board (the Empire State Stem Cell Board), Beth also was appointed special adviser to the Commissioner on Stem Cell Research Ethics. In this role, she helped develop the board's policies on providing compensation for women who donate their eggs to stem cell research and funding certain human-animal chimeric research protocols.

Wonderful news, Beth. Congratulations on the important new job.

I wish all of you a lovely spring and hope you'll take a moment to send me some news if you haven't in a while (or ever).

99

Lauren Becker
5546 Goodman Rd.
Merriam, KS 66202
laurenbecker@gmail.com

[Editor's note: CCT thanks **Lauren Becker** for her year of service as class correspondent. While CCT searches for a new correspondent, please send news to Associate Editor Ethan Rouen '04J, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, New York, NY 10025; to cct@columbia.edu, subject line "Class of '99 Class Notes"; or click college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Three cheers for **Amy Spencer**, who wrote with this news: "I graduated

summa cum laude from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles in 2007. I clerked for Judge Carolyn Dineen King on the Fifth Circuit's Court of Appeals in Houston from August 2007–September 2008. In September 2008, I returned to New York to clerk in the Southern District of New York for Judge John E. Sprizzo. After Judge Sprizzo's sad passing, I was fortunate to continue clerking for Judge Kevin Thomas Duffy through October 2010. On October 18, 2010, I joined the law firm Latham & Watkins as an associate in the New York office and am enjoying practicing in the firm's Litigation Department."

Keep up the good work, Amy! Now it's time for some miscellaneous notes. Glancing at *The New York Times*' "DealBook" (I don't actually read it, way too complicated) I saw that **Adrienne Carter** is the blog's news editor. **Jay Carson** was spotted at the Bloomberg Family Foundation and is reportedly working at C40 with **Elizabeth Robilotti**'s husband, Rohit "Rit" Aggarwala '93. Oh, and I thought I saw **Claudia DeSimeo** on West 22nd Street near Sixth Avenue just before Thanksgiving.

Was that you, Claudia?

Baby check: **Sahil Godiwala** and his wife, Sarah, welcomed daughter Margot on December 2. Sahil elaborates, "Seven pounds, 12 oz., 21 in. Adorable. She's loving Brooklyn life and got her first taste of a New York blizzard." Beyond her precocious handling of adverse weather, Margot is evidently very resilient: She met **James Boyle** and **Jay Cosel** when they were in town over New Year's, and "wasn't terribly traumatized."

Congratulations, Sahil and Sarah!

Toddler check: **Cristina Tebolt** is married (sorry, fellas) and visited Columbia last summer with her daughter, Karina (2).

Congratulations, Cristina and Karina!

Jamie (Grossmann) Silver and her husband, Alex, founded the Jackson Gabriel Silver Foundation to help find a cure for her son Jackson, and the thousands of other children who suffer from Epidermolysis Bullosa, a group of devastating and often fatal blistering disorders that affect children from birth. Children with EB lack the critical proteins that bind their layers of skin together. Fewer than 20,000 individuals are affected by EB in the United States. The foundation funds scientific research with the goal of treating and curing this disease. **Giacomo Picco**, **Annie Ulevitch** '00 and **Debra Green Mack** '01 graciously serve on the JGSF Board. To learn more about the work the foundation is doing or to get involved, go to jgsf.org.



Annie Tracy Samuel '06 married Michael Samuel at the State Room in Boston in July. Joining the happy couple were (top row, left to right) Eva Colen '06, Pat Cushing '06E, Laura Goode '06, Alvin Strasburger '06E, Evan Sanchez '06 and David Whittmore '06, and (bottom row, left to right) Kathleen Conn, John Wilkes '07, Mary Stycos '06 Barnard, Rod Salguero '06, the bride, Sarah Withers '06, the groom, Lauren Gilchrist '06 and Karen Turner '06E.

PHOTO: KIERAN STONE

Finally, here's a little news alert from the *Times* via the CCT editors. "**Jonathan Lechter**, an associate at the law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher, has married Tamar Schiffman, a program development officer at Pact, an international development organization in Washington, D.C."

Sorry, ladies. You can get deets and learn the charming story of Jonathan's romance online in the *Times*' Weddings and Celebrations section.

Well, classmates, it's been a real pleasure and a profound embarrassment writing these columns, and I regret that I'm unable to continue. Many thanks to everyone who wrote in, to the stalwarts who put up with my teasing, and to the extraordinarily patient Ethan Rouen '04J, Class Notes editor, who shepherds wayward correspondents and who with the rest of the CCT staff edits all the Class Notes. I wish you all the best of all possible things in the years to come, and I look forward to reading all about it.

