

Columbia College

Fall 2012

TODAY 

Good Chemistry

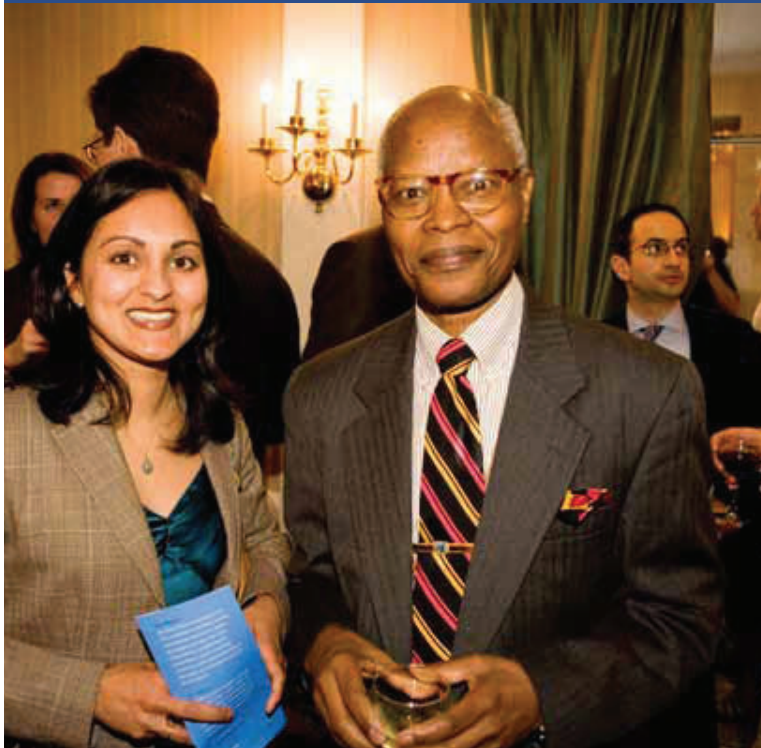
James J. Valentini
Transitions from
Longtime Professor
to Dean of the
College



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Contents

COVER STORY



18 Good Chemistry

James J. Valentini transitions from longtime professor of chemistry to Dean of the College. Meet him in this Q&A with CCT Editor Alex Sachare '71.

FEATURES



40 The Home Front

Ai-jen Poo '96 gives domestic workers a voice.

By NATHALIE ALONSO '08



28 Stand and Deliver

Joel Klein '67's extraordinary career as an attorney, educator and reformer.

By CHRIS BURRELL



34 The Open Mind of Richard Heffner '46

The venerable PBS host provides a forum for guests to examine, question and disagree.

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

DEPARTMENTS



Celebrate Homecoming 2012 on Saturday, October 20.

3 Within the Family

4 Letters to the Editor

6 Around the Quads

Columbia hosts Dartmouth at Homecoming on Saturday, October 20.

16 Roar, Lion, Roar

44 Columbia Forum: *College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be*

A reflection on college and the role it should play in our challenging times.

BY ANDREW DELBANCO

ALUMNI NEWS

49 Message from the CCAA President

Kyra Tirana Barry '87 on the successful inaugural summer of alumni-sponsored internships.

50 Bookshelf

52 Obituaries

56 Class Notes

- 85 Alumni Sons and Daughters

Alumni Profiles

- 70 Robert Shlaer '63
- 91 Macky Alston '87
- 99 Alexandra Epstein '07



Robert Shlaer '63



104 Alumni Corner

Ben Ratliff '90 rediscovers the haven of Butler Library, especially the stacks.

WEB EXTRAS

5 More Minutes with Robert Y. Shapiro

Listen to Performances by Anthony da Costa '13

Ai-jen Poo '96 Speaks Up for Domestic Workers

Gallery of Daguerreotypes by Robert Shlaer '63

Watch the Trailer for Macky Alston '87's

Documentary *Love Free or Die*

Overtime with Football Coach Pete Mangurian

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WITHIN THE FAMILY

Déjà Vu All Over Again or The Start of Something New?

Pete Mangurian is the 10th head football coach since I came to Columbia as a freshman in 1967. (Yes, we were “freshmen” then, not “first-years,” and we even wore beanies during Orientation — but that’s a story for another time.) Since then, Columbia has compiled exactly three winning records in 45 seasons of football.

So what makes Mangurian think he can succeed where Buff Donelli (with the 1961 championship team — alas, before my time — as a striking exception); Frank Navarro; Bill Campbell '62, '64 TC; Bob Naso; Jim Garrett; Larry McElreavy; Ray Tellier; Bob Shoop; and Norries Wilson largely did not?

“I’ve been doing this for 33 years,” Mangurian said in August as he prepared for the start of his first season at Columbia. “I’ve been fortunate to be around some very successful programs. I’ve been to what people in the football world would consider the pinnacle, the Super Bowl, and I’ve worked in organizations that are arguably the best in football. Hopefully, I’ve picked some things up along the way.”

“One of the biggest lessons you learn in this game is to evaluate the situation objectively, have a clear idea of where it is you actually want to go and what you want to accomplish, then use your experience and the experience of others to put together a road map to get there.”

Mangurian, a former assistant coach with five NFL teams and head coach at Cornell from 1998–2000, is not about to accept the status quo.

“I’m not a believer in ‘That’s just the way it is and it’s always going to be that way,’” he declared. “I’m not really interested in the pitfalls and the things that have come before. Believe me, every day I face, ‘Well, that won’t work’ or ‘That’s not the way it is’ or ‘Those people won’t cooperate with you.’ It’s myriad things every time we turn around. My answer to that at this point is, ‘Why?’ And I usually don’t get a very good answer, because the person I’m talking to wasn’t even around when that problem took place.”

One example, he said, is the misperception that the Columbia faculty does not support athletics.

“That’s not true,” he said. “The faculty is more than willing to help reach the objective, which is to make sure that these young men get the education they need and have experiences they need and still be successful at football. They have no problem with that. There’s no difference between going to practice and doing your homework — you’re practicing for the test. When you put things in that perspective, it’s easy to see.”

Mangurian, whose Cornell teams went from 1–6 in Ivy play in his first season to 5–2 in each of the next two years, values the journey as well as the destination.

“If there’s anything that really defines how I approach things, it would be this: It’s great to have a goal, everybody has them, but the real work is how you get there. A lot of times we focus so much on the goal, we don’t focus on how we are going to get

there, the methods to achieve that goal. The goal will happen if you do the other things along the way.”

Still, there’s no substitute for the goal, what Mangurian calls the “W word.”

