How To Survive Your Own Financial Crisis
Jonathan Dahl '80, '81J, editor of SmartMoney magazine
and author of 1,001 Things They Won't Tell You,
helps readers by making business writing personal

P L U S
Columbia Forum:
1959: The Year Everything Changed,
by Fred Kaplan
Come Celebrate Alumni Reunion Weekend 2010
— the reunion that everyone is looking forward to!

In addition to class-specific events throughout the weekend, you can join all Columbians celebrating their reunions on Friday at the “Back on Campus” sessions, including Core Curriculum mini-courses, engineering lectures, tours of the Morningside campus and its libraries and more. There even will be unique opportunities to engage deeply with the city’s arts community with theater, ballet, music and gallery options.

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 and learn together from some of Columbia’s best-known faculty in a series of public lectures, at the Decades BBQs and affinity receptions. The night wraps up with the reunion classes’ tri-college wine tasting on Low Plaza, followed by our biggest line-up of class dinners ever and a final tri-college gathering for champagne, dancing and good times on Low Plaza.

Dates and Registration Information

* Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6, 2010

* REGISTER TODAY! For more information or to register online, please visit http://reunion.college.columbia.edu.

* If you register before Monday, May 3, you’ll receive a 10% discount on all events, excluding South Pacific, West Side Story, Next to Normal, American Ballet Theatre and New York Philharmonic tickets.
## Contents

### Cover Story

17 **Jonathan Dahl ’80, ’81J Makes Business Writing Personal**  
The *SmartMoney* editor helps readers weather their own financial crises by providing practical, accessible information in print and online.  
*By Yelena Shuster ’09*

### Features

20 **Eric Garcetti ’92, ’93 SIPA Is Making Tinseltown Green**  
As Los Angeles City Council President, Garcetti uses a soft-spoken style to help create a greener, more livable city.  
*By Justin Clark ’04J*

24 **Columbia Forum**  
Allen Ginsberg ’48, Jack Kerouac ’44 and the Beats were one reason that Fred Kaplan titled his new book 1959: *The Year Everything Changed*. This excerpt shows how Columbia played a pivotal role in the year’s culture shift.

### Alumni News

31 **Bookshelf**  
Featured: Katherine Howe ’99 pulls from the stories of her real-life Salem, Mass., ancestors to write *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane*.

33 **Obituaries**  
34 **Connie Maniatty ’43**

36 **Class Notes**  
39 **Alumni Updates**  
49 **Joseph Goldstein ’65**  
64 **Maya Gupta ’99**  
69 **Jake and Marty LaSalle ’07**

72 **Alumni Corner**  
After Core Curriculum overload, a young alumnus learns to stop whining and love reading again.  
*By Nick Kelly ’09*

### Departments

2 **Letters to the Editor**

3 **Within the Family**

4 **Around the Quads**  
4 **Reconstructing Haiti**  
8 **Medical Mission to Haiti**  
10 **5 Minutes with … Stuart Firestein**  
11 **Alumni in the News**  
12 **Student Spotlight: Victor Suarez ’11**  
13 **Campus News**  
14 **In Memoriam: Harriss, Kroeber, Yerulshalmi**  
15 **Update from Kabul: Sarah Takesh ’95**  
16 **Claire Shipman ’86 and Womenomics**  
16 **Affinity Groups To Gather at Reunion**

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**Web Exclusives at www.college.columbia.edu/cct**

5 **More Minutes**  
Watch Stuart Firestein discuss his life and his work studying humans’ sense of smell.

**Don’t Say We Didn’t Warn You**  
Read an excerpt from Jonathan Dahl ’80, ’81J’s *1,001 Things They Won’t Tell You: An Insider’s Guide to Spending, Saving, and Living Wisely*.

**Children of All Ages**  
Watch juggling twins Jake and Marty LaSalle ’07 perform magnificent feats.

**Meet Eric Garcetti ’92**  
View a video biography of Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti ’92, ’93 SIPA.
Letters to the Editor

The Road Less Traveled
I liked the January/February 2010 cover story, “The Road Less Traveled,” and enjoyed reading about Columbia grads who followed unusual career paths. As an Armenian-American jazz pianist and composer (see 1972 Class Notes, same issue), my career path also has been unusual as well as enlightening, and perhaps the best post-graduate education I could have hoped for.

Armen Donelian ’72
Hudson, N.Y.

Thank you for the focus on the “road less traveled.” It was a choice a lot of us made many years ago. It’s interesting how the same alma mater could have such divergent offspring. I think that’s the sign of good parenting.

Tim Krupa ’63
Cannon Beach, Ore.

Molly Ivins ’67

The mention of Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life by Bill Minutaglio ’76 and Michael Smith in the January/February “Bookshelf” failed to mention that Molly, a former Texas Observer editor and nationally syndicated columnist, also was a Columbia graduate. Molly, who is remembered by her beloved Texas Observer with “The MOLLY National Journalism Prize” awarded each June, was in the Graduate School of Journalism Class of 1967. We miss her.

Carlton Carl ’67, ’68
Austin, Texas

[The writer is CEO/publisher of The Texas Observer.]

Going Green?
Pleased for your euphoria in using recycled paper. Totally distressed, however, as are tens of thousands of technically trained people, that there is no open review of the “managed perception” that carbon dioxide causes global warming. We consider this the scam of the millennium! In a nutshell:
1. Alternate warm and cool periods have occurred every 1,500 years for a million years.
2. Previous Roman and Medieval warm periods were warmer than the present warm period: A thousand years ago, it was about three degrees warmer than now; Greenland grew crops; wine grapes were raised in Scotland; and London was not under water!
3. The earth’s average temperature does not correlate with CO2, but is correlated with solar activity. When Pennsylvania’s coal fields were being formed, the temperature was similar to now, and the CO2 was 14 times the current concentration. If you liked Gore’s erroneous film [An Inconvenient Truth], watch McAleer/McElhinney’s Not Evil, Just Wrong. Since 2007, the Arctic ice has grown by 20 percent.
4. CO2 is beneficial to plant life and therefore beneficial to animals and humans.
5. Subsidizing uneco- nomic forms of energy to minimize warming from CO2 is fruitless. The physics show limitations on “greenhouse” energy storage as CO2 concentrations rise, anyhow.

This writer is unsubsidized by oil, coal or utility companies!

Fred DeVries ’49, ’50E ’51E
Chadds Ford, Pa.

The Rule of Law
In his letter to the editor (January/February), James E. O’Brien ’66 asserts that CCT’s article on Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. ’73, ’76L “is rather biased in that it suggests repeatedly that some terrorists were too harshly treated during the Bush years.” Mr. O’Brien then attempts to make a case for what he calls “enhanced interrogation” — i.e., waterboarding and other forms of torture. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that torture doesn’t yield anything in the way of useful intelligence, but what might be called the “pragmatic” case against torture pales by comparison with the legal and moral arguments against it. Torture is a crime against humanity. When the United States tortures, it violates international treaties and established American law. Torture won’t make us safer; but it will most assuredly corrupt its advocates and practitioners.

Alan Wallach ’63, ’65 GSAS, ’73 GSAS
Washington, D.C.
How To Survive a College Shopping Trip

It’s Presidents Week as I write this, and since many high schools are on vacation, this affords an opportunity for students and their parents to go college shopping. A year ago, my wife, daughter and I mapped out a five-day trip that had us visiting eight schools from western Massachusetts to Boston and then down through Connecticut before we headed home. Snow forced us to drop one visit, but we still managed to hit seven of our targets. Hectic as that sounds, a year later we look back on the week as a fun vacation, so we must have done something right.

We didn’t have college shopping trips when I was growing up. I went to a conference of high school newspaper editors at Columbia when I was a junior, fell in love with the campus and the idea of going to college in the city, and that was that. But times have changed, so here are a few words of advice for parents who may be contemplating college visits in the near future.

Stay in an Embassy Suites-type hotel. Your teenager needs his/her space, and being able to shut the bedroom door is nice. So is the free breakfast. Look for a hotel that is centrally located, within a reasonable drive from several schools so you don’t have to move every night, and one that offers free parking. And if you find one with an indoor pool and hot tub, so much the better.

Pack light. You are going to be on the move, and you don’t want to be constantly nagging your teenager over packing. If you can teach him/her to live out of a suitcase for a week, you’ll be teaching a valuable lesson.

Wear comfortable shoes. Every school offers a campus tour led by a cheerful undergrad, and that walking can add up. As you might suspect, the student tour leader can go a long way in shaping your impression of the school. If he/she sincerely likes the place, has taken advantage of the opportunities it affords and would make the same decision if he/she had it to do over again, you’ll feel a lot better about the school than if you get a tour leader who is just going through the motions.

Bring a notebook, and use it. Make that two notebooks, one for the teenager and one for Mom/Dad. If you don’t, you’ll be amazed how easily colleges can blend into one another — was it BU or Northeastern that had the great internship plan, and which school was it that had the nice dorms?

Take information sessions with a grain of salt. Every school offers one, usually led by an admissions officer, often accompanied by a campus video. For all the time, effort and money schools spend on these, they tend to be remarkably similar. A friend of ours went so far as to eliminate information sessions from his family’s visits. On the other hand, some sessions incorporate current students or faculty into the presentation, and these can stand out.

Go while classes are in session. A campus devoid of students does not give you an accurate representation of the school.

Linger on campus. Grab lunch or a snack in the student center and sit for awhile, observing the students and what they’re up to. You’ll get a feel for the place you won’t get on the formal, programmed part of your visit.

Remember that this shopping trip is only one component of the process, and an early one at that. Think of it as a first round of interviews. After your teenager narrows his/her choice — region; city, suburban or rural; large, medium or small; private or state; rah-rah or laid-back — you will have a second, more manageable list. All schools have special follow-up visiting days for prospects, when students can sit in on classes and special sessions are run for parents, and these will give you a much better feel for the school than the initial whirlwind visit.

A wise woman at Smith College said on one such VIP day, “The college selection process is not about the stick-in-the-rear window of your car.” In other words, don’t limit yourself to the “name” schools. Be open to schools you may not have heard much about, but may be better for your teenager than the prestigious schools.

That same woman also said, “Keep in mind that this is your child’s college, not yours.” In other words, it ultimately must be his/her decision.

Most importantly, don’t stress out on these trips. Have fun. Remember that there are hundreds of fine schools out there, and any number of them would be a great fit for your teenager. Our daughter was fortunate enough to be accepted at her first choice on early decision, but on our trips we discovered several other schools at which I know she would have been happy, too.
Joshua Robinson ’08 is a freelance writer and Daniella Zalcman ’09 is a freelance photographer. They live in Manhattan, and their work has appeared in Columbia College Today as students and as young alumni. After reading many touching stories and seeing countless heart-wrenching images following the earthquake that struck Haiti, they traveled to Port-au-Prince to document not the destruction but the first steps of reconstruction.

DZ: We arrived in Haiti on January 24, 12 days after a 7.0 earthquake flattened three of the country’s densest cities. Footage from Port-au-Prince (the capital), Léogâne and Jacmel had saturated news outlets for more than a week. As journalists, we were clearly late to the scene. But for every story that had been unearthed by CNN or the Associated Press or the BBC, we knew there were dozens more waiting to be told by the 1.2 million Haitians who had lost their homes and were living in makeshift tents. And so we decided to make our way to Port-au-Prince and report on Haitians taking stock and facing the future, finding hope where there seemed to be none.

JR: Because the airport there had been commandeered by American troops and aid organizations, getting to Port-au-Prince became a 30-hour ordeal. It meant flying into Santiago in the Dominican Republic, taking a taxi to Santo Domingo and then embarking on what turned into an eight-hour bus ride to Port-au-Prince. We arrived at our destination as night was falling. Everything we had read about and seen on television hit us immediately: the collapsed buildings where the second floor seemed to have consumed the ground floor, the people lining the streets where they would spend the night, and the pungent smell of garbage and death.

DZ: I’d heard, from colleagues and peers who had already returned from Haiti, that the stench of death was everywhere. But I had no idea what that meant. I’d barely encountered a corpse, except for under a white sheet and behind plenty of police tape. So when we stepped off the bus and the sticky, acrid smell filled my nostrils, it took me far too long to realize what it meant. That odor followed us for the entire week — in collapsed churches, near the destroyed National Palace, in the fringes of tent cities. It was a terrible reminder of just how much we hadn’t seen.

JR: When the time came for us to actually start reporting, we thought, “Where do we even start?”

So many iconic images and momentous stories had already gushed out of Haiti, how were we, with so little local knowledge, going to find something new and meaningful? But with the help of a guide and a broken-down Toyota with cracks in the windshield and a “Merci Jésus” sticker across the back, we began by exploring as much of Port-au-Prince as possible. We spoke to everyone we could find — tent city residents, doctors, aid workers, Marines, Haitian officials. The idea was to expose ourselves to everything.

DZ: It didn’t take long for us to realize that the stories were there. A woman named Marie, who was on the plane with us from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was rushing to Port-au-Prince to find her brother, the youngest of her six siblings. The other five had died on January 12, along with their spouses and children. Darlande, a medical student we spoke to, had arrived at the American Embassy at 5 a.m. every day for five days hoping to obtain the necessary paperwork to emigrate to America — knowing full well that...
without a U.S. passport she wouldn’t be permitted to even speak with an embassy official. Robert had lost his parents, his two younger sisters and his girlfriend to the earthquake and was living in a two-person tent with 11 friends from his high school soccer team, taking care of one classmate’s infant brother. The struggles, and stories, were everywhere we looked.

JR: Of all the tent cities, all the piles of rubble and all the devastated neighborhoods we saw, the slum of Cité Soleil will stay seared in my memory. In the area surrounding Haiti’s former state prison, a vile hole that witnessed more than 30 years of untold horrors under the Duvalier dictatorship, some of Haiti’s poorest live amid rotting fruit, broken glass and feces. Pigs run free through the mounds of garbage. Women make food out of dried mud.

Realizing that the area had hardly been affected by the earthquake only made the scene more upsetting. This was the same abject poverty the people of Cité Soleil had always known, and little was going to change that, especially now. No aid organizations had come through, and in all likelihood, they weren’t planning on it.

DZ: The most powerful images for me were the relics of life before the earthquake. Toward the end of the week, I’d begun to worry that I had been desensitized to much of the devastation. Seeing so much ruin on such a large scale had made it almost impossible for me to comprehend the earthquake’s effects on a human scale.

And then, one morning, I visited the remnants of the Sacré Coeur church in Turgeau. Most of the walls had collapsed, and the space was filled with rubble, but the pews had survived. I walked into one of the last rows to take a shot of the altar, and lying in the middle of a pew was an abandoned bridal magazine. Had a young woman, soon to be married, been looking over white dresses in this spot on January 12? The thought absolutely shook me.

JR: Whenever people heard that we had come from New York, they immediately told us about their relatives in the United States — in places like Miami, Boston and Queens. And now, in their family’s time of need, many of those relatives were frantically trying to circumvent the aid process and send money to them directly. So when the wire remittance offices like Western Union began reopening some two weeks after the quake, the lines were endless.

On the steps of a Unitransfer office in downtown Port-au-Prince one Saturday, Laurrette Maitre crouched in a sliver of shade. Her parents and two siblings in the Bronx had promised to send her $150 to help with food. For days, she had been surviving on insufficient aid handouts.
She hoped to restart her small business selling drinks. “It’s enough to eat a little, and maybe even begin working again,” she said of the expected funds.

A few yards behind her, Pierrette Longuefosse had come from a nearby tent city with her sister and husband. She had three children to feed, so she waited for five hours to collect $100 from her younger sister in New York, even though she knew that it would not get them far. Price-gouging had spiraled out of control. Gas, for instance, was going for $8 a gallon. In places, a loaf of bread reached $10. “It’s still better than nothing,” Longuefosse said, exasperated. “But it will only last two days, maybe three.”

I think a widespread misconception was that there were no resources to be found in all of Port-au-Prince. We certainly thought so. We brought enough protein bars from New York and almost enough water from the Dominican Republic to sustain ourselves for those nine days, expecting not to be able to find supplies anywhere in the city. But on our second day in Haiti, our guide stopped at a bustling supermarket and asked us if we needed anything. I was shocked — the shelves were well-stocked and the aisles were bustling with customers. But few of them were Haitian. The food was available, but the prices were far from affordable for most of Port-au-Prince’s residents.

And yet, it was impossible for us to share our resources with the people who truly needed them. Several United Nations workers strongly warned us against handing out anything because it could be enough to spark a riot — the aid organizations had all experienced it themselves. It meant that we were rarely welcome when we visited tent cities. “We weren’t waiting for journalists,” one man told me. “We were waiting for help.”

Many people didn’t want to discuss what had become the worst two weeks of their lives, and they certainly didn’t want to be photographed. Josh had an advantage in that he speaks French fluently; all I could do was point at my camera and hope it was understood that I wasn’t trying to capture their shame but rather document a crisis and the beginnings of rebuilding.

When I first drove by the tent cities and saw people living under four posts and a bed-sheet, I’d wrongly assumed that many of them had been poor before the earthquake. Cheap, poorly built housing, I thought, was hit hardest, and those with the means to leave had done so.

It wasn’t until I began wandering through the tents that I understood two things. First, the disaster didn’t...
discriminate. There were middle-class professionals, teachers and businessmen assembling shelter from cardboard boxes alongside people who had evacuated slums. And second, not everyone wanted to leave — Port-au-Prince was still their home, even without a house.

**DZ:** It wasn’t long before shadows of those homes started springing up in tent cities all over Port-au-Prince. The evolution of those communities during the course of the week that we spent in Haiti was stunning. One in particular, the St. Louis community, changed tremendously in just a few days. The first time I explored the 10-acre tract, there was nothing more than sheets and plastic tarps fashioned into makeshift tents.

But by our last day in Port-au-Prince, St. Louis had progressed to a growing shantytown with street signs (named after American states) and an address system, grocery stores selling canned and dried produce, and salons offering a trim and a shave. Children clustered around a generator-powered television, watching cartoons. Women gave each other manicures. Men wove branches and straw into panels to create walls and thatching for more permanent housing. Reconstruction was underway.

**JR:** Nowhere was this clearer than in Léogâne, a town about 18 miles up the coast from Port-au-Prince where the earthquake had torn down 85 percent of the structures, according to official figures. Its main street had none of the desperation of sprawling Port-au-Prince. In this smaller, closer community, every pile of rubble was as busy as an anthill, with dozens of people clearing debris. They dug out whole bricks and steel cables, things that would become construction materials in a new Léogâne. Even small businesses seemed to have been revived. Of course, people knew it would be years before they recognized their hometown. But more quickly than anywhere else we visited, they had sprung into action.
Reactions from a Medical Mission to Haiti

By Sallie Wilson ’11

Late last summer, my dad and I planned a weeklong medical volunteer trip to Haiti for the first week of January. Little did we know that we would narrowly be avoiding death, or at least tragedy, by leaving just two days before the earthquake of January 12.

Why did we choose Haiti? We had found a group in Gastonia, N.C., not too far from my hometown of Charlotte, with a strikingly pure medical mission statement and established ties in Haiti. When we first visited Lumière Medical Missions, I was struck by their genuine altruism. They were not working for media attention and certainly not for money, which was refreshing.

My dad, a cardiologist, had always wanted to do medical mission work, and Haiti appealed to us because it is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. I had studied Haiti in passing during the course of my French studies, and its culture had intrigued me. I was excited to see the practice of medicine in a less formal setting — a general clinic — where I could be more participatory in patient diagnosis under a doctor’s instruction.

We stayed with Haitian-born doctors Hubert Morquette and Junie Hyacinthe in their newly built mission hospital, King’s Hospital, in Port-au-Prince. Their complex includes a six-story hospital, an orphanage of 64 children and a school of 108 children.

The most eye-opening part of the trip was not the sight of the shantytowns or the size of the stomach of a malnourished child, but the repetition of these sights.

A day after the earthquake I heard from Lumière Medical Missions; I found out that Hubert had called at 5:30 p.m. after the earthquake to say no one had died and the hospital was one of the few in Port-au-Prince still intact. Up until the earthquake, King’s Hospital was not open to patients due to lack of funds, supplies and staff. Afterward, it was filled beyond capacity, with Hubert and Junie performing surgeries. I was told they were in desperate need of both doctors and supplies.

My main concerns for Haiti are first, the thousands of homeless Haitians who now will have an even harder time finding the food, water and shelter we take for granted. Second, the escape of inmates from the prison in downtown Port-au-Prince means some of those responsible for the 2003–08 violence now are free. Third, the country itself had so far to go with its medicine before the earthquake. King’s Hospital was in need of fundraising to establish a fund to support the many Haitian patients who could not pay full price for their necessary medical attention. Now the attention of the world is on earthquake relief (as it should be). Thankfully, Haitian causes have become the focus of charities nationwide, but to what end will Haiti be restored?

My hope is that aid and disaster relief efforts will establish a greater infrastructure rather than merely restore the recent but tenuous stability Haiti had, which was due to an increase in police force and the recent capture by President René Préval’s forces of the leader of the gang responsible for the revolts.

Haiti is not just a disaster-torn, third-world country to be pitied or patronized. Participate in the restoration process for the sake of its people and potential. A great place to start is by donating to the Helping Hands for Haiti campaign organized by the Haitian and Caribbean Students’ Associations. At the very least, resist becoming desensitized to the issue as the images of disaster become redundant and the passage of time and stress of daily life make it easy to tune out this crisis. What the earthquake has not changed is Haiti’s potential to be a thriving island nation with an intriguing identity. Now, more than ever, it needs help to get there.

Editor’s note: A version of this story first appeared in The Columbia Daily Spectator on January 25.

Sallie Wilson ’11 is from Charlotte, N.C. She is majoring in French with a premedical concentration and plans to continue volunteering in Haiti as she pursues a career in medicine.
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15 West 43 St. New York, NY 10036
Professor Stuart Firestein teaches biology and the popular “Ignorance,” a course that invites professors to speak to students about what they don’t know and what they question in their field. He earned his bachelor’s in biology from San Francisco State University and his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. A theater director before entering academia, Firestein did post-doctoral research at the Yale School of Medicine before coming to Columbia.

Where did you grow up? Philadelphia.

What did you want to be growing up? I started out with the usual childhood things — cowboy, fireman. My first interests were in science. I wanted to be an astronomer. That lasted until the middle of high school when I got involved in the drama club. Then I became interested in the theater. I think it was in part because I went to an all-boys school. There was an all-girls school down the street and the only interaction between them was in the theater because we needed girls to play the female roles.

How did you become a biologist? I worked in the theater for almost 20 years. I did not go into science until rather late in life. I didn’t go to college [straight from high school]. Instead, I was an apprentice and worked my way up, eventually directing, which I did for a number of years, both on the East Coast at rep companies and on the West Coast in San Francisco, and a little bit in Los Angeles. When I was 30, I decided to go back to school. In those days, one could go to San Francisco State and be a full-time student for $106 a semester. I took a class in animal communication from a professor named Hal Markowitz, who was a wonderful mentor and remains a good friend. It may have been the most important thing that happened to me in life. I finished a graduate degree by my 40th birthday, which was my goal. I was hoping there’d be some time between tenure and emeritus.

How did you end up at Columbia? I came down and gave a talk to the department, and they liked me, and I liked them. I could have stayed at a medical school, but I always really wanted to return to a university situation. I like undergraduates, and I like teaching. This sounds terribly corny, but I feel a sense of responsibility to return what I was given, and I believe there’s a better chance to do that at an undergraduate campus. Plus I liked hanging out with philosophers and classicists and language people.

“Frontiers of Science” is up for its five-year review. Where do you see it going? This is not a trivial issue. There are parts of it that work and parts that don’t. The part that seems to work is the big lectures. You get Columbia’s world-renowned faculty to put together two, three or four lectures in their field, but making their field accessible. I think that alone, aside from what it does for the students, which is the primary thing, is important because you actually enlist faculty who usually call a model system. The brain is too hard to understand all by itself. One looks for simpler systems along the idea that fundamental mechanisms in the brain are going to be found on simpler levels, possibly in simpler organisms, like worms or flies, or subsystems of complicated organisms. The sense of smell is a good subsystem of the brain to learn a lot about important issues in the brain.

What are you teaching this semester? I teach a course I slapped together myself called “Ignorance.” It comes out of this notion that the one mistake that we make unavoidably in teaching science is that we teach them a bunch of facts. That’s important, but it’s not what science is about. When I meet up with scientists, we never talk about what we know; we talk about what we don’t know. It’s the only thing that’s of interest to a scientist. I was worried that we weren’t giving our students any sense of that at all. They thought science was just a big fact book.

Are you married? Do you have children? My wife is a professor of animal behavior at Hunter. My daughter entered the College in the fall.

How do you recharge? I like to hang out in coffee shops and bars, and I have friends who are not in the sciences or academia. I know some actors and singers, and I think spending time with them is useful. I recharge by being social.

To watch Firestein talk more about his work and life, go to www.college.columbia.edu/cct.

Interview and photo: Ethan Rouen ’04
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Millions of Americans are now waking up to George Stephanopoulos ‘82. In December, the former ABC News Washington Bureau Chief and host of This Week took over the reins co-anchoring Good Morning America with Robin Roberts, replacing Diane Sawyer. Stephanopoulos also became ABC’s chief political correspondent. One of the powerhouses of political television journalism, he has conducted extensive interviews with President Barack Obama ‘83, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and many other high-ranking members of the administration.

The U.S. Senate voted 84-0 on February 9 to confirm Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. ’78 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which hears cases from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. President Barack Obama ‘83 had nominated Greenaway in June, and he won the Senate Judiciary Committee’s approval in October. Greenaway, who is an adjunct professor of English and comparative literature, received the University Medal of Excellence in 1997, the Black Heritage Award from the Alumni of Color Outreach Program in 1997 and the College’s John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2003.

It isn’t often that a public offering can make the business world’s collective jaw drop, but Lisa Landau Carnoy ’89 raised $19.29 billion for Bank of America in December, shattering records and allowing the bank to pay back its TARP loan. The deal may “be seen as a turning point in the fate of one of the most important financial institutions still standing,” according to The New York Observer, which went on to say, “Those billions will define the career of Ms. Carnoy, quietly one of the most powerful women on Wall Street.”

Ezra Koenig ’06, Chris Tomson ’06, Rostam Batmanglij ’06 and Chris Baio ’07, who make up the indie rock band Vampire Weekend, reached the top of the Billboard charts in January with their second album, Contra. The album sold 124,000 copies in its first week, easily beating out the shticky Susan Boyle, whose album sold 77,000 copies, for the top spot. Vampire Weekend, which was formed while the members were at Columbia, also was the subject of a lengthy profile in The New Yorker in December.

The publishing industry may be suffering, but that hasn’t stopped Jodi Kantor ’96 from scoring a huge advance for a book about President Barack Obama ‘83 and his family. Kantor, a Washington, D.C., correspondent for The New York Times, has written extensively about Obama and his closest allies, including pieces on his time at Harvard, his basketball games and a New York Times Magazine cover story on his marriage. The book was purchased by Little, Brown following a heated auction, according to The New York Observer.

Shawn Landres ’94 was named by Forward as one of the 50 most influential leaders in American Jewish life. He is the co-founder and CEO of Jumpstart, a nonprofit organization that works with organizations to create “an inclusive, diverse and dynamic Jewish future.” Calling Landres a “primary evangelist of innovation,” Forward wrote that he “emerged this year as an essential thinker in explaining the new Jewish spirituality and culture to the Jewish establishment.”

Donna Krim ’67 and Richard Lorber ’67, stars in the independent and foreign film release world, have combined their resources to form one company that will be “the biggest of the little guys” in the film world, according to The New York Times. Krim’s Kino International, which has introduced numerous foreign filmmakers to American audiences, merged with Lorber HT Digital, of which Lorber is CEO, to form Kino-Lorber, Inc. Although both divisions will continue to handle their own releases, the combined company will manage a list of about 600 titles. Lorber and Krim met during their freshman year at the College.

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY MARCH/APRIL 2010 AROUND THE QUADS
Victor Suarez ’11 Explores the Art of Filmmaking

BY NATHALIE ALONSO ’08

In his short but forward-moving career, filmmaker Victor Suarez ’11 already has experimented with several genres and modes of storytelling. In January, he directed a music video in Brooklyn for independent rock musician and Yale student Laura Zax.

“It includes a giant cardboard machine that turns bottles into humans. It’s about a dual Zax — one in the normal world at Coney Island and one in this colorful absurd world — who eventually switch places,” says Suarez, who approached Zax about making a video after hearing her song “Doctor, Doctor.”

Laura LaPerche ’10 and Charlotte Kaufman ’10 produced the video through King Cub Productions, a Columbia undergraduate production company, and helped raise funds for the project. Suarez also received a grant from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation through the Columbia Arts Initiative.

Suarez’s interest in film has evolved gradually since he was a child, when he would entertain himself by playing with his parents’ video camera. His childhood pastime eventually became a passion fueled by his involvement in theater during high school.

“I now had a bunch of friends who were also actors and were always game for making a movie. Writing and directing became so fun and so rewarding that I wanted to do more and more,” says Suarez, the only child of a Spanish father and a Japanese mother.

Accompanied by five fellow Columbians, Suarez headed to Spain in July 2008 to carry out his most ambitious cinematic endeavor to date: the filming of a short movie, Nel Reinu, aka The Kingdom, that he wrote and directed.

The 13-minute film, shot against the scenic backdrop of the province of Asturias, is a story about familial estrangement and reconciliation. Its logline (one-sentence summary or pitch) reads: “Following the death of his father, a man returns to his family in Spain, bringing his young American daughter who discovers an enduring connection to his past and family that transcends the politics that tore them apart decades ago.”

Spanish producer Carlos Navarro and was rewarded for his initiative, as Navarro agreed to co-produce the film. He received funding from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation as well. In total, Nel Reinu boasted a $15,000 budget, which Suarez points out is a huge sum for an undergraduate film.

Nel Reinu is set in Oviedo, the capital of Asturias, and was with. He knows what he wants from a shot,” says Norich, who was nominated for Best Actress at the 2009 SoCal International Film Festival for her performance in Nel Reinu. “He also relied a lot on the actors’ interpretation of text. He trusted my choices and I his opinion, so it was a nice collaboration.”

Nel Reinu has been screened at film festivals throughout the United States and abroad. It was named “Best of Festival” at the 2009 Open APerture Film Festival, which is run by students at the Appalachian State University in North Carolina. It also won a Silver Palm Award in the Student Film category at the 2009 Mexico International Film Festival.

Suarez has co-written another movie script, a dark comedy about a teenage couple about to fulfill a suicide pact, titled Date and produced in 2008 by Amalgamated Dynamics, the production company of Academy Award-winning visual effects artist Alec Gillis.

Born in California, Suarez lived in Connecticut before moving to Chicago as a third-grader. Fond recollections of day trips to the Big Apple eventually drew him back to the tri-state area and to the College.

“I really wanted to live in New York,” says Suarez. “All my childhood memories are from New York.”

Suarez has chosen not to study film as an undergraduate and is instead majoring in economics and philosophy with a concentration in history.

“I plan on going into film after I graduate,” he explains. “I’m going to be doing that for the rest of my life, hopefully, so I don’t really want to study just film. I want to learn other things.”

Nathalie Alonso ’08 is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer of LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s Spanish language Web site.

Victor Suarez ’11 (center), shown in 2008 during the shooting of Nel Reinu, obtained $15,000 in funding for the film.

PHOTO: CHARLOTTE KAUFMAN ’10
CAMPUS NEWS

RELAY FOR LIFE: The seventh annual Relay For Life, a walk-a-thon style fundraiser held by Columbia’s Colleges Against Cancer chapter to benefit the American Cancer Society, will take place on April 17 from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. in the Blue Gym in the Dodge Physical Fitness Center. Members of the Columbia and Morningside communities as well as cancer survivors will once again come together to celebrate those who are surviving, remember those who have been lost, and fight back against the disease that affects one in every three people worldwide.

After six years of being held on the Low Libary steps, this year’s relay will take place indoors. As a result, this year’s traditional luminaria ceremony will feature colored glowsticks instead of candles.

For more information about this event or how you can contribute to the fight against cancer, please visit www.relayforlife.org/columbiauniversity.

LIBRARIES: Columbia University Libraries has joined HathiTrust (www.hathitrust.org), a shared repository for the digitized content from academic and research libraries. Columbia plans to contribute public domain volumes digitized through its partnerships with Google, Microsoft and the Internet Archive. HathiTrust’s repository currently includes the member libraries of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, the University of California system and the University of Virginia.

IN LUMINE TUO

FELLOWS: Don J. Melnick, Thomas Hunt Morgan Professor of Conservation Biology in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology and professor of anthropology and biological sciences; Robert Y. Shapiro, professor of political science; and Liang Tong, professor of biological sciences, are among seven Columbia professors who have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a prestigious scientific society established in 1848. Also selected were Jeffrey A. Lieberman, the Lieber Professor of Psychiatry; W. Ian Lipkin, the John Snow Professor of Epidemiology and professor of neurology and pathology; Stephen S. Morse, professor of clinical epidemiology; and Lorraine S. Symington, professor of microbiology and immunology. The seven new fellows are among 531 inductees from across the nation.

GERRARD: Michael Gerrard ’72, director of the Law School’s Center for Climate Change Law, has been selected as the first Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice. This new endowed professorship is the first at any law school in the world devoted exclusively to the study of climate change law.

SAVE THE DATE

DEAN’S DAY

Columbia College and the Columbia College Alumni Association are proud to sponsor Dean’s Day 2010. Scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 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 2010 is particularly noteworthy, as it is Dean Michele Moody-Adams’ first Dean’s Day as Dean of the College. Additionally, Dean’s Day 2010 coincides with Alumni Reunion Weekend. With even more alumni on campus, this year’s event should be the most exciting and well-attended yet.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 a.m. · Registration Opens — Alfred Lerner Hall
8:30–10:15 a.m. · Dean’s Continental Breakfast with Opening Address by Michele Moody-Adams, Dean of 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. · WKCR, Columbia Daily Spectator and Columbia University Marching Band Affinity Receptions and a special performance by the Glee Club and other singing groups

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010 • NEW YORK CITY
IN MEMORIAM

C. Lowell Harriss ’40 GSAS, professor emeritus of economics, died on December 14, 2009, at his home in Bronxville, N.Y. He was 97.