00

Prisca Bae
344 W. 17th St., Apt. 3B
New York, NY 10011
pb134@columbia.edu

Ray Martinez and Heather (née Schumacher) Martinez '02 are happy to announce the birth of their son, Evander Kane, who was born on Cinco de Mayo, 2010. He joins Ray III (2). Ray and Heather report that the family survived a move to their new home in Sierra Madre, Calif., two days before Evander was born. Ray is an s.v.p. for Citi's Private Bank based in Los Angeles, and Heather is a board-certified orthopedic physical therapist at Active Rehabilitation in Pasadena.

Susan Freeman, a history teacher at Winston Preparatory School in

Manhattan, married Gabriel Kaufman, associate publisher for marketing and sales at Bearport Publishing. The bridegroom's mother, Ahsah Guibbory, is the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of English at Barnard.

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS **Mia Gonsalves Wright**
gm2156@columbia.edu

212-851-7977

DEVELOPMENT **Eleanor L. Coufos '03**
elc19@columbia.edu
212-851-7483

01

Jonathan Gordin
3030 N. Beachwood Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90068
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi everyone. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are gearing up for reunion from Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. I'm sure it will be an exciting time.

Sam Oppenheim reported his wedding on October 10 to Mina Fasolo '08 PH, and quite a few alumni were in attendance, including Bob Kahan '69; Paul Miller '69; Len Oppenheim '68; Ross Ain '68; Jerry Ostow '70; Kevin Slane '95; Todd Lao '99; **David Beatus**; Vipin Sandhu '02; Rachel Katz '03; Ai Hirashiki '95, '07 TC; Rob Esris '00; Christina Pagan '03 Barnard; and Larry Masket '71.

Sam reports that Vipin is working in medicine in Philly, and David and his wife, Ellie, have a new son, Asher.

Congratulations, Sam and Mina! **Robin Fineman** (née Lefkowitz) wrote in with important news:

"My 22-month-old son, Ezra, has a rare primary immune deficiency, Hyper IgM Syndrome, and is in need of a bone marrow transplant. There is currently no suitable donor for him in the registry, so we have started a campaign to try and find him a match. Our cousin,



Their romance began in Morningside Heights, but Allison Turza '07 and Dan Bajger '07 were married at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., on October 2. Still, it felt just like being back on campus, as more than 30 College alumni attended the event.

Richard Fineman '13, organized a bone marrow donor drive in connection with Gift of Life to benefit Ezra and other patients in need that was held at Lerner Hall on December 10, 2010. The drive was a huge success, and more than 200 members of the Columbia community had their cheeks swabbed to enter the donor registry."

If you are interested in becoming a donor, you can do so by ordering a cheek swab kit online through Ezra's Gift of Life Donor Circle at giftoflife.org/dc/Help4Ezra/blog.aspx, or by attending another upcoming drive. Conducting a cheek swab is painless and easy. Financial donations also are desperately needed to cover the cost of testing and to move donors off the wait list. If you are interested in getting involved with Robin's search for a match, please feel free to e-mail her directly at help4ezra@gmail.com.

Best wishes to all, and please do keep in touch.

02 **Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**
2 Rolling Dr.
Old Westbury, NY 11568
soniah57@gmail.com

Michael Ricci married Kirsten Hogan in October in Howard County, Md. Mike works in Washington, D.C., as the deputy communications director and speechwriter for Speaker of the House John Boehner.

Justin Rubin, special assistant to the assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and Reserve affairs at the Pentagon, married Jessica Exelbert, a pediatric dentist.

Ray Martinez '00 and **Heather (Schumacher) Martinez** are happy to announce "the birth of our son. Evander Kane Martinez was born Cinco de Mayo, 2010. He joins brother Ray III (2). Our family survived a move to our new home in Sierra Madre, Calif., two days before Evander was born. Ray is an s.v.p. for Citi's Private Bank based in Los Angeles, and Heather is a board-certified orthopedic physical therapist at Active Rehabilitation in Pasadena.