“The bottom line is winning,” he said. “I’m not going to mince words on that. It’s winning. That’s life. I have three kids and I’ve been through this ‘everybody gets a trophy’ deal. And I get it, to a certain extent. But the real world doesn’t work that way. It doesn’t work that way in business, it doesn’t work that way in the classroom. You get an A or you get a B, and it’s hard to get an A. A’s are special.

“It’s about winning. It’s about being successful. But what everybody has to understand is that if you do win, then you learned a lot and accomplished a lot along the journey. It wasn’t just the destination.”

The Lions began their journey with 12 days of spring practice, where Mangurian got to see returning players firsthand, and continued through preseason training camp, where he focused on the 32-member class of first-year players. His objective in both, rather than to install specific schemes or plays, he said, was to find out which players he can depend upon.

“We put a lot more emphasis on finding out who we could trust,” he said. “Who’s going to do the

things we ask him to do when we ask him to do it? Who can we count on? We believe in putting more pressure on them in practice than they’ll probably have in a game. I guarantee you there will be a little bit of relief when these guys get to go out and play and we’re not standing right behind them, getting on them. But I think you have to harden them. You have to put them on the anvil and hit them with the hammer and make them harder, so that when it gets tough they’ll be able to respond. It’s no different from a professor who teaches his or her class and makes them study. It’s no different.”

Columbia’s first exam, if you will, comes against Marist on September 15, with its first Ivy League test against Princeton on September 29, both at home. The offense figures to revolve around quarterback Sean Brackett '13, the team’s leading rusher as well as passer last season. Mangurian is hoping some of his young players will bolster a defense that features linemen Seyi Adabayo '13 and Josh Martin '13 and linebacker Zach Olinger '14, but which allowed 32.8 points per game last season.

The Lions were 1–9 last season, the lone victory being a 35–28 decision over Brown in two overtimes in their season finale.

“We’ll be better,” Mangurian said. The journey will determine how much better.

For more from CCT’s interview with Mangurian, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Alex Saurare



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Volume 40 Number 1
Fall 2012

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Published quarterly by the
Columbia College Office of
Alumni Affairs and Development for
alumni, students, faculty, parents and
friends of Columbia College.

Address all correspondence to:
Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 1st Fl.
New York, NY 10025
212-851-7852

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

ISSN 0572-7820

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Letters to the Editor



The Obamas

I recognize the justifiable pride the College community and even the broader University community takes in the fact that President Obama is an alum [Class of 1983].

However, I am getting a bit tired of the obsessive articles on the President and the many College alums who participate in Democratic politics or "progressive" political activity. The item that put me over the edge was the [Summer 2012] cover story on *The Obamas*.

There seems to be an assumption on the part of the editor and contributing writers that the College community is composed wholly of political participants from one side of the spectrum. I am sure that one can find alums who participate and contribute meaningfully from the other side of the spectrum. And yes, I am a Republican. I know of such people.

The College and my education have been instructive to my past and current activities in politics and public policy work. I would think there would be others if one were inclined to try to find them.

Scott Miller '82
ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Wally Broecker '53

I was delighted with the Summer 2012 article by Timothy Cross '98 GSAS about Wally Broecker '53, '58 GSAS. I was aware of his work, early on, not through Columbia but through my work in the Atomic Energy Commission, its short-lived successor the Energy Research and Development Administration and then the Department of Energy. Most of my years there I worked in the office supporting basic research in uni-

versities and our national laboratories.

I always wondered why I never ran into Wally in the College whenever I was reminded on paper that he was a member of my Class of '53; I was delighted to learn why in the article. Professor [J. Laurence] Kulp and the registrar "did good" — but he should have had to pass the swimming test!

One of Wally's important contributions beyond his research is his outstanding ability to communicate his work, its results and its significance to society. I suspect he often was faced with significant frustration in dealing with bureaucracies as well as with those who, even today, do not accept the facts.

What prompted this letter was the deserved recognition given to [Lands' End founder] Gary Comer for his significant contribution to Columbia in support of Wally's outstanding scientific work and continuing contribution to society.

While the deserved recognition for Wally's work, the National Medal of Science, is properly highlighted, the significant sup-



Wally Broecker '53, '58 GSAS spoke of his teaching experiences at a celebration in 2010 at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

PHOTO: COURTESY LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY

port for research supported by the federal government through the years is not noted. I'm guessing that the opportunity Professor Kulp had to support a research assistant in his radiocarbon counting lab in the early '50s may have been due to an AEC contract he had. What if the budget cutters were active then?

David M. Richman '53, '56E
NORTH BETHESDA, MD.

Former Students

As usual, I found much more to read in the Summer 2012 issue of *CCT* than I thought I would. However, with great respect, I take exception to the term "former students" for "alumni" in [CCAA President] Kyra Tirana Barry '87's message. She does attribute the term to Dean Valentini (congratulations to him!), so I must take exception to his use of the term as well.

One of the many things that came out of my education at Columbia College in the early 1960s is the notion that as intelligent and educated people, we are students until we die. Indeed, that sense probably is present, perhaps not yet consciously, in everyone admitted to the College, and probably has something to do with their admission in the first instance. While we no longer regularly attend classes and don't work for grades, we always are disposed to learn things from anyone and everyone who knows something that we don't know, who may have an insight that may be interesting or worthwhile, who may have experiences from which we might benefit from knowing about. And just as a teacher sometimes learns something from his or her students, so we sometimes enlighten those from whom we learn as well.

Let's please stick to "alumni."

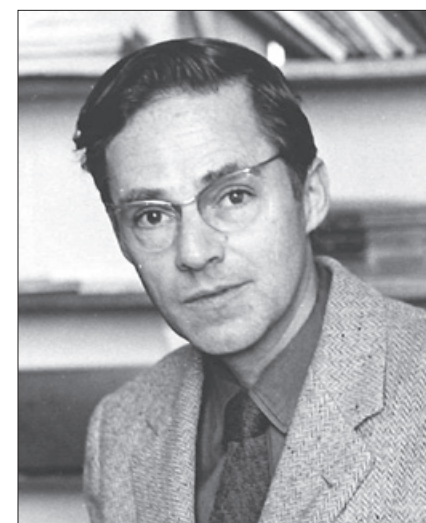
Ed Steinberg '64, '66 Arch.
WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.

[Editor's note: Valentini explains his preference for the term "former students" in this issue's cover story.]

An Alumnus' Thanks

On May 1, former dean of Barnard Dorothy Denburg and I were honored by the Columbia/Barnard Hillel and the Kraft Center at their annual dinner. During the course of my few words of appreciation in accepting the honor, I referenced my education at Columbia (Class of 1953) and it was suggested to me that I send you what I said about that education.

