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Watch the press conference introducing Kyle Smith as the new head coach of the men’s basketball team.

John Clarke ’93, Doctor and Rapper
Get in the groove with two of Clarke’s hit educational rap videos.

Memories from Home
Don’t be embarrassed about that teddy bear you hid under your pillow. See a slideshow of the cherished treasures the Class of 2014 couldn’t leave home without.

Five More Minutes
Watch Professor Martha Howell discuss the challenges of starting a gender studies program.
Letters to the Editor

John W. Kluge ’37

“...the tears just froze...”

I was sitting in my office. It was a slow Thursday, Rosh Hashanah, and my colleague Anna Jim ’84 Barnard called over to me, “Did you hear that John Kluge died?” Just then, the sky became a bit darker. All of a sudden the world was a little poorer, sadder. Then, almost on cue, the latest copy of CCT [September/October] landed on my desk. As I read about Kluge, his early trials, his spunk, his integrity, his many contributions, his love for Columbia and for his guardian Gracia DaRatt, my own tears started to well up.

Thanks to John Kluge Jr. ’05, Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard and to CCT for the fine tribute to a great man.

Eric Dannemann ’67
New Canaan, Conn.

Glee Club

I read with great interest and mixed emotions Nicholas Rudd ’64, ’67 Business article on the Glee Club in “Alumni Corner” [September/October]. I am a Glee Club alumnus, and I look back with pride at the quality of our music-making during my time with the club, including the opportunity to sing with both the Notes and Keys and the Blue Notes. Being one who tends to keep programs and mementos from musical events, I find myself looking back at our 90th anniversary national tour in spring 1963, which took us, across a three-week period, to 10 states from New York to Colorado and ended with a concert at Lincoln Center on April 26.

I was saddened to learn of the club’s near-demise and heartened by its recent resurrection. It was especially challenging for the many participants at the reunion per my personal view that the Rail’s ghostly reappearance... (Continued on page 70)

Mel’s Gold Rail?

I live in Morningside Heights and have watched with interest the construction of Mel’s Burger Bar on Broadway between West 110th and 111th Streets. As it neared completion, I looked in and had a sudden realization — Mel’s is the reincarnation of The Gold Rail.

The Gold Rail closed when I was a sophomore, in 1978. It and The West End were the anchor student bars on Broadway and has the same layout — bar on the right, tables on the left, stairs down to the restrooms in the back. (There always was great graffiti in the men’s room, from the trite “eschew obfuscation” to the sad “doesn’t anybody remember Peter Horkerkamp?”) It is with a strong sense of déjà vu that I peered through the windows.

The Gold Rail folded in the economic depths of the late 1970s. I am taking the view that the Rail’s ghostly reappearance (Continued on page 70)
A Lasting Legacy

John W. Kluge ’37’s approach to philanthropy was summed up in a quote that appeared in an article published shortly after Columbia celebrated his 90th birthday with a dinner in his honor in Low Rotunda on October 1, 2004 (college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/nov04).

“T’d rather by far invest in people than buildings,” said Kluge, who died on September 7 at 95 (see page 4). “If I can help a person to improve his or her mind, that will pass on to their children and to their children’s children.”

Clearly, Kluge, who rose from poverty to become the richest man in America at one time, was a man without an edifice complex. His legacy is not bricks and mortar; while he was Columbia’s greatest benefactor, no building on campus bears his name.

Kluge’s legacy is the hundreds of men and women who have attended Columbia since 1987 as Kluge Scholars, many of whom might not have made it to Morningside Heights were it not for his generosity. In addition to receiving financial aid, Kluge Scholars participate in special programming designed to create an atmosphere in which they can flourish academically, develop their talents and assume leadership roles.

Many have become doctors, lawyers and educators; one, Daniel Alarcón ’99, is a prominent writer whose work may be found in the “Columbia Forum” department in this issue; another, Benjamín Jealous ’94, is president of the NAACP.

“Why limit the dream to what your life expectancy is?” Kluge once asked. “I would hate to think we have the final authority.”

On April 11, 2007, Kluge further assured that his dream, his vision, would live on by pledging $400 million to Columbia for financial aid — half for the College, half for certain graduate schools — to be distributed after his passing. It is the largest gift ever made to financial aid in the history of American education, and it’s a gift whose rewards will be realized for many years to come in the deeds of the men and women who will benefit from it. Some of the money is being used in fundraising matches, so the total impact of Kluge’s final gift will significantly exceed the pledged $400 million.

“To me, philanthropy comes naturally,” Kluge said in that CCT story six years ago. “I know that when you pass out of this picture, you don’t take anything with you. With the sands of time, we make very little difference, but what difference we can make we should try to make.”

One of my favorite Kluge stories was retold in the excellent New York Times obituary by Marilyn Berger that was published on September 8. It seems that one of the ways Kluge earned pocket money during his College years was by beating classmates in poker. This caught the attention of the dean of the College, Herbert E. Hawkes, who called Kluge into his office and warned him he was in danger of losing his scholarship. “I told him, ‘Dean, you will never catch me gambling again,’” Kluge later recalled, “and it was then that I realized the dean didn’t understand the English language. I had told him he’d never catch me gambling again.”

Kluge took his penchant for gam-
John W. Kluge ’37 Dies at 95; Columbia’s Leading Benefactor

By Lisa Palladino

John W. Kluge ’37, the billionaire businessman who was Columbia’s most generous benefactor and the founder of the Kluge Scholars Program, died on September 7 at his home outside Charlottesville, Va. He was 95.

Kluge was born Johannes Kluge on September 21, 1914, in Chemnitz, Germany. His father died in WWI, and after his mother remarried, Kluge was brought to America in 1922 by his German-American stepfather, Oswald Leitert, to live in Detroit. When Kluge was 10, Leitert put him to work as a payroll clerk in the family contracting business. But Kluge was focused on education and left home at 14 when his stepfather said he would not pay for further schooling. Kluge went to live with his typing teacher, Gracia Gray DaRatt, whom he considered his mentor. Kluge completed secondary schooling and then attended Detroit City College, later renamed Wayne State University. He transferred to the College, from which he earned a degree in economics, after he was offered a full scholarship and living expenses.

“If it hadn’t been for Columbia, my path would have been entirely different in life,” Kluge said at a celebration of his 90th birthday in Low Library. “Columbia gave me an opportunity, and the only way you can really repay that opportunity is for you to help someone else.”

Kluge, the longtime chairman and president of Metromedia, made a $400 million pledge to the University in 2007, the largest gift ever devoted to student financial aid. The donation provided $200 million in financial aid endowment for undergraduates at the College and $200 million for GSAS, the School of the Arts, the Journalism School and SIPA. It has been used in part to create matching programs, prompting millions in additional donations from alumni and friends. That gift brought Kluge’s philanthropy to Columbia to more than $500 million, including money for the Kluge Scholars Program, which provides financial aid and programming to high-ability students from underrepresented populations; the Kluge Presidential Scholars; the Kluge Faculty Endowment; and other programs.

“I want to help ensure that Columbia will always be a place where the best and the brightest young people can come to develop their intellect, make something of their own lives and give something back to our communities, our country and our world,” Kluge said.

Kluge often spoke fondly about his time at Columbia, saying that thanks to odd jobs and poker games with classmates, he arrived with $15 and left with $7,000. Joking aside, he cited his time at the College as a formative intellectual experience and credited lessons learned from professors and figures such as former University president Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882). A number of anecdotes about Kluge’s time at the College, in his own words, are included in the 2009 book John Kluge: Stories. The collection was compiled by his son John Jr. ’05 and excerpted in CCT’s September/October “Columbia Forum” department (college.columbia.edu/ct/sep_oct10).

Following graduation, Kluge worked at a printing company in Detroit. During WWII he served in Army intelligence in the Aleutian Islands. He then ran a food-distribution company and next turned to broadcasting. In 1946, Kluge used his Army discharge money to buy his first radio station, WGAY in Silver Spring, Md., with a partner. He continued to buy and sell stations and invested in what became the Baltimore-based food wholesalers Kluge, Finkelstein and Co. In the 1950s, Kluge acquired radio stations in St. Louis, Dallas, Fort Worth, Buffalo, Tulsa, Nashville, Pittsburgh and Orlando. He also invested in real estate and expanded the New England Fritos Corp., which he had founded in 1947 to distribute Fritos and Cheetos in the Northeast. He added Fleischmann’s yeast, Blue Bonnet margarine and Wrigley’s chewing gum to the distribution network. Working with David Finkelstein, Kluge augmented his fortune by distributing the products of companies such as General Foods and Coca-Cola to supermarket chains.

The most satisfying day in his life, Kluge said, according to The New York Times, was the day Barney Balaban of Paramount told him, “Young man, you bring me $4 million and you’ll be able to have the Paramount stock in the Metropolitan Broadcasting Company.”

With that $4 million, Kluge got into the television business as chief executive of Metropolitan, which consisted of two stations — WNEW in New York and WTTG in Washington, D.C. — and two radio stations. He renamed the company Metromedia in 1961 because he intended to expand
it beyond broadcasting.

Kluge had no patience for those he called "self-important corporation types cut out of the same cookie cutter" who tended to play it safe. He often took Wall Street by surprise, but as financial analyst Allen J. Gottesman said in 1986: "Whatever he does works out real well. You always assume there was a good reason, and you usually find out later that it was a good move."

"I love the work because it taxes your mind," Kluge said in an interview with the Times. "Years ago, I could have taken a few million dollars and joined the country club and gotten into this pattern of complaining about the world and about the tax law."

Instead, Kluge grew Metromedia, the nation's first major independent broadcasting entity, into a conglomerate that included seven television stations, 14 radio stations, outdoor advertising, the Harlem Globetrotters, the Ice Capades, radio paging and mobile telephones as well as syndicated rights to television shows and movies.

Kluge made his first billion in 1984, when he took Metromedia private in a $1.1 billion leveraged buyout and then liquidated the company, more than tripling his take. He sold the television stations for more than $2 billion to Rupert Murdoch, who was expanding his communications empire and forming the FOX Network.

Kluge's sale of 11 radio stations brought close to $290 million. The outdoor advertising business went for $710 million. The Harlem Globetrotters and the Ice Capades, which together cost the company $6 million, brought $30 million. Kluge topped the Forbes 400 list of wealthiest Americans from 1989 to 1991.

Upon selling his television interests, Kluge remained a businessman but increasingly turned his attention to philanthropy. He founded the John Kluge Scholars Program in 1987 to enable high-achieving students to attend the College by providing them with financial support and programming to help them flourish academically and develop fully their individual talents. The program has evolved and grown, with additional support from Kluge, so that there is now a steady cohort of approximately 200 scholars in residence at any one time.

Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger recalled that Kluge "had a fresh and firsthand understanding of the catalytic effect a Columbia education could have on a young person’s life, as it did on his own. He was determined to ensure as many students as possible could benefit, as he did, from this kind of educational opportunity."

The College recognized Kluge with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1982 and the Alexander Hamilton Medal, its highest honor, in 1991. He was presented an honorary doctorate from the University in 1988 and was an Alumni Medalist in 2004.

"John Kluge was a towering figure whose commitment to Columbia and to higher education sets a standard for us all," said Dean Michele Moody-Adams. "He will be dearly missed, even as we continue to benefit from his generosity and his devotion to Columbia and Columbia students."

Many institutions and charities have benefitted from Kluge's philanthropy. He contributed to the restoration of Ellis Island and in 2000 gave $73 million to the Library of Congress, which established the Kluge Prize for the Study of Humanities.

In an obituary published on September 8, the Times noted that Kluge acknowledged that he had been ruled by his ambitions and traced them to the struggles of his boyhood. He recalled a conversation he had with friends in college about their aspirations. "One fellow said he wanted to be a lawyer, another a doctor," he said. "I said one thing — that the only reason I wanted money was that I was always afraid of being a charity case and of being a ward someplace. That's what really drove me all my life."

In addition to his son John, Kluge is survived by his fourth wife, Maria "Tussi" Kuttner; daughter, Samantha; stepchildren, Joseph Brad Kluge, whom he adopted, and Diane Townsend Zeier, Jeannette Townsend Brophy and Peter Townsend; and a grandson.
Austin E. Quigley Theatre Dedicated

Dean of the College Emeritus Austin E. Quigley was honored on September 13 with the renaming of Alfred Lerner Hall’s Black Box Theatre as the Austin E. Quigley Theatre. Quigley, the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, was the dean for 14 years, the second-longest tenure in the College’s history, before stepping down in 2009. He is an expert on the works of playwright Harold Pinter and was instrumental in expanding and enhancing Columbia’s theatre program while holding the deanship.

On hand to honor Quigley was Dean of the Faculty and E.V.P. for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks, who welcomed the guests by noting of Quigley, “His academic interests fed into one of his great passions — to advance theatre at Columbia.” Since coming to Columbia in 1990, Quigley founded the undergraduate major in drama and theatre arts, revived the doctoral program in theatre studies and helped revitalize the M.F.A. program in theatre at the School of the Arts.

Quigley, who was joined by his wife, Patricia Denisson, and their daughter Catherine, also was praised by Dean Michele Moody-Adams, who said that the renaming of the theater “recognizes Austin’s devotion to the humanized society … and reaffirms the value of Lerner Hall to our community.”

Rita Pietropinto-Kitt ’93, an actress and a theatre professor at Barnard, and Thomas Kitt ’96, a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning composer (Next to Normal), paid tribute to Quigley. Both were active in theatre as students and noted how Quigley’s contributions were important for “making arts at Columbia University a priority,” as Pietropinto-Kitt noted.

Quigley said that he thought of the renaming “as an honor for all faculty, alumni, students and administrators. The theater will be a resource for our students … it is an empty box wherein you can see anything, do anything, in any way you like. There is freedom in this space.” He then joked, “As long as the door is closed and the dean doesn’t see you!” Quigley then said, on a more serious note, “My childhood, my teaching life, my professional life, all have led to this. Thank you.”

The evening closed with a skit from the 116th Varsity Show, performed by four students from its cast.

Lisa Palladino

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

The College has been all over the silver screen this fall. Anna Boden ’02 teamed up with Ryan Fleck to direct It’s Kind of a Funny Story, which is about a suicidal teenager who checks into an adult psychiatric ward where he meets bizarre characters, learns life-lessons and even finds love. Another teen comedy, directed and distributed by Linda Appel Lipssius ’93 and her husband, shows that a small independent movie can still make waves. Their film, Smash, starring Lindsey Shaw of 10 Things I Hate About You, tells the story of a tennis champion who suffers an injury that keeps her out of the game but brings romance in the form of Chandler Massey of Days of Our Lives. James Franco played the iconiclast Allen Ginsberg ’48 in Howl, a biopic of the Beat poet that focused on the obscenity trial waged over his masterpiece about gay love, drugs and disillusionment. George Clooney will direct Farragut North, a political drama adapted from the play written by Beau Willimon ’99, ’03 Arts. CCT profiled Willimon in May/June ’09, soon after the play came out: college.columbia.edu/cct/may_jun09.

Tristan Perich ’04 has reduced music to its bare minimum. His 1-Bit Music features a CD case containing not a CD but an electronic circuit that plays a five-movement symphony specially written in one-bit programming code. The Wall Street Journal reports that these robotic sounds have “an intense, hypnotic force and a surprising emotional depth.” Perich is an experimental musician as well as a visual artist who has had solo exhibitions in New York, Copenhagen and Spoleto. He received the Prix Ars Electronica in 2009 and will be featured at Sonar 2010 in Barcelona. He also has produced Machine Drawings and 1-Bit Video.

Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich ’01 has been awarded The 2010 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award for woman writers of exceptional talent in the early stages of their career. Marzano-Lesnevich plans to use the $25,000 award to take the time to finish her first book, Any One Of Us, described by the foundation as a “personal narrative that combines memoir with an inquiry into a murder and a murder’s past.” She draws on her personal trauma and professional experience as a Harvard Law student defending murderers and a sex offender in Louisiana.

Brandon Kessler ’96, ’07 Business’ Internet startup is proving that economic crisis and economic opportunity may be synonymous, according to an article in Crain’s New York Business. His company, ChallengePost (challengepost.com), is an online marketplace where users can post challenges and pledge money to motivate one another to solve problems. Kessler previously founded a record label, Messenger Records, which he launched as a senior at the College. According to Crain’s, ChallengePost already has raised $775,000 and is nearing an institutional round of funding worth “several million dollars.”

The Republican Party’s hottest trendsetter, Meghan McCain ’07, was featured in an extensive profile in The New York Times Style section in September. In an interview conducted near her Arizona home, McCain dished about her new book, Dirty Sexy Politics; her blogging and how she thinks young people can become more connected to the political process. Her first attempts as a blogger, writing about her father’s unsuccessful run for President, were met with hostility by some readers but McCain says she has learned from her mistakes and now is a tweeter with 86,000 followers as well as a featured writer for The Daily Beast. The next step for her growing media empire may be television, according to the article.

Atti Viragh ’12 GS
Beginning this year, graduates of the College have another option to develop dynamic tools that will not only help them get jobs but also will help the planet stay green.

Partnering with the Earth Institute at Columbia, the College now offers a degree in sustainable development. The program provides a diverse array of classes in several disciplines that will prepare students to deal with complex issues of development related to the interactions of natural and social systems.

“We’re not teaching a single discipline or skill,” says Columbia economist Jeffrey Sachs, who directs the Earth Institute. “We’re teaching a way to view the complexity of the human situation. In the 21st century, this means the complexity of a crowded planet in an environment that’s under great stress, and economic and ecological systems that are at a crossroads.”

This new major is one of three added for the new academic year. Students can now also major in financial economics (replaces economics and operations research) and ethnicity and race studies (replaces comparative ethnic studies, Latino studies and Asian American studies). Three new majors also were added last year (Latin American and Caribbean studies, African studies and information studies). College students have more than 70 majors and concentrations from which to choose.

Kathryn B. Yatrakis, dean of academic affairs, notes, “The major in sustainable development reflects the heightened interest in issues of sustainability amongst students and the commitment of faculty in the field to undergraduate education. We are very fortunate to have world-class faculty in this area, led by the Denning Professor of Sustainable Development Ruth DeFries, so that we can capitalize on this interest and offer this exciting new major.”

The major requirements include classes from departments such as economics, biology, earth science and mathematics.

Sachs, who is a special adviser to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, says that “systems-oriented thinking” is increasingly in demand by employers in the development community. “Both in the public sector and the private sector,” he says, “there’s a huge premium on talent that can understand these issues and look across them to come up with creative solutions.”

DeFries and Kevin Griffin, associate professor of earth and environmental science, led the program’s development. Faculty from the College, the Earth Institute, SIPA, Teachers College and the Mailman School of Public Health will provide instruction.

The major will equip students with a strong theoretical foundation and ample practical skills that are in demand in the public, private and nonprofit sectors as well as in graduate programs.

Ethan Rouen ’04J
Class of 2014 Welcomed at Convocation

The sun was hot, the skies were clear and the members of the Class of 2014 and their families were busy on August 30 as they were welcomed at Convocation into the Columbia family. Under a large tent on South Field that provided shade but not much relief from the heat, President Lee C. Bollinger, Dean Michele Moody-Adams and SEAS Dean Feniosky A. Peña-Mora, among others, addressed the students and their families.

After the traditional, colorful parade of students carrying the 159 flags that represented every home state and country of the student body, Dean of Student Affairs and a.v.p. for undergraduate life Kevin Shollenberger welcomed the guests by noting that Convocation is “a celebration of the Class of 2014 as well as transfer students, and a day to honor new students and their families.” New Student Orientation Program coordinator Kevin Magus ’12, who was joined in the audience by many of the NSOP students who ably facilitated the move-in process, made the point that that being at Columbia teaches students how to think, not what to think.

Moody-Adams took the podium at her second Convocation as dean of the College and v.p. for undergraduate education. She addressed the students as “a select group” and congratulated them “on the accomplishments that brought you here today.” She also addressed the parents and families, saying that their “nurse and support have been essential” and added that “Student Affairs professionals are committed to the success of your daughter or son.”

Moody-Adams stressed to the students that the Core Curriculum offers the best of the liberal arts tradition. She said that while they may at times feel stressed by their many choices and responsibilities, she urged them to “embrace uncertainty, and you will be on the path to taming it … you should find wonder in everyday surroundings and remain open to the possibility of being surprised.”

The ceremony concluded with the singing of “Roar, Lion, Roar,” Columbia’s fight song, written by Corey Ford ’23.

Kenneth Cole Sponsors Community Engagement Program

Community engagement always has been a vital element in student life at Columbia. Now, fashion designer Kenneth Cole P’10 is giving students interested in working on community projects a huge boost. The College and SEAS are partnering with Cole to create the Kenneth Cole Community Engagement Program (studentaffairs.columbia.edu/ocae/kennethcole), which will provide 12 undergraduates the opportunity to produce meaningful, sustainable change by developing practical approaches to challenges and opportunities faced by participating communities.

“I am enthusiastic about working with Columbia, one of the nation’s most esteemed universities, on a project intended to inspire its talented student body and empower them with the necessary tools to make meaningful and sustainable differences in their respective communities,” said Cole, who sponsored a similar program at his alma mater, Emory, in 2002.

Kenneth Cole Fellows will participate in a unique combination of academic study and co-curricular training. They will take at least two approved courses that address community-building and urban issues along with a spring semester seminar series that emphasizes practical learning. Their fellowships will culminate in a paid summer immersion experience working in teams on projects for community-based organizations, social enterprises or not-for-profit entities. To complement their summer projects, the fellows will participate in a unique living-and-learning community in University residence halls.

“We wish to express our deepest gratitude to Kenneth Cole for recognizing the importance of instruction that extends beyond the classroom and impacts our greater community,” said Dean Michele Moody-Adams. “We are confident that Kenneth Cole Fellows will have the unique opportunity to enrich their own learning experiences while discovering the important role each of us plays in making a difference in the local and global communities to which we are all responsible.”

A committee of faculty and administrators from the College, SEAS, the Division of Student Affairs and the Center for Career Education will select fellows in January from among College and SEAS applicants.

Lisa Palladino

November/December 2010
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Fulbright Scholarships in the 2009–
2010 competition. “We are most grate-
ful for the continued support of fac-
ulty members who assist the process through reviewing research
proposals, conducting language eval-
uations and writing letters of recom-
mendation on behalf of our outstanding students,” says Mich-
ael Pippenger, the associate dean
who heads the Fellowship Program.
Following are the Fulbright win-
ners, with their class year, major and the
country in which they will be teaching, studying and doing re-
search: Adam Bazari ’10, anthropol-
yogy, Indonesia; Jonathan Blitzer ’07,
English, Spain; Amanda Erickson
’08, urban studies, Azerbaijan; Mat-
thew Franks ’09, English, Germany;
Alexander Harris-Hertel ’10, Ger-
man literature and cultural history,
Germany; Paige Johnson ’10, drama
and theatre arts, Indonesia; Jamie
Johns ’10, history, China; Alex Jung
’07, anthropology, South Korea;
Caitlin Lynch ’10, anthropology,
Brazil; David Nee ’08, English,
Austria; Natalie Neumann ’10 his-
tory (pre-med), Mongolia; Deysy
Ordonez-Areloa ’10, anthropology,
Macau; Zoe Towns ’07, comparative
ethnic studies, United Kingdom;
Rachel Vishnepskly ’10, math-
ematics, Poland; and Emily Wright-
Rosenblatt ’08, African-American
studies and English, Venezuela.
Also, Menachem Kaiser ’09 GS,
an economics-philosophy major,
was awarded a Fulbright Scholar-
ship to Lithuania, and Lusia Zait-
seva ’10, a double major in creative
writing and French, was recom-
manded by the IIE National Screen-
ning Committee and was awarded by
the French Ministry Teaching
Assistant program.
ENDOWMENT: Columbia’s
endowment performed well last
year, posting a 17.3 percent return on its investments to finish the
fiscal year that ended June 30 at
about $6.5 billion. That beat the 14
percent returns of stock averages
for the period. It also surpassed the
11 percent return that Harvard, the
world’s richest school with an end-
dowment of $27.4 billion, reported for its endowment, and the 8.9
percent return reported by Yale.
Across the past five years, Co-
lumbia’s endowment has risen an
average of 7.9 percent annually;
that compares with a 4.7 percent
gain at Harvard and a 3.1 percent
increase for institutions tracked by
Wilshire Associates, a consulting
firm in Santa Monica, Calif.
“The successful investment
performance over time has be-
come a cornerstone of Columbia’s
financial strength,” says Senior
E.V.P. Robert Kasdin. “It provides
revenue, and our donors know we
take their trust most seriously.”
IN MEMORIAM

Sir Frank Kermode, the Julian Clarence Levi Professor Emeritus in the Humanities during the 1980s, died on August 17 at his home in Cambridge, England. He was 90.

Kermode, who was knighted in 1991, was one of the most distinguished literary critics of his generation, especially in his studies of Shakespeare and early modern literature. He published more than 50 books across a wide range of literature on authors as various as Beowulf, Homer, Philip Roth and Wallace Stevens. A prolific reviewer, he contributed frequently to *The London Review of Books*, which he helped create, *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The New York Review of Books*. He became co-editor of *Encounter* in 1964. Kermode’s *The Sense of An Ending: Studies in the Theory of Fiction* (1967, 2000) and *The Genesis of Secrecy: On the Interpretation of Narrative* (1979) have endured as classic works of criticism. His latest book, *Concerning E.M. Forster*, was published last December.

Kermode was born in Douglas, Isle of Man, and graduated from Liverpool University in 1940. He was a professor at King’s College, Cambridge and the University College of London before moving to the United States in 1982. He taught at Columbia, Harvard and Yale, and in 2003, he was presented with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Columbia.
When I started college, I didn’t know what I wanted to be. It wasn’t until later that I started to imagine other careers, really not until I was almost in college.

How did you become a historian?
When I started college, I thought I would probably be a professor and go to graduate school, but it wasn’t clear to me what that would lead to, maybe a job at a women’s college. Once I got into college, I had much grander ideas. I wanted to be a journalist and work in Europe. I went to Europe after college and lived there for a year. I came back fluent in German but was stunned to find out that The New York Times didn’t want to hire me as its correspondent in Bonn (then West Germany’s capital city). All they wanted to know was, could I type? And I couldn’t type. But I had done quite a lot of economics as an undergraduate, and I got a job doing financial research just at the moment when banks and Wall Street decided that they

**What are you teaching this semester?**
In addition to one graduate course and, in the spring, an undergraduate course, I’m teaching the year-long senior thesis seminar where the history majors who chose to do so can do independent research and have an opportunity to earn honors.

**What’s your favorite food?**
Probably either ice cream or salad.

**Do you have any pets?**
I have had cats most of my adult life, and the two that I had most recently died a couple of years ago. I’m very sad about that, but I’m doing a lot of traveling, so it’s hard to have a pet right now.

**Are you married? Do you have kids?**
I am married and have twin boys who are 30.

**What’s something your students would never guess about you?**
I am a rabid Yankees fan, and I know a lot about them.

Growing up in Northern Virginia, how did you become a Yankees fan?
Our team was the Washington Senators, and they were terrible, so I never developed a passion for them. But one of my sons, as a little boy, became fascinated with all sports.

His father was uninterested in baseball. My son needed a partner, and he taught me about baseball. For years, for my birthday, he would take me to a Yankees game.

**What is your favorite spot in New York City?**
I have many, but one of my favorites is Central Park in May.

**How do you recharge?**
I go to the country. I ride bicycles. I hike. I ski. We spend summers at a farm on the Canadian border in Vermont.

**If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would you be?**
I might be in Barton, Vt., or I might be in Berlin.

**What are you reading for pleasure?**
I’m on an Alice Munro kick.

**What on your resume are you most proud of?**
I was given an honorary degree in 2007 from the University of Ghent, which is the center for medieval studies in Belgium. It’s a part of the world that I study, so to be given an honorary degree by that part of the world, where they know a lot about their history, I guess that’s the best thing.
ROAR, LION, ROAR

**SATOW STADIUM:** Columbia’s baseball facility at the Baker Athletics Complex has been renamed in recognition of the generosity of former Columbia College Alumni Association president Phillip M. Satow ’63. Satow played second base for the Lions and was a member of the 1963 team that tied Dartmouth and Navy for the Eastern Ivy League championship.

The $1.5 million family gift, which was announced by University Trustees Chair Bill Campbell ’62 at Homecoming on October 23, will fund major improvements that will make the baseball facility among the best in the Ivy League. The project includes new seats behind home plate and the expansion of seating down the first base line, construction of a new dugout dugout, installation of a new multimedia scoreboard and a new press box.

Satow and his family have made numerous gifts to Columbia, including the Satow Family Scholarship Fund and the widely used Led D. Satow Room on the fifth floor of Alfred Lerner Hall. As for his most recent gift, Satow said, “It was a natural fit. I love Columbia. I have always been a supporter of Columbia athletics. And I love baseball; it is one of the loves of my life.”

Satow is a classmate of Robert K. Kraft ’63, whose $5 million gift in 2007 resulted in the renaming of the football playing field as the Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium. The baseball field’s proximity to Kraft Field and a planned facility named after Campbell will cement a bond among the three alumni. “I have great respect and special affection for Bill Campbell and Robert Kraft,” said Satow.

**FOOTBALL:** Sean Brackett ’13 tied a school record by throwing five touchdowns passes as Columbia opened its Ivy schedule in fine fashion, trouncing Princeton 42-14 on October 2. Brackett completed 16 of 24 pass attempts for 273 yards and helped Columbia amass 528 yards in total offense, just 20 shy of the school record. Brackett’s five TD passes tied the Columbia record shared by Paul Governali ’43 and John Witkowski ’84.

Columbia’s 42 points were the most scored against Princeton in school history, and this marked the first time Columbia has beaten Princeton in consecutive years. Columbia won 38-0 at Princeton a year ago.

**VOLLEYBALL:** Columbia’s volleyball team beat Manhattan 3-0 (25-12, 25-19, 25-17) on September 29 for its ninth straight victory, the longest winning streak in school history. The Lions were led against the Jaspers by Madison Rumer ‘14, who had 12 kills, and Megan Gaughn ’13, who had 11. Colleen Gaughn ’14 had 26 assists and Katherine Keller ‘14 had 24 digs.

The streak came to an end on October 2 when the Lions narrowly lost at Cornell 3-2, coming back from two sets down before dropping the deciding fifth set 15-13.

**OLYMPIC:** Cross country and track and field alumna Lisa Stublic ’06 qualified for the 2012 Olympics by running the Berlin marathon in 2:33.42 on September 26. She finished ninth in the race but her time beat the Olympic ‘A’ standard by more than three seconds.

Stublic will represent Croatia in the London Olympics and become the country’s first female Olympic marathon runner. She moved to Croatia three years ago; her father is a native, while her mother is American.

“When I saw the result, I thought that I was dreaming,” Stublic told the Croatian Times. “This was the first marathon of my life and regardless of the fact that we prepared well, I did not expect such a good result. I wanted to come to my father’s homeland, and when I saw the methods of training of my current coach, Slavko Petrovic, I was so excited that I stayed. And I am not sorry.”

Stublic, a cross-country All-American at Columbia, was a member of the team that dominated Ivy League women’s cross country, winning championships each of the four years she competed. A two-time All-Ivy runner, Stublic qualified for the NCAA finals in cross country each of her four years and also for the NCAA finals in the 3,000-meter steeplechase her senior year.

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Move-in day can be a traumatic experience, and not just for parents. For some students, it marks the first time they will be living away from home for an extended period of time. Volunteers from the New Student Orientation Program make the move-in process run remarkably smoothly, but there comes a time when goodbyes are said, more than a tear or two is shed, and parents and students go their separate ways. As first-year students settle into unfamiliar quarters in residence halls such as Carman and John Jay, we asked, What one special thing did you bring with you to remind you of home?

"I’m a runner, so I like to stay healthy. Oatmeal is really warm and comforting and I made it for breakfast every day at home, so hopefully I’ll keep that up in college.”

Laura Vigilante, 18, Brookside, N.J.

"Ratatouille is the one movie I always watched with my friends when I was sad or unhappy. I couldn’t leave it at home.”

Andrew Wright, 18, Parsippany, N.J.

"I’ve always wanted to be a composer and it was really important to me that I could bring my clarinet to college.”

Solomon Hoffman, 18, Port Washington, N.Y.

"Music is the one thing I definitely know I want to study here. If I could only bring one thing with me to college, it would be my keyboard.”

Gabriel Ray, 17, Baltimore

"My family is very important to me and I’m going to miss them — but I’ll go home to visit every couple weekends.”

Bolivar Charles, 18, White Plains, N.Y.
“A really good friend gave me this poster of Jessica Biel and I’ve always had it in my room. I think it’ll fit in well here.”

Juan Ocampo, 18, Bogota, Colombia

“I’m not really a photo person, but I brought this one picture so I can always keep my family in front of me when I’m away.”

Zahra Bhaiwala, 18, Boston
“This is the Maryland flag and it reminds me of where I’m from. My oldest brother brought it with him to college and had it in his room and then my other brother did it, so it’s become a family tradition.”

Gideon Wolf, 17, Baltimore

“These are the hair products that I buy when I go home to Buenos Aires that I can only find there — my hair is disgusting without them!”

Ayelen Rodriguez, 18, New York City (by way of Buenos Aires, Argentina)

“This photo is from my best friend’s Sweet 16 party. I’ve known her since I was 4, and she gave me this to remember her by.”

Mya Reid, 17, Fort Washington, Md.

“This is the only family portrait we’ve ever taken, so I had to bring it. My family means everything to me.”

Tayler Johnson, 18, Los Angeles

“I brought this one picture so I can always keep my family in front of me when I’m away.”

Camille Richardson, 18, Philadelphia

“Lacrosse is a huge part of my life and who I am. I’m a recruit, so I’ll definitely be on the Columbia team, and I’m really excited.”

Camille Richardson, 18, Philadelphia
“This is the picture from It’s a Wonderful Life, which is the movie my family has watched every Christmas since I was born. It was also my school play senior year, and even though I’m really an athlete I tried out on a whim and got the main part, Mary. It was a life-changing experience.”

Hilary Sztot, 18, Tewksbury, N.Y.

“I’ve had this pillow since I was little. I actually grew up in Brooklyn, so it’s traveled around with me. It’s nice to bring it back to its original home.”

Anna-Luisa Mirto, 18, Sterling, Va.

“This monkey is always on my bed, no matter where I am.”

Charlotte Haney, 18, New Rochelle, N.Y.

“She’s a Build-A-Bear, and whenever I see her she makes me feel more at home.”

Hannah Ellison, 18, Evanston, Ill.

“I’ve had Peter Rabbit since I was born, and I still cuddle with him.”

Justin D’Agostino, 18, Monroe, N.J.
Kyle Smith
Takes the Reins
Columbia’s new men’s basketball coach hopes to lead Lions to the next level

BY ALEX SACHARE ’71

n a league historically dominated by the Killer Ps, Penn and Princeton, Kyle Smith wants to turn Columbia into the next Cornell.