03 **Michael Novielli**
World City Apartments
Attention Michael J. Novielli, A608
Block 10, No 6. Jinhui Road,
Chaoyang District
Beijing, 100020, People's
Republic of China
mjn29@columbia.edu

As College alumni, we certainly have a lot to be proud of, as this has been a phenomenal year for both the College and the University. First, as you likely have already heard, Columbia jumped in *U.S. News & World Report's* undergraduate ranking, in the National University category, from No. 8 last year to No. 4 this year. More recently, Columbia received a record number of undergraduate applications: 34,857, up 32 percent from 26,179 last year. Columbia has been hot since we were on campus, but it's only getting hotter. Members of our class are equally "hot" in their own careers, so I'm happy to report that ...

Adele Burnes is "starting a business, bettermeans.com, which is going to change the way we work together (hopefully)." She received her M.B.A. in public and nonprofit management and a master's in information systems from Boston University in May. She lives in Oakland, Calif.

Fiona Sze-Lorrain released a CD, *In One Take* (produced by Vif editions, Paris), with *erhu* artist Guo Gan this past winter.

Mindy Levine finished her first semester as an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Rhode Island. She is running a research group of four students and teaching graduate and undergraduate organic chemistry.

Stephanie Baker-Baum is teaching humanities and English at the Canadian International School in Hong Kong and is engaged to Matt Battani, a fellow teacher. They enjoy living and traveling in Asia.

Alissa Mathis (Banks) writes, "My husband, Brian, and I will celebrate our second wedding anniversary this July. We live in Vancouver, Wash., where I work in sales for a print/mail data management

company based in Pennsylvania. We hope to make the trip back east for Homecoming this year [Saturday, October 15] and look forward to catching up with everyone."

Lorraine Liang married Oleg Mironov '04E in March 2010, moved to Rochester, N.Y., to complete a urology residency, and had a baby, Maksim Oleg, in December.

Jonathan Manes writes, "I got married on October 24 in New York City to Nicole Hallett. The wedding was at Faculty House on Columbia's campus. We're back in NYC, living in Brooklyn. As for work, I'm in the second year of a legal fellowship at the ACLU, where I work on civil liberties and human rights issues raised by the government's national security policies."

04 **Angela Georgopoulos**
200 Water St., Apt. 1711
New York, NY 10038
aeg90@columbia.edu

Hello CC '04!

I hope you're all doing well. Please, please, please don't be shy and send me your news. Class Notes rely less on my amazing L&R writing skills and more on your submissions.

Jieun Sung Blais writes, "My husband, Gregg, and I were married in a big church wedding in my hometown of Silver Spring, Md., on August 14, four years after we were introduced by a mutual friend. Gregg is a New England native who settled in the D.C. area after graduating from Georgetown. We continue to make our home here, where Gregg is a software engineer and I am the director of a learning center. Among the many beloved family members and friends who joined the festivities were several Columbia/Barnard alumni: JaMel Nelson '03E, **Nutan Prabhu** '04E, Kate Richlin-Zack '02 Barnard, '03E, Dina Schorr '03 Barnard and Laila Shetty '03 Barnard.

Katie Zien is a sixth-year doctoral candidate in Northwestern's interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in theatre and drama. During the 2009 academic year, Katie traveled to Panama City as a Fulbright scholar to complete research on her dissertation, *Claiming the Canal: Performances of Race, Labor, and Citizenship in Panama, 1904-1999*. While there, she produced a 10-day performance residency, *Agua/Tierra: Una propuesta para escuchar* (Groundwater: A Listening Project).

Mayokia Walker writes, "My daughter Anaya Paige Fowler turned 1, and I am married three years as of February. I'm a senior compliance manager at Gerson Lehrman Group in Austin. GLG relocated me to Texas from NYC

about five years ago. I was the membership director of the Columbia Club of Central Texas but have been less active since the baby was born. I'm hoping to get more active again soon."

05 **Peter Kang**
205 15th St., Apt. 5
Brooklyn, NY 11215
peter.kang@gmail.com

Hope the first quarter of the year has been a good one for everyone. Here's some news from our classmates.

Claire Snyder writes: "This has been a year of changes for me. I moved back to Manhattan from suburban New Jersey and am now living in the historic Mount Morris district of Central Harlem. During the week, I am a governess (half tutor, half caretaker) for a family of four children; on the weekends, I teach language arts and writing at the NJ SEEDS College Preparatory Program, based in Newark. I also moonlight periodically as an ESL tutor for a well-known Korean pop group, the Wonder Girls, whenever they are not touring. As for travel, I recently returned from a road trip to Grand Rapids, Mich., where I spent the holidays with my boyfriend's extended family."