I owe so much to this great university for the wonderful education I received. The



Jack Beeson
PHOTO: WILLIAM E. BARKSDALE

world of western civilization opened before me in the Contemporary Civilization and Humanities courses. Through them, I formed intellectual relationships with some of the greatest minds in human history. My Art Humanities course was a revelation to me, as I was a virtual ignoramus in that field. My Music Humanities course with Professor Jack Beeson, then just an instructor and not yet a famous composer, and my opera course with Professor Otto Leuning — I will never forget his long arms waving as a conductor in his discussions and dramatizations of opera — greatly enhanced my natural talent in, and love for, music, and gave me a deeper understanding of music that enriches my life to this day.

I had the opportunity to be taught by great faculty such as Professor Irwin Edman (Class of 1916) in philosophy, Professor David Truman in government and, for me, the most wonderful of them all, Professor Henry Graff '49 GSAS in American history. Professor Graff is one of the few people who still calls me Hacky. We formed a lifelong friendship and association. He has been to my synagogue any number of times to discuss the presidency and, occasionally, a forthcoming election. It would have been worth coming to Columbia just to meet him.

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein '53
NEW YORK CITY

Corrections

The Spring 2012 feature "The Full Spectrum," profiling FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski '85, contained three factual errors. Genachowski majored in history, not art history; his son attends Kenyon,



Henry Graff '49 GSAS

not Michigan; and he did not ever share an apartment with former Rep. Anthony Weiner.

The Alumni Corner about Lou Gehrig '25 in the same issue incorrectly listed the date of his famous "luckiest man on the face of the Earth" speech, due to an error in editing. The speech took place at a ceremony in Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939.

CCT regrets the errors.

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AROUND THE QUADS

Homecoming 2012 Pits Lions vs. Dartmouth



The Lions take on the Big Green at Homecoming on Saturday, October 20. The day features fun activities for Columbians of all ages.



Baker Athletics Complex will be the site of Homecoming 2012 on Saturday, October 20, featuring the pregame picnic lunch under the Big Tent, the Columbia Homecoming Carnival and the Lions taking on the Big Green. An extra highlight this year will be the dedication of The Campbell Sports Center (see box at right).

The festivities start at 11 a.m. with a hearty barbecue buffet, open until 1:30 p.m. Picnic tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12 if purchased online by Thursday, October 18: columbia.edu/alumni/homecoming. Picnic tickets also are available on site: \$22 for adults and \$12 for children. Each ticket includes an all-you-can-eat lunch, soft drinks and admittance to the Columbia Homecoming Carnival. Beer,

wine and cocktails are available at an additional cost. There also will be limited cash-and-carry items. The Columbia Alumni Association will sponsor halftime refreshments under the Big Tent.

The Columbia Homecoming Carnival opens at 11 a.m. and stays open until 3 p.m. with face painting, balloon making, magic, games, prizes and interactive activities.

The Ivy League football matchup, the first Homecoming game for new Lions coach Pete Mangurian, kicks off at Robert K. Kraft Field at 1:30 p.m. To purchase football tickets, which are separate from picnic tickets, call 888-LIONS-11 or purchase online: gocolumbialions.com/tickets. Premium chairback seats are \$25 and reserved bench seats are \$15.

Columbia University Athletics will sponsor complimentary shuttle buses from the Morningside campus to and

from Baker Athletics Complex beginning at 11 a.m. and returning immediately following the game. Campus pickup will be from the gates at West 116th Street and Broadway.

Fans also may use mass transit. The A and 1 subways as well as the M100, Bx20 and Bx7 buses stop near Baker. If traveling by Metro-North Railroad, the Marble Hill station is on the north shore of Spuyten Duyvil, just across the Broadway Bridge from the complex.

On-site preferred parking is available only to those making qualifying gifts to Columbia football. Single-game parking passes are not available. Fans without on-site preferred parking passes will be directed to public parking facilities.

For more information about game day, the picnic and parking, visit www.gocolumbialions.com/footballgameday.



Campbell Sports Center benefactor William V. Campbell '62, '64 TC and Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy at the center's groundbreaking at Homecoming 2011.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO

Campbell Sports Center Dedication

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

All Homecoming attendees are invited to the dedication of The Campbell Sports Center, the new cornerstone of the revitalized Baker Athletics Complex. The center will foster Columbia spirit and transform the student-athlete experience by creating an attractive year-round hub for student-athletes, coaches, staff and administrators. The center honors, and is made possible by, one of Columbia's most accomplished athletics alumni: captain of the 1961 Ivy League Champion football team, former Lions head football coach, "Coach of Silicon Valley" and chair of the University trustees, William V. Campbell '62, '64 TC.

Schiller To Be Presented 2012 Alexander Hamilton Medal

Jonathan Schiller '69, '73L will be presented the 2012 Alexander Hamilton Medal on Thursday, November 15, at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner, an annual black-tie event in Low Rotunda. The medal, the highest honor paid to a member of the Columbia College community, is awarded by the Columbia College Alumni Association to an alumnus/a or faculty member for distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor.

Schiller, a University trustee and a member of the Dean's Council of the Law School, received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2006. He was a member of the 1967–68 Ivy League Championship basketball team and was inducted with that squad into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in February 2006.

The Jonathan D. Schiller Endowment in International Human Rights was created in 2006 at the Law School by the Schiller family and provides funding for summer fellowships in international human rights. Schiller's most recent commitments to the College include establishing the Jonathan Schiller Scholarship Fund in June 2011.

As co-founder and managing partner



of Boies, Schiller & Flexner, Schiller has more than 35 years of experience trying cases throughout the United States and is recognized as a leading practitioner in international arbitration. He was elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and appointed to the Milan Chamber of Commerce Club of Arbitrators. He also was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Supreme Court Historical Society in Washington, D.C.

Schiller was recognized by *Who's Who*

Legal as one of the most highly regarded individuals, "the real deal," in its listing of the Top Ten International Commercial Litigators for 2011. He also was recently cited by *Lawdragon* as one of its "500 Leading Lawyers in America" for the sixth consecutive year. Chambers and Partners, a legal research organization that publishes annual peer-reviewed evaluations of the world's leading law firms and lawyers, recognized Schiller "as a leading practitioner in the field of international arbitration," and *The US Legal 500 2010 Guide to the World's Leading Lawyers* named him as "one of the premier international arbitration attorneys in the world" and "a seasoned practitioner with an impressive reputation." He also was named "Litigator of the Week" by *American Lawyer* earlier this year following Barclays' successful trial defense against \$13 billion in claims sought by Lehman Brothers bankruptcy estates.

Schiller is married to Marla Prather '88 GSAS, who earned a master's in art history. Their sons also are Columbia alumni: Zachary '01, Joshua '08L and Aaron '06.

For more information on the dinner, contact Robin Vanderputten, associate director, College events and programs: robinv@columbia.edu or 212-851-7399.