Born in Fairbury, Neb., on August 2, 1912, Harriss graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1934. Upon graduation, he received a Sheldon Fellowship, which enabled him to travel for 13 months throughout Europe, including Berlin and the Balkans, as well as Turkey and Northern Africa. This trip was the beginning of a lifetime of travel that would take him around the world nine times.

Harriss served as an officer in the Army Air Corps from 1943–46, working on aircraft and manpower procurement, on the economic problems of the shift of fighting to the Pacific, and finally on the problems of economic demobilization and the postwar aircraft industry. He began teaching at Columbia in 1938 while pursuing a Ph.D. in economics at GSAS and remained at Columbia until retiring from teaching in 1981.

University Trustee Mark E. Kingdon endowed, in 1998, the C. Lowell Harriss Professorship of Economics in honor of “my teacher, mentor and friend.”

“I took Professor Harriss’ public finance course in the late 1960s, when it was not cool to be a conservative, especially at Columbia,” said Kingdon. “I remember Professor Harriss warning us about the extraordinary power of the government: ’Nothing can be as cruel as the government.’

“During the 1970 student strike, I learned later, a classmate was picketing a building that the professor wanted to enter. ’You can’t go in,’ my friend declared. ’Why not?’ Professor Harriss asked. ’Because then you would be a scab.’ In response, Professor Harriss brushed by and entered the building while declaring, ’A scab is part of the natural healing process.’

“Teachers in the department on both the left and right loved the man. He was soft-spoken, tolerant, smart, non-dogmatic but firm in his beliefs. His classroom style was brusque, informative and clear. He committed many random acts of kindness, such as writing a complimentary note about me to my father, and helping students with letters of recommendation to his many friends that led to jobs or entry into grad school.

“I watched him age gracefully almost to the very end, vigorous in mind, body and spirit, an inspiration to us all. I miss him very much.”

“Harriss also taught at Stanford, UC Berkeley, Yale, Princeton, The Wharton School, the New School for Social Research and Pace. He earned Fulbright professorships from the Netherlands School of Economics (now Erasmus University), Cambridge and the University of Strasbourg, France.

“One of the last living economists to have experienced the Depression, Harriss authored 16 books on economics and hundreds of articles. He was known for his seminal work on taxation of land, property tax, finance reform, land values and planning land use.

“Harriss also had advised state, federal and foreign governments on tax policy including the Department of Treasury; the City of New York; New York State; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the Federal District of Venezuela; the Ministry of Finance, Republic of China; the United Nations; and the Agency of International Development of the U.S. Department of State.

“Harriss met and married Agnes Bennett Murphy in 1936. She predeceased him in 1992. Harriss is survived by his children, L. Gordon ’68, Patricia, Martha and Brian; five grandchildren; and sister, Marion Englehart.

Class of 2012 Student Passes Away

John David “JD” Fernandez ’12, known by classmates and peers for his optimism and political convictions, died from pneumonia on January 16.

Fernandez was vice president of the Columbia University Libertarians and contributed to the Web site of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, which works on “advancing the scholarship of liberty” in the tradition of the Austrian school of economic thought. Fernandez was planning to major in economics and philosophy. On his personal blog, The Liberty Review, he described himself as “a stormtrooper of the Yankee Universe and a classic liberal of the Misesian strain.”

Fernandez attended a weeklong program at Mises University last summer. Eric Staib, a senior at the University of Oklahoma, attended the program with Fernandez and noted in Spectator that money is being raised to create an award in his name. The Spectator article included a number of tributes, including: “He was a whirlwind of energy confined to a wheelchair. Every time I’m on the grounds of Columbia, I’ll think of JD,” wrote CJ Maloney — a blogger for Mises who spoke at Columbia last fall at Fernandez’s invitation — in an e-mail. Also, “He served as a huge inspiration to me. I never heard him complain,” noted Stephan Vincenzo ’12, who had been friends with Fernandez for two years.

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If you prefer reading CCT online, you can help us go green and save money by opting out of the print version. Please send an e-mail with your name, class year and address, so we can locate you in the database, to cc@columbia.edu, subject line “Opt-out.” You may be reinstated at any time, and we will continue to notify you by e-mail when each issue is posted online.

Karl Kroeber ’56 GSAS, the Mellon Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, died on November 8, 2009, at his home in Brooklyn. He was 82.

Kroeber earned a bachelor’s from UC Berkeley in 1947 and a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1956. After teaching at the University of Wisconsin for 14 years, he returned to Columbia in 1970 and taught in the English and Comparative Literature Department until his retirement in June 2009.

A prolific scholar who published a wide variety of books, Kroeber was well-recognized for his work on Romantic poetry but also wrote on narrative theory, Native American literature and ecology, among other subjects.

Kroeber was known for being a demanding but compassionate professor who relentlessly challenged his students. “He’s somebody [who] was always there to provoke and to counsel,” said James Shapiro ’77, the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature and a longtime colleague of Kroeber’s, in an interview with Spectator. “He was never comfortable with easy answers.”

Kroeber is survived by his wife Jean, sons, Paul and Arthur; daughter, Katharine K. Wiley; four grandchildren; brothers, Clifton and Theodore; and sister, Ursula K. LeGuin. There will be a memorial service at Columbia on Thursday, April 8.

Yosef H. Yerushalmi ’66 GSAS, the Sala Wittmayer Baron Professor Emeritus of Jewish History, Culture and Society, died on December 8, 2009 in Manhattan. He was 77.

Born in the Bronx to Yiddish-speaking immigrants, Yerushalmi earned a bachelor’s from Yeshiva University in 1943 and Ph.D. in history from Columbia. He taught at Rutgers and Harvard before returning to Columbia in 1980, where he directed the Center for Israel and Jewish Studies until his retirement in 2008.

Yerushalmi authored multiple books, most famously Zakhor: A鞭al History and Society, which focused on the tension between the collective stories of Judaism and the verifiable facts of history, a subject to which Yerushalmi devoted much of his academic life. He also wrote on the history of Spanish, Portuguese and German Jewry as well as historiography and psychoanalysis. He was in the process of completing a translation and study of Solomon Ibn Verga’s Hebrew chronicle, Shnevet Yehudah.

“Yerushalmi did not suffer fools gladly,” wrote Beth Kissileff ’90 in a tribute. “He expected a certain level of knowledge from students, yet had no patience with anyone showing a particular kind of religious bias or parochialism.”

Yerushalmi is survived by his wife, Ophra; son, Ariel ’92; and a grandson.

Lisa Palladino and Jesse Thiessen ’11 Arts

Jesse Thiessen ’11 Arts
"My life opened up when I came to Columbia," Case says. “I want others to have the same experience and that’s why I put Columbia in my estate plan.”

Join Steve Case and others in the 1754 Society, alumni and friends who have made bequests and other planned gifts to the University.

To learn more about Steve Case’s Columbia experience—and about planned giving—visit giving.columbia.edu/plannedgifts or call 800-338-3294.
Nearly 100 women (and three men) gathered on campus at The Italian Academy on January 26 to hear ABC news correspondent Claire Shipman ’86, ’94 SIPA talk about the research in her new book, Womenomics: Write Your Own Rules for Success, cowritten with BBC World News America correspondent Katty Kay.

Womenomics argues that giving women greater flexibility in the workforce—to make schedules and even choose locations that work well with their lifestyles—both furthers their careers and is more profitable for businesses.

Shipman recounted her experiences “working non-businesses and is more profitable for companies should be eager to accommodate them more formally, to prevent the “brain drain” of women leaving the workforce for family reasons.

Shipman now has two children and Kay has four children. “At cocktail parties, instead of figuring out how to be on TV tomorrow, we were trying to figure out how not to be on TV,” Shipman said.

While the women were negotiating their own more flexible work arrangements with their employers, they discovered research about how businesses profit from women’s involvement at all levels.

“The argument of the book is: giving people flexibility and letting them work how they want to work is not a favor or a p.c. thing to do. It’s a very good business strategy,” Shipman said. “The more senior women you have in a company, the more money it makes.”

After her talk, Shipman answered questions from the audience and signed copies of the book.

Shira Boss-Bicak ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA, an author and contributing writer to CCT, writes about her three whippets at Saving for Sesame (http://savingforsesame.com).

Claire Shipman ’86, ’94 SIPA advocates greater flexibility for women in the workplace.
Jonathan Dahl ’80, ’81J
Makes Business Writing Personal

Editor of SmartMoney magazine and author of 1,001 Things They Won’t Tell You helps readers survive the financial crisis

By Yelena Shuster ’09

Since he was a child, Jonathan Dahl ’80, ’81J has known that he would spend his professional life fighting for a cause. He has been protecting people with ink and paper ever since.

Dahl’s father, Theodore Dahl ’49, ’50J, instilled in him the concept of journalism serving as the fourth estate — a term for the press that dates to the 19th century and implies a duty to effect change. Whether reporting on homelessness for The Houston Chronicle or on asbestos danger for The Wall Street Journal, Jonathan Dahl has followed this belief in a successful career that has spanned more than 20 years.


Since 2006, Dahl has been advising 800,000 print readers and two million Web readers on all matters of personal finance as editor-in-chief of SmartMoney magazine. Last May, he established his expertise to the general public as author of 1,001 Things They Won’t Tell You: An Insider’s Guide to Spending, Saving, and Living Wisely, which now has 25,000 copies in print. The book was an extension of SmartMoney’s popular “Ten Things They Won’t Tell You” column, which has been enlightening consumers since 1992 on everything from tax preparation scandals to purposely misleading movie ads.

At SmartMoney, Dahl continues in the tradition of serving his readers.

“Whether Jonathan was covering travel as a reporter or running the Journal’s Weekend Section, what’s always driven him as a journalist is to be the proxy for the reader. It’s a real challenge for a journalist to ask the question for the average reader and get to the bottom line: ‘How is this really going to affect people?’” says Tom Weber, who has worked with Dahl since the ’90s when both were at the Journal. Weber became SmartMoney’s Web editor in 2008.

For Dahl, SmartMoney is a safeguard against consumer exploitation.

“We are there to question not only government policy but also Wall Street mutual fund industry policies,” Dahl says. “That’s where we stand out. We’re the self-appointed watchdog over the investment side of the business.

“To me, testing a million-dollar portfolio or gas tank should be equally important to covering the White House,” Dahl continues. “This is your money, this is your life. It’s remarkable how little attention has been paid to that. Personal finance reporting was not where newspapers put their resources.”

PHOTO: COURTESY HEARST CORP.
he crash of 2008, however, quickly shifted everyone’s attention. And Dahl found SmartMoney in the center of the spotlight. As the financial crisis was unfolding, Dahl saw an opportunity to increase the magazine’s relevance and online presence (www.smartmoney.com). He had a two-pronged approach: On the production side, redesign the magazine for a broader interest beyond wealthy hedge fund analysts; on the editorial side, refocus the content so that stories have a personal appeal past the statistics.

With clarity in mind, Dahl led a major redesign in October 2008 to appeal to non-investors by staying away from a “stodgy, heavy-print” look. This redesign included larger art, funnier photo illustrations, shorter stories, more sidebars and a layman-friendly “Term of the Month” section that explained obscure financial terminology.

The first cover story after the crash, “Rebuild Your Wealth,” which ran in the December 2008 issue, showed Dahl’s editorial approach: what to do now to earn back money that was lost. Rebuilding your wealth has remained the editorial focus of the magazine.

Another approach included more personal interest stories to complement the magazine’s coverage of statistic-based stock picking. Dahl’s eye for stories such as “Parents in Crisis,” about a reporter’s mother’s financial ruin, and “When Trouble Trickles Down,” about families coping with the older generation’s financial woes, helped bring in new readers.

On the Web side, Dahl created a financial help line that invited readers to send their questions via e-mail and an 800 number. Reporters and editors then answered the questions online or with a Webcast. In spring 2009, Dahl also provided a free, 40-page downloadable tax guide, researched and written by SmartMoney’s tax expert, Bill Bischoff, meant to clarify how the new administration’s policy affects the consumer’s tax report. With 30,000 downloads in a week, the guide was a hit. The Web site also received some industry buzz after Weber launched @relivethecrash downloads in a week, the guide was a hit. The Web site also received some industry buzz after Weber launched @relivethecrash. In 2009, Dahl also provided a free, 40-page downloadable tax guide, researched and written by SmartMoney’s tax expert, Bill Bischoff, meant to clarify how the new administration’s policy affects the consumer’s tax report. With 30,000 downloads in a week, the guide was a hit. The Web site also received some industry buzz after Weber launched @relivethecrash, which featured daily news recaps of how the financial crisis unfolded from one year ago. Both strategies worked: Web site traffic has been up 20 percent since the crash, now averaging two million unique visitors a month and generating 19 million monthly page views.

Dahl has gained a bit of celebrity since the crash. “I didn’t get the attention at cocktail parties that I do now,” he deadpans. But his path to success was not easy. Like the Class of 2009, Dahl also graduated in the middle of a recession. He did not have any luck finding a job with traditional methods, so he got creative. On the day of the Pulitzer Prize deliberations, held on the Columbia campus, Dahl prepared a resume, clips and spiel with which he accosted every editor he could find.

Dahl decided to wait for Pulitzer jurors in the hallway during their deliberations and grabbed Don Pickles, then-managing editor of The Houston Chronicle, on his way out. Dahl told Pickles, “I need two minutes of your time to tell you about my life and why I think journalism is an important calling. You probably get a lot of candidates, but you probably don’t have any who have been doing it so religiously for so many years.” Then Dahl showed him a lede page, a sheet that contained the first paragraph of six or seven stories Dahl had written, ranging from an expose about Vietnam veterans not getting any medical coverage to a personal essay about being beaten by the top junior girl tennis player. The boldness paid off. By the time they had left the building, Pickles offered Dahl a position covering the night police beat Wednesday through Saturday from midnight to noon. Despite the night hours, Dahl couldn’t wait and drove to Texas the Monday after graduation.

At the Chronicle, Dahl worked in the “cop shop,” a tiny room at the Houston police department where reporters covering the beat hung out, listening to scanners and phoning in scoops in an old telephone booth in the middle of the room. At the same time, Dahl began serving as a freelance correspondent (known as a “stringer” in the newspaper business, because in the old days they were paid based on the length of the string of clippings they would compile) for The New York Times. He would leave his shift at noon and go straight to the Times bureau office. For the Times and the Chronicle, Dahl covered everything from nursing home scandals to Hurricane Alicia. After three years, he got a job in the Dallas bureau of The Wall Street Journal, where he delved into business reporting.

In 1986, Dahl transferred to the Chicago bureau of WSJ and began developing the travel beat. Two years later, he moved to the New York bureau of WSJ and started a travel column, which focused on the headaches consumers faced in the first years of airline deregulation. From there, Dahl was promoted to travel editor and later became one of the founding editors of WSJ’s Weekend section.

Dahl’s rise through the ranks is no surprise to his coworkers, many of whom view him as a valuable teacher. Staff Writer Neil Parmar, who has worked for Dahl since 2005, acknowledges that Dahl can be “very intense, no matter if you’re working with him for the first time or millionth time.” Parmar began as an intern at SmartMoney before transitioning to staff writer. He considers Dahl a mentor.

“He’s involved in everyone’s stories, whether you’re the intern, staff writer or a columnist. As an intern, I found that very surprising. I just assumed there was a huge chain of command and I would never see him,” Parmar says. “Instead, he often walked by and asked me, ‘How’s it going? What ideas do you have? What are you working on?’ He’s known all of the interns on a similar basis. You never get coffee, never check personal e-mail. He gives the interns a lot of reporting.”

WSJ reporter Nancy Keates worked for Dahl at the Weekend Journal for a decade, and also considers him a mentor. Keates

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**SmartMoney**

**To increase the magazine’s relevance and online presence (www.smartmoney.com), Dahl created a financial help line that invited readers to send their questions via e-mail and an 800 number. Reporters and editors then answered the questions online or with a Webcast. In spring 2009, Dahl also provided a free, 40-page downloadable tax guide, researched and written by SmartMoney’s tax expert, Bill Bischoff, meant to clarify how the new administration’s policy affects the consumer’s tax report. With 30,000 downloads in a week, the guide was a hit.**

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**Dahl at his graduation with his parents, Theodore ’49, ’50J and Sheila; brother Dwayne ’72; and sister-in-law, Beth.**

**PHOTO: COURTESY JONATHAN DAHL, ’80, ’81J**

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**MARCH/APRIL 2010**

18
began pitching to Dahl while working for the Dow Jones newswires, and under his editing helm contributed stories ranging from hotel room service to water quality on airplanes (back when they had water fountains). “He put time into teaching me how to transition from a wire service reporter to a newspaper feature reporter,” Keates says. “I think his greatest strength as an editor is that he teaches reporters not to stop. He pushes you to keep looking and keep finding. He really made an effort to help reporters learn how to write a better story.”

Many coworkers agree: Dahl’s pursuit of the perfect story is one of the things that drives his success.

“With a monthly magazine, you have the problem of a relatively long lead time. What we write today has to hold up and not be out of date a few weeks down the road when people buy it at the newsstand,” says Executive Editor Bob Rose, who has worked intermittently with Dahl since the ‘80s when both were reporters in WSJ’s Chicago bureau. “Jonathan is very smart with story ideas. Give him a fully edited story and he can find a problem with it quicker than anyone I’ve seen.”

Parmar cites a similar strength. “Whenever I figure out a story, he always spins it around and asks the questions I haven’t found the answers to yet: ‘How can you make this anecdote funnier? How can you get a more recent statistic? How can you get the story shorter while making the same impact?’ ” Parmar says. “Until it’s shipped, he’s always on it to make sure it’s as fresh and up-to-date as possible. He’s not content letting a story sit around for a week or even half a week if he knows it can be tweaked.”

Dahl credits Smart-Money’s staying power to “staying one step ahead of the curve—what’s next, what’s beyond Twitter and Facebook,” he says. “I think print media will have a smaller place out there. We’re not going to have large magazines down the road, you may have a Kindle-type of experience. It’s a matter of trying to anticipate what readers will want.

“If you’re a good journalist, you’re always looking for trends,” Dahl continues. “From day one, whether writing for the high school paper or the journal, I was trying to put together patterns. To take it to Columbia, what helps you be a good student is finding the books you’re reading.”

Columbia has been a part of Dahl’s life since he was a child. His father and his mother, Sheila Larkin, met at a Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity party. Dahl’s house was filled with CU paraphernalia from large beer mugs to jerseys. The family had been going to Columbia football games since Jonathan was 8. “I’ll never forget my dad weeping when Columbia beat Princeton in the ’70s at what was then called Baker Field,” Dahl says. When it was time for Jonathan to apply to college, his father told him he had a choice of two schools: Columbia or Columbia.

He credits the College for inspiring the work ethic that enabled him to succeed. “At Columbia, you were really rewarded if you worked hard. I got used to that habit that the College had really instilled,” says Dahl, a summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate. “You have to be street smart from day one. I couldn’t have been a journalist otherwise. I wouldn’t have learned to think on my feet.”

At Columbia, Dahl wrote for Spectator for three years and was a sports associate for a semester, learning how to write on deadline and other aspects of journalism. “I learned by doing at Spectator,” he says. “One time a sports editor told me, ‘You’re not using verbs. That’s the most important tool.’ He was right, and I never forgot it.”

Asked about favorite courses at Columbia, Dahl cites American history with Henry Graff ’49 GSAS, which gave him a sense of perspective that is “a great tool for a journalist to have,” and English with Carl F. Hovde ’50, which helped him with long-form journalism. And he still appreciates the texts of the Core. “When I give speeches today, I might pull out a quote from Ovid,” the American history major says.

Dwayne Dahl ’72, an art history major who now is manager of operations for a computer company, is not surprised his brother became the editor-in-chief of SmartMoney. The two would share anecdotes when the younger Dahl had his travel column at WSJ and Dwayne was traveling 100,000 miles a year while working for General Electric.

All three Dahls — Jonathan, Dwayne and their father — were members of the Fiji fraternity, and both sons lived in Carman. “He was a skinny little kid, but grew up and made it big,” Dwayne says of his brother. “And that was a big dream that our father had for him.” Theodore kept every clip that Jonathan wrote in a book, which Jonathan found after his father’s death in 1988.

Most of Dahl’s friends from college became doctors or lawyers, but Dahl says he would never trade in his experience for more money or stability. “I think I’ve had a lot more fun in my career than a lot of my classmates. Many of the lawyers I know complain about their field,” Dahl says. “I wake up every day bursting out of bed. It never gets boring.”

Yelena Shuster ’09 is a freelance writer living in New York. She has written for Time Out New York, New York magazine and The Huffington Post.
Eric Garcetti ’92, ’93 SIPA remembers the time he stayed up late with a broken heart in his dorm room at Furnald Hall. The future president of the Los Angeles City Council wasn’t recovering from a break-up or a bad grade. The problem was more serious than that.

“I was watching my city burn,” he recalls.

It was April 29, 1992, and like many other Americans, Garcetti sat in front of the television through much of the night and the following days, watching the skies above Los Angeles turn a hellish shade of ochre. Having flown back to New York the day before, Garcetti had physically avoided the riots that rocked Los Angeles in the wake of the infamous Rodney King verdict. Mentally and emotionally, however, he was back in Los Angeles. His father, Gil Garcetti, was successfully campaigning to replace his boss at the district attorney’s office, Ira Reiner, whose failed prosecution of the King case had sparked the riots. Seeing the mess his father was going to inherit was sobering for the urban planning and political science major.

“I felt at that moment I had to do something,” he says with cool conviction.

At the time, Garcetti had no idea that doing something would mean running for office. He had already cut his activist teeth at Columbia, however, helping to build housing in Harlem through the Harlem Restoration Project and Habitat for Humanity; running Columbia Area Resource Exchange, a program that allowed New Yorkers to buy food vouchers for the homeless; and serving as president of the National Student Coalition Against Harassment. Garcetti had co-founded the Columbia Urban Experience, a program that took incoming Columbia students on tours of the neighborhoods near campus.

“All those years at Columbia, I had been trying to effect change in New York City,” Garcetti remembers. “I suddenly realized it was needed in Los Angeles as well.”

After studying in the United Kingdom and returning to Los Angeles to teach public policy at Occidental College, Garcetti ran for city council in 2001 and was elected president in 2005. Since then, he has represented the quarter-million residents of District 13.
Clockwise from top: Garcetti surrounded by children at the 2007 opening of Selly Rodriguez Park, the 20th park created in his district since he took office. Garcetti, outside his office, has represented one of Los Angeles' most densely populated districts since 2001 and says, “The constituents are starved for green space.” Garcetti's popular UNTAG program has greatly reduced the amount of graffiti in the area by having the city and community work together to immediately paint over fresh graffiti.

PHOTOS: COURTESY ERIC GARCETTI '92, '93 SIPA
“I chose to be at Columbia, to be in the midst of things...”
as opposed to being sequestered from the world.”

of Garcetti. “He’s incredibly smart and aware and knowledge-able and yet it never makes him forbidding or hard to know,” says Yorkey. “That combination is rare.”

That sense of approachability has helped Garcetti in politics. At the beginning of her boss’ tenure, Cabello recalls, three constit- uents who were angry about an issue attempted to disrupt City Council meetings with racial slurs and inflammatory language. As with his graffiti-abatement program, Garcetti proved that patience can be a powerful weapon. Simply by keeping his calm, Garcetti managed to convince his visitors to adopt a more civil discourse, without resorting to threats himself.

G
arcetti’s remedy for L.A.’s urban tension, his pro- found calm, is stereotypically Californian, yet he is quick to credit much of his pol- itical vision to his time at Columbia.

“L.A. doesn’t admit it’s a city, but in Manhattan the city hits you squarely in the face from the first moment you’re there,” says Garcetti. “It was one of the reasons I chose to be at Colum- bia, to be in the midst of things as opposed to being sequestered from the world.”

There was another reason Garcetti chose Columbia over Harvard, however: the theater. An aspiring jazz pianist, he’d originally come to Columbia to pursue a stage career and quickly became involved as the composer for the Varsity Show.

“It’s funny, because I hate mus-icals,” he says with a laugh, “but I really enjoyed writing them.”

Yorkey got to know Garcetti when Yorkey answered an ad in Spectator seeking a new artistic director for the Varsity Show. Yorkey’s friends were impressed to hear that he was collaborating with one of the best-known figures on campus. Yorkey was impressed with Garcetti’s restless energy and musical ability.

One of their first songs together, “Always A Protest,” chron- ized the romance of an anti-war liberal feminist woman with a Republican football player. Yorkey says the tune was inspired by the political culture on campus during the run-up to the Gulf War. Later, Garcetti worked on another topical project: a musical called Random Access.

“It chronicled four people after college involved in different industries, starting with the riots and ending with the (1994 Northridge) earthquake,” says Garcetti. “It was the story of Los Angeles in those years that the Presidential elections were happening.”

It was yet another sign that Garcetti’s theater wasn’t going to be on Broadway but rather at L.A.’s City Hall. “Eric could have been Richard Rodgers ’23 if he’d wanted to, but he’s destined for something much more important,” says Yorkey.

Fortunately for District 13 (and perhaps unfortunately for music lovers everywhere), Garcetti had to set aside Random Access unfinished — he was off to England. He’d been rejected for a Rhodes Scholarship during his senior year, but his urban politics professor, Carlton Long ’84, himself a Rhodes Scholar, told Gar- cetti not to quit.

“Carlton told me he was in the same class as George Stephanopoulos ’82, who didn’t win until he applied a second time,” says Garcetti. “So I was encouraged to submit again.”

This time, Garcetti was accepted.

“I’m convinced to this day the reason I got the scholarship was because, unlike the other candidates flying in from around the country to New York for the interview, I knew the city and was comfortable there,” he says. “I guess I was lucky to have been at Columbia for that reason, too.”

Garcetti spent 4½ years across the Atlantic, first at Oxford and then at the London School of Economics, where he began work on a Ph.D. in ethnicity and nationalism. It was while abroad that he met his future wife and fellow Rhodes Scholar, Amy Elaine Wakeland. Wakeland, who is from Indiana, was the California political adviser for Howard Dean’s 2004 Presidential campaign. Wakeland’s time is now taken up with a more important client: her husband — they were married in January 2009.

That job is likely to prove only more challenging as time passes. Garcetti prefers to speak in present terms, but ru- mors are already circulating about a future in mayoral and pos- sibly national politics. His background in international affairs makes him, in the eyes of many observers, an ideal candidate for Congress. In 2007, Garcetti received Harvard’s prestigious John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, offered to one elected official under 40 who best represents Kennedy’s legacy of public service. But Garcetti is nothing if not methodical in his approach to politics, and for now he is content to build his appeal by fill- ing potholes.

“Eric’s biggest challenge is to keep that reputation at a high level, especially in light of what’s going in L.A. with a number of our other leaders,” says Magnabosco, referring in part to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s admission of adultery in July 2007. “But if you have a reputation like Eric does, people aren’t going to be taking that for granted.”

Justin Clark ’04 is a Los Angeles-based freelance writer who has written for the San Francisco Chronicle, LA Weekly, nerve and other publications. He is working on a Ph.D. in U.S. history at USC.
Beat legends Jack Kerouac ’44 (left) and Allen Ginsberg ’48 read a book together in 1959, the year in which author Fred Kaplan contends “everything changed.”

PHOTO: JOHN COHEN/GETTY IMAGES
Is 1959 the year when our own age was born? In Fred Kaplan’s book 1959: The Year Everything Changed, the dawn of the Space Age seems to usher in breakthroughs and liftoffs of all kinds. The Soviets’ space capsule Lunik 1 blasts off on January 2, and as it leaves the atmosphere, all sorts of barriers seem to rattle and crumble. Texas Instruments announces the invention of the microchip. The birth control pill is submitted to the FDA for approval. The Motown sound is born. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission makes its first report, which leads to an overhaul of segregation laws. As Kaplan once wrote in an essay for Slate (where he is a columnist), 1959 really is “a pivotal year — not only in culture but also in politics, society, science, sex: everything.”

In the cultural events of this critical year, Columbia plays a pivotal part. Years earlier, in the mid-’40s, a small group of Columbia students and their like-minded friends — Jack Kerouac ’44, Allen Ginsberg ’48, William S. Burroughs and others — had coalesced around the Morningside Heights campus. The soon-to-be Beats took in the rhythms of Harlem jazz; they traded ideas and influences. A new literary movement took shape. By the end of the ’50s, major works such as Kerouac’s On the Road, Ginsberg’s Howl and Other Poems and Burroughs’ The Naked Lunch had established the friends as ground-breaking new voices. In this excerpt, Kaplan tells the story of the Columbians whose Beat writings, in 1959, were changing the face of the culture.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard

**Generations Howling**

On the night of February 5, 1959, Allen Ginsberg ’48 gave a poetry reading in the McMillin Theater [now the Miller Theatre] at Columbia University before fourteen hundred spectators, nearly all of them students, with hundreds more turned away for lack of space. It was a triumphant night for Ginsberg, his first return to the college that had suspended him a decade earlier under sordid circumstances, and he was returning as a literary celebrity, almost a pop star.

A few years earlier, Ginsberg had been living in the Bay Area of California. Kenneth Rexroth, a local poet-improvisario, sponsored weekly poetry readings at art galleries and coffee shops in San Francisco’s North Beach district, a scruffy neighborhood that was attracting a growing number of young bohemians. On October 7, 1955, Ginsberg appeared at one of these readings, at the Six Gallery on Fillmore Street, and recited the first part of a poem, which he’d started writing two weeks earlier, called *Howl*.

It was a brash, profane, apocalyptic meditation, with long, syncopated lines and turbulent imagery (“I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked” / . . . angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night.”), and Ginsberg read it with what even he later described as “a strange ecstatic intensity.” The event caused an instant sensation. It was widely written up, hailed (though in some quarters mocked) as a new kind of poem and, more, as the cry of a new generation alienated by crass materialism and conformity.

Ginsberg publicly credited Jack Kerouac ’44 with coining the poem’s title and inspiring its style of phrasing — “a spontaneous bop prosody,” as Ginsberg put it, referring to the cadences of Charlie Parker’s bebop jazz. As a result, *Howl* made Kerouac famous, too, and Viking Publishers, which had laid aside a proposal that he’d submitted months earlier, gave him a contract for *On the Road*, the most ambitious of eleven novels that he’d written in the previous six years, only one of which, *The Town and the City*, had ever been published (and it was largely forgotten).
To the extent Kerouac was known at all until then, it was for a remark that he’d made back in the early fifties to a friend and fellow writer named John Clellon Holmes. They were talking about contemporary parallels with the “Lost Generation” after World War I and the philosophy of existentialism that followed. Kerouac said, “You know, this is a really beat generation.” Holmes leapt up and said, “That’s it, that’s right!” Inspired by the line, Holmes wrote an article in 1952 for the New York Times Magazine, called “This Is the Beat Generation,” in which he credited “John Kerouac” for the phrase.

Soon after the reading at the Six Gallery — at which Kerouac passed around jugs of wine — the “Beat” label was applied to a whole group of North Beach poets, including Rexroth, Michael McClure, Gary Snyder, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who also owned the City Lights Bookstore and had just started an imprint to publish many of these poets’ works, including Hotel.

When On the Road appeared in bookstores in September 1957, a review in The New York Times declared it an “authentic work of art,” a “major novel,” even a “historic occasion,” proclaiming, “Just as Hemingway’s The Sun Also Rises came to be regarded as the testament of the Lost Generation, so it seems certain that On the Road will come to be known as that of the Beat Generation.”

The review was a fluke. The Times’ regular book critic, a thorough square named Orville Prescott, was on vacation when Kerouac’s novel came in. An editor assigned it to a staff writer named Gilbert Millstein because he seemed to know something about the subject. Five years earlier, Millstein was the editor who’d commissioned Clellon Holmes to write the Times Magazine article about the “Beat Generation.” Millstein had favorably reviewed Holmes’s novel, called Go, whose main characters were based in large part on Kerouac and Ginsberg, whom Holmes had known when they all lived in New York. And so the links came full circle.

When Prescott returned from vacation, he panned Kerouac’s novel in the Sunday Book Review section, as expected. But Millstein’s rave in the daily paper had made its impact. On the Road was the book of the moment; it climbed the best-seller charts, and it attracted a vast following among restless young men for decades to come.

Ferlinghetti had published Ginsberg’s Howl and Other Poems a year earlier, but Customs officials declared it “obscene” and seized copies. (One official was quoted in the press as saying, “You wouldn’t want your children to come across it.”) The U.S. Attorney’s office in San Francisco declined to pursue the case. So the feds tried again, this time sending undercover agents into the City Lights Bookstore to buy a copy and then to arrest Ferlinghetti for publishing, and his poor cash-register clerk for selling obscene materials.

At the ensuing trial, which was heavily publicized, provocative passages from the poem were read aloud, and a stream of eminent critics testified that it was a masterpiece. The federal judge, Clayton Horn, ruled that the book was not obscene. Before the trial, only a thousand or so copies of Howl had been in print. After the ruling, Ferlinghetti couldn’t print copies quickly enough to satiate the mass hunger for this once-forbidden fruit.

Judge Horn’s ruling came down on October 3, 1957, just a few weeks after Millstein’s rave review of Kerouac’s novel. To most of the book-buying public, then, Howl and On the Road appeared at the same time. And so, the two works, along with Kerouac and Ginsberg themselves, were forever linked as the essential artifacts and heroic figures of the Beat movement.