Mike Camacho writes: "I have been living and working in Amsterdam since August 2009 for Alpinvest Partners, a private equity firm, as an investment manager. If any '05ers are around town, I'd love to show them around my 'new' stomping ground and/or adopted country. Further, I am interested in helping build a greater Columbia presence in Europe, so if you are in the region, let's plan some things!"

Congratulations are in order for these lucky classmates:

Michael Price married Allegra Glashauser on November 6 at New Leaf Restaurant in New York. **Pedro Tsividis** and **Ariella Rosenberg** were in the bridal party and Mike's brother Rob was the best man. Mike works in Washington, D.C., as the national security coordinator for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He and his wife met at NYU Law School.

In 2010, **Bill Kee** and **Rebecca (Pollack) Kee** announced the birth of James Richard '32. They're pretty sure he'll be majoring in the engineering of flying cars and transporters. James was born on August 21 in San Francisco and celebrated his first Christmas in Maui. [See photo.]

Elizabeth Hall and **Robert Cary** were recently engaged. They met at NSOP their first week at Columbia and have been together since sophomore year.

Thanks for the updates, and please keep them coming!

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Mia Gonsalves Wright
gm2156@columbia.edu
212-851-7977

DEVELOPMENT Amanda Kessler
ak2934@columbia.edu
212-851-7883

06

Michelle Oh
9 N 9th St., Unit 401
Philadelphia, PA 19107
mo2057@columbia.edu

Stephen Kunen has been hired by Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich, & Rosati in New York to work with its intellectual property group. He writes, "I'm very lucky and happy to be coming back to my home in New York, and to finally have a job. I plan to take the New York and New Jersey bar, and eventually, the patent bar." This semester, Stephen is interning at Coca-Cola's headquarters in Atlanta in the global marketing department. His work, "Superhuman in the Octagon, Imperfect in the Courtroom: Assessing the Culpability of Martial Artists who Kill During Street Fights," will be published in Issue 6 of the *Emory Law Journal*.

Stephen also will participate in the finals of Emory's Transactional Meet Competition, and will try to volunteer to prepare income tax forms for low-income individuals. He looks forward to reconnecting with his Columbia friends in NYC.

In November, **Paul Sewell** founded SRC Legal, a Seattle law firm that focuses on intellectual property disputes, business formation and some criminal law matters. Paul formed the firm with Seattle University School of Law classmates Jordan Rood and Seth Chastain. **Benjamin Mills** '10L and his wife, Tiffany Christatos Mills '03 Barnard, '07E, celebrated the three-month birthday of their daughter, Leah Kathryn, on December 8. Leah has already been to Robert K. Kraft Field for Homecoming, and she was looking forward to the beginning of Ivy League basketball season.

Ari Brandes joined Société Générale in September as a structurer. He works in a cross-asset structured products group and specializes in fund-linked derivatives and financing solutions. He looks forward to connecting with alumni in the structured products business. **Hilary Simon** graduated in December with a degree in fashion merchandising management from the Fashion Institute of Technology. **Robert McNamee** will graduate from Georgetown Law in May and move to New York with his fiancée, Erin. In the fall, he will begin as an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton.

Jacob Rubin writes from California to update us on a few classmates: "Chris Belz is an accomplished

musician. He recently picked up the harmonica. **Jimmy Mark** discovered a new passion to complement his rising star at JPMorgan: astronomy. And of course, the infamous **Matteo del Guzzo** has continued to blaze his trail in medicine while also dabbling in advanced molecular biophysics. Cheers to everyone from Columbia '06 from the Wild West! Best wishes!"

Anne Tracy Samuel married Michael Samuel at the State Room in Boston on July 11 [see photo]. Congratulations!

Alicia Harper is enjoying life in NYC. She is attending Teachers College and received an M.A. in psychological counseling at the end of the fall semester and expects to obtain an Ed.M. in psychological counseling in May. As a single mother of a 3-year-old boy, Alicia blogs about her experiences at mommydelicious.com.

Finally, **Victoria Baranetsky** reminisces with us through a haiku:

"Snow storm in new york
"Just like in two thousand six
"Oh, to ski on Low."

07

David D. Chait
1255 New Hampshire Ave.
N.W., Apt. 815
Washington, DC 20036
ddc2106@columbia.edu

I hope that everyone had a wonderful (and warm) winter and is having a great spring. As always, members of our class are up to exciting activities.