Encyclopaedia Iranica Project Reaches Milestone

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

Ehsan Yarshater knows something about dedication. After four decades of work on the monumental *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, he announced the reference work has reached the midpoint of its completion: 15 published volumes, reaching into the letter K. Yarshater, the Hagop Kevorkian Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies, also has been the project's primary fundraiser, successfully lobbying individual donors and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as well as contributing art and rare books for sale from his personal collection. Most recently, with the economy down and funding becoming scarce, he let go of a prized Rodin sculpture to support the cause.

CCT first profiled Yarshater, who conceived the research and publishing project in 1972, in November 2003. At that time, the *Encyclopaedia* was at letter H and its editors had started publishing entries online, out of alphabetical order. Now, all previously published volumes have been digitized into a free, searchable online version of the encyclopedia (iranicaonline.org) with 6,500 entries, including more than 850 entries published digitally in advance of eventual inclusion in the print volumes.

"At a time when accurate information about Islam and Iran is overlooked by Americans in place of simplifications and sound bites, the editors of [*Encyclopaedia Iranica*] are performing a public service by making authoritative articles by eminent academics freely available," a reviewer for NEH wrote last year. "The quality, clarity and detail of the articles is remarkable. It is, bar none, the most accurate and trustworthy online resource I know of for information on Islam."

The *Encyclopaedia* covers not only Islam and the modern-day country of Iran but also the history, culture and science of all the lands that speak or once spoke any Iranian language. Another NEH reviewer called it "unequalled in the scholarly world for its depth, breadth and accessibility to academic and non-academic audiences alike." At completion it will rival the length of some general encyclopedias, but

its anticipated 32–35 volumes are unique in their dedication to one country and one culture.

The *Encyclopaedia* contains extensive essays on art, literature, religion, philosophy, geography, customs, architecture, flora and fauna. But even those labels are too broad: flora and fauna, for example, are considered not only in terms of botany and zoology but also in terms of the uses of plants and animals in folklore and popular medicine. More than 40 languages and dialects have been covered thus far, with explanations of their grammar and sample vocabularies. Various calendars and festivals are catalogued; the stars and constellations are explored as astronomy, astrology and folklore. Cloth-

of Iranian scholars is declining by attrition — Yarshater says today's students cannot go to Iran to study as readily under the Islamic government, so they turn to other areas of the world. "The *Encyclopaedia Iranica* is not repeatable, because a number of elements came together and made it possible," says Yarshater, who founded the University's Center for Iranian Studies in 1968 and was chair of the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures from 1968–73. He founded the project at Columbia (before the 1979 Iranian revolution) out of frustration that there was not an impartial and comprehensive pre-Islamic reference work in the field.

The *Encyclopaedia* is among the longest continually funded projects (33 years) supported by the NEH, and private donors once generously supported it as well. In the recent recession, however, NEH funding has been reduced to half what it once was (though the project receives the current maximum amount possible for its category, \$300,000 for two years). Private donors have largely snapped their purses shut, and gala benefit dinners — which used to raise a half million dollars at a time — have been on hold since 2007.

Through the years, Yarshater's own donations of books and art have been made via the Persian Heritage Foundation, which he formed in 1983 to support research on all aspects of the Iranian world. He'd resisted, however, when a representative of Christie's auction house, who was visiting his apartment on Riverside Drive, asked if he would be interested in selling *The Kiss*, a Rodin sculpture he bought from a Rockefeller at a 1975 auction. But in 2009, Yarshater changed his mind: "We needed money to run our project. I thought, the time of the Rodin had come."

The 34-inch-high sculpture has a lovely patina and is what Christie's described as an "extremely rare bronze cast, known as the Milwaukee version, one of only five created during the artist's lifetime from the plaster model of the classic sculpture." The auction house catalogue estimated it would bring \$1.5–\$2 million.



Ehsan Yarshater, seen here in his office, has dedicated 40 years to the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* project.

PHOTO: MARCUS YAM/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

ing through the eras and across provinces is described, not just the style but also the material, and not just the cloth but also the actual weaving (the subject spans 28 articles). Entries extend right up to present-day topics, including Iranian cinema, ecology and feminist movements.

The *Encyclopaedia* is limited in its progress by the scarcity of experts to cover such vast ground. Scholars must be ferreted out globally and invited to write entries one at a time; more than 1,500 have contributed work so far. "If we had 2,000 scholars ready to write for us, the encyclopedia could finish in 1½ years," Yarshater says. As it is, the project is expected to take nearly another decade. Moreover, the number

Yarshater was working on the encyclopedia in his office when a Christie's representative called with news of the final hammer price: \$6,354,500.

"Within a matter of weeks, the money was fed into our account, and our editors and other staff could be paid," Yarshater says. "Rodin came to our rescue."

The sale allowed the encyclopedia staff to expand by two editors; it now has eight. Yarshater, 92, works full-time as the project's volunteer general editor. In recent years he has also conceived and is general editor of another definitive reference project, the 20-volume *A History of Persian Literature*.

"I am hoping that with the help of my colleagues we can bring the *Encyclopaedia* project to the end of its first edition in 2020," says Yarshater. "If we succeed, a great project, in fact the greatest academic project ever conceived and carried out in the field of Iranian studies — and one that contributes to a variety of fields in the humanities — will have been achieved."

Shira Boss '93, '97J, '98 SIPA is contributing writer to CCT and a graduate student at the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College.

Popkin, Yao To Receive Great Teachers Award

Cathy Popkin, the Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities and professor of Russian, Department of Slavic Languages, and David Yao, professor of industrial engineering and operations research at Columbia Engineering, have been named the recipients of the 2012 Great Teachers Award. The awards will be presented at the Society of Columbia Graduates Awards Dinner in Low Rotunda on Wednesday, October 24.

Popkin joined Columbia's Slavic department in 1986 and is a scholar of literary theory and 19th- and 20th-century Russian prose, specifically Chekhov. A mainstay of the Literature Humanities faculty, she is known for hosting reunions with her former Lit Hum students when they are graduating seniors. Described by one student as "one of Columbia's prized jewels," Popkin also is a recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award.

Yao joined the Department of Industrial Engineering in 1983. After a three-year

stay at Harvard, he returned to Columbia as a full professor in 1988. His teaching and research interests focus on the analysis, design and control of stochastic systems such as manufacturing systems, supply chains and communication networks. He has been the principal architect of several academic programs at Columbia Engineering, including the master's program in financial engineering.

The Society of Columbia Graduates established the Great Teachers Award in 1949 to honor outstanding members of the faculty teaching in the College and Engineering. Recipients have included Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS; Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS; Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS; Kathy Eden; Alan Brinkley; Andrew Delbanco; and Mark Mazower.