Then came another wrinkle. On October 4, the day after Ginsberg’s legal victory, the Soviets launched Sputnik, the first satellite, into orbit. Herb Caen, a prominent columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, wrote that the bohemians hanging out on the North Beach were as “far out” as Sputnik—and so dubbed them “beatniks.” The term stuck.

By 1959, newspapers and magazines were filled with stories about beatniks, who tended to be portrayed as either morally dangerous or eccentrically dimwitted. Hollywood B-movies, like High School Confidential, The Wild Party, The Subterraneans and The Beatniks, hit screens across the country. The Dobie Gillis Show premiered on television that year, with Bob Denver playing Dobie’s bongos-slapping beatnik friend, Maynard G. Krebs. Life magazine published a story called “Squaresville U.S.A. vs. Beatsville,” about three teenage girls in the small town of Hutchinson, Kansas, who wrote a letter to Lawrence Lipton, self-described leader of the beatniks in Venice, California, inviting him and his friends to come visit. “This town is Squaresville itself,” the letter read, “so we as its future citizens want to be cooled in.” The plan was squelched when Hutchinson’s police chief put out the word that any beatniks would be arrested on sight. A “beatnik doesn’t like work,” the officer said. “Any man that doesn’t like work is a vagrant, and a vagrant goes to jail around here.”

The beatnik craze annoyed Kerouac, who had always been shy and now retreated to isolation. The term angered Ginsberg, too, who publicly called it “a foul word.” But Ginsberg was also a flamboyant showman — he declaimed his poems with high drama, sometimes gleefully disrobing in his passion, as if to bare his body along with his soul — and he played on the PR possibilities. He scribbled, in a letter to Kerouac, “The general public image of beatniks built up from movies, Time, TV, Daily News, Post, etc., is among the hep a fake and among the mass Evil and among the liberal intellectuals a mess — but that is weirdly good, I dig that we are still so purely obscure to philistines that it’s inevitable that it be misunderstood.... Mockery is inevitable compliment.”

But the Beats were getting at something disturbingly stagnant about American society, and mockery was the easiest way to dismiss the messengers out of hand.

Kerouac and Ginsberg met in 1944, when they were studying literature at Columbia. Kerouac had started college as a football player but injured his leg during the first semester and, with some relief, rekindled his longtime love of books. Ginsberg started out wanting to be a labor lawyer, but turned to poetry after taking Columbia’s mandatory freshman Humanities course. The university’s English department valued high modern poetry with irony, tight stanzas, and clear meters, usually iambic pentameter. Ginsberg was very good at this form. He won several college prizes for his poems and often discussed his work with his professor, the famous critic and novelist Lionel Trilling [25].

That same year, through a mutual friend, Ginsberg and Kerouac met William Burroughs, who was doing postgraduate work in psychology. Burroughs was a decade older and had an aristocratic bearing. He came from a wealthy St. Louis family — his grandfather had invented the adding machine — and he was living on a trust fund, which allowed him to get by well enough without working. Burroughs also had a broad grasp of literature and a penchant for authors that no one was teaching at Columbia — romantic poets, like William Blake, Arthur Rimbaud and Hart Crane, who glorified individual expressiveness above obedience to formal rules. The two students spent many hours in Burroughs’ living room, discussing ideas and books.
Burroughs had a very dark streak and a cynical detachment. He once told Kerouac, “I’m apparently some kind of agent from another planet, but I haven’t got my orders decoded yet.”

When Burroughs was an adolescent, one concerned neighbor called him “a walking corpse.” Burroughs agreed, wondering only whose corpse it was. A classic problem child, extremely bookish but anti-social, he was fascinated by con men. His parents sent him to the Los Alamos Ranch School in New Mexico, where the government later built the atom bomb — a connection (Burroughs didn’t believe in coincidences) that haunted him the rest of his life. In the thirties, an uncle named Ivy Lee had worked as Hitler’s publicist in America — another blood tie to death and sin.

By the time Ginsberg and Kerouac met him, Burroughs was experimenting with drugs and hanging out with thieves and hustlers from Times Square. The fascination rubbed off on the impressive students. In August 1944, a fellow student named Lucien Carr, who was also a member of this circle, got into horrible trouble. A friend of Burroughs named Dave Kammerer was infatuated with Carr (everyone in this group had at least leanings toward homosexuality), stalked him incessantly and one day followed him into Riverside Park, demanding sex. Carr stabbed him repeatedly with a pocketknife. Carr confessed to Burroughs, who advised him to go to the police. Instead he went to Kerouac, who helped him dispose of the weapon. The next day, both were arrested, Kerouac as a material witness to homicide. They were also expelled from Columbia. The crime made the front pages of local papers. Kerouac was bailed out of jail by his girlfriend, and the two fled to Michigan.*

Several months later, Kerouac returned to New York and stayed in Ginsberg’s dorm room, spending all his time reading. Ginsberg then caused a campus scandal. As a prankish protest, he traced the words “Fuck the Jews” on his dusty windowpane. A maid reported the deed to the dean of students, along with the tidbit that, when words “Fuck the Jews” on his dusty windowpane. A maid reported the deed to the dean of students, along with the tidbit that, when

Once, when Ginsberg and Williams went for a walk through the woods, they sat and wrote poems about things lying on the ground — a sliver of tin, a chunk of concrete, a hairpin.

Williams also felt strongly that a poet shouldn’t be confined by arbitrary rules about the length of a line or regularity of a meter. He should write in his natural voice, constructing phrases that matched the rhythms of his own breath. This wasn’t easy. In fact, done well, it was harder than conventional poetry. You couldn’t just fill in the blank spaces of the metronome’s ticktocks. You had to listen to your voice, very carefully, and devise ways to capture that rhythm, a rhythm that might not ever have been written down before.

Kerouac was thinking along the same lines; he and Ginsberg remained in frequent contact, either in person or through correspondence. But they both needed a voice before they could figure out how to transcribe it, and the voice they aimed for, the voice that most appealed to their desire for speed and risk and transcendence, a sound at once hot and cool, was modern jazz — “a spontaneous bop prosody,” as Ginsberg described Kerouac’s phrasing.

While they were studying at Columbia, the two often went to the jazz clubs in nearby Harlem and got to know some of the musicians, including the trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, who along with Charlie Parker invented the style of bebop. At one set, which a fellow Columbia student was recording, Gillespie improvised a

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* Carr served two years in prison, then cleaned up his act, eventually becoming a reporter, then a top editor, for United Press International. The military historian and novelist Caleb Carr is his son.
melody, based on the popular song “Exactly Like You,” and titled it “Kerouac.” (He thought about calling it “Ginsberg,” but that wasn’t as jazzy a name.)

Kerouac set down the idea of his poetic phrasing in a short essay called “The Essentials of Spontaneous Prose,” in which he likened the act of writing to playing jazz. Sentences should be punctuated not by periods but only by “the vigorous space dash separating rhetorical breathing (as jazz musicians drawing breath between out-blown phrases).” This was how he wrote the original draft of On the Road, all of it in one unindented paragraph, typed on sixteen-foot rolls of Japanese drawing paper, which he taped together as a massive scroll. That was the ideal way to capture the vista of the landscape, the whoosh of motion, the immediacy of experience.

To Kerouac, it was cheating even to revise a first impulse (though he did rewrite On the Road, adding punctuation, to make the book publishable). Ginsberg wasn’t such a purist. He sought to convey the impression of spontaneity, but he relied on craft and artistry to get there.

A year before he wrote Howl, Ginsberg wrote to a friend, “I have been looking at early blues forms and think will apply this form of elliptical semisurrealist imagery to rhymed blues type lyrics. ... Blues forms also provide a real varied syncopated meter, with many internal variants and changes of form in midstream like conversational thought.” He later told a critic that Howl’s cadences were inspired in part by a recording of Dizzy Gillespie’s trumpet solo on “I Can’t Get Started.”

Ginsberg and Kerouac were inspired, then, by several diverse influences: Burroughs’ reading list of romantic visionaries like Whitman, Blake, and Rimbaud; William Carlos Williams’ veneration of natural objects over lofty ideals and human breath over preset meter; and the frantic, jagged cadences of blues and bebop.

Jazz inspired Ginsberg to extend his lines much longer than any poet — even Whitman — had ever attempted. He explained later to one critic that his earlier attempts at free verse were “not expressionistic enough, not swinging enough,” adding, “I have to let off steam by building a longer climactic line ... a jazzy ride ... to ride out on the break-rhythm without any artificial built-in guides or poles or diving boards... no forcing the thoughts into a straitjacket—sort of a search for the rhythm of the thoughts and their natural occurrence. ... It’s a jump up forward into life, unknown future.”

The poem’s long, jangling lines were what gave Howl its drive and power. But they were also what led many writers and critics of the day to dismiss it as unserious, not a real poem.

Though the letter was cordial, Trilling no doubt read it as a personal jab, and correctly so. (He wrote back, saying that he didn’t like the poems at all.) Trilling had never regarded Whitman or any of Ginsberg’s other idols as great writers. He distrusted literature that celebrated passion, transcendence, or the liberation of the self from society. Like most members of his intellectual circle, who lived in New York and wrote for the Partisan Review, Trilling was an ex-Marxist (some were still Marxists but anti-Stalinists) who cherished the tradition of high modernism — with its canon of works, formalist theory, and critical method — as a civilizing tool, grounded in a sense of history, to ward off the pressures of ideology and totalitarianism.

Strict form was important because it represented the elevation of rationality, which Trilling saw as “a principle of control.” Back when Ginsberg first met Burroughs, and especially after his mystical experience while reading Blake, he urged his teacher to reconsider Rimbaud in particular. Trilling gave him a read, but he was repelled. Rimbaud’s “rejection of the ordinary social values,” he told Ginsberg, amounted to “an absolutism which is foreign to my nature and which I combat.”

Later, Trilling wrote an essay, perhaps with Ginsberg in mind, noting that he understood why some of his students “have become excited over their discovery of the old animosity which Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams bear to the iamb, and have come to feel that they could break the iambic shackles, the whole of modern culture could find a true expression.” But, Trilling went on, he found this notion illusory—and, more than that, dangerous, because unshackling formal structure could unravel the underlying social thread. In a sense, Trilling was right. Ginsberg, too, saw the connection between freedom from structures in poetry and freedom from structures in all of life. The difference was that Ginsberg yearned for both freedoms.

Back when Ginsberg was a student, Burroughs advised him to veer away from Trilling, warning, “He’s got no orgones, no mana, no charge to him.”

The irony was that, deep inside, Trilling might have agreed, if not in those terms. In 1985, a decade after Trilling’s death, Partisan Review published excerpts from his private journals, which revealed a very unhappy man who loathed his own sense of seriousness and responsibility, and who envied those capable of cutting loose and expressing themselves openly.

He appeared to feel this inadequacy as far back as 1933, when his friend Clifton Fadiman [25] showed Trilling a letter that he’d received from Ernest Hemingway. It was “a crazy letter,” Trilling recounted, “written when he was drunk — self-revealing, arrogant, scared, trivial, absurd. Yet I felt from reading it how right such a man is compared to the ’good minds’ of my university life — how he will produce and mean something to the world ... how his life which he could expose without dignity and which is anarchic and ’childish’ is a better life than anyone I know could live. ... And how far-far-far I am going from being a writer — how less and less I have the material and the mind and the will.”

Similarly, in 1948, around the time Ginsberg urged him to read Rimbaud, Trilling wrote in his journal of coming back from a din-
ner party where someone had praised him for leading a life of “equilibrium,” a comment that gave him “a twinge of pain” and “the sense of some awful doom” that, at age forty-two, he had “more time, no more time” to do something creative. Not long after, he wrote, “I have only a gift of dealing rather sensibly with literature,” which he regarded as “a great hoax.”

In 1949, while still convalescing at the psychiatric institute, Ginsberg came to see Trilling and told him that Harcourt, Brace was about to publish Kerouac’s first novel, The Town and the City. “I predicted that it would not be good & insisted,” Trilling wrote afterward in his journal. “But later I saw with what bitterness I had made the prediction — not wanting K’s book to be good because if the book of an accessory to a murder is good, how can one of mine be?”

Trilling despised the notion, popular in some avant-garde circles, that an artist had to be pathological. But he also wanted to believe in the opposite idea — that a real artist couldn’t have a streak of “wickedness” — and he feared that he might be wrong.

The tensions between institutional order and instinctual gratification racked many among the generation that came to maturity after the war, but Trilling’s sense of decorum and dignity — his ideas about the moral grounding of literature — kept his inner bohemian under wraps.

Diana Trilling, his wife and fellow critic, would later wonder, in her memoir of their marriage, whether any of Lionel’s friends knew “how deeply he scorned the very qualities of character — his quiet, his moderation, his gentle reasonableness — for which he was most admired in his lifetime and which have been most celebrated since his death.”

When Ginsberg returned to Columbia for his poetry reading on a cold Thursday night in February 1959, it was at the invitation not of the English Department but of a student group, the John Dewey Society. Almost no professors showed up for the event; they didn’t want to grant him the legitimacy that their attendance might convey.

Lionel Trilling stayed home, too. Some of his colleagues were coming over to discuss an intellectuals’ book club that they were trying to get off the ground.

But Diana Trilling — who, later that year, would chide Norman Mailer for abandoning his earlier style of literary realism — did go, along with two other faculty wives, who all nervously mapped out ahead of time where and when to meet, as if they were conspiring to commit a crime.

She wrote an essay about the event afterward for the Partisan Review (whose editor, Philip Rahv, accepted it after expressing misgivings about giving the Beats the implicit credibility). In her essay, she recounted her husband’s turbulent past with Ginsberg and how she had chided Lionel at the time for giving his brilliant but clearly disturbed student too much attention and leniency.

Like everyone else, she had read the recent magazine stories about the now-celebrated poet, his beatnik friends, and their antics. (The issue of Time that was then on the newsstands described a cocktail party in Chicago, where Ginsberg introduced himself by saying, “I’m crazy like a daisy,” to which his lover and fellow poet, Peter Orlovsky, replied that he was “crazy as a wild flower.”)

As Mrs. Trilling walked into the already-packed auditorium, she noticed that the audience was “crazily young.” She sighed at the girls with their “blackest black stockings” and the boys in their checked shirts and blue jeans (“standard uniforms in the best nursery schools,” she would chuck). But she was also surprised. She’d expected the kids to smell bad, but they didn’t. “These people may think they’re dirty inside and dress up to it,” she wrote in her essay, but they were “clean” — as, it turned out when they came onstage, were Ginsberg and his friends.

Ginsberg read a long poem, called “Kaddish,” about his mother, who had died three years ago; he choked and cried as he read it, yet, Trilling wrote, no one “tittered or showed embarrassment at this public display of emotion.” Then he read “Lion in the Room,” after announcing that it was “dedicated to Lionel Trilling.” She misinterpreted the poem. It was about Ginsberg’s vision while reading Blake back in 1948. His dedication was ironic, as he’d criticized his old teacher for failing to see the lion himself, for resisting sensory experience.

Perhaps because of her misunderstanding, Trilling found herself liking the poem. “I was much moved by it, in some part unaccountably,” she wrote. “It was also a decent poem, and I am willing to admit this surprised me.” She was also struck that all of Ginsberg’s poems dealt with “serious subjects” and that he read them in a poetic meter. It seemed he was a poet after all. During the question-and-answer period, he even led a discussion of the meaning of prosody and the influence of William Carlos Williams. Suddenly, she saw that Ginsberg and his friends had “earned . . . their right to be heard in the university” — not because of “their whackiness and beat-upness,” but by “their energy of poetic impulse . . . their studious devotion to their art.”

When Diana Trilling arrived back home, her husband’s meeting was still going on. It was a meeting, she wrote, “of the pleasant professional sort,” like “the comfortable living room” in which such meetings usually take place “at a certain point in a successful modern literary career,” confirming the writer’s “sense of disciplined achievement and well-earned reward.” This comfort was “not ever to be spoken of except with elaborate irony,” she continued, “lest it propose a life without risk and therefore without virtue.”

W. H. Auden, the legendary poet, and the only one of the men at the meeting who was not dressed in a suit (he wore an old brown leather jacket), asked her what she thought of the reading.

She replied that she’d been moved by it.

“I’m ashamed of you,” Auden said.

“It’s different,” she responded, “when it’s human beings and not just a sociological phenomenon.”

She left the men with their drinks and their discussion. She concluded her Partisan Review essay by noting an “unfathomable gap that was all so quickly and meaningfully opening up between the evening that had been and the evening that was now so surely reclaiming me.”

For an inkling, she sensed that Ginsberg’s poetry reading at Columbia and the intellectual establishment’s hostile indifference to it, both on campus and now in her living room, marked the first crack in a sociocultural breakup that would grip the coming decade — the opening fissure of the Generation Gap.

Excerpted with permission of the publisher John Wiley & Sons from 1959: The Year Everything Changed. Copyright © 2009 by Fred Kaplan. This book is available at all bookstores, online booksellers and from the Wiley Web site at www.wiley.com, or call 800-225-5945.
Music in the Head: Living at the Brain-Mind Border by Dr. Leo Rangell ’33; foreword by Oliver Sacks, professor of neurology and psychiatry and the arts. Rangell, a psychoanalyst, explains the neurological and psychological mechanisms that produce the human experience of music (Karnac Books, $24.95).

Chronicles of My Life: An American in the Heart of Japan by Donald Keene ’42, the Shincho Professor Emeritus of Japanese Literature and University Professor Emeritus. Keene’s autobiography places emphasis on his years in Japan (Columbia University Press, $19.95).

Franz Kafka: The Office Writings edited by Jack Greenberg ’45 et al. The editors present a series of essays Kafka wrote during his years as an insurance lawyer and offer commentary about the relationship between his legal career and his literary work (Princeton University Press, $45).


Explaining Human Actions and Environmental Changes by Andrew P. Vayda ’52. In a selection of his essays from the last two decades, Vayda stresses the value of explanation-oriented research in the social and environmental sciences (AltaMira Press, $75).

What Darwin Got Wrong by Jerry Fodor ’56 and Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini. The authors point out the limitations of Darwin’s belief in natural selection as the underlying mechanism of evolution (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $25).


Louis D. Brandeis: A Life by Melvin I. Urofsky ’85. A biography of Jewish activist and Supreme Court Justice Brandeis (Pantheon, $40).


Invisible by Paul Auster ’69. Auster’s latest novel centers on a student and aspiring poet who attends the College in 1967 and gradually descends into madness (Henry Holt and Co., $25).

Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth by Apostolos Doxiadis ’72 and Christos H. Papadimitriou. This graphic novel illustrates the life and work of philosopher and logician Bertrand Russell (Bloomsbury USA, $22.95).

Flannery: A Life of Flannery O’Connor by Brad Gooch ’73. Gooch draws on interviews and O’Connor’s correspondence to piece together the famously recluse author’s life (Little, Brown and Co., $30).

Fork on the Left, Knife in the Back by Michael Musto ’76. The author, a celebrity gossip writer for The Village Voice, has compiled a selection of his favorite essays and columns (Alyson Books, $14.95).

A Force for Change: African American Art and the Julius Rosenwald Fund edited by Daniel Schulman ’82. Schulman celebrates the work made possible by grants from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, an organization established in 1917 to benefit African-American writers, artists and scholars (Northwestern University Press, $39.95).

Remembrance: Roots, Rituals, and Reverence in Vodou by Jerry M. Gilles ’85 et al. The authors describe the history of vodou and examine its relationship with other religious traditions (Bookmanlit, $37.94).

The Seven Rays by Jessica Bendix ’88. Bendigarden’s protagonist, Beth Michaels, is a high school student whose life is disrupted when she begins having clairvoyant visions (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, $16.99).

The Whole Island: Six Decades of Cuban Poetry edited by Mark Weiss ’88. An anthology of modern Cuban poetry presented in the original Spanish with accompanying English translations (University of California Press, $70).

Modernism after Wagner by Juliet Koss ’80. Koss examines the effects of Wagner’s career on German aesthetic ideals and political philosophy (University of Minnesota Press, $29.50).

Guadalupe in New York: Devotion and the Struggle for Citizenship Rights among Mexican Immigrants by Alyshia Galvez ’85. The author states that religious observance has political significance for Mexican immigrants living in New York City (New York University Press, $23).

Between the Assassinations by Aravind Adiga ’97. Adiga’s latest collection of short stories explores issues of caste, religion and economic stratification in Kittur, a village on the southwestern border of India’s Karnataka state (see January/February “Columbia Forum”] (Free Press, $24).

Andy Warhol by Arthur C. Danto, the Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. Danto discusses the philosophical implications of Warhol’s work (Yale University Press, $24).
A Witch and Her Descendent

Katherine Howe ’99’s novel uses her ancestors’ stories

If you stroll through the seaside town of Marblehead, Mass., you’ll see house after plain New England house, their old faces prim and bleak as Puritan portraits. In the 1800s, Marblehead’s neighbor, Salem (of witchcraft fame), grew rich from Far Eastern trade. But Marblehead stayed poor — and so it has one of the country’s largest collections of 18th-century architecture, says Katherine Howe ’99.

It’s an easy place to think about history, she says, to mentally erase today’s power lines and cars and imagine one’s self in an earlier century.

In summer 2005, as Howe strolled with her dog around Salem and Marblehead, she began to muse about the towns’ colonial past. Summer turned into autumn, but the walks continued; Howe, a graduate student in American and New England studies at Boston University, was tense about her upcoming orals. Her musings assumed the shape of what she calls a “thought experiment.” What if Salem’s witches really had been practicing magic? What would it look like? How would it happen? As the “thought experiment” turned into a plan for a novel, Howe imagined a heroine — like herself, a modern-day grad student who had moved to Marblehead — whose research would uncover a book of working spells from old Salem, a potent “shadow book.” Ultimately, she would name the novel she wrote after that original book of magic: The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane (Voice, $25.99).

Quite apart from showing a historian’s natural interest, Howe had good reason to feel connected to the territory. On her father’s side, the family’s roots in Essex County stretch back 300 years. She is related to not one but two of the women accused as witches in the Salem witch trials. One, Elizabeth Howe, was executed by hanging. The other, Elizabeth Proctor, survived because of a pregnancy. Her tale was later woven into the austere fabric of Arthur Miller’s The Crucible.

The book Howe eventually wrote is a suspenseful supernatural bestseller. Flashing back and forth between the late 1600s and 1991, the story follows the persecution of an accused Salem witch, Deliverance Dane, and the increasingly dangerous researches of the witch’s modern-day descendant. Scouring archives, libraries and even a venerable auction house, Harvard student Connie Goodwin tries to trace Dane’s powerful “receipt books,” which could be a history-changing find. Howe has both a scholar’s in-depth knowledge of period (and academic politics) and a novelist’s gift for atmosphere. The result is a riveting read: “Harry Potter meets The Da Vinci Code,” enthused Northern Virginia Magazine.

No less exciting was Howe’s route to bestsellerdom. Flashing back and forth between the late 1600s and 1991, the story follows the persecution of an accused Salem witch, Deliverance Dane, and the increasingly dangerous researches of the witch’s modern-day descendant. Scouring archives, libraries and even a venerable auction house, Harvard student Connie Goodwin tries to trace Dane’s powerful “receipt books,” which could be a history-changing find. Howe has both a scholar’s in-depth knowledge of period (and academic politics) and a novelist’s gift for atmosphere. The result is a riveting read: “Harry Potter meets The Da Vinci Code,” enthused Northern Virginia Magazine.

Less exciting was Howe’s route to bestsellerdom. She belonged to a poker group — “graduate students, nerdy types” — whose members included Matthew Pearl, author of the popular novel The Dante Club. At one of their gatherings, Howe had mentioned her idea for a book. (“She was trying to throw us off the game,” Pearl jokes.) Pearl spoke about it to his agent, Suzanne Gluck at William Morris, who was interested. In January 2008, Gluck sold the novel to Voice, an imprint at Hyperion. The following June, it debuted on The New York Times bestseller list at No. 2, and stayed on the list for 12 weeks. Foreign rights have been sold in at least 15 countries. Optioned for TV in August 2009, the book is being developed as a CBS series.

Howe says her years at Columbia helped equip her for her sudden career as a novelist. Growing up in Houston, she says, “I was really smart, curious — and completely scattered.” The Core and its rigors were “a structure that I craved.” (A true College advocate, she’s served for years on the Alumni Representative Committee, interviewing prospective students.) Howe credits the College with teaching her how to think and write and revise, all skills she needs now as she readsies another two books for publication. “There actually is such a thing as a Columbia education,” she says firmly — something she feels isn’t true at every school.

Then there’s the personal side: Howe met her husband, Louis Hyman ’99, at the College. In the Columbia version of “meet cute,” they shared a senior-year class on Nietzsche, Marx and Freud. He was a “hard-line Marxist in vegan jackboots,” she remembers; he recalls her “stunning feminist critique of Freud.” (“I’m a nerd, so I’m a sucker for that kind of thing,” he remarked in their New York Times wedding writeup.) Hyman, having finished an American history Ph.D. at Harvard, is starting work at McKinsey in early 2010.

Post-bestsellerdom, Howe is keeping busy. There’s the forthcoming paperback of Deliverance Dane (April 2010). There are the virtual “visits” she makes to her readers’ book clubs (to arrange a Skype or conference call, contact her at www.katherinehowe.com/bookclubs). She’s also editing a book of primary sources on witchcraft for Penguin Classics. Then there’s the new novel she’s writing, The Scrying Glass, set in Boston in 1915, in the twilight of the Spiritualist movement. Howe is cryptic about it, a little mysterious, though she admits that her story, once again, has an occult element. It’s another chance for her to erase the present and immerse herself in the dense, captivating atmosphere of the past.

Rose Kernochan ‘82 Barnard

Dangerous Citizens: The Greek Left and the Terror of the State by Neni Panourgia, associate professor of anthropology. Panourgia chronicles the historical roots and aftermath of the Greek Civil War (1946-49) (Fordham University Press, $80).

Field Notes from Elsewhere: Reflections on Dying and Living by Mark C. Taylor, professor and department chair of religion. Taylor looks back on his life, focusing on the ways in which a recent near-death experience has led him to think differently about past events [see January/February “Bookshelf” feature] (Columbia University Press, $26).

Grace Laidlaw ’11

MARCH/APRIL 2010 32
Robert C. Plumb, retired, Southbury, Conn., formerly of Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., on June 16, 2009. Plumb attended business school and retired in 1979 after 25 years with American Cyanamid. An avid skier, Plumb was active in both sports well into his 90s. Plumb is survived by his wife, Eleanor Powers; son, Robert; daughters, Sally Haun, Catherine Croft and Margaret Karell; and seven grandchildren. Plumb was predeceased by his first wife, Carol Durham Plumb, in 1996.

Donald R. Thompson, retired math teacher and track coach, Sea Cliff, N.Y., on June 25, 2009. Thompson grew up in Valhalla, N.Y.; he attended Farnam University and the College, where he majored in education. Thompson served in the Army Air Corps during WWII; he was a sergeant working in enlistment and classification of recruits. In 1947, he got a job teaching mathematics at Sea Cliff School. He and his wife, Virginia, bought a home in Sea Cliff in 1952, where they lived the rest of their lives. When the local high schools were consolidated into North Shore H.S., Thompson taught and coached track until his 1975 retirement. After retiring, the couple traveled extensively around the world. After his death, Thompson was predeceased by his wife, Virginia. Thompson is survived by his children, Jeanne and Norman.

Philip D. Wiedel, surgeon, Redding, Conn., on July 26, 2009. Wiedel earned a degree in 1941 from P&S and later worked and taught there as an associate professor of surgery. He was a naval officer in the Pacific during WWII. Wiedel is survived by his wife, Monique; daughters, Suzanne and Janine; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Danbury Land Trust, PO Box 32, Danbury, CT 06813 or the Philip D. Wiedel M.D. Fund for Humanism and the Surgeon, CUMC Development, 100 Haven Ave., Ste 29D, New York, NY 10032.

Kermitt “Kim” Easton, retired CPA and firm partner, Redding, Conn., on June 29, 2009. Formerly of Westport, Conn., Easton was born, raised and educated in New York City. He earned a B.A. from the College, an M.B.A. from the Business School (1940) and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. Easton served in the Navy in WWII and was assigned to the Japanese Language School as a naval intelligence officer. He became a senior partner of 5D Leidesdorf & Co. when that firm merged with and became part of Ernst & Young, from which he retired as a senior partner in 1980. Easton is survived by his wife of 64 years, Freda; son, Richard and his wife, Donna; daughter, Judith Shaw; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of the Westport Watercolors and playing bridge and RummiKub. Thompson was predeceased by his wife in 2002 and is survived by his children, Jeanne and Norman.

Harold Rogers '41

Oswald Braadland, former bank president, Delray Beach, Fla., on May 30, 2009. Braadland was born in Charleston, N.D. He was an Army veteran of WWII and was awarded the Bronze Star. The former president of the Mass Bank and Trust of Brockton, where he spent more than 30 years, Braadland moved to Florida several years before his death. He was predeceased by his wife, I. Helen (Trafford) Braadland, in 2007, and is survived by his children, Peter, Suzanna Duquette and her husband, George; and three grandchildren.

Charles E. “Chuck” Newlon, retired engineer, Knoxville, Tenn., on October 20, 2009. Newlon entered with the Class of 1941 but earned a B.S. and a Ph.D., both in chemical engineering, in 1942 from the Engineering School. Newlon was born on July 14, 1919, and was raised in Point Marion, Pa. He became known at the College as “Tuba Charlie” and was consistently a finalist in state band competitions. Newlon was class valedictorian and, as manager of the marching band, received the Gold King’s Crown. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta. Newlon joined DuPont in Charleston, W.Va., and after enlisting in the Army was assigned to the Manhattan District Project in Oak Ridge, Tenn. After being discharged, he joined Union Carbide’s nuclear division. Later in life, Newlon competed in USTA tournaments, and he and his wife entertained nursing home residents with a music and poetry show. They established the Charles E. and Dorothy Newlon Scholarship at the College and established a chair for Oriental studies at Haiawasee Junior College. Newlon is survived by his sons, Charles and his wife, Donna Stephens, and Lisa and his wife, Janie. Newlon’s wife of 65 years, Dorothy Jean Craumer, passed away five weeks after he did. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary’s Hospice, 7447 Andersonville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37938.

W. Graham Knox Jr., on June 26, 2009. Knox was born in New York City. After earning a degree in 1942 from P&S, he joined St. Luke’s Hospital, with which he was affiliated for more than 45 years. Knox served in the Navy Medical Corps from 1944–46 and participated in the third wave of the invasion of Okinawa. He spent his entire medical career at St. Luke’s and St. Vincent’s Hospitals, where he held several leadership positions in their departments of vascular surgery. He also was a professor of clinical surgery at P&S and chief of vascular surgery emeritus at St. Vincent’s. Knox had been president of the New York County Medical Society, the New York Surgical Society and the New York Cardiovascular Society. After retiring, Knox continued to be a diagnostician. He also enjoyed participating in sports. Knox is survived by his wife of 58 years, Amie; children, Graham, Robert and his wife, Dorothee, Amie and her husband, Jim Kelley, and John and his wife, Page; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Joseph Collins Foundation, 787 Seventh Ave., Rm 3950, New York, NY 10019.

W. Graham Knox Jr., surgeon, Greenwich, Conn., on June 29, 2009. Knox was born on March 18, 1918, in New York City. After earning a B.A. from the College and established a chair for Oriental studies at Haiawasee Junior College. Newlon is survived by his sons, Charles and his wife, Donna Stephens, and Lisa and his wife, Janie. Newlon’s wife of 65 years, Dorothy Jean Craumer, passed away five weeks after he did. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary’s Hospice, 7447 Andersonville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37938.

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Harold Rogers, teacher, Tokyo, on July 12, 2009. Born in New York City, Rogers attended the Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado with a number of other Columbia alumni, including Donald Keene ’42, James D. Crocco ’43, Paul Hauck ’42, Gene Sosin ’41, Bill Voelker ’42 and Owen Zurhellen II ’43. Rogers earned a degree from Teachers College in 1942. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he went to California to teach French and Spanish to Japanese-American internes at Manzanar H.S. During the military occupation of Japan, Rogers became a teacher there and stayed from 1946–2009. Upon arrival, he went to Sendai to teach illiterate American soldiers to read and write English; he also worked in Fukushima and Tokyo, where he taught French, Spanish and occasionally Latin at various De-
Connie S. Maniatty ’43, Trustee Emeritus and Generous Benefactor

Connie S. Maniatty ’43, a Wall Street executive, University trustee emeritus and generous donor, particularly to Columbia athletics, died on January 8, 2010, at his home in Westport, Conn. He was 90.

Born in Greenfield, Mass., Maniatty attended Deerfield Academy before matriculating at the College. After graduation, he joined the Wall Street firm of Salomon Brothers (now a subsidiary of Citigroup), where he became a partner in 1960 and stayed until 1979, holding the titles of partner and managing director. “Connie was my first boss at Salomon Brothers in 1966, and I was lucky to land under him,” said New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, in a Westport News obituary. “He was a great mentor and a true gentleman.”

A former football player, three-year letter winner in baseball and avid tennis player later in life, Maniatty’s support for Columbia and its athletics programs was legendary, particularly his work raising millions of dollars for the construction of Lawrence A. Wien ’25 Stadium. The Maniatty-Remmer Alumni Lounge, which he also helped fund, bears his name as well as that of his late friend Eugene Remmer ’43, ’43E.

Maniatty was a University Trustee from 1973–85. He also served on the College Board of Advisors from 1975–83, as Permanent President of his class and was the 1943 CCT class correspondent from 2006–09.

In addition, Maniatty served for 35 years on both the Football Advisory Committee and the President’s Advisory Committee on Athletics. In 2006, he was inducted to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of its inaugural class in the Special Category for Individual Achievement. The category was created to honor those “who have brought honor and distinction to Columbia athletics through significant involvement and support of the intercollegiate athletics program.”

“The Columbia Athletics family has lost one of its true pioneers,” said Athletics Director M. Dannehy Murphy. “Connie’s contributions to Columbia athletics are immeasurable, and thousands of student-athletes benefited from his leadership.”