After dating for seven years, **Alison Turza** and **Dan Bajiger** were married on October 2 at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. [See photo.] More than 30 College alumni were in attendance. Allison is pursuing a Ph.D. in psychology at GSAS. Dan recently graduated from law school and is clerking for a judge in New Jersey. The couple resides in New York City.

Elizabeth Epstein shares some exciting news. She and **Jonathan Miller** were engaged in November and will be married on July 4.

Tricia Ebner was to graduate from Harvard's Graduate School of Design with a master's in architecture in January.

Dongkwan (DK) Kim shares, "I will be honorably discharged from the Korean Military after serving three years as an intelligence and interpreter officer in the Republic of Korea Defense Security Command, a military intelligence agency. I am recently admitted by and plan to attend Harvard Law School in the fall."

Marianna Zaslavsky was accepted to the Business School and will begin in September. She writes,



Two Columbia families merged on a beautiful October day in New Rochelle, N.Y., when Aaron Tolkin '08 married Dena (Nachman) Tolkin '09 Barnard. The happy families included (left to right) Steven Nachman '82L, Dr. Sharon Nachman, the bride, the groom, Julie Tolkin '83 Barnard and Eric Tolkin '82.

PHOTO: BRUCE PLOTKIN

"I plan to focus on finance and entrepreneurship. I'm excited to be back on campus and be a part of the community again." **Tao Tan** will graduate from the Business School in May and "will join Bank of America Merrill Lynch Financial Sponsors Group, where two of my colleagues (and my boss) will be CC alums!"

Avi Zenilman writes, "I recently moved out of my grandmother's house, making it the first time in 14 months I'm living without a family member." Avi jokes, "I am happy to have a room of my own."

Kasia Nikhamina spent part of December at the Edna St. Vincent Millay Colony for the Arts in Austerlitz, N.Y., working on her second play, *Nixon Out of Office*. You can see video clips of scenes from the play on her blog, *TheMayorsHotel.com*. Kasia and her husband, Ilya, are visiting India in March.

Many of our classmates traveled during the winter holidays. **Samantha Rotstein** writes, "Andre Coville '07E and I planned to go to Tahoe and New Mexico to snowboard."

David Greenhouse shared in December, "I'm typing this from Oldenburg in northwest Germany, where I'm spending a long week-end. Next, I'm heading to India for the trip of a lifetime, traveling around Delhi and Rajasthan then going down south to Kerala. Living in the United Kingdom provides some great travel opportunities."

Thank you as always for everything!

08

Neda Navab
53 Saratoga Dr.
Jericho, NY 11753
nn2126@columbia.edu

Based on the e-mails I've been receiving, it looks like our class is busy, busy, busy! Check out the latest news:

PJ Berg and **Caroline Gilliam Walsh** can be found at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School, where

they are "studying public policy, adapting to the New Jersey way of life and rekindling the brother/sisterhood that began in Alpha Delta Phi," according to PJ.

Adam Katz is "in love," which is to say, he has finished his first semester in the English literature Ph.D. program at SUNY Stony Brook.

Calvin Sun is attending SUNY Downstate Medical School, where he is the president of his med school class. He recently completed an adventurous trip that is documented on monsoondiaries.com, and he will "be doing another crazy world summer trip next summer with Stephanie Quan."

Also on the med school track is **Anna Granat**: After spending the first two years out of Columbia doing research and grant writing, she "finally got around to med school. I started at USC Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles this fall and am feeling right at home. There's a pretty large contingent of Columbia (CC, post-bac, M.P.H.) affiliates in our class, and I grew up in California so am happy to be back in the land of snow-free winters!" Anna adds, "I encourage anyone applying to med school out here or wondering about a potential transplant to Los Angeles (i.e., How does life go on after New York?) to get in touch with me."

Laura Kleinbaum lives in SoHo with **Alison Hillier** and is finishing her first semester in a two-year M.F.A. program for musical theatre writing at NYU Tisch. "Stay tuned this summer for news about my shows," she says.

Dena Nachman '09 Barnard and **Aaron Tolkin** were married in October. "We live in Miami, and I am a revenue management senior analyst at Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines," says Aaron. "Miami is great, but we definitely miss the Northeast." [See photo.]

Justin Fiske proposed to Malory Carr '09 in February 2010, and

the two will be married in July in Los Angeles. Justin is graduating in May, receiving his master of education, higher education administration from USC. He was invited to speak at a national conference (NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) in Philadelphia in March, presenting his research findings on China's university career services during his trip to Beijing, in summer 2010.