For further information, contact Gerald Sherwin '55: 917-763-7061 or gs481@juno.com; or Peter Basilevsky '67, '72L: 212-818-9200 or pbasilevsky@ssbb.com; or visit the society's website (socg.com).

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Robert Y. Shapiro, who specializes in American politics, is a professor and former chair of the Department of Political Science. His most recent books include *The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media* (edited with Lawrence R. Jacobs) and *Selling Fear: Counterterrorism, the Media, and Public Opinion* (with Columbia's

Brigitte L. Nacos and Yaeli Bloch-Elkon). Shapiro earned a B.S. from MIT and a Ph.D. from Chicago; he has worked at Columbia since 1982 and last sat for "5 Minutes with" in summer 2008.

You recently returned from Egypt. Tell me about that.

I was invited to speak at the American University in Cairo by the president of the university, Lisa Anderson, who is a former dean of SIPA. She invited three of her successor department chairs, including myself, to run a 3½-day workshop on research methods in political science for the purposes of, as I like to say, jumpstarting interest in quantitative approaches to political science and studying political issues relevant to the students and faculty.

How did it go?

It went well; we got people's attention. We talked about big-picture issues that were quite relevant to what's been happening in Egypt — things like the relationship between democracy and economic development, the relationship between Islam and democratization, the relationship between Islam and oil, and the empowerment of women in the Middle East and elsewhere and then, also, the relationship between democratization and political conflict, civil wars and things like that.

Will you be involved with the U.S. presidential election this fall?

As of now, I don't have any plans to be. The last election I was involved in was doing exit poll analysis for ABC News, in 2008. But I do follow the data regularly and more so as the election nears.

Five Minutes with ... Robert Y. Shapiro

And what are you seeing?

One, polls show that the upcoming election is going to be a close election — you don't have to be a political science expert or professor to get a sense of that. But to put it in historical context, the competitiveness of politics is very different now from the latter part of the 20th century, when both parties were competitive for control of the White House but the Democrats, for a big chunk of the post-war period, controlled the Senate and the House of Representatives. That changed beginning in 1980 when the Republicans won the Senate on Ronald Reagan's coattails and then continued in 1994, which was a very important election — the Republicans were finally able to get control of the House of Representatives, which they hadn't done in 40 some-odd years.

The other pattern is the overall nature of partisan conflict in the United States. The parties are divided at the level of political leadership and you find the same thing at an unprecedented level in mass public opinion, where Democrats and Republicans more consistently think of themselves and call themselves liberals and conservatives and take identifiable, predictable patterns of liberal and conservative opinions on policy issues in a way that they hadn't in the middle of the 20th century.

What are you focusing on these days with regard to your own research?

I recently worked with some undergraduates, looking at American public opinion trends toward the Mideast conflict, focusing on the Israelis and the Palestinians. And then I'm also working on a

higher-priority book project with my recent collaborators, Nacos and Bloch-Elkon, looking at the Tea Party movement and the Occupy Wall Street movement — how they were covered by the media and how they, in turn, used the mass media and social media in their efforts. And what broader effects this has had on American politics.

Would you anticipate that the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street will continue to have as much influence moving forward?

What movements are successful at, if not persuading people to adopt the opinions they adopt, is to make issues visible and more salient. With the Tea Party, things had settled down for a while — the party seemed to have lost some of its luster — but things are now heating up in the current election, and the Republican party is a stronger conservative party because of the Tea Party movement. As for the effect of Occupy, the big question is, had they not become active in the way they were, would the Democrats and Obama have used the issue of economic inequality the way they are in the current campaign?

We can't run the experiment, but I suspect they may have not.

What does your middle initial Y stand for?

Yale. Has nothing to do with the university. It's an Anglicized and greatly shortened Yiddish name.

Is there anything else you think we should talk about?

I still like pizza. [laughs]

That's right. You mentioned that the last time you sat with CCT.

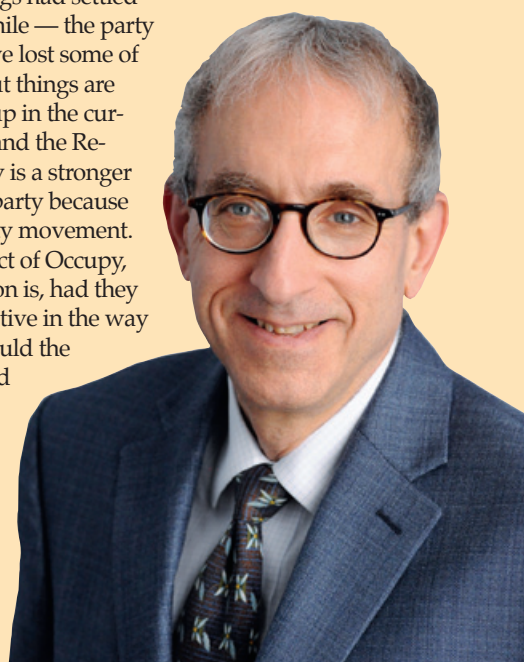
The funny part was, when my wife read the interview, she said she learned some things about me that she didn't know. She didn't really fully appreciate how much my favorite food is pizza.

Did she know about your dream of being shortstop for the Yankees?

No, but anybody who knew me when I was young would understand that.

*Interview: Alexis Tonti '11 Arts
Photo: Eileen Barroso*

For more conversation with Shapiro, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.



Virginia W. Cornish '91 Named Helena Rubinstein Professor

Virginia W. Cornish '91, the first College alumna to become a tenured professor at the University, has been named the Helena Rubinstein Professor of Chemistry.

The Helena Rubinstein Foundation created a \$2 million endowed professorship in support of the advancement of women in science at Columbia, and Cornish was announced as the inaugural appointee of this chair on June 5 at the Northwest Corner Building, the site of her laboratory. Working at the interface of chemistry and biology, Cornish's lab brings together organic chemistry and DNA technology to expand the synthetic capabilities of living cells.

Trustees Chair Emerita G.G. Michelson '47L, longtime chair of the Helena Rubinstein Foundation, and Diane Moss, president of the foundation, were instrumental in working with Columbia to identify an appropriate and enduring recognition of Rubinstein's legacy. Rubinstein often said that her "fortune comes from women and should be used to benefit them and their children, to better their quality of life" and "to encourage women to undertake higher education and to pursue nontraditional careers."



Virginia W. Cornish '91 is joined at the announcement by her colleague and mentor, University Professor Ronald Breslow (left), and Joseph Dougherty '95 GSAS, who also worked in Breslow's lab.

PHOTO: SUSAN COOK



Classes
1943
1948
1953
1958
1963
1968
1973
1978
1983
1988
1993
1998
2003
2008

Make plans now to return to New York City and the Columbia campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013.