Maniatty’s support was not limited to football, however. Through the decades he had raised money for every male and female athletics team.

“He believed strongly in women’s athletics, and when we began them in the early 1980s, he contributed to them,” said Al Paul, athletics director from 1974–91, in an article on the Athletics Web site. “The NCAA limits recruiting budgets to funds contributed by alumni, and we would never have been able to recruit for women’s teams, which of course had no alumni, if he hadn’t been supportive.”

Maniatty was honored in 1974 with the Varsity ‘C’ Club Alumni Athlete Award. In 1994, the Connie S. Maniatty Award was established to recognize the leading male and female athletes among the senior student-athlete class. Presented at the annual Varsity ‘C’ Awards Celebration, it is among Columbia Athletics’ most prized awards.

The University honored Maniatty with an Alumni Medal in 1975, and the College honored him with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1982.

Outside of Columbia, Maniatty’s philanthropy was similarly unfettered, most extensively reflected in his work for Norwalk Hospital in Norwalk, Conn. He served on the hospital’s Board of Trustees from 1979–95 and founded the Norwalk Hospital Foundation in 1989, serving as chairman from its inception to 2006. During his tenure, Maniatty raised more than $55 million for the hospital. He also co-founded the New York City Police and Firefighters Widows and Children’s Benevolent Foundation.

“We have lost our true lion, a great man, a great friend, a great trustee,” said Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC, current Board of Trustees chairman and Columbia’s head football coach from 1974–79. “I can honestly say that I have never known anyone whom I respected more.”

Maniatty is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters, Margaret Maniatty Fullington and Anne Maniatty Walker; son, Philip; five grandchildren; and five brothers. Memorial contributions may be made to the Putney General Store Building Fund or Brattleboro Area Hospice.

Martin J. Klein, professor emeritus, Chapel Hill, N.C., on March 28, 2009. Klein was born in New York City on June 25, 1924. He earned an M.A. in physics in 1944 from GSAS and a Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 1948. Klein joined the physics department at Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University) in 1949. In 1967, he joined Yale, where he chaired the Department of History of Science and Medicine from 1971–74. Klein won the first Abraham Pais Prize, the first major award for the history of physics, in 2005. He was elected to the Académie Internationale d’Histoire des Sciences (1971), the National Academy of Sciences (1977) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1979). At the time of his death, Klein was the Eugene Higgins Professor Emeritus of History of Physics and Professor Emeritus of Physics at Yale. He also was the former senior editor of The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein. Klein was predeceased by his wife, Joan Blewett, and is survived by his daughters, Rona, Sarah Zaino and her husband, Joseph, Nancy Klein and her husband, Paul Dailey, and Abby; and former wives, Miriam Klein and Linda Booze Klein.

Benjamin J. Immerman, ob/gyn, Great Barrington, Mass., on May 27, 2009. Immerman was born in 1924 and was a 26-year resident of Great Barrington. He was a decorated WWII Air Force veteran who flew dozens of missions over Germany as a bombardier in the legendary B-17 Flying Fortress. Immerman graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical Center and became an eminent ob/gyn who practiced for nearly 40 years in Forest Hills, N.Y. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Agnes; son, Bruce 79; stepdaughter, Jennifer; brother, David; and eight nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Tidewell Hospice, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238.
John R. Eckel Jr., chairman and CEO, Houston, on November 13, 2009. Eckel was born on October 22, 1951, in Houston. Following his college graduation, he joined the securities investment department of The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York as an investment analyst and subsequently was an assistant director of investments (energy and minerals). In 1977, Eckel joined Lehman Brothers as an associate in corporate finance and in 1978 was elected assistant v.p. in energy finance. Eckel then became involved in the energy industry, founding drilling, service, and exploration and production companies before founding Copano Energy in 1992, where he was president and CEO until April 2003, when he became chairman of the board of directors and CEO. Eckel was a member of the Director’s Counsel at the Whitney Museum of American Art and a member of the Director’s Circle and on the American Painting and Sculpture subcommittee for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He is survived by his father, John Sr.; brother David and his wife, Sandra; sister Anne Lowery and her husband, Guy; brothers, Richard and his wife Sue, and H. Robert and his wife, Nancy; and 10 grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 3800 Fettler Park Dr., Ste 104, Dumfries, VA 22025.

Daniel M. Schappert, retired executive, Stuart, Fla., on November 30, 2009. Schappert was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on March 25, 1933, grew up in New Jersey and lived in East Greenwich, R.I., and Stuart, Fla., for the past 22 years. He earned multiple recognitions for his athletic accomplishments in baseball, basketball and football at Westwood H.S. and recently was inducted into the Westwood H.S. Sports Hall of Fame. At Columbia, Schappert was the first recipient of the Lou Gehrig ’[23] Scholarship. Upon graduation, he entered the military as a 1st lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He had a 30-year career in sales and management with IBM, from which he retired in 1987. Schappert was an avid boater, sailor and fisherman, and enjoyed playing cribbage and reading. He is survived by his wife of 54 years Joan (Moseley) Schappert, children, Mike and his wife, Helen, Jim and his wife, Kathy, Rob and his wife, Cathy, and Ann Asadorian and her husband, Guy; brothers, Richard and his wife Sue, and H. Robert and his wife, Nancy; and 10 grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 3800 Fettler Park Dr., Ste 104, Dumfries, VA 22025.

Other Deaths Reported

Columbia College Today also has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information and space considerations.


1940 James W. Stitt, sales and advertising manager, Easton, Pa., on January 12, 2010. Stitt entered with the Class of 1938 but instead earned a degree in 1938 from the Business School.


1953 Warren R. Sanchez, computer analyst, systems designer, banker and entrepreneur, Beaufort, N.C., on December 2, 2009. Sanchez earned a degree from the Business School in 1957.


1955 John R. Lunde, retired professor and gallery director, New York City, on December 27, 2009. Lunde earned an M.A. and a Ph.D., both in art history and archeology, in 1953 and 1970, respectively, from GSAS.


1965 Donald E. Walsh, magazine publishing executive, Millerton, N.Y., on February 6, 2010.


1972 Glenn R. Switkes, environmentalist, São Paulo, Brazil, on December 21, 2009.


1978 Daniel J. Selmonosky, financial executive, Bedford, N.Y., on May 16, 2009. Selmonosky was a partner at BC Partners of New York City. He is survived by his wife, Lisa; daughters, Olivia and Isabella; parents, Carlos and Sonia Selmonosky; sisters, Deborah, Monica, and Arlene Miller; in-laws, Kathy and Richard Smith; brothers-in-law, Josh and Jeffrey Smith; and sister-in-law, Allison Fisher.

Lisa Palladino
Class Notes

Richard Silberstein ‘29, ‘30E passed away in September, shortly after his 103rd birthday. After earning a degree in electrical engineering, Richard did graduate work at Penn. He held various jobs in the radio industry until WWII, when he joined the radio section of the National Bureau of Standards. After the war, Richard administered high-frequency propagation experiments for the bureau in Washington, D.C., and Boulder, Colo., where he lived with his wife and among many friends until his death. [Editor’s note: An obituary is scheduled for a subsequent issue.]


Howard N. Meyer ’34, ’36L, writes, “I rejoice in the filing at age 95 of my final brief and service as counsel of record for the Hon. Charles Gittings Jr., amicus curiae in the case of Kænheba et al v. Obama. The story of a group of Moslem Chinese, dragged to Guantanamo to await a classmate at Columbia University.”

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already was the best quarterback in the Ivy League. If true, Columbia should win a lot more games in the next three years, and might even win the League Championship. Our hopes are up! Roar Lions!

In early December, our Alumni Office reported the death of Theodore Furman on October 29 at his home in Saratoga, Calif. After three years of military service in the Army in WWII, Ted returned to the campus and graduated from the Law School in 1947. He then moved to California and spent 40 years in the aerospace industry, working at Lockheed, Ford Aerospace and Loral before retiring at 82. When not working, Ted coached Little League teams and continued his lifelong devotion to the New York Yankees, which began when he was 10 and he saw Babe Ruth play in Yankee Stadium. At Columbia, Ted was a good friend of fellow Californian Don Mankiewicz, who as I write this, is alive and well in Montclair, N.J. Ted was an accomplished and respected umpire of intramural softball games on South Field, during which his distinctive basso voice and decisive gestures gave much pleasure to players and spectators. In 2006, as editor of our great Class of 1942 newsletter, I asked Ted to write an article about his WWII service. He responded with a long, fascinating reminiscence of his experience as a master gunner who sent early warning signals to our troops in the ETO. He also included some funny, cynical, critical and occasionally complimentary remarks about the tactics and strategies of Generals Montgomery, Patton and Eisenhower. We published this essay in the spring issue of the newsletter, so classmates who are interested will find it there. Ted’s Army career took him from master gunner’s school at Camp Davis, N.C., to Scotland, France (Utah Beach on D+42), Nancy, Metz, Luxembourg City, on into Germany at Trier and D+42, Nancy, Metz, Luxembourg, and a subsequent Ph.D., between 1952, with a special emphasis on the philosophy of religion, until his retirement in 1991. (See my previous note on John in the September/October issue, in which John commented on the controversy at Notre Dame University over President Obama’s commencement speech. John held an honorary degree from Notre Dame.) At Columbia, John earned a bachelor’s in philosophy and a subsequent Ph.D., between which he received a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister and wrote several important books, among them, Reason and God: Encounters of Philosophy with Religion and Quasi-Religions: Human-Rights, Reason and God: Encounters of Philosophy with Religion. His last book was Quasi-Religions: Human-Rights, Reason and God: Encounters of Philosophy with Religion. And he was also the editor of The Works of Jonathan Edwards: Volume 2, Religious Affections.

At Columbia, I met John when we ran together on the freshman cross-country team. He was a strong runner, and with the pre-approval of coach Carl Merner, he became captain of the varsity cross country team. He was also a member of the Undergraduate Committee on Athletics, the University Christian Association, the Pre-Theological Club and the Varsity ‘C‘ Club Executive Committee. John was predeceased by his wife, Marilyn, in 2006. He is survived by his daughters, Diana, and Robin Smith Swanberg, and a grandchild. John was a modest man with a very sense of humor, a great scholar and philosopher, and one of the finest members of our Great Class of 1942. We send condolences to his daughters and grandchild. (Look for John’s obituary notice in a subsequent issue of CCT.)

As I write these notes, 2010 is upon us, and I send good wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity to all classmates. We welcome your e-mail messages, written notes and telephone calls (401-833-5464), Hail Columbia!

43

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

Henry Corey was shocked to learn of Gordon Billipp’s death [Sept/ember/October CCT]. They had been close friends. They both graduated from Mamaroneck H.S. and commuted together via train and shank’s mare to Morningside Heights. Henry is retired as a founding trustee of a mutual savings bank and now enjoys the best of two worlds: Martha’s Vineyard and Falmouth, Mass.

Herman Weck brings us up to date. He worked for Amoco Oil for 36 years, retiring in 1981. He and his wife traveled extensively in the United States and Europe, and he has continued his voyages after her death in 1996 to places afar on cruise ships. Herman lives in an independent living facility in Geneva, Ill., where he is president of the board of directors. His many offspring are scattered across the U.S.

André L. Fraysee was a committer from West New York, N.J., during his Columbia days and enlisted in the Army in 1942. He returned to Columbia after the war, obtained a B.A. and rejoined the Army. After a military career that took him to Europe, Russia, and Burundi, Col. Fraysee retired and worked in Germany for 16 years. There, he was a gastarbeiter (guest worker; working as an inventory control officer) for an electronics company.

Ben Smithsky returned to Columbus to complete his studies for a B.S. in electrical engineering after time in the service. He then worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics before again returning to Columbus to obtain a Ph.D. in physics. After some time in industry, he taught at the Brook-Lyn Institute of Technology before becoming the director of its Long Island campus in Farmingdale. Ben lives in Tucson and enjoys his retirement years by hiking and playing the violin with amateur chamber music groups.

Richard J. Stern has prepared a copy of a brief autobiography. It had been requested by the editors of the work The History of Neuroscience in Autobiography. The fact it had been solicited is a mark of Richard’s distinguished career as a scientist in the 20th century. His contributions have earned him many honors through the years as well as appointments at major universities and institutes, including a chair at Brandeis. Although officially retired, he intends to continue his research activities.

Giulio D’Angio had a busy fall and early winter. Two trips to the United Kingdom, one as a panelist in Edinburgh, were sandwiched between lectures at meetings in Sao Paolo, Brazil, and at the NATO Centre.

Ensign Leiningen recalls that President Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) shook the hand of every graduating member of our Class in ’43. Ensign passes on information about Jean Cook, a doc- tor, who now lives in Nice, France. Also, Richard D. Hunter ’44 became an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ after retirement from the Navy. Ensign is himself a retired minister in the Presbyterian Church. One daughter of his seven children has followed him into the Presbyterian ministry. Living in Chicago, he notes that the societal problems of hunger and homelessness are due to inadequate incomes, high costs of housing and health care, and low skill levels.

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

With regret, we must report the passing of Dr. Thomas Tamlyn last April. Before leaving Cambridge, Mass., for a Christmas stay on Maine’s Mt. Desert Island, Dr. Bruce Mazlish repre- sented Columbia at the publica- tion by Palgrave MacMillan of his book, The Idea of Humanity in a Global Era. His basic theme is that “humanity has come down from the clouds” as an abstract idea and “taken on actuality as a judicial entity” (e.g., Nuremberg, Yugoslavia, Rwanda). “The communication revolution has helped collapse time and space ... Humanity itself can now be ap- pealed to as a sovereign power.” While Bruce’s “health is not great” and he’s slowly “losing mobility,” he can happily count on “four children and five grand-
children [to] pick up where I am losing strength.” Meantime, wife “Neva Goodwin keeps flourishing as an economist.” Bruce adds: “Her real pleasure in life is a new grandchild, her first.” Geneva, born last summer, is beginning to crawl around Montana. “Other than that,” Bruce tells us, “I just keep putting one foot in front of another,” which is about what all the rest of us octogenarians are aiming for.

Joe Lef and his wife of 42 years, Juantia, were, as usual, happily ensconced in Boca Ra-ton, Fla., for the cold months, though their chief residence remains Purchase, N.Y. Joe “still [has] a few business responsibilities” in NYC and also remains “actively engaged with the 92nd Street Y.” A bad shoulder has forced Joe to give up golf, but “otherwise, Juantia and I are in surprisingly good health.” One drawback cited by Joe: He may miss the one-year window of no estate tax if he doesn’t exit in 2010. But he’s happy for added time to enjoy two daughters, three granddaughters and a grandson.

Henri A. Imshaug and family recently discovered that in 1974, the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names put his name on “a broad, snow-covered cove at the south side of Lehrke Inlet.” The Imshaug Peninsula recognizes Henry, who taught botany at the University of Idaho and Michigan State, for his service as a biologist in a long-range biosystematic study of sub-Antarctic flora, which he carried on in various locations between 1965 and 1971.

**Columbia School Designations**

In Class Notes, these designations indicate Columbia degrees from schools other than the College.

- **Arch.** School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
- **Arts.** School of the Arts
- **Barnard.** Barnard College
- **Business.** Graduate School of Business
- **CE.** School of Continuing Education
- **Dental.** College of Dental Medicine
- **E.** The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
- **GS.** School of General Studies
- **GSAS.** Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- **J.** Graduate School of Journalism
- **L.** School of Law
- **Nursing.** School of Nursing
- **P&S.** College of Physicians and Surgeons
- **PH.** Mailman School of Public Health
- **SIPA.** School of International and Public Affairs
- **SW.** School of Social Work
- **TC.** Teachers College

**COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY**

**REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS**

**ALUMNI AFFAIRS** Jennifer Freely jf2261@columbia.edu 212-851-7438

**DEVELOPMENT** Paul Stalier ps2287@columbia.edu 212-851-7494

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

Our 65th reunion is right around the corner, Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. The weekend will be filled with events around Columbia and New York City, including opportunities to engage in cultural happenings as well as a Saturday class dinner with the Class of 1950 followed by a champagne toast and dancing under the stars on Low Plaza. Please consider coming to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

**Albert J. Rothman,** who entered with the class but graduated with the Engineering Class of 1944, wrote to tell about his book, A Brooklyn Odyssey: Travails and Joys of a Boy’s Early Life, and life in general: “At the end of the book, I proudly told of my Pulitizer Scholarship, without which I would not have been able to pay for tuition to our beloved Columbia in 1941. Thanks for Humanities with [Moses] Hadas and many friendships formed at CC, most or all of them now gone.

“Now, I’m writing and publishing poetry, essays and so forth, a big change from my employment and degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering from Columbia and Berkeley (Ph.D.).”

“I’m working on a few more books: my years following the first book, reminiscences at Columbia et seq. Another about my ‘weekend hippie days’ while employed conservatively weekday in the ’60s and ’70s. It should be a lot of fun reminding about lots of freedom and free love in California from an 18-year-old boy. A recent about my 10-week trip hiking in all the western national parks from a former city dweller (definitely ‘former’).

“I would love to hear from any guys, also gals from Barnard who knew me, if they are willing to ‘fess up’

The Class of ’45 is still looking for a class correspondent to write a bi-monthly column for Columbia College Today. If you want an open platform and a chance to reconnect with classmates, please contact Associate Editor Ethan Rouen at ecc2102@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. Until then, please send notes about your life, thoughts, travel, family and experiences at Columbia to the address at the top of the column.

**Bernard Sunshine**

255 Overlook Rd.
New Rochelle, NY 10804
bsun@optonline.net

**Burton Sapin** reacted to this column’s recent note about Malvin Ruderman and wrote: “Delighted to hear about Mal’s academic success. You did not have ‘Emeritus’ in his title. Is he still an active teacher and scholar? That would surely be impressive.”

Burt, the answer is in the affirmative on both counts. Mal is the Centennial Professor of Physics at Columbia, teaches graduate students and continues to do research there and in other parts of the world.

Burt continued, “While on the topic of outstanding Columbia students of physics, I used to run into Harold Brown in Washington. Even tried to get a book of his translated into Japanese.”

**Herbert Hendin** has devoted his distinguished career in medicine to suicide research, prevention and survivor counseling. Herb is CEO and director of special projects at Suicide Prevention International, and we can tell he SPI will hold very well in the USA. Two will be in the New York area: Sunday, May 3, in Westchester County’s Glen Island Park (New Rochelle) and Saturday, May 8, in Riverside Park (Manhattan). The others will be held in Macon, Ga., Minneapolis and Seattle. For information, e-mail mgary@SPIlong.org. As spring awakens, spend a few worthwhile hours in beautiful surroundings at these community-centered events with schoolmates, friends and new acquaintances.

**Fritz Stem** wrote to the New York Times editor (November 9, 2009) that rightwing extremists are gaining strength and prominence in almost all European countries from Britain to Latvia and beyond. The specific grievances may differ in different countries, but the underlying mood of anger of “implicit violence” — in short, of plain, ominous bloody-mindedness couched in nationalistic rhetoric — is everywhere the same, he contends, and is very bad for the West.

Gentlemen, mark your calendars. On Thursday, May 6, the class is meeting for lunch at Moran’s Chelsea, 146 10th Ave. (at West 19th Street) in Manhattan. It is convenient to public transportation, and drivers will find parking lots on 10th Avenue near the restaurant. Moran’s is an “American trip back in time” and also features an amazingly large collection of Waterford glass. It is situated alongside New York’s most recent attraction, the High Line, a linear park with seasonal plantings built on top of a derelict elevated railway that transported dangerous freight. The High Line parallels the Hudson River between 10th and 11th Avenues, from West 20th Street at the north end to Gansevoort Street. A walk through the park with a ranger will follow lunch. Notice of the luncheon will be mailed.

In the last issue’s column, I suggested that class luncheons be held in centers outside New York, for example, Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; Miami; and Hilton Head. Combining ‘46 with ‘45 and ‘47 seems logical and will increase turnout.

Contact information for the men in these classes who live in your area can be made available. I encourage you to pick up the baton and get in touch with me.

**Bert Sussman**

155 W. 68th St., Apt. 27D
New York, NY 10023
shirbrt@nyc.rr.com

**George Cooper** kept this Class of ’47 notes column alive for decades. Unfortunately, his death robbed us of a chance to say to him, “Thank you, George. Well done.”

The Class of ’47, scattered as it is by WWII, presents a special challenge to anyone trying to evoke a common identification. Yet every month, George sent out his message to us to write. And despite the paucity of replies, he persisted optimistically month after month, year after year.

The sad fact is that we were, in the main, not responsive. But in no way, shape or form should that be taken as criticism of George. On the contrary, nothing could be further from the mark. George
called the West; they differ in many ways. We are gaining strength in most of the countries we once confidently felt we could control, but at the same time, illiberal movements are gaining strength in a wider context. We need to be aware that illiberal movements are all in his debt for his keeping faith in us. The generally peripatetic Richard Calame, who has the distinction of having spent his entire life on Long Island, said last year, “I have met on this job whose lives were on the campus together. How often, he joins the correspondents and has kept in touch with my wife of 62 years, Lisa, who has been living her classical singing career in Manhattan. I retired as industry relations manager at the end of 1965. A year or so later, we moved from our home in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., to Sun City West, Ariz. We enjoy active lives and savor visits from our three sons, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. “I cherish my years at Columbia and have kept in touch with my friends from the Engineering School and Phi Gamma Delta. Unfortunately, there are too few of us left.” After talking and reading Robert’s notes, I regretted not having any memory of the brief time we were on the campus together. However, he joins the correspondents I have met on this job whose lives were on the campus together. How often, he joins the correspondents and has kept in touch with his class as well. The weekend culminates on Saturday night with a champagne toast and dancing under the stars on the steps of Low Memorial Library. I urge you to attend what will certainly be a wonderful event.

Friday in early December, I met Paul Auster. At the end of the shooting day, we chatted awhile, and he reminisced about his undergraduate times, including the intimate student occupation of Hamilton Hall.

I have to confess, despite the CCT center story featuring Paul (www.columbia.edu/cct_archive/mar_apr06), I had never read any of his work. My son, CC ‘05, has read everything and admires Paul’s work immensely. At this writing, I am halfway through The Brooklyn Follies. What if any of you have not discovered the pleasure of reading Paul’s work, this is a very good place to start, and you should waste no time getting started.

Perhaps, if this anecdote does serve to introduce some of you to this author, you will share your thoughts with us via this column. Let me hear from you.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely jfr2261@columbia.edu 212-851-7438 DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller ps2247@columbia.edu 212-851-7494

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

Here I sit with the luxury of a much later than usual deadline and no word from either the usual suspects or a formerly forgotten classmate who has found the time to emerge from the shadows long enough to write me!

A short-lived opportunity to share some Christmas cheer with classmates was scuttled by a December blizzard. No chance to shovel my driveway in Sheepshead Bay and disappear into Hill Lubic’s Manhattan noisiness. I’m certain braver souls with less of a traveling handicap made it. Lacking a word from any of you, I can tell a short story of my own. In the unexpected way that opens unanticipated doors, I found myself in the presence of fellow Columbian Paul Auster ‘69. I have written before of my work with the nonprofit organization PortSide New York. Our home is aboard the retired coastal tanker Mary Whalen, berthed at the Red Hook container port in Brooklyn. A documentary film director in Berlin knew of the ship and called from Berlin. She was making a documentary on the life and career of Charlotte Rampling, Paul, who lives in Brooklyn, is a friend of Ms. Rampling, and they wanted to find a location where they could film a conversation between Paul and Charlotte. It had to be somewhere in New York, and they thought the ship’s galley would make an interesting and unique setting.

And so it came to pass that one
George Koplinka
75 Chelsea Rd.
White Plains, NY 10603
desiah@verizon.net

Please make a note that my e-mail address has changed to desiah@verizon.net. No change to my telephone number, which remains 914-592-9023; or to my mailing address, which remains the same as above. My USPS letter carrier is in great physical shape so there is no chance that you will overburden his mail pouch. Are you all catching the drift?

The recent bad news from Florida, as reported by Stanley Schachter, is about strawberries. Cold weather killed the crop, so your Wheatears are going to be lonesome. The good news is that Floridian classmates have been thinking about the 60th reunion of the Class of 1951, which will be less than 15 months away by the time you read this column. A steering committee is currently in the embryo stage. If you have ideas and suggestions for what will make a great celebration, please organize your thoughts and pass them along promptly. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

Here is some news about classmates. Richard L. Barovick lives in Bethesda, Md. In his post-College days, Richard acquired two master’s degrees from NYU, one in English literature and the other in political science. Journalism proved to be his life’s vocation. Following a brief stint as a teacher at what was then Staten Island Community College, he wrote for the International News Service, general in rarefied air, working in lower Manhattan and was subsequently affiliated with the Journal. Most of Richard’s writing in the Journal’s foreign trade department covered international trade and ocean shipping. An opportunity with People’s Associates led Richard to journalistic experiences in public relations and an opportunity with the British Car Association before he returned to a second affiliation with the Journal. This led to his association with the United Nations, working in public relations and development as well as producing newsletters concerning foreign aid. Richard then moved to Washington, D.C., and founded the International Business Affairs Corp., which produced newsletters and provided trade and export consulting. Some of his writings have appeared in the Soviet Union’s worldwide trade and the ultimate threat of communism to the free world.

Richard and his wife, Janet, have a daughter, Nadia, and his retirement has allowed him time to teach English as a Second Language to students in Montgomery County. He has long admired Professor William C. Casey and his sociology classes at the College, noting the influence on his life.

The Korean War touched many members of the Class of 1951. Peter E. DeBlasio had an active duty year with the Navy before assignment to the Naval Reserve program. In 1954, he earned a degree from the Law School and began his career in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Peter spent four years in the New York City office, where he met aspiring attorney Elliot Wales. In 1958, Peter joined the law firm of Reilly and Reilly, judging John Reilly to be one of the best defense attorneys he ever came across. After winning his skills as a trial lawyer, Peter established his own law firm in 1961 and did not retire until 2006. Married and the father of two children, he lives on Staten Island. Incidentally, Peter played five sports at Columbia: football, baseball, basketball, handball and golf (not all on the varsity level). As a sophomore, he sat on the bench during Columbia’s great victory over Army. Coach Lou Little never played sophs! Resulting from hisrownship with the New York Athletic Club, Peter has won several handball championships.

Levon (Leo) Z. Boyajian admitted that only his grandmother called him Levon. After his college days, he earned an M.S. from the University of Illinois and an M.D. from Yale. When questioned about why he went to Yale, Leo replied (with tongue in cheek), “Because that was the only place that would take me!” The Navy was not reluctant to have him. In 1956, he was assigned to Camp Lejeune, a major training base for the Marine Corps. His career in psychiatry began there, and in 1962 he was released from active duty with the rank of lieutenant commander. Since then, Leon has had a lifetime in community psychiatry and administration in the South Bronx and northern New Jersey. He dedicated himself to those in need, many of whom would have gone without help save for his psychiatric care in the many hospitals where he was accredited.

Leo and his wife, Gloria, have been married since 1956, and they live in Englewood, N.J. They have two children: Liza is a banking executive in Charlotte, N.C., and Zachary is an environmental specialist for the State of New Hampshire.

Don’t forget the last paragraph of the column. The Peabody was very involved in four wars. I retired as chief of staff at the Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center in California as a colonel. I then served 13 years as deputy CAO of Riverside City, Calif., with jurisdiction over police, hospital and public safety.

The challenges were tremendous. Columbia taught me how to think, plan and leave nothing to chance. Now I’m enjoying the achievements of my family. I’ve had a full life. I love it.

Thomas Houghton writes: “Joy, ‘52 Sigma Chi Sweetheart runner-up, and I have been happily married for 56 years. I was active in sports reporting at CC through WKCR and Spectator. I had a weekly show with interviews and game broadcasting. Member of Smitherton. Retired for 20 years, active volunteer in hospitals, enjoy travel, large family of 25 including 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild born St. Patrick’s Day ’09 and named Otis Houghton after James Otis. Two granddaughters in college, one at Princeton but seriously dating a Columbia sophomore. Had Whipple surgery last August, but just about fully recovered and planning winter months at our condo in Deerfield Beach, Fla., where it is warmer.”

James Hurley writes: “When Sid asked me for a personal blurb, I wondered if I could find any distinguishing feature of my ‘checkered career’ that might separate me from the really distinguished classes of classmates like Dick [DeVault] Wexler, [Larry] Grossman and [Roone] Arledge. I immediately thought of one: that I’d never really made any money and might qualify as the least materially successful member of the class. But then I had an awful lot of fun doing a variety of things so I might qualify for another somewhat more dubious career category of ‘adventurer.’ Starting off as a civilian civil servant in Washington, I moved on to be a vice-consul at the Consulate General in Lagos, where I traveled frequently to Afghanistan and the Northwest frontier, and participated in a British expedition to K-12 in the Karakoram-Himalayas, then spent a couple of unsuccessful years trying to be a scholar at SOAS in London, returning across the pond rather battered to learn about New York City as a guide with Gray Line, Cue Magazine and the Museum of the City of New York, subsequently moving on to found the Weeksville Project in Bed-Stuy (now known as the Weeksville Heritage Center), then serving as director of the Long
Island Historical Society in Brooklyn before becoming reference archivist for the NYC Municipal Archives and finishing up my local government time as the first archivist and records manager for the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission.

I was getting a little restless in 1991 to update New York to become an antiquarian book dealer specializing in South and Central Asian books based on the 7,000 titles I collected, an activity I still pursue with great pleasure at 81. Does it sound like the qualifications of someone 81? I suspect so. How many other nearly full-time adventurers do we have in this or any other class? If you don’t care about making much money or want to take a big chance on making much while doing your own thing, I heartily recommend it.

Jim Hoebel writes: “I reluctantly retired in 1999 from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission. I had a great job, managing the development of National Consumer Product Safety Standards in the fire safety field. My work contributed directly to the benefit of the public in an agency that took the responsibility of balancing benefits and costs seriously. I am very proud of the resulting standards, including [those] on children’s sleepwear, mattresses, upholstered furniture, child-resistant cigarette lighters and others. Since that time, I have served on the Science Advisory Committee of the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the ASTM committee developing new fire safety voluntary standards for candles. My wife, Arlene, and I have enjoyed our retirement by traveling and interacting with our five children and nine grandchildren. Arlene was a great home teacher. She has been a continuing inspiration and strength to me and our family both in the home and in our careers. The recent availability of a cruise port in Baltimore has made it much more convenient to cruise. Our family joined us in 2005 on a cruise to Bermuda to celebrate our 50th anniversary. And last August, we presided over our first Hoebel family reunion. My retirement project was to convert my extensive vinyl jazz record collection — accumulated by my father and myself — into CDs. To convert my extensive vinyl jazz collection — accumulated by my father and myself — into CDs. To promote the drug to younger men! I learned that he continues to be vigorously active and reads approximately 50 digitized mammograms daily. I asked Don’s opinion of the research reports that indicate that women in their 40s and 50s only require mammograms every two years. Along with many other breast cancer experts, Don believes that women should have annual mammograms.

William Dick: Sad to report that after a courageous battle with Parkinson’s, Bill passed away in November. Bill earned a master’s from Oxford in 1956. However, his most important achievement at Oxford was meeting and marrying Esme Inglew. She survives him, as do sons Paul and Peter, and grandchildren Connor, Kelsey and Stephen. Amazingly, Bill was descended on his mother’s side from Hans Hansen Bergen, one of the original European settlers of the colony of New Amsterdam. From 1960-68, Bill taught Latin at the Brunswick School in Greenwich, Conn. He also was dean of coordination for Brunswick and the Greenwich Academy, and developed a system that allowed students in the high school section of both schools to enroll in classes at either campus. Some of Bill’s poetry has appeared in anthologies and textbooks. He wrote the following for his sons: “For Paul and Peter” As children grow we do not stay the same even swiftly-wheeling day, but change with them, teach and learn, as a nervous lake inherits blue, yet gives the air a silver glow sparkling in return.

We learn to cheat the end of death, for whatever sphere God’s grace or wrath.

While it was the right choice, we are now considering the possibility (need?) to move to some sort of retirement community. We haven’t come to an agreement yet, and the prospect is very daunting. Wish us luck.”

“I was delighted with great sadness that we report the deaths of Gene Baraff and Frank Walver, the results of different automobile accidents. The Class of ’52 sends its condolences to both families.

Lew Robins
1221 Stratfield Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06825
lewrobins@aol.com

My apologies to Mort Freilicher and his many friends for an inadvertent error that appeared in the January/February issue. The CCT story “The Road Less Traveled,” about seven alumni who chose unusual careers, included a section on gene therapy. The software I had invented to enable adults who are no longer able to speak to use a computer to communicate using only one click per word. CCT reported, “Robins has been perfecting the system with Paul Sawyer, the law partner of Mort Freilicher ‘53. Freilicher, who represented the astronauts during the moon landing, lost his ability to speak and was severely paralyzed after suffering a stroke, but he still has control of his left hand.”

By mistake, the article reversed Mort and Paul’s roles. Mort did not have a stroke. He was never severely paralyzed, nor did he ever lose his ability to speak. He did not represent the astronauts during the moon landing. The software I had invented to enable adults who are no longer able to speak to use a computer to communicate using only one click per word. CCT reported, “Robins has been perfecting the system with Paul Sawyer, the law partner of Mort Freilicher ‘53. Freilicher, who represented the astronauts during the moon landing, lost his ability to speak and was severely paralyzed after suffering a stroke, but he still has control of his left hand.”

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Don Fagan: Don and Diane have been married 51 years and have three children and five grandchildren. They spend most of their time living in Acworth, N.H., a quiet, friendly town of 850 people. In 1976, Don founded a pharmaceutical research company and was active until he retired in 2007. When I asked Don what was one of his most fascinating projects, he remembered that his research had shown that many older men were not using a certain ‘erectile dysfunction’ medication. As a result of his research, the company began to promote the drug to younger men!