Last spring, Cornell compiled a 29–5 record and won its third consecutive Ivy League championship. It advanced to the Sweet Sixteen, the third round of the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Championship, something no Ivy team had achieved since Penn reached the Final Four in 1979.

“Cornell had a great team,” says Smith, who was named Columbia’s 22nd head coach on May 2. “It obviously can be done. You could say they got a 7-footer who transferred in and he ended up being really good, and they got a kid from somewhere down south and you could say he just stumbled onto campus. Well, I think Steve Donahue built a pretty good program over 10 years that gave them an opportunity to really blossom and develop and turn into what they did.”

Smith can relate. Another team in that Sweet Sixteen was St. Mary’s, a little-known school in California that had a 2–27 record in 2000, the year before Smith signed on as an assistant to his longtime friend, Randy Bennett. “They were kicking dirt on the place, talking about dropping down to Division III,” says Smith. Last year, it was St. Mary’s that did the kicking, all the way to a 28–6 record, its second consecutive season with more than 25 wins.

“Every job has hurdles you have to get past,” says Smith. “It’s not different at Cornell, but they did it. Let’s not let the hobgoblins and excuses get in the way. We’re going to keep motoring and get through it.”

Smith, 41, was not yet born when Columbia beat Princeton 92–74 in a one-game playoff in 1968 to win its only Ivy League men’s basketball crown. The 1950–51 Columbia team that went undefeated in the regular season won the championship of the Eastern Intercollegiate Basketball Conference, the forerunner to the Ivy League that also included Army and Navy. Since the Ivy League was created in 1954, Penn and Princeton have combined to win 48 of the 56 men’s basketball championships.

Seven coaches have come and gone since Columbia last wore the Ivy crown, and the Lions have enjoyed just three winning seasons in the last 30 years. Columbia was 86–108 in the last seven years under coach Joe Jones and had three 7–7 Ivy seasons before dipping to 5–9 in the league and 11–17 overall last winter. So what makes Smith, a head coach for the first time after 18 years as an assistant at San Diego, Air Force and St. Mary’s, believe he can do what so many others have failed to accomplish?

“The experiences I’ve had,” responds Smith unhesitatingly. “Where other people see a dead end, I see a tremendous opportunity. It was that way at St. Mary’s, and it’s the same thing at Columbia. St. Mary’s was not exactly a juggernaut when I got there.

“Don’t get me wrong, this place is not 2–27. It’s not,” adds Smith, speaking in his third-floor office in the Dodge Physical Fitness Center prior to the start of the fall semester. “When Joe got here, he inherited the same situation we had at St. Mary’s. I know how hard he worked. It’s hard to get over the hump. Joe put in a lot of work here, and I’m hoping to pick up on that.”

But why does Smith think he can take the Lions to the next level? “I guess it’s because I’ve been in similar situations,” he replies. “I’ve done it. It comes down to basketball and team, the things we emphasize. I’ve been in situations where you have to look at things differently and we’ve been able to overcome the issues we were facing. It’s a matter of instilling a belief that it can be done, talking about it and then going out and doing it.

“Penn and Princeton have had great teams. Cornell showed it can be done. Columbia has had great teams, too. So it’s been done in the Ivy League, and now we’re going to try to do it in New York City. Can you imagine if that happened?”
The Columbia program bottomed out in 2002–03, when the team was winless in the Ivy League and 2–25 overall. Jones came in and laid a foundation. A campus presence, he boosted team morale, reinvigorated spirit among students and alumni, recruited some good players and got the Lions to the middle of the Ivy League.

But last spring, when Donahue cashed in on Cornell’s success and moved on to become head coach at Boston College of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Jones resigned to become Donahue’s top assistant.

Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy said more than 150 applications were reviewed before her search team selected Smith as Jones’ successor. “He’s exactly what we’re looking for as our head basketball coach.” Murphy said when Smith was introduced to the Columbia community on May 5, citing Smith’s “strong leadership skills, excellent basketball knowledge and successful recruiting experience.”

For Smith, the opportunity was “too good to pass up,” he says, even though it meant uprooting his family from a comfort zone on the West Coast. “Head coaching jobs are hard to get, period, and everybody knows the Ivy League and its schools. For certain kids, for certain families, there’s a feeling of awe when you say Columbia. Now I want to get the basketball to match that, which Columbia deserves.”

Smith had no qualms about moving from a school, albeit a relatively lesser-known one, that was able to offer athletics scholarships to one where all financial aid is need-based. “I like the non-scholarship piece,” he says. “I was a Division III player at Hamilton College, and there was an investment on our part as players. We were there for the love of the game. I’ve been on the other side of that for a long time, where you’re offering scholarships that are worth $50,000 a year. There’s somewhat of a lack of appreciation. I don’t know of many 17-year-olds who are ready to take on a $50,000-a-year job, which essentially is what it becomes. There’s a sense of entitlement, and they tend not to want to give back, whereas people at Columbia, or where I went at Hamilton, tend to give back.”

Smith says he was pleasantly surprised by the interest in the basketball program among alumni. “I think the piece that really sells Columbia is that people who have gone through here have had a wonderful experience and they care so much about it. I wasn’t expecting that. There hasn’t been great recent success in the program, and
“It’s peaceful and calm. It’s really beautiful. Coming to the Dodge Fitness Center space, the lawns. It’s what you want it to get through the gates and see the green that’s not it at all — especially when you expectations. People think of New York, this one’s unique, it’s New York.

“From my perspective, as an outsider coming from the West Coast, what makes Columbia different from the other Ivy League schools is New York City. The kid who wants the bright lights, the big city, the culture here ... it’s advantageous for a certain kind of kid. For some it’s not. But those other seven campuses are different; this one’s unique, it’s New York.

“In another sense, Columbia beats expectations. People think of New York, it’s going to be all hustle and bustle, but that’s not it at all — especially when you get through the gates and see the green space, the lawns. It’s what you want it to be. Coming to the Dodge Fitness Center through the campus is my favorite walk. It’s peaceful and calm. It’s really beautiful and not what you might expect.”

Smith is hopeful of attracting prospects who will see it the same way.

“For a recruit, I want Columbia to be his destiny. This is where he wanted to go, this is his first option, boom, I want to make this happen here. If a guy thinks he’s settling by going to Columbia, he’s not going to be as invested in the program. He’s thinking, ‘I could have gone somewhere else, I could have gotten a scholarship.’ Well, we need to change that, we don’t want that mentality. We want guys who wants to be here, who will say, ‘This is awesome!’

What does Smith, who coordinated recruiting for St. Mary’s, look for when he evaluates prospects?

“Feel,” he responds. “When I say feel, I mean an understanding of the game. I like to find guys who can pass. They see things happen before they happen, offensively as well as defensively. They understand where the other four guys on the team are at all times.

“In more general terms, I look for guys who can dribble, pass and shoot. You want those qualities. And really, that’s harder to find than you might think. That’s the definition of a guard, and we’d like to have five of them out there. Now, you’re not going to win with five 5-11 guys. But can you find a 6-8 forward who can do those things? Can you find a center who can pass the ball? That’s a gift.”

Smith adds, “Sometimes there’s too much of an emphasis on recruiting. It’s what the fans and the alums like to talk about — who’s coming in, who’s going to do what. The big thing we’ll do here is worry about the ones we have and not so much about the ones we don’t. The guys we have now, those are guys we were excited about three years ago, so let’s see if we can get them to reach their full potential. That was our blueprint at St. Mary’s. We weren’t signing McDonald’s All-Americans, but we got guys with great attitudes, guys who really wanted to be there. That’s important. We’ve got guys who really want to be at Columbia.”

Smith has definite ideas about the kind of program he wants to run at Columbia.

“Our thing is going to be selling team,” he says. “That’s where my confidence comes from. Fans and the media are going to gravitate to star players; fine, that’s how you market the program. But there’s an underlying integrity to the team, the program, certain expectations that everybody’s meeting that make it really good.

So at St. Mary’s, when we lost five seniors from our 26-8 NIT team, including one NBA player and the second-best player in school history, we came back and went 28-6 last year and to the Sweet Sixteen. It was a confirmation that team matters, that doing the little things to support each other is important. If you do things right, if you support each other, you’ll succeed.

“The coaching philosophy we had at St. Mary’s and that I’ve carried with me through high school and college is suited for the Ivy League, for guys who are willing to put the team first.”

Like Jones before him, Smith wants his team and his players to be fully integrated into campus life.

“I don’t want our shirts to say Columbia basketball, I just want them to say Columbia,” he declares. “We can be a great vehicle for promoting what Columbia can be, what Columbia is about. Now, I want guys who are committed to basketball and being part of a team, because those relationships are going to last forever. The alumni who played here have that, and a lot of them are very close.

“But we’re Columbia. Our guys will be part of the community. They’re students, there’s no doubt about it. They’re not separate. People see them, they go to class like...
“Team matters; doing the little things to support each other is important.”

everyone else, they’re regular Joes. And we do have the best arena for bringing the community together. We’re on campus. It’s where people can meet. I don’t know what it’s been like, but I’m hoping that no matter what your thing is, you’ll come over here for a two-hour break and support us.”

As Smith speaks, Columbia’s 2010–11 season opener at LaSalle on November 12 is more than two months away, so it is understandable that he is reluctant to get into specifics about this year’s team. The top returning player is guard Noruwa Agho ’12, a second team All-Ivy selection who led the Lions with 16.3 points per game and 58 three-point field goals last season. Others who saw significant action a year ago include Brian Grimes ’11, Asenso Ampim ’11, Mark Cisco ’13, Brian Barbour ’13, John Daniels ’13, Steve Egee ’12, Matt Johnson ’12 and a pair of 7-footers, Max Craig ’11 and Zack Crimmins ’11.

“I’ve watched video of our team,” he says, “but I don’t want to get too much of a preconceived notion of what guys can and can’t do. I think they hired me because in a sense they wanted a clean slate, where each guy has an equal opportunity to produce and earn a place in the rotation.

“Obviously, the goal is to win the league, but we want to see improvement. We want to improve each year. We were an 11-win team and we lost three seniors, but we have some good talent coming back. We want to make sure our attitude is right and our work ethic is right, and let’s see if we can improve from there. We’ll set team goals, and we’ll reevaluate them periodically.”

Asked about his coaching philosophy, Smith said, “I come from a history of playing up-tempo and I prefer to play that way. You can raise the bar for them, as far as simple as that, and it’s refreshing that Columbia kids. They’re sharp cookies, it’s something we want to get better at as well as areas in which they are doing well.”

Smith also pays close attention to off-court attributes.

“I really want guys with great attitudes and great work ethics,” he says. “All things being equal, I want the great attitude guy. You ask him to do something, he’s going to go above and beyond to do it and that’s the foundation of our culture. We’ll reward guys who do the little things. I’ve been preaching that.

“Now, how do we put a team together, get the chemistry right, get the egos right? That remains to be seen. I’m sure there’ll be some bumps in the road. But these are Columbia kids. They’re sharp cookies, it’s as simple as that, and it’s refreshing that way. You can raise the bar for them, as far as the work level that is expected of them. So I’m going to gauge them based on their work ethic and their level of commitment to the team. Those guys will do well in our program. They might not all play a lot. Obviously, only five guys are going to start and only eight or nine are going to play regularly. But I want guys on the team who will have a sense of pride and for whom it will mean something to wear the Columbia uniform.”

Next March, when his first season is in the books, how will Smith measure success?

“Obviously, results are how you evaluate your performance in this business and measure whether you’ve reached your goals. An Ivy championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament, we’d be walking on clouds around here. That would be terrific. But in more general terms, I want us to be a better team in March that we were in November. I want to see us improve each day.

“We’re going to give each player tangible things to work on and get better at each day,” says Smith. “We’ll do a lot of measurement every day in practice — we’ll film it, evaluate it and give the guys feedback the next day so they can measure how they’re progressing, areas they need to get better at as well as areas in which they are doing well.”

Smith cites three metrics as especially important: assist-to-turnover ratio, rebound margin and defensive field goal percentage. “These are the things that come to mind that we can measure. We’re probably not going to be able to get all three things, but we’ll try. If we can improve in all three of those areas, we will give ourselves a chance to have a great season.”

Alex Sachare ’71, the editor of CCT, has written, edited or contributed to more than 20 books on basketball, including The Official NBA Basketball Encyclopedia, America’s Dream Team (with Chuck Daly) and The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Basketball (with Walt Frazier).
Dr. John Clarke ’93
Raps for the Health of It

By Kim Martineau ’97J

Dr. John Clarke ’93 has rapped about asthma and allergies, but none of his songs have caught on quite like the one about H1N1 flu. A medical director for the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), Clarke spends his free time spreading public health messages through hip-hop. As swine flu hysteria swept the nation last year, Clarke coolly dished out prevention tips in an award-winning rap video.

I’m recommending washing hands for protection
Front and back real thorough while you count 20 seconds.
Hand sanitizer, I advise you get it, why?
It makes germs die, when you rub and let it dry.

Shot mostly at Columbia, the video was submitted to the U.S. Health and Human Services’ national flu.gov PSA contest, where it beat out more than 200 other entries to win $2,500, a spot on national TV and enough attention to garner 240,000 hits on YouTube. The publicity has allowed Clarke to take his career in new directions. The National Psoriasis Foundation and LIRR have since commissioned the rapping doc to write songs for them, and most recently, he has entered an original song to promote condom use in a contest sponsored by Trojan and hosted by rapper Ludacris.

On camera, Clarke, a specialist in occupational medicine, waves his hands and leans into the lens as if ready to brag and boast. Off-stage, he is polite and unassuming, leading a quiet life on suburban Long Island with his wife, Elizabeth, a nurse, and their two children. Though Clarke has been writing rap lyrics for three decades (since he was 8) and recording songs for others since college, it was H1N1 that gave him national exposure. He regularly speaks at churches and schools about public health, but lately the requests for his speeches and performances have been rolling in more often.

On a Sunday this past spring, Clarke guided his minivan through Long Island’s sleepy suburban streets to Grace Cathedral International, an African-American congregation, where a group of teenagers and their parents awaited. While some artists rap about flashy cars and sexual conquests, Clarke is a self-described “physician musician” whose material consists of medical case histories and textbook terminology. Through hip-hop and plain language, his goal is to reach those who normally tune out authority figures. The health topics for teens include suicide, HIV and the dangers of smoking, subject matter serious enough that Clarke is dressed in a suit and tie, which he wears to all performances.

As Clarke drove, his latest song played from the car stereo:
Yes, Dr. Clarke is back
I came to drop a rap
Cause everybody needs to watch the gap.

The gap, for those who do not regularly ride commuter rail, is that treacherous few inches of space separating a train car from the platform, made famous by several serious injuries and lawsuits in recent years. The LIRR shot video of Clarke performing the rap, for use as a public service piece on train platforms.

Clarke has been medical director for LIRR for four years, supervising its drug testing program and determining whether employees are medically fit to work. But it wasn’t until Newsday profiled him on September 2, 2009, after the H1N1 video hit, that people at work learned he could rap. In its ongoing campaign to remind the public about the gap (and avoid more lawsuits), LIRR asked Clarke if he would write for them.

Until that point, Clarke’s hip-hop career had been on hold. His last album, *Children’s Health Songs*, teaching kids about dental hygiene and healthy eating, came out in 2005. But after the birth of his son, John Jr., now almost 5, followed by a daughter, Sandra, 2, he found his creative energy sapped by the demands of work and parenting.

One morning in May 2009, swine flu was mentioned on the news. “Hey John, look!” Clarke remembers his wife saying. “Might be good to write a song.”
Over the next few days, Clarke started gathering information and writing lyrics, and a month later he recorded the song. In August 2009, while searching for a government agency that might like to use the piece, Clarke stumbled across the video contest on flu.gov. With four days to go till deadline, he dusted off his video camera, called his cousin, a photographer, and traveled to Columbia to shoot the piece on the walkway over Amsterdam Avenue.

By the end of August, the video had climbed to the Top 10 on YouTube, and the talk shows began calling. Clarke appeared on The Wendy Williams Show and then flew to Los Angeles to appear on The Doctors. The night before the taping, he was stopped on Hollywood Boulevard for an autograph. “We just laughed,” his wife says. A few days later, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius called to congratulate Clarke, and he traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept his prize.

Clarke was a member of the first generation to grow up with hip-hop and spent most of his formative years in Queens, where LL Cool J and Run DMC were becoming household names. He tried to emulate the complex rhymes of Big Daddy Kane and Rakim, and in high school often memorized vocabulary words by setting them to rap. Still, his parents viewed his hobby nervously. “They didn’t like it,” he says. “I had to assure them I wouldn’t allow it to jeopardize medical school.”

At Columbia, Clarke was pre-med and did a double concentration in music and sociology. But he also found time to rap at talent shows, cut hair for classmates and neighborhood pals, and bring activists to campus to speak, including Rev. Al Sharpton, Ralph Nader and Dr. Ruth. “He was the only other person I knew at school who really appreciated early ‘80s Jamaican dancehall,” says his friend Michael Goldwasser ’93, a Grammy Award-winning reggae producer. “While I could not have predicted that he would later rap about medical issues, it definitely makes sense that he would rap about issues that are important to society.”

Clarke recorded his first demos from Goldwasser’s dorm room and his first songs in Professor Brad Garton’s “MIDI Music Production Techniques” class, where they experimented with the synthesizers and sequencers used by hip-hop artists at the time. “We encouraged everyone to really explore their creative side,” says Garton. “I guess it paid off for John.”

Clarke took Music Humanities with Kitty Brazelton, and for his final project, he transposed a piece of classical music that would later help him compose musical tracks. He aced the class, and Brazelton wrote him a recommendation for medical school.

During his 1997 residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, from where he also earned his M.D., Clarke composed his first medical-rap, “Asthma Stuff”:

Two puffs of the asthma stuff,  
Twice a day,  
Stops the wheeze and helps you to breathe!

Asthma sufferer LL Cool J introduced the song in what became an internal hospital video. Since then, Clarke has self-produced six albums about diabetes, sickle cell anemia and even allergies (one song is playfully titled “So Many Tissues”) that he sells mostly to school nurses and other health professionals. His wife and son often contribute vocals while Clarke puts down the layers of synthesizer and drum machines himself. He plays the clarinet, piano, bass guitar and recorder, but says it’s faster and easier to rely on synthesizers.

Clarke’s most ambitious album, Health Hop Music, is geared toward teenagers. On that Sunday at Grace Cathedral, he interspersed songs from the album with statistics and the occasional scripture. The big risk in rapping about medicine, he says, is coming off as preachy or worse, corny. To avoid that, he tells stories. In “Playaz Klub,” a young woman infected with HIV hides her status from her sexual partners, a true story Clarke learned about from a school social worker. Part of the song is told from the guy’s point of view, and as Clarke rapped, several teenagers smiled at the words.

He took her back to the crib to hit a homerun,  
In his mind he said, ‘This ho’s dumb.  
I didn’t buy her drinks or take her to a movie,  
didn’t spend a cent and still I got the booty!’

But getting lucky leads to a life-changing mistake; the song ends after the guy tests positive for crabs, gonorrhea and HIV.

After the lecture, the crowd stood to applaud. The teenagers mingled in the lobby on their way out and gave Clarke positive reviews. “He had a nice flow,” says Jelissa Dacosta, a student at Nassau Community College who is studying to become a nurse. “We hear about this stuff all the time, but hip-hop is a good way to get the message out.”

To see Clarke’s music videos, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.

Kim Martineau ’97 is communications manager at Transportation Alternatives, a walking, bicycling and public transit advocacy group in New York City. She is a former science writer at Lamont-Doherty.

Clarke spends many weekends touring Long Island in his minivan, performing at churches and other venues.

PHOTOS: KIM MARTINEAU ’97
Daniel Alarcón ’99 was chosen this year by The New Yorker for its prestigious “20 Under 40” list of the country’s top young fiction writers. Born in Lima, Peru, Alarcón spent his childhood in Birmingham, Ala., and attended Indian Spring School. “As a boy, I wanted to be the Peruvian Diego Maradona,” he told The New Yorker. (A longtime soccer enthusiast, Alarcón blogged about the World Cup last summer for The New Republic.) In 2007, his novel about people whose lives are torn apart by a civil war, Lost City Radio, was named a Best Book of the Year by the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Alarcón’s latest book, The Secret Miracle: The Novelist’s Handbook, is actually a nonfiction collection about the craft of writing that he has edited. Contributors ranging from Mario Vargas Llosa to Stephen King and from Amy Tan to Gary Shteyngart answer the basic questions of beginning writers: What should a first chapter do? Do you outline? What makes for a successful ending, and how do you know when you’re done? The result is an informal master class in the art of fiction by some of today’s best writers — an Olympian version of literary shoptalk.

In the following essay from The Secret Miracle, revised for this magazine, Alarcón muses about the compulsive, dangerous and irresistible pursuit of writing.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard
Novelists, Alarcón writes, “have good days, bad days, and days where it is more useful to sit quietly and read.”
"Apart from a few friends and many routines, the problematic pursuit of literature constituted the whole of his life; like every writer, he measured other men’s virtues by what they had accomplished, yet asked that other men measure him by what he planned someday to do."

— Jorge Luis Borges

_The Secret Miracle_

In December of 2004, just before Christmas, I wrote the last sentence of my first (and for now, only) novel. I wasn’t done, nor was it a first draft exactly, but composing this seven-word sentence certainly felt like some kind of milestone. At the time I was renting a room in a big, lonely house in the Eastlake neighborhood of Oakland, California. There was a yard of overgrown grass in the back that I never once set foot in. The landlady was my age, with sandy hair and a thin, mousy voice, polite to the point of being nearly invisible, and we shared the space like two people in the waiting room of a doctor’s office. Her boyfriend lived in Los Angeles, and every few weeks he’d go see him and leave me to care for the house, which entailed nothing at all. The lights and the heat went off and on by electronic timer; there were no pets, no plants. Whether she was home or not made no difference to me: either way, I spent most of the day inside my room, venturing to the kitchen only to make coffee or lunch. I wrote all morning until I got too hungry to keep going. I had no distractions: baseball season was over; the disappointing presidential election had come and gone, and besides my sisters I had essentially no friends in the Bay. For months, that hadn’t mattered; I had my novel. And I knew I was close, knew I was approaching the end of _something_, but when it finally happened, I was caught completely by surprise.

I saved the document and closed the computer. I paced nervously around the house for an hour or so, then sat back down to re-read the last paragraph, not sure what I would find. To my astonishment, it was still there — the last sentence — and the sensation I had was unlike anything I’d felt before, or have felt since. Not happiness or pride, not fear or abandonment, but some unholy combination of all four of these discrete emotions. I’d been thinking about this book for five years, been writing it for more than two, and suddenly I’d come to the end. My fingers tingled. My head ached. I had nothing to do.

The next day I put the document on a USB drive and biked over to a shop on Grand Avenue to have a few copies printed out. It was a beautiful day, clear and sunny, the sort of December morning which makes one appreciate California living. The rest of the nation shivered through winter, but I wore a t-shirt and sunglasses, and had finished a novel (or a version of something that would three years later be a novel). I told myself this over and over, feeling at once carefree and agitated. Only when it was done, when the copy shop attendant passed me the three copies, did I realize how much it weighed. I’d never seen the entire thing printed out, never held it in my hands, and in my haste, I’d brought nothing to carry it home in. I couldn’t very well ride with this much paper under my arm, could I? I was too impatient to bring nothing to carry it home in. I couldn’t very well ride with this much paper under my arm, could I? I was too impatient to

This kind stranger helped me gather my things and push the ruined bike to the relative safety of the sidewalk. My front wheel was hopelessly bent, the bike un-rideable. One of the copies of the novel was damaged; the other two, thankfully, were fine.

T

his little episode was so noxiously, so self-evidently meaningful — a man nearly killed by his novel — that I decided to take a trip. I gave up my room, set the book aside and flew to Buenos Aires, where I spent a week and spoke to no one. Without my characters I felt very alone. I drank a lot; I watched people; I tried to have fun. When I got bored, I went to Chile, and a few months later I found myself in a small town on the Pacific coast called La Serena. It was the _Feria Internacional del Libro_, though it seemed mine was the only international presence in town, and I was only there by accident. Alejandra, a novelist friend of mine, had come up from Santiago to give a reading, and we were going to meet up after the festival with some people she knew and head to the beach. Or something like that. I can’t remember exactly. I do remember however, very clearly, milling around after her reading and noticing a rather small, hunched and nervous-looking man hovering about the edge of the gathering. He was around fifty years old, with short, light brown hair, and a face lined with worry. His metal-frame glasses kept slipping down the bridge of his nose. Alejandra was signing books and talking to the writers who’d just been on the panel with her, and this man circled around them, looking for a way to join the conversation. Everyone was deliberately and quite obviously ignoring him. They knew him. Eventually, he gave up and turned to me. He asked if he could give me a book.

“Sure,” I said.

A poetry reading had begun by then, and we stood listening. The novelists took their conversation out of earshot, and the man giving away his books watched with envy as they wandered away. Chileans — God bless them — live and breathe poetry, and a very attentive crowd had gathered to listen to the reading, but the man next to me was not impressed. He spoke in a shrill whisper. Free verse has ruined poetry, he told me, and now anybody could claim to be a poet. “Do you hear that?” he said, waving a dismissive hand at the stage. I tried to listen. The reading disgusted him. “Sonnets, young man! Sonnets! What is classic never goes out of style.”

I nodded, and he took the opportunity to introduce himself. “Enrique, the most published writer in Latin America.”

“How many books?”

“Three-hundred sixty-three.” Enrique said, beaming, and then recited a few notable figures from his vast bibliography: ninety-three books of essays, sixty-seven books about women, forty novels, one hundred or so books of sonnets.

Naturally, I let him keep talking. He’d moved to Chile some thirty years before — that is, he left Spain just after Franco died, and relocated to Pinochet’s Chile. I did the math, and took a step back. He owned a few buildings and lived off the rents, which allowed him to dedicate all his time to literature. He started writing in 1998, he told me, and spent a day or two on each book. “I think in meter,” he said at one point, in a voice that can only be described as harrowing.

When I told him I was Peruvian, he said he’d written a few novels about my country, and those were the ones he’d like to...
give me. If it was okay with me. A few novels —
this was the phrase he used. I found it astonish
ning. It’s not even his country, I thought, and this
man has written two. What have I done?

“Of course,” I said.

It was the entire premise of writing turned up
side down: the goal was to produce pages, meter,
rhyme, and finally books in industrial quantities,
all these words worth nothing unless they are
bound and lining the shelves of one’s own home.
There is something narcissistic in the writing of a
novel, to be sure, but I’ve never heard it expressed
with such glaring honesty. My experience — I’ve
abandoned more than five novels, and finished
only one — couldn’t have been more different.

Enrique came by my hotel the next morning
with two books: one called Resentment, about a
Peruvian who hates Spaniards because of the
Conquest, and another called July 28, Day of Peru,
a novel/sonnet in honor of the natural beauty
of my country. Both were slim, printed with hu
mongous type, and far be it from me to say what
is and what is not a novel, but ... Of course, it is
all very obvious now: Enrique was crazy. In his
lunacy, he exuded a vulnerability and sadness
that perhaps all writers share to some degree. He
ran his fingers lovingly over the cardstock covers
of his books, and explained how he had come to
write them, what he was trying to say with each.
I sat in the hotel lobby, sipping coffee, listening
to this tender recitation, and was moved. At ev
ery other moment, Enrique spoke brusquely,
without adornment, but now there was great af
fection in his voice, as he discussed the process,
the discovery, the joy with a certain cluelessness
I recognized. We don’t know what we’re doing,
and for this very reason, we find it impossible to
stop. And when we talk about writing, we are
sometimes reduced to this: sentiment instead of insight, because
describing what actually happens and how is next to impossible.

Like Enrique, I don’t have any idea how it gets done, how a
novel gets written. Perhaps if I’d written three-hundred sixty
novels, the mystery would be solved — but I doubt that. The novel
is an almost infinitely malleable form, and its flexibility is the
key to its survival and relevance: still, even today, there are those
who attempt to make sense of the world — its terror, humor, and
beauty — through the reading and writing of novels. Oftentimes
writing can feel overwhelmingly lonely, a fool’s errand, and it’s
gratifying to be reminded that at any given moment, there are
thousands of others, working in hundreds of languages all over
the world, engaged in much the same pursuit. They, like all of us,
have good days, bad days, and days where it is more useful to sit
quietly and read, let the writing itself wait.

Because I was running late, I let Enrique give me a ride to a
local radio station where my friend was being interviewed. We
were leaving town that afternoon. He spoke without pause, re
lating how he’d been expelled from various writing workshops
(jealousy, he said), and fought with the mayor and the editor of
the paper over local political controversies not worth getting into.
He’d written a book called Letter to the Pope, which he mailed to
the Vatican, and had even received a note from a representative
of John Paul II in return. A very nice letter, he said, which led to
his follow-up Response to a Letter from the Pope, the “novel” he was
most proud of. I should be on these panels at the Book Fair, En
rique said, after all, he had the most number of books at the local
library! I was silent. I hadn’t brought my manuscript with me. I’d
done my best to put it out of my mind, and not be a writer for just
a little while. In spite of my best intentions, I thought about my
characters every single day.

“I’m going to the beach,” I said. “I’m on vacation.”

“How long?”

“Three days. Maybe four.”

Enrique smiled. “By the time you come back, I will have fin
ished another novel.”

“Amazing,” I said, nodding.

He shrugged, and looked tired all of the sudden. “If your
friend Alejandra wants to leave me a book, she can,” he said.

For a moment, I thought he might cry. His face clouded, his
eyes closed, but then it passed and he was himself again. “If she
doesn’t want to that’s fine too. I’ve published many more books
than she has.”

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Snow Falling from a Bamboo Leaf: The Art of Haiku by Hag Akmakjian '48. Akmakjian details the history of the haiku as a poetic form and provides translations of classic Japanese poems (Ktav Publishing House, $39.50).

The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery by Eric Foner '63, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History. Foner examines the mix of principle and pragmatism that characterized Lincoln’s approach to slavery before and during the Civil War (W.W. Norton & Co., $29.95).

Oskar Panizza and The Love Council: A History of the Scandalous Play on Stage and in Court, with the Complete Text in English and a Biography of the Author by Peter D.G. Brown '64. This text introduces readers to Panizza, a German author who was imprisoned for blasphemy in 1895 after writing a play about the first known outbreak of syphilis (McFarland & Co., $49.95).

Time's Dual Nature: A Commonsense Approach to Quantum Physics by Jonathan Deutsch '70. Deutsch uses layman’s language to explain the fundamental properties of matter and time (CreateSpace, $16.95).

Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State by Daniel L. Feldman '70 and Gerald Benjamin. Feldman and his co-author describe how the legislation process in New York State has changed during the last three decades (Excelsior Editions, $24.95).

A Measureless Peril: America in the Fight for the Atlantic, the Longest Battle of World War II by Richard Snow '70. This account of the struggle between German U-boats and American ships for control of the Atlantic throughout WWII includes passages from letters written by the author’s father, Richard B. Snow '26, an American naval officer during the war (Scribner, $27).


Bob Dylan in America by Sean Wilentz '72. Wilentz, the Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor of History at Princeton, chronicles the most significant events in the professional life of the man he calls the “greatest American songwiter of the last 50 years” (Doubleday, $28.95).

The Man Who Saved New York: Hugh Carey and the Great Fiscal Crisis of 1975 by Seymour P. Lachman and Robert Polner '82. The authors argue that the leadership of Governor Hugh L. Carey was crucial in saving New York City from bankruptcy during the mid-1970s (Excelsior Editions, $24.95).


Lady Lazarus by Michele Lang ’89. Set in Budapest during the summer before WWII, this supernatural thriller combines elements of history and fantasy (Tor Books, $14.99).

Young World Rising: How Youth, Technology, and Entrepreneurship are Changing the World from the Bottom Up by Rob Salkowitz ’89. Salkowitz analyzes the economic role played by the Net Generation in developing countries as well as in the first world (Wiley, $29.95).

Laundry Can Wait by Dorothy Cadet ’96. The author advises women on how to balance the stresses of work, marriage and motherhood (Dog Ear Publishing, $13.95).


Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan by Lori Meeks ’88. The author discusses the role of women in the Japanese Buddhist tradition, focusing on the history of a single convent (University of Hawaii Press, $50).


Higher Education: How Colleges Are Wasting Our Money and Failing Our Kids — And What We Can do about It by Andrew Hacker and Claudia Dreifus, adjunct associate professor of international and political economics at Princeton University (Hyperion, $23.99).

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Danielle Evans ’04 Sees the Past in the Present

BY GRACE LAIDLAW ’11

In her new collection of short stories, Danielle Evans ’04 challenges both social boundaries and stylistic conventions. The author’s first full-length work, Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self (Riverhead Books, $25.95), is set in modern-day America. Evans’ characters live in a world of uncertainty and contradiction. In “Robert E. Lee Is Dead,” a teenager rises to the top of her high school class only to jeopardize her graduation by pulling a dangerous prank. In “Snakes,” a biracial girl is tormented by her white grandmother. Children are expected to make adult choices, and prejudice persists even as the lines between ethnic groups grow fuzzy.

At the same time, Evans’ narrative style departs from traditional literary conventions. She mixes informal vernacular with elegant prose, creating characters whose most poignant remarks are hidden in their most casual comments. Evans also collapses time and space in her narration; though none of the stories in her debut collection is longer than 40 pages, many of them span several years and a wide range of geographic locations. In “The King of a Vast Empire,” a brother and sister travel from Massachusetts to Maryland to Washington, D.C., all in the course of a single night. “Jellyfish” reveals an entire family history by telling the story of one father-daughter lunch.

Evans’ treatment of time has thematic implications for her work. In the minds of her characters, the line between the present and the past often is blurred. “I think readers will notice how present the past is in the book,” says Evans. “Again and again, characters find that they can never fully escape their histories.”

One boundary that Evans sees as sacred is the line between truth and fiction. Though she has undergraduate degrees in anthropology and African American studies, Evans chose to become a fiction writer because, as she explains it, she has too much respect for the truth.

“I loved studying anthropology because it opened up the way I think about people and the world,” she says. When reading interviews and historical documents, however, she found herself frustrated. “As an anthropologist, I had to observe and report events exactly as they happened, but I often thought that I could tell a better story.” Rather than risk embellishing the truth, Evans turned to fiction. Of course, her stories are not pure invention. Bits and pieces of the author’s own life have found their way into her writing. Asked whether she is afraid that people she knows will recognize themselves in her characters, however, Evans laughs.

“People are only right about 50 percent of the time, and as long as you don’t tell them which 50 percent, they’ll never know.” While her anthropology studies led Evans to think about the different between truth and fiction, other classes shaped the way she thought about writing. Columbia marked Evans’ first real exposure to contemporary literature, and she recalls being particularly inspired by Junot Díaz’s use of vernacular and Toni Morrison’s complex narrative structure. Evans also credits Morrison with proving to her that the topics she was most interested in writing about — including African-American culture and female relationships — were worthy subjects for literary exploration. “I think I needed to read her before I could give myself permission to write,” Evans says.