The weekend will feature:

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- ✦ "Back on Campus" sessions featuring Mini-Core Courses, Public Intellectual Lectures and more as part of Dean's Day on Saturday;
- ✦ New York City entertainment options including an art gallery crawl, Broadway shows and other cultural activities;
- ✦ All-class programs including the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception, with dancing, champagne and sweets on Low Plaza; and
- ✦ Camp Columbia for Kids, ages 3–12.

In an effort to reduce costs and be environmentally friendly, Columbia College Alumni Affairs and your class's Reunion Committee will communicate with you via email as much as possible. Be sure you don't miss out on reunion details! Update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate.

Watch your mail and email for details.

Questions? Please contact Fatima Yudeh, alumni affairs: fy2165@columbia.edu or 212-851-7834.



SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY, MAY 30–SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2013

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ **Ronald Weich '80**, former assistant attorney general for legislative affairs in the Department of Justice and former chief counsel to both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), was named dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law in April. In a press release announcing Weich's appointment, University of Baltimore President Robert L. Bogomolny said, "Ron Weich is the right person to continue the growth and transformation of the UB School of Law. During this time of considerable transition in legal education and the legal profession, it is important to have leadership with integrity and vision. Ron Weich embodies those qualities."

■ The Vatican hired Fox News correspondent **Greg Burke '82, '83J** as its senior communications adviser in June. His appointment comes in the wake of a series of public relations issues, including attacks by international media on the lack of transparency at the Vatican bank and the leak of classified documents, claiming corruption within the Vatican, by Pope Benedict XVI's butler. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Burke compared his new role to that of the White House press secretary: "It's a strategy job. It's very simple to explain, not so easy to execute: to formulate the message and try to make sure everyone remains on message," he said. The first communications expert hired outside the Roman Catholic media, Burke covered the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Benedict for Fox News, where he had worked since 2001.



Greg Burke '82, '83J
PHOTO: ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

■ ESPN reported in August that entrepreneur **Randy Lerner '84, '87L** has reached an agreement to sell the NFL's Cleveland Browns to truck-stop magnate Jimmy Haslam for more than \$1 billion. He now will focus on another of his sports properties, the Aston Villa soccer team in England's Premier League. Lerner inherited the Browns from his father, **Alfred Lerner '55**, namesake of Columbia's Alfred Lerner Hall student center, who died in 2002. Al Lerner purchased the then-inactive franchise from the NFL in 1998 for \$350 million.

■ A July *New York Times* article praised the unconventional self-promotional strategies of venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, co-founded by **Ben Horowitz '88**. The article notes that while "most venture capitalists operated under levels of secrecy typically reserved for Swiss banks," Andreessen Horowitz has worked to brand itself as a top firm, featured on the cover of *Fortune* and *Wired* magazines and in *Vanity Fair*'s 2011 "New Establishment" list of the year's top influencers. The *Times* reports: "All that pitching seems to have paid off. In just three years, the firm has raised \$2.7 billion — more than any other venture capital firm in that same time span." Horowitz's public persona includes a blog (bhorowitz.com) on which

he presents business lessons alongside lyrics from hip-hop songs. The *Times* also reports that Horowitz was invited to speak at Harvard's hip-hop archives and rapper Snoop Dogg, now known as Snoop Lion, has requested a meeting with him.

■ The Radio Television Digital News Association presented **Phyllis Fletcher '94** with a 2012 National Edward R. Murrow Award in Audio Feature Reporting for her story "Secrets of a Blonde Bombshell," which originally aired in September 2011 on Studio 360 with Kurt Andersen. A reporter and editor for Seattle's KUOW public radio station, Fletcher uncovered that the subject of her story, the "blonde bombshell bandleader" Ina Ray Hutton of



Phyllis Fletcher '94
PHOTO: JOSH KNISELY

1930s swing band fame, was actually part black and had been passing as white since childhood. Hutton, who conducted, sang and tap danced in her all-female band the Melodears, died in 1984 having never acknowledged her black heritage. The story also received a Gracie Award for Outstanding Portrait/Biography from the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation. In a KUOW press release, Fletcher said, "I'm thrilled for the late Ms. Hutton and her family that

this new telling of her life story has been acknowledged with a Gracie Award, and has shone new light on Hutton's contribution to music history."

■ In June, *Institutional Investor* magazine named **Rick Nardis '98** of UBS to its list of hedge fund rising stars. Nardis joined UBS in 2001 as a senior investment officer working at one of the company's fund-of-hedge-funds businesses. From the time he came on board until 2008 when he was named co-CIO, the group's assets grew from \$900 million to \$48 billion. Despite losing ground during the financial crisis, Nardis' group has climbed back to \$28.5 billion and went from being one of six fund-of-hedge-funds companies at UBS to its only remaining one. According to *Institutional Investor*, "Hedge fund managers and investors alike say they have the utmost respect for Nardis."

■ **Maggie Gyllenhaal '99** stars alongside Viola Davis in the film *Won't Back Down*, a drama in which two mothers stand up against a powerful bureaucracy to transform their children's failing inner-city school in Pittsburgh. Inspired by true events, the film focuses on trigger laws — which currently exist in four states and are being considered in a dozen more — through which parents can demand changes to, or even a complete restructuring of, their children's schools if a majority sign a petition. *USA Today* reported in August, "It's rare that a Hollywood movie actually gets out in front of a social trend, but when *Won't Back Down* premieres this September, it may well spawn reams of petitions from fed-up parents."

Karen Iorio

Columbia College Fund Exceeds FY12 Goal, Raises \$16.3 Million

The Columbia College Fund exceeded its \$16 million Fiscal Year 2012 goal, raising \$16,296,000, or \$650,000 more than FY11. More than 11,350 alumni, parents, students and friends of the College contributed to the College Fund, which raises money for financial aid, the Core Curriculum, student services and summer internship stipends. The FY12 total includes donations received from July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012.

The College Fund comprises several sub-categories, each of which built on FY11's successes.

The Parents Fund raised a record \$2.86 million from almost 1,550 donors, representing a 30 percent increase in dollars and a 26 percent increase in donors as compared to FY11.

The reunion Class of 1962 presented a \$1.13 million Class Gift to the College Fund — the largest reunion Class Gift ever given by a 50th-anniversary class. Also setting fundraising records for their respective reunions were the Classes of 1982, 1987 and 1992, and the Class of 1967 had the best fundraising year in its class history.

Recent alumni, representing the Classes of 1992–2001, raised more than \$1.3 million, a 60 percent increase as compared to FY11. And the Young Alumni Fund, representing the Classes of 2002–2011, was well over its goal of \$317,000 for the year, with almost \$375,000 raised. This group also set a participation record with nearly 1,800 donors, an increase of about 370 from FY11.