As Bob predicted, Don eagerly remembered painting the Varsity “C” during our senior year. He recalled that Bob had written to the New York Central Railroad, which owned the property, for permission to paint the “C” on its rock. After the Kenmore Three had attacked the property, Don sold the building and grounds on providing them with 20 gallons of white paint to paint the “C”. One last note: Bob is still rowing. He only regrets that there isn’t a rowing club in Massachusetts.

While it was the right choice, we are now considering the possibility (need?) to move to some sort of retirement community. We haven’t come to an agreement yet, and the prospect is very daunting. Wish us luck.”
is pleased to send us, we shall leave two angel minds remembering who make us demigods, and sing what trifles we achieve.

And more, as first they play or read or love in that novel, smarting time, as first they play or read what trifles we achieve.

I’m sure all our classmates join in saying to Esme and the family, “We’ll miss him!” [Editor’s note: An obituary is scheduled for a future issue.]

Come on, gentlemen. We can do our own President Lee C. Bolinger about their experiences on this tour. Alumni might have to write a paper about undergraduate education.

Not only is Dean Michele Moody-Adams trying to meet with as many College students as possible, but she also is getting together with alumni before he graduates.

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Gerald Sherwin
181 E. 73rd St., Apt. 6A
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We have started planning our 55th reunion enthusiastically, since our 50th was magnificent. The first meeting will be held in my apartment, with sandwiches from the Second Avenue Deli, as we did for the 50th. I think the food added to the enthusiasm. We will have meetings at various places, including lunch at the nicely redone Faculty House, evening meetings at the Columbia Alumni Center on West 113th Street, and at various apartments—Ed Botwinick, please note. A number of the usual guests were down in the freezing South — could have stayed in NYC — or unavailable but said they will make future meetings. At one point, we had a Reunion Committee of almost 30. All are welcome to join us in this fun undertaking and offer ideas by whatever communication means preferred. At our first reunion meeting were Steve Easton, Lou Hennenberger, Al Broadwin, Al Franco ’56, Ralph Kaslick, Maurice Klein, Ron Kapon and yours truly.

At the great 50th, we added 10 annual scholarships to the four permanent ones we set up decades ago. Please keep giving to the Columbia College Fund to keep the scholarships going (www.college.columbia.edu/giveonline). It is marvelous meeting these impressive young people annually.

So guys and gals, let me hear from you with news for CCT and ideas for our 55th reunion, scheduled for Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5, 2011. Don’t be bashful.

As usual, here is wishing us all health, happiness, longevity, and a rising stock market and positive financials overall. We continue to be hopeful for concerned children and extraordinary grandchildren. Any great-grandst, let me know for publication. Do keep contributions coming to CCF for our scholarships. Love to all.

Paul Liberti ’58 received an award for “best medical technology” from Prix Galien USA for a blood-testing product he pioneered.
and to the Columbia professionals who I think executed this year’s event better than did any of their predecessors over the past half-century. As soon as I got in the front door of my house and put down my overnight bag, I went online to see what message I had cumulated while I was in New York. Not surprisingly, Stanley Feld had already written to ask for commentary; I do not know what vitamins Stanley is taking but whatever they are, I want some of them! Watching on attendance, two thoughts came to mind. With notable exceptions, we look healthier and younger than our parents did when they were 70. And I was struck at the continuing intellectual as well as physical vitality that was apparent. Whether it was the active discussion about ROTC or [Bernard] Wishy ’48, [Norman] Gefland and [David] Horowitz reflecting on the times we’ve lived through, we were all Columbia men, which is to say, opinionated and slightly quarrelsome, but in a good way. We are, of course, very different than those who will celebrate their 50th reunion five decades from now. First of all, I didn’t see a tattoo in the crowd, nor a nose ring; not even an earring. And surely in the next half-century they are going to discover a cure for baldness. They have already found a way of dealing with gray hair, but interest-ingly, I don’t believe very many of our classmates were taking advantage of that perk. By the same token, neither were taking advantage of the many and varied student organizations they have today.

“Our world seems to have broken down into two groups: those who have retired — some successfully, some less so — and those continuing to work — some successfully, some less so. People asked me how I was enjoying retirement. I replied that I hadn’t retired. I had, after 38 years as an administrative assistant to a chairman of a university administration — dean, v.p. and president — given up my own administrative and taken advantage of my tenured professorship to assume an academic chair at [The] College of Scandinavia at the University. I reinvented myself.

“My wife had prompted me in this direction, pointing out that being a university president is a high wire act, all the more so in these daunting economic times, and世界观 that if you remember the fact that we lived in Washington. She thought I ought to give it up before I got indicted!”

“Strangely, I find that in some ways I am working harder now. Teaching is more daunting than I had given it credit for being, not withstanding all of my years in the academy. I have been scribing madly: two books, a year-and-a-half of columns two or three times a week for the Chronicle of Higher Education; lecturing all over the country, indeed all over the world; and serving on boards in Hong Kong, England, India, and I was an advisor to the Chinese ministry of education and was a member of the board of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I also remember taking swimming and the tennis coach of the tennis team.

“I continue with the comments of Luigi Lucaccini (domani@stanleyardizone.com). "Reflections on attendance, two thoughts came to mind. With notable exceptions, we look healthier and younger than our parents did when they were 70. And I was struck at the continuing intellectual as well as physical vitality that was apparent. Whether it was the active discussion about ROTC or [Bernard] Wishy ’48, [Norman] Gefland and [David] Horowitz reflecting on the times we’ve lived through, we were all Columbia men, which is to say, opinionated and slightly quarrelsome, but in a good way. We are, of course, very different than those who will celebrate their 50th reunion five decades from now. First of all, I didn’t see a tattoo in the crowd, nor a nose ring; not even an earring. And surely in the next half-century they are going to discover a cure for baldness. They have already found a way of dealing with gray hair, but interest-ingly, I don’t believe very many of our classmates were taking advantage of that perk. By the same token, neither were taking advantage of the many and varied student organizations they have today.

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Universally, the name “Hiroshima” evokes an ineradicable set of images framed in a horrific fragment of time — August 6, 1945. The Potsdam Declaration was issued on July 26, calling for Japan’s unconditional surrender, and Woodrow Wilson passed away in the same day publicly rejected, the response followed swiftly. On August 6, the B-29 Enola Gay released a uranium bomb over the city. The result was devastating: bodies incinerated and scarred; countless lives lost,maid, forever changed; a city leveled and in ruin. Hiroshima, it was estimated, would be uninhabitable for 70 years. With these imbedded images, Bill stepped into a new and astonishing reality. “I stepped off the ‘Shinkansen’ bullet train and viewed a flourishing city filled with high-rise office buildings, schools, parks, street cars, bridges, businesses, restaurants, traffic, ferry boats and museums. This was my new reality. August 6, 1945 is history.” At the Peace Park, a Japanese woman approached and asked whether she could tell the story of her mother, a survivor of August 6. I said “yes.” For 25 minutes, she told the story of her mother and showed me photos and drawings related to that historic day. There was no animosity in her voice. After she finished, I visited the Peace Museum, which is visited by approximately eight million Japanese a year. Some of the trust in the story is difficult to view — shredded clothing, photos of survivors and the city’s destruction, and stories by survivors. From the time of its defeat, Japan changed historically. The emperor abdicated his absolute power and today is merely a figurehead. With that change, a new view of life emanated from the people, bringing their creativity and industry into the forefront of the world.” Bill’s photographs are mesmerizing. Hiroshima illuminated and outright rivaling the brilliance and night-scapes of Paris and New York.

The people of Japan began rebuilding Hiroshima into a major metropolis in the mid-’50s, and the city was reborn as a “peace memorial city” dedicated to the sanctity of human life, personal dignity and the opportunity to live in tranquility. Today’s Hiroshima stands as a striking tribute to human resiliency and determination.

Two years retired as the Elizabeth A. Woodson Professor Emeritus of Religion and Biblical Literature at Smith College, Karl Donfried was awarded one of 20 annual Mellon Foundation Emeritus Fellowships. Karl will use the grant to study “Paul, Judaism, and the Roman Empire,” visiting sites in the near East, including a synagogue recently discovered by ar-archaeological excavation in Magdala on the Galilee Sea. This first-century synagogue from the Second Temple period contains the oldest-known engraving in stone of a menorah. As part of his work, Karl will lead a Society of Biblical Literature tour of Syria and southeast Turkey.

In the ’60s, the Chiffons’ “Sweet Talkin’Guy” hit the top of the charts, and its tight harmony and catchy tune were heard on every jukebox and radio station where disc jockeys played top 10 hits. Doug Morris, who co-wrote the music and lyrics, launched his stellar career as a song-writer and producer of hit records. He proceeded to found his own record label which, in 1978, was acquired by Atlantic Records. Two years later, he was named president of Atlantic. Doug went on to be appointed president and COO of Warner Music, and in 1995, chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group which, under his direction, evolved from a record company into the largest multifaceted music entertainment company in the world.

On January 30, the evening preceding the annual Grammy Awards, the Recording Academy’s Pre-Grammy Gala honoring Doug by presenting him the President’s Merit Award, in recognition of his singular contributions to the industry. The academy president, in presenting the award, gave this salute to Doug: “We are humbled to honor another music industry great in Doug Morris, who has had a profound impact on the music business throughout his dynamic and rich career. With his creative vision and digital strategies, he continues to explore and create innovative new ways to bring great artists and their music to fans around the globe while being a staunch advocate of artists’ rights.”

Congratulations, Doug.

The class survey was distributed in November. Within weeks, 72 responses had been received by the Alumni Office, where the results are being tabulated. By now, that number undoubtedly is much larger. A few comments regarding the survey: As the surveys were taken, no one had parents earning, “in excess of $20 million,” followed by a set of calibrated options between $1 million and $20 million, and concludes with, “in excess of $20 million,” Nathan proposes a ladder of possibilities: “$1 million from a starting point of “under $10,000.” Nathan comments that “in the Spectator crowd [Nathan having been managing editor on the managing board our senior year], no one had parents earning, I’d guess, more than $25,000, and that was a lot of money in those
days for a family of four living modestly in a rented apartment on the Lower East Side or in Brooklyn. I’d guess that very few classmates who had attended public high schools in the city went home to parents who were not shopkeepers or professionals with relatively modest incomes and local practices (dentists, doctors), civil servants ...

Not to put too fine a point on it, but I would supplement Nathan’s home to parents who were not the Lower East Side or in Brooklyn modestly in a rented apartment on days for a family of four living li

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61 Michael Hausig 19418 Encino Summit San Antonio, TX 78259 mhausig@yahoo.com

This is a second reminder for our 50th reunion, which will take place Wednesday, June 1–Saturday, June 5, 2011. A committee is planning the event with the help of the Alumni Office. Anyone interested in helping should contact either Tony Adler (awadler@spartacommercial.com) or Burt Ehlich (burt@bloomberg.com) (aka Michael Shapiro and Richard Beeson) on Facebook.

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62 John Freiden 1020 Town Line Rd. Charlotte, VT 05445 j@bicycltv.com

Retired or not, Crawford Kilian continues to be extremely produc

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Barry Seigel passed away on August 19, 2009, in New York City; Kenneth Fuld passed away on August 19, 2009, in New York City; and Barry Seigel passed away in Port Washington, N.Y., on November 9, 2009.

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Larry William (larry.wm@gmail.com) seems equally busy. For the past several years, Larry has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Fistula Foundation, a charity that raises awareness of, and fund-
ing for, obstetric fistula repair, prevention and educational programs worldwide. Recently, the documentary film *A Walk to Beautiful*, which the Fistula Foundation sponsored to increase awareness about this problem, was featured on NOVA, and garnered an Emmy. You may learn more about fistula at www.fistulafoundation.org, where you can also see photos Larry has taken while working on this initiative in Africa. He does lots of photography, traveling and activities with fistula survivors. Recently, they took a pack trip on mules and horses to a remote part of the Sierra Mountains north of Yosemite in California. At home, Larry cooks, reads, gardens and is completing a memoir of his 329 days as an Army doctor in Vietnam.

Dr. Frank Grady (M.D. and Ph.D.) lives in Lake Jackson, Texas, and is moderately active. He says he has little to report, but “if you really need it, my eldest son is in his third year of medical school in New York (having graduated from law school), my second and third sons both graduated from law school this year (the third at 21) and my daughter is in college, pre-veterinary. My wife, Donna, and I traveled often. We were in Turkey in January 2009, then Mexico City in March, England in May and Ireland in July. I’m trying to run a full-time ophthalmology practice with no intention of retiring but looking forward to my son joining me.”

Bob Glassman, a professor of psychology at Lake Forest College and specialist in neuroscience, modestly writes that he recently did a couple of posters for the annual fall meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. He says he has done at least 20 and has written countless professional papers, especially in the field of working memory, about which I assume we all have a growing interest! You may reach Bob at glassman@lakeforest.edu.

Daniel Fife has become a grandfather. Once again, the extraordinary talents and character of Bill Campbell have been widely recognized. In an article, “From Morningside Heights to Silicon Valley,” The New York Times of September 6 wrote that Bill, chairman of Intuit (and chairman of the Board of Trustees at Columbia) and a guru to other corporations, has become a shining beacon for the possibilities of lifelong learning. The National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame has named what is popularly known as the academic Heisman in Bill’s honor. The annual scholar-athlete prize will be renamed the William Campbell Award. In Bill’s typically modest way, he told the Times that Roger Staubach would have been a better choice. Bill’s daughter, Maggie, is a member of the Class of 2013. His son, Jim ’04, ’08 SIPA, was a member of the football team.

Phil Lebovitz recently completed a term as president of the American Psychological Society, an honor organization for psychoanalysts who also are psychiatrists and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement during their careers. Phil presented a paper on “Houses as Self-Portraits: Architects Write Their Houses,” a conference on creativity. He practices full-time and supervises psychoanalytic and psychiatric trainees.

Bennie Patten writes that some years ago, Ethel ’63 Barnard, his wife of 45 years, took a course at Rice on how to construct a hurricane-proof home. After Ethel completed the class, she and Bennie hired the architect who taught the class to supervise the construction of a home for them on the Galveston Causeway. They agreed to complete the building project in a way that would ensure a great storm like briefly visited their house. In the end, the house is a great success. Bennie and Ethel let the architect and his family stay in the house for a week.

On the book scene, Bernie’s latest, The Logic of Alice: Clear Thinking in Wonderland, was published after a two-year delay by Prometheus. His only commercially successful book, Truth, Knowledge, or Just Plain Bull: How To Tell The Difference: A Handbook of Practical Logic and Cynical Thinking, has been translated into Chinese and Korean and, Bernie assures us, is helping correct this country’s balance of payment deficit. Tap dancing, Bernie writes, “continues to be my passion and recently, due to the death of the other male dancer in the group (death cancels all appointments), I have become the best male tapper in the Silver Star Tappers. We have been featured on CNN several times, but I haven’t seen the show because I can’t watch TV. Tap dancing is an art form so deep, no one masters it, but we keep trying. “This has been a good year for collecting trophies at music festivals. So far, I have received five, including a first place at the Jazz Festival for my version of ‘Blue Bird in the Night.’ The secret is simple: Play from the heart. The judges are just too bored with technically correct but essentially soulless performances.”

Allen Young, who enjoys retirement, writes a weekly column for his former employer, the *Athol (Mass.) Daily News*. Titled “Inside / Outside,” the column focuses on the environment and the outdoors of the North Quabbin Region, where Allen has lived since 1973, but he writes about anything he wants. Dick Schwartz checks in; “I am the education director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, I am in touch with many Colombians, and kudos to you who have inspired me. Particularly, I want to thank Stan Lupkin, who helped me through a nasty divorce. It was your advice, Stan, that led me to a new love!”

Mike Chamney and I got back in touch when I relocated to the West Coast in the late ’60s. We often played tennis near his peninsula home, where his gracious wife and boys entertained me. Paul Alter, thanks to you and your lovely wife for having us over to your place on Park Avenue and for the opportunity to rub elbows again (after our Arizona hotel days). Last month, John Moss II, Richard Kobrin and Armand Bartos, who inspired me to play Bay Area tennis and especially doubles with some U.S. Open champs. Finally, I’d like to thank Jerry Speyer and his charming lady, Katherine, who is read in more than 1,800 daily newspapers.

We’re developing his Best of Times Magazine here in Fairfield County with the intention of bringing on board associate publishers in as many as 100 American, Canadian and Scandinavian cities. See us at www.thebestoftimes.us. Please write to tell us what is happening in your world.

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

The small e-mail discussion list that has grown from the attendees of our various class lunches has had a flurry of communication after I recently wished them a Happy New Year (which I now extend belatedly to all of you). I had asked for news or resolutions, and among the exchange of greetings from more than 20 of your classmates, I received the following: Joe Applebaum resolved “to stay in close touch with my friends and colleagues.” Harvey Schneier wrote that one of his resolutions was “to work less hard so I can attend the class luncheons regularly. Now that my twins (son at Quinciapic, daughter at George Washington) are one semester away from finishing college, I’ll have less financial incentive to work this hard.” What’s retirement like, guys?”

Which prompts me to ask all of you, “What’s your retirement like?” Not that I think I’ll ever be able to retire, but this seems like a good time to warn your working classmates of what’s in store. Please send me a note and let us all know how
retirement is treating you.

David Alpern writes, "In the last week of ’09, a contractor began excavating for expansion and remodeling of the little ranch house in Sag Harbor on Long Island that I bought more than 30 years ago. I met my mother’s best friend, but a great new home coming for me and the Mrs."

Bill Goebel shared that he “received a nice, handwritten note from coach Jones thanking me for my support to the Columbia basketball team. I am not a major contributor, but I really appreciated the gesture from him, along with a New Year’s greeting card from the athletics director. It is great to see that Columbia, at least regarding the Athletics Department, is attempting to reach out to its alumni. It is a welcome change that I hope continues.”

Henry Black seconded this sentiment, and writes, “I, too, am pleased that the Athletics Department reached out and sent personal notes and cards at Christmastime and that there is some tangible evidence that we are improving across the board.”


Phil Satow’s daughter, Julie ’96, was married last May. Her husband, Stuart, is the editor-in-chief and a principal at The Real Deal, a successful real estate publication. Frank Stephen’s latest book, a bicentennial history of St. James’ Church, New York, is in production, for publication in the spring: St. James’ Church in the City of New York, 1810–2010.

Recent Class of 63 lunches have been well-attended. At the December lunch, a particularly happy group of 10 of us toasted the holidays and exchanged news. On a more sobering note, Dan Perl updated the group on his recent work on traumatic brain injury in the NFL. These are usually interesting and fun get-togethers. During the past year, we’ve averaged more than eight classmates in attendance at these monthly events. I hope that even more of you will try to make the next Class of 63 lunch, scheduled for Thursday, March 11 (and then on Thursday, April 8). Check our Web site at www.cc63ers.com for details and to review pictures of past gatherings to see if you can spot an old friend. In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.

Norman Olch
233 Broadway
New York, NY 10279
norman@nolch.com

A new year is underway, and I am happy to report that the informal class lunches at the Columbia Club in Manhattan on the second Thursday of the month continue.

Mark Zucker spent a month from LSU (Baton Rouge, La.) in New York City. Mark teaches art history; his specialty is the Renaissance. For many years he has taught a summer session in Innsbruck, Austria.

Harvey Weiss lives in Short Hills, N.J., where he is an independent computer consultant. He has three grown sons and three grandchildren.

Marty Isserlis has gone south from New York with his wife, Judy, for a month of sunshine in Naples, Fla.

Alan Tobias arrived at a recent lunch and reported that he is studying Moshe Isserlis, one of Marty’s rabbinical ancestors.

Columbia’s plans to expand north of 125th Street suffered a setback when an appellate court ruled 3–2 that the State of New York could not use the state’s eminent domain authority to condemn private land in order to turn the land over to the University. A further appeal by the state is expected.

Steve Case, a University trustee, was on hand at lunch to explain (and bemuse) the ruling.

After retiring from a law practice a few years ago, Danny Schechter gave up his Manhattan apartment to live in Dutchess County, N.Y. While it is cold in the winter, Danny extols the “joys of a warm fireplace.” Danny’s son, Matthew ’93, joined us for lunch in January.

Steve Rodner’s law firm has relocated closer to the Columbia Club in Manhattan. He plans to attend the class lunch much more often.

Fred Kantor is a regular at the class lunch.

My wife, Jacqueline, and I had dinner at a Turkish restaurant in Manhattan with Ivan Weissman and his wife, Jane, and Gil Kahn and his wife, Bernice. I’ve learned a lot about Turkey in the last few years from Berli Lapson, who often travels there on business and then regales us with tales at the class lunch.

Barry Bley writes that since his retirement he has been active with the Alumni Representative Committee, interviewing high school seniors in the Denver area who have applied for admission to the College. In the past two years, he has interviewed more than 80 applicants. “I very much enjoy working with these talented young people,” Barry writes, “and I know that the admissions officers have a job I don’t envy.”

Jonathan Cole, the John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University’s lowest law firm, has written Emeritus of Faculties, has written The Great American University: Its Rise to Preeminence, Its Indispensable National Role, Why It Must Be Protected.

Send news, Your classmates want to hear from you.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Stella Miele-Zanedis
mf2413@columbia.edu

DEVELOPMENT Heathen Hunte
hh15@columbia.edu

Like the newly popular vampires, my thirst (in my case the news) is never slaked. One gambit I have been using lately is to ask 1965ers whether they have been in contact with classmates, Richard Kagan, a professor in the history department at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, sent the following: “I have not seen, spoken to or been in contact with classmates for many years. Odd. I guess that my major news is the publication, in October, of my most recent book, Clio and the Crown: The Politics of History in Medieval and Early Modern Spain. This semester, I have been a visiting professor at the University of Barcelona, I am writing from Barcelona but am scheduled, weather permitting, to return to Baltimore tomorrow. I expect to again be in Spain during the fall semester, but in Madrid rather than Barcelona.” Richard’s e-mail address is kagan@jhu.edu.

Charlie Schwartz sent the following: “In the 45th since our graduation, I thought it was time to send you a note about me, and about meeting a fellow alumnus (albeit from the Class of ’77).”

“I am with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C., where I have been for the last 10 years and where I am senior commercial law reform adviser. My work involves designing and implementing projects for reform of commercial laws and institutions in developing countries worldwide. This has taken me to Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean, and I have lived and worked in Israel, Switzerland and Bosnia (before working for USAID). “One of the areas I work in is intellectual property rights. At the beginning of November, I spoke at a conference of the World Intellectual Property Organization, where I was pleased to see former Dean of the School of Law, Jeffrey M. 77. Geoffrey recently was promoted to deputy director general, Sector for Development, one of WIPO’s new senior management team of seven.

I try to keep up with classmates (Brian Fix is one) as well as friends from other classes. It will be nice to see familiar faces at our 45th reunion. I was told the other day about a reunion at Dartmouth where, after the first five minutes, an announcement was made that from that time on, no discussion was to be allowed on illnesses, grandchildren and travel. I promise to have other matters to discuss (although I must admit that if anyone asks, I will tell them that my first grandchild, Adam Michael, was born last December 18).

Steve Steining also wrote. He begins with a warning about the risks of making any contact with your hungry class correspondent: “I called Leonard recently on an unrelated matter, and the next thing I knew, I had promised him an e-mail suitable for publication in Class Notes. Leonard, thank you for your dedication and persistence to bringing us news of one another for so many years.

“Family being the biggest source of pleasure and meaning in my life, I’ll start there. We have four grand-children and get to see them often — two in Baltimore (3 and 6) and two in Chapel Hill. My wife, Renee ’67 Barnard, spends much of her time doing genealogy (primarily as a volunteer but also professionally) and the time that’s left over as a leader in our synagogue community and in the local library system; dinner time is allotted to me. If you knew Renee when we were dating at Columbia, you would recognize her still because she’s barely changed during the 42 years we’ve been married.”

“I returned to full-time work in 2006, after five part-time years, as New York Life’s chief actuary. Eighteen months later, as scheduled, I officially retired but immediately returned to part-time as a consultant. Currently, I’m in the office two days a week. My 45th anniversary working for New York Life coincides with our 45th reunion this June, which accounts for the flexibility I’ve had in tailoring my hours to my desires. Last winter, I took the three-session Mini-Core Course offered to alumni in New York City. We read Oedipus the King, Augustus MARCH/APRIL 2010
Joseph Goldstein ’65: A Radically Examined Mind

By Joshua Summers ’97

In the more than four decades since graduating from Columbia College, Joseph Goldstein ’65 has played a significant role in transmitting the practice of mindfulness meditation to the West through his career as teacher, institution builder and author of numerous books on Buddhism, including The Experience of Insight: A Natural Unfolding (1976), One Dharma: The Emerging Western Buddhism (2002) and A Heart Full of Peace (2007).

Although mindfulness is at the heart of almost all Buddhist meditation, it has now spread in this country as a secular practice that trains the mind in moment-to-moment, non-judgmental awareness. Advocates say this training leads to various benefits, such as stress reduction, clarity of mind and a more compassionate connection with the world around us.

“Joseph has had a seminal influence on the mainstreaming of mindfulness in the world. Over the past 35-plus years, thousands of people have sat retreats with him in the United States and around the world and have had their lives transformed by his extremely clear, kind and insightful teaching and his love for the Dharma or the teachings of the Buddha,” wrote Jon Kabat-Zinn, founder of The Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, in an e-mail. “In his quiet, unassuming and transparent way, he exemplifies the power and being...nothing is forced, yet nothing important left undone. I sat my first insight, or vipassana, retreat with him in 1974 and continue to consider him one of my teachers, and a good friend.”

The word “vipassana” means “insight” in Pali, the original language of the Buddha. Vipassana is often used as shorthand for “insight meditation” or “mindfulness meditation” when speaking of Theravadan Buddhism’s approach to the cultivation of insight into the nature of phenomena and the nature of the mind.

In 1975, with colleagues Sharon Salzberg and Jack Kornfield, Goldstein co-founded the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Mass. As the first large residential center in the United States to offer seven-day to three-month retreats in mindfulness meditation, IMS annually attracts 2,700 retreatants from more than 80 countries. And while some people might question the relevance of spending even seven days in meditation, Goldstein speaks resolutely to its benefit: “The practice here [at IMS] revolves around what the Dalai Lama calls the art of happiness. It’s about understanding ourselves — our minds and our emotions — deeply enough so that we know for ourselves the causes of genuine happiness in our lives and the causes that perpetuate suffering and greed. This training in mindfulness gives people a direct experience of this, rather than simply an intellectual understanding. And what’s really key to the work we do is the understanding that our minds can be trained.”

The origins of Goldstein’s interest in meditation can be traced to his years at Columbia and to the years immediately thereafter. Although his extracurricular interests at Columbia were ordinary — he rowed crew, played saxophone and co-founded the Columbia Ski Club with Robert Jastrow ’44 — his major in philosophy cultivated his ontological interest. Goldstein still feels the influence from the Core Curriculum, his course in 20th-century literature with Lionel Trilling ’25, and his classes on Eastern religion and Western philosophy, especially the metaphysics of Descartes and Spinoza.

Graduating early, in January 1965, Goldstein embarked on one of the first Peace Corps missions to Thailand, where he taught English at the King’s School in Bangkok. It was during this time that he encountered Buddhist practice and philosophy. The King’s School was close to the well-known Marble Temple, where a British and an Indian monk hosted weekly discussions on Buddhism. Goldstein recalls arriving at these meetings “with my Spinoza in hand” and a relentless volley of questions. In the midst of a lively debate, one of the beleaguered monks politely suggested Goldstein actually “try meditation.” And so he did, and from his first attempt, Goldstein remembers how he was “continuously amazed at the systematic methodology for turning the attention inward to look at the mind itself — rather than always turning outward to look at the world.”

After the Peace Corps, following a brief stint of work back home in the Catskills and feeling the need for a teacher’s guidance, Goldstein ventured East again, this time to India. In Bodh Gaya, the town of the Buddha’s enlightenment, Goldstein met his first meditation teacher, Anagarika Munindra, a quirky iconoclast, an anti-guru of sorts, who possessed both exhaustive scholastic knowledge and a deep wisdom gained from nine years of intensive meditation and study in Burma. Goldstein worked closely with Munindra over the span of seven years, with long periods in silent meditation. Following this concentrated period of practice, Goldstein was poised as one of the few Westerners at the time who possessed such a depth of meditation training.

In 1974, Ram Das — another prominent figure in the nascent world of East-meets-West spirituality — invited Goldstein to teach meditation during a summer course at Naropa Institute, in Boulder, Colo. Ultimately, this experience proved to be the watershed moment in Goldstein’s career from which he began teaching grassroots retreats both in the United States and worldwide, a period of work that culminated in the founding of IMS.

Goldstein’s work has influenced everything from Buddhist-informed psychotherapy to mindfulness-based stress reduction programs to cutting edge research on meditation and neuroscience. Columbia’s preeminent Tibetan Buddhist scholar, the Jey Tsong Khapa Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism Studies in the Department of Religion Robert Thurman affirms, “Joseph has been a great teacher for many, many people, helping them enormously. His recent book, One Dharma, has been influential in reducing divisiveness and sectarianism in the extremely diverse American Buddhist community. The Insight Meditation Society has been an important force in American culture, and it is well positioned to carry on its work for generations. All in all, Joseph is an American Buddhist ‘Venerable.’”

Joshua Summers ’97 is strategist at Sati Solutions, a mindfulness-based strategy firm.
tine and Montaigne. Part two is being offered this winter, featuring King Lear, Virginia Wolff and Toni Morrison. Christa Mercer, the professor, artfully weaves in touches of CC and Art Hum as well, putting the literature in a broader cultural context. Class mates arrived young again, tackling the issues presented by these texts, and I’m looking forward to the continuation. I hope to see you all on campus in a few months at reunion.

I second Steve’s hope to see you all at our 45th Alumni Reunion Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. As stated in my last column, planning for our class’ 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend continues to accelerate. The current thinking includes a cocktail reception hosted by Michael Cook on Thursday, June 3; a Chelsea art gallery crawl led by A.G. Rosen on Friday afternoon, June 4, followed by a private tour and cocktail party reception at the Bloomberg headquarters, an on-campus class luncheon on Saturday, June 5; and a cocktail reception and dinner for our class that evening.

If you have news about yourself that you would like to share before the reunion, CCT’s publication schedule requires that it be submitted by early March for publication in the May/June issue. Get your news to me as soon as you see this column!

Stuart Berkman
RUA Mello Franco, 580 Teresópolis, Rio de Janeiro 29560-531 Brasil
smb102@columbia.edu

“Returning to New York City after two decades of exile in Los Angeles has been better than I could have imagined,” wrote Jim Matson late last year. He continues, “My wife, 5-year-old daughter and I moved to California for business purposes in 1989. I left believing we would be back in New York at the end of my five-year contract with a Fortune 500 company, but life got in the way. We made great friends in Los Angeles, but the pull of family, old friends and the life in New York was increasingly difficult to resist. Last December, my wife and I drove our two hybrids in tandem across the country, stopping in a dozen second-tier tourist spots (e.g., Biosphere 2 (Arizona), Carlsbad Caverns (New Mexico), the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum (Arkansas), The Hermitage (Tennessee), etc.) and using only $225 in gasoline (gas prices had dropped fortuitously), averaging more than 50 miles per gallon. We arrived in New York on Christmas Eve, feeling we had finally arrived home. We live on Claremont Avenue (subletting an apartment from a couple of professors who are spending a year abroad) and are looking forward to finding a more permanent home next summer. There is something strange about going to the Dodge Fitness Center as an older alumna, realizing that many of the sweating throngs could be my grandchildren (yes, where did the years go?), I have a daughter (25) who lives in New York and who created a successful Web site catering to New Yorkers and tourists who want to explore cultural, scenic, entertaining and novel places outside of Manhattan but who don’t have a car to get around. Every destination on www.Off manhattan.com is accessible by public transportation. Smart idea and actually quite useful for anyone who is not afraid of stepping off the island to the outer boroughs and beyond.

“I recently was hired as the executive director of a not-for-profit that for nearly 120 years has been providing educational and social services to hundreds of young children in impoverished areas of Brooklyn. If anyone wants to do some good for kids in need, volunteer or simply write a check to the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society (www.bksn.org).

“The Columbia campus is changing slowly, but the old brick paths and the wonderful century-old buildings still look great. And the amount of stimulating cultural activities available every day and night are fantastic.

“I miss seeing Paul Hirsch and Ron Brookshire, who have lived in Los Angeles since the 1970s. Paul was nominated a year ago for an Academy Award for his brilliant film editing of Ray but couldn’t repeat by winning another Oscar, as he did for Star Wars. Brooks has kept his sense of humor (but not his waistline) and is living a comfortable, semi-retired existence near the Pacific, where he surfs regularly.

“I did my Southern California thing recently and made an appointment with a dermatologist who was highly recommended by my new internist. Dr. Herbert Hochman, former lightweight oarsman on the 1963 freshman crew, walked into the office and more than 40 years of separation disappeared. There is something about old old friends. Is it being 65 that makes us nostalgic, or am I just getting more sentimental as I age?

“Looking forward to seeing other classmates soon.”

Jim’s e-mail address is jmatison@aol.com.

After a decade in magazine writing and editing, Stephen Steiner, former editor of CCT and sports editor of Spectator, has spent the past 28 years in public relations at Jewish organizations, the last eight as PR director of the Orthodox Union (The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America). During that time, he has had one wife (Joy), two children (Andrea and David) and three cats. Steve has lived in Briarwood, Queens, for 29 years. He can be contacted at steiners@ou.org.

Just in time before a major snowstorm hit the entire Northeast on the eve of the winter solstice, Josh Gutman and his wife, Eva, managed to get out of Boston to fly south — way south — to Rio de Janeiro. They had three lovely days here (we ordered good weather for them). Josh also spent an evening with your correspondent and his wife, Gilda. We were delighted to renew acquaintances and hope to see them again. From Rio, Josh and Eva went on to Iguazu Falls and then to Buenos Aires. Josh can be reached at joshua.gutman@yahoo.com.