Evans’ father is a College alumnus and her mother a Barnard alumna, and Evans initially was reluctant to follow them to Morningside Heights. “There was just so much history there,” Evans says. “I didn’t want to feel like I was copying their example.” Her parents had to bully her into visiting the campus; once she did, she was enamored.

Evans made the most of her Columbia experience, becoming head of the Pan African House and political secretary of the Black Students’ Organization, among other activities. She also wrote a weekly opinion column, “(Re)-Education,” for Spectator. Along with her two majors, Evans pursued a creative writing track. She says she especially enjoyed classes with Colin Harrison and Victor LaValle. In fact, several of the stories in Evans’ book began as assignments for undergraduate writing courses.

Given that she’s been revising some of her stories since college, it is perhaps not surprising that Evans feels more than ready to move on to her next project. “It’s like I just got engaged, and everyone keeps talking about my ex-boyfriend,” she says. She is working on a novel, tentatively titled The Empire Has No Clothes, about a young woman who is asked to rewrite a history textbook for a progressive charter school.

Though many of the stylistic elements that define her first book will reappear in this next work, Evans says the project will be something of a departure for her. “Writing a novel forced me to think about structure in a new way,” she says. The story has been especially challenging to construct, Evans says, because large chunks of it are set in the past. Beyond these details, she refuses to reveal too much about her latest work, but she does promise an engaging read.

“It’s been a lot of fun to write,” Evans says. “The characters get up to all sorts of shenanigans.”

Grace Laidlaw ’11 is majoring in creative writing and psychology. She is director of Columbia’s peer counseling hotline and contributes regularly to CCT.
John R. Phelps, music teacher, Sun City Center, Fla., on March 4, 2010. Phelps was born on May 2, 1909. At Columbia, he was a member of the Iota Chapter of the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Phelps earned an M.A. from Teachers College in 1936 and a Ph.D. in musical composition from the Institute of Musical Art, a branch of Wayne State in Detroit. During WWII, he served as an anti-aircraft officer, as an instructor in the Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, N.C., and in the Philippine Islands. Phelps was the organizer and choir director at Trinity Methodist Church in Highland Park, Mich., and Nardin Park Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, Mich.; and organist at the United Methodist Church in Sun City Center. He composed many works, including Piano Concerto in D Minor for Piano and Orchestra, the third movement of which was performed by the Florida Orchestra on May 28, 2009, in celebration of his 100th birthday. Phelps was preceded by his wife of 56 years, Dorothy Schultz Phelps, and a daughter, Janis Benner. He is survived by his children, Tom and his wife, Carolyn, Joan Provencher and her husband, Bill, and Roger; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Harrison was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years and by his brother, John ‘38, ‘52 GSAS. Memorial contributions may be made to The Capitol Lakes Foundation, 333 W. Main St., Madison, WI 53703.

Henry Corey, attorney, Falmouth, Mass., on February 27, 2010. Born in Oak Bluffs, Mass., Corey was an Army veteran, serving as a medic with the 47th Field Hospital during WWII. He was in Normandy, France, in 1944, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge, and was honorably discharged in 1945. Corey graduated from Fordham Law in 1949 and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar the same year. He conducted a private practice on Martha’s Vineyard for more than 50 years. In 1955, Corey and the late John W. Osborne co-founded the Dukes County Savings Bank, now Martha’s Vineyard Savings Bank, and the Bank of Woods Hole, where he was a trustee/officer until his death. A lifelong member of the VFV, DAV and the American Legion, Corey was dedicated to the recognition of service people in the local community. An avid jogger, he won several Martha’s Vineyard Road Races into his late 70s. Corey volunteered at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Patricia (Kiley) Corey; son, Sean J.; and his wife, Kristin; daughter, Kathleen Lynch and her husband, William; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to VFV, MV Post 9261, PO Box 1437 Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

John J. Donohue Jr., retired market analyst, Madison, Wis., on February 4, 2010. Donohue was born on June 24, 1923, in the Bronx, N.Y. He served in the Army Signal Corps and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. Donohue earned an M.A. at Teachers College. He taught junior high school, worked for the federal government in Washington, D.C.; the New York State Labor Department; Republic Aircraft on Long Island; and was the market research manager for U.S. Motors, a division of Emerson Electric, for many years before his retirement. He also was a Justice of the Peace. Donohue received the National AARP Award in 1992, the Distinction Service Award from the Caucus of Connecticut Democrats in 1991, the 1997 Certificate of Merit from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and the Secretary of State’s Public Service Award in 2002. In addition to his wife, Mildred Sileo Donohue, survivors includes his children, Jeanne D. Miner and her husband, Bruce, and John J., III and his wife, Maureen; six grandchildren; a great-grandson; and five nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Infant Church, 450 Racebrook Rd., Orange, CT 06477 or American Legion Post #127, 630 Grassy Hill Rd., Orange, CT 06477.

Clyde R. Hampton, environmental attorney, Aurora, Colo., on February 14, 2010. Hampton was born on May 10, 1926, in Worland, Wyo. At the College, he played four years of varsity football and was on the team that beat Army in 1947. Hampton was a captain in the Navy Reserve and a commanding officer of the Naval Intelligence Unit at NORD in Colorado Springs. He graduated from the University of Colorado Law School and was active in the Colorado Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute and the American Petroleum Institute. As a pioneering environmental attorney, Hampton was known nationally for special contributions to environmental law and was employed for 33 years as a general attorney for Conoco. Hampton also was a founding officer for the Association for Retarded Citizens and was a deacon at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church as well as an avid golfer and skier. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy L.; daughter, Dorothy N.; a sister; and numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, 10150 E. Belleview Ave., Englewood, CO 80111.

Frank P. McDermott, retired deputy assistant treasurer, Agawam, Mass., on December 11, 2009. McDermott was born on December 22, 1926, in New York City and was a graduate of the Mamaroneck H.S. Class of 1944. After serving with the Navy during WWII, he earned a bachelor’s in business from Columbia. McDermott worked for Hartford Life Insurance and later was deputy assistant treasurer for the State of Connecticut, retiring in 1994 after 12 years. McDermott enjoyed gardening, bird watching, reading and UCONN sports. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret (Dooey) McDermott, a brother, Jim, and a sister, Jean Brennan. McDermott is survived by his daughters, Anne, Elizabeth and her husband, Martin Bak, and Clare O’Malley and her husband, John; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 U.S. Highway 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4301.

Thomas J. O’Grady, thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon, Toledo, Ohio, on February 28, 2010. O’Grady was born September 21, 1933, in Jersey City, N.J. After medical school at Cornell, from where he graduated in 1958, he served as a captain in the Air Force Medical Corps and was stationed in Thule, Greenland. O’Grady moved to Toledo upon completion of his training at Boston City Hospital, Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Clinic. He was on the staff at Flower Hospital, The Toledo Hospital, St. Charles Hospital, Mercy Hospital and The Medical College of Ohio. O’Grady retired from surgical practice with the Toledo Clinic on December 31, 1999, and continued his involvement in quality assurance programs. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed gardening with his wife of 47 years, Inez, as well as family vacations. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Naomi and Claudia; sons, Justin ’89, and Matthew and his wife, Sarah; and sister, Jane. Memorial contributions may be made to the Flower Hospital Foundation or the Toledo Botanical Gardens.

Alan N. Miller, retired nephrologist, New York City, on August 20,
2010. Miller earned a B.S in 1957 from the Engineering School and an M.S. in finance in 1958 from the Business School. Prior to becoming a nephrologist, he was an engineer. Miller served as a captain in the Special Forces training Green Berets. An avid learner, he took classes at Columbia all his life. President of his College class as well as his class’ CCT Class Notes correspondent for many years, Miller worked tirelessly to keep his classmates connected. He attended many Columbia events and was deeply involved in class activities and lunches. Some fellow Columbians referred to him as “The Class Act.” An advocate of the 3 x 5 index card form of organization, he also was a proud cigar smoker, stock watcher and wine collector. Miller was widowed after 37 years of marriage to Libby Shana Halpern Miller Ph.D. He is survived by his partner, Helen Ruddy; mother, Iris; daughter, Libby Shana Halpern Miller Ph.D. & Co. in New York. He was a featured guest on the Board of Trust.

Albert J. Anton Jr., oil analyst, Louisville, Ky., on April 10, 2010. Anton was a graduate of Chaminade H.S. on Long Island and the Wharton School. At Columbia, he was president of Delta Upsilon Fraternity and was a member of the Newman Club. Anton had a long career as an oil analyst and was for more than 30 years a partner and director of research with Carl H. Pfotzheimer & Co. in New York. He was a chartered financial analyst and a past president and honorary life member of the National Association of Petroleum Investment Analysts. Anton was a featured guest on the popular television show Wall Street Week. A former New Jersey resident, Anton served on the Board of Trustees of South Orange, was chairman of the board of the YMCA of the Oranges and was a member of the Advisory Board of St. Benedict's

Prep in Newark. He was recently an instructor with the Veritas Society at Bellarmine University in Louisville. Anton is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sara (Lembcke) ’58 Barnard; daughter, Claire; and sons, Christopher and Thomas. Memorial contributions may be made to Food for the Poor at foodforthepoor.org.

1960

Robert L. Trelstad, physician, Princeton, N.J., on February 15, 2010. Trelstad was born in Redding, Calif., and raised in Salem, Ore. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1966, where he worked with the pioneers of cell biology. Trelstad was a resident at Massachusetts General Hospital and in 1972 became an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. From 1975-81, he was chief of pathology at the Shriners Burns Institute in Boston. In 1981, Trelstad became chair of pathology at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, N.J., and in 1998 founded the Child Health Institute of New Jersey. He also founded Key-Board Publishing, which developed computer-based learning products, and chaired the Health Professionals Advising Committee at Princeton. Trelstad is survived by his wife of 48 years, Barbara; brothers, John and Donald ’69, ’73 P&S; sons, Derek ’91 Arch, Graham ’89, Brian and Jeremy ’97; and five grandchildren.

1970

Robert W. Butterfield, sexton, Bethlehem, Pa., on January 3, 2010. Butterfield was born on November 7, 1948. A lifelong resident of Bethlehem, he was a graduate of Moravian Preparatory School and the inaugural session of the Citizens Academy of Bethlehem. After a career in home renovation, he served as sexton for Central Moravian Church for 24 years, turning his role as curator of historic properties into a unique ministry to the church and congregation. As a member of the Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir, Butterfield took part in its mission trip to Jamaica in 2005. He also was a board member of the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center, secretary/treasurer of the Sacristans Corp at Central Moravian, treasurer of the Wednesday Men’s Bible Study and treasurer of the Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir. Butterfield is survived by his wife of 14 years, Helenann Ccelecz Butterfield; son, Joseph Florio; brothers, Nicholas and his wife, Rachel Osborn, and Jonathan and his wife, Sally Lifland; sister, Janice Ostock and her husband, David; in-laws, Pam and Louis Celecz Jr.; and several nephews and nieces.

1987

Albert J. Weisel, freelance writer, New York City, on February 27, 2010. Weisel was born on July 18, 1963. He wrote for publications such as Rolling Stone, The Washington Post, New York Newsday, Us, Premiere, Spin, Tracks, George, Travel & Leisure, Out, Time Out New York and The Bulletin (Australia). From 1999–2002, Weisel was the movies editor at CDNOW, where he launched the video/DVD section. In October 2005, Live Fast, Die Young: The Wild Ride of Making Rebel Without a Cause, a book co-authored with Larry Frascella, was published, which explores the making of the film Rebel Without a Cause and in particular the relationships between director Nicholas Ray and leading actors James Dean and Natalie Wood. Weisel was known as Jon Swift in the blogosphere, where he wrote a satirical political blog (jonswift.blogspot.com).

Lisa Palladino

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

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

1933 Clarence Barasch, New York City, on August 31, 2010.
1943 Edward M. Marwell, Mount Kisco, N.Y., on September 7, 2010.
1948 Marvin A. Schlaff, UN official, New York City, on August 18, 2010.
1953 William M. Bason, physician, Chesapeake, Va., on September 18, 2010.
1954 Erik D. Wensberg, writer and editor, New York City, on June 5, 2010.
Robert Benjamin ’40, a retired textile executive, passed away in New Rochelle, N.Y., on August 27. Bob was born on June 6, 1919, in New York City. He served with the Fifth Air Corps in the Pacific and came home from Japan in 1945. He is survived by his wife, Betty K.; sons, John and Richard; and grandson, Scott.

Share your news with Columbia College Today. Your classmates and fellow alumni want to hear about your families, travels, adventures, memories of your time in Morningside Heights and your thoughts on the state of the world. Submit a Class Note to Associate Editor Ethan Rouen ’04 by e-mail at ecru2102@columbia.edu or by postal mail at the address above.

Robert Zucker
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The old expression “no news is good news” is not good news for the writer of this column. I assume most of you had a relaxing summer and fall, and did I, and were too busy jolling on the beach and playing tennis to take the time to update us on your activities.

A call, e-mail or letter would be appreciated.

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

The New York Times of July 1 had a brief obituary on Sanford Bayer, who died on June 27. The cause and place of his death were not mentioned. I knew Sandy when we ran on the freshman cross country team together. He was tall, thin, fast, had excellent stamina and always finished far ahead of me in our races. I never saw Sandy again after graduation and did not know anything about his military service (if any) during WWII. He became an antique and fine arts dealer in New York City and California, and finally in Wellfleet, Mass., before his retirement and death. He was the father of a daughter, Susan, and a son, Fred. No further information is available at the time of this writing.

Our Alumni Office notified me of the death of Frank Gherardi on June 28 at his home in Wethersfield, Conn. Frank entered Columbia with our Class of 1942 but left for military service in WWII, serving as an interpreter in an intelligence unit in France. Post-war, Frank returned to Columbia and graduated from the Business School in 1947 with a degree in accounting. He then worked for Arthur Young & Co., Catawba Corp. and as a partner in the accounting firm of Gherardi & O’Donnell. In 1956, Frank married Mary Markstein, who survives him, along with their daughter, Mary Elizabeth; granddaughter, Luz Elena; niece, St. Patricia Gould; and several additional nieces and nephews. Frank was fluent in Italian and French and was a family historian with an encyclopedic memory and memorable narrative style. We extend our condolences to his wife and to all members of his family.

Our Alumni Office also notified me of the death of Franklin Joseph Tobey II on May 6 in Purrellville, Va. Franklin was a retired lieutenant colonel in the Army and former editor of the Annual Report to Congress from the U.S. Energy Department. He earned a master’s in economics at Columbia in 1947. Franklin also was associate editor of Public Utility Reports from 1947–57, director of public relations at W.E. Hamilton Associates, 1957–58 and a public information officer at the Atomic Energy Commission in 1958. In WWII, Franklin served as a medical corps motor transport officer in Europe. He was a multi-talented polymath, serving as a merit badge counselor in mineralogy, atomic energy and herpetology, and writing articles on these subjects for Collier’s Encyclopedia Yearbook. He was also a member of the National Press Club.

Franklin wrote several letters to me in recent years, some of which I summarized in a Class Note about him in the May/June 2008 issue of CCT (college.columbia.edu/cct/mayjun08). He reminisced about his classes in politics and public administration with Professor Lawrence Chamberlain ’45 GSAS and his 7 p.m. zoology labs with Professor James McGregor. He had been a zealous Elderhostel traveler, with visits to Hawaii, England, Scotland, Wales, Eire, Colorado, California, New England and Canada. Franklin was devoted to Columbia and suggested that the CCT editors write an article on Deans Herbert Hawkes, Harry Carman and Harry Coleman ’46 because he had positive memories of all of them.

Franklin is survived by his brother, Dr. John R.; children, Carolyn Tobey Berardesco, Franklin Joseph III and Alys Tobey Southwick; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. We thank Alys for sending us information about Franklin, and we send our condolences to his family.

On August 12, I received a nice note from Bill Mazzarella, who enclosed a copy of News Of The Few, the newsletter of the Maj. Gen. Raymond L. Murray Chapter of the Chosin Few, Bill is a member of the Chosin Few, having fought with the Marine Corps in that terrible battle and retreated from the Chosin Reservoir in Korea in November–December 1950. Our Marine and Allied Force of 15,000 men was surrounded by 120,000 Communist Chinese troops and sustained 12,000 casualties, including 3,000 KIA, before reaching their Hungnam evacuation objective, bringing out their dead and wounded in sub-zero weather. Sixty years later, on a much warmer and happier day, July 3, Bill participated in a reunion parade of The Chosin Few in Oceanside, Calif. At 90, Bill completed the parade, pushing his walker ahead of him along the way to the end. Bill also told me he is “still in love with Marguerite,” his longtime and beautiful life partner. I hope to hear from Bill again when he joins the Centenarian Club in 2020, and many times before that, too. Congratulations, Bill!

With great sadness, I must report the death of Marilynn Wellington, wife of Arthur Wellington, on August 14 in Elmira, N.Y. Marilynn and Art were married in 1944, when Marilynn graduated from Syracuse and Art was a Marine lieutenant in WWII, in which he served as an artillery officer in the Pacific campaigns. After the war, Art and Marilynn settled in Elmira, N.Y., where they raised four children, and Marilynn, who had been valedictorian of her class at Syracuse Central H.S., became active in church affairs and educational programs for the wider Elmira community. Marilynn was a brilliant, modest polymath, with wide knowledge of the arts, literature, science and nature. She was a gifted teacher and was an inspiration to members of numerous social service organizations in Elmira, including leadership in volunteer work in the local prison system.

Art became a prominent optometrist in Elmira, a part-owner of the minor league baseball team and a harness-racing enthusiast. In 2003, my wife, Leslie, and I had a wonderful vacation visit with Art and Marilynn at their summer cottage on the water in Tenant’s Harbor, Maine. We had not seen each other for many, many years, and it gave us a chance to reminisce about those happy pre-war days on the Columbia campus in 1938–42 when your correspondent was a pre-med student and Art was enrolled in the pre-optometry program, which he finished when he returned to Columbia after the war. Art celebrated his 90th birthday on May 17. We salute him for his loyal friendship, longevity and devotion to Columbia. We send condolences to him and his entire extended family on the loss of Marilynn.

As I write these notes in early September, our football team recently has been defeated by Brown in a pre-season scrimmage 31–0. Coach Norries Wilson’s comments about the scrimmage were not optimistic, but I take solace in recalling that Columbia defeated Brown 28–10 at Wien Stadium in November 2009 in the final game of the Ivy League season. By the time this issue of CCT reaches us in November, our Lions will have played much of their schedule, and we will know more about our current and future prospects for an Ivy League championship. It has been a long wait since our last one in 1961. If we cannot do it this year, it would be a great accomplishment to win it in 2011, the 50th anniversary of our last championship, a year in which almost all surviving members of this Great Class of 1942 will have reached their 90th birthdays.

Please note my new postal address, at the top of the column. Kind regards and best wishes to all.
Henry Rolf Hecht
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Dennars, NJ 07627
hrl15@columbia.edu

We recently heard that our ‘44 musician laureate, Mort Lindsey, has picked up a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Malibu Music Organization, only the second time this California cultural group has honored so distinguished a talent. It referred to patient rounds that he makes with medical students, interns and residents as the “old-fashioned way.” It was thought it would be interesting to have him explain the special nature of the rounds and his philosophy behind them. Irwin wrote:

“Before acceptance at P&S, I had heard that the formidable Dean Wilard Rappleye strongly favored the ‘whole person,’ one who blended science with liberal arts and humanism. My influences at P&S were inspiring with consistent emphasis on science combined with ‘the art of medicine.’ The patient was central.”

Henry Rolf Hecht ‘44
Lifelong Achievement Award from the Malibu Music Organization.

Mort Lindsey ‘44 was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Malibu Music Organization.

We must bid farewell to John Bruzza, Jack Lorick (proud achiever of at least five holes-in-one) and Frank Marshall.

And on a personal note, your correspondent is saddened to hear of the departure of Charlie Cole ’43, a good friend to many of us on Spectator, even though he was on the business rather than the editorial side.

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The Class of ’45 is looking for a class correspondent to write a bimonthly column for Columbia College Today. If you want an open platform and a chance to reconnect with classmates, please contact Associate Editor Ethan Rozen ’04 at crc2102@columbia.edu.

After a stellar career that included four hospital appointments, distinguished cutting-edge research and private practice, Irwin says he was lucky to have a great ride (cardiology) and be able to retire at a peak. “I hoped it would then be possible to devote time to teaching and share some of the lessons I had learned. The director of the Cornell House Staff Foundation was enthusiastic about my idea, and together we developed a proposal: work 15-20 hours a week (three days); attend two core departmental conferences; and ‘morning report’ three times a week, when residents present patients of particular interest, diagnostic or treatment dilemmas, ethical issues and so on. Most crucial, I would conduct individual teaching rounds with my young charges twice weekly. They chose the patients, and I would not know the cases in advance. The plan was approved by the department chairman, who said, ‘We can’t afford you,’ to which I responded, ‘You don’t understand. I am donating my body to the department totally gratis.’ With that, the deal was done, and 12 years later the deal is still solid.”

“Our rounds are stereotypically structured but different in content every day. We never know the problem in advance. Each session is an intellectual adventure. We hope for a perfect history and physical examination to create an accurate differential for our preliminary evaluation. Basic laboratory studies are presented, but no advanced technological tests, which I stress are confirming only after examining the patient at bedside. We discuss the family history, occupation, social history, recent travel, medications, and home and community exposures. We synthesize this information and deductively, and often intuitively, try to arrive at a proper diagnosis. Finally, we use as advanced studies available for confirmation purposes or change in deductive direction.

We emphasize that every study, whether historical, technological or physical examination, has its own sensitivity and specificity and should be weighted accordingly. This requires a great leap of faith, as modern teaching emphasizes the technological. Unfortunately, physical examination has become a lost art, so my findings usually add disproportionate data.”

Irwin points out that much of this relates to hospital medicine, but he stresses the importance of “the devoted personal practitioner who knows and cares for the patient through the years, understands nuances of the patient describing unwellness and remembers all the operations, medications and injuries. Emphasis on developing these relationships is critical in changing our patient-care system for patient and doctor satisfaction as well as for enormous savings in unnecessary tests and duplications.”

I was pleased to hear from James Ferguson’s widow, Aileen, who wrote of Jim’s friendship with Harry Coleman and Ed Taylor. She also generously thanked us for our “informative column.”

Mark your calendar. The 65th anniversary reunion celebration of our class will be held on Saturday, June 3, on the Columbia campus.

Certainly it is a time in our lives to be savored. An engaging, interesting program will add to the fellowship and good cheer of being with friends. Wives and friends are of course welcome. Lock in the date. We can only enjoy and celebrate the 65th once!”

I am sorry to note the passing of two classmates. Jack L. Orkin,
a retired attorney, lived in Miami. He also received the M.S. (business) and J.D. (law) degrees at Columbia. Frederick Holte ’46E was a retired executive with Proctor and Gamble. At Columbia, he received five varsity letters in track and field and cross country.

I called Masato Döi in Honolulu, and he answered with this letter:

“Here goes nothing:

“How I got into Columbia College: When WWII broke out, I was a junior at the University of Hawaii. After serving in the Army in Italy and France till the end of the war there in 1945, I returned to Hawaii. “A former high school teacher of mine, Edward T. White ’36, ‘40 CSAS, got me to apply for admission to Columbia College. This was the beginning of December 1945. Getting transportation out of Hawaii to the mainland United States was extremely difficult at the war’s end, I took the first chance I got — even before receiving a reply to my application — and presented myself to the College dean (Harry Carman, if I remember correctly). He said, ‘Didn’t you get our letter? You were rejected.’

“He explained that College admission policy prioritized the thousands of applicants into seven categories, the highest being those who left the College in order to serve in the military, and the lowest being those who, like me, were attempting to transfer from other universities. ‘But, I told him, ‘here I am from Hawaii, and I didn’t serve in the war.’ To Hawaii. Columbia is the only college to which I applied. I have nowhere else to go.’ He gave little hope but told me to stick around and promised reconsideration. I think it was the day after Christmas.

“In mid-January 1946, I received the good news that I had been accepted. The spirit of the holiday season had worked its miracle!

“Incidentally, I was later forwarded the letter of rejection. One intriguing thing about it is that I remember the upper part of a letter, that the stamp on its envolope was the higher-priced foreign mail stamp. Ironically, even a learned institution like Columbia did not realize that Hawaii was at the time an integral part of the United States as its territory and that a domestic stamp would have sufficed.

“I later went on to Columbia Law School (’50) and became a Hawaii state court judge (accounts for the ‘Hon.’ title).”

I asked George Borts, professor of economics at Brown, for a follow-up comment on the economic scene, and he wrote:

“At the time of writing, August 19, 2010, no one is sure what direction the U.S. economy will take in the next year. Uncertainty is huge because of the terrible events of the last three years and the resulting expectation of conflicting policies by the federal government. The collapse of the sub-prime mortgage market in 2007 led to a host of financial catastrophes: the bankruptcy and/or fire sale of major financial houses such as Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers; and the insolvency of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, federally subsidized lenders to the mortgage markets. The financial shocks led to higher unemployment and reduced consumer spending. In 2009, General Motors went bankrupt, was rescued and reorganized with an interjection of $58 billion of public funds. Now, two years later, the home mortgage market and home construction have yet to recover, the wave of mortgage foreclosures is not yet over and the path of unemployment is still uncertain.

“The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve System have spent more than $1 trillion in an attempt to prevent financial collapse and stimulate economic recovery, but the public reaction has been sour approval rather than a restoration of economic confidence. At such times, discussions among economists are heated but inconclusive. The financial crisis has created a variety of economic pathologies, and one can find a wide range of diagnoses and cures.

“Some observers argue that the country is on the brink of deflation, i.e., a situation of falling prices sufficiently great to induce households and firms to withhold current and firms to withhold current spending in the expectation of lower prices in the future. Many who hold this view have urged the federal government to press forward with greater levels of public spending and have admonished the Federal Reserve for timidity in failing to carry out a greater increase of the money supply.

“Others believe that federal stimulus actions will stoke inflation, because the dramatically bloated level of bank reserves and federal loans to the private sector will ultimately lead to an explosion of the price level. They urge caution in monetary policy, in the belief that inflation would increase business risk and create a further threat to business investment and expansion.

“There is disagreement over future federal tax policy. The Bush income and estate tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 are scheduled to disappear at the end of this year, and without Congressional actions will be replaced by the significantly higher taxes that were in effect at the beginning of the decade.

“Congress is divided over the fate of the Bush tax cuts. Some wish to keep the tax rates low in the belief that recession is not the time to add to disposable income of American households. Some wish to restore higher taxes on the very rich (defined as income in excess of $250,000). A third group places priority on reduction of the federal deficit in the belief that it threatens our savings, reducing the ability of business to raise new capital. They would eliminate the tax cuts entirely, and indeed some would raise taxes further and reduce federal spending.

“My belief is that the paralysis of the economy is the result of restrained consumer and business spending, caused to a large degree by economic uncertainty over future federal tax and regulatory policies. The recession will not end until there is a revival of business spending on new technology and capital good. Corporations have accumulated large cash balances but are reluctant to spend. A significant business critique of federal government policy was issued June 23 by the Business Roundtable, an organization of major business firms. It is titled Policy Burdens Inhibiting Economic Growth (businessroundtable.org/letters/business_roundtable_letter_honor_able_peter _s _orszag).

“The 54-page report contains five major criticisms:

“1. New health care and financial reform legislation will force companies to freeze investments and hiring until they understand how the changes will be affected by these new mandates.

“2. The current levels of U.S. debt as well as those required to finance the forecast deficits will crowd out private capital.

“3. Proposed taxation of foreign earnings of domestic corporations will harm the ability of global American companies to create and retain U.S. jobs.

“4. The new tax on private health insurance will divert savings away from investment in new technology, processes and jobs, and will significantly raise costs.

“5. The administration has failed to move forward on pending free trade agreements and more expansive presidential trade negotiating authority.

“We seem to be repeating the history of the Great Depression of the 1930s, this time with better damage control of the economic and financial losses. But the Great Depression was extended by such policy mistakes as the Smoot- Hawley Tariff (1930), the National Industrial Recovery Act (1933) and the Agricultural Adjustment Act (1933). Now, 80 years later, the federal government’s response to crisis displays the same injurious pattern of ill-conceived economic regulations and policies. We are less likely to come out of recession quickly when government has an anti-business and anti-competitive bias.”
Campbell Geeslin and Art Nolan.

Basil and Campbell shared their strong feelings regarding Columbia College admissions policies and their thoughts as they recall their undergraduate adventures. It is heartening to experience the continued interest and active intellect, exercise represented by these exchanges. I extend my gratitude to both for allowing me to share in their conversation. Perhaps most interesting is the articulation of the cultural tradition of certain editorial columns, whose emphasis on academic excellence has weighed heavily on their success in college admissions.

The thought that comes across might be to value, study and emulate such tradition. It would be far more meaningful than to concern ourselves with imbalance in the ever-changing complexion of student bodies.

From Art has come a series of notes recalling one of his favorite professors as well as the mysterious “back story” surrounding that same professor. Franz Neumann was an extraordinary individual whose life story includes growing up in Germany during the first third of the 20th century, getting out from under the imminent threat of arrest by the Nazis and being the subject of suspicion regarding rumors of his supposed relationship with the KGB during (and perhaps) after WWII. None of this was proven, and he served our government honorably throughout the war and invaluable in the Nuremberg Trials as well as engaging the minds of his students at Columbia.

In these days of access to information via the various search engines on the internet and the mysterious “back story” surrounding that same professor, Franz Neumann was an extraordinary individual whose life story includes growing up in Germany during the first third of the 20th century, getting out from under the imminent threat of arrest by the Nazis and being the subject of suspicion regarding rumors of his supposed relationship with the KGB during (and perhaps) after WWII. None of this was proven, and he served our government honorably throughout the war and invaluable in the Nuremberg Trials as well as engaging the minds of his students at Columbia.

From Bill Lubin, a note of good news regarding his wife Ruth’s battle with viral meningitis and a spirited report on his attendance at the memorial for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg ‘59L’s husband. “One and all: It has been a difficult period but the worst is over. The viral meningitis has abated and was tough on Ruth in the first several days during the assessment process.

“As a result of the inflammation, she is still unsteady, but the tremor is almost gone, and she had made tremendous progress. As of early September, she was at the National Rehab Center in D.C., which is one of the best in the country. Thank you all for the many good wishes received.

“Parenthetically, Ruth and I had been invited to attend a memorial celebration of Justice Ginsburg’s husband, Martin, held at the Supreme Court. He and I were associated at WG&M.

“Together, we organized the not-for-profit American Association of Birth Centers, we exchanged recipes, and Marty and (his) Ruth were friends throughout continuing supporters in various ways of (my) Ruth.

“Sadly, my Ruth could not attend, but as instructed, I did. It was well attended, dignified and memorable, but hardly solemn. Marty, aside from being one of best tax lawyers ever, was a great cook, a crafty humorist and fine storyteller, and never uncomfortable as a second fiddle.

“These are my random trivia notes on the reception that followed: Justice Ginsburg expressed great concern at my wife’s illness and offered her help. On the coat-tails of a ravenous Justice Antonin Scalia, we attacked the food delights as he commented that Marty’s ‘deconstructed’ chicken was ‘not to be believed.’”

“I mentioned to the surprise of Mrs. Scalia that fresh black pepper was the secret ingredient of a cherries jubilee dessert. Unsolicited, she had some very pleasant things to say about Justice Elena Kagan.

“I spoke to Justice Breyer who, looking happy and trim in her stylish pantsuit, was uncommonly pleasant. On a happy note, Justice Ginsburg announced the impending marriage of her son, James, to take place the day following at the Court House. He was the subject of the ‘collaboration’ between Ruth and Ruth during her pregnancy.

“Unfortunately I could not find Justice Sonia Sotomayor, for whom I had two undelivered messages, from my wife and son.

“Happy Turkey Day to one and all and, writing in advance of the fall football season, hope for success to our team. Roar Lions!”

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An item in the inaugural issue of Legacy, the newsletter of Columbia’s Office of Planned Giving, caught your correspondent’s attention. Looking out at us was a photo of Ted Karchuta, accompanying an article about Ted’s enthusiasm for Columbia’s athletics as well as its academic excellence. Ted’s wish was to encourage and inspire scholar-athletes, and he chose to do that in a way that would honor his childhood hero, Lou Gehrig ‘23 who, as we all are aware, is a Columbia athletics icon.

Ted’s method of ensuring his objective was to include in his estate plan a bequest to fund the Lou Gehrig Scholar/Athlete Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a select number of male and female students who demonstrate great potential for both academic and athletic success at Columbia.

Said to report, Harvey M. Raden Jr. of Clarkesville, Ga., died in December.

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely jf2251@columbia.edu 212-851-7438 DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller ps2247@columbia.edu 212-851-7494

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First off, a correction: In the previous column, Class President Robert T. Snyder’s e-mail address was listed incorrectly. His e-mail is roberttsnyder@gmail.com. Anyone who would like to get involved in reunion should reach out to him at that address.

With the Class of 1951 60th reunion on the horizon, we want to devote this column to its planning and program.

First and foremost, save the date for the entire Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. It is not too early to make plans now to return to New York City and the Columbia campus. Our Reunion Committee is preparing class-specific panels as well as cocktail receptions, luncheons and dinners. In addition, as part of the traditional Saturday Dean’s Day, the Alumni Office will offer an array of significant and timely lectures following the time-honored academic format. In addition to the cultural and entertainment options offered by New York City, we may attend the annual Starlight Reception on Saturday evening, which features dancing on Low Plaza. Please keep in touch and get reunion updates at reunion.college.columbia.edu/ alumnipdate.

How about 60th reunion funding? Class President Robert T. Snyder noted in his e-mail to all classmates last July that it would be helpful if CC ’51 could raise some working capital on its own to cover planning, program and promotional expenses. Class treasurer Willard Block has opened a class checking account at Chase Bank to receive contributions. The suggested amount is $25 per classmate. Checks should be made out to Columbia College Class of ’51C Reunion. Please send your check as soon as possible to Willard at his home: 54 Cornwall Ln, Sands Point, NY 11050.

Traditionally, reunion classes make a major gift to the College. Think in terms of sixes: $66, $666 and $6,666 or whatever fits the budget. A separate CC ’51 Gift Committee will contact classmates soon in what is one of our remaining reunion opportunities to hit a home run!

Several organizations and groups within CC ’51 already are at work in organizing reunion participation. Notably, Jim Lowe and Len Stoehr in a recent communication noted that almost 98 percent of the NROTC cadre at Columbia attended our 50th reunion at Arden.
House. Despite some lingering hard feelings over the unfortunate banning of NROTC from the campus years ago, Jim feels there is a necessity in the organization to reaffirm personal friendships and commitment to the NROTC original oath of office. As Jim said in a recent email, “I fully support a CC ’51 NROTC reunion! Many of our group have passed on, and any reunion should now be fused with the entire class.” (Members of the NROTC should contact Jim at jloweABQ@aol.com to see how they can be helpful with reunion planning.)