Seniors, who are encouraged early to forge a connection with the College by giving back, showed their support as well. More than 750 participated in the Senior Fund — raising more than \$17,000 — and 235 signed up for the Dean's 3-2-1 Challenge, for which they agreed to give at least \$20.12 for three years, to ask two friends to do the same and to have their gifts matched 1:1. (This year, Gene Davis '75 matched the gifts.) By reaching its Senior Gift goal, the Senior Fund secured a \$100,000 gift from Charles Santoro '82 to the Columbia College Fund.

"The remarkable success of the College Fund is directly attributable to the outstanding leadership and generosity of alumni, parents, students and friends.

Their dedication to alma mater helps make Columbia College the greatest undergraduate experience available in the world," said Allen Rosso, executive director of the Columbia College Fund.

To make a gift to the Columbia College Fund in FY13, give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline or by calling 212-851-7488, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Hire Columbians

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

Travel with Columbia



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Anthony da Costa '13 Juggles Academics and Music Career

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

Folk singer and songwriter **Anthony da Costa '13** was just 13 when he started frequenting open mics near his hometown of Pleasantville, N.Y., in Westchester. He had not yet reached his next birthday when he branched out to venues in New York City, including Columbia's iconic Postcrypt Coffeehouse. And by the time he enrolled in the College itself, he'd performed around the country, recorded several albums and distinguished himself as the youngest winner of several prestigious folk competitions.

"He lives and breathes it," says Fred Gillen Jr., a Hudson Valley-based folk artist who has produced three of da Costa's albums. "He also is not afraid to try something new if it turns him on, whether it is commercially viable or not. This is important and he gets it. Some artists have success with one thing and they do it over and over and get stuck there. Anthony is constantly moving forward and changing."

In April, da Costa released his ninth album and fifth studio production, *Secret Handshake*, which he calls his best assemblage of songs. "Every song I've ever written is a love song in some way, shape or form," says da Costa, who describes his style as a blend of folk, rock, pop, country and Americana. "I get influences from my own life, my friends' lives. Sometimes I'll make something up completely."

One of his older songs, "Poor Poor Pluto," speaks of the former planet's demotion. "But even that is a love song," he says.

Da Costa credits his parents for exposing him to music. He attributes his passion for folk specifically to his mother, who encouraged him to join the local church choir at 5. He started taking guitar lessons when he was 10. "I never wanted to look at the book. I wanted to learn songs, so my teacher would just give up and teach me a new Beatles

song every week," he says. "Especially with folk music, I've learned more by doing and being out there and learning from other writers and actually playing for people."

The late New York City disc jockey Pete Fornatele branded da Costa a "very young man with a very old soul," yet as a teenager breaking into a musical style



By the time Anthony da Costa '13 enrolled in the College, he was a familiar face at Postcrypt Coffeehouse, where he has been performing since he was 13.

PHOTO: ERIN FOSTER

associated with a more mature crowd, da Costa had to dig deep to prove himself. "I was always a lot younger than most of the people I played shows with, people two or three times my age," he says. (He was 16 when he won the Ker-ville Folk Festival New Folk and the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Emerging Artist competitions.) "It was easy to wonder, 'What can this kid even write songs about?' To that I'd say, 'I'm a human being, too, and I'm still experiencing things.'"

In high school, da Costa leaned to-

ward attending music conservatory for his next step. He switched tracks in part because a mentor, the late singer-songwriter Jack Hardy, encouraged him to seek a more comprehensive education.

"He said, 'Grasshopper, you've spent enough years putting stuff out there, it's time to put some stuff back in,'" da Costa recalls. "It felt like the right thing to do. I can learn enough [about music] from traveling and playing."

During the school year, da Costa plays shows off-campus every week, sometimes embarking on weekend-long trips. In the summertime, he performs across the country, as a solo act as well as part of the trio Elliot, Rose, da Costa. His 2012 tour included his first performances in Canada and a three-week tour of Denmark.

Since his first year in the College, da Costa also has devoted whatever spare time he has to helping run Postcrypt. Established in 1964, the acoustic-only, 30-seat venue in the basement of St. Paul's Chapel features live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights during the academic year. Da Costa typically hosts one night a month, books talent, serves as emcee and is involved in planning the coffeehouse's annual Folk Festival.

"There's nothing like it," he says of Postcrypt. "The atmosphere is wonderful; it's all student-run. The vibe has always been really nice."

Da Costa is majoring in history with a focus on classical studies.

Though his academic course load and performance schedule leave little time for sleep, da Costa has never considered a hiatus. "I want to get an education, but I can't stop playing music," he says. "I need to do it."

To view videos of da Costa performing, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct. View his website at anthonydacosta.com.

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

Sreenivasan Named Chief Digital Officer

Sreenath Sreenivasan '93J, former professor and dean of student affairs at the Journalism School, has been named the University's first chief digital officer and started work in the new position in July.

As CDO, Sreenivasan will lead the University's efforts in digital media and online education both on and off campus. "Sree's portfolio will cover a broad range

of issues at the intersection of technology, education and digital media," Provost John Coatsworth said in announcing the appointment.

Technology increasingly has been incorporated into courses on campus, and Columbia has used elements of online education for some time at the Engineering School, Journalism School and School of Continuing Education, among others, and in departments that work with the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning, an innovator in the field. But looking ahead, Coatsworth said, "The goal is to ensure that we deploy new tools and technologies in interactive and distance learning to ensure the richest and most dynamic learning environment possible for Columbia's students."

There are at least three ways universities now are being affected by online education, Sreenivasan says: through open online classes, which make lectures available for free to the public; through hybrid classes, which combine days in a classroom with the rest of the time online; and through online education meant to enhance the classroom experience for

existing students in residence.

"We're studying all of them," Sreenivasan says. "There's a lot of buzz about this stuff — we haven't decided what we'll pursue."

Sreenivasan has taught at the Journalism School since he graduated — his specialty has been new media and digital journalism, and more recently social media — and for the past seven years also

has been a dean. He has led workshops in digital journalism and social media in newsrooms around the world, been an on-air tech commentator for local TV stations in New York and is a frequent guest speaker for journalism groups. He also has been an informal consultant on campus for developing platforms for online education, websites and using social media.

"Before, I'd get calls and be a sounding board or answer questions as a favor. Now it's part of my job," Sreenivasan says.

One of Sreenivasan's mantras regarding technology is, "Be an early tester, a late adopter." He plans to promote that philosophy University-wide. "We're all trying to figure out what works. We want to be thoughtful and strategic about it and not jump into one thing right away. Across 250 years at Columbia we've figured out how to teach and how to learn really well. How do we use some of the new technologies and techniques to build on that, without affecting what's been working so well? There's no rush to announce anything big."