Our congratulations to Leeam Lovin, whose daughter, Rebekah, has been accepted to the Class of 2014 via early decision. She is a senior at Greenwich Academy in Connecticut.

Stan Adelman, Dan Carlsky ’65 and Steve Bacherheimer ‘68E — took them on their first international hike, from Lubeck, Maine, across to Campobello Island, New Brunswick, and back.

Diane and I welcomed Sadie, our third granddaughter, and spouses and grandchildren, 11 in all, made it home for Christmas.

Please do write. As a member of the cleverest class, you must be up to something …

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

Happy belated New Year. I hope you all were warm somewhere, as it seems that anywhere you went, it was cold. I thought of Miami Beach for the weekend … So much for that idea.

I recently had my regular, once-in-a-while lunch with Paul De Bary, and we were talking about Ivy League basketball. The Columbia team seems to have lots of potential, but injuries may slow this team’s progress. Football was great this year in many ways. For those of you who haven’t seen a game in a while, I predict this coming year’s team should be very good.

I received a wonderful e-mail Christmas card from Mas Taketomo and heard from Reid Feldman. I wonder when Reid will next be in from Paris. And Ken Tomecki (and his wife, Eileen) sent a card from the “tundra of Cleveland.” Dr. Tomecki, the vice-chairman of his department, seemed to be in grand humor at the reunion. I wonder how he does in cold weather. So there were many other cards and calls, and I should stop. This is not a ”send me a card at holiday time” note.

Greg Winn left me a cheerful message. I called back with no luck but will try again. He said he was retiring, but that is hard to believe.

The end of 2009 was a challenge for me, as my mom, almost 94, passed away. She always was an inspiration and had a photographic memory. She left Malden H.S. to go to Portia Law School when she was 17 and had to wait a year to take the bar because she was too young when she graduated. I am sure many of us have had parents pass on, and moms are surely special.

Bo Orshyshevich continues to help young folks from Ukraine come to America to go to college. I marvel at his persistence and his devotion to this cause. His efforts are sending students to the finest colleges and universities in America.
Keep up the fabulous work! Susan and Bob Carlson continue to send the most amazing pictures from Sitka, Alaska. Bob, thanks for them. I wonder if the whole class should receive them, and how we could to that. The pigeons out my window can’t vie with your eagles.

Bob Levine was in town from California, as was Phil Mandelker from Israel, during my mom’s last days, so I couldn’t see them, but I hope they will call again.

I received this note from Chris Frieduchs — we all need to visit him in British Columbia. He wrote: “I was pleased to get the latest copy of CCT. And I am very pleased that alumni outside the United States can continue to receive paper copies of CCT if they prefer [www.college.columbia.edu/cct/subscribe].”

“I am still at the University of British Columbia. It is neither British nor Columbia, but it’s a fine university, and I enjoy my job as much as ever. My wife and I became grandparents for the second time in May 2009. We now have a granddaughter (3) and a grandson in Brooklyn. I teach, my wife teaches, our daughter is a teacher (in Brooklyn) and our older son is a teacher (in Vancouver). But our younger son has rebelled against the family tradition. After getting his B.A., he set his sights on a culinary career and is now a restaurant cook!”

I wonder if Chris has views on Spectator today. I check its Web site regularly! I just love it when news about classmates just appearing in other media, I really appreciate those occasions when a classmate reads a column, is stopped by one of my pitiful prayers for news and actually contacts me. That happened after November/December appeared. From Mike Schnipper: “This summer, Ann and Roger Walaszek (my freshman floormate and law school roommate) got together with my wife, Ida, and me on Cape Cod, after about 35 years. Roger has a terrific memory and reminded me of many things I had forgotten (like carrying his law school books from 122nd Street to the Law School for the several months his leg was in a cast). Roger looks exactly as he did in law school, only the mop of hair is gray.”

Steve Steindel also contacted me after reading November/December, largely to graciously comment on the news item about me that the column included. Knowing it was time for Steve to share some news, I asked him to do so. Steve writes: “It might be of interest to classmate that our 40th anniversary Alumni Reunion Weekend on campus had the entire Steindel clan together in Pittsburgh for a gala weekend and tribute dinner marking the conclusion of 23 years in the pulpit of Congregation Beth Shalom. In all, 33 years and 90 percent of our congregational rabbinate was in the city of Heinz, Warhol, Lernieux and Crosby. My wife, Lisa, and I have relocated to Boston to be within walking distance of our three young grandchildren, born to our two oldest daughters. Sara ’99 is married to Andrew Dauber ’99, and they came as newlyweds for his HMS career. Andrew received his M.D. from U Penn and then earned her M.B.A. from HBS in 2005. They made us grandparents with the birth of Boaz in 2007. Shiri graduated from Penn in ’01 and received her M.B.A. from Yale in ’09. She is married to Josh Friedman ’06 JTS, and they presented us with grandson No. 2, Niv, in August 2008. All of us now live within a mile of another in Brookline, and it is a blessing beyond words to have granddaughter Jordana, born in August 2009, in the mix. If only daughter Sivya ’04 GW and her husband, Keith Leventhal ’03 Maryland, weren’t so far away in Pasco, Wash., where he does TV sports every evening on CBS affiliate WKPR in the Tri-Cities. Our youngest, son Avi ’08 Haifa University and Duquesne, is the only branch of the family still in Pittsburgh, serving as youth director at Beth Shalom and guiding the fortunes of his successful rock band, Vindell.”

As much as I love news about classmates just appearing in other media, I really appreciate those occasions when a classmate reads a column, is stopped by one of my pitiful prayers for news and actually contacts me. That happened after November/December appeared. From Mike Schnipper: “This summer, Ann and Roger Walaszek (my freshman floormate and law school roommate) got together with my wife, Ida, and me on Cape Cod, after about 35 years. Roger has a terrific memory and reminded me of many things I had forgotten (like carrying his law school books from 122nd Street to the Law School for the several months his leg was in a cast). Roger looks exactly as he did in law school, only the mop of hair is gray.”
I hope that many of you will return to campus for this important reunion, and I urge all who can to make a special contribution to the College in recognition of this milestone.

Jim Shaw
139 North 22nd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
jes200@columbia.edu

A short column, but a lot to think about.

From an interview by Aaron Elstein in Crain’s New York Business, December 14: “Turnaround expert Meyer Sandy Frucher faces one of his toughest projects in trying to revive New York City Off-Track Betting Corp., which operates 66 betting parlors and filed for bankruptcy earlier this month. He brings a wealth of experience, having served as the state’s chief labor negotiator, chief executive of the Battery Park City Authority, and CEO of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange before selling the institution last year to Nasdaq, where he’s a vice chairman. As chairman of the NYC OTB, he’s working for free.

“How did a gambling business ever get into such financial trouble?”

“Everyone likes to joke, ‘How can a bookie operation lose money?’ Well, the bookie didn’t lose money. But this operation has been distributing its money to city and state governments and the racing industry for 40 years, so it’s never had the capital it needed to improve the business because it was at the end of the food chain. So what you’re left with is a static bricks-and-mortar business model with parlors declining in appearance, amenities and technology.

John Borek: ‘71 is director of artist development at the Multi-Use Community Cultural Center in Rochester, N.Y.

“Why even bother trying to rescue the OTB business?”

“It’s a good question, and my answer is that this business, even in its current state, is still providing $100 million a year to the city, state and racing industry. I would add that there’s no such thing as a free shutdown: We have $200 million in pension and benefit obligations to employees that have built up over the years, and those pension benefits are constitutionally guaranteed.

“How are you going to change how the OTB works?”

“It will be difficult because there are so many interconnected interests, but it’s doable. The racing industry supports 40,000 jobs directly or indirectly, and a lot of those jobs are upstate, where there are 500 farms that raise horses. We have to convince people it’s not business as usual and that we’re happier and healthier than when Lisa and I moved here in May. Oh yeah, the Penguins won the Stanley Cup, too. And one of these days, I’ll be taking Boaz ice skating.”

Finally, my other favorite source of news is word from the Admissions Office that the Class of 1969 legacy group has grown. Congratulations to Bill Bonvillian, whose son, Marcus, was accepted early to the Admissions Office that the Class of 1969 legacy group has grown. Congratulations to Bill Bonvillian, whose son, Marcus, was accepted early admission to the Class of 2014. As reported in November/December, Bill is director of MIT’s Washington office and co-author of the book Structuring an Energy Technology Revolution.

So, classmates, unless you know you will be written about in newspapers, now would be the right moment to e-mail me your news and/or views.

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

This is my first column as class correspondent for the Class of ’70. I take over duties that were carried out with absolute distinction by my friend Peter Stevens. I confess to having mostly fond memories of my undergraduate years, even though we all lived through the “Revolution.” I will be contacting as many of you as I can in order to solicit submissions for this column.

Please note that our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend will take place Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. The events kick off on Thursday with a with a tour of the High Line and a cocktail party at the Gaslight G2 Lounge. Our distinguished classmate Dr. Mark Prazansky will host the Friday night class reception at his Park Avenue apartment. The Saturday activities will include lectures, courses, a wine tasting and a class dinner. At dinner on Saturday, we will honor the basketball team that won the Ivy championship in 1966; two of the stars of that team, you may remember, were Jim McMillian and Heyward Dotson ‘76.

John Borek
39 Claremont Ave., #24
New York, NY 10027
pappel1@aol.com

Clearly we’ve reached that point in our lives when reminiscences of things past come more easily than they once did. Scott Atran, for example, is a presidential scholar in sociology at the John F. Kennedy College of Criminal Justice of CUNY, visiting professor of psychology and public policy at the University of Michigan and research director in anthropology at the National Center for Scientific Research in France. Scott sent a memory (truncated here for space reasons) from his time as an anthropology doctoral student at Columbia about Claude Lévi-Strauss, arguably the world’s most famous and influential anthropologist, who died last October.

Scott had been working for Margaret Mead since he was an undergrad and wanted to organize a discussion with scholars whose ideas he’d admired. Mead sent him to invite a small group of people, including Chomsky, Piaget, Monod and Lévi-Strauss. Tracking down Lévi-Strauss in Paris, Scott found that Mead’s name opened the door for him, and Lévi-Strauss accepted his invitation. “At the discussion, which took place over the course of a few days at the Abbaye de Royaumont outside Paris, Lévi-Strauss sat patiently and said nothing as others spoke their piece or pontificated, or pleaded and shouted their oppositions. But his doodles of cats and other real and fantastical animals were stunning, and those he left behind were the objects of a fierce competition among some of the conference’s participants, including myself. On the way to our last lunch, Chomsky, who had dominated this conference of Nobel-prize winning biologists and world-famous mathematicians, philosophers, psychologists and anthropologists as I have never seen anyone do before or after, walked up to Lévi-Strauss and said in a sly sort of way: ‘Perhaps you remember me when I sat in on your class at Harvard with Roman Jakobson?’ Lévi-Strauss looked at Chomsky and said: ‘I’m sorry, but no.’ Those were the only words he would utter in the conference room.

“In an interview the following year, Lévi-Strauss was asked what recent intellectual developments he considered to be important. He said that what had transpired at Royaumont was the most significant intellectual event he had thus far encountered in the second half
of the 20th century. He also implied that his time was in the past: ‘I imagine myself in the New World with Columbus for the first time,’ he mused, ‘a symphony of sounds, of colors, of smells, of desires and of hopes. Then I imagine myself on the desert sands, and all I see is gray, dust and barren rocks, and the earth I long for is far out of reach.’

Alan Sheiner brings us up to date on his life since graduation and reflects on the Columbia experience. Having received both his B.D.S. and M.S. at the NYU College of Dentistry and ‘did Columbia proudly’ by graduating first in my class every year and picking up a bunch of prizes and honors throughout the years. I completed a general practice residency at Einstein, followed by residency and fellowship in prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Since then, I have essentially been in private practice with faculty appointments at Montefiore and St. Luke’s Hospital. Currently, I am employed by Brooklyn College School of Dental Medicine where I am a full-time faculty member and part-time consultant. I have been favorably reviewed in the New York Times and the American Dental Association Journal. I have been active in my local dental society and various national and international organizations. I have been an invited speaker at many national and international conferences. I have published several articles in the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry and the Journal of the American Dental Association.

Jonathan Diefenbach is a neurosurgeon at St. Vincent Hospital in Erie, Pa. But he’s also a colonel in the Army Reserve, and this past fall Paul was on active duty in the Medical Corps on a 90-day Boots on the Ground rotation, operating at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, 50 miles from Baghdad. The medical team at the hospital provided trauma care to injured soldiers and stabilized them so that they could be air evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, before returning to the United States. Four years earlier, Paul had served at Landstuhl. The team also provided care to detainees and Iraqi soldiers, police and civilians. Most injuries occurred from improvised explosive devices and gunshot wounds. To put his Iraq experience into perspective, the base where Paul served is nicknamed “Morristaville” because it endures one to three mortar attacks weekly. “We were protected by predator drones flying overhead and naval C-RAM structures, which fire 4,000 rounds of explosives at incoming mortar. When attacks occurred, we had to take cover in a protected area and put on our ‘battle rattle,’ which is protective body armor. The hardest part of being there was living in a war zone region, knowing that there are bad guys on the other side of the ‘wire’ who want to kill you. Basically, I was an old man serving in a war being fought by young people. I have a lot of respect and admiration for what they are doing. They are putting their lives on the line. In our class, we were taught to love our country and give our lives for our country so we can leave. All I did was fix broken soldiers.”

Alex Abella writes, “I’ve been in California since the 1970s, working as a journalist, novelist and translator. My last book, Soldiers of the R.A.M. (The R.A.M. Corporation and The Rise of the American Empire, was favorably reviewed in The New York Times and The Washington Post. I live in the Los Angeles area with my California-born wife and three children. My 18-year-old daughter, alas, has decided not to brave the snows of New York and the frigid winds off Riverside Drive and opted to attend a California college, which shall go unnamed here. My second child also has stated his strong preference for studying in the Golden State, but I still hold hope that my youngest will attend my alma mater. Colossus, I have to wait a while, though: he’s only 6. All the same, I’m planning to attend the 40th reunion. It will be my first time back since graduation — although I skipped the ceremony in ’72, it was too ‘establishment’ for my taste. I now prefer my diploma, written in Latin, which I will get around to framing one of these days. The one thing that Columbia taught me, and for which I will always be grateful, was how to think — how to analyze and how to mount an argument and a counterargument. That and, of course, the Core Curriculum. I still get by on my recollections of the Kant, Montaigne and Ortega I read for Contemporary Civilization. I just re-read every university in the country offered the same courses.”

Beresford (Berry) Hayward fills in the years since he left Morning-side Heights: “I finished my last two years of undergrad work here in Paris, returning only briefly to New York, in 1973 to collect my diploma. I haven’t been back to the States since then — no reason for me to go into the details, but that’s what happened! Nevertheless, my Columbia years stick with me: the wonderful courses with Arthur Danto, Pearl Bell and Leon Roudiez, and a graduate seminar with Donald France on Montaigne that reinforced all of the things I was looking for intellectually and artistically. Columbia allowed me two years of independent study in Paris, and most of my professors from that period became close friends.”

Berry became interested in and translated the work of the great French psychoanalysts before immersing himself in jazz and improvised music in the early ’80s. “One night, at a jazz club, the Riverbop (in 1972), when I was playing some really wild free-jazz, which included a long recorder solo, some musicians from the early music movement met me and invited me to attend the next day to meet Antoine Geooffry-Dechaume, the musicologist and harpsichordist. Well, that transformed my life. We had ahead of us a 35-year relationship of playing and practicing together until his death in 96. My work with him led to me forming my own vocal group and instrumental ensemble with which I recorded some 20 CDs devoted to medieval, renaissance, baroque and traditional European repertoires for Erato, BIS, and Milan records.

“For the last six years, I have been directing the choirs and the instrumental ensembles at the Maisons des Métallos (a cultural center under the auspices of the Mairie de Paris): Malian and Arabic music (I formed a choir in Sana’a, Yemen, and did a project with young musicians in the U.S. and Turkey), jazz, Turkish music, writing projects, rap with children in deprived school districts, Medieval cycles, etc.”

Berry is married to Claire Caillard, a harpsichordist and choir director, and they have three children. He still finds an actress. “Because I spent only one school year on campus and have not returned to the United States for such a long time, I have lost track of friends, and this I regret. But I would like to take this occasion to saluer d’anciens amis que je n’ai pas vu depuis longtemps: Bill HUDGINS, James Arden, David Lehman ’70, Peter Frank and Peter Grossman.”

Speaking of Bill HUDGINS, for the past three years, he and his wife, Wilda Dow, have been foster parents to a changing cast of abused and neglected horses. Rescued by Volunteer Equine Advocates, the equines are usually malnourished and extremely underweight. At Bill and Wilda’s microfarm in Gallatin, Tenn., they have rest, pasture, hay, a creek and nutritious grain feeds as well as love. Though a town kid, Bill has taken avidly to rising at dawn to feed and water the horses as well as the two donkeys he and his wife adopted and named Edgar and Rice Burros. Bill also has been chairman of the town’s Beer Permit Board, which he says Columbia helped prepare him for.

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

Good news first: Julia Jarrett, daughter of Mark Jarrett, was an early admission to the Class of 2014. After many years in the North-east, Henry Weissman has moved to El Paso, Texas, where he is the director of the psychiatric residency program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center’s Psychiatry Residency Program. He is also the Director of the Consultation Liaison Service at Texas Tech. The Paul L. Foster School of Medicine is brand new, and the med school is the only one on the U.S./Mexico border. Henry writes that “the work combines two areas (the sociopsychiatric interface and teaching psychiatry) that I have loved and developed during the past three decades or so.”

Angelo Falcon, through his work with the National Institute for Latino Policy, has been promoting the participation of Latinos in the 2010 census. Last year was the 27th
anniversary of the NiLP, which Angelo co-founded with Jose Sanchez (Jose teaches at LIU–Brooklyn). Some other high points of 2009 for the NiLP were participation in the campaign to get Sonia Sotomayor elected to the Supreme Court as well as the ouster of Lou Dobbs from CNN “for his inflammatory anti-immigrant rants.”

Don Jensen married the former Nataliya Khzyzhniak on December 12 in Washington, D.C. Nataliya is the Washington, D.C., correspondent for the BBC World Service. Barry Kelner was best man. Don is resident fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins, where he specializes in the politics and economics of the former Soviet Union. He’s a consultant to various federal agencies and has a weekly blog on the Voice of America Web site (www.voanews.com) where he debates current foreign issues with his partner in Moscow. In his spare time, Don is a baseball historian, now working on his fourth book (on the New York Giants of the 1880s). He and his wife live in Alexandria, Va.

And, finally, the bad news; we regret the passing of John Eckel recently its chairman and CEO. Barry Kelner was best man. John’s wife live in Alexandria, Va. His and his fourth book (on the New York Giants of the 1880s). He and his wife live in Alexandria, Va.

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to begin this fall. Younger son, David, is a broadcast journalism major at the University of Southern California, Class of 2012.

Father C. John McCluskey III sent holiday greetings on the Feast of the Holy Innocents (December 28). He is writing his thank you gift and pastoral work from his home in Chicago.

Father Moses (né Michael Worcester) also sent holiday greetings, with the reminder that he and his monastery were gearing up for their pilgrimage to the Julian calendar on January 7. On December 25, they celebrated one of the feasts of St. Herman.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Business Valuation section awarded Robert F. Reilly, a managing director at Williamette Management Associates, a leading national independent financial valuation and financial advisory firm, its Volunteer of the Year Award. The announcement was made during the 2009 AICPA National Business Valuation Conference in San Francisco in November.

During the week between Christmas and New Year’s, I got a holiday call from my good buddy Bob Schneider. After giving best wishes from him and his wife, Regina, Bob passed some news. Of the 2,500 freshmen at Penn, 50 are selected for interviews and 12 are selected for the position of peer tutor in the Penn Writing/English Composition Program. As a proud father, he’s happy to report that his daughter, Meg, was selected.

Yes, it is time for another reunion. Plan to meet your classmates, their families and Columbians from other years and schools on campus Thursday, June 3, 4, 5 and 6. We’ve planned an exciting program of tours, seminars, parties and dinners. You’ve heard some already of tours, seminars, parties and dinners. We’ve planned an exciting program of tours, seminars, parties and dinners. You’ve heard some already of tours, seminars, parties and dinners.

76 Clyde Moneyhun
Program in Writing and Rhetoric
Serra Mall 450, Bldg. 460, Rm 223
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
cam131@columbia.edu

Bill Minutaglio is a professor of journalism at the University of Texas and a prolific author, most notably of First Son: George Bush and the Bush Family Dynasty, a biography of George W. Bush. Bill is married to Holly Williams ’80 Barnard, a professor of jazz at UT. Ed Izzo ’77 reports that as president of the Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, he persuaded Bill to deliver the keynote at the society’s annual meeting. “We’ve been friends since college, and it was terrific to spend time with them this summer. We have tremendously fond memories of our Columbia days, very few involving academics.”

George Freimark reports that he is: a) still employed; b) still making the house, car and now, college, payments; c) still happily mar-ried to Gratia Pelliciotti ’80 Barnard; d) most pleased to be the father of two daughters, Olivia and Averyl. “After 21 years in the reinsurance business, George spent the last eight providing catastrophe modeling services to the insurance industry. Olivia is a first-year student at the University of Victoria College at the University of Toronto, and Averyl is a sophomore at Glen Ridge H.S. near home in Essex County, N.J., juggling field hockey, drama club and rowing with lofty academic aspirations. We’re now focusing on real estate after a career in municipal finance interrupted by child rearing, is the women’s captain of the rowing club Neried and assembled a crew of eight women averaging 40 years of age for Boston’s Head of the Charles for the fourth consecutive year. George also rowed in his umpteenth Head of the Charles with his doubles partner from Germany. “Speaking of rowing,” he says, “I am thrilled by the historic accomplishment of the men’s heavyweight crew in taking back the Child’s Cup (the oldest rowing cup in collegiate U.S. competition) from California after 46 years and their outstanding performance during the last two seasons. I am ever hopeful for the football squad and witnessed their final game of the ’09 season, a well-executed victory over Brown, with fellow former Allan Cox ’77. I was saddened to learn of Carl Hovde ’50’s death, the passing of yet another figure who brought renaissance to Columbia. I am, of course, gratified Columbia continues to build on its outstanding academic legacy and am ever fond in my memories of Morning-side. In June, we’ll see many more reunion-related events.”

And I end with a couple legacy admits: Elizabeth Berg, daughter of Howard Berg, and Gideon Wolf, son of Edward Wolf. Welcome to the Class of 2014.

Michael (bornstein) Oren ’77 is Israel’s ambassador to the United States and recently spoke at the 92nd Street Y in NYC.

David Gorman
111 Regal Dr.
DeKalb, IL 60115
dgorman@niu.edu

Our far-flung correspondents: T. Walter Heiser provided this information (quoted verbatim): “Have now completed two years working for the DFDL, Mekong Law Group based in Vientiane, Laos. Rather cutting-edge work in development and financing of infrastructure projects in Southeast Asia with focus on hydro-electric and coal-fired power plants, mining projects and resort hotels. Vientiane, however, is not a ‘city that never sleeps.’ The place could use some NYC jazz clubs.”

Scott Morgan sent this update, which also resists summary: “Life has taken some unusual turns since college graduation. I thought I would pursue my talent for imitation, and you might recall some of my impressions of various characters portraying Bob Dylan, Boris Karloff and Totie Fields. But my best impression was Karl-Ludwig Selig, and no one south of 114th Street had heard of him. After my solo album, Did Someone Say Simile?, failed to sell, and much soul searching, I went to law school, made law review and now am a satisfied trial lawyer. I am not married and have no children that I admit to (in this country).” Scott goes on to mention a few classmates. “I recently went with Dr. Ray Basri and his wife to hear Michael (bornstein) Oren speak at the 92nd Street Y. If you didn’t hear, Mike was appointed earlier this year as Israel’s Ambassador to the United States.”

From another source, I have learned that Geoffrey Oneyama has become Deputy Director General, Sector for Development, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, one of WIPO’s new senior management teams of seven. From Tampa, Ed Izzo reports that he is a married father of four and a cardiac surgeon. He is president of the Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, and in that capacity persuaded Bill Minutaglio ’76 to be a guest speaker at the annual convention. “We’ve been friends since college,” Ed says, “and we have tremendously fond memories of Columbia days, very few involving academics.”

Although Bart Holland has kept us posted over the years on such things as books he has published, I was gratified to receive a big-picture update from him. An associate professor of biostatistics and epidemiology at New Jersey Medical School, where he directs the school’s epidemiological consulting service and his department’s teaching program, Bart has been married for going on 25 years to Jean Donahue, whom he still thinks is “gorgeous and brilliant.” Daughter Alicia is a
Senior at the Bronx H.S. of Science and son Charlie is a junior at Regis H.S. in New York City.

Joe Ferullo is a v.p. for programming and development at CBS Television Distribution, which produces syndicated television programs such as Entertainment Tonight, Judge Judy, Rachael Ray and others. Joe has been involved in the creation and production of a new syndicated show for CBS, Swift Justice with Nancy Grace, starring the outspoken CNN personality. It debuts in September. Joe also blogs for the National Catholic Reporter (http://rcronline.org), a biweekly publication that focuses on social justice issues. They pretty much let him write about whatever he wants, however. Joe’s blog topics include his hatred of his Blackberry, various attempts to teach his 16-year-old daughter to drive and the pleasingly familiar Bronx accent of the newest Supreme Court justice, Sonia Sotomayor.

Tom Costigan (Falls Church, Va.) is a system configuration analyst with Online Resources Corp. (Chantilly, Va.), a leading provider of online banking, bill payment and credit management software systems. If your bank is not using ORCC on the back end for these services, change your bank now!

David Edward Bauer has “worked as an attorney for the State of Maine for more than 20 years and lives in Portland. I’m an avid contrarian, enjoy playing the dia-tonic button accordion and recently became active in the 9-11 Truth Movement. Waking up to the fact that the official story concerning the events of 9-11 is a monstrous fraud.

“My oldest son (’08 Wesleyan) is an actor/waiter in New York City, my second son is a freshman at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and my daughter is a freshman at Portland H.S. I can be found on Facebook and would be happy to hear from classmates.”

Congratulations to Edward S. Barnes, Michael P. Kelly and Alan Seife, whose daughters and sons have been accepted early admissions to the Class of 2014 — Anatasia Barnes from Manhasset H.S. on Long Island, Joanna Kelly from Tower Hill School in Delaware and Andrew Seife from White Plains H.S. in Westchester, N.Y.

Robert C. Klapper: My thoughts for the Class of 2014 were going to be about how silly all the worry about Y2K was, and I cannot believe that was 10 years ago! Holy prostate, Batman!

As the look and feel of the University administration continues to change, I hope (unfortunately not the football team), I would like you all to know the name of the one administrator who has been there for so many years, is my main contact person and to whom I truly enjoy speaking each year. It turns out he is in the Alumni Office and has multiple roles. All the donations I have made through the years have always been with him, and I believe he truly understands the important place the alumni serve in the overall university. The presenters at the school have come and gone, and so have the many deans, but he has always been there for me. His name is Jim McMenamin.

I am not trying to solicit money in this column, but if you feel like many of you have told me, that you are not being heard, this is the guy whom I have felt so comfortable with all these years. God bless you, Jim, and thanks for all that you do.

Eric Goldstein’s son, Aryeh, will be in the Class of 2014 as well. Eric is a partner in the litigation department at Paul Weiss in New York City. He specializes in securities law, white collar crimes, corporate investigation and complex commercial disputes. Eric is active in many community and legal associations throughout New York.

Mark Schnitzer checked in from Seattle, where he is the general manager of MSN Money for Microsoft. He has served in a number of leading positions with XBRAL International and XBRL US since 1999. Mark led the development of Model Ware systems for Morgan Stanley and was the founder of Free EDGAR, which he sold to EDGAR in 1998.

The Reunion Committee is working hard to create a memorable event for our 30th. We all need to consider attending the event, especially the class dinner on Saturday night. In addition, there will be a gallery tour, a tour of the High Line Park, dancing on Low Plaza, Camp Columbia for kids 3-12 and other events to keep the party going all weekend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our Columbia education may have prepared us for many things to come, but golf and procreation would rank fairly low on the list. And yet … and yet, four of our own have managed to earn actual money — 500 bucks among them and a clever and capably legal combination of these two sets of talents. Bob Haskins, Sean D’Arcy, Lou Casali and Clayton Jones rose above our humble beginnings to win the “low gross” (whatever that is) at the Frank McGuire Golf Tournament at the Ardsley (N.Y.) Country Club last September. The foursome also won the 50/50 raffle for the house, as they were featured as the bet of the day. The question everyone bet on was how many children of the team had sired. (The answer: 19. So I’m guessing that “low gross” does not relate to their collective sperm count.) These are, of course, some of the same characters in the picture accompanying this column: Marc Marine, Sean D’Arcy, Scott Greely, Clay Jones and Lou Casali are pictured at a recent surprise 50th birthday party for Clay in Boston. Squint your eyes (a lot) and they could be 18-year-old freshmans. Marc resides in Pelham, N.Y., and is chairman of Elissow Capital Management. Sean resides in Bronxville, N.Y., and is s.v.p. of Northwestern Mutual Life. (His daughter, Margaret, was recently admitted early decision to the Class of 2014, as were the offspring of Theodore Johnson, Sami Mnaymneh, Orlando Ortiz and Allan Taffet.) Scott resides in Cincinnati and is involved in the development of global fabric care for Procter & Gamble. Clay resides in Boston and is president and CEO of Jones and Bartlett Learning. And Lou resides in New Canaan, Conn., and is s.v.p. of Eriblich Green & Co.

Also on the late-breaking birthday front, Kevin Fay reports that he helped celebrate Ed Klee’s 50th in Charlottesville, Va., with Ed, Bob Speer and Jonathan Dahl ’80. Kevin has managed to tamp down his famed zest for life. “My wife is teaching a class at the UVA Nursing School (great credential, lousy pay). Kids are healthy and still talking to me. One of our dogs has cancer — real bummer. I am one step ahead of my creditors and losing hair rapidly.”

Erik Jacobs gets the last word on our birthday year: “As part of my demi-centennial celebration, I’m letting all my sacks and suit pants out and having my double-breasted jackets converted to single-breasted. Oh, and heli-skiing was still scheduled for January.”

Erik and his wife, Laura Eberstein Jacobs ’88, recently celebrated 15 years of marriage — to each other.

Barry Waldman manages to link my name with the term “gaping yaw,” something I usually hear only from my wife. Barry writes: “Jeff, I relate the following to fill the gaping yaw that might otherwise exist beneath your name in the Class Notes section, and not because I have any desire to improve the odds of additional offers. I was named Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member at the College of Charleston, where I teach P.R. and marketing courses to unsuspecting upper-classmembers, and Non-Profit Marketer of the Year (from the American Marketing Association) despite my work for United Way in Charleston, S.C. I also was voted ’Most Likely To Get Hit Over the Head with a Le Creuset Pot Cover’ by my wife, although I’m dubious of that honor because I’ve seen her try to lift those things.”

Jon Eisen joins the exodus from traditional journalism. He has taken a position at The Abberbach MacGregor Group, where he will advise executives on their communication strategies. For the last five years, Jon had been an editor at The New York Times, where he worked with his friend and former Spectator colleague, Jim Schachter ’80, and John Leland. Before that, he was business editor at The New York Post after having worked at a variety of newspapers as a reporter.
and editor since college. Jon and his wife, Ellen, live in Rye, N.Y., with their children, Maggie (9), Benjamin (7) and Rebecca (4).

Jay Lee reports from the sidelines of Columbia’s Dick Savitt Tennis Center: “We are real proud of the CU tennis team for winning back the Ivy championship. One of our twins (both juniors at the College), Alex, is bragging about his Ivy championship ring but is still refusing to show me. My youngest, Courtney, also is doing well on her high school tennis varsity team, with only one loss in three seasons.”

Manny Tirado writes in with some nice news: "I'm certainly thrilled to say that my marriage on October 3 was the highlight of my year. My best man was Ricardo Salaman, and the judge who officiated the wedding was Sheila Abdus-Salaam '74 Barnard, '77L. My lovely wife, Christine (maiden name Rickoff), is a 1983 NYU grad. The wedding was performed at the beautiful NYS Appellate Division First Department courthouse in Manhattan, where Justice Abdus-Salaam is one of the justices who serves on that bench."

"I received very sad news: James Eddinger passed away on Christmas Eve after a brief illness. James' wife, Pam, writes: "James held fond memories of his days at Columbia. He and I met on campus as undergrads (I went to Barnard); we married shortly after graduation and had been together close to three decades." James, 50, of Camarillo, Calif., was born in Seoul, Korea, and spent much of his youth in Maryland and Pennsylvania. His life's work included architecture, fine arts photography and creative writing. In his spare time, he was survived by a son, Nicholas.

And, finally, as you read this column, Brian Krisberg will be stepping up to the podium on March 3 to collect his John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement from the College. Through the years, Brian, a partner at Sidney Austin, has volunteered countless hours in many roles for the College. Among Brian's fellow John Jay recipients is Julia Stiles '05, who may have served the College as long as Brian but is surely prettier than he.

As always, send updates and other unlikely pairings — real or imagined — to jpyndyk@yahoo.com.

Andrew Weisman
710 Lawrence Ave.
Westfield, NJ 07090
weisman@comcast.net

Greetings, gentlemen. I trust the New Year so far finds you in good health. It is now nearly 28 years since graduation, and it recently dawned on me that our 30th reunion coincides with the end of the Mayan Calendar in 2012. I say this by way of warning, because that leaves but two years to make a contribution to this column! It appears that you were collectively overcome by l-tryptophan poisoning during a mass turkey-eating binge during the holidays. I will overlook it just this one time.