As with our 50th reunion, we are planning to publish a 60th Reunion Yearbook. In all likelihood, it will not be as elaborate as the 50th, but it will contain a good assortment of photographs from college days activities, and campus and sports events along with mini-biographies of classmates. Early in 2011, you will receive a request for your photo. You may include, if you wish, photos of a spouse, children and grandchildren, and favorite pets, golf clubs and boats. The yearbook is especially important because it will contain the latest class directory and an “In Memoriam” page. Please start gathering information for your class secretary, who will once again be the editor and can always be reached via the contact information at the top of the column.

Several classmates already have volunteered to work on various reunion sub-committees. In addition to those mentioned in two previous columns, as well as this one, thanks go to Bob Osnos, Jennings Gentzler, Al Petrick and Al Gomez for offering help and suggestions. Please feel free to list any other names here, too, can be helpful with what promises to be CC ’51’s best reunion ever!

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I went to a department store to buy a few polo shirts. I was surprised when I read the labels to see that they were made in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War was a Cold War military conflict that occurred in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia from November 1, 1955–April 30, 1975, when Saigon fell. U.S. military advisers arrived beginning in 1950. The war exacted a huge human cost in terms of fatalities, including 3–4 million Vietnamese from both sides, between ½–1 million Laotians and Cambodians, and 58,159 U.S. soldiers.

More than 58,000 of our wonder-ful, brave, dedicated and obedient soldiers gave their young and promising lives for a war of questionable purpose. What about all the countless wounded American soldiers who lost legs, arms and other body parts and their mental and emotional health? Was it worth it?

What had we become?

There was no way I could possibly purchase those polo shirts. The price, not in money, but in the memory of beautiful lives wasted was much too high.

It was over, however, the month of Thanksgiving. We give thanks for many things as well as our wonderful country. Let us hope that when we send men and women to war, they come home alive and healthy.

Alden Mesrop writes: “This year, being the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, it brought to mind some of my recollections of my tour of duty in that country during what was called at the time ‘the police action.’ That term is also known as the ‘forgotten war,’ it will never be forgotten by those, like myself, who took part in it.”

“Since I did not join the Naval ROTC when I started at the College in 1948, I was drafted into the Army, and, after infantry basic training at Fort Dix, off I went by troopship (no flying in those days) to Japan for three days, and then to Korea, where I landed on May 13, 1953, at the port of Pusan at the southern tip of the Korean peninsula. I was assigned to an infantry company of the 25th Division, which was just going on line, where I spent the next 10 weeks dodging mortar and artillery shells, until, just before the truce was signed in late July, I was released to a reserve company, which acted as security for Eighth Army headquarters in Seoul. Since I was the only man in our company of 200 who had a college degree, other than the officers, the company commander ordered me to set up a club for the enlisted men.”

“Consequently, for the next year I ran what amounted to a drinking club. I had Korean bartenders and waitresses, and my time was my own. I had to work only during the hours of operation 6–11 p.m. Of course, I had to buy liquor, beer and soda from the American export companies in Seoul (Ballantine’s Scotch was $18 a case, Canadian Club $12 a case and other alcohol at comparable prices) and take care of the records and inventory of the enterprise. I felt like Rick in Casablanca, strolling from table to table, making sure all ran smoothly. For the men wanting a drink, beer was 10 cents a can, and a mixed drink was an exorbitant 25 cents! When I rotated out of Korea in August 1954, I left my successor with a profit of more than $600. Well, that was my military experience in Korea, and I can tell you how much fun it was running that club. I thank the Lord I never had to fire a weapon at anyone, whether General Douglas MacArthur, a North Korean, or Russian.”

“After leaving the Army, I entered Columbia Law School and married Alida, whom I met while at college. We live in a co-op apartment in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. We have three daughters, Andrea, Alison and Andrew, and two grandchildren, Matthew (8) and Samantha (6). I have retired from law and am trying to smell the roses.”

Your reporter had a long telephone conversation with Dr. Saverio Panzarino. We solved all the world’s problems, even though the world is not aware of that.

Saverio wants classmates to know that he enjoyed his career in medicine and surgery and appreciates his Columbia education. He enjoys corresponding to contact him at spanzarino@yahoo.com.

From Jerome Monkash: “It was my first contact in more than 50 years with any Columbia classmate. Sid Prager’s phone call to me in Calabasas, Calif., to write something pushed me into this. But how does one condense a boringly interesting lifetime into a few paragraphs?

“The family fortune was amassed by my selling commodities and not by practicing law, which I considered too pacifist when being imbued with our college’s liberal arts. Columbia Law ’55 helped me to beat every parking and traffic rap and to win every court case I ever faced except the most recent one. It took me all the way to the Supreme Court (to extreme ‘legal’ desnudos refused to hear my claim against a giant utility for its predatory billing practices, and may now be pursued in a half-billion-dollar-class action suit by real lawyers.)

“I did win a substantial refund from our water district provider for fellow city residents for excessive charges.

“Yes, my life has been made more exciting by tilting at windmills, the most memorable of which was helping to persuade city council (of a corrupt, Tammany Hall-type of political machine in the highest taxed (upstate) village in all of New York) while running political campaigns and ultimately becoming deputy mayor in the process. Among other things, I fought against the city’s refusal to fund my efforts to provide free public services (like a water fountain, a public rest room, a newspaper stand) to minority groups, including children of color.

“On my retirement time has been busy and productive. I have written about cancer and other health issues (as well as science) in a children’s book entitled, The 3-1/2 Year Disease. I have also been involved in debates over health care, and in efforts to make New York City schools more diverse and inclusive.

“Dr. Bob Rhodes, who holds a D.O. and an M.D., writes: ‘As [Sid] will remember, we discussed one of the favorite topics of 79-year-olders, death, as well as what we did after graduation from college (aside from producing children and grandchildren), and I threw in some suggestions regarding high joint prostheses. Anyhow, after college, I did a couple of grad schools, residency training and ended up in California, where I practiced surgery for 22 years.

“I retired at 60 (19½ years ago), and my wife, Ethel, and I went to Florida, got certified for open water scuba and never looked back. We’ve done about 700 dives in warm waters — Caribbean, South Pacific, Indian Ocean and so on (no diving near hurricane stuff for us) — as well as hikes and assorted trips to western and eastern Europe and a couple of trips to South America and Russia.

“In short, we’ve traveled quite a bit, four to five months a year except for 2009, when I had a thymoma removed and a prosthetic hip joint replacement, which worked out fine. We now have our grandson (8) hooked on scuba. Anyhow, our retirement time has been busy and as much fun as when we were younger (I enjoyed). It’s still a wise idea not to define yourself by your work and be sure you quit before you crumble so you can follow happy trails with the wind at your back and your ass not dragging.”

Ernie Scutari, in New York City, writes: “It’s been some time since I last wrote to the alumni magazine, but my reason for doing so now is that my grandson, Austin Lowe ’14, is a freshman at Columbia.

“In short, my life includes three years with the Kingsmen,
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Sad to report, one of our most vibrant, enthusiastic, humorous and talented classmate, Erik Wensberg, passed away on June 5 of pneumonia. Shortly after Erik’s death, I talked to his sister, Eleanor Peleyger, and learned that Erik, who grew up in Omaha, Neb., had always dreamed of attending Columbia. Eleanor put it this way, “Erik came to Columbia like a homing pigeon. It was the place he always wanted to come to after leaving high school.”

I received a Silver King’s Crown award for his work with Columbia Players and was selected to become a Nacom. In 1955, he became the editor of Columbia Alumni News. Erik founded a quarterly literary magazine, The Columbia Forum, and was its editor from 1957–63 as well as from 1971–75. According to his sister, the literary world came to recognize Erik as an important voice in American letters. He became the editor of The New York Times Book Review in the 1960s, a literary editor of Esquire magazine, and a book reviewer for Commentary and Vogue magazines.

According to his sister, in 1998, when Hill & Wang, the publisher of Wilson Follett’s Modern American Usage: A Guide asked Jacques Barzun ’27 to edit a new edition, Professor Barzun replied that he was too old and recommended Erik as the best editor for the project. Thus, Erik’s name appears on the cover as the “compiler” of the edition. Erik lived in Greenwich Village and was one of the founding members of the West Village Committee, with Jane Jacobs. Together, they blocked an urban renewal project that would have destroyed 14 blocks of Village streets. In 1963, Erik successfully fought Robert Moses’ plan to build an expressway over river to lower Manhattan.

At the time of his death, Erik was in the process of completing 40 years of work on a biography he was writing of James Agee. Although it has not yet been published, Erik’s book is the only biography that was sanctioned by the Agee family.

We will remember Erik as a treasured, delightful, outstanding classmate.

Talking to Roger Breslau by phone, I learned a number of fascinating details of the life of one of our brave classmates. In 1971, Roger was shot down over Laos while serving as a doctor in the Air Force. Luckily, Marines at a base in Thailand were monitoring Roger’s plane and quickly dispatched a Marine helicopter to rescue the Americans on the ground. Within one hour and 55 minutes, the Marines removed the wounded Americans from the plane, placed them safely on the helicopter, set fire to destroy their plane and flew the men to their base in Thailand. Unfortunately, Roger had broken his back in three places and needed extensive surgery. Roger told me, “We all evaded capture and none of us died in the crash. I was the one most injured.” While he was on active duty with the Air Force, Roger spent a year with the CIA and was a member of the Apollo 11 recovery team.

After receiving 16 years with the Air Force, Roger retired as a full colonel and spent the next 14 years as a vascular thoracic surgeon.

In 1963, Roger married Betty. This was the second marriage for both, and together they have three adult children and four grandchildren. They live happily in a beautiful agricultural community in Fallbrook, Calif., which is about 60 miles north of San Diego. Roger spends most of his time reading, participating in an outreach program for hospitalized veterans and teaching anatomy at the UC San Diego School of Medicine. Because of his back injuries, Roger is limited to walking short distances but is able to get around using a mobility chair. His spirits are inspirational. He told me, “I feel lucky to be able to walk and to have gotten out of Laos alive.”

Keep up the good work, Roger. Your classmates are looking forward to seeing you again at our 60th reunion in 2013.

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This column doesn’t write itself. It needs you to share your news. Don’t be shy. We all in this are here to hear what you are up to. Please send me an e-mail or a letter.

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As everyone is beginning to realize, Columbia is becoming the preeminent school not only in the United States but also around the world. One current key initiative is the establishment of Global Centers, which are to be the nexus for learning and practice among faculty, students and alumni overseas. In addition, the popular Alumni Travel Study Program will continue in the spring, when a special tour will take place covering five major sites: Jerusalem, St. Catherine’s Monastery near Mount Sinai, Petra, Luxor and the Great Pyramids. Another exciting trip will be the one in the late winter, where Colombians can swim with tropical penguins, walk among huge tortoises and experience the other wonders of the Galapagos.

Closer to home, Dean Michele Moody-Arrams will be making her semi-annual trip to Los Angeles and San Francisco after the first of the year, meeting and greeting alumni, prospective students and parents. During the late fall, various activities took place that exposed alumni to the workings of the school’s administration and what the school has to offer — specifically, at Lincoln Center, President Lee C. Bollinger chaired a panel of notable alumni discussing what inspires creativity and how Columbia contributes to creative development. A “jazz jam” featuring Branford Marsalis and Terence Blanchard was held right after the panel put forth its comments.

A huge turnout took place for the Winter and Spring events which occurred in the late fall and began at City Hall and then moved across the Brooklyn Bridge to Brooklyn Heights. There will be more walks to come. As an aside, did you know that you can research burning questions with Columbia Libraries’ new free online resources, including Factiva and JSTOR (columbia.edu / cu / lweb / resources /)? All you need is your UNI and password.

There has been much revitalization at the Baker Athletics Complex. In addition to the new fields for field hockey and soccer, a mammoth reconstruction job has taken place with regard to baseball: new scoreboard, new stands, new press box. It would make our stars of yesteryear joyous to see the site — Tony Falladino, John Naley, Richard Helffer, Walt Depluta, Jud Maze, Tom Brennan, Bob Dillingham and Jack Freeman. Even Rollie Rousseau would be proud.

Jack Stuppin has done it again. Our creative classmate has been participating in a showing at the Hudson River Museum in the past couple of months: Oil on Canvas. Well done, Jack. Ron McPhee continued in reunion mode by holding a barbecue for various Colombians at his home in Westchester during the late summer. (In addition to basketball, Ron participated in a little baseball.)

Lew Mendelson, who was a key player at our 55th, still is traveling extensively overseas. He probably has more mileage than the prez. Lee C. Bollinger received a letter from Elliot Gross, who sent some kind words (including a mention of the fourth-place ranking of Columbia in the U.S. News & World Report survey), and Berish Strauch, who has joined the alumni group that holds the Great Teacher Award in October, the Society of Columbia Graduates. It’s interview time for applicants to the College and SEAS. Leading the alumni/e from Nassau and Suffolk Counties (Long Island) is Larry Balbus. The number of students applying to our favorite school gets larger and larger.

Don McDonough missed his trip to Morningside Heights in early June due to being under the weather. He also has his annual visit to Paris and Ireland. We wish him well and hope to see him soon. Another absentee was Ferdie Setaro, who moved from South- ern New Jersey to Staten Island a few months ago. Barry Pariser journeyed into Manhattan from Newburgh recently to celebrate a birthday with Dick Kuhn. Barry, after a long hiatus, has gone back to work as an ENT doctor in the office of the fellow who bought his practice six years ago. (What goes around …)

A note to Tony DiSanto: Your favorite columnist will do some sleuthing to find out the whereabouts of his good friend Ben Kaplan. Plainview’s (Long Island) Bob Schoenfeld is semi-retired and is devoting more time to his avocations, photography and writing. He has had two photographic exhibitions at the National Art Club at Gramercy Park and recently published his first book, Over There. The book chronicles his almost six years of medical
Best friends John "Sparky" Breeskin ’57 (left) and Roy Wolff ’57 posed for the camera during Alumni Reunion Weekend 2007. After Wolff’s death recently, Breeskin rushed to his bedside and reports that his friend is recovering. (See the ’57 column for more.)

studies in Switzerland, where the courses were given only in French and German. Bob hopes to become more active with his classmates and other Columbians now that his workload has been cut back. A most wanted person is Harold Kushner, wanted in terms of giving speeches and making presentations. The latest request came from Lew Sternfels, who talked to Harold about speaking to the members of the Western Region of the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs in Costa Mesa, Calif. Lew could not have gotten a better speaker than Harold. The Canadian contingent is represented by Nathan Olshin, who resides in Middle-town, Conn.; Anthony Nicastri is professor of pathology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn; Al Monjjan practices his legal trade in Philadelphia; Joe Wagner is doing the same in Manhattan; Monte Mane is a retired investment adviser in Scarsdale; and Paul Braverman resides in downtown Manhattan.

To the unbelievable and unbeatable Class of 1955, continue to do good things for yourselves and others. Keep your sunny side up. You guys are terrific. Love to all, everywhere!

Philip Liebson ’56 chairs the clinical cardiology research department at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

The working class members that I have talked to include Roy Russo, an active partner in his Washington, D.C., law firm. Ed Botwinick is getting recertified for flying (his own plane) and is considering a CEO position with a California biotechnology company. Good luck to Ed in whatever he chooses to do.

Mark Novick practices psychiatry in New York City and is affiliated with Beth Israel Medical Center. Philip Liebson is a professor of medicine who also chairs the Clinical Cardiology Research Department at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

At our bimonthly class lunches (now resumed after a summer recess), we always can differentiate the working members of our class, who generally are dressed in suit, jacket and tie. In any case, let me know by e-mail what you’re doing (i.e., work or retired) so we can include that information in a future Class Notes column.

Answer to last issue’s pop quiz: There were three sets of twins in our class: Chauncy Bartholet and Paul Bartholet (Paul recently passed away), Stephen Easton and Maurice Easton, and Richard Steinfeld and Robert Steinfeld.

Quiz question for this issue: What percentage of our class came from New York City public high schools? (As another interesting question, what is that percentage for our reunion class of 2011?) We have new class officers as follows:

- Stephen Easton, president, formerly v.p.
- Bob Siroty, v.p., past president of the Columbia Club of Northern New Jersey
- Danny Link, v.p.; will coordinate our planned Florida area get-together and continue to host our golf/tennis lunches at his club
- Len Wolfe, continuing as class historian
- Al Franco ’56E, Class Agent, for Columbia College Fund fundraising
- Lou Hemmerding, stepping in as a class correspondent in order to assist me with this column (see below for more)

I will be calling various class-mates to work as regional Class Notes representatives so that we have more than the New York City contingent represented in this column. Please respond by saying “yes” when I ask. Thank you.

which were scheduled for after Homecoming, are two basketball games: first, the Cornell-Columbia game Saturday, January 15, and then the next-to-last game of the season, the Yale-Columbia game, on Friday, March 4. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ron Kapon, who is arranging a section of tickets for our class. Also, there is a mini-reunion planned in March for our Florida classmates, coordinated by Danny Link and Lou Hemmerding.

Our next reunion planning meeting will be on Wednesday, December 15, at the Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., between Broadway and Riverside Drive, at 4 p.m. All are invited to attend.

We still are working with the Alumni Office to finalize venues for our reunion activities. As a 55th reunion class, we do not get the same first choices as we did with the 50th reunion, so it is important that our class participation speaks louder than our good wishes. For our 50th, more than 90 classmates attended. We are looking for and projecting a minimum of 60 for our 55th, but you have to make it happen. As Alumni Reunion Weekend now coincides with Dean’s Day (Saturday), there is a double reason for all those interested to attend.

College fundraising activity: I attempted to have our Class of ’56 Scholarship Fund renamed to Class of ’56, Alan N. Miller Scholarship Fund to honor Alan’s memory and service to our class. I have been informed by the Alumni Office that we cannot, for legal reasons, rename this fund, no matter how good our intentions. This fund, set up at the time of our 50th reunion (which Alan and I worked on with the help of all our class contributors), now is a permanent endowment of $539,000 and funds four yearly Columbia College student scholarships.

For the Columbia College Fund fiscal year ending Thursday, June 30, 2011, we have an opportunity to have all contributions to the College Fund be matched by a like amount, based upon our goal of $150,000 (our average contributions for the past four years), by the Kluge ’37 estate under the provision of his will. The Kluge monies will be used to establish one permanent endowment scholarship fund, to be named Class of ’56, Alan N. Miller Scholarship Fund, to honor Alan’s memory and service to our class. I have been informed by the Alumni Office that we cannot, for legal reasons, rename this fund, no matter how good our intentions. This fund, set up at the time of our 50th reunion (which Alan and I worked on with the help of all our class contributors), now is a permanent endowment of $539,000 and funds four yearly Columbia College student scholarships.

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contributors ($1,500 or more) this fund year. Remember, we have until June 30 to reach our goal. Hopefully with our 55th reunion year, and with the stock market recovering so our 401ks start to feel and look more like 401ks, our feelings and commitment to giving to Columbia will increase with our age. It also will be a continued blessing to the students we are supporting.

I am again asking all class members who want to keep in touch to share or update their e-mail addresses with me. You can contact Lou Hemmerding at lhemmer@aol.com. My name will remain at the top of the column, but Lou and I will share Class Notes responsibilities.

This seems to be the best way to stay in touch with the majority of our class members. Please keep in contact with Columbia in whatever ways you feel appropriate. It has been a force of power, I am sure, in each and every one of our lives.

Until our next issue, wishing for a fall season full of Columbia teams winning and health and good fortune for all our class members.

Herman Levy 7722 Rockford Dr. Falls Church, VA 22043 hdlleddie@aol.com

Ken Bodenstein left Duff & Phelps, a financial advisory firm, on August 31 after 35 years; he had been managing director. His new contact information is 28 Westwind St., Marina del Rey, CA 90292; 310-629-3694; kenboodie@yahoo.com.

Ken attached a copy of an excerpt from the Daily Breeze (“UCLA’s answer to Spectator”) of May 25. The Daily Breeze described Roy as “not your average tennis fan” and “a 30-year-old trapped in a nearly 75-year-old man’s body.” In the excerpt, Ken noted he competes in 70-and-over tournaments and that his wife, Diane, was a member of the Bruin Racquetiers, a support group for the UCLA tennis teams, which “opened his eyes to the UCLA tennis program.”

Ronald H. Boorse, retired business owner, died in Houston on July 6. A complete obituary will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the obituary to appear.

John “Sparky” Breeskin: “Roy Wolff had a stroke, and he [was at this writing] in a rehabilitation hospital in the wilds of New Jersey. There is no question that Roy is a fighter, and he receives praise on all sides for his motivation directed toward regaining his ability to function. He has made remarkable progress to date and that fact encourages all of us who love him.

“[Because] he may be changing hospitals in the near future, I will be the contact point for him for our class and would welcome the opportunity to correspond with any of you who wish, as I do, the very best for Roy.”

“I was standing in total shock at the foot of a hospital bed looking into the face of my dearest, closest friend whom I have been privileged to know for 57 years. Roy is the only person alive whom I knew personally and my brother and I looked to, thanks to the acceptance of brolovsky in our culture today, we are able to tell one another, without hesitation, that we love one another. [See photo.]

“He is my age (75) and also has heart problems with atrial fib as I do. He was lying uncomfortably in a hospital bed in an intensive rehabilitation hospital, and he had aged at least 10 years since I saw him a few months ago. He suffered a stroke, fell to the floor, and it was four hours before we heard from him on a phone. Roy has left-side residual paralysis and is in obvious physical discomfort. His left arm is essentially paralyzed, and he tries over and over again to get it to respond only to be faced with failure. His face was pale, and he had lost more than 30 pounds. When I first called him on the phone just after learning of his stroke, I was unable to understand him, and I am relieved that his speech has improved enormously.

“In addition to my great concern about Roy, I was sharply aware that I am my age (75) and also have heart problems with atrial fib. In fact, I have been feeling like I am 10 years older since the stroke, and it has been interesting that I have been able to continue my work as a child psychiatrist in private practice and have been able to see patients despite my physical limitations. My left arm is essentially paralyzed, and I try over and over again to get it to respond only to be faced with failure. My voice was weak, and I was able to understand him, and I am relieved that his speech has improved enormously.

“I know that what I learned as a child about my father’s death and the grief that I experienced at the time has helped me to deal with my own grief. I know that the end result will be to strengthen our relationship with one another.

“We are sorry to report the deaths of two more classmates.

Dr. George Braman died on June 23. He earned his medical degree at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and taught in its School of Public Health, retiring as an assistant professor. George also was director of quality management and assistant attending physician at Elmhurst Hospital Center in Queens. In addition, he was a published poet; many of his poems and essays appeared in Annals of Internal Medicine. George is survived by his wife, Joan; and sons, Donald and Leonard.

Edward “Bud” Spraker died on July 3. Originally from Knoxville, Tenn., Ed was a wide receiver on the Lions football team and went on to get an M.A. in education at Teachers College. He has had a long teaching career in the Tenafly, N.J., school system, including time as varsity coach in several sports and as athletics director. Ed sang in the choir at Christ Episcopal Church in Teaneck, N.J., and was the Sunday School superintendent for many years. He is survived by his sons, Gary and John, and one granddaughter.

Congratulations to Russ Ellis on winning the Wyld Propulsion Award, given by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. The award is presented for outstanding achievement in the development or application of rocket propulsion systems. Russ, ‘58’s leading rocket scientist, spent his entire career in rocket engineering, including 32 years at Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, and he continues to serve as a consultant. The award honored Russ’ “significant improvements to solid and liquid nozzle reliability and performance through introduction and demonstration of innovative design concepts incorporating new composite materials and metal-based materials for a translation into English and he replied, “Most of my work was on advanced, high-performance rocket nozzles, applying new high temperature composites to systems such as the Trident II (D5) submarine-launched ballistic missile, Tomahawk, Delta 4 and many others. It was rewarding to see things I’d worked on send probes to Mars, Saturn, Pluto and so on. I also was fortunate to be involved in importing advanced foreign rocket technology and made many trips to France and Russia through the years to work with their experts.”

We caught Frost/Nixon on HBO and were delighted to spot a cameo by Carl Stern (NBC News, Washington, D.C.) a clip from his post-Watergate coverage.

Marshall Front, dapper and eloquent as always, appeared on a recent Bloomberg News TV report, discussing financial stocks and the new reform law.

Ed Halperin, who confides that he “always avoided filling in the details of my life,” has finally decided to share them with Class Notes. Ed is a child psychiatrist practicing in New Rochelle, N.Y.; he also is a board member of the Childbirth Center and adolescent psychiatry. Ed is a consultant for Leake & Watts, a Yonkers foster care agency. His wife, Beth G. Weingast, is president of the American Society of Appraisers; she specializes in valuing Judaica and coins (both ancient and modern). Ed and Beth have three children: Alex ‘03, a journalist who recently won the Sidney Hillman prize for socially responsible journalism; Anne, who is starting her residency in pediatrics at New York, N.Y.; and Thomas, a student at Leake & Watts. Ed and Beth have three children: Alex ‘03, a journalist who recently won the Sidney Hillman prize for socially responsible journalism; Anne, who is starting her residency in pediatrics at New York, N.Y.; and Thomas, a student at Leake & Watts.

Charles Goldberg has once again made the news for his activities in the art world. As counsel to the Commission for Art Recovery, a nonprofit that helps victims of Nazi art thefts, Charles is involved with a claim by the Herzog family against the Hungarian government, seeking the return of $100 million worth of paintings and sculptures.
including works by El Greco, Velazquez and Monet. Baron Herzog was a well-known collector, and the family also has pursued pieces from his collection in Germany, Russia, Poland and Austria with some success, but Hungary has proven particularly resistant.

The Class of ’38 rated two mentions in recent issues of New York magazine. An article on New York Times columnist David Brooks observed in passing that Neil Harris was his thesis adviser at the University of Chicago.

And a piece on an exhibit of the works of an artist named Brion Gysin at the New Museum in downtown NYC pointed out that it was across the street from Gysin’s former home at 222 Bowery, which he had shared with his lover, John Gioino (who still lives there).

Gysin, who died in 1986, was a member of the Beat Generation (along, of course, with Jack Kerouac ’44 and Allen Ginsberg ’48); a pioneer of surrealism in literature; and the inventor of the favorite writing technique of another famous occupant of 222, novelist William Burroughs: the “cut-up,” in which newspapers or other printed items are sliced, diced and reassembled in new forms.

John is described as the “social butterfly” of the group, who did the cooking for their exceptionally convivial nightly gatherings in his loft (known as the “Bunker”). The building, incidentally, dates back to 1884, when it was home to the first modern YMCA. It became an artists’ colony after WWI, when one of its tenants was Fernand Leger. Mark Rothko later leased the building’s gym to work on his murals for the Four Freedoms Project (the subject of the Broadway show Red).

John has preserved the Bunker as a shrine to the good old days, but the historic building is gradually succumbing to gentrification.

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

P.S.: I recently passed my five-year anniversary and check-up for breast cancer. So I guess I now qualify as a survivor. Each new day is a blessing.

If you would have told me five years ago I’d be alive today, I wouldn’t have believed you. The initial diagnosis was 12 months to live. Fortunately, it was wrong. Since the survival rate for esophageal cancer is less than 10 percent, I feel fortunate to still be on this earth, rather than in it.

Mike Tannenbaum informs us that “My memoir of Columbia physics is posted on the Columbia physics webpage: columbia.edu/cu/physics/about/main/one/links.html, click on ‘Columbia Physics in the Fifties.’

“The direct link to my memoir is columbia.edu/cu/physics/pdf-files/Tannenbaum.pdf.”

Hal Stahl reports: “A healthy boy was born to my daughter Carrie in Minnesota. It was a natural water birth, and her husband, Lewis, caught the baby with my wife. Toby, and me, other family members and some midwives present. Ari Elani was 22 in, 8 lbs, 7 oz. All is well with him and mom. His mom will return shortly to teaching nursing at the community college level.”

The Class of ’90 has scheduled the con-tribution of Ralph James Alster, the first part of which ran in the September/October issue.

“Late in the ’80s, I started full time into the quirkiness of my ruminating fictions that total some 20 or so unpublished, and at various times some years back I sent out hundreds of queries to editors and agents, and for receiving back only their stick-on, pre-printed notes that they like sending for out-of-hand rejecting as unsuitable to their needs what they’ve not even examined. So of course it dawned on me that you needed someone’s reference for getting in, and that as the writing itself was so engrossingly gratifying, I didn’t want to waste any more time now forced trying to beat down the door.”

“Emes Dick cycle came first. It tells of a Brooklyn yeshiva boy’s rise to establishment-media-mogul notoriety through his self-altering descriptions that have him becoming a Columbia classmate’s levitator just so that he might obtain the Mississippi boy’s agro-business (think Archer Daniels Midland) tycoon father’s financial sponsorship of his ingeniously retro-rightist-leaning media contrivances. When Emes Dick’s 16-year-old son suicides himself, it launches him downsizingly into his becoming its self-documenting author of my Emes Dick cycle.

“The Enragedness of Being a Book has its reclusive author being held captive by his own attic after the run-in that his head has with one of the backyard swings being swung by one of his kids at his invisibility that he’s conjured himself into after being dumped into his spell of depressed enragedness by his traveling about one Sunday morning to visit an estate sale in the very ritzy town next door to his own. First there’d been his finding himself in the hospital while being prepped for the cardio-metabolic surgery that he will have to undergo. Next he finds himself post-surgery trapped in his attic trying to read his latest compositions to the likes of Edmund Wilson, Lionel Trilling [’25] and Rickey Jay. But their utter contempt for him has him accomplishment just his transubstantiation into that deck of cards that Edmund’s tricky fingers keep fiddling with while he’s babbling forth with his relatively lucid contemplations concerning American authors that he shares with Trilling’s sharing his own far more obscure perceptions.

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Norman Gelfand
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New York, NY 10025
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I hope that this finds you all well and doing things that bring you joy. Many have been traveling lately and fortunately some of you have sent descriptions of these adventures.

Ralph W. Wyndrum Jr. has surely been active. He writes, “My wife, Meta, and I traveled to the Panama Canal in March, reviewing the technical aspects of the canal’s history and its current expansion with a third set of locks to accommodate the huge ‘Post-Panamax’ ships of the twenty-first century. This is a story of an IEEE engineering group invited by the Panama Canal Authority to see the workings of the canal from the ‘inside out,’ visiting the control rooms, the machine shops able to handle gigantic repair tasks and the operations of the great pan-american railroad connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific as well as the giant construction job for the third ‘canal.’

“In addition to traversing the canal in a small boat, the group visited the jungles of Panama within Barro Colorado, an island wildlife refuge in the Gatun Lake (sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute) that is home to thousands of native and migrant species of insects, birds, monkeys and crocodiles as well as plants, flowers and trees. All of this beauty is within a country that also has more than 70 skyscrapers in its capital, Panama City, and is a major financial center for South and Central America. The canal is run very professionally, and the engineering staff, largely trained in Panama and other regional engineering and business schools, seems well equipped for their tasks. By the way, one trip through the canal costs $1,000 for a small boat and up to $450,000 for a large passenger liner or bulk freighter.

“After about a week in Panama, Meta and I departed for a rural part of Costa Rica, Guanacaste, in the arid and hot northwest portion of the country. Populated largely by the mestizo (a mix of European and Indian), the large native Indian population, the shores provide miles of white sandy beaches on the Pacific. Temperatures typically exceeded 100 degrees, hence the Brahman cattle imported from India, where the climate is not dissimilar. Flying to San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, we made a five-hour drive over the Inter-American Highway, and then poor gravel and rutted roads brought us to Tamarindo for four days of relaxation and sun. We returned and two new shirts when my laundry bag was mistakenly discarded. The hotel drove us to several towns before they could find shirts size ‘L’ in Santa Rosa.

“Most Americans live and retire in Costa Rica, where there are low costs, nice living and reasonable medical care. Ditto for Panama, though there, many of the retirees we saw were retired military personnel who had been assigned there during their careers.

“I am willing to provide any class member who requests it a CD with all the slides captioned, and the necessary Picasa software included on the CD, so that any computer with Windows 98 or later will enable one to see the entire presentation. (The material was assembled for a talk I presented recently in New Jersey.) Just send an e-mail to me: rww@montmouth.com.”

Ken Scheffel writes about a great trip: “I had a great time in Europe, but now I need a vacation to recover from my vacation. It was my first time to the British isle, and I was deeply impressed with the second flight (the first came last year for our reunion). Spent three days in the Black Forest area of Germany with a side trip to Koln, a day on the Normandy invasion beaches plus a stop in Bayeux to see William the Conqueror’s tapestry and church, three days in Paris (the dirtiest, most disorganized, least friendly, most beautiful city I saw) and three days in London (to which we took the Channel. They speak English as if it is their native language). It was a great time everywhere and definitely want to go again, but after sufficient recovery time. I was in a beer garden in Freiburg when the Germans beat the English in World Cup soccer. The whole town went bananas. They even rang the church bells in celebration. It reminded me of a Michigan-Ohio State game. Now, I’m getting ready to travel to Ann Arbor for our equivalent of World Cup soccer.

“If any classmates are in the vicinity this fall and would like to see a Michigan game, let me know. I have several season tickets and sometimes have spares, which I give away (if family and friends aren’t interested, they go to the families of patients at Mott Children’s Hospital).”

“Conquering the Chunnel. They speak English as if it’s their native language. Had a whole town went bananas. They beat down the door.

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with him. When Rimbaud and Scott Fitzgerald come bounding up the stairs, things go from bad to worse. As Trilling’s running out of smokes and Edmund’s having consumed all his bourbon has the two newbies racing back down to Campbell Dick’s to an evening of nakedness in the kitchen that out of her cabinets can offer not any resupply to help them at all. And which has them next burst forth out onto the street with their running amuckquesting until finally there’s that downpouring torrent of thunder and lightning that it incites for smitheening its flimsy entirety of what’s been fictionally establishing itself built up. And so that there’s next the protagonist finding himself sailing all alone in a paper boat that’s being curbside swept along sewer-bound in the storm’s rush of debris-strewn runoff waters.

“Dogwriter Thurber jumps ahead to some indeterminate time in the future when mankind’s idiotic mismanaging of the planet’s reverberation preeminentness instigates a world-wide canine revolution that has canines superseding humans as the dominant terrestrial species and with humans sometimes now serving to them as their pets. Every humanoid who has evaded any significant role at all in the overall mismanagement of the planet is compelled into producing a highly detailed written documentation of all his humanoid errors as the price of his retaining to some small measure of his lost autonomy and freedom. As the narrator has not on his own the literary skills essential to his accomplishing the task he’s had the canine Dogwriter Thurber assigned to providing the assistance he needed. Ultimate misapprehension that he produces is found to be — by the Humandroid Commissar of Sincerely Truthful Communication — so replete still with his humanoid self-deceptions that she appoints — so replete still with his humanoid self-deceptions that she appoints her own the literary skills essential to do the task. As the narrator has not on his own the literary skills essential to do the task, he needs. Ultimately, the confession had the canine Dogwriter Thurber made for himself in painting, I quit versifying altogether. And then all at once there was that fluidity of narrative that in the late 30s came to me in prose and in supplantation of my painting. And now lately, here’s verse starting up again inside me for yet more fluidifying the truth-telling of my narrations out of their resistant blockishness that prose more insidiously imposes.