It has been a great year for **Car-men Jo Ponce**. "I am finishing my last year at Duke Law. I received a job offer from Baker Botts law firm, and I am looking forward to beginning my career there. Most exciting of all, I recently got engaged to the love of my life! Two-thousand-ten was a great year!"

Stephanie Davidson is finishing her first semester at Harvard Law and says she is "so lucky to have a bunch of fellow Columbians in my section, including Josie Duffy '09, **Madison Condon** '08E, Innokenty Prytranker '10, Shira Hoffman '08 Barnard, Alexis Wanzenberg '09 and Elian Maritz '07. I also get to study a lot with **Taylor Walsh**, who is getting her Ph.D. in art history here. I'm hoping to do women's rights litigation during the summer, ideally back in NYC."

09 Alidad Damooei
c/o CCT
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
damooei@gmail.com

Michael Charley and **Tom Stewart** decided that now was as good a time as ever to bring an old idea for an invention they had to the market. After a year of toiling, designing and manufacturing, they started selling the Salsabol at salsabol.com. It is "a bowl with a lip so you don't spill your dip." Their first shipment arrived in May, and they sold out before the end of the year. They have high hopes for 2011.

Joanna Sloame is the online multimedia editor for the *New York Daily News* website (nydailynews.com). Joanna creates original photo galleries commenting on fashion trends, celebrity gossip and entertainment. She also writes hilarious recaps of television shows such as *Jersey Shore*.

Dan Trepanier is back in school pursuing a two-year menswear design program at FIT. Beyond the classroom, Dan runs his blog, thestyleblogger.com, which continues to grow and now averages 5,000 hits daily from 139 countries. Dan will be starting his own clothing line, which should launch by the end of this year. Also in the pipeline is a possible reality show he has been discussing with TV

production agents based on a series of web episodes on his blog. In the meantime, Dan has opened an image consultancy, landing his first celebrity personal styling client.

Nick LaCava, Eric Heinbockel '08 and Fabian Kaempfer (an exchange student from Germany) launched Chocomize.com. It is the first chocolate company in the United States that allows people to custom-design their chocolate bars by choosing from more than 100 ingredients. They have had a great start so far, as they have been featured in *O, the Oprah Magazine*; *The New York Times*; and *The Wall Street Journal*, and have been featured on *The Today Show* and many others. They have had a lot of fun working together as Columbia alumni. [Editor's note: Read more in the January/February feature, "How to Cope During a Recession? Start a Food or Beverage Business" (college.columbia.edu/cct/jan_feb11).]

10 Julia Feldberg
4 E. 8th St., Apt. 4F
New York, NY 10003
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

You have a lot of exciting updates to share, so I'll get right to the point!

James Bogner reminds us that some Columbians haven't strayed too far from the 116th Street gates. James works in financial aid, **Whitney Green** '10E and **Angela Velez** are in admissions, and **Cliff Massey** works in SEAS alumni relations.

Ameneh Bordi works in the casting department at Arena Stage, a large regional theater in Washington, D.C. She fills her days and nights with theater, since part of her job is at an office 9-5 and the other part of her job is seeing theater shows in the D.C. area. She intends to continue pursuing a career in the artistic side of theater, perhaps going to graduate school for directing in a few years (her top choice is currently the School of the Arts!).

After graduation, **Chiara Arcidy** moved into an apartment in Washington Heights with her childhood best friend and started working at a talent agency. She was excited to head home to New Hampshire for the holidays but still prefers the month-long breaks at Columbia to her one-week-a-year vacation time.

Chris Da Silva is pursuing a master's of accounting (M.Acc.) from the USC Leventhal School of Accounting in Los Angeles and will graduate in May. He has signed on to work for Ernst & Young in San Jose, Calif., as a first-year audit staffer starting in September. Chris is excited to begin his audit career for a Big Four accounting firm specializing in the Silicon Valley technology industry.

Since graduating with a B.A. in

art history, **Elizabeth Kobak** wrote and recorded a few pop tracks during the summer. She is pursuing her M.S. in journalism at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, where she is a broadcast major. Liz aspires to be a television news anchor.

She writes, "I began a new chapter in my life last September, living in an American city other than New York City for the first time. However, in the summer before my junior year, I did live and study in Venice. Anyway, just like New Yorkers, I find Chicagoans are warm, helpful and have a good sense of humor, which has helped me adjust well to my new urban environment. I've also come to understand why Chicago is the one and only Windy City. Although the Big Apple has its fair share of wind, running against Chicago's wind is far more difficult than the former. Regardless, I am facing those winds in my quest for my delicious, warm slice of Chicago deep-dish pizza."