I have some good news to report. Our esteemed classmates Gabriel Dugue, Edward Lopez and Victor Lopez-Balboa all have managed to keep their talented progeny on the straight and narrow path to Columbia College next fall. Andrew Dugue, Douglas Lopez and Andrew Lopez-Balboa have all been admitted and declared their intent to attend the College as members of the Class of 2014. Fantastic! I can't help but remember Victor's humorous comment made during a brief speech at our 25th reunion where he stated, "I would first like to acknowledge that none of us would get in here today."

In other news (note the journalistic turn-of-phrase), our highly accomplished valedictorian and über-graduate George Stephanopoulos was named co-anchor of Good Morning America in December. Aside from graduating summa cum laude from the College, attending Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, serving as the senior adviser to President Clinton for policy and strategy, writing the New York Times No. 1 bestseller, All Too Human: A Political Education, being named chief Washington correspondent for ABC News, anchoring This Week for ABC News, twice winning the USC Annenberg School of Journalism's Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism, marrying actress Alex- andra Wentworth and having two daughters, he really hasn't been up to very much . . .

Congratulations to Frank Lopez-Balboa and Tracy V. Maitland, who both will be honored by the College on March 3 with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. Watch for a follow-up article in the May/June issue with photos from the black-tie gala.

Roy Pomerantz
Babkying/Petking 182-20 Liberty Ave.
Jamaica, NY 11412
broy@msn.com

I was honored that Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig joined my family in celebrating my son David's fifth birthday.

My wife was quoted in the No-

vember 17 New York Times article, "Many Doctors to Stay Course on Breast Exams for Now." It stated, "Dr. Deborah Gahr, a gynecologist in private practice in New York, said the guidelines would make the estimated 10 to 15 percent of women who resist having mammograms more confident in their decision. 'In a sense that's good,' Dr. Gahr said, 'nothing is black and white in medicine.'"

Congratulations to Michael Pucker. His daughter, Abigail (Wal- ter Payton H.S.), has been admitted early decision to the Class of 2014. Congratulations to my dear friends Marc Ripp, '80, '83L and Shari Ripp. Their daughter, Elena, was admitted early decision to The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science Class of 2014. She will join her sister, Brandi '12. Marc's father also graduated from CC (Joseph '48). Marc remains a tireless supporter of the College, conducting countless alumni interviews.

Kevin Chapman: "In case you are looking for a good cause to which you can make a tax-deductible donation, the Tug McGraw Foundation is great, supporting brain cancer research and support for patients with brain injuries and illnesses. The foundation honors the late great New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies pitcher, who died in 2004 from brain cancer. And, by coincidence, my wife, Shara- 

'83 Barnard, is raising funds for the Tug McGraw Foundation in connection with her goal of running the New York City Marathon in November. The link to her fund-raising page is www.active.com/
donate/teammcgrawny2010/

tnynym105Chapma if you would like to donate $5 or $10 (every little bit helps) to help her reach her goal so that she gets an automatic entry to the race as part of Team McGraw."

The New York Times reported that The Washington Post is to close three U.S. bureaus. It notes, "The Post's executive editor, Marcus W. Brauchli, issued a memo to The Post's staff Tuesday outlining the plan. He cited 'limited resources and increased competitive pressure' for the move. He said the paper's 'commitment to national news of interest to our readers is undiminished.'"

George Bogdan wrote a letter to the editor, published in Crain's November 23 issue as follows: "Is Goldman Sachs' $500 million small business initiative a sincere effort or a PR ploy? It can be helpful at the margin if it can provide equity financing on a long-term basis, along with some advice. But not based upon the principles used by venture capitalists. Most promising small businesses will never go public and float shares on an exchange, nor should they contemplate doing so. VCs only want the potential billion-dollar company that gives them a chance to cash out big. If Goldman partner Warren Buffett can create an entity that will hold shares long-term and just collect dividends, then that is really helpful. Few bankers like doing small business lending, and I'm not sure if you can do anything about that. But if micro-lenders can lend $100 per business to poor women in Bangladesh and make a profit, then certainly a micro-equity program can work in the U.S."

George also writes: "Last Sep- tember, I sold my house in Green- point, Brooklyn. It took a year, but the final price was palatable. I moved to Elmhurst in Queens."

David HERSHEY-WEBB has been with the tenant law firm of Himmelstein, McConnell, Gribben,
Donohue & Joseph for eight years, the last two as a partner. Along with his law partner William Gribben and associate Ronald Languedoc, David wrote an amicus curiae brief submitted on behalf of two tenant groups, New York State Tenants and Neighborhood Tenants, The Met Council, in the Court of Appeals case Roberts v. Tishman Speyer. The court’s recent decision was a big victory for tenants, finding that thousands of apartments at Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village had been subject to rent regulation. The decision is expected to lead to renegotiation of thousands of apartments throughout the city and substantial overcharge awards for tenants.

David and his wife, Amy Hershey-Webb (née Schwartz, ’84 Tufts), celebrated their 10th anniversary in Paris in October. David and Amy’s daughter, Lilly, turned 10 in November. She had the lead (male!) role of Conrad in P.S. 158’s January production of The Sound of Music. David’s second CD is expected to be released next June, in time for his 50th birthday. “I am writing because I know you love music, and I want to invite you to be part of something very special. Thirteen years ago, I released my first CD, Blue Heart. It was a collection of original songs that did not fit neatly into any one genre. The songs were country, folk, blues, rock, swing. You can still see a video for one of the songs, ‘Never Been A Cowboy,’ on YouTube (just search ‘Hershey-Webb’). Blue Heart was made possible by my good friends Paul Lindemulder (aka Paul Trudeau, a great singer-songwriter) and Debbie Edison (another great singer).

“Well, the last 10 years of working as a lawyer and being a husband and dad (raising a singing daughter) haven’t left me much time to write or record. But last summer, I went back into the studio and recorded nine songs for what will be my second CD. (At this rate I should be able to put out another two or three CDs before I join that jukebox in the sky.) I am so excited about these recordings. Paul Trudeau arranged the session, sang harmonies and played guitar. Paul has notched credits with the likes of Matisse and recently toured with Melissa Etheridge. On bass and harmonies, I was joined this time by John Troy, a veteran recording artist and performer who has worked with the Pousse-Cabot Band, Joe Cocker, Joni Mitchell and Darryl Way. The thank yous to Brown, among others. Rodger Carter (currently touring with Rick Springfield) played drums and provided the first-rate studio, Dog House Studios, Grammy Award winner Neil Citron engineered. Again, the songs are varied, a range of country, rock, blues.

“There is still a lot of work to do to finish the CD in time for my 50th birthday. We are looking to add pedal steel to several tracks and a horn section to two or three songs. One song cries out for a mariachi band and another will sound easier with a gospel choir. Finishing the CD is going to cost money, and that is where you come in. I am hoping that you will consider investing in my music career and helping me to complete this creative project. Please contact David Hershey-Webb, New York City Project, 1700 York Ave., #101, New York, NY 10128. Thanks for your support. And check me out at myspace.com/davidhersheywebb.”

I had the pleasure of sitting next to Dean Kavita Sharma of the Center for Career Education at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner. Interestingly, she said there are many, many job opportunities for seniors. Her biggest challenge is making students realize the many job offerings still available. Sharma noted that many students are applying to graduate school, taking time off to travel or not even looking for jobs because they are falsely discouraged by the soft job market. Since my companies continue to grow, we are in the process of posting several job listings on the CC online recruiting system (at no cost!). Anyone interested in listing employment opportunities at CC should contact me.

I also had a chance to spend time at the dinner with Michael Schmidmberger ’82, Doug Wolf ’88, Mark Amsterdam ’66, Gerald Sherwin ’55, David Filosa ’82 and James McMenamin (director of principal gifts and senior advisor to the dean). On October 12, Fortune Magazine published the article “Which Ivy Performed Best.” Four Ivy League endowments (June ’08–June ’09) were included in the study: Brown, Harvard (-27 percent), Yale (-25 percent), Penn (-16 percent) and Columbia (-16 percent).

I had the great pleasure of receiving a telephone call from legendary Columbia swimmer Tony Corbistro, Tony was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. His sports prowess is summarized on the Go Columbia Lions Web site (www.gocolumbialions.com):

“From 1981–1983, Corbistro won Eastern Intercollegiate Swimming League titles in four different freestyle events. In 1981, he was the EISL champion in the 1650 freestyle; in 1982, he added the 500 freestyle championship to another 1650 freestyle victory, and in 1983, he accomplished a rare triple win, taking home the laurels in the 200, 500 and 1500 freestyle events. Further, on March 23, 1983, the boy from Bayside won the NCAA championship in the 1650 freestyle in an NCAA, American and world-record time of 14:46:29. An All-American and All-Ivy League standout, his name appears seven times on the pool record board at the Naval Academy, they should make him an admiral. A four-time AAU All-American, Corbistro set the American record in the 800 freestyle (7:58.50) in July 1982 while attending Columbia, and was ranked in the top 15 in the world in the 1500 freestyle as an undergraduate. He was a member of the U.S. National Team from 1982-1984. His ability to swim several different distances was just one of the reasons why he was widely regarded as one of the top swimmers in the nation during his time at Columbia. A recipient of the prestigious Van Am Prize Medallion for his service and dedication to the University, Corbistro has become a well-known figure in volunteer activities in the Astoria/Long Island City area. As chairman of the board of the Long Island City YMCA, he has played a principal role in raising the funds to build a new 30,000-square-foot facility for the youth of Long Island City. Tony and his wife, Janice Rae, whom he married in 1987, live in Monroe Township, N.J., with their two sons, Christian Michael (13) and Anthony Michael, Jr. (10). In his spare time, Tony is a devoted yachtsman. He recently inducted his Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame marks his third entrance into such an organization. In 2003, he was inducted into both the Metropolitan Swimming Hall of Fame and the New York City Public Schools Athletic League Hall of Fame.”

Tony is in contact with Andy Gershon, Lester Brofman and many of his swimming teammates. Tony’s brother, Richard ’80, was a CC class president.

Love hearing about classmates like Tony, who are successful entrepreneurs, job creators, risk takers and the backbone of our economy. Please send e-mails!

Matthew Cooper ’84 is senior adviser to the Congressional bipartisan Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission.
Forge Civic Association and the Boy Scouts. In his own words, "James D. Weinstein, financial and political wizard, inspired me to run. Of course, being a slow learner, it only took about 24 years for me to get around to it. We could really blow this race with pre-election with national implications in that it was a grassroots Republican sweep in a really off-year election cycle."

Another L.A. TV guy, Peregrine Hopkins Beckman, checks in: "As a freelance TV editor and producer, I've been working on a TV gig at Original Productions in Burbank for the last two years. Latest hit is 1000 Ways to Die for Spike." As the son of Richard Beckman '53, husband of Elizabeth Leicester '87 and father of Julian (10) and Eleanor (16), Peregrine does Columbia proud by volunteering to conduct interviews of candidates for admission.

With regard to one early decision candidate cum acceptee, "The kid who was admitted is spectacularly qualified. I must say, since his admission, he's been asking advice on dorms. Offered a choice of John Jay or Carman, I told him that although freshman year in Carman is a trial, the best friendships seem to come from there. Seems like a good discussion to have online sometime — how important is your good discussion to have online to come from there. Seems like a no-brainer.

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The Third Coast? Imagine that... and Tom Dyja did! He sold a book proposal to Penguin Press called "The Third Coast," a cultural history of post-war Chicago, when a fascinating cast of characters — people like Hugh Hefner, Sun Ra, Richard Daley, Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Nelson Algren, Bauhaus veterans Mies van der Rohe and Moholy-Nagy, Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, Saul Alinsky, Mahalia Jackson, and Ray Kroc for starters — created the template for modern American culture.

Max Rosen, president and founder of Indigo Productions, an NYC video production company, had an exciting one for next year. For one project, Max and his company shot interviews with 50 corporate executives in eight countries around the world simultaneously — quite a logistical challenge. For fun, Max produced a comedy "video viral" that was launched on YouTube and has so far been seen by more than 20 million people worldwide. The video, which has turned out to be very popular, shows Max and his company presenting at NYU last summer, received press coverage from CNN, NBC, Forbes and The Chicago Tribune, among others. Yahoo also voted it the No. 1 comedy video of the year, as well as the No. 2 "viral video" of the year. You can find it on YouTube by searching for the "JK Divorce Entrance Dance." Indigo's Web site is www.indigoprod.com.

During Art Basel Miami, the Columbia Alumni Association held a special tour of a "satellite show" and dinner party for more than 100 Columbians living in South Florida and visiting from afar. Attorney Bernardo Burstein, a native of Miami Beach, attended at the behest of yours truly. Dennis KJ. Also owner of www.ShipMyArt.com, international freight forwarder for Scope, Pulse, Nada, Art Miami and more than 200 art galleries from around the world. Also dropping in on the way to yet another recording industry event was dear friend Seth Schachner '85, v.p., of digital business - Latin America and U.S. Latin for Sony BMG. Roland Matthews is chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. His subspecialty is gynecologic oncology. He enjoys mentoring fellow physicians and is father to sons Remi (13) and Omarí (11). In the words of his wife, Audrey Jacobs '86 Barnard, "Roland and I met at the Caribbean Students Association meeting in 1982. We often compare our experiences on the importance of college for us. Our closest friends are Columbia grads. We think of Jacques Augustin often."

As do I.

When Adam Belanoff and Stephen Gee resurrected the Varsity Show during our tenure, no one could have imagined how wildly successful it would be, and has been, on campus ... and on the world stage! Now, for a limited run of anywhere from four to eight years, we are relaying way, way, way off Broadway, featuring a pride of Columbia-bred electrotrash charged with leading the nation, and providing yet another installment to Barnard’s weekly Zooprax ‘Reel’ Politics.

Barack Obama ’83 stars as “The President” and Eric Holder ’73, ’76L is the “Attorney General,” supported by Julius “I’m mad as hell, and I’m not going to take it anymore!” Genachowski ’85 taking aim as the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (with a little help from his svengali in the Office of Strategic Planning think tank, Steve Waldman (report last issue)). Standing in the wings and ready for his close up is the organized Davis Cavinke, who serves as the Republican chief of staff to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Keeping us posted is George Stephanopoulos ’82 as host of This Week (returning to New York for Good Morning America later this year) and Marcus Brauchli ’83, who does a mean Perry White as editor of The Washington Post.

But perhaps most noteworthy of all is when a member of the fourth estate covers one of the recent cases of Matthew Cooper, starring in this his sketch / remake / homage of “Who’s Minding the Mint.”

Matt is a veteran journalist who has worked at Time, Newsweek, The New Republic and other places of ill repute. Having moonlighted at various comic venues (The Improv, The House, The Senate), he explains his new gig: “In December, I took a position as senior adviser to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. This is a bipartisan, independent commission established by Congress to investigate the financial crisis. Its job is to unearth what really happened and report to Congress and the President by the end of 2010. I’ve been brought on to help with investigations and to help write the report. It’s an exciting opportunity. I covered the financial crisis as a Washington editor-at-large. Matt, a central figure in the CIA leak case, hopes to avoid the limelight. “I’m here to serve,” he said. “After it’s done, I can go back to the world of bylines.”

Remember old friends fondly, make new ones, enjoy your life and be sure to check in on the next issue.

Roar, Lion, Roar.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

ALUMNI AFFAIRS Kimberly Peterson knp210@columbia.edu
212-851-7872
DEVELOPMENT Kimberly Rogers kr227@columbia.edu 212-851-1902

Jon White
16 South Ct.
Port Washington, NY 11050
jw@whitecoffee.com

As of this publication, fewer than 100 days remain until our 25th reunion! We are aiming for a record turnout for our class, as well as class fund records in both participation (25 percent) and total unrestricted dollars ($250,000). We have had several challenge grants to assist us, and I am pleased to report that we are well on the way. As of this writing, we are close to reaching three-quarters of our gift-giving goal. I have spoken to many classmates, so let me thank you again for your most generous support to date. For those of you who have not yet contributed in this special reunion year, we appreciate whatever you can add.

The Reunion Committee has continued to expand, up to 19 members, with an additional seven subcommittee leaders to the entire committee: Kevin Kelly, Heather Paxton, Tom Scotti, Amir Aly, Steve Quackenbush, Adam Fisher, Colin Redhead, Leslie McCarthy, Brian Cousin, Paul Bongiorno, Michael Cho, David Zalopski, Rich Froomlich, Brian Margolis, Joe Titlebaum, Daniel Savin, John Phelan and Mike Reilly. Just drop a line to me or the Alumni Office if you would like to join us.

You will be getting the complete schedule of events from the Alumni Office later this month. In the mean-
time, I wanted to note some of the highlights.

Thursday evening cocktails in the New York Times tower, followed by the opportunity to attend several theatre/arts events.

Friday tours and lectures, highlighted by a family-friendly dinner at V&T and then cocktails with our Barnard and Engineering classmates.

Saturday Dean’s Day lectures, activities for the kids, reunions of various interest groups across the classes (WKCR, Spectator, music groups) followed by our class dinner at the Italian Academy and dancing on Low Plaza.

Would love to see as many of you as possible! Please let me know if you are coming so I can include this in my next column (as well as any updates). Hopefully, the updates we will get at reunion should fill this column for many months.

Eric Kanter lives in Short Hills, N.J., is married to Melissa and has three daughters, Hannah, Emily and Rachel. He is the managing partner of Retina Vitreous Consultants in Livingston and Morristown, N.J. Eric is involved in venture capital investment in medical device and pharmaceutical companies in the ophthalmic industry. He plays competitive squash when not running around to watch each of his kids’ soccer games.

Tom Scotti is the president and principal in the Appraisal and Valuation Division of Gordon Brothers Group. Located in Boston, Tom oversees daily operations for the appraisal group. In addition, Tom calls on his extensive industry experience in asset-based lending and collateral monitoring, maintain and expand client relationships.

Prior to joining Gordon Brothers Group, Tom was a managing director of Fleet Retail Finance, where he was responsible for the due diligence and collateral monitoring functions of a high-risk commercial loan portfolio. Before Fleet, his experience included five years with Morse Shoe as the manager of financial and merchandising planning, worked for several years with Ashley as the director of inventory control.

Adam Weisman and his wife, Rebecca Taylor, can report the birth of yet another child “with a strange name selected perversely by his parents” to their other children, being the first American to win Paris-Roubaix. Lucien Austin Peter was born on August 6, which makes him CC ’31 for those of you keeping score at home. He joins his sister, Isabelle, and brother, Bastien, already in progress.”

Face Cooper lives in Tennessee with his wife, Aileen ’85 Barnard, and their six kids, including two sets of twins (boys 14 and girls 5). He sent me a fabulous picture. Part-time is the CEO of Cooper Hotels, a third-generation, family-owned company that operates and manages more than 20 hotels throughout the Eastern United States. Cooper Hotels was named Hilton Hotels Corp.’s Developer of the Year last year.

Kevin Kelly is assistant commissioner of NYC Business Express at the NYC Department of Small Business Services. SBS is one of the Bloomberg administration’s economic development agencies. NYC Business Express (www.nyc.gov/BusinessExpress) is a one-stop, online tool containing information a business needs to start, operate and expand in NYC. It also enables businesses to apply online for licenses, permits and certifications, something that was impossible before 2009. Kevin has been with SBS for six years. He also is an adjunct professor at SIPA, where he teaches Capstone workshops to second-year SIPA students each spring.

Amr Aly is a partner in the Intellectual Property group of Kilpatrick Stockton’s New York office. Amr’s practice focuses on intellectual property litigation with emphasis on patent matters. His experience spans several disciplines, including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, banking, Internet and chemical fields.

Several folks have given their first update in 25 years ... glad that reunion has inspired new submissions. Mary Klein is back living on the Upper West Side, just 10 blocks south of campus, with his wife, Courtney, and their daughter, Madelyn (4).

Rich Maimon earned a master’s of architecture from Princeton, worked for several architecture firms and moved back to his hometown of Philadelphia. He is a principal of KieranTimberlake, an internationally recognized architecture firm noted for commitment to research, innovation and invention. His firm received the national AIA’s firm award in 2008. Rich’s current projects include the new Center City Building for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, under construction; a housing prototype for Brad Pitt’s Make It Right Foundation in New Orleans; a master plan to improve the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia; the redesign of Dilworth Plaza, also in Philadelphia; and the recently submitted competition entry for the new United States Embassy in London. Past projects include the Melvin J. and Claire Levine Hall at Penn, Atwater Commons at Middlebury College, the F. Otto Haas Stage at the Arden Theatre Company and the Philadelphia Theatre Company’s Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

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“The last 25 years have been great, and I often attribute this in part to the excellent undergraduate and graduate education I received in Morningside Heights. At business school I was recruited by Ford Motor Co. After putting in five years in Michigan, I had the opportunity to ‘see the world,’ with my work assignments taking me to Mexico, the United Kingdom, Brazil and Russia, where I met and married Lucy. We live in London with our sons, Anthony and Maximilian. I am CEO of DeltaCredit Bank, where I have worked for 6 ½ years. DeltaCredit Bank is part of the French financial services group Société Générale.

“It is not likely that I will be able to make it to the reunion, so I am sending my congratulations to everybody for this important milestone and wish everybody much happiness and success.”

 Rape, violence and sexual assault are a growing problem on college campuses. Read what two alumni have to say about how the actions taken actually work. Hope to see lots more of your ’86 friends and am eager to get to as many crew events and races as possible this season.”

What’s Your Story?

Let your classmates know about your family, work, travels or other news. Send us your Class Notes!

E-MAIL to the address at the top of your column, or to cct@columbia.edu.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

FAX to Class Notes Editor at 212-851-950. Class Notes received by March 10 will be eligible for publication in the May/June C.C.T.
Andy Cheng ’89 was appointed a judge of the San Francisco Superior Court.

relates, “Just like CNN reported, a typhoon in September caused a lot of damage. We ended up with a meter of nasty flood water in our house and had to move out. Our family did not experience any injuries, though Ying, my wife, had to brave flood waters up to her chest to get back to her mother, who was in the house at the time.”

“My latest tasks at the U.S. Agency for International Development have focused on the Mayon volcano here. It was spewing lava for about two weeks, amazing to watch at night. I have worked on major storms, a volcano and major population displacements due to armed conflict since we arrived in March 2008. The resiliency of people here truly impresses me.”

I touched base with Jessica Miller, who is a litigation partner at Skadden Arps in Washington, D.C., and has three kids. Her oldest, Claire, is a competitive gymnast, enmeshed in the rat race of middle school applications, and Jessica’s twins, Nate and Sophia, are in first grade, where she reports that Nate spends all day cooking up trouble and Sophia chases after boys.

Sheryl Hoke Love and Thomas Love will celebrate their 20th anniversary in June. They live with their sons, Kevin (10) and Brian (7), in Shaker Heights, Ohio, where Sheryl is an intellectual property attorney at Jones Day, and Thomas is a professor at Case Western Reserve and chair of the Health Policy section of the American Statistical Association. Tom is active in theater, recently as The Beadle in Sweeney Todd and The Pharaoh in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

I also had the pleasure of hearing from several other classmates, who sent brief updates. Robert Monaco writes, “I was on the wrestling team at Columbia. I went to medical school and now am director of sports medicine at Rutgers in New Brunswick. I am married, have two kids and live in Hunterdon County, N.J.”

Sharon Hoke Love and Robert Mundell, whose classes I attended at Columbia (aside from tolerating ‘ECON’ in dorm space) was not taking economics professor Robert Mundell, now a Nobelist and University Professor. So I guess I had to half make up for it by writing a book where he’s the central hero. The book is a history, based on primary sources, of the genesis and implementation of supply-side economics, aka Reaganomics. Supply-side economics is the most consequential revolution in economic policy since the New Deal, first traced as it emerged from the mind of enfant terrible Mundell in the ’50s and put into practice in the ’70s and ’80s. Professor Mundell came to Columbia in 1974 and is still there.”

Brian’s book’s release was well-timed, as it is a history of how the United States has dealt with economic crises. He has been widely interviewed. Brian’s conclusion: “The policy mix as best articulated by Mundell of stable money and tax cuts has worked — at least that’s what I’ve been teaching accounting and finance at Hotelschool The Hague, an 80-year-old college of hotel and hospitality administration in The Netherlands. I had studied Dutch as a hobby for years, and this has been a great way to nail down my Dutch, get back into academia and gain invaluable international work experience. I’m also studying the relationship between hotels and the theme park industry. My wife, Cheryl, and I have done a lot of field research, visiting more than 50 parks in the United States and Europe in 2009 and riding almost 200 new roller coasters over the course of the year. We have an even bigger 2010 planned.”

I hope everyone has great plans for 2010. Enjoy the spring.
Arnold Schwarzenegger. Andy earned a law degree from Yale, clerked for a federal district court judge and worked in the private sector for three years. He then spent six years as a deputy city attorney in San Francisco and six years as assistant city attorney for the city of San Diego. Andy is an adjunct professor at University of California Hastings College of Law. He and his wife, Yvonne, have three children, Sam (12), Joshua (10) and Annie (7). Andy and his wife settled in SF, Andy wrote, “I went to SF on a lark but ended up meeting my wife on a plane 17 years ago. She’s a Bay Area native, so my fate was sealed.” Andy sees close friends Greg White and his wife, Vera (née Chen) White ’90, every year. Greg is a busy executive in his family’s business, White Coffee Corp. Greg and Vera have two children, Sophie and Julian.

To welcome the new year, my husband, Yvonne, and I and our three kids visited Jody Collins Fidler, her husband, Phil, and her family in their new digs in Chevy Chase, Md. The Fidlers showed us a wonderful time, including reminiscing in front of a roaring fire, a lobster dinner, poker games and the secret recipe for the best brisket either side of the Mason-Dixon line.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS
Stella Miele-Zanedos
mt2431@columbia.edu
212-851-7846
DEVELOPMENT
Rock Towers
rt2339@columbia.edu
212-851-7833
Rachel Cowan Jacobs
313 Lexington Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20901
cowan@jhu.edu
Several columns ago, I reported on Jeremy Simon, who is on the faculty at P&S. His news is of two additions: a Ph.D. in philosophy from NYU and a second daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, born last February. In December, Laura Shaw Frank proudly celebrated the bat mitzvah of her oldest child, Ateret, among a multitude of family and friends (the usual suspects included).

I look forward to seeing everyone (OK, almost everyone) in a few months at our 20th reunion. Can you believe it? I can. I distinctly remember attending our 10th reunion (for those of you not so good at math, it was held in 2000) and noticing the paucity showing of the Class of 1980 (who were attending their 20th reunion). I thought to myself at the time, “Well, that will never be us.” The Class of 1990 is much too spirited to not attend our reunions in droves.” So, please, drive on out this June and reconnect with long-lost buddies or catch up in person with all your Facebook friends. Whatever you do, don’t stay home. The reunion crew has been working hard on details for every age group, meaning your kids are welcome!

From Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6, we’ll have the chance to prove that we can still party like sophomores. Our reunion will be packed with events that will showcase the advantage of what NYC and Columbia have to offer. There will be cultural happenings as well as class-specific cocktail hours and dinners. The festivities will culminate with a class dinner, wine tasting, champage toast and dancing on Low Plaza on Saturday night.

Margie Kim
c/o CCT
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
margiekimkim@hotmail.com

Greetings, everyone! I was in NYC during Thanksgiving week and got to see Annamie Giarratano Della Pietra and Jodi Williams Bienefeld and their families. Annie and Jodi had recently completed the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. They walked 39 miles in two days, starting at Chelsea Piers, past Columbia, and over the Brooklyn Bridge and back. They had an amazing experience! Unfortunately, I didn’t get to see Julie Levy, who was traveling, or Beth Shubin Stein, who was working and taking care of her new baby, Brandy.

Sandra Lora Cremers sent in this update: “I’m one of those Columbians who is sort of stuck in between the Class Notes columns: I’m CC’91 but was supposed to be CC’92. So, I usually read both 2000. I helped publish a book last year, Ophthalmic Surgical Procedures, Second Edition, with Dr. Peter Hersh and Dr. Bruce Zagelbaum. We are homeschooling our kids, which is the biggest adventure of all and the most difficult, though enjoyable. We spent a lot of time in Boston, New York City and Miami. We’d love to get back in touch with friends. Before going to Miami for maternity leave, we saw Lorraine Chen and Todd Idson (previously a professor of economics at Columbia) in New York. We’re doing well down south, Hayden, and they are doing well. Jose Ramirez ’90 also is doing well, married to our good friend Dr. Pearl Wong. They have four children, and he is the head of the pediatric ER department at a children’s hospital in Orlando.”

Andrew McFarland is one of the founders of Houston-based Hometta, a collaborative of designers, architects, builders, writers and editors who have banded together to help young families in the residential architecture is designed. You can visit the Web site at www.hometta.com. Andrew earned a master’s of architecture from the University of Texas at Austin in 1995. He and his wife, Gretchen, have a small design firm, d-mcf.

Christine Varadar wrote in: “Last year, I married Belgian Jonas Bruuttaerts and moved permanently to Belgium. I am a professional cyclist and writer/journalist. I have picked up a few more writing clients, such as U.S.-based Cyclcross Magazine, U.S.-based VegNews Magazine, Belgium-based Ladies Cycling Magazine and the Australia-based cyclingnews.com Web site. In my limited spare time, I am a spokesperson for In Defense of Animals (I promote a vegan diet for health). My last appearance was at Veggie Pride Parade in NYC last May.” [Editor’s note: See the January / February cover story for more on Christine: www.columbia.edu/cct/jan_feb10.]

Chris Petrovic ’91 is s.v.p. and general manager of the newly created Digital Ventures division of GameStop.

Chris Petrovic: “Early last year, I left my post as s.v.p., digital media, for GameStop to work on more than three memorable years there and took a much needed mini-sabbatical to spend time with the family and watch my daughter, Remy, turn 1 this past April. In August, I took a job as s.v.p. and general manager of the newly created Digital Ventures division of GameStop, the world’s largest video game retailer. I’m lucky in that even though the company is based in the Dallas area (nothing against the big D!), it allowed me to stay in Los Angeles and open a satellite corporate office there. My team and I are responsible for helping move GameStop into the digital future via strategic initiatives and acquisitions of digitally-focused companies and businesses in the games space globally. And on a related note, my wife Jen’s company recently was acquired by Apple, so we’re looking forward to a fun 2010.”

Andrew Stone is a gastroenterologist in private practice in southeastern Massachusetts. He lives in Providence, R.I., with his wife, Mindy, son, Ben (5) and daughter, Lila (2). Andrew keeps in touch with Darren Finestone, Chris Antollino, Peter Cole, Daryl Colden, Joel Barron, Michael Cohen and Steve Weinstein.

Hopefully, they and everyone else will join us at our 20th reunion next year. Until next time…Cheers!

Jeremy Feinberg
315 E. 65th St., #3F
New York, NY 10021
jeremyfeinberg@verizon.net

Hi everybody.

I was all set to write to you that this was one of those columns where the mailbag ran nearly dry. But, almost “at the buzzer,” I got a beautiful “assist” from my CCT neighbor, the Class of 1991 correspondent, Margie Kim. Even I could make the “layup” from there. Can you tell it’s basketball season? (Thanks, Margie!)

Let me start with some news I received directly. There’s no greater treat to an alumni magazine columnist reporting on others’ news than to be able to share the good news of one’s college roommate.

To that end, congratulations to Alex Oberweger and his wife, Caroline, on the birth of Natalie Tania on December 7. Alex is the associate athletics director for strategic communications at Columbia and told me he hopes to see plenty of our classmates at Columbia sporting events this year.

Margie’s e-mail forwarded a communication from Dr. Sandra Lora Cremers, who started with our class but finished with the Class of 1991. Sandra understandably keeps in touch with both CC ’91 and CC ’92, and was kind enough to forward news of several of our classmates.

According to Sandra, Alessandra Cazzaniga Soares lives in Worces- ter, Mass., with her husband, David ’91E, who earned a master’s in engineering, and their six children.
According to Sandra, “they are busy but very happy.” Sandra also reported that Maria Master, who is the godmother of Sandra’s first son, decided to go to medical school after being a lawyer for years. Maria completed her schooling at Cornell and is now doing her residency in psychiatry. Sandra added that Patrick Lannon ‘91, a lawyer, lives in Aventura, Fla., with his wife, Valerie, and three children.

Finally, Sandra wrote that Ruben Hernandez lives in Miami, where he is married with two children and working in finance, and that Mike Tarbuck lives near Manhattan with his wife, Joa, and their three children.

Thank you again, Margie and Sandra, for providing news on so many of our classmates.

Although I am sorry that I don’t have more to report this time, you do know how to fix that. Touch base. Let me know how you’re doing and what you’d like to share. I can take care of the rest.

Betsy Gomperz
41 Day St.
Newton, MA 02466
BetsyGomperz@gmail.com

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season (though by the time you read this column, it will be springtime).

I ran into Sara Niego at my husband Mike’s high school reunion over Thanksgiving. Mike and Sara grew up together and were prom dates (talk about a small world!). It was great to catch up with her, especially since I had not seen her since our fifth reunion. Sara graduated from P&O in 2001 and is a psychiatrist in private practice in West Hartford, Conn. She also is the program psychiatrist for the eating disorders program at the Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital.

Sara Niego ‘93 is the program psychiatrist for the eating disorders program at the Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital.

Finally, I heard from Rachel Mintz during the holidays. She was on her way to India for a five-week trip as part of her M.B.A. studies at NYU’s Stern School of Business. Rachel took a winter course in global business at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad, and she was looking forward to traveling the country while there. Rachel is getting her M.B.A. part-time and spends her days working in the Office of the Auditor General in the New York City Department of Education.