“My New Utrecht classmates will understand me when I say in closing that I cannot give brief remembrance to my brief Columbia years and to my entire life thereafter without giving pivotal remembrance to Alan Horowitz. If I’ve accomplished anything in my life, he was the father of whatever I have accomplished. He died very young, late ’30s or very early ’40s. But he’s continued with me ever since as an absence that came far too soon. He’d been the mentor to all us ’59ers who’d gone to Columbia out of New Utrecht, and as to precedent New Utrechites at Columbia as well. But with perhaps his having had a more challenging task at hand in his wanting to advance me out of myself, than in his advancing any of the others who’d already been so much more advanced self-emergent.”

Take care, and have a happy holiday season.

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

Doug McCorkindale ’61 was elected lead director of Lockheed Martin.

Nothing could be more heartening than knowing that through the agency of class correspondent a good deed had been done. At the same time my education was broadened as I learned, to my disappointment, that the weather in Paris during the summer months cannot be predicted from year to year. I never got the packing right. I remember early July one year with nothing but rain and chill. We had several days of high temperatures this season, then a stretch of incomparable blue skies and moderate temps. Meteo France also never seems to get it right. The storms it predicts materialize somewhere, I suppose, but rarely where the service leads one to believe. Umbrellas today are useless burden. I have learned to let myself get soaked occasionally — no harm in enjoying it. (Famous last words. I should not tempt Jupiter Pluvius.)

One source of anxiety in compiling the Class Notes is finding the mailbox empty or virtually so as the deadline for filing approaches rapidly, inexorably. And so, I was most appreciative to receive this beautiful note from Tom Hamilton:

“I am planning to create a foundation to provide scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students planning to enter the planetarium field as well as to provide limited funding (grants and interest-free loans) to planetariums threatened with closure for economic reasons. My lawyers hope to have this up and running by some time in mid-2011, in time for the fall semester. I will initially put $50,000 into it, with more, later, to be determined by the foundation. The rules I am setting up require a trustee to have at least five years experience in the field at the time of appointment as a trustee and to be limited to serving for no more than nine years total, to receive no compensation except reimbursement for actual, approved expenses, and not eligible for any of the funds to be disbursed. It will be called the Hamilton Planetarium Scholarship Fund.”

Tom, who last year had an asteroid named in his honor, has been awarded the title of Fellow of the International Planetarium Society. This honor was announced at the society’s biennial convention, this year hosted by the planetarium in Alexandria, Egypt. Only six such titles were awarded this year, and Tom was one of only two Americans so recognized.

I’d love to hear from the rest of the class.

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely jfreely@columbia.edu 212-851-7438
DEVELOPMENT Paul Staller ps2247@columbia.edu 212-851-7494

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

We are now less than one year away from our 50th reunion, which will take place Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. The Reunion Committee is planning the event with the help of the Alumni Office. Anyone interested in helping should contact Bill Binderman (wbinderman@msn.com), Tiny Adler (awaddler@spartacommercial.com) or Burrt Ehrlich (burrt@bloomberg.com) with their ideas.

To a man and his wife, Helen, recently returned from a cruise to Alaska to celebrate her birthday.

“This is our third cruise in the last four years, the previous one being to the western Mediterranean from Barcelona, there to celebrate our 50th anniversary.” They have found certain cruises to

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be cost- and energy-efficient ways to take holidays with minimal packing and unpacking and risks.

Gene and a Belgian colleague have edited the volume *Astronomical Photometry: Past, Present, and Future* for Springer, based on sessions on this topic that Gene organized for the History of Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society at a West Coast meeting in 2009. He contributed to three papers in this volume, detailing his work on precise photometry techniques and hardware during the past three decades. Also, the second edition of *Exploring Ancient Skies: An Encyclopedic Survey of Archaeoastronomy*, a comprehensive survey of ancient and cultural astronomy, written by David H. Kelley and Gene, is now in press and should appear before the end of 2010.

Gene continues to publish research papers. His latest paper (with two European colleagues) appeared in the July issue of the *Astronomical Journal*. At the moment, he still has a laboratory and office, but 2011 may be his last year to teach at his alma mater, the General Theological Seminary, and in the spring he will teach at SKH Ming Hua Theological College, the Anglican seminary in Hong Kong. Since he last wrote, John spent two months lecturing in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo and Curitiba) and in Germany, and John and Gene attended the event. “This work,” writes John Sr., “has probably been performed more than 200 times in the United States and England. I am constantly churning out new CD recordings of my published compositions. My current projects are *Caritata for a Young Girl* and *Cello Ludere* (‘The Cello Wants to Play’), for solo cello and symphony orchestra.”

Several summers ago, Allen Young won a lottery, sponsored by Provincetown’s Peak Hill Trust, for a week’s stay in one of the celebrated, primitive dune shacks in Provincetown, Mass. During that week, Allen kept a journal that recently was published by Haley’s Publishing of Athol, Mass. The book is titled *Thalassa: One Week in a Provincetown Dune Shack*. Featuring photographs of the Provincetown dunes and the shack where Allen stayed, *Thalassa* includes an introduction to the shacks and their history as well as Allen’s journal. Tim Miller, a performer and the author of *Body Blues: Six Performances*, writes about the book: “Allen Young’s *Thalassa* is a joyful call to being present in the world. The book calmed me, focused me and made me feel almost as if I had also been blessed with a week in Thalassa.”

44 years, having met at a TEP party in 1962. We have three daughters (Holly, Cara '94 and Lindsay '01) and seven grandchildren. I left the practice of allergy immunology four years ago and am a full-time tenured professor at UCLA. Best to everyone, Gary.

Cary, I can’t believe it either; time moves too fast. We’d better start planning.

Eric Foner, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, now is a member of the editorial board of the Columbia Book Club.

David Pittinsky writes, “In addition to my continuing to work full-time as a commercial litigator, my wife, Alecia, and I continue to take wonderful vacations to France. This summer, we spent two weeks in Paris and one week in St. Tropez. We have been going to St. Tropez since 2002. We have also been going to Paris every October since 2006 for extended eating weekends at one-, two- and three-star Michelin restaurants. My favorite Parisian restaurant is L’Arni Louis, which we went to for the fifth consecutive year this October. If anyone would like to read my Parisian eating reports, which also contain valuable information on other aspects of Parisian life, they should e-mail me, and I will be glad to share them.”

You can reach David at pittsky@ballardspaehr.com.

Our regular second Thursday lunches have been seeing an increasing number of our alumni and I am hoping that the luminaries in the spring and early summer included Steve Barcan, Henry Black, Ed Coller, Jerry Dwyer, Doron Gospentin, Bob Heller, Rich Juro, Lee Lowenfish, Don Margolis, Larry Neuman, Paul Neshamkin, Tom O’Connor, Barry Reiss, Phil Satow and Jeff Thompson. If you’re in NYC, try to make the next class of ’63 lunch, scheduled for Thursday, November 11, and then again on Thursday, December 9. It’s always the second Thursday. Check our website at cc63ers.com for details.

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

Norman Olch
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I am writing this column in New York City shortly after Labor Day. The scorching summer days are over, and everyone is looking forward to a mild autumn. The informal class lunches at the Columbia University Club resumed on October 14 and will continue on November 11 and December 9, both Thursdays. Please join us.

In July, Howie Perlshtein retired after 42 years as an attorney at the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C. During his career, Howie argued hundreds of cases before federal courts of appeals across the country. When he left the federal bench, he was appointed as general counsel in the NLRA’s Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Branch. He writes, “When not auditing courses at George Mason University, playing golf or serving on various committees, my wife, Linda, and I intend to travel, fishing with the Panama Canal in the fall, and Israel in the spring.”

Also during the summer, Steve Singer left for a five-week celebrationary retirement trip to Europe; Allen Tobias read Fritz Stern ‘46’s autobiography, Five Germans I Have Known; Nick Rudd headed to San Francisco to cradle his newborn grandchild, Elizabeth Lucy Rudd; Nick and Dave Levin participated in Convocation to welcome the Class of 2014; and Ivan Weissman attended Old-Timers’ Day at Yankee Stadium.

Speaking of baseball, Marty Flamm writes, “I am enjoying my retirement in Arizona with a part-time ‘job’ as a paid official scorer for Arizona League baseball games. I mostly score the rookie minor league Texas Rangers games, though I also will do a few Dodgers and Padres games. It is nice to get paid to watch games!”

Peter D.G. Brown is the Distinguished Service Professor of German at SUNY New Paltz. He has edited more than 100 books on German history and literature, and his book Oskar Panizza and the Love Council has been published in March. The German play The Love Council appeared in 1894. Peter writes: “The Love Council is a carnivalesque satire dealing with the first recorded outbreak of syphilis in 1495, which portrays the scourge as divine punishment for the rampant sexual excesses in the Vatican court of the Pope of the time, the notorious Rodrigo Borgia. Panizza was imprisoned for one year on 93 counts of licentiousness, the harshest sentence ever given to an artist in the Second Empire. My book contains a detailed history of the play on stage and in court proceedings that led to Panizza’s imprisonment. A new English translation of the play is included as well as a biography of its avant-garde, modernist author.”

I am saddened to report the death of Thomas H. Connell III. Since 1981, Tom was the production stage manager — the chief stage manager — at the Metropolitan Opera. The New York Times obituary recounts his colorful and extraordinary career at the Met: nytimes.com/2010/04/28/arts/28connell.html.

Tom’s daughter, Phoebe Day Danziger ‘05, wrote to CCT: “I heard from one of [my dad’s] CC classmates that he was an athlete, but as a CC alum, it would mean a lot to me if any of my dad’s other classmates had any memories of him, because I don’t know much about his time at Columbia.” Phoebe can be reached at phoebedanziger@gmail.com.

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humanitarian Vietnam 'Operation Babyfut' effort of 1975, in which Byron played an important role. I referenced Byron Michael's years at Columbia during my talk, which included comments by my daughter, Jennifer Nguyen Noone '99 SW, who is a Vice President of Operations for Newsday. Newsday published an article about my talk and included a photo of Byron Michael, Jennifer and me, from the day Jen arrived from Vietnam, June 5, 1975." Lana's e-mail is lananoone@yahoo.com

From Belmont, Mass., Geoff Dutton wrote to us this summer, apologizing for having been out of touch for a long time. "When the latest CCT came and this column had so little about our year, I decided I needed to chime in. I'm a relatively anonymous, apathetic alumnus living near Boston since college. Two years out, I married briefly and divorced childless. Thirty years hence, I married again, and remain happily so with a daughter (9). Because as a family man I can't retire, I keep my day job as a mild-mannered technical writer at a technical software vendor. At night I prowl the Net as a mysterious political prankster. My career started in academia, doing digital cartographic research at a lab at Harvard in the '70s and '80s. After a variety of professional gigs thereafter, in the '90s I threw in the towel and went back to school to get a Ph.D. in geography and publish my obscure dissertation, which fulfilled me but left me nowhere to go. So I started writing about technology for fun and profit, and have since branched into other areas. Some of my writing sloughs over to massentropyproductions.net/blog, whereas I happily remain almost anonymous. Maybe it's better that way; too much ego-tripping can suck one inside out. I have plenty to do, and look guardedly forward to retiring when my kid is out of college." Write to Geoff at gdutton1@joimail.com.

Dr. Bill Chin '68 was appointed executive dean for research at Harvard Medical School.

Jeff Herrmann was kind enough to pass along the following news. "About five years ago, several classmates began meeting for dinner in New York every two or three months, usually at Malawi House near Columbia, to discuss old times, new times, life, politics, sports and anything else that might come up. The group includes Mel Brender, Alan Candiotti, Tony Greco, Bill Heinbach, Ira Krakow, Ken Kram, Er Harold Wechsler and me. Art Steinberg ’68 joined us later. About 2½ years ago, I moved to London, but on a short visit home this May, we all got together again. I volunteered to collect any comments that the group wanted to pass along, and here is what I gathered so far, in their own words: "Mel Brender: ’I’ve entered a period of long tenures: I work at TIAA-CREF, where I’ve been for about 11 years, exceeding my stay at any previous job. My wife, Wendy, and I have been together for 29 years, and we’ve been renovating and remodeling the same house in Brooklyn for the last 27 of those years. Our daughter, Kate (25), and our son, Will (23), are making their way in the world. Fortunately for us, neither child has yet left the borough, although both have left the house. Aside from the above, spare time goes for reading, cinema, old friends and a bit of travel when possible.’ "Alan Candiotti is professor of mathematics at Drew in Madison, New Jersey. He has been there for the last 30 years. He also is CIO for the university, which divides his professional time between mathematics and technology. He lives in Bernardsville, N.J., "Tony Greco: ’Recently retired, I’m happily using my freedom to pursue old intellectual interests and enjoy New York City more than ever. I live in Manhattan, not far from Columbia, and am frequently on campus to use the libraries or attend a lecture or seminar. Columbia looks like a much more fun place than it was in our day: There are several cafes on the south campus, including one in Butler Library, and the coed atmosphere is a big improvement over what we knew.’ "Bill Heinbach retired in 2002 after more than 30 years as a public middle-school teacher in Brooklyn. He is blessed with health, great family and friends, and almost enough money to enjoy them. He still is in a kind of awe that so many of his fellow students and friends from Columbia are, as always, so bright, so achievement-oriented and such good people. Sometimes he wonders just where he fits in all of this, even now, more than 40 years later. "Ira Krakow: ’Teaching, mathemat- ics at CUNY and work on problems in number theory and arithmetic geometry. Outside of work, my simple pleasures include seeing my grandson Toby and our dinner meetings. My children are Michael ’95 and Caren ’03.’ “As for me, Jeff Herrmann, I retired from practicing law at the end of 2007 and moved to London with my wife, Mina, who works for a hedge fund. We bought an early Victorian terrace house in Knightsbridge and have spent a good deal of time and effort fixing it up and fitting it out. We have developed a wide circle of fascinating new friends from all over the world. We get out regularly to the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet as well as to hear several of the fine classical orchestras in London. During the daytime, I have been filling in the gaps in my Columbia education by taking courses at Imperial College London, Oxford, and Birkbeck College, and struggling to learn to play the piano. Our older son, Justin, is in London at Citibank in risk analytics, and our younger son, Gabe, is a lawyer for Gibson Dunn in New York. We see Justin regularly, but Gabe only a few times a year. Most recently, the family was together to watch the races from the Royal Enclosure at Ascot. My wife, and I were in Siena for the running of the Palio, and in October, we cruised the Nile. In other words, life for us is pretty good these days. I extend an invitation to all classmates to visit us if passing through London.”

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September rolled into the city, bringing global cooling. It was re- ally cold out for those of you who are in Naples, Fla. I ran into Ira McCown in Sep- tember. He then sent an effusive piece about our being in spin class at the gym. He reported that I looked in good shape. Thanks, Ira. He was at the gym, he told me, for the fourth day in a row. He books ready to row for Columbia. John Tall sent a copy of the WSJ editorial praising Columbia’s Core and academic world and concluding, “Where Columbia Beats Harvard: On the Battlefield of Curricula.” But John, we knew that. I will take a football win this fall. I received a note from Bill Chin noting his third career is under way for what he suggested might be a “slow news cycle.” I have a copy from the dean of Harvard Medical School announcing the new academic building. They wrote: “It is my great honor to announce the appointment of William W. Chin, M.D., as HIMS executive dean for research, a newly created senior position with overarching responsibility for biomedical research at HIMS. As a senior member of my leadership team, Bill will spearhead efforts to design and implement a vision for research at HIMS, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary research that crosses departmental and institutional boundaries. He will also hold an academic appointment as professor of medicine at HIMS. “Bill’s impressive career is exemplified in part by his extensive bibliography of nearly 300 papers, chapters and books, most of which were generated during his 25 years on the Harvard Medical School faculty. After graduating from HIMS in 1972, Bill trained at several HIMS teaching hospitals, including a medical internship and residency at Beth Israel Hospital and endocrine clinical training and research at Massachusetts General Hospital. 

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CLASS NOTES

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

48
Ed Brennan

For the past two years, I have been devoting an increasing amount of my time (when not doing a wonderful job for my investment clients) to an organization my wife, Jane Ross (whom I met at the Columbia Business School EMPI program in 1978), started 10 years ago. It is called Smart Kids with LD (note: not gifted, but stemming from the observation that many, many children with learning disabilities are really quite smart).

"Jane started the organization after spending several years learning about and finding the resources she needed to help our son Ben, who only learned to read in the fifth grade. But once on track, he was not to be denied. Graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Bowdoin in 2008, Ben recently entered the master’s program at architecture at Columbia.

The first honorary chair was David Neeleman, founder of JetBlue and self-confessed LD person. His position was recently taken by the 'Fonz,' aka Henry Winkler, and two short videos with him talking about his own experiences growing up and pitching for a Smart Kids read-a-thon can be found at www.SmartKidswithLD.org.

"Beginning two years ago, Smart Kids made a decision to move from a paid subscription-based printed newsletter to a free web-delivered newsletter and resource center. This will only be feasible longer-term if a sufficient number of people become subscribers to the newsletter by signing up.

"We have found that grandparents (our generation, as much as it’s painful to admit) have been very helpful to their children and in turn grandchildren by using information available through Smart Kids. Who knows, maybe even some of the younger grads might spy a reference to Smart Kids in your Class Notes and spread the word further.

"Jane whipped me into shape by finding more garden projects for me this summer than I knew existed, melting me down from a portly 242 in early May to a nearly svelte 215 now.

"Awesome, Ed and Jane. Great to hear what you are up to, and Ed, as Tom Sanford said at our reunion, exercise is the way to go.

I am looking forward to the football season this year, under way as you read this. Paul’s seats are next to mine so we will share some good fall weather against this year. The coach seems fabulous. The team looks better than last year. So it should be a good year if not a great one for the Lions.

I continue to do public finance, working on a $1 billion financing for the State of Utah to be completed in a couple of weeks as of this writing, and having some good fun and enjoying my place in Saratoga more than in the past. The opera season is under way. Maybe I will run into Bill Henrich, as in the past. The Texas Opera Workshop and I have it there periodically. My first opera of the season was Boris Godunov. It has been a long time since I saw the Czar on the Met stage.

Do write and let me know the news of the day. I hope you are all well.

Michael Oberman
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Two classmates responded to my July/August column, in which I mentioned that — for lack of news sent to me — I used the Internet to pick up biographical information on classmates.

From Mark Leeds: “You should not have to subsist on secondhand news, so, listening to the ’65-’69 selection on tropicalglen.com, I will dust off the old keyboard. Most people are not really interested in the vicissitudes of the lives of others, particularly the ‘tzuris’ parts. However, it is good to share happy things (‘Shep Nachas’), although doing so is said to attract the Evil Eye (’kenahara’, or, thinking of it as part of a Borsch Belt team with Shep Nachas, Ken O’Hara). That said, I will shear a bit of nachas.

"This summer, Elizabeth finished her master’s in architecture program at New York University. "In the history of biology and medicine, one can search high and low and not find running water as clear as in the time I was at Columbia. It seems to me that this is due to the absence of the old-time gatekeeper who was on the payrolls to guard the glory. (I make the assumption that there have always been secretaries who have worked under the deans, but were not in this category.) The Zucker Hillside Hospital and the Mount Sinai Hospital. During his tenure as a faculty member in the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, he became chief of the Genetics Division and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, advancing to professor of medicine and obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive biology at HMS.

“In this new role at HMS, Bill assumes a key HMS leadership position at a remarkable moment in the history of biology and medicine. One of his highest priorities will be to conceptualize and develop new research initiatives, such as the therapeutics discovery initiative, envisioned as a focused and innovative effort to bring together the enormous expertise of our community in order to find effective new ways for transforming the world’s most vital biomedical research into therapies that can directly improve human health. Bill will also develop a coherent strategy for the school’s science interactions with industry, ensuring it is both aligned with the HMS Faculty Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Commitment and is capable of advancing critical unmet needs.

"Bill will work closely with me, other HMS deans, the HMS preclinical chairs and other research leaders across our affiliated institutions and the broader university to develop a framework for strategic scientific planning. Bill will engage the community in support of our key research initiatives designed to sustain HMS as the leading biomedical research institution well into the future.”

I did shorten the expressive piece by the dean, but his ebullience comes through despite that. I am happy to hear from you, Bill, and congratulations. We wish you great success in your third career.

Talking about professors, Ted Kapchuk wrote a little note: “I have a family and am an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Most of my work is researching placebo effects. Still kicking.”

Glad to hear you are doing well, Ed, and his wife, Jane, as being (and I knew this, Ed) good people. Ed sent this:

"Jim shorter. He was about to go on a trip. Maybe China again for business. He sounded good and busy.

Ed Brennan and his wife, Jane, are being (and I knew this, Ed) good friends. I was happy to hear from them.

Hank Reichman writes: “Thank you for the nice writeup in the summer issue of CCT. It takes courage, I think, to go onto the Internet and find info on people and trust that it will be genuine. But you’re approaching the subject with care, and your information on me was accurate. I did get some space in the alumni news about a decade ago (at our age, who can keep track?), and I had been thinking of writing to you with an update but was waiting for some notable achievement or milestone to report. I thought I might have one when, 18 months ago, the Academic Senate of the California State University System submitted my name and one other’s to the governor for appointment as the sole CSU faculty representative to the CSU Board of Trustees. California law provides that the governor ‘shall appoint’ from a list of at least two candidates provided by the Senate, but first his office dawdled and then last December demanded more names, which on principle the Senate refused to provide. It now appears that no one will be appointed at least until we have a new governor, leaving more than 20,000 CSU faculty in our 23 universities without representation on the board and me with only a run-of-the-mill professional disappointment to report. Yesterday, however, I received my copy of CCT when I returned from the mountainous State of Utah to finish writing my retirement papers, surely a milestone worth noting. I will be participating in an ‘early retirement’ program that allows me to receive my full, but still all-too-meager, pension while continuing to teach no more than half-time for no more than five years. Of course, a half-time teaching load in the CSU is larger than a full-time load at Columbia or Barnard, but, still, it’s a pretty good deal. In addition to the aforementioned activities you reported, from which I will be stepping down in retirement, I also served on our faculty union collective bargaining team (this may be why the governor was reluctant to appoint me!). Since the financial crisis eliminated most of the hard-fought gains we won in our last contract, I’m back on that team this go-round (our contract expired June 30) in the hope that we can win back at least some of what we’ve lost.

“Your experiences at Columbia have turned out to be good training
VICTOR HERZ' '70 is president and CEO of Legal Language Services.

In another attempt to stimulate news, I've signed onto Facebook and LinkedIn and tried to locate classmates. My social networking yielded one item so far. From John Castellucci: "In September 2008, after 30 years as a reporter, I took a buyout from the Providence Journal, the newspaper where I had spent two-thirds of my career. A month after I left, the Journal laid off 31 people, among them a talented young reporter with whom I worked on several breaking news stories, including one that was headlined: ‘I CALLED THEM FOR HELP!’ Mother says Pawtucket police didn’t have to shoot her son.’ It took the reporter 599 days to find another job. It’s been widely reported that reporters are an endangered species. It’s true. For someone just starting out in journalism, this is a terrible time. But for me, the meltdown of the news business wasn’t a crisis—it was an opportunity. Thanks to the buyout, I can finally do the kind of developed reporting I couldn’t do when I had a column to fill every 24 hours. Since leaving the Journal, I’ve written several book reviews and op-ed pieces, pitched a book about the Station Nightclub fire and had a 2,500-word article published in The Chronicle of Higher Education about the night, during the 1968 Columbia disturbances, that Professor Orest Ranum’s papers were set afire. The research I did for the Ranum piece was facilitated by a thing widely blamed for destroying newspapers: the Internet. I found a treasure trove of information on websites such as www.columbia1968.com. I got in touch with Mark Rudd by e-mail. I used the Internet telephone service Google Voice to interview Professor Ranum at his summer home in Villefranche-de-Panat, France.”

Congratulations to Michael Rothfield, the recipient of the 2010 Alexander Hamilton Medal (to be presented on November 18 at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner, an annual black-tie event held in Low Rotunda). The medal, the highest honor paid to a member of the Columbia College community, is awarded annually by the Columbia College Alumni Association to an alumnum/a or a faculty member for distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor. As reported in the “Around the Quad” section of the September /October CCT, Mike, a 1970-71 International Fellow at SIPA, is a University Trustee and a CCAA board member. He is a former chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors and also has served on the advisory board of the Journalism School’s Knight-Bagehot Program in business and financial journalism. A theatrical producer and private equity investor, Mike has been an associate editor of Fortune, assistant to the chairman and CEO of Salomon Brothers, a managing director of Salomon Brothers, a managing director in the investment banking division of The First Boston Corp. and, through private corporations, a general partner of Bessemer Capital Partners and Bessemer Holdings. He was a director of The Overseas Door Corp., Graphic Controls Corp. (non-executive chair) and Kelly Oil & Gas. He was a member in 1979 of the first cultural delegation from the United States to the People’s Republic of China. Mike received the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards and was nominated for a Tony for the revival of Gore Vidal’s The Best Man. His production company received the Lucille Lortel Award for the New York revival of Our Town. He also is director of the Jed Foundation and a trustee of Second Stage theater. Mike is married to Ella M. Foshay ’71 GSAS, ’79 GSAS, who holds a Ph.D. in art history. They are the parents of Ella M. Foshay-Rothfeld ’06 and Augusta F. Foshay-Rothfeld ’08.

The vitality of this column requires participation, especially since it is frustrating for me to e-mail requests for news that often go unanswered. You can send me your news or your reflections on our College years by e-mail or via Facebook or LinkedIn. Maybe our class can form a group on these sites.
He also lives in New York. Anyone after finishing Emory last spring. enjoying himself as he looks for a job in the Capital in New York. those 'guys' and works at Eagle Harvard follies. He is now one of our M.B.A., recovering from his illness despite being handicapped for 2 years, raising three great kids along with a B.A. from Yale. It felt a little as if still reading lists — if with less pressure and intensity (though perhaps better analytic ability!). And so, in unexpected ways, my Columbia life seems more present to me now than it did then, and certainly more than it was in the first 10 or 20 years after graduation. I suspect that Columbia had as incalculable an effect on my class as it did on me, and I am very lucky for it. Wishing all the best to the Class of ’71.”

Mark Silverman: “After a long silence, here I am. After CU, I attended University of Connecticut medical school (Mike Kemperst and I were classmates) followed by training at Yale and New England Deaconess in anatomic pathology. “Being in the right place at the right time, I met and married Susan Mohr (Silverman) ’72 Barnard after a chance meeting at the Barnard library. “Being in the right place, again, I became the founder and chair of the department of pathology at Lahey Clinic outside of Boston where I worked new hours was built in 1980. My solo department has grown into a large and sophisticated pathology group. “We settled in Newton, Mass., where we have lived for almost 30 years, raising three great kids along the way. Jill, our oldest, is an attorney at Goldman Sachs after spending four years at Paul Weiss. She’s done well even outside being handicapped with a B.A. from Yale. It felt a little strange hearing about her working with a team of medical experts, but everyone was really nice to her, proving to me once again how wonderful our years at Columbia were.”

“My son David ’09 Business saw the light and attended Columbia for a M.B.A., recovering from his Harvard college. He is now one of those ‘guys’ and works at Eagle Capital in New York.

“Our youngest, Billy, is a charming young man who knows how to enjoy himself as he looks for a job after finishing Emory last spring. He also lives in New York. Anyone looking for a multi-talented and charming young man who has a strong working knowledge of ancient Greek and Latin, look no further.

“My only Columbia regents have not been able to stay in touch with more of the class over the years. If you know of a lost or deceased, I still work out conscientiously (or is it compulsively?) and read as if I still had reading lists — if with less pressure and intensity (though perhaps better analytic ability!). And so, in unexpected ways, my Columbia life seems more present to me now than it did then, and certainly more than it was in the first 10 or 20 years after graduation. I suspect that Columbia had as incalculable an effect on my class as it did on me, and I am very lucky for it. Wishing all the best to the Class of ’71.”

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“My son David ’09 Business saw the light and attended Columbia for a M.B.A., recovering from his Harvard college. He is now one of those ‘guys’ and works at Eagle Capital in New York. The last reunion sparked conclu...
oversees the city and offers a magni-
tificent view. Allen got his Italian
driver’s license years back, but he
tends to cycle whenever it’s reason-
able. He’s been devoting himself to
photography since the early ’80s,
mostly still-life, mostly black and
white. Allen taught photography for
15 years at CUNY, was an assistant
to Irving Penn years ago and has
had numerous exhibitions. His web-
site, which he shares with his wife,
Stefania Levi (a fine photographer
in her own right), is impressive:
http://2your/It/level/?show=there are
samples of Allen’s art (self-described
as “Joseph Cornell channeling Sam-
uel Beckett”), his wife’s and many of
his learned musings on other
matters, both art-related and non-
interesting reading.

More would be better. E-mail with
impunity!

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They say that if you wait long
enough, everything goes full circle.
This certainly seems to be the case
on Morningside Heights. Many in the
class bemoaned the loss of The
Gold Rail (the famous “jock bar”
on 111th and Broadway) and what
many said was the best burger in
the area. It was replaced in the
mid-1970s by a Chinese restaurant
and more recently by Torno, a Japa-
nese restaurant. Just as the new
school year started, the circle was
completed. In the place where The
Gold Rail once stood, Me’s Burger
Bar has emerged. And yes, it has the
best burger in the neighbor-
hood and more than 70 types of beer. As
said in The Lion King, “The circle of life!”

Some of my ramblings in the
last column brought responses from
several classmates. Mention of
Sherry Gilled (wife of Richard
Birnbaun) being appointed to a post in
the Obama administration re-
minded Dr. Steve DeCherney
that he had Sherry as a health econom-
ics professor while he was doing a
master’s of public health at the
Mailman School of Public Health
many moons ago. He wrote, “She
was an excellent teacher. We
did not realize the connection until
the end of the semester, and it did not
help my grade (B+).” Steve adds, “I
retired briefly about two years ago.
It was terrible.” So now he is teach-
ing, seeing patients half-time, is an
s.v.p. at MedAssurant in Bowie,
Md., is consulting on healthcare
investments and is on some boards in
the United States and the United
Kingdom. “Good to be overworked
again. Honestly,” Steve says.

The column item about class-
mates with young children brought
a response from Dave Black in
Raleigh, N.C. He reminds us that he
claims the record of the “first child
produced by our class mantle.”
(His son Chris was born in January
1971, and son Bryan came along in
March 1973.) Dave graduated from
the Graduate School of Archi-
itecture, Planning and Preservation.)
Dave adds, “Despite this early start,
my first grandchild is not due until
November of this year. I guess my
sons learned something from my
example!” It was way too soon to have
an empty nest in my early 40s. I can’t imagine running after a young one at our age.”

“We’ll see how well ‘gramps’
does at chasing his grandchild
during the inevitable babysitting!”

Within an hour of receiving the
e-mail from architect Dave, another
architect in the class contacted me.
Peter Budeiri, owner of Peter Bu-
deiri + Associates in lower Man-
hattan, was just checking in, but it
was too late to hear that conversion
projects had started again after a
year’s slowdown following the
financial crisis. Peter and his wife,
who is his partner at the firm, live
up the Hudson in Irvington, N.Y.
From the West Coast, Mark
Goldstein sends details of what
he has been up to during the past
third of a century. Mark got an
M.B.A. from the Business School
and went to work for Citibank.
However, fairly soon he decided
to “give the Bay Area a chance”
and moved west. In 1979, Mark
joined Chevron in its informa-
tion technology department and
gradually became one of its senior
project managers. After almost 30
years, Mark retired in late 2008. He
and his wife, Jane, had a son (Sam)
(26), who followed in his dad’s
footsteps. Sam is in Portland, Ore.,
building high-volume websites.
Their daughter, Emily (24), recently
returned from a year teaching in
London tells us that she recently
had him in the hospital just as
the details, but a health problem
resulted in a client selling an inher-
eted painting that she thought was
worth $500 for more than $100,000
at a major Western art auction.
(You can read success stories and
more about the Appraisal Group
at www.appraisalgroupusa.com.)
While at Citibank, Mark co-
authored a lengthy article, “Mar-
ed, Filing Jointly? Same-Sex
Marriages and New York Taxes,”
co-authored by Joseph Lipari
and Deborah Silverman Herman, a
partner of Joe’s Roberts & Hol-
land. While I’m not a New York
resident and not planning to get
married anytime soon, I still read
with interest. I’ll also be passing
the article along to some friends!

Joseph Tibaldi has practiced
endocrinology in Queens for more
than 20 years and is the director of
endocrinology at Flushing Hospi-
tal Medical Center. Accompanied
by his wife of 32 years, Jane McWil-
liams’ 77 Barnard, Joseph recently
had the opportunity to lecture and
vacation in China. While in Hong
Kong, he looked up former Car-
man suitemate Peter Boczar ’76.
They had not seen each other in 35
years but kept in touch, and they
had a wonderful time recounting
memories of Columbia. Of course,
discussed impacts of their Columbia
experiences and agreed that the
experience of learning from professors who actually led
and lived history in their respective
fields was absolutely priceless.
In the last issue, I told you
about Alumni Reunion Weekend
2010, but have more to report.
I hope I didn’t give you
the impression that I was the only
one to receive a Dean’s Pin. (I
recently had mine reissued—very
useful to me by proxy) Receiving theirs from
Dean Michele Moody-Adams
were Paul Argenti, Glenn Bacal,
Barry Berger, Louis Dalaveris, Jim
Dolan, Steve Jacobs, Bob Katz,
Charles Lindsay, Ira Malin, Walter
Ricardt, Bob Schiller, Wayne
Turner and Richard Witten. Terry
Mulry’s was awarded in absentia.
Classmates came from far and
near (well, mainly near New York
City) and brought family and
friends. Since I couldn’t make it,
I have to rely on other eyes and
ears “on the ground” to report I

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had hoped to come home with a notebook full of news and things to include in these notes, but will have to rely on you all to send me updates. Please send e-mails!

Elizabeth, Roberta and Richard Barnett and Barry Pinchoff came in from Long Island.

Barry Berger, Tamar and Gary Brill, Stacey and Gene Davis (and clan — I fondly remember sitting with you all at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner a few years ago), Ben Greene and Albert Moretti represented New Jersey.

Coming from farther away were Jim Dolan from Maryland (my fellow Balti-moron), Peter Garza-Zaleta (Florida), Sue and Gerry Keating (Florida), Jeff Kessler (Virginia), Glenda and Tom Quarnstrom (where are you these days? I don’t seem to have a current address), Joyce and Jeff Retig (Pennsylvania) and Ken Scherzer (Texas — hey Ken, I’m working at a Banner school now).