Rahel Aima, **Frances Bodomo** and **Sarah Leonard** have taken up residence in Prospect Heights, where they make films and write essays of grave cultural import. When not wedged uncomfortably between invading strollers, they express solidarity with fellow members of the creative class by frequenting cafes and watching their bangs grow.

Billy Organek writes, "I'm in Singapore starting my own business, and I plan to come back to New York for law school next year. Singapore is great, but I miss everyone in New York. If you find yourself in Asia in the next few months, let me know!"

Natalie Gossett loves Villanova Law and asserts it is not as hard as everyone claims it is. She will specialize in entertainment and intellectual property law. So far, Natalie has enjoyed playing with her new dog, Angelina, and going out in downtown Philly. She took a much-needed break in November to see **Chiara Arcidy**, **Alyson Cohen** and **Ashley Moss**; they had quite a night at the Empire Hotel.


Jonathan Maimon took a short vacation from the tumult of New York to visit **Raul Mendoza** in New Orleans, where Raul is a teacher for Teach for America. While there, the former John Jay neighbors lived it up. Being an excellent host, Raul made sure that they saw local New Orleans bands playing "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "The Treme Song." They also had amazing desserts such as Bananas Foster French Toast and beignets, and consumed some classic New Orleans drinks: Pimm's Cup and the Ramos' Gin Fizz.

In late December, **Allon Brann**, **Dave Collier** '09 and **Raul Mendoza** traveled from New Orleans

Alumni Corner

(Continued from page 64)

a version of an essay he wrote about his disease, "The Passage of Time" (November 12, 2010, <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com>; search for "Selinger").


These days, my father enlists help from others to write his newest pieces. His speech is slow and slurred and he cannot spend too long working before exhaustion creeps in. But he has found a sense of purpose in the twilight of illness that he never found in all those years of courtrooms and pinstriped suits. I think he's finally happy. 

Hannah Selinger '02 holds an M.F.A. in creative writing from Emerson College, where she was a Presidential Merit Fellow. Her writing has appeared on *RawStory.com* and in *Eclipse*, *Zone 3*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Pennsylvania English*, *New Voices*, *RiverSedge*, *Lullwater Review* and *The South Dakota Review*.

to meet up with **Tom Smejkal** in Morningside Heights for a brief reunion. They capped off their soiree by ringing in a victory for alma mater during a game of trivia at 1020. Friend **Varun Gulati** '10E also made an unlikely appearance during the evening.

Valerie Sapozhnikova has been working in New York since graduation and still has trouble believing she's an alumna. She misses her friends, classmates, professors and the Columbia campus!

Finally, **Chris Yim** once again amazes us with his ... adventures. Chris writes, "After having a military scare (i.e., the South Korean government was asking me to serve in its army), I came back to the United States with my fiancée, whom I met and proposed to while abroad. I met her while seeking spiritual refuge at a Buddhist temple in Hanam, Korea. She has been someone whom I have been able to share my terrible scorpion sting story with. Now that I am back in the States, we are planning our destination wedding in Myrtle Beach, and I am looking for a job in the agricultural field, preferably in Northern California. Though it has only been six months since we graduated, I feel a world away from the youthful self I once was in New York. I look in the mirror each day and see a happy man, filled with earnest ambition and hope for the future. I would like to thank President Obama '83 for this inspiration."

That's all the news for now. Please stay in touch! 



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ALUMNI CORNER

Living the Life Unexpected

BY HANNAH SELINGER '02

My father, Neil Selinger '75, worked at the same law firm for 31 years. He started his career as a law clerk in 1976, while he was completing law school at NYU. A year earlier, he had graduated from Columbia with a degree in English. He had married young and gone straight to law school while my mother, Judith Cowan '75 Barnard, worked as a paralegal at a glossy downtown law firm.

For the last 15 years of his tenure at Lowey Dannenberg Bemporad and Selinger, my father was a managing partner, assuming various administrative roles and overseeing issues with his staff. He was good at his job and was considered the office mediator, a gentle chime of reason in a chorus of loud voices. I couldn't have known, growing up, the depths of my father's discontent. It turns out that the law firm where I spent so many school vacations and latchkey days was where my father went to mourn circumstance. Law school had fallen in his lap, not unlike his too-young marriage that ended in divorce, and he had made a left turn into a legal career when he just as easily could have made a right turn into any other field. I followed, not unintentionally, in my father's footsteps. At 18, I found myself at Columbia, and at 20 I was declaring English as my major, too. For a while, I set my sights on law school, until my father suggested an alternate route. He found the law exhausting, limiting and creatively void, he told me. He saw in me, I think, some unfinished version of himself, the possibilities of life unfolding a second time; I could make a different choice.