Leyla Kokmen
440 Thomas Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
leylak@earthlink.net

Amit Bose writes about his exciting new Presidential appointment as director of congressional affairs for the Federal Railroad Administration at the U.S. Department of Transportation. He’ll be working for FRA Administrator Joe Szabo and with DOT Secretary Ray LaHood. Before joining FRA, Amit was New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez’s senior policy advisor on transportation and infrastructure issues.

In other professional news, Tim McCutcheon has been named CEO of Ovoca Gold, an international gold exploration company based in Russia. Tim has been a director of Ovoca since January 2009 and has lived and worked in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States since 1994. Prior to working for Ovoca, Tim worked in multiple financial institutions such as Bear Stearns, Aton Capital and Pioneer Investments as an award-winning metals and mining sector analyst and as an investment banker. Tim was one of the first analysts in Russia to write about its gold mining sector, and he has advised numerous international gold mining companies on mergers and acquisitions, business development and Russian business practices.

Sergio LaPorta has become the Haig and Isabel Berberian endowed chair in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. He arrived at Fresno State in fall 2009 after teaching at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The Postcard, one of the premier publications of the North American Jewish community, has named Shawn Landres one of the 50 most influential leaders in American Jewish life. Shawn is co-founder and CEO of Los Angeles-based Jumpstart, a nonprofit incubator, catalyst, think tank and advocate for sustainable Jewish innovation. Forward called him “an essential thinker in explaining the new Jewish spirituality and culture.”

And finally, Mary Killacky writes with happy news of the birth of her son, William (Will) John DeCell, on November 16. He arrived a few weeks early, but both mom and baby are doing well in New Orleans. Thanks for all the news. I look forward to more updates!

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Kimberly Peterson
knp2106@columbia.edu
212-851-7872
DEVELOPMENT Rachel Towers
rt2339@columbia.edu
212-851-7833

Janet Lorin
127 W. 96th St., #2GH
New York, NY 10025
jrl10@columbia.edu

I hope you will attend our 15-year Alumni Reunion Weekend on Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. Adlar Garcia, reunion chair, said the program is all set and advises you to watch for information in the mail. The event will be packed with activities for the whole family. There will be dinners, cocktail parties, lectures, dancing on the Low Plaza and Camp Columbia for kids.

Join the Columbia College Class of 1995 Facebook group to view the current schedule and see who is coming to reunions. Raymond Charles, class president, and reunion chair, said the class set a goal of $150,000. We already have more than $75,000 in gifts and pledges, and we encourage classmates to make gifts soon to reach the goal.

Daniel Petroski will be supplying our class dinner with wine from his Massican Winery. Other alumni helping with reunion are Jamie Bennett, Franklin Chiu, Maria Celis, Amanda Kahn-Kirby, Mike Stanton and Jason Rosen. Contact Adlar at adlar-garcia@kellyogroup.com.

This couldn’t be a Class Notes column without baby news.

Christine Senn Callahan, wife of Fletcher Callahan, sent an e-mail about the birth of their son, Fletcher Maximilian, born on November 16 in New York. He weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz. and measured 20 in. long. The Callahans live in the city, where Fletcher is a bond salesman at Barclays Capital. Christine is a 1995 graduate of Columbia; she received her master’s from the Institute of Human Nutrition and is the director of digital media for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

Giles Giovinazzi and his wife, Jolynn Shoemaker, welcomed their first child, Kathryn ("Kate") Maribel, on October 5 in Alexandria, Va. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Giles returned to his job on Capitol Hill in January after a year on active duty, including nine months serving as an intelligence officer in Afghanistan. In July, he was promoted to staff director of the House Aviation Subcommittee.

Giles Jolynn and Kate live on Huntsman Lake in Springfield, Va.

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Maya Gupta ’99 Aids Victims of Domestic Violence, Human and Animal

By Nathalie Alonso ’08

The New York City subway may seem like an unlikely place to discover one’s calling, yet Maya Gupta ’99 first pondered the connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty — the crux of her career and research — while riding the 1 line as a College senior.

“I was idly looking at the posters at the top of the car when my eyes lit on an ad for a domestic violence crisis hotline. It asked about a number of warning signs of domestic violence, including if your partner had ever threatened or hurt your pet. That was kind of my ‘light bulb’ moment,” explains Gupta, who since 2007 has been president of Ahimsa House (www.ahimsahouse.org), an Atlanta-based nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence and their pets reach safety.

Gupta oversees the organization’s three main programs, which include a 24-hour hotline for Georgia residents, an emergency safe house network to hold animal victims until they can be reunited with their owners and outreach aimed at raising awareness about the ways in which pets are often implicated in domestic violence. According to Gupta, pet owners often are hesitant to escape violent situations if they cannot take their pets with them to a shelter.

“Nationwide, fewer than one in eight domestic violence shelters allow animals, so it’s a real problem,” she says. “A lot of time the abuser will retaliate against the pet if the human victim escapes, or will use the pet to coerce the human victim into returning.”

It is difficult to imagine a more fitting role for Gupta, who majored in psychology and French in the College and earned a master’s and doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Georgia in 2003 and 2006, respectively. Her dissertation, inspired by her subterranean epiphany, explored the links between intimate partner violence and animal abuse.

“One of the take-home messages was that there do seem to be subtypes in cruelty to animals in the same way we think there are subtypes in patterns of domestic violence,” says Gupta of her research. “Some people’s aggression is triggered mostly by perceived rejection while others fit a different subtype of the more typical, callous, emotionless aggressive person.”

Gupta went on to serve as co-chair of the organizing committee that developed the American Psychological Association’s Section on Animal-Human Interaction in 2007 and is now chair-elect of the section’s governing board.

“It is the first time that the work of psychologists in the area of animal-human interactions has been officially recognized by the APA,” says Gupta, who will begin her term as chair in 2011.

Gupta also is the founder of the Magi-Cat Adoption Network in Athens, Ga., a no-kill rescue group she started in 2000 with the goal of extricating cats from shelters where they might otherwise be euthanized and placing them in foster homes until a permanent adopter is found. As a graduate student, she also helped rehabilitate and retrain a pair of former racetrack horses to become event horses.

“It was really a rewarding pursuit because these animals were getting a second chance,” explains Gupta, who still keeps the horses, Lutheran and Norman-dy, as well as a pony named Dennis the Menace. She also shares her home with four cats: Biskie, Sterling, Fred and Chitlin’.

Gupta became involved in animal rescue during her senior year in the College, when she fostered cats in her off-campus apartment. During her time at Columbia, she also was a member of the cheerleading squad and the sorority Alpha Chi Omega, whose national cause is working to end domestic violence. As a senior, the West Lafayette, Ind., native also escaped Morningside Heights several times a week by venturing to Brentwood, Long Island, to ride horses at Knoll Farm.

“Kerry Bauchner Stone ’97, one of Gupta’s sorority sisters and a fellow cheerleader, recalls her friend’s enthusiasm for the endeavors she pursued.

“I was always aware of Maya’s love for animals. She spoke passionately about the causes in which she was interested,” says Stone, a professor at the Florida International College of Law in Miami. “I loved that we could talk about shopping and music like typical college students one minute, but also discuss human nature or art the next.”

It was precisely that balance that Gupta sought when she decided to attend the College, drawn in part by the Core Curriculum, which she credits in retrospect for allowing her to explore the interests that have shaped her career.

She explains, “The Major Cultures requirement was fantastic. Studying ancient Indian texts and Jainism really fit right in with my developing interest in non-violence and violence prevention, sort of linking the philosophical with the applied.”

Location also played a role in Gupta’s decision. “Growing up in a fairly small town in the Midwest, I really wanted to be at the center of everything, not just for the active off-campus life that New York offers, but also for the career enrichment opportunities it affords,” says Gupta.

She never could have predicted however, that years later one of her fondest recollections of the Big Apple would be of an experience she had while commuting.

“I have, among other things, the 1 train to thank for helping me get started on this path,” says Gupta. “That always stands out as a good memory of Columbia and of how New York helped me get where I am now.”

Nathalie Alonso ’08, from Queens, is an editorial producer of and contributing writer to LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language Web site.
her research “among free software geeks and hackers.”

New York Times Washington correspondent Jodi Kantor has secured a seven-figure book deal with Little, Brown to write a volume on the Obamas. Jodi’s book will draw on the three years of reporting she has done since giving up the editorship of the Times’ Arts & Leisure section in 2005. During President Obama’s campaign, Jodi produced a number of biographical stories about the President and his inner circle, including one on his time at the head of the Harvard Law Review, one on his career as a law professor, one on his basketball playing and one on how his friends were bracing themselves for his presidency. The book deal comes on the heels of Jodi’s New York Times Magazine cover story on the Obamas’ marriage, which argued that “the Obamas mix politics and romance in a way that argued that “the Obamas mix politics and romance in a way that

In baby news, I accidentally left off a belated birth announcement in my January/February column. Elana Sinensky Blumenthal wrote in last fall to announce that she and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first child, Jonah Isaac, on October 25, 2008. Jonah weighed 7 lbs, 1 oz. and was 20 3/5 in. Columbiaians in attendance at Jonah’s bris at the Jewish Center on Long’s West Side included Max Strongin, Sarah Green Spatz ’00, Eleanor Assa Bertrand ’98 Barnard and Polly Blitzer Wolfkstein, who, along with her husband, Mark, are Jonah’s godparents. Elana is on hiatus from the practice of matrimonial and family law while she raises her new 20-plus-lb. toddler.

Hello, and welcome to my third column. So far I have received one piece of actual Class Notes mail! It’s from my mom in Kansas City, and it reads, “Hi Lauren, Diane and another former co-worker took me to see Farragut North on Sunday. Noticed that the playwright is a ’99 CC alumnus and M.F.A. Columbia grad, so here’s how you can get information about this play. If you are interested, go to the York Theatre Company’s website and look up their show schedule.”

I am currently crisscrossing the country from Fort Myers, Fla., to Phoenix, Ariz., to New York City, to Chicago, and then back to Boston. I am also currently preparing to move to Berkeley. I am seeking out new horizons and exploring new worlds, and I am excited to see what the future holds.

M. Austin Ripley ’01 married Oliver Eslinger at her parents’ house in Rhode Island. Joining the party were (left to right) Maren Maier ’01, Aimee Silverman Horowitz ’01, the bride, Myvonnyn Hopton ’01, Maggie Romo-Mintzberg ’01, Ellen Sheffer Bolotin ’01 and Michael Bolotin ’01.
Maialino. It’s the latest Danny Meyer restaurant in the Gramercy Park Hotel. Nick is the executive chef and doing well, but tired. He works 7 a.m.—1 a.m. every day. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Google it for more info. It’s a big deal!” (N.B.: Mike “epicurean” Erman hasn’t yet weighed in on Maialino, but I will be sure to let you know when he does.) Kristina continues, “Not sure if this is interesting enough, but Sara (Wilson) Frajnd is moving back to Israel with her husband, Amos, and their daughter, Ella (2), but first they are traveling in South America (Brazil and Argentina) for five weeks. They [recently] had a goodbye party that I, Ania and Jenn Alzona went to.”

That’s beyond “interesting enough,” Kristina — it’s the kind of material that makes Columbia College Today a must-read. As is this interaction from Sarah: “You forgot the part about our dog, Henry Benz, who has dual citizenship!”

Many thanks to Kristina for her tireless efforts and to Sara for giving us the full scoop.

Finally, since Ruth Altchek ’00 asked to be mentioned in the ’99 column, I’m pleased to tell you less, it was a nice way to kick off the teens.

That’s all for now; many thanks to all those who wrote in! And please, everyone, be sure to keep me posted on all the things you’re doing, not doing or maybe even avoiding.

Anna Martinez ’02 (center) married Gamal Kader (left) at the Masjid al-Nur in Denver in October. Tizoc Brenes ’02 (right) flew in from Los Angeles to serve as Martinez’s best man.

Cristina Pippa ’02’s play Cell Cycle will be produced at Russell Sage College this spring.

Erica Easley; Alicia Dooley and her husband, Danny Rappaport; Rana Yates and her husband, Ivar Druganjan ’03; Ben Giesmann and his wife, Yuliya Smyk; Louis-Simon Ferland ’06 Business and Tami Chuang ’06 Business. The festivities lasted all weekend and involved pasta, truffles and exploring Grigor’s hometown, Opatija. The photogenic wedding lasted for 12 hours and was the first wedding I’ve attended where guests danced between courses. The last course — a traditional Croatian soup — was served well after 2 a.m. The happy couple resides on the Upper West Side.

Make sure you mark your calendars for our 10th (you read that right) reunion, Thursday, June 3–Saturday, June 6. The Reunion Committee has been working hard to put together a fantastic program of private tours, cocktail hours, dinners and other Columbia and NYC events. There will also be a class dinner and wine tasting Saturday night, followed by dancing and champagne on Low Plaza.

At the close of my last column, I promised I’d provide details about Nancy Perla’s “star-studded” wedding in Arizona to Matt Michael and I like to deliver on my promises. The stars were, of course, all the Columbia and Barnard alumni in attendance, including John Balzano, Andrea Cherkerzian, Joyce Chou, Dina Epstein, Billy Kingsland, Annie Lainer, Patricia Marinoff ’02, Dr. Sarah Palestrant ’02, Joe Rezek, Jamie Rubin ’01 Barnard, Chelsea Scott ’01 Barnard, Victoria Spodek (née Vinarsky) ’01 Barnard, Melissa Tominac ’02, Brandon Von Tessel ’02, Susan Wilsey (née Pereira) and myself. It was an incredibly festive affair held at the Arizona Biltmore, and I was honored to help celebrate with Nancy and Matt.

Jorge Herrera wrote in with an update on his wedding. “On July 10, my wife and I welcomed a daughter, Alejandra Gloria, into the world. She and her big brother are doing well, except I am just dying for some sleep. I practice law, specializing in business and personal injury litigation. I was honored this year to be appointed as the legal adviser to the San Antonio (hispanic) Chamber of Commerce, which is the oldest Hispanic Chamber in the country. Between my family, work and the several boards I serve on, my life is pretty hectic but I wouldn’t have it any other way. My best to everyone.”

My wife, Jamie, and I are disappointed that Michelle Nayfack (née Braun) and her family are moving from Los Angeles to the Bay Area in June. Michelle is finishing her Ph.D. in urban education at USC. Her husband, Aaron, will be starting a three-year fellowship at Stanford in developmental and behavioral pediatrics. All of us, including our daughter, Julian, will miss Michelle, Aaron and their adorable son, Isaac (14 months). That being said, the Nayfacks are thrilled about this move and promise to visit.

Enjoy the spring, and stay in touch!

I am hoping 2010 is filled with lots of updates from our classmates. The rights for Helena Andrews’ first book, Bitch is the New Black: … And No One Wears It Better than Me, which will be published by HarperCollins in June, have been optioned by Fox Searchlight Pictures. The movie will be produced by Grey’s Anatomy creator/executive producer Shonda Rhimes, and Helena will write the screenplay. More information is forthcoming on www.bitchisthenewblack.com.

Nick Schifrin is ABC News’ Pakistan-based reporter. He covers Pakistan and Afghanistan for all ABC News broadcasts, including World News with Diane Sawyer, Good Morning America and other affiliated networks.

Sydney Rose Cicchillo and her husband gave birth to a daughter at the beginning of the year. Cristina Pippa’s first child, Francesca Perry Price, was born in August. Cristina teaches playwriting at Buffalo State College and is an artist in residence in the Arts in Healthcare Program at the Center for the Arts. Her play, Cell Cycle, is set to be produced at Russell Sage College this spring.

Kyla Pavlina writes, “My husband and I had a gorgeous son on January 29, 2009. His name is Beck- ett Pavlina Hayden, and he will be taller than me before he is 5. LOL. He is fall like his father, an absolute dream and the most fun job I have ever had!”

Anna Balzter continues her work as a lecturer and organizer for Palestinian human rights and is touring internationally with her book, Witness in Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories. She recently appeared on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart alongside Palestinian political leader Dr. Mustafa Barghouti to talk about her book and joint Jewish and Palestinian nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation. View the interview and more at www.AnnalnTheMiddleEast.com.

Andy Cheung and his wife, Karen, recently celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary, as well as their one-year anniversary of living in the Netherlands. Please e-mail him at andrew.cheung@gmail.com.

Anna Martinez’s best man.

Jonathan Gordin 3030 N. Beachwood Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90068 jng38@columbia.edu

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westward journey by ending up in Seattle. Stephanie has been at the University of Washington for two years and will be there for a total of four.

**Alexander Michaels** graduated from the Law School in 2008 and clerks for the Honorable Robert S. Smith on the New York Court of Appeals. Matt Pellow writes, “Matt Pellow and Sarah Kummerfeld were married on September 6 in Sydney, Australia. Matt is a Ph.D. student in inorganic chemistry at Stanford.” Peter Neofotis’s Concord, Virginia: A Southern Town in Eleven Scandinavian American Theater Company (www.satsatnc.org), a nonprofit with a mission to bring innovative productions of Scandinavian plays to the New York stage. I founded it together with six other Scandinavian New Yorkers (including two other Columbians of the graduate film and theatre directing programs). Our first show is a modern staging of Strindberg’s Miss Julie, at Scandinavia House in June.” I asked classmates to reminisce about what they miss most about campus, and they shared the following: Football Sundays at AmCafe

**Lisa Pettersson ’03** recently launched the New York-based nonprofit Scandinavian American Theater Company.

**Stories**, will be the featured performance of this year’s festival of the Theater of the American South in Wilson, N.C. The show will run for three weeks in May. **Jonathan Schwartz** writes, “I’m an editor on Modern Family (a film editor, not an editor of text). Our second season has seen great reviews, high ratings numbers and best-series nominations from the Writers Guild, Screen Actors Guild and the Golden Globes. Everybody, please tune in to ABC on Wednesdays at 9 p.m.”

**Robyn Schwartz** writes, “Dan Hammerman ’02 and I are staying in Italy another year (we’ll be here at least through September; after that, who knows??). I keep busy through a variety of remote non-profit consulting gigs and our blog (http://martelloetofiewife.blogspot.com). We try to travel as Dan’s vacation time permits and were thrilled to ring in the New Year on the Champs Élysées in Paris.”

**Adeline Yao** writes, “I finished my government scholarship bond at the end of 2009 and am taking a sabbatical from my job to figure out what I want to do next. I am spending six months in Tokyo, from February to July, working at an art gallery and wandering around the city.”

**Daniel Shamah** writes, “In September, I finished a clerkship for the bankruptcy court in the Southern District of New York, where I witnessed history with the Lehman Brothers, GM and Chrysler bankruptcies. I recently returned to private practice at O’Melveny & Myers in the city, where I’ve been practicing bankruptcy law. Danielle Shamah (née Schieber) ’03 Barnard and I also had our second child and first daughter, Marlena Lily, just before Thanksgiving.”

**Lisa Pettersson** writes, “I live in New York and recently launched (Erik Moss), Columbia Hot Bagels (Stephanie Peng) and frozen margaritas and a burger at The West End on a hot summer day (Loraine Wu).”

**Angela Georgopoulos** 200 Water St., Apt. 1711 New York, NY 10038 aeg90@columbia.edu

Hello fellow alumni!

I hope you are all well. For those of you who do not know (or remember) me, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Angela. I studied biochemistry and Spanish, and my favorite Columbia memory is an amalgamation of the countless hours spent on the steps talking with friends or “studying” (read: talking with friends). Currently, I am at Ricchet Public Relations working in the healthcare division and loving every minute of it. I am excited to become your Class Notes reporter and have to thank my friend Miklos Vasarhelyi for doing such a commendable job for the past five years. He has left some pretty large shoes to fill, but I am determined to try. Please don’t be shy. Send me any and all updates!

On a somber note, it is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of Garland English ’04E in January. He was a second lieutenant in the Army and served one tour of duty in Iraq, where he commanded a platoon. He died physically superior as Nietzsche’s superman, as fascinatingly engaged as Kerouac’s Dean Moriarity, as radically self-reliant as Thoreau at Walden and as beautiful and poised as Michelangelo’s David. To Garland, every edifice was a challenge to be surmounted, every discussion a life lesson, every day a potential adventure. Calmly and lovingly, he dragged both friends and family into this heightened and invigorating world. Through him our perspectives shifted, our horizons expanded and our compasses righted.”

**Peter Kang** 205 15th St., Apt. 5 Brooklyn, NY 11215 peter.kang@gmail.com

A new year is in full swing. How has 2010 been for you so far? Some updates from our classmates:

**Elizabeth Segran** is traveling a great deal as she writes her doctoral dissertation. She had been dividing her time evenly between the United Kingdom, the United States and India as she does research, writes articles, participates in conferences and generally plows through her dissertation. Last summer, Elizabeth collaborated with...
a colleague from UC Berkeley to translate a series of ancient Tamil poems about love and a river. These poems, which have never been translated into English, will be published by Penguin Classics in 2011.

**Andy Rios** writes: “I am in Dallas helping to grow a clothing manufacturer into a nationally recognized brand. Always looking for good people, so if anyone is interested, send me a note.”

Alex Rolfe is moving to Dublin this year to trade energy. He would love to hear from people who are there.


Elaina Meirovitz Nelson writes: “Life is great! On November 8, I married Lev Nelson in Brookline, Mass. We moved together from Morningside Heights 1½ years ago and have a happy life in Brookline. I work at Boston University Medical Campus at the Institutional Review Board while also pursuing a master’s in public health at BU part-time. Lev is studying to be a rabbi at Hebrew College. He’s a proud alumnus of Brown, but we seem to like each other anyway.”

Eliana also noted that about 30 Columbians were present at the wedding, including Steve Melzer, James Bondarchuk, Rachel Grant Meyer and Suzanne Schneider.

Phil Sandick writes: “My girlfriend and I will be in Botswana from the time this issue hits press until the start of law school in the fall. (Some may remember that I lived there for 2½ years.) If anyone plans to hit the World Cup, drop me a line.”

Jeannelle Kolkes: “I’ll finish my M.A. program in higher and postsecondary education at Teachers College in May. I’m also taking advantage of the extended first-time homeowner’s tax credit. By June, I’ll be a homeowner. It’s a daunting yet exciting process. I’ve been watching a lot of HGTV. During the holiday season, I went up with Dr. Chris Jacobs, Kyle Carraro, Joyce Liu, Tara Coleman ‘05 Barnard, Nick Burke ‘07 and Emil Diaz ’09E. I’m looking forward to what this new year brings.”

Congratulations to Julia Stiles, who has been honored by the College on March 3 with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. Watch for a follow-up article in the May/June issue with photos from the black-tie gala.

And lastly, Melanie Lee writes: “I’m newly engaged to our class correspondent. After more than four years together, Peter Kang proposed to me in front of my entire family! We are planning a summer 2011 wedding. It has already been five years since the gates at Morningside opened and released us into the world. Now it’s time to party like it’s 2000 again. Alumni Reunion Weekend will be held Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. There will be tons of events all weekend, culminating with the Saturday wine tasting, class dinner and dancing on the steps of Low Plaza. So come on up (or down, or over the ocean) to celebrate.”

Michelle Oh
17 John St., Apt. 2D
New York, NY 10038
moh2057@columbia.edu

Jose Montero recently was promoted to director of market research at Bloombergdades and is studying to take the GMAT this spring. Andrew Liebowitz is facing the snow, ice and cold of Syracuse, N.Y., bravely working as he towards his master’s in public administration. He spent his brief winter break reconnecting with friends and family, and welcomed in 2010 with his sophomore year roommate, Matthew Disney ’06E, and his significant other, Christy Liebowitz. Barnard. Andrew looks forward to joining the blogosphere soon with a non-partisan journal dedicated to analysis of public affairs and hopefully working for the federal government or in a government consulting role by the summer. Please reconnect with him at alliebowitz@gmail.com.

Mike Brown will be leaving the investment arm of Virgin Group (Richard Branson Investments) to join AOL Ventures. He will primarily be responsible for building out the venture fund and platform as well as making seed and Series A investments in early stage technology businesses in the United States, United Kingdom, Israel and India. Emily Tang moved to Baltimore. Monica Betancourt is in her second year at the University of Chicago Law School. Last summer, she worked at the Gilbert & Tobin Centre of Public Law at The University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, on constitutional law and human rights issues. Teddy Diefenbach lives in Los Angeles and is studying game design for his M.F.A. in interactive media at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts.

Justin Fill holds a BA in Homecoming, Justin helped put together the Black Alumni Council Homecoming event, which had its most successful turnout in recent history. Fill Events is going strong and is here for your event needs.”

A warm congratulations to all those who recently tied the knot.

Joe Winters married Angela Suber of Jacksonville, Fla., on December 19. Mike McAndrew, Wade Fletcher ’05, Alex Ehrrath and Shay Murphy were groomsmen. Other CU alumni who attended were Matt Kaplan, Brooks Hansen ’05, Brandon Bowser, Colby Blitz ’06E, Arun Ramachandran ’06E and Jeff Coles.

David Ribner, also a groomman, writes, “Evan Marlin married Avira Androphy on New Year’s Eve in East Meadow, N.Y. At the wedding were many Columbians, including Sarah Marlin Swartz ’98, Jessica Levi Ribner ’06 Barnard, Joshua Berliner, Benjamin Silver, Dob Sebrnow ’07, Yonatan Brafman ’07, Ariel Rosenberg Brafman ’09, Montgomery ’06E, Bar Smith ’06E, Kristen Loveland, Julia Ribner ’14 Barnard and Dr. Hilile Ribner ’67.”

Elizabeth Ruddle and Ross Gabrielson were married on September 5 near her home in Carversville, Pa. A reception followed at the Water Works Restaurant and Lounge in Philadelphia. It was an amazing day, made all the more memorable by the 16 Columbia alumni in attendance. Danny Conception was the best man. Jessy Jennings ’06E, Sydney Boyd and Paasha Mahdavi were groomsmen. “It was a fantastic day and a great start to our new life together,” Ross writes. “Our honeymoon on the Greek Isles was pretty amazing.”

Jennifer Jae-Yeon Kim is engaged to Nathan (Sangyoon) Park ’07L and will be married at St. Paul’s Chapel in June. Siham Sobhan is engaged to be married this June and is completing a master’s in traditional Chinese acupuncture and herbolgy in San Diego, Calif.

Congratulations to all!
Jake and Marty LaSalle ’07 Juggle Pins and Possibilities

By Gordon Chenoweth Sauer ’11 Arts

Watching them during a performance of what they call “athletic artistry,” identical twins Jake LaSalle ’07 and Marty LaSalle ’07 appear as different as apples and, well, apples. Fitting, since at 9 their juggling career was sparked by apples in an apple orchard. “I remember seeing the apples and thinking, ‘Oh, it’d be cool to juggle those apples.’ And I don’t remember not being able to do it. I started juggling them, and I taught my brother,” says Jake.

Born less than a minute apart (Marty is older) in Kennett Square, Pa., the brothers, currently performing with the Big Apple Circus, showed an early propensity for performance: The two began formal gymnastics training at 8. Flashing forward 10 years — a decade including summer performances for the Holland America Cruise Line off the coast of Alaska; first place at the 2001 International Juggling Association Championships in Madison, Wis.; and a performance in the fall 2002 international Cirque de Demain Circus Arts Festival in Paris — Jake and Marty arrived at the College to begin their academic tenure. They chose Columbia because they wanted to be in a big city, one that would, as Marty says, “allow us to continue working a little bit, even though we’d be full-time students.”

“We visited the campus and both fell in love with the space up there. It was good to be around the energy of New York, and to be able to have some exposure to creative communities,” Jake says.

But despite the academic rigors of the College, the two kept practicing — not as often as they had in high school, but enough to enter the Big Apple Circus following graduation. “We decided at the College that we wanted to keep performing, so the Big Apple Circus was one of the first companies we contacted. It’s one of the best circuses in America, and it has a really nice energy to it,” says Marty.

David Donner Chait ’07, a first-year dormmate of Marty’s, recently attended a performance. He says, “Going to the Big Apple Circus with five Columbia friends was an amazing experience. Despite years of friendship with Marty and Jake and an intense knowledge of their technique, this was the first time I’d seen them perform. Their act was unbelievable, and their talent is unmatched.”

So when it comes to performing, what about the twin factor? “I think, without a doubt, being twins helps us stay in sync while performing,” says Jake. “A body has its innate internal rhythm, and there’s a fluidity that Marty and I have that is innate. Of course, practicing together since we were kids has helped.”

Marty says, “There is a natural advantage to being twins, but most of the seamless qualities in our performance don’t come from that as much as they come from just practicing a lot.”

It was at the College that they began to fully contextualize their performances. Jake says, “Having the opportunity to engage proactively with actual texts, historical texts in Contemporary Civilization, was really eye-opening. I was able to situate what we do, how I live and what we do on stage within a historical and cultural context. Columbia really encouraged me to think more about what I was doing for the circus community as a whole and by corollary, what the circus community was contributing to the artistic community and even the value of art.”

Marty says, “What I do now is in a lot of ways different from the Columbia experience, because you’re just in a totally different world. What Columbia does, what the objective of the liberal arts education really is, is it gets you to think on your own. It gives you the confidence and the ability to I went to Oxford. When I came back, I had already decided I was going to start performing after I graduated.”

Jake condensed the pre-med curriculum, essentially completing it by the end of his sophomore year. This led him to a course of study concentrating in anthropology. He says, “I feel like I have a great base of knowledge because of what I was able to study at Columbia. My studies weren’t super-specialized. I was all over the place, in a good way though.”

Now, with the end of their contract with the Big Apple Circus approaching, Jake and Marty intend to go their separate ways professionally. Jake begins medical school in the fall, most likely at Columbia. “I am not quite done with New York yet,” he says. “I definitely want to do some form of surgery. I bounce back and forth between most types, but like the intensity of an operating room and the tangibility of it.”

Marty is planning a career in the entertainment industry — ultimately, he thinks, on the production side — and considering business school for next year. “I’d really like to lead the creative development of big entertainment projects,” he says. “Not necessarily be the creative voice, but sort of manage creative talent.” Marty’s performance days, however, may not be over just yet. He’s considering performing solo for a couple more years, as a generalist — someone who performs various acrobatic feats on circus apparatus.

Gordon Chenoweth Sauer ’11 Arts is a freelance writer, instructor in Columbia’s University Writing Program and M.F.A. in fiction candidate.
a research Fulbright he started in September. Max Friedman recently visited him there. Glover Wright is at the Law School and lives in Prospect Heights with Nick, Morgan and Nathalie Celcis ’09 Barnard, a researcher at Columbia Medical Center.

Stephanie Russell-Kraft spent last summer in Ankara, Turkey, on a State Department Critical Language Scholarship. She then avoided the real world by visiting family in Germany before making her way back to look for a job. For a few months, Stephanie worked in catering and as a server at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company (in the heart of Times Square!) but shortly thereafter she found a steady office gig as a “strategic writer” for Send Word Now, an on-demand emergency notification company. She writes papers, case studies and (soon) a blog for the software company, and is starting to enjoy being the lone liberal artist among businesspeople and engineers. Stephanie lives in an apartment on the LES with Amanda Karl and is really excited to see direct sunlight again.

Rickie Siegel lives in Hamburg, Germany, and works for ITDP Europe (Institute for Transportation and Development Policy). She recently ended a three-month stint at the Regional Planning Association of Greater Stuttgart, a placement she earned through the Transatlantic Renewable Energy Fellowship. On the weekends, Rickie took advantage of her fantastic central location in Europe to visit cities such as Vienna, Munich, Paris, Berlin and Copenhagen. She writes about innovative planning issues and Europe in her blog Europlanning (www.europlanning.blogspot.com).

Sumaiya Ahmed now takes the 1 train one more stop up, to 125th Street, where she is a paralegal at African Services Committee, a social services organization that focuses on providing French-speaking African immigrants with HIV care and advocacy. The firm takes on all kinds of cases, including housing, public benefits, asylum and domestic violence. Sumaiya lives in Astoria and loves it.

Yelena Shuster has been mastering the art of unemployment since graduating. When not fulfilling every parent’s dream of having a jobless English major for a daughter, she blogs at ivyleagueandunemployed.com. To survive and ensure sufficient caloric intake, she lives off free cheese samples at Westside Market. I must say that the blog provides an interesting and real perspective into the consequences of the recession that many of us fear.
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Tales from a Lapsed Slacker
How I learned to stop whining and love reading (again)

By Nick Kelly ’09

I began with newspapers. These only required brief bouts of attention, and could be abandoned, guilt-free, at any moment. But soon I found myself reading them front to back. Newspapers then gave way to full blown magazines. And though I still regarded them with a distrustful eye, I gradually started to become interested in opening books again — and even reading a few. My friends from Columbia felt the same way. In a summer when vampire movies and TV shows were seemingly everywhere, my friends and I joked about our vampiric needs for reading, as if it were some blood-like substance we needed for our mental health.

More than a habit, reading had become a daily necessity. That may sound unremarkable: Most Columbia grads probably attest to a deep love of reading. But I was never one of those who really loved reading. I enjoyed it, sure, but I never threw myself into novels between semesters. It was at Columbia that I became a reader, even if I didn’t realize it until after the fact.

I remember freshman year, walking across campus and trying to explain to a prospective student what made Columbia unique. Every other time I purported to impart some generalized knowledge about this school to willing (or unwilling) listeners, I was later proved wrong. But that time I think I got it right. “Columbia forces you to learn how to read endlessly,” I said, exasperated at trying to read half of Robert Caro’s epic The Power Broker the night before. “Your teacher assigns you hundreds of pages, and you just deal with it.”

I never imagined the lasting effects of those classes. By confronting us with impossible reading lists, our professors were turning us into readers for life. My error, while I was in school, was to mistake my mental exhaustion — so understandable in retrospect — for lasting apathy. On the contrary: Though I had been briefly turned against reading, Columbia also had made my need for it inescapable. Whatever we vampires may say, we’ll always be back for more.

Nick Kelly ’09 majored in political science and is a political assistant for State Senator Daniel Squadron and Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh. He lives in Brooklyn with Glover Wright ’09, Morgan Whitcomb ’09E and Nathalie Celcis ’09 Barnard.
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