David Gawan and (Connecticut — what parking schemes do you have when you come to campus?), Steve Krasner (Rhode Island) and Patricia and Paul Kulig (Vermont) were down from New England. And, no surprise, the largest contingent was from the New York Metro area: Bert Grossman ’75E; Steve Jacobs; Jane and Bob Katz; Helaine and Stew Lazow; Fern, Maxwell, Sally, Susan and Charlie Lindsay; Robert Lopez; Janet Serle and Ira Malin (city dwellers again); Peter McCann; Steve Miller; Jacqueline and Joseph Pober; Clara and Walter Riccardi; Regina Mullahy and Bob Schneider; Rick Shur; Mitch Stein; Wayne Turner; Nancy Jane and Floyd Warren; and Lisa and Richard Witten.

If I missed anyone, got a location wrong or made any other errors in the above, forgive me (and send updates)!

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Steve Caley extends greetings to everyone. He lives in Westchester and works in NYC, where he’s been with Kelley Drye & Warren for many years and is a partner in the litigation department. “My practice focuses on complex business and commercial litigation and advertising-related litigation.” Steve explains, noting further that his wife, Bonnie, is a Law School alum. “Our oldest daughter graduated from Dartmouth last year and is attending Dartmouth College. Her sister is a junior at Northwestern. In recent years, I have been bitten by the golf bug. Fortunately for me, golf is one of the few activities that one can do poorly and still enjoy tremendously.”

Like the rest of us (if more poetically), Steve finds it hard to believe how much time has passed since “our halcyon days on Morningside Heights.”

It was pleasant to hear from David Rothkopf and even more pleasant that my e-mail dunning him for news gave him a break from his latest book project. “After having had a media company in New York, I was asked to join the Clinton administration where I’ll pick up research under secretary of commerce for international trade policy. When I left in 1996, I was acting under secretary of commerce for international trade, in which I oversaw all the department’s international trade promotion and enforcement activities. From there, I did a couple years as managing director of Kissinger Associates and then founded a company, Intelligibridge, which provided open-source intelligence to the U.S. government and companies. After that company was sold, I started what has become Garten Rothkopf, and I still run co-chair with a former dean of the Yale School of Management Jeffrey E. Garten. At the same time, I’ve been doing a lot of writing and academic work. I taught for a number of years as an adjunct at SIPA, did likewise at Carnegie Mellon and am now a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.”

And that, again, is the brief report; for more details, you might consult the profile of David that appeared in the May/June 2008 issue of CCT (college.columbia.edu/cct/may_jun08). Among other books, David has written Running the World: The Inside Story of the National Security Council and the Architects of American Power and Superclass: The Global Power Elite and the World They are Making. The book I interrupted, due out in 2011, deals with the history and the future of the relationship between business and government. In addition, let it be noted that David writes regularly for Foreign Policy, among other publications. Living in Bethesda, Md., David has been able to see former roommate Mike Oren (Israeli ambassador) fairly often. “I’m also in touch with another former roommate, Andy Greenspan, although given that he is in far-away Florida, I don’t get to see him that often. He seems to be thriving however, and both ex-roommates have managed thankfully neither to age nor to lose their charm.”

David’s wife, Adrear, works for Research in Motion, his older daughter, Joanna, is studying at the Sorbonne, while the younger, Laura, “gives me yet another reason to think of Columbia regularly, as she is starting her sophomore year at Barnard, on whose international advisory board I now have the pleasure of serving.” David adds, “I travel constantly, keeping up with the world primarily by reading Columbia College Today.”

Updates from all over: The aforementioned Mike Oren had an op-ed piece in The New York Times on June 3. Six degrees of Richard Otter: “Me and Barack Obama ['83], what’s the connection? My wife and Obama both attended Punahou School in Hawaii, Obama and I attended Columbia for college. Obama taught at the University of Chicago, which I attended for grad school. We both lived in Hyde Park in Chicago. Now, however, he lives in Washington, D.C., and I am in Oakland, Calif.” Richard was pursuing an M.A. in biochemistry at Chicago, incidentally, and has worked since 1997 for Bio-Rad Laboratories.) As of this writing, Bob Schuchts is expecting an impressive sixth grandchild. And Adam Nottice is proud to announce that his daughter, Mariel, is a 2010 graduate of the Dental School. “Mariel will be doing a residency in pediatric dentistry at the University of Alabama, Birmingham,” he informs us, and also that he will henceforth be known as “Papa Doc.”

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The bright blue sky shines over the red brick of Morningside Heights as the latest college rankings (which in other circles we are supposed to say mean nothing and use an obscure and unfathomable methodology) have moved Columbia up to No. 4 in U.S. News & World Report’s large university standings, [Editor’s note: See Campus News in “Around the Quadrangle.”] This is a great achievement for our president and the power of a good set of strategies, fundraising and the ascendency of New York City as the global city and alma mater as its muse.

Anyway, for those of us going along for the ride it’s nice to see.

Robert Crochelt writes, “I’ve always been amazed by your staying power and your willingness to write, no doubt, Bob would have no clue as to any other sorts of staying power] and also by the amazing things

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Dr. Francis Collini ’78 Leads Surgical Teams to Ecuador

BY CASEY PLETT

Two years ago, in Ecuador, a 9-year-old boy who had stepped on a nail came to Dr. Francis Collini ’78. The neglected wound had become chronically infected, and the only cure was a below-the-knee amputation.

“He had a small tear in his eye,” Collini says, “but he brightened up and said ‘That’s OK, doc. I know I’m gonna be successful even with one leg. Because my pediatrician has one leg and he’s a doctor like you. So if he can do it, so can I.’ For a 9-year-old to have that kind of fortitude!” Eighteen months later, the boy sent Collini photographs. “He’s healed and doing great,” Collini says.

Starting in 1994, Collini has made it his mission to lead a group of volunteer surgeons from America to Ecuador one week every summer to do reconstructive plastic surgery for patients in need. He currently takes anywhere from 24–30 people with him, and the brave, one-legged boy is one of more than 1,000 people treated by Collini or his team.

Collini initially traveled to Ecuador with Hands Healing Hearts, an organization he co-founded with a surgical colleague. After nine years, the colleague opted not to continue and the organization disbanded.

A couple of years later, Collini’s wife, Susan, urged him to return to Ecuador. Collini agreed “on one condition,” he says: that she organize the trips.

She accepted, and in 2006, the couple founded Community Cares for Kids (communitycaresforkids.org), the current vehicle for Collini’s team.

Cleft lip/palate repair, ear and burn reconstruction, and club foot repair are some of the surgeries Community Cares for Kids performs. Ecuadorians are informed through television and newspaper advertisements about the team’s arrival and the surgical services offered.

Much of the organization’s work concerns transporting equipment to the operating theater, a naval hospital in the city of Guayaquil. (The team stays in a nearby hotel.) “Anything in an operative field you will need you have to bring with you,” Collini says. This year he and his team flew down 2,300 lbs. of equipment, from maxillofacial plates to nasal implants to sterile supplies. The mammoth inventory is overseen by Collini’s mother, Cynthia, a nurse.

Though volunteers constitute the entire team, the annual trip costs approximately $25,000. Funds come from a mixture of a small group of regular donors, an annual fundraiser and a grant from the charitable organization SmileTrain (smiletrain.org).

“Frank’s a gifted surgeon,” says Dr. Jaime Morhaim ’78, ’82 P&S, a bilingual doctor — and Collini’s College roommate — who accompanies Collini to Ecuador as a translator. “There aren’t many people in the world who can do the reconstructive stuff he does. To see him go from sitting across the room from me studying organic chemistry, to this ... it’s pretty impressive.” He and Collini speak several times a week.

As a high school senior in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Collini debated between Columbia and Fordham. “I was very naïve,” he says. “I probably asked 50 people which college I should go to. All 50 said Columbia.”

And Columbia has followed him to Ecuador. Dr. Dave Levens ’82 P&S is part of the surgical team, and Roy Sheinbaum ’82 P&S, an anesthesiologist, has helped in the past. Collini met both in his time at the College. Dr. Ray Ortega, a surgeon on the team whom Collini knows from high school, is an attending at P&S now, and Dr. John Andrews ’89 Dental, who traveled with the team two years ago, met Collini when he moved to Pennsylvania.

Collini says he did not seek out Columbia people, but colleagues he knew from Columbia asked to be included as the Ecuadorian team grew. “It’s really been quite amazing how Columbia gets involved,” he says.

Collini majored in psychology, then attended SUNY Downstate Medical School in Brooklyn. He began his residency at Johns Hopkins but left because his pursuit of plastic surgery had earned scorn from some of the other doctors.

“In those days, [it] was a very young field ... looked at as quasi-surgical,” he explains. “I was strongly considering going into surgical infections and diseases, but at the crucial moment I dug deep into my guts.” He transferred and finished residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

After three years with the Mayo Clinic followed by six months with Hollywood surgeon Richard Ellenbogen, Collini opened a practice in Shavertown, Pa., in 1990, where he and his wife raised their children, Lauren, 23, and Joey, 20. He continues to live and run a practice there.

According to Collini, Ecuador has the highest rate of microtia (underdevelopment of the ear) in the world, along with staggering rates of cleft lip/palate and burn injuries. While his team is in Ecuador, they will triage 250–300 patients and treat about 65 of them.

“You make the decision that moment whether they get the surgery,” Morhaim says. “And a lot of them can’t.” Not every kind of specialist can go down every year, and some patients have multiple syndromes that make treatment beyond the organization’s capacity. Also, the hosting hospital does not have an ICU, prohibiting extended treatment beyond one overnight stay. “It’s just tragic, it’s beyond anything you’ve ever seen,” Morhaim says. “But you keep going down. Once you go, you can’t stop.”

Collini echoes his longtime friend. “I’m going to do it until I can’t do it anymore. I really enjoy it that much.”

Casey Plett is a freelance writer based in the New York area.
Dedicated to increasing freedom and personal liberty in our lives, the Libertarian Party is the country’s third largest political party after the Democrats and Republicans.

“This summer, I coordinated a petition drive that resulted in 34,000 signatures being submitted to the Board of Elections (we needed 15,000) for the Libertarian slate in New York. We have pro-freeedom, anti-war candidates running for Senate, Congress, governor, lieutenant governor, comptroller, attorney general, and secretary attorney general. It is a real possibility.

“The entrenched parties make it virtually impossible for independents to challenge their hold on power. Hopefully my efforts this year will make it a bit easier to provide voters in New York with a choice other thanstatism and more government.”

Good luck, Mark, and perhaps you can tell us what is really happening with the Tea Party folks . . .

Tom Reuter reports, “My wife, Grace Ruben, and I live near Albany. In a wonderful turn of family planning, this spring we will attend our son Tim’s graduation followed three days later by our son Matthew’s medical school graduation at Georgetown. The reception and grandparent management will probably kill us. We never thought about this when we decided to hold them back an extra year for kindergarten because they were too young. ‘Tim is a history major and future college professor. He had a wonderful time during study-abroad at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He is proud of the fact that between his visit to the Parthenon museum in Athens and the British Museum in London, he has mastered the first month of Art Humanities. Scotland was a wonderful experience except for the food. ’Dar,’ he said, ‘if I have mutton one more time there will be bullets.’

‘So, Mom and Dad agreed to meet him for a few days during his spring break in a place where the food is fabulous, Paris. Everything went as expected: The museums were crowded, the staff at the store was not very attentive but alas, during the spring the Parisians serve lamb. No matter, it was delicious, one of the best meals in Parisians serve lamb. No matter, it was delicious, one of the best meals in Parisians serve lamb. No matter, it was delicious, one of the best meals.

“In the meantime, I have mastered the first month of Art Humanities. Scotland was a wonderful experience except for the food. ’Dar,’ he said, ‘if I have mutton one more time there will be bullets.’

“The project grew to include Poles discovering Jewish roots and Holocaust survivors seeking family and people claiming citizenship or property, and to connect from Poland, rabbis, consulates, government offices and courts. Facing growing demand, the project became the Jewish Genealogy & Family History Center, funded by the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture, with the goal of using improved information technologies.

“Concurrently, my wife, Helise (Anna Przybyzewska Droz) founded the Lauder Morasha School, Warsaw’s first Jewish school in 45 years. She took the school from 18 kids to 240 (pre-K–9). Helise now directs the Taube Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Poland, supporting varied educational and cultural programs.

“My daughter, Nitza (22), left Morasha as a shy, quiet child who did not speak any Polish. She’s now completing an M.A. at the Warsaw School of Social Psychology. Her Polish is impeccable and her shyness has given way to a vibrant social life.

“Anyone heard to Warsaw — or with Polish Jewish roots — can drop by to meet the students who did not speak any Polish. She’s now completing an M.A. at the Warsaw School of Social Psychology. Her Polish is impeccable and her shyness has given way to a vibrant social life.

“TOM’S photo of Columbia men’s lacrosse action was published in the September 8 Spectator, for which he did not receive a photo credit. This continues a tradition started by his older son, in high school here in New York. Tom’s work by both national and international emerging and established artists.

“And finally, Yale J. Reisinger has the farthest return address for the month, as he tells us from Warsaw, Poland, what he has up to.

“I don’t write much because my life makes for dull copy: I haven’t changed addresses in 16 years or wives — even once! — during the last 28. And still the very same daughter. Yet every day is new and fascinating, thank God.

“Since our memories aren’t getting any better, here’s what all that stability has entailed:

“In 1994, I established the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at Warsaw’s Jewish Historical Institute to help Jews with Polish roots research their family histories. The project grew to include Poles discovering Jewish roots and Holocaust survivors seeking family and people claiming citizenship or property, and to connect from Poland, rabbis, consulates, government offices and courts. Facing growing demand, the project became the Jewish Genealogy & Family History Center, funded by the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture, with the goal of using improved information technologies.

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“I share this with you because recently I was taking a history from a new patient. I could not stop looking at, wondering why he looked so familiar. His occupation was not actor, but rather music composer. The exam continued until all of a sudden I turned to him and said, ‘Wait a minute, you were Robbie in My Three Sons!’ (His one truly legendary role, in my opinion.}
This was a hip violation because that’s what was hurting.) He then looked at me and said, “Very good, Dr. Klapper!” I then turned with excitement to tell my staff, who replied, “What’s My Three Sens?” Thank God I have this column to share my excitement with somebody. Dada dah dah daaaaah, dahhhhhhhmmmmmm.

The fall has been wonderful this year in New York City, and I have been watching a lot of football games. Our Lions have shown some brilliance but still are a work in progress. It was great to see many of you at Homecoming, and the highlight of the weekend was the Athletics Hall of Fame dinner. While no one from the Class of ’80 was inducted, Shawn Fitzgerald had the honor of presenting Bill Steiner, Columbia’s distinguished statistician, with his award for service to the University. Remarkably, “Stats” has been a fixture with Athletics since 1970.

Speaking of football, I have had the privilege of seeing super-lawyer Dave Maloof at many of the New York Jets home games this season. In addition to keeping our seas safe for travel, Dave is an avid Jets fan and a longseason ticket holder. The new stadium and good play made for an exciting season.

Our annual baseball old-timers event was attended by Eric Blattman, Shawn Fitzgerald and me. They don’t call it “old-timers” for no reason, as many of us got a step slower since last season. The new baseball stadium is a thing of beauty, and you should make an effort to get up to the Baker Atheltic Complex in the spring for a game. [Editor’s note: See Roar Lion Roar in “Around the Quads” for more on the new Satow Stadium.]

Josh Stolow, super-doc from San Antonio, had a wonderful evening with legendary Professor Jacques Barzun ’27. For those who do not remember, Professor Barzun is responsible for all of us taking Lit Hum. He spoke of his life and career as a historian and his relationship with Columbia. Josh said at 103, Professor Barzun was as sharp as a tack and that he has forgotten more than most people will learn in a lifetime.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season. Drop me a line at mcbuc80@yahoo.com.

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5
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The pitiful number of submissions to this column can only mean one thing: that you’re saving your best and biggest lies for our big reunion in June. I understand completely. I wouldn’t want to waste a single fascinating story here when you can be telling it in person to that guy. You know, that guy. That guy from your dorm who just kind of showed up. Maybe he showed up at the dining hall or maybe he showed up hanging with your roommate or maybe he showed up just as you were sitting in the sun on the Low Steps. You may not exactly remember his name or even where he showed up, but I guarantee you this: He remembers you. He remembers things about you that you don’t remember. He has a bucketful of remembrances to share, things that may sound vaguely familiar, but frankly, you really don’t know what he’s talking about. What, for that matter his name is, or whose friend he was. But he knows you, for sure, and he would love, love to meet your family and share some of those great stories with them, too. When he buttonholes you as you stand in that long line simply waiting for a drink, be kind. Remember; we’re all that guy to somebody.

As a public service, I’m holding the single submission I received to publish alongside what I’m sure will be an avalanche of submissions for the next few issues. Send early and often to my new e-mail address, js Bundyk@gmail.com.

You’ll all be hearing more about the reunion from official sources, as well as this column, in the coming months.

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Greetings, gentlemen. I am filled with hubris; my threats have been made. Three of our esteemed creative classmates took it upon themselves to write:

Checking in first this round was John Mastrodinos. Some of you may remember John’s excellent submission from two years ago, where he included some poetry. I was glad to hear that he still pursues his passion for music. While at the College, John was a student by day and a punk rocker by night playing clubs such as CBGB, Max’s Kansas City and the Village Gate. John continues to play in a couple of local bands, including the Time Bandits, which specializes in classic rock covers and can be seen pretty regularly in local clubs and venues in the North Jersey area. Additionally, he spent the last year working on an original project, Send Dreams. Find them on MySpace. Definitely worth a listen!

Also checking in this period with a memorable submission is accomplished author Lou Orfanella. I had the great pleasure this summer of spending some inspiring time with legendary Columbia professor Karl-Ludwig Selig [see photo]. While he is slowed physically by numerous health concerns, his mind and devotion to intellectual pursuits are as sharp as they were 30 years ago when he stood before us in Hamilton Hall. I was pleased to learn that there has developed a network of friends and admirers, many of whom he refers to as his ‘wonderful, loyal students’ who visit frequently to provide companionship and lend a hand tending to his needs. As any of us who studied with him, or were just aware of his presence as part of the fabric of our years on Morningside Heights know, Lou is one of the world’s foremost Cer vantes scholars. I asked him about his affinity for Don Quixote, and he explained that he has always seen himself as a sort of outsider starting in his youth. ‘I wore thick glasses and had psoriasis. I was ugly so nobody wanted to touch me,’ he says. As he grew up, with his family escaping the Holocaust and arriving in America, Professor Selig continued to develop what he describes as, ‘An interest in the topics and matter of “outsider- ness” and marginality and the right to be different. Don Quixote made a point to be different. I have devoted a good part of my life to the study of Quixote. I assert myself as Don Quixote did. I am an individual. I am not a conformist.’

This to day Professor Selig wears rings dedicated to Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. More than 20 years into his retirement, he remains steadfast in his dedication and devotion to Columbia and to his former students. He welcomes visits from students, while he enjoys reminiscing, he still has much to teach us. For contact information, classmates can get in touch with me at lorfanella@hotmail.com.

Lou, on behalf of all your classmates, thank you for your time and effort in putting this thoughtful contribution together.

Last but not least, the extraordinarily talented Erik Friedlander wrote in on the eve of the release of his latest recording. I did a little snuffling around online and discovered that, while it is not for the fact that I reside under a rock, I would have known what Erik was up to. The following biographical information was culled from Erik’s website:

“Erik started playing guitar at age 6 and added cello two years later. He began formal lessons at age 12. Erik continued his musical studies at Columbia University in 1978. Upon graduation, he spent the next decade refining his cello technique through long hours of practice, supporting himself by playing in various orchestras and Broadway shows, recording commercial music for jingles and movies, and doing session work with artists like Laurie Anderson, Courtney Love’s Hole and the Replacements. He also started his first small groups and made his first recordings. Erik came into his own in the 1990s as he became an integral part of NYC’s downtown jazz scene, receiving notices in publications like the Boston Globe, The Wire and Billboard which wrote, ‘Friedlander is one of today’s most ingenious and forward-thinking musical practitioners.’ ”

It should be noted that I also discovered an interview with Erik and a performance on NPR. How cool is that?

Erik wrote: “I’m here to offer some bits of news. I often have little nuggets of news about things I’m doing. I’m a professional musician/composer and this is a press release for my latest CD:

“Erik Friedlander’s haunting new CD, Fifty Miniatures for Improvising Quintet, is a collection of 50 miniature pieces — little worlds — some wild and free, some carefully constructed like line drawings, others lush watercolor landscapes.”

Lou Orfanella ’82 was one of several students who spent time this summer with Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig discussing Selig’s history and his favorite subject, Cervantes.
Steve Perlman ’83 Enhances Communication Through Technology

By Nancy Christie

Founder and CEO of San Francisco-based Rearden (rearden.com), an incubator for companies developing new ways to combine art and technology, Steve Perlman ’83 has spent his life building pioneering Internet, entertainment, multimedia, consumer electronics and communications technologies and services.

But he’s always been more intrigued by what technology can accomplish than in how it works, viewing computers “just as tools, not an end in and of themselves.” This attitude was apparent in his 1978 Columbia admissions essay, which he feels was “pretty unusual”: how to build a system that would understand human speech.

“I don’t know why they accepted me but they did,” he says with a laugh. “For some reason or another, they thought that would be a useful contribution to the campus.”

Although Perlman’s major was computing science, where he worked most closely with Yechiam Yemini, his professor and informal adviser, Perlman said that the classes he enjoyed most were those associated with the liberal arts.

“I really liked the Core Curriculum: Contemporary Civilization and Literature Humanities [and] the subject matter in Art and Music Humanities. I also took several classes on the novel and English literature with Barnard professor Maire Jaanus.”

It was this interest in communicating thoughts and ideas through various media that indirectly led to one of Perlman’s computer projects at Columbia. After an article he had written for Sundial, a campus magazine, on the usefulness of small computers for students didn’t get a positive response from the IT department, he took his idea to the classes — in this case, the students.

“I had a computer I designed and a printer and terminal in my dorm room,” Perlman says, “and I wrote software so a person without any technical knowledge could do word processing. I know that sounds pretty mundane these days, but in 1979 and 1980, that was a big deal. I had students lined up outside my dorm room to get onto the one word processor on campus!”

Perlman says that experience had a huge impact on him. “In every era, there always are people who are stuck in existing ways of thinking, and you need to just find ways around them,” he says. “My way, of course, was to turn my dorm room into the word processing room that I thought the campus should have.”

Since graduating from Columbia, the 49-year-old Perlman, who now lives in Silicon Valley with his wife, has continued to successfully “find ways around” existing conditions and circumstances, as evidenced by his more than 100 U.S. patents, with more than 100 pending.

But he also has found a great deal of satisfaction in “developing people” — a talent for which Perlman also credits Columbia, where he had the opportunity to recognize the vast diversity of journeys there are and how to synchronize his efforts with others in a way that would be mutually beneficial. It’s a valuable skill that has enabled him to mentor the Rearden team of engineers, artists and scientists.

Cindy Ivers, senior director of accounting and finance for Rearden and OnLive, a Rearden-incubated company, has witnessed Perlman’s approach in action. When his engineers come to Perlman with what they consider an insurmountable problem, she says he encourages them to think “outside the box.” “He’ll ask, ‘Did you think about it this way? Or how about this way?’ He just keeps plugging away until he finds something they haven’t tested yet. He’s told me, ‘I am not the best engineer in the company. I just help people get over their issues and get them to be the best they can be.’”

Perlman notes, “You never get exactly what you want out of the system. There are always impediments or things you learn along the way. What you need to do is learn while you are trying to reach your goal, and then re-formulate that goal so you end up with some good outcomes … where something is useful to people and people see some benefit in it.”

One of Perlman’s goals is to develop a platform for creating interactive experience with the depth and realism of movies that average people can enjoy.

As he explains, while movies and television shows are passive forms of entertainment, “We stand on the threshold of a major cultural transition, where … we can step into a world and become immersed within it, either passively, or actively as a player. In time, perhaps not in my lifetime, the simulation of reality will be utterly complete. You will see, hear, smell and feel a completely artificially created world around you. You’ll experience the terror of landing at a completely artificially created world around you. You’ll experience the terror of landing at a newborn baby.” Fantasy will become indistinguishable from reality and will open huge opportunities for expression and communication.”

How does Perlman define career success? He says it’s when “you set out to change the world and make things better in one way or another, and have gotten reasonably close to the mark. It’s being able to go and move things, move the ball just a bit further.”

Nancy Christie is a freelance writer and author of The Gifts of Change. A member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, she lives in Ohio.

Steve Perlman ’83, founder and CEO of Rearden, OnLive and MOVA, at the company’s San Francisco headquarters. PHOTO: JAYMER DELAPEÑA
The piece was written during a particularly difficult time when his wife, Lynn, was suffering from an unexplained and worsening leg pain that eventually turned out to be a breast cancer recurrence. Friedlander found refuge from the difficult atmosphere by immersing himself in composing for the five instruments (violin, cello, piano, bass, drums). Making playful use of style and orchestration, he varied the groupings, the length of pieces (some as short as seven seconds) and the mood… “(To read more, go to allaboutjazz.com/ php/news.php?id=64467.)”

The album was released on September 18 on SkipStone Records (skipstonerecords.com).

I took a little time to listen to some of Eric’s recordings, and they were exceptional. I would highly recommend following the links and checking out his website, and then you’re going to want to proce on to the second link (as I did) and order yourself a copy of his new recording: erikfriedlander.com and shop.geteriksmusic.com.

In a possible prediction of the future, Adam Belanoff ’84 (center), co-executive producer of TNT’s The Closer, cast fellow Varsity Show alumnus and Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti ’92, ’93 SIPA (left) as mayor of Los Angeles, and his father, Gil Garcetti, a consulting producer on the show, as the outgoing chief of police in the season finale, which aired on September 13. PHOTO: RICK WALLACE

The article states, “If the objective of a liberal education is to identify the permanent and perennial issues in the midst of flux and change, then, the Columbia curriculum serves that purpose more directly than most alternatives. In judging the Columbia curriculum, one does not face a closer call. If it were a football game, Columbia would beat Harvard by several touchdowns.”

I was deeply saddened by the death of John W. Kluge ’37 [Editor’s note: See “Around the Quads.”] In 2007, he pledged $400 million to Columbia. I had the honor of meeting Mr. Kluge during the 2008 Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner. He is a Columbia treasure and will be sorely missed.

Bruce Abramson: “The Republican Jewish Coalition was been kind enough to invite me to write a weekly guest blog until Election Day. I hope to use this forum to explain why those of us who thought that the country enjoyed a period of good governance in the 1990s must now support the GOP, and why the GOP must evolve to meet some serious contemporary challenges. “My first entry answered the poignant question, ‘Who Am I and Why Am I Here?’ Subsequent entries should post each Tuesday. I also plan to use this invitation as an excuse to breathe new life into my own blog, The Informationist, which has been rather dormant for the past three years. We are in the midst of migrating over the old content. Look for a relaunch announcement soon! As always, I welcome your comments and thoughts.”

As many of you may remember, Dan Loeb was a huge Barack Obama supporter during his presidential campaign. In fact, for our 25thh reunion, Dan made a large contribution to the Columbia College Fund in honor of Obama. At the reunion, Dan also read a memorable letter from Obama to our class.

In a New York Times article, “Why Wall St. Is Deserting Obama,” it is evident Dan’s feeling about Obama have changed. The article states, “Daniel S. Loeb, the hedge fund manager, was one of Barack Obama’s biggest backers in the 2008 presidential campaign. A registered Democrat, Mr. Loeb has given and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Democrats. Less than a year ago, he was considered to be among the Wall Street elite still close enough to the White House to be invited to a speech in Lower Manhattan, where President Obama outlined the need for a financial regulatory overhaul.”

The article goes on to discuss a recent letter to investors written by Dan lambasting the current state of affairs in Washington. Ed Joyce, who hosted the reunion reception where Dan read Obama’s letter, forwarded me a copy of the Times article. Ed is now a partner at the international law firm Jones Day. David Hershey-Webb sang at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Central Park on September 12. Following that gig, he joined the Blue Yodels at P and G Bar. He sang songs from his new CD, Whistlers Above the World.

I was invited to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame dinner, held in late October. The following student-athletes from our Columbia days are in the Hall of Fame: Tony Corbissiero (swimming), Barry Nix ’82 (soccer) and John Witkowski ’84 (football).

David Lyle: “On July 21, I enjoyed a phone conversation with Stephen Scott Brewer. Scott called me to follow up on my snail mail letter about the expected babies. I was glad to give the good news of their healthy birth. He and his life partner, Gioacchino Castiello, recently returned to their Paris residence after three weeks in Gioacchino’s native Italy. They had spent two weeks at their favorite remote European spot, the fishing island of Marettimo, about 20 miles off the west coast of Sicily. In August, Scott resumed teaching duties as professor of language acquisition at the graduate business school at da Vinci University, Paris.

“I spoke with Robert Lucero by phone. He continues to thrive in his position as head of the collegiate store design team at Barnes & Noble in the Hartford, Conn., office. His sons, Martin and Matthew, are almost grown. Marty graduated in May from high school and started at a local college in the fall. We traveled home to Nashville with the girls on the August 28 (week three for the girls) and are enjoying settling into home-at-home life after our home-away-from-home in our Sacramento rental. They flew like a flash. Jet travel (though the pediatricians all cautioned about breathing soups of pathogens) is agreeable to new-borns. It’s so much like the womb. You get held all the time, there is a loud ‘white noise’ canceling out too much stimulation and since you’re being held you get instant care for every whimper. Two days earlier, we had driven with them and a family ‘nanny’ figure to Lake Tahoe for the day and they loved the day but hated the car seats. Jet travel is so much more agreeable.” Ken Chin is vice chair for the Harvard Law School 25th reunion. My family was honored to have Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig join us at our home to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. Professor Selig, still sharp as a tack, immediately identified the painting on my wall as an original drawing by “Sam the Hoover Man.” My son, David (5), performed in the musical Oliver at camp. Professor Selig thoroughly enjoyed David’s musical renderings derived from the Dickens collection. I have read David the Dickens text, and he also loves the movies. He would have been fascinated by Professor Selig’s memorable Columbia lectures about the interrelationship of the arts. My entire family also joined Professor Selig in celebrating his 84th birthday. I was thrilled to get a telephone call from Gary McReady, one of the first friends I made as a freshman. Gary lives in New Jersey and still knows more about computers than anyone I have met. He looks forward to attending our 30th reunion.

As a member of the class most identified with “Big Brother is watching.” I’ve done my best to keep tabs on you all, but sometimes, you either fall between the cracks, live under the radar or simply don’t stay in touch! I can depend on Richard Rothman to help me by doing what he does best: follow the money.

“From 1992–2005 I ran a solo law practice in Chicago, and in August 2005 President George W. Bush gave me a recess appointment to a job as U.S. district judge.
Twenty-four of us were chosen for these appointments. At the request of Congress and the Bush administration, I investigated terrorism and terrorist financing activity. Most of what I did is classified and cannot be discussed. In December 2006, President Bush reappointed me to a second recess term. In 1987, I completed a master’s on a fellowship from Chicago, where I wrote my thesis on the Nuremberg Trial of German banker Hjalmar Schacht, who helped rearm Germany in violation of the Kellogg-Briand Pact and the Treaty of Versailles. In my recent job, I incorporated my research to identify money laundering and other suspicious activities inside the United States.

And if Richard is unable to hunt you down, I need only turn over your dossiers to Phil Segal, our class’ Philip Marlowe. Phil recently was interviewed on PBS regarding his expertise in assisting lawyers and other investigators. He has shown a keen interest in Internet security matters and has provided his services on dating sites and other e-commerce venues. Check out his website: charlesgriffinllc.com.

By using techniques provided by the guys, and knowing as I do at TMZ, I was able to dig up info on Wayne Weddington III and his wife, Gabrijela, on their recent dream nuptials in Croatia! (Actually, Wayne “volunteered” the following details, but I can’t discuss my methods at this time.)

“I chose Dubrovnik because it is a place we have enjoyed together many times, and it is magically beautiful. Most important, it is close to Gabrijela’s family, which I thought was important since she spends at least 11 months a year away from them.

“Gabrijela’s family is a close-knit cluster of strong women in a village close to Gabrijela’s family, which I visited for some time recently. I got to spend all-too-brief time with many classmates. The concert went amazingly well, considering how we had little rehearsal time, different arrangements and much vocal rust. The performance was enjoyed by participants and the several hundred alums/friends/family members who attended.

A formal class dinner was held on Saturday in the lovely space of the second floor of Casa Italiana (which I had never seen in all my years associated with Columbia). I got to spend all-too-brief time with many classmates. Judah Cohen has four children and studies meteorology for a living (the serious stuff, not just the weatherman type). He is the director of seasonal forecasting at Atmospheric and Environmental Research, where he has been since 1998. Prior to AER, Judah spent two years as a National Research Council Fellow at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies after two years as a research scientist at MIT’s Parsons Laboratory. He has focused on conducting numerical experiments with global climate models and advanced statistical techniques to better understand variabiliy and to improve climate prediction. In addition to his research interests, Judah directs AER’s development of seasonal forecast products for commercial clients, who include some of the largest investment firms in the United States. He has been interviewed on local and national television and by The Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe and Investor’s Business Daily, among others. Judah’s work is highlighted as breaking news on CNN and The National Science Foundation. He lives in Newton, Mass., along with his Glee Club cohorts Jon Abbott ’84 and Cathy Schwartz Cotton ’83 Barnard.

Barry Kanter is an attorney. He resides in Hackensack, N.J., and has two children.

Adam Fleischer ’87 lives in Santa Cruz and since 2005 has been a marketing copywriter, project manager and consultant there, offering business writing and consulting services, including strategic messaging, writing, editing, information architecture, instructional design, SEO, research and project management.

I had far too little time to chat with two of my former Barnard Macintosh lunch pals. Gary Brown last year was named chief compliance officer at Computer Associates on Long Island, where he has responsibility for the handling of compliance issues and management of compliance improvement.

Columbia’s Core Curriculum is second only to Kudos, Mr. Pierson! Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season.

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Part II of our 25th reunion report:
On Saturday morning, June 5, a second Glee Club rehearsal was held. In addition to those previously mentioned, it was really great to see Tim Tomasi, Rich Froehlich and Tom Scotti as part of our well-represented class.

Tim has worked in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Vermont for the last three years, after having worked for the Vermont Attorney General. He enjoyed the work but had a bit longer commute (40 miles, which is a lot more than NYC). He has three kids (13, 12 and 8), and he is involved in coaching them.