An outsider never would have suspected how my father felt about his job. As a lawyer, he was successful, renowned in his field, respected, admired. He took down large corporations for class-action plaintiffs and he made good money in the process. He was listed, year after year, in *The New York Times*' Super Lawyer list, a compendium of men and women at the top of their field. He had been praised by judges and colleagues for his clear and concise arguments, and he had been asked time and again to speak at national investor conferences. A specialist in investor-related litigation, his career appeared to be at an apex.

And then, at 54, he retired.

To some, my father's decision to leave the law was abrupt, but to us — my stepmother and sisters — the decision did not come as a surprise. What had begun as a mild unease had developed into deep unhappiness. The law provided no sense of purpose for my father, no altruism, no soul. If he had wanted to do other things in life, those things had grown stale with time, sinking to the bottom of lists upon lists of unmet goals. He wanted to travel the world. He wanted to buy a *pied-a-terre* in Italy and a cabin in Vermont. He wanted to tutor underprivileged kids at the local high school, or volunteer at the soup kitchen more than once a year, or build houses

with Habitat for Humanity. Most of all, he wanted to pen his memoir, a project for which he simply had never found the time.

When my father retired in 2007, he was in the enviable position of being able to start tackling his long wish list of dreams. He did travel a little, and he volunteered at Mamaroneck H.S., and he built houses with my youngest sister during her spring break. And he had time for his memoir. He spent afternoons holed up in his home office, writing about his New Jersey childhood, and at the end of the first year of his freedom, my father had a manuscript to show for his efforts.

He was still playing basketball once a week when he noticed that his lateral movement had decreased. First it was his hip, and then a disagreeable left leg that stumbled a bit too often. My father had been a distance runner for most of his life and had run the New York City Marathon in 1992; in the years following, when he experienced the athletic withering marked by sore knees and back and stiffened joints, he attributed his clumsiness to age.

Except that it wasn't age. By spring 2009, a handful of symptoms had drawn the interest of a neurologist. My father, still young and a parent to one Columbia graduate (me), one Columbia first-year (my sister Emily '12) and one high school sophomore (my sister Julia '15), was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease. From there, months became stages. He walked with a walking stick, then a cane, then a geriatric metal walker, and then he sat patiently as we pushed him in a black vinyl wheelchair. Eventually, he took up residence in a Permobil motorized wheelchair, delivered to our family home in my father's



Neil Selinger '75 relaxes with his daughter, Hannah '02, on the island of Korcula in Croatia in August 2009, shortly after he was diagnosed with ALS.

PHOTO: JACKIE WEISBERG

chosen color, metallic blue.

Some would find pity in such misfortune, but my father has never been a man to wallow. He gave up many of the things he loved, some large and some small. For 15 years, he was an active board member and officer of the Columbia College Alumni Association, where he chaired a committee on student affairs for many years. As months wore on and he grew weaker, he could no longer make the meetings and so he left the association behind, just as he had left basketball and running and dining at nice restaurants. Walking away from what brought him joy couldn't have been easy, but my father never looked too far into the dark side of his condition. When he could still type, he spent hours revising his manuscript and sending queries to literary agents, pinning his retirement hopes on unlikely possibilities. My father's fingers curled and bent and he had to rely on the rest of us to type for him, but his persistence was rewarded: An agent signed him and sold his book, *A Sloan Product: A Memoir of a Lost Boy* (available at amazon.com and bn.com), and *The New York Times* subsequently published online

(Continued on page 62)



Classes

1946

1951

1956

1961

1966

1971

1976

1981

1986

1991

1996

2001

2006



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Columbians will be dispersed throughout the Heights and greater Gotham all weekend long, but Saturday is everyone’s day on campus. This year’s Saturday programming will invite all alumni back to celebrate some of the best aspects of Columbia at the affinity receptions, and learn together with some of Columbia’s best known leaders, including Dean Michele Moody-Adams, in a series of public intellectual lectures. The day wraps up with the reunion classes’ tri-college wine tasting, followed by class dinners and a final gathering for champagne, dancing and good times on Low Plaza.



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