Richard is e.v.p. for Capital Markets and general counsel of the New York City Housing Development Corp. (HDC) and all of its subsidiaries. He also is an adjunct assistant professor of public finance at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Rich directs the corporation’s legal department as well as its bond and finance activities and also is responsible for managing the corporation’s finance divisions including cash management, capital markets, loan servicing, accounting and budget. Rich has been the main coordinator of HDC’s preservation efforts. This has led him to the continued affordability of approximately 20,000 units of low- and middle-income housing in New York City. He also has been a leader in designing and implementing HDC’s participation in NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s New Housing Marketplace Plan to build and preserve 165,000 units of affordable housing.

Prior to joining HDC, Rich was with O’Melveny & Myers and Skadden, Arps, and was an associate in the corporate division of the New York State Housing Finance Agency. Rich also is a board member of the National Leased Housing Association, a national organization representing public and private participants in the affordable multifamily rental housing industry. Rich has recently been selected to join the governing committee of the American Bar Association Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law. He was a past chairman of the New York City Bar Association Committee on Housing and Urban Development and he was a board member of New Destiny Housing Corp., a not-for-profit dedicated to developing and managing housing for domestic violence survivors during 2002-10. Rich is working on a law review article on the creation of multifamily housing recycled bonds and their use in the financing of affordable housing. He lives in Chelsea.

Tom came in from Boston with his wife, Karen, and their 16-year-old daughter. Tom is president of the American Bankers and Valuation Institute and is a member of Gordon Brothers Group, based in Boston.

I spent some great time at Saturday’s lunch with the irrepressible Michael Cho, who has come from San Francisco with his wife, Julie, and three kids (10, 9 and 5). After living in New York (Julie had attended the Business School), they have now been in San Francisco for 13 years. They spent an extended weekend in New York taking in the sights. Mike is still serving as ever and remains in charge of Destination RX. He and John Phelan had a great discussion about the new healthcare law, and I have no doubt that both of their cutting-edge concepts will play a prominent role in the future.

At lunch, I caught up with Steve Sivakoff, who has 18-year-old twins who started college this fall. (One child at college is quite enough for me.) Steve is an adjunct lecturer in entrepreneurship in the Department of Management of the Zicklin School of Business at CUNY Baruch. He previously worked at The Polytechnic Institute of NYU, where he taught coursework in entrepreneurship and innovation cases. Steve has extensive experience in the online media industry and is a pioneer in secure digital data distribution. He helps direct corporate strategy and business development at start-up technology companies with a focus on Internet information technology.

After lunch, I borrowed the Phelan family room in Carman to change into Glee Club concert attire (the Carman cinderblocks look the same). The concert went amazingly well, with no more last-minute rehearsal time, different arrangements and much vocal rust. The performance was enjoyed by participants and the several hundred alums/friends/ family members who attended.

A formal class dinner was held on Saturday in the lovely space of the second floor of Casa Italiana (which I had never seen in all my years associated with Columbia). I got to spend all-too-brief time with many classmates. Judah Cohen has four children and studies meteorology for a living (the serious stuff, not just the weatherman type). He is the director of seasonal forecasting at Atmospheric and Environmental Research, where he has been since 1998. Prior to AER, Judah spent two years as a National Research Council Fellow at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies after two years as a research scientist at MIT’s Parsons Laboratory. He has focused on conducting numerical experiments with global climate models and advanced statistical techniques to better understand variability and to improve climate prediction. In addition to his research interests, Judah directs AER’s development of seasonal forecast products for commercial clients, who include some of the largest investment firms in the United States. He has been interviewed on local and national television and by The Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe and Investor’s Business Daily, among others. Judah’s work is highlighted as breaking news on CNN and The National Science Foundation. He lives in Newton, Mass., along with his Glee Club cohorts Jon Abbott ’84 and Cathy Schwartz Cotton ’83 Barnard.

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What’s Your Story? Letting classmates know about what’s going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes! E-MAIL to the address at the top of your column. MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

Class Notes received by November 8 will be eligible for publication in the January/February CCT.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010
programs. Gary continues in his role as CA's chief counsel for litigat-
ion. He joined CA in 2005 after
serving for 15 years in the U.S.
Attorney’s Office for the Eastern
District of New York. Mike Reilly
lives in Delaware and practices law
there.

Our class was well represented by
folks in public service that evening.
Ken Handelman has been work-
ing for the Department of Defense in
Washington, D.C., for 15 years.
Konrad Motyka has been with the
FBI for 15 years, has two children
(13 and 9) and resides in Hoboken, N.J.
He also is the president of the Fed-
eral Bureau of Investigation Agents
Association, a professional associa-
tion with a membership of nearly
9,000 current and more than 2,000
retired agents nationwide.

FCC Chairman Julius Genach-
owski honored us by being our
dinner speaker. He gave a brief
overview (smartly questioned by
Leslie Smartt) covering the many
pressing issues confronting the
FCC today. Unfortunately, the is-
sues are complex and we just had
a little time to discuss them. Julius’
elder son started at Michigan this
fall. Thanks again to both Julius
and Leslie for a job well done.

After dinner, we stepped by
briefly at the Starlight Reception,
held under a large tent on Low
Plaza and featuring champagne and
disco music. We quickly retreated
to the comfort of the Sundial, where
many of our previously mentioned
Glee Club cohorts practiced our
all-too-familiar beverage consump-
tion on the Sundial.

Again, it was a really enjoyable
weekend. My apologies for not
capturing more extensive updates
from everyone there (so for those
I missed, or put in only a small
piece, please drop me a note). I
hope that in five years we will see
the same group as well as more of
us on a return to campus.

I am sad to report that William
F. Evans, investment banker and
musician, New York City, passed
away on July 10.

And finally, I am happy to re-
port that you would not recognize
the crisp organization and team
enthusiasm and support, and over-
all solid planning that I
experienced during my son Isaac
’14’s move-in and orientation in
late August. Both for his initial
move-in for the Co-Op program, and
for the larger orientation pro-
gram, it went incredibly smoothly.
Some things remain familiar (the
boat ride around Manhattan, the
odors in the John Jay cafeteria,
neighborhood tours), and some
things are new (night on the In-
trepid, a second-day lecture on The
Illiad attended by every member
of the class as their first “class” for
Lit Hum). A few tears shed, but off
he goes.

As if I didn’t have enough to do
with the University, I am pleased to
report that, effective mid-Sep-
tember, my wife, Allison ’86 Barnard, is
associate director of alumni affairs at
Barnard. It will be nice for our
family to get to work on Columbia
reunions and earn a living at the
same time.

The College’s Alumni Office also
sponsored a nice Legacy Lunch, as
more than 70 members of the Class
of 2014 were proud to continue their
family’s Columbia tradition. I met
multiple families who had multiple
CC legacies, including Lou Vlahos
’84. I also had a brief visit with Len
Genova, whose son Jerome is also
in the Class of 2014. Len lives in
Massapequa with his wife, and, like,
me, has forsaken the everyday prac-
tice of law for the family business
(in his case, construction develop-
ment work).

Now, with the reunion info com-
plete, I need your updates again.
Thanks.

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5
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ALUMNI AFFAIRS
Kimberly Rogers
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In this fast-paced world, there’s
very little we can predict other
than seven months, we will reach a
milestone: the 25th anniversary of
our college graduation. If you had
asked us in May 1986 to describe
our college graduation. If you had
asked us in May 1986 to describe
our college graduation. If you had
asked us in May 1986 to describe
our college graduation. If you had
asked us in May 1986 to describe
our college graduation. If you had
asked us in May 1986 to describe

Lance Hoosey ’87 has been named president and CEO
of GreenBlue, which specializes in sustainable design.

Lance Hoosey, a former mill town in Franklin
County, Mass. It provides young people with experiences, inspira-
tion, support and role models.

With great sadness I must tell
you that we lost a classmate, Joshua
Moreinis, to cancer. Josh was
married to Pamela Ivinski and lived
in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. He was
a senior planner at STV and a land-
scape painter. Josh was a Fulbright
Scholar in South Korea and earned
an M.S. in urban planning in 1988
from the Architecture School. You
can see photos and memorial post-
cards for Josh at joshgamefaceweb
design.com, and you can see his
beautiful landscape paintings at
joshpaintings.com. Please e-mail
me with any memories of Josh
you would like to share in a future

column.

Sarah A. Kass
87
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I spent a lovely summer evening
catching up with Ilene Weinstein
Lederman, who was on holiday in
New York visiting friends and
family. Usually I only get to see her
when I am rushing through San
Francisco for academic conferences,
but this was a chance for leisurely
drinks and snacks at Rosa Mexi-
co. Joining us for the festivities
was Gerri Gold, and by the end of
the evening, it was just us three
Columbia women having a gabfest.
What could be finer?

Charles Blass wrote in with the
following update: “In an intimate

ceremony in Central Park in early

June, Agnes Elizabeth Gugala and
I were married. Several days later,
we relocated to Zurich, Switzer-
land, where we moved at holiday.
On August 10, Agnes gave birth
to our daughter, Isabel Rose, who
was promoted

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September has long passed: The kids are back to school, vacations are lamentably over and football season has been preoccupying my husband for two months. Summer went by too fast. And as I dropped off my eldest child for her freshman year at college, I am feeling that the years are also going by too fast! But at least we have a chance to reconnect here, and I was delighted to hear from several classmates.

Jesse Greenberg updates us, “I work at IBM (13 years now) and am happily married to my wife of 20 years, Karen. Our kids are doing great: Daniel (17) recently earned his Eagle rank in the Boy Scouts and attended Boys State this summer as a delegate, Hannah (15) wants to go to Columbia College (Class of 2017?) and Sophie (13) recently had her bat mitzvah.”

Stephen T. Briones writes from Thailand: “I’ve been in Bangkok with my wonderful kids, Natalia (12) and Nicholas (9). Despite the political demonstrations and violence, we are all fine, and Bangkok is starting to recover. I’ve been in Bangkok for more than 10 years, and I could never have foreseen the craziness that occurred in May. It will take a while, but I hope Thailand will return to live up to its slogan as the Land of Smiles.”

William (Bill) Seeley writes, “I was inspired by Jamie Friedman and Patrick Crawford to send in an update. After graduation, I stuck around for a couple of years and received my M.F.A. from the University of New Mexico in 1992 from the (now defunct) Division of Painting and Sculpture in the School of the Arts. I was head assistant for sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard ’75 Arts for several years. I then followed Henry Jackman and Will Felt into philosophy (I usually see Henry a couple of times a year). I received a Ph.D. from CUNY’s Graduate Center in 2006. My research on the ways that we engage and experience artworks lies at the confluence of philosophy of art and cognitive neuroscience. We are still in Maine at Bates College (although this past spring, I was commuting to New Haven, where I was visiting at Yale). My wife, Christine Donis-Keller ’91 Barnard, and I have two children, Parker (9) and Raines (7). Other than the usual fare of an academic vagabond, I have not had a ‘first trip’ to report, although I have taken up ice hockey, which it turns out is a four-season sport again.”

Dan Max ’90 joined the law firm of Aptofot Peters Ebersolt as a partner and chair of the business department.


David Putelo sends greetings from Syracuse, N.Y.: “I love the life my wife, Susan (we recently celebrated our 20th anniversary), and our three daughters (insert ironic comment here), Anna (15), Audrey (12), and Lizzie (6), have forged. Our lives consist of school, sports and enjoying the great outdoors: running, skiing, golfing, and the many activities that Central New York offers. I look to get together with other graduates at a dinner, golf outing or a road race such as running marathons with Nick Leone.”

“After graduation, I went to NYU, where I earned an M.B.A. I have worked in the pharmaceutical industry for different companies holding various positions. I’m now a manager for CSX.”

Donna Schober tells us, “Since leaving Columbia, I have followed a circuitous path through the culinary world, first apprenticing in a fabulous (now closed) New York restaurant, then heading to Cornell to sculpt a 3,000 lb. M.B.A. with a first trip to NYC, and we took in a show, a Yankees game and the museums. We also toured Columbia and Barnard because college is right around the corner, though sometimes I feel like I’m the only kid who just graduated myself.”

Khalid Wasti writes, “I am happily married to Joanne (who, although not an alum, I met on the Columbia campus) and have two sons (14 and 16) whom I hope will someday be part of the Columbia family, too. We live in Forest Hills, N.Y., and I am a director in the Enterprise Risk Services practice at Deloitte & Touche. I recently became an active part of Columbia’s Alumni Representative Committee and interviewed several potential candidates who might be interested in applying to the alumni board. It was a rewarding experience, and I hope to be able to help Columbia in this capacity one day.”

Emily Miles Terry
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This summer, I heard from Brian O’Connell, who is married to Jean Marie and has two kids, Shane (4) and Shannon (5) (Irish twins). Brian writes, “This is my 20th year as an educator. I have been an administrator for 10 years, a teacher prior to that.”

Brian is the founding principal of the Scholars’ Academy, a middle school and high school that Brian started as a gifted program while principal of The Belle Harbor School, a kindergarten–grade 6 school, in 2004. In 2015, the program Brian began was expanded to a standalone school and then each year thereafter a grade was added. Today Scholars’ Academy, in Rockaway Park in Queens, N.Y., is an established and highly regarded school for gifted children from grades 6–12.

In June, Scholars’ Academy will graduate its first class of high school students. Scholars’ Academy offers an accelerated academic program including foreign language and the arts, and has a sports program that includes basketball, golf, baseball and softball. According to Brian, a current student is a stellar golfer who is being aggressively recruited by many Ivy League schools. Brian also wrote, “The school is exceptional in many ways. We began replacing a failing middle school that had a 1-in-10 passing rate and voluminous disciplinary/safety issues in 2005. We are now one of the best schools in New York City and New York State by many metrics. Our school had the highest Quality Review (an audit of all things in a school) score. We earned a Progress Report Grade of A in 2009 as well as a No. 1 ranking for both middle school and high school levels in New York State according to SchoolDigger.com metrics. Who knows, perhaps there are fellow alumni who are willing to make a difference in children’s lives and our nation’s future through monetary support and high school student internships or who may be interested in applying for teaching jobs at our school?”

For more information on Scholars’ Academy go to schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q325/default.htm.

Brian keeps in touch with classmates and added, “I recently saw Jon Dwyer, who has a tribe of great kids and a pretty wife. Jon is doing phenomenally well.” I also linked up with Bennie Seybold, Matt Engels and Paul Childers. Not too long ago, I touched base with Bob Giannini and Duane Bartsch. Bob is living the single life to my knowledge, and Duane and his wife, Donya, recently had child No. 2! A few more Columbia cubs in the litter.”

I also had some happy news from Dan Corcoran, who sent in a birth announcement: “My husband, Augusto Lima, and I are thrilled and proud to announce the births of our children, Lucas and Maria. They were born on July 26 in Overland Park, Kan. We are all happy to be back home in New York.” Congratulations!

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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I’m taking this opportunity to thank not only our classmates who send me news “unsolicited” but also all of you who have thanked me over the years for writing this column. I’ve enjoyed every moment of it — except for when I issue threats and act like a bully — and really appreciate your kind words. Now, on to business!

There’s a lot of movement in professional circles around this issue. Liz (Lang) Poston moved back to Washington, D.C., in June, after almost six years in Florida, to take a position as e.v.p. at Prism Public Affairs, a policy-oriented strategic communications firm. Her daugh-
ter, Ava (4), is turning into quite the city kid, taking Metro around town.
on field trips with her preschool class. I’m always glad to know of another classmate in the area. Given the number of CC/CC/SEAS ’90 alumni in the D.C. area, we could throw quite a party. If anyone wants to organize, let me know. It’s just too bad that Iør-r-lach won’t be able to supervise the desserts. She wrote in July, “Since graduat-
ing from The Culinary Institute of America a couple years back with a fancy pants degree in baking and pastry arts, I’ve worked everywhere from the mega casino-resorts of Las Vegas to a luxe ranch perched at nearly 9,000 feet above sea level in the Rockies to a super-posh lodge on the South Island of New Zealand. By the time this issue of C.C.T is out, I will be in Antarctica. I’m going to be one of the bakers at McMurdo Station for about eight months. This will be my seventh continent and the realization of a dream I’ve had since I was little, so I am super-excited.”

Gemma, this is way cool. Have any of the rest of us spent time in Antarctica?

Dan Max joined the law firm of Apotoff Peters Ebersohl in Falls Church, Va., as a partner and chair of the business department. He invites everyone to get in touch.

This is kind of funny. With Jejome Acholou Eujeht bringing this column to a close, you will now have read about 100 percent of your Class Notes columnists. (Jejome and Dan were my predecessors.) Jejome and her family have been in Fay-
ettville, N.C., for three years, hav-
ing finally stopped moving around so much for fellowship training and job opportunities, and are happy to be back on the East Coast. She is a laparoscopic general and bariatric surgeon, and chief of bariatrics at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fay-
ettville. She regrets having missed seeing everyone at reunion.

If any of you has regrets for not having sent me news or updates, please don’t live your life in regret. Just write!

Elizabeth Weeks Leonard ’93 was promoted to full professor at the University of Kansas School of Law.

In January, Ted Stern ’94, started a new job as general counsel at En-
vision EMI in Vienna, Va. Envision is a leader in providing experien-
tional educational programs to students from grade school through college throughout the world. In addition to handling all legal matters, Ted works in business development. He and his family live in Washing-
ton, D.C., and son Teddy recently turned 7.

Looking forward to hearing from more of you. Until next time, cheers!

Jeremy Feinberg

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With a little bit of help from super-
her Class Notes Editor Ethan Rouen ’04, I asked, and you answered. I hated to have an empty column for you last time. Absolutely hated it. But you wouldn’t want me to make stuff up. Please do keep the commu-
nication lines open and let me know what’s going on, like those who wrote in this time.

I need to give credit to the first of our classmates to use the newest means to submit Class Notes, as Ethan detailed in the last issue (college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note). I was pleased to hear from Brenda (Peterson) Fowler in this way, which is via the C.C.T. website. Brenda is a psychotherapist and works with couples in Portland, Ore. She “loves the wonder of be-
ing a new-ish mom to Eleanor Rae (1).” Brenda’s husband, Ben, is with a start-up software company and plays alto sax on the weekends. Brenda raved about the life in the Pa-
cific Northwest, “Here in Portland, life is full of gardens, backyard BBQ gatherings, hikes in the woods and other activities that make it a total contrast to NYC.”

Facebook allowed me to catch up with Peter Robbins. Peter is an attorney for the U.S. Department of Commerce and also has developed a second full-time job as a writer for and about the fishing and boat-
ing industries. I don’t think Peter is likely to be proven wrong in assert-
ing that he is “the only Ivy Leaguer who recently provided information about the mental process of fishing called ‘Pete Weighs In’ (in sideline.net/index.php/blog-pete). Peter spends “just about every mo-
ment away from the office” either in a boat or towing the boat some-
place. Alums who live near Zapata, the business-media division of The Nielsen Co. Rob started there as an editorial intern during his senior year at Columbia and moved up another rung of the ladder every three or four years. He explains, “While it was a bit scary to leave in order to do my own thing, it’s allowed me to do projects across several industries, which has been incredibly interesting and made me a better businessman in addi-
tion to a more-informed writer and editor.”

Rob is pursuing development of a humorous decorative brand for golf apparel, hats, towels and club head covers called OhMyGolf!, and is presenting it to the large sporting-goods retailers around the country. Those who wanted to take a peek at some of Rob’s work can visit a website designed for individual purchases: OhMyGolfStuff.com.

Rob took a vacation in August that involved flying to Denver with his girlfriend, renting a Harley and riding through the mountainous terrain. As he described it, “Coming over Wilkerson Pass on day No. 2, we stopped at a scenic viewing spot and noticed that the 14,000-ft. peaks before us were named Mount Har-
ad, Mount Princeton, Mount Yale and Mount Columbia. Although it was not the tallest of the peaks, it was apparent to everyone that Mount Columbia was the most well-rounded one.”

Sounds like a fitting tribute to alma mater and a fitting end to this writing. I look forward to serving you up more news next issue.

Margie Kim

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Greetings, all! It’s a short column this time, but entertaining nonetheless.
— an artist, writer and cultural programmer — who in addition to her own art practice has consulted with the Queens Council on the Arts and Miami Art Basel, among others. She is the editor of a great online magazine: cultureserve.net. She works in the tech industry and plays hard at his newfound love of salsa dancing. His volunteer work includes teaching fencing to inner-city kids and Dj’ing! Jennifer Anglade Dahlberg is back in Sweden working on her second novel and hanging out with her husband, Christian, and kids, Yasmine and James. Erin Dracos Scott and Paul Scott live a wonderful life in Berkeley with their two kids and are about to embark on a one-year around-the-world adventure, spending most of their time in the South Pacific and East Asia. Evonne Galardo ’96 is executive director of Self Help Graphics and Art in East Los Angeles, a legendary 30-year-old Chicano arts cultural center that works to advance Latino arts both locally and nationally. She also is a board member of Pasadena Heritage, which works to preserve the cultural history of Pasadena, and she has been a longstanding member of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture. And last, I heard that Angela Hernandez was working at a think tank in Washington, D.C."

I also heard from Elizabeth Weeks Leonard, who last spring was promoted to full professor at the University of Kansas School of Law, where she teaches health law and torts. Elizabeth is spending the fall semester in her hometown of Athens, Ga., teaching at her law school alma mater, the University of Georgia School of Law. Her husband, Thom Leonardi, is an artisan baker and heirloom grain consultant who will spend the semester learning about hominy, beans and other Southern delicacies.

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Thanks to a tip from Shawn Landres (more on him later), I learned that Russell Sacks ’96 was married in March to Lauren Tobe. Shawn attended the wedding, and Russell filled me in on the slov of Columbians who came to celebrate. Nenad Novotný married the University of Georgia School of Law. Her husband, Thom Leonardi, is an artisan baker and heirloom grain consultant who will spend the semester learning about hominy, beans and other Southern delicacies.

Roni’s girlfriend, Christy Fomeranzer ’04. In addition to his happy wedding news, Russell also shared that in January he became a partner at Shearman & Sterling, an international law firm, where he is a financial institutions regulatory lawyer.

In addition to sharing Russell’s news, Shawn had some news of his own: He, his wife Zuzana, and their daughter, Abby, welcomed Natalia Miriam Riemer Landres on July 3. Many Columbians attended her baby naming, which was officiated by Rabbi Sharnie Rosensweig ’95. In other baby news, Ayanna (Parish) Thompson, her husband, Derek, and their son, Dashiell, announced the birth of their daughter/sister, Thaisa Rose, on June 8. Congratulations to everyone. Look forward to hearing more news!

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This update revolves around summer babies, who might be the Class of 2032 if they attend the College, and meeting up with friends from Lit Hum.

First up: David Webber and his wife,irit Tau-Webber ’02L, welcomed Noam Zev Tau on August 15. He joins brother Boaz in the family’s adventure in Boston, where David teaches law at Boston University.

On the other coast, Hilton Romanski and his wife, Emily Mayer, welcomed Georgia James on June 16, a day after Emily turned 40. She joins Clement (2). The family moved back to Palo Alto from San Francisco just in time for Emily to give birth a month earlier, in May.

Emily’s entrepreneurial venture (teacollection.com) continues to be the top brand in the country for children’s luxury clothes. Hilton has been working for Cisco for 10 years and recently moved from v.p. of corporate development leading the M&A and investments globally to helping to lead its service provider business.

Thad Tracy; his wife, Michele Haberlandt ’04 SIPA; and their twins, Sacha and Tobin, live in Morningside Heights. Hilton writes, Thad recently accepted a key role as the general counsel of a private equity fund. (I caught up with Thad this spring for lunch, and we ran into Russell Sacks ’94 at a diner in midtown.)

Hilton moved to Palo Alto and found a classmate next door: Gene Mazo, who lives with his wife, Gwen Parker, and their son, Max (3).

“Gene and I were in Wallace Gray’s Lit Hum class freshman year and have been catching up over wine and impromptu dinners with our two families all summer,” Hil-
Dennis Paul recently left UBS and moved his entire team, the Rosenau / Paul Group, off of the “big box” banking platforms to HighTower, where he is a registered investment adviser. Dennis is co-managing approximately $725 million for 100 investors in long-only U.S. equities and fixed income. On the stock side, Dennis’ group has outperformed the S&P 500 index for the past 10 years. He can be reached at dpaul@hightoweradvisors.com.

Noah Cornman lives in NYC and is a music producer and record label executive with Sh-K-Boom / Ghostlight Records, which specializes in original cast recordings and solo albums with Broadway stars and composers. He continues to work with his Pulitzer Prize-winning friends Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey ’93. The three worked on the Varsity Show together at Columbia, and more recently they recorded Next to Normal. Noah has worked with Tom on numerous recordings and live concerts, and last year, Noah was nominated for a Grammy for his recording of Hair.

Jeff Gale and his wife, Dana, have a daughter, Julia (3), and welcomed a new child to the family this past summer. TicketBiscuit, the online ticketing company Jeff founded in 2001, continues to grow. Deganit Ruben (née Stein) lives in Savannah, Ga., with her husband, Jesse, and daughters, Jordan (5) and Elana (2). Deganit planned to get back to teaching English and writing at the college level this fall. Elie Levine and his wife, Jody Alpert-Levine, have been in their joint medical practice on the Upper East Side for more than two years. Jody is an adult and pediatric dermatologist, and Elie is a plastic surgeon. They take care of everyone from newborns to adults and have an operating room on the premises. Their children are Skyler (13), Jasmine (10), Caitlin (7) and William (2). Elie writes that they are looking forward to our 15th reunion.

Jen Samovisky Guagenti earned an M.Ed. in early and middle childhood education from Ohio State in 2001, married Joe Guagenti, whom Jen knew from her hometown in Ohio, taught second grade for several years, stayed home with her kids for six years and went back to teach fourth grade this fall. Jen has five kids: Allison (born 2001), Joseph (born 2002), Margaret (born 2004), Ethan (born 2008) and Elizabeth (born 2009). Jen and her family live just north of Columbus, Ohio, and they are having fun with all of the kids’ sports and activities. She writes: “Life is good.”

Jeremiah Crowell and his wife, Heather McGeory ’97 Barnard, welcomed their second son, Beau, on Cinco de Mayo. Beau’s brother is Callum (2). Jeremiah and his family recently bought a home in Park Slope, and Jeremiah owns a small production company in Soho that is developing a feature film. A short film of Jeremiah’s, Small Collection, played at the Sundance Film Festival in 2009 and many other festivals in the following months, winning eight “best of fest” awards along the way.

After living in Los Angeles for eight years, seven of them as a trial attorney with the federal public defender’s office, Lara Bazzel moved to San Francisco to begin a two-year clinical teaching fellowship at the UC Hastings College of the Law. She lives in Cole Valley with her husband, Matt, an associate at Cooley, Patch, Duffy & Bees. Lara and Matt have a son, Carter, born in April 2009. Caleb Weinstein and his wife, Debbie, moved to London with their daughter, Charlotte (2), in October 2008. Caleb runs the Discovery Channel across the emerging markets of EMEA (Eastern Europe from Russia and the CIS running south through the Balkans, Turkey and Middle East to South Africa). Caleb travels extensively for work and has been everywhere from Qatar to Dubai, Turkey, Slovenia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Russia (where he is about once a month) to ensure that everyone who has to see satellite TV can satisfy their curiosity through Discovery Channel, Animal Planet and TLC.

Navid Mootabar lives in Bedford, N.Y., with his wife, Nava (a dentist), and daughters, Kimia (6) and Lila (2). Navid is the associate chairman of the department of OB / GYN and the director of gynecologic surgery at Northwell Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, N.Y. He has a special interest in laparoscopic and robotic surgery and stays involved with Columbia through alumni committees. Julie Satow gave birth to a girl, Sophie Emmeilleni Elliott, on July 8.

Eric Creizman and his wife, Michelle Weber, live in Westchester, N.Y. They have two boys, Judah (5) and Caleb (2). Eric is a litigator in the New York office of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher and focuses on white collar criminal defense and securities litigation matters. Elizabeth (Tanenbaum) Baron and her husband, Michael, have two children (8 and 6), and live in south Florida. Elizabeth’s daughter started school at the Donna Klein Jewish Academy of Boca Raton this fall. Elizabeth is working in commercial real estate for a privately owned company in western Florida. In her spare time, she jogs, swims and plays tennis. Lara Bazelon was raised in New Jersey to an Italian artist, has a son, Teo Friedman (1), and lives and works in Paris for the Africa and Middle East desk of the OECD Development Centre in a dual policy analyst/outreach coordinator role. Sala and her family have been there for a little more than two years. Before that, Sala was in Tunis, Tunisia, with the African Development Bank, and before that, with the UN in Rome.

More news to report next time... I look forward to meeting you with this issue.

“The poets down here don’t write nothing at all, they just stand back and let it all be.”
—Bruce Springsteen, “Jungleland”

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Nomi Victor was named associate publishing director of the trade department at WW Norton.

Claire (Fenton) Simmonds writes that life is good in Austin, Texas. She and hubby David Simmonds are happily working and raising their children, Patrick (6) and Hannah (4). “Any Columbia folks visiting the area should be sure to look us up!” she says.

Amiri Nagpal writes that things are going well in San Francisco. “Reyna (5) started kindergarten, which was a milestone (and hopefully will be the start of her journey to Columbia).” Her brother, Jay (3), started preschool.

Carrie Sturts Dossick was awarded promotion with tenure at the University of Washington. As of September 15, she is an associate professor in the Department of Construction Management in the College of Built Environments. She also is the executive director of the Pacific Northwest Center for Construction Research and Education. Carrie and her husband, Stephen Dossick, welcomed twins on July 23, 2009. Charles Ellis and Sara Verde.

In April, Ruth Mason and her husband, James Wetterau ’05 GS, had their first child, Felix. Suzanne Park and her husband, Trevor Foucher ’98 UC Berkeley, are proud parents to Coralie Jae, born June 9. Suzanne also recently launched a line of eco-friendly laptop bags and accessories, available at plaiddoctrine.com.

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Hello, classmates. Unfortunately I don’t have too many updates for you this column, so I’ll once again invite all of you to send me news, even if you haven’t recently gotten married, changed jobs or had a baby. Don’t make me resort to stalking you on Facebook!

There is one piece of fabulous news: Kapil Desai wrote with baby news. His wife, Stefanie, gave birth to their first child, Julia Ann, in July. She delivered at Mount Sinai, where Kapil is an assistant professor in musculoskeletal radiology. The happy family lives on the Upper East Side with their English bulldog, Bella (1). Congratulations, Kapil and Stefanie!
Emily Landsburg ’01 Makes Sewage Part of the Solution

By Grace Laidlaw ’11

For most environmental activists, sewage water represents a biohazard — part of a growing waste disposal problem that threatens to upset the planet’s ecological balance. For Emily Landsburg ’01, it’s part of the solution.

Landsburg’s company, BlackGold (blackgoldbiofuels.com), has created the FOG-to-Fuel system, a device that converts sewer water into renewable energy. “FOG” stands for “fats, oils and greases,” three components of wastewater that can be chemically altered to produce biodiesel and other eco-friendly byproducts using the technology developed and sold by BlackGold. Until now, the filtering of FOG has presented a budget concern as well as a health hazard for sewage treatment facilities. By turning the waste into sellable fuel, BlackGold’s invention transforms a liability into a revenue source.

The company’s motto — “Converting our crudest wastes into our cleanest fuels” — emphasizes the environmental and economic implications of its flagship product. Landsburg further points out that the system has benefits from a national security perspective. If used widely enough, the technology has the potential to improve the U.S. economy by limiting American dependence on foreign oil and making the country less vulnerable to energy shortages as a result of natural disaster.

“It’s a pretty simple proposition,” says Landsburg. “The more energy independent a nation is, the more secure it can be.”

BlackGold began as a subsidiary of The Energy Cooperative, a utility provider based in Pennsylvania. The original venture, co-founded by Landsburg in 2004, was a green energy initiative on the part of the cooperative. The project was aimed at encouraging government agencies and commercial businesses to use biodiesel by making both the fuel and its delivery as affordable as possible. The search for a cost-effective way of generating green energy from otherwise useless materials led the company to focus on the wastewater industry and, ultimately, drove the invention of the FOG-to-Fuel technology. As interest in biodiesel grew, the project gained momentum, and BlackGold officially split off from The Energy Cooperative in 2008.

What started as a regional effort has since gone national. BlackGold already has begun receiving widespread acknowledgment for its environmental conservation efforts, including a Renewable Energy Leadership Award from the governor of Pennsylvania. The company ranks third on Bloomberg Businessweek’s list of America’s Most Promising Social Entrepreneurs of 2010. Its client list includes the city of San Francisco, which purchased the first commercial FOG-to-Fuel system in 2009.

BlackGold owes much of its success to the expertise and enthusiasm of Landsburg, who was named CEO shortly before BlackGold separated from The Energy Cooperative. Before she arrived in Philadelphia, the young entrepreneur already had built and sold her first company, a seasonal business that maintained boats. Water was familiar territory for Landsburg, who spent four years on the sailing team while at Columbia. Before long, however, she decided to branch out. “I really loved building businesses, but I wanted to be in a field that had more of an impact,” Landsburg says.

Though BlackGold occupies a very different niche than her first company, Landsburg believes that her previous experience as an entrepreneur was good preparation for her current work. “There’s a certain scrappy resourcefulness common to all start-ups,” she says. There are common challenges as well, such as the pre-revenue phase that all new businesses must deal with while facing deadlines and satisfying investors without the benefit of independent cash flow. By the time she started BlackGold, Landsburg had already become an expert at saving time while cutting costs. She is quick to distinguish, however, between financial and human resources. Landsburg believes that even in an economic downturn, it is possible for start-up companies with limited means to attract talented workers. In fact, she thinks that the recession may have given BlackGold an edge in the hiring process. “In an environment like this,” she says, “people are more willing to take risks, and in that sense, it’s a great time to be a start-up. We have some fabulous employees.”

Those who knew Landsburg during college are not surprised that she has made a career as an entrepreneur. Carina Schoenberger ’02, who sailed with Landsburg at Columbia, says that her friend has never been afraid to disregard convention. During a team trip to Miami, Schoenberger remembers Landsburg wandering off after practice to chat with local fishermen about the equipment they were using.

“She’s definitely a perpetual student,” Schoenberger says. “She learns from everything she does.”

While at Columbia, Landsburg majored in applied math — a program usually reserved for SEAS students. Her decision required a special waiver from the Office of Academic Affairs. “I wanted to focus on applied math, but I loved the Core,” she explains. “It offered a little bit of everything, a great overview.”

This enthusiasm for tackling a wide range of subjects may explain Landsburg’s willingness to take on the hectic schedule and broad-ranging responsibilities of a small business owner. “I’ve always liked having my hands in a lot of different projects at once,” she says.

Landsburg is confident that there will be more entrepreneurial undertakings in her future, but not for a while. “At some point, much further down the road, I’d like to start more businesses,” she says, “but for the foreseeable future, this is my sole and total focus.”

Grace Laidlaw ’11 is majoring in creative writing and psychology. She is director of Columbia’s peer counseling hotline and contributes regularly to CCT.
Judy Vale ’04 and Mike Rubin ’04 hosted a Columbia reunion at their July 4 wedding in Garrison, N.Y. Partying with the couple were (top row, left to right) Rae Neugarten ’04, Zoe Marcus ’04, Jon Steiner ’04E, Joe Gaynor ’04, Mark Franzcyk ’04, Tom Biegelisam ’04, Zach Rosner ’04 and Kentaro Kaji ’04; and (bottom row, left to right) Sara Topek Sprozin ’04 Barnard, Marisa Cohn ’02 Barnard, Mary Amasia ’04E, Kimberly Ong ’04, the bride, the groom, Neil Vaishnav ’04, Eric Chang ’04 and Rajesh Banik ’04E.

Both me and my 150-lb. mastiff, Bear. We cruised around town and visited Jenn and her darling baby and happy husband. Jenn noticed Ebon Moss-Bachrach on Damages, and shared that Susie Lee reads this column, that Pete Younkin got hitched and that she got a Rosh Hashanah card from Ethan Davidson.

Later, we all had dinner with Esther Chak, who revealed, after 1½ glasses of wine, that she’d recently seen Mike Erman, but he told her not to tell me. (Mike, why?) Esther also told me that Sofia Perenay has opened a yoga studio in Paris, that Chris Hardin stopped in Chicago en route to San Francisco via train for his birthday, that Julia Bloch is a video editor and hangs out in Brooklyn with Matt Miller ’01E and Maggie Pouncey ’00, and that interactive designer Mira Alibek was in Odessa at some point but is now back in Brooklyn. Esther and Jenn both see David Meshoulam ’00 often. He lives in Evanston with his wife and their daughters (1 and 3).

This flurry of boldface names is what happens when people actually give up the goods.

Finally, in case you were still curious about George Demos’ run for Congress (I was), I pulled this from his website: “Thank you to all of you who worked so hard for our campaign and for our cause of true conservative values. We have fought the good fight for conservative principles, exceeded all expectations, but come a little bit short tonight.”

“Moments ago, I called Randy Altschuler to tell him we were going to run for Congress because the future of our nation is at stake. I also congratulate Chris Cox for a vigorous campaign.”

“Thank you to the Republican party chairman, John LaValle, for opening the primary process so that we could participate and spread our message.”

“I have met thousands of people across Long Island, and they all agree that our spending is out of control and our taxes are too high. We must change course in this nation or our future is at risk. I am so honored at the tremendous support we received from so many leaders including Rush Limbaugh. I will continue to fight for our principles and our values. I believe in them yesterday, I believe in them today and I will believe in them tomorrow.”

“May God bless you and always continue to bless the United States of America.” That’s all for now. Bye!

I recently attended the inaugural benefit and silent auction at Cipriani 42nd Street for New York Needs You (newyorkneedsyou.org), a nonprofit that provides high-potential first-generation college students with the most intensive career mentorship program in New York City. Hundreds of the city’s most prominent and philanthropic individuals were in attendance. NYNN honors Howard Marks, founder and chairman of Oaktree Capital Management, and Cory A. Booker, mayor of the City of Newark, N.J., for their support and commitment towards NYNN’s crucial mission. As a first-generation college grad, I found the entire evening to be very moving.

The organization, founded by Robert Reffkin, leverages 200 highly accomplished professionals who volunteer more than 10,000 hours of mentorship. It is the only nonprofit organization in New York City that focuses exclusively on first-generation college students. The foundation was launched after Rob, who also is president, uncovered significant empirical data indicating that the education level of parents, family structure and socio-economic conditions have a significant influence on the economic mobility of youth. The primary components of the NYNN curriculum are life planning, career development and community leadership projects.

When not founding nonprofit organizations or running marathons for charity (runningtosupportyoungdreams.com), Rob is a v.p. in the Principal Investment Area of Goldman Sachs. Several other alumni were in attendance to support Rob and NYNN, including John Rowan ’01, Andrew Poy ’01, Jeremy Falk ’02, Cindy Helen Brea ’99E and Marissa Ballan ’01 Barnard. It was wonderful to catch up with everyone celebrating Rob’s tremendous accomplishments.

Hi everyone. Hope things are going well and everyone is gearing up for the holiday season.

It’s not always easy to fill this column. Sometimes a cursory glance at the Sunday New York Times gives me lots of great material, though.

Jonathan Vogel and Jacqueline Bell Lance were married on August 14 at the Princeton University Chapel. The couple met at Princeton, from which the bride graduated and Jonathan earned a Ph.D. in economics. The bride is a manager in the mergers and acquisitions group at Capital One and Jonathan is an associate professor of economics at Columbia. Congratulations to Jonathan and Jacqueline! Jennifer Shalant and Luke Groskin were featured in the Vows section on September 5, which documented their wedding celebration at the Prospect Park Zoo. Jennifer is a managing web editor for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs the Bronx Zoo. Her husband is a videographer for the society. The couple met while working at the zoo. Luke would send her previews of his video clips about the new animals at the zoo. Jennifer was then responsible for writing the captions for the videos. Congratulations to Jennifer and Luke! Now, some people actually do write in with exciting news, and I encourage all of you to do the same. I know your classmates would love to hear from you.

A hearty mazel tov to Lauren Silvers (née Goldstein) and her husband, Dan, on the birth of
Ethan Braun, born on July 14 at 7 lbs., 10 oz. and 19 ¾ in. Ethan joins sister Hayley at home in NYC.

Courtney Vowels wrote in with an exciting update: “John Garnевичus and I got married on July 4, 2009, on the Garnевичus family farm in Fond du Lac, Wis. It’s the farm John’s mom grew up on, his parents retired there a few years ago after 40 or so years in the Bronx. We happily were able to convince about 60 close friends and family to make the tough trek to the middle of the country (2½ hours from the nearest airport and about a mile from the closest neighbor) and got to give a bunch of city folks the full rural Wisconsin experience, including feeding newborn lambs at the farm next door.

“Columbians in attendance included Karen Bram (née Garnевичus) ’74 Barnard, Erin Bailey ’09 TC, Elisa Jacobs ’01 Barnard, Joe Garnевичus ’03 (John’s middle brother, his youngest brother and my brother were in attendance), Kate Fillin-Yeh ’01 Barnard, Josephine Lee, Dean Lin, Laura Baldez and Tom Garnевичus ’69 (John’s dad). Also present was Ben Frisch ’10 PH, and present in spirit was Rebecca Zimmerman. She was scheduled to be part of the wedding party, but instead was on the other side of the planet welcoming a new addition to her family: She and husband, Eric Friedman, are now busy raising their son, Shai, in Israel.

“John and I have had a whirlwind of a year. Just before the wedding we bought a townhouse in our hometown of the past four years, Seattle. John teaches high school math and science at Lakeview School in Seattle, and I’m the director of education at Tacoma Art Museum. I’m also on the board of our local Columbia alumni club, so we’ve gotten to meet a lot of local alumni.”

Congratulations to Courtney and John! Best wishes to all, and please do keep in touch.

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Michael was married in August 2009 in Berlin, Germany. His groom’s mother is a German citizen. She is of Jewish descent. His father-in-law is a Holocaust survivor. His bride is an expert on Jewish women in Eastern Europe. They have a son, Raphael, born in January.

This summer Michael worked in New York on a film project for Columbia University, a nonprofit dedicated to making documentary films that inspire action. Michael is now working on a project for a foundation in the Seattle area. 

Michael is a film producer by trade. His past work has been featured on the Late Show with David Letterman, ABC News Nightline, and Fox News. 

Ibn Aviv

Ethan had his first baby, Nat, welcomed their first baby, Eva Tess, on July 29. Eva has already been enjoying walks with Mom from the Upper West Side to Columbia campus.

Daniel Luo is serving in the Army as a chemical specialist at Fort Carson, Colo., and is soon to be deployed to the Middle East.

Ginger Gentile is filming her first feature documentary, Goals for Girls: The Move, which follows the struggle of teenage girls in a Buenos Aires shantytown who dare to play a sport off-limits to women in Argentina: soccer. You can watch the award-winning short and support the project at goalsforgirlshemovie.org.

Lindsay Jurist Rosner graduated from Harvard Business School and lives in Los Angeles. She works for Microsoft.

Avi Fernandes graduated with an M.B.A. from INSEAD after having lived in France and Singapore for the last 10 months. He is now deciding on which city to make his permanent home: HK? SF? Singapore? NYC? Only time will tell!

Su Ahn will be attending business school at INSEAD in Fountainsboulne and Singapore beginning in January.

Bethany Milton ’06 recently finished a two-year tour as a foreign service officer at the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai and is heading out again in April to serve as an economic and consular officer at the embassy in Tel Aviv.

Jessica Bobula Foster ’06 married her UVa School of Medicine classmate Sean Foster in Charlottesville, N.Y., in July 2009. Keeping the bride and groom were also in attendance, Kate Lipkin, Mark Spitz, and John Whelan. Keeping the bride and groom was also in attendance, Kate Lipkin, Mark Spitz, and John Whelan. They spent their honeymoon in Bermuda.

Also present was Ben Frisch ’10 PH, who joined us in Dubai, and Oscar Olivo ’04, also in Germany, who completed his “diploma in 2008 at the Hochschule für Schauspielskunst “Ernst Busch” and entered my second year of my three-year contract in the fall. I am part of a 30-person ensemble and am working at the Staatstheater Hannover. It is the state repertoire theater for the State of Hannover. Every state and big city has a state theater in Germany.”

Eric Siskind recently published his latest novel, Moment of Clarity, which can be purchased and downloaded on Amazon for Kindle, iPAD, iPHONE, and smartphone reader applications.

Laurie Kornreich Shaw writes, “I married Brett Shaw. We didn’t know each other in college, surprisingly, but met a few years out of college. I’m in my last year of residency in emergency medicine at NYU/Bellevue, and Brett is a first-year associate at Wakefield, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.”

Luz Jimenez graduated from medical school and is in her second year of residency in combined internal medicine/pediatrics.

Pat Holder writes, “My wife, Kirsten, and I moved in June 2009 to Boston, where I took a job as a postdoctoral researcher for Daniel Nocera in the chemistry department at MIT. I was fortunate enough to receive an NIH Fellowship for three years for my research. Kirsten found work with the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, where she is planning alternative transportation such as shuttles and trails for National Parks and federal land agencies.”

Miri Kim has been “working full-time on my artwork and traveling a lot. This year: April, one-month stay and a solo show in Istanbul; May, shooting in Iowa; July–August, The Fountainhead Residency in Miami (artist residency); September, Lodz, Poland, stay for two weeks to produce work for the Łódź Biennale; October, Uruguay for a show in Montevideo and another Miami residency.”

Lastly, Beth Priest recently completed the Intern Development Program and passed the last of my Architecture Registration Exams to become a licensed architect. I am practicing at DeStefano and Partners in Chicago. My husband, Gregory, and I welcomed a daughter, Mallory Eleanor Murphy, into our family on April 5.”

Angela Georgopoulos
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New York, NY 10038
aeg90@columbia.edu

Hello fellow alumni! I hope you are all doing well and gearing up for a fun holiday season. As always, please send any and all updates my way. On the news:

Ryan Brumberg is the Republi
can candidate for Congress in New York’s 14th District. Ryan graduated from Stanford Law School in 2007 and worked at McKinsey and Co. for the past several years as a management consultant. In March, he resigned in good stand
ing to run full-time for Congress.

Matthew Einhorn is his campaign manager.

After three years as a litigation associate at Cahill Gordon & Rein
del, Sogol Somekh started a judici
cial clerkship in the fall working in the federal courthouse in Brooklyn Heights. She is looking forward to what should be a wonderful profes
tional and personal experience.

Congratulations to Arielle Fenig
istein and Yehuda Cohen, who
were married on August 1 in L.A.
Yehuda writes, “We knew each other during college but were not really friends; we reconnected while living in Washington Heights during the past two years. Arielle is an English teacher at SAR H.S. in the Bronx. I am completing my residency in

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY
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Class Notes

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010
Hello, everyone. Here are some updates from our classmates:

**Dalinez Martinez ’08 married her high school sweetheart, Eliu Lanzo, in New Rochelle, N.Y., on May 9. Nickisha Berlus ’08 (seated, far left) and Laura Lee ’08 (standing, second from left) were among a group of Columbia alumni joining the festivities.**

**PHOTO: THE PROS**

internal medicine at Montefiore and next year will be heading to Boston for a fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess in infectious disease."

In attendance at the wedding were Josh Weinberg ’04E, ’06E; Ariell Zell; Michael Wiener; Elie Hassenfeld; Talia Falk ’06; Shifra Koyrman ’03 Barnard; Regine Setton Galanti ’04 Barnard; Ilana Mann ’03 Barnard; Lisa Kellerman; Elie Kravit ’06; Zev Wiener ’06; Tara Herman; Saul Haberfeld ’05E; and Scott Rader ’03, ’06L. Congratulations also go out to James Lee ’04E and his long-time girlfriend Susan Kim, who he met while she was visiting a friend at Columbia our freshman year. There was a big showing of Columbia alumni at their wedding: Eric Rhee ’04E, ’06E; Jared Kennedy ’04E; Ben Farber; Miklos Vasarhelyi; Mark Bhupathi; Andrew Sohn; Jesse Scott; Brian Ballan ’04E; Ray Lansigangan; Anna Fang; Megan McCarthy; Lindsey Smith ’04E; and sogol Somekh.

Congratulations to Judy Vale and Mike Rubin, who got married on July 4 in Garrison, N.Y. It was a mini Columbia reunion of sorts, with 18 alumni in attendance: Rae Neuranger, Zoe Marcus, Jon Steiner ’04E, Joe Gaynor, Mark Franczyk, Tom Biegelis, Zach Rosner, Kentaro Kaji, Sara Topek Sproson ’04 Barnard, Marisa Cohn ’02 Barnard, Mary Amasia ’04E, Kimberly Ong, Judy Vale, Mike Rubin, Neil Vaishnav ’05, Eric Chang ’04E, Rajesh Banik ’04E and Fernando Martinez.

Happy holidays to you all. See you in 2011!

**PHOTO: THE PROS**

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Here are some updates from classmates:

LaToya Tavéniere recently moved from Atlanta to Santa Barbara, Calif., to begin a dissertation fellowship in the black studies department at UC Santa Barbara. She’s excited about completing the last year in her Ph.D. program.

Yan Feng continues his work as a religion correspondent for The Straits Times in Singapore. He will spend this fall shuttling between New York, Denver, D.C. and Doha, Qatar. If you’re in any of these cities, he’d love to catch up: yenfeng@gmail.com.

Congrats to Rebecca (Pollack) Kee and Bill Lee. Their first child, James Richard, was born in San Francisco on August 21 at 12:03 a.m. James was 5 lbs, 5 oz., and 18 in. Rebecca says that this “future Columbian” plans to “major in philosophy.”

W. Garner Robinson was selected for a commission as an intelligence officer in the Navy Reserve. He began training this fall.

Lily Hsu married Konrad Schlick in Malibu, Calif. The newlyweds moved to San Diego, where they’re both medical residents. Congrats!

Eliana Meirovitz Nelson writes: “My husband and I soon will move to Jerusalem for a year. He’ll be continuing his rabbinic studies, and I’ll have an internship at the Smokler Center for Health Policy Research as part of my work toward a master of public health degree at Boston University. We’re excited to spend time in Jerusalem and also use it as a launching pad for some international adventures. (We’re thinking about going to Italy, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Egypt and Jordan during the year.) If I have any classmates in Israel, it’d be great to reconnect. And if you’re living somewhere else amazing and want some visitors, let me know.”

Phil Sandick recently finished a book on the history of a private secondary school in Botswana. He also got engaged in a hot air balloon over the Serengeti to Colleen Kelley ’07 SW. He is enrolled in a four-year J.D./L.L.M. program in international law at Northwestern.

Lizet Lopez writes: “I finished my M.B.A. at Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern) in June and celebrated with a trip to see the World Cup in South Africa (joined by Charlotte Jacobs). We spent three weeks in the country and went to two games, quarter-final match of Argentina and Germany in Cape Town and third place match between Germany and Uruguay in Port Elizabeth. We also survived a three-day safari in Kruger, where we saw all of Africa’s ‘big five,’ and more! Now I am busy settling back into my hometown, Dallas, after a nine-year hiatus since I left for Columbia. I work full-time with A.T. Kearney management consulting.”

**PHOTO: THE PROS**

**Hello, everyone. Here are some updates from our classmates:**

**Sean Duffy is taking a year off from medical school at Harvard to work at IDEO in San Francisco.**

**Brian Wagner is an account director at an international public relations firm in Washington, D.C., where his undergraduate interest in Chinese history and politics is finally being put to good use. Brian also is entering his second year as an officer in the Navy Reserve, and is working at the Pentagon as of October. He reconnected with Michelle, who was married in July.**

**They both graduated in May. Jessica is doing her residency in pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. [See photo.]**

**Our truest life is when we are in dreams awake.”**

—Henry David Thoreau

It’s wonderful to hear the amazing things our classmates are up to. CC ’07, you’re all living the dream! Many of our classmates started a master’s program in California. Their first child, Lily Hsu, is working at the Pentagon as of October. He reconnected with Michelle, who was married in July. The newlyweds spent this fall shuttling between New York, Denver, D.C. and Doha, Qatar. If you’re in any of these cities, he’d love to catch up: yenfeng@gmail.com.

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graduate school this fall. Jessica Zen (née Wong) and her husband moved to Cambridge, Mass., where Jessica started business school at MIT Sloan.

Becca Hartog shares, “I completed my Peace Corps service in Cameroon in November 2009 and traveled to Tanzania with Alison O’Neill ‘07E afterward. More recently, I’ve begun medical school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Go Steelers!”

Mark Keller writes, “I’m in the United Kingdom this fall to pursue my M.Sc. in Latin American studies at St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford.”

Aaron Berman moved to Vail, Colo. He writes, “I’ve been enjoying the outdoors and also started a personal chef and catering company. Double Diamond Chefs. Hoping for a lot of snow this winter!”

John Shekita notes, “After earning a master’s or two, I relocated to the Central Valley of California to teach and serve as an intern chaplain at Bard College. Aside from teaching at the Paramount Bard Academy, my days are spent eating In-N-Out burgers, listening to Katy Perry and sweating in the oppressive heat.”

Tarak Bhatla shares, “Dave Schor participated in the King of Prussia Cheese Rolling Competition, working with a wheel of young Gouda and finishing a respectable 12th place.”

Mike Grooman embarked this summer on a two-week trip in Switzerland, where he hiked in the Alps, stayed in rustic cabins and made his own muesli at each stop. (This evidently is the point of the trip.)

Lukas McGowan is touring Buffalo, N.Y., performing his critically acclaimed one-man show, Pots, Pens, and Glass. Inspired by the hit musical Stomp, Lukas has created what he calls a “special cat-suit” that comprises household kitchen items including whisks, wooden ladles, a Cuisinart blade and electric skillets, which he uses to play an entire catalogue of Philip Glass compositions. The Buffalo News quoted him: “In college, I was inspired by a course called Music Hum[anites]. I thought, hey, I like ookware and I love Minimalist compositions of Philip Glass — it just seemed like a natural marriage. You really haven’t experienced Mr. Glass’ compositions until you’ve heard them through the timbre of a Macy’s crock pot.”

Lukas is in negotiations with several Off-Broadway theaters and hopes to bring his show to Manhattan in the fall. Keep an eye out!

In August, Meghan McCaull published the book Dirty Sexy Politics. Publisher Hyperion Books describes it: “In this witty, candid and boisterous book, Meghan takes us deep behind the scenes of the campaign trail. She steals campaign signs in New Hampshire, tastes the nightlife in Nashville, and has a strange encounter with Laura and Jenna Bush at the White House. Along the way, she falls in love with America while seeing how far the Republican Party has strayed from its core values of freedom, honesty and individuality. In Dirty Sexy Politics, Meghan McCain gives us a true insider’s life of an campaign trail.”

Hello CC ‘08! Lots of exciting news to report from the last few months, my favorite of which may be the WSJ article, “Where Columbia Beats Harvard: On the Battlefield of Curricula.” (Look for the piece if you haven’t already seen it!)

Thommen Ollapally recently moved back to Bangkok, India, after a two-year stint with Morgan Stanley in New York. He kicked things off with a backpacking trip around India up to the Himalayas and is excited about all the opportunities that await in the motherland. He strongly encourages Columbians to visit.

Neda Navab is taking time off from McKinsey to work in Kigali, Rwanda, with TechnoServe, an NGO that focuses on finding business solutions to rural poverty. She is supervising a pilot business training program for 200 socially and economically excluded women throughout rural Rwanda. “So far, it’s been wild, and bizarre, and just what I needed: a great shakeup after the Bay Area,” comments Neda.

Rachel Trager recently launched a website and online community for women travelers. Pink Pangea is a site where women travelers share their experiences abroad, connect to fellow travelers and inspire other women to explore the world. Pink Pangea’s goal is to make travel easier, safer and more fulfilling for women of all ages. “I invite all CC women to check it out and share their travel experiences,” says Rachel.

David Gerson’s short documentary film, Ultra Violet for Sixteen Minutes, about Dali’s mistress and Warhol’s muse, the born-again Mormon Ultra Violet, has been successfully playing festivals around the United States. “Totally engaging,” writes Albert Maysles. “A gem of a documentary film,” says HuffPo. "Because of this film the industry newsletter Film News Briefs named me one of May’s ‘top four filmmakers to watch.’” I also recently acted in several New York theatrical runs as well as a national ad campaign for NBC’s new local nightlife blog.” More info can be found at davidhenrygerson.com.

Stanimir Rachev has moved to Shanghai. “I started a science teaching job in a high school. I am looking forward to meeting any Columbia grads in China.”

Catherine McNamara recently returned from a weeklong trip in Germany and the Czech Republic with two friends from high school. “We traveled to Berlin and Prague and had a great time,” she said.

Riaz Zaidi returned from Iraq in February and after visiting alma mater while on leave in July deployed to Afghanistan in October with the 1st Squadron—113th Cavalry Regiment.

Rachel Weidenbaum (now Rachel Claire) and Noam Harary starred in the independent film Heaven is Waiting, directed by Shlomi Ben Yair and produced by Pegah Easton. The film has been screened at the following international festivals: the Cannes Short Corner, Milan, Montreal and Rhode Island.

As the leaves have fallen and we start piling on the layers of clothing to keep us warm, the Class of 2009 continues to pursue exciting endeavors everywhere from Hollywood to Mongolia.

Keli Leong took time off before graduate school to film part of the James L. Brooks movie How Do You Know in October 2009. Reese Witherspoon’s teammates on the U.S. National Team. The movie opens on December 17. It was a fantastic networking opportunity that led Keli to a volunteer assistant coaching position at Iona College. During her time there, the team won the softball program’s first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship and made its inaugural NCAA Division I Regional appearance.

Liz Berger left after graduation, Marissa Smith also struck not only by the fact that we are not returning to school but also by the fact that we have engaged in some barbecued marmot). (now Rebecca Hartog)

Hello, 2010. I am writing this in early September from my new apartment in Greenwich Village, shared with Charlotte Funt ‘10 Barnard and Sandra Cariglio. As I watch the NYU freshmen move into their dorms and try not to wince when cashiers ask if I have my NYU student ID, I am struck not only by the fact that we are not returning to school but also...
by how far we have come since we entered Columbia four years ago. After graduation, Louis Miller traveled across Western Europe and returned to New York with a new interest in art and travel. He is working in the Capital Markets group of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, which he says he is enjoying so far. He also is developing an interest in politics and is looking for a forum to explore it further. Although it will be his first fall not playing football, he says he is excited to watch his brother, Evan '12, play football at Columbia.

Nirvikar Jassal works for NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg in City Hall as a research analyst. He recently moved to Long Island City, a short commute to Grand Central, with Jonathan Sanchez and Eric Pogue. They love their apartment, which has spectacular views of Manhattan.

After spending a relaxing post-graduation summer working odd jobs and living in Brooklyn, Bryan Lowder is downtown this fall at NYU pursuing a master’s in journalism, concentrating in the highly regarded Cultural Reporting and Criticism program. He may still be seen around Morningside, however, as he will soon move to West Harlem with his partner, Cam McDonald, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology at the New School for Social Research.

Ajay Kumar Mangal writes, “I left NYC with a dream to create opportunities for teenagers in rough, low-income communities through Teach for America in Houston. I have been doing my best to bridge the achievement gap while coming to realize how much I miss New York City and all of my friends, who have significantly changed my life. I can’t believe I’m on my own. Soon enough, I’ll be heading to medical school. Until then, I’m training for the Iron Man competition while making a difference in the lives of others.”

Rachel Vishnepeolsky has quite a story to share. She writes, “My plans were fixed; I was to teach English in South Korea for a year. But in the taxi on my way to the airport, I checked my voice messages and found out I had been taken off the waitlist for a Fulbright research grant. I had been on the list for several months. Now I’m going to Poland to study philosophy, math and logic. My college boyfriend, Corey Bregman, will join me in Warsaw.”

Chris Yin certainly wins for either his fiction writing skills or his remarkable experience. Chris writes, “While mowing the lawn, I was stung by a scorpion in my backyard. After being taken to the hospital and hospitalized for five days for an almost fatal sting, biologists who study insects started studying the origins of these scorpions that had made their way as far north as central Virginia. My misfortune began the pioneering of widespread research on the species. Glad I could help. Since then, I moved to Seoul, South Korea, and am teaching English at an English academy.”

Erica Lee hasn’t seen any scorpions lately, but she has seen many “cute little mice” in her Harlem apartment. She is hoping to escape before the bedbugs start biting. Nevertheless, she says she is excited to still be in New York City!

Veronica Couzzo’s summer was filled with moving, packing, and more moving and packing. In addition to studying for the LSAT, she has been a full-time employee at MTV since June. She says the most exciting thing that happened to her during the summer (other than attending a Backstreet Boys concert) was having a bathroom ceiling in Columbia graduate housing collapse on her head. Stay safe, Veronica!

Thank you for all of your great submissions. Keep them coming!

Letters
(Continued from page 2)

in the form of Mel’s is a positive economic indicator. Or at least it will be a good place to get a hamburger.

Bruce Paulsen ‘80
New York City

Conservo?
I see that you are publishing conservo-oriented letters these days more so, it seems, than in the past. Thank you.

Martin Heitweil ‘66
New York City

Columbia Club
I suspect that distant memories have added enchantment. Mr. Jay R. Deutsch ’66 (Letters, September / October) remembers an idealized clubhouse.

I was a member for many years before it closed. It was a moist-eating, dusty mess, with spooky moose heads coming out of the walls. The food was something to write home about; it was awful, with service to match.

We gave the Princeton people our privilege while they were building their new quarters and in return they offered our members a chance to join their brand-new, beautiful new club. I took advantage of their offer and for some 30 years I enjoyed the quiet, dignified setting, including the best everything (Continued from page 72)

Alumni Corner
(Continued from front page 72)

says, “The result, after a bit of research, was a gluten-free, dairy-free, egg-free and sugar-free cake that actually tasted good.” But you don’t have to be a macrobiotic champ to support a celiac friend. We were able to enjoy countless dinners because people simply asked questions about what food was safe for us.

So, what is Columbia without gluten? Without beer, pizza and Chinese take-out? In the past, not all that different. You find alternative drinks and foods, plan for meal-less emergencies and make understanding friends. While a gluten-free diet is certainly not an unsurpassable obstacle, our point is that it need not be an obstacle at all. The only thing truly daunting about celiac disease is a gluten-free diet is the barrier of unfamiliarity. We thrived at Columbia because we were able to break down this barrier within a small group of friends. But if celiacs are willing to speak up, not to be apologetic about their condition, and the rest of the community is a little more conscientious, the barrier needn’t exist. We hope that the Columbia community will continue to rise to the challenge of being aware and supportive of its celiacs, taking a lead in helping three million Americans lead normal lives.

For more about celiac disease, see the article in the Winter 2009–10 issue of Columbia magazine: magazine.columbia.edu/features/winter-2009-10/ against-grain.

Ariane Richard ’10 works in an autoimmune research lab at the National Institutes of Health and intends to enter graduate school in fall 2011. Jeffrey Spear ’10 works for the Center for the Core Curriculum and is trying to earn a place on the 2012 Olympic fencing team before applying to graduate school in fall 2012.
SERVICES


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HEARTSTONE Senior Living for Engaged Graduates Santa Fe Luxury Affordable Heartstonecommunity.com.

WAR BRIEF ALPHA: Understanding & Fighting World War IV at melos.us.

RENTALS

Naples, Florida: Luxury condominium overlooking Gulf, two-month minimum, 802-524-2108 James L. Levy CC ’65, LAW ’68.


Englewood, FL: Brand New Luxury 2 BR/2 BA Waterfront Condo w/ pvt. boat slip. Walk to the Gulf, pool, floor to ceiling glass, awesome water views, Lanai, elevator. Professionally decorated. Contact Evan Morgan, CC ’85 at (330) 655-5766 for details.

St Croix, VI: Luxury Beach Villa. 5 bedroom house, East End (949) 475-4175; richard.waterfield@waterfield.com CC ’94.


Jupiter Island Condo, 3 br, 2.5 bths., pool, splendid ocean, intracoastal. Sunset views from wraparound balcony; boat slips available. Sale or Seasonal Rental, min. 2 months. (772) 321-2370; Edward Kalaidjian, ’42C, 47L, eckalai@aol.com.


Vieques, PR: Luxury Villa, 3 brs, pool, spectacular ocean view, 202-441-7982 or droitsch@msn.com CC ’63.

REAL ESTATE SALES

Maine luxury lakefront town homes for sale on pristine Kezar Lake. www.kezarlakecondos.com or (713) 988-2382.

2-BEDROOM Co-op Apartment, newly renovated, immaculate, steps from Columbia. Asking $3785,000. www.545west111th.com, 917-687-8676 Mackenzie.

Litchfield Cty, Connecticut — Contemporary Townhouse 3 Br/2 BA gated community. Fishing, indoor/outdoor pools & tennis, camp, horseback riding & skiing. Paid $134,000 — all reasonable offers considered. sing2bill@aol.com, Bill Wood CC ’65, GSAS 67.

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Deadline for January/February issue: Tuesday, November 23, 2010
College without Pizza: Life at Columbia with Celiac Disease

By Arianne Richard ’10 and Jeffrey Spear ’10

If you were asked how much of your day involves food, you might think about a couple of hours spent preparing and eating meals. Think again. Think about your coffee breaks; the odd candy and baked goods found in colleagues’ offices; free food at an event, meeting or information session; and snacks or drinks with friends after dinner. How many of these instances involved food that you prepared and how many food that a restaurant, co-worker, friend or processed food company prepared? You probably have not seen the raw ingredients and preparation process for the grand majority of your food for the day. Now, imagine that an ingredient common to most kitchens, dishes and processed foods will induce a massive autoimmune reaction in your body. What in your daily life would you have to change?

Such is the situation of a person with celiac disease. Gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley and rye, induces an autoimmune reaction in the small intestine of the celiac patient that leads to nutrient deficiency, weight loss, fatigue, numbness and, often, autoimmune reactions in other parts of the body. Undiagnosed, the disease can become deadly. Jeff was more than 50 lbs. underweight before he was successfully diagnosed at 16. He says, “My condition became so bad that at one point doctors told me that, if I survived my then-unknown illness, I would have to cope with permanent mental and physical disability.”

Fortunately, a gluten-free diet prevents these effects and recovery is usually quick to follow its implementation. Studies estimate that one in every 100 Americans has celiac disease. This is approximately three million people, or about the population of Manhattan and the Bronx combined. Each Columbia College class, therefore, likely includes 10–12 celiac students. We write as two from the Class of 2010 in the hope that our stories will add to a growing awareness of celiac disease by providing information to both celiacs living in the Columbia community and non-celiacs who interact daily with the celiac population.

Thus we return to the question: What would change in your daily life? Perhaps first would be your perspective on free food. To the average college student, free food is a staple of sustenance. Whether used as enticement to lunchtime review sessions, bribery to share your thoughts with the student council or excuses for dinnertime conferences, students respond. As celiacs, however, we generally experience such events without food. This is often just a minor annoyance, but during all-day events or travel, externally provided food becomes essential. Jeff recalls attempting to live on salad while traveling to fencing meets, while Arianne, who was diagnosed at 18, remembers subsisting on corn chips during the 28-hour Dance Marathon her freshman year. Our reaction to the statement “Food will be provided” is not relief or enthusiasm but concern.

The second change to your daily habits may occur in more casual communal eating settings: dinner at a classmate’s suite, your roommate’s homemade guacamole, the outrageous cocktail your friend just dreamed up. Sharing food provides a bonding opportunity in social gatherings but often the celiac must refuse and risk offending the host. Arianne remembers one archetypal interaction: “My host was so excited about a freshly baked apple pie, she could not fathom my refusal to try a slice. When I explained having celiac disease, she quickly reassured me that she had used white flour; and when I said that this was still a problem, she suggested I eat only the filling. Unfortunately, this was not a safe solution, either, and as I turned down the offer again, I was met with a scowl.”

In addition to social discomfort, this conversation highlights two common misconceptions. The first is that only whole-wheat flour contains wheat. In fact, all common flours, pastas, breads and pastries as well as many marinades, soy sauces and liquors contain wheat. The second is that celiacs can pick around the flour, that a little cross-contamination won’t hurt. Although celiac patients don’t have the immediately life-threatening reactions associated with some allergies, many are sensitive enough that even the small amount of gluten spread from a shared stirring spoon can initiate an autoimmune attack. It’s better to think of gluten like raw chicken — afterward, you must wash your countertops and utensils to avoid salmonella.

Still, being a celiac is not all about walking a tightrope around socially obligated eating. During our time at Columbia, we were lucky to find support in the local community and at the University. The Celiac Disease Center at P&S, established in 2001, hosts benefit events and free roundtable discussions and is diagnosing and treating more than 2,000 patients annually from around the world. The Morningside Heights deli Nussbaum & Wu now serves gluten-free pizza, allowing us, in our senior year, to laugh at the absurdity of finally being able to order our first dorm pizza. John Jay dining hall has made an effort to support gluten-free students by labeling dishes in the cafeteria and stocking a gluten-free refrigerator. Unfortunately, cross-contamination remains a concern in both the kitchen and serving trays; one such incident left Arianne dizzy and numb during her freshman year. We recommend better control over the gluten-free food and better advertising of the gluten-free refrigerator.

The greatest encouragement, however, came from our friends. Arianne recalls her suitemates surprising her with cupcakes from Babycakes, a gluten-free bakery on the Lower East Side, or excitingly reporting a new gluten-free product at Westside Market. Some friends were daring enough to try gluten-free baking themselves. Jeff fondly remembers the attempts of a few friends to make celebratory brownies, cupcakes and cookies. In perhaps the most ambitious and impressive of these projects, a friend baked a cake for the graduation party for his major. “My friend decided that for such a special event, she wanted to make a cake that everyone could eat,” Jeff

(Continued on page 70)
COLUMBIA COLLEGE FUND

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