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



PHOTO: JOSEPH LIN '09J

Marching Band Exhibition

The history of Columbia's marching, concertizing and pranking music-makers will be explored this fall in a special exhibition, "The Everest Band in the World: Marching and Playing for Columbia," at the Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St. (between Broadway and Riverside Drive).

The Columbia University Band Alumni Association has collected a range of memorabilia to tell the story of CU bands from 1904 to today. An accompanying video will highlight band activities from serious to zany, with a soundtrack that includes recorded music by the group not heard in decades, including pieces performed at Carnegie Hall in the 1960s. The exhibition will open at a pre-Homecoming reception for band alumni and current members on Friday, October 19, at the Center, and run through the end of the year.

The band alumni association still is accepting donations and loans of "bandiana" for the exhibition and for a permanent band history archive. To contribute items, contact J. Donald Smith '65, former band head manager and coordinator of the exhibition: jdonaldsmith65@comcast.net.



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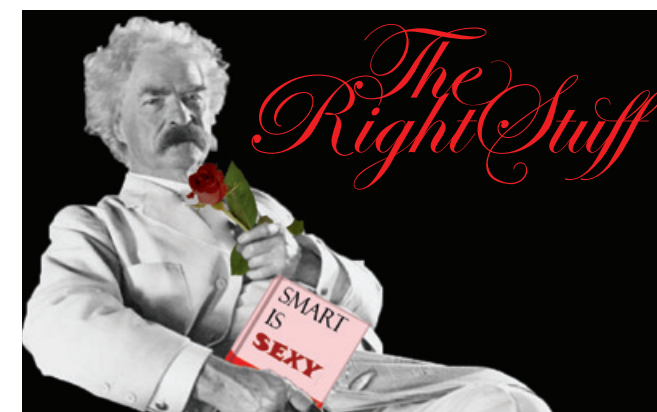
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Roar, Lion, Roar



Runner Erison Hurtault '07 led Dominica's delegation on July 27 in the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHE SIMON/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

Olympics: One Gold Medal, Many Memories

Seven Columbia alumni, two students and two coaches represented the United States, Croatia, Dominica and Egypt in the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Three-time Olympian Caryn Davies '13L, a member of the crew team that won a silver medal in 2004 and a gold medal in 2008, added another gold medal to her collection as part of the U.S. women's eight that crossed the finish line in 6:10.59, more than a second ahead of runner-up Canada. The U.S. women are five-time world champions.

Erison Hurtault '07 was the flag-bearer for his father's native country, Dominica, in the opening ceremony. He competed in the 400 meters, and although he ran a season-best 46.05 seconds in the last qualifying heat, it was not fast enough for him to advance to the semifinals. He also ran for Dominica in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Lisa Stubic '06 represented her father's native country, Croatia, in the women's marathon. She was just one second behind the leader at the halfway point before fading to finish 52nd out of 118 competitors with a time of 2:34.03.

Nzingha Prescod '15, Nicole Ross '11, James

Williams '07, '09 GSAS and Jeff Spear '10 competed for the U.S. fencing team. The women's foil team with Prescod and Ross placed sixth and the men's sabre team with Williams and Spear came in eighth. Meanwhile, Sherif Farrag '09 competed for Egypt, where he was born, in men's foil. The Egyptian squad lost to host Great Britain in the round of 16.

Nick LaCava '09 rowed with the men's lightweight four, which placed second in the B final behind France. LaCava's boat won the repechage in 6:00.86 but was eliminated from medal contention when it finished fifth in the semifinals.

Michael Aufrichtig, Columbia's head fencing coach, coached the fencing portion of the men's modern pentathlon, which also includes horseback riding, swimming, shooting and running. And Caroline Nichols, an assistant field hockey coach, competed on the U.S. women's field hockey team that placed 12th.

Finally, David Barry '87 was the Greco-Roman Team Leader for USA Wrestling. Barry, who recently was named USA Wrestling's Myron Roderick Man of the Year, has been the Greco-Roman Team Leader since 2009. The U.S. team did not win a medal.

Campbell Sports Center To Be Dedicated October 20

The Campbell Sports Center, which Columbia Athletics is hailing as "the cornerstone of a revitalized Baker Athletics Complex," will be dedicated on Saturday, October 20, prior to the Homecoming football game against Dartmouth. All Homecoming attendees are invited to attend the ceremony, which will begin at 11:30 a.m.

The center, at 218th Street and Broadway, will serve as a year-round hub at Baker for student-athletes, coaches, staff and administrators. It's Columbia's first new athletics building since the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Physical Fitness Center was built in the mid-1970s. The center honors, and was made possible by, William V. Campbell '62, '64 TC, chair of the University trustees and captain of the 1961 Ivy League champion football team.

The Campbell Sports Center will provide student-athletes and coaches with a state-of-the-art facility featuring a theatre-style meeting room, conference rooms, a strength-and-conditioning center, a student-athlete lounge and study center, a hospitality pavilion and coaches' offices.

Kraft, LeFrak, Rohan Among Hall of Fame Class of 2012

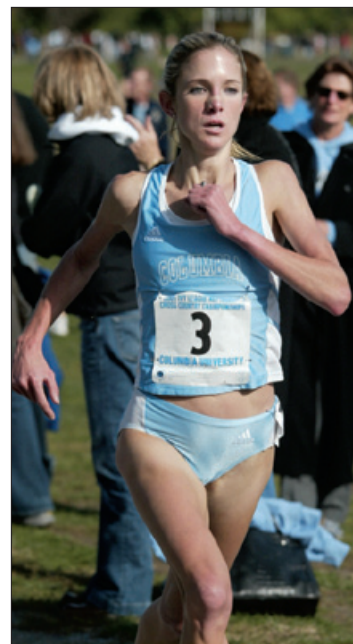
New England Patriots chairman Robert K. Kraft '63, distance runner Caroline Bierbaum LeFrak '06, the late basketball coach Jack Rohan '53, '57 TC and the 1933 football team that won the Rose Bowl headline the Class of 2012 that will be inducted to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will occur in Low Library on Thursday, October 18. This is the fourth class to be inducted to the Hall of Fame.

Other members of the Class of 2012 include former major league pitcher Frank Seminara '89, College Football Hall of Famers William Morley (Class of 1902) and Harold Weekes (Class of 1903), the 1988 NCAA champion men's fencing team, four-time All-American fencer Emma Baratta '06 and eight-time Ivy League 400-meter champion Erison Hurtault '07, who ran for Dominica in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2012 consists of 14 men, eight women and two teams representing 10 sports as well as an administrator and an alumnus (Kraft) being honored in a special category for individual achievement. Nominees were eligible from both the Heritage Era, spanning 1852–1957, and the Modern Era, 1957–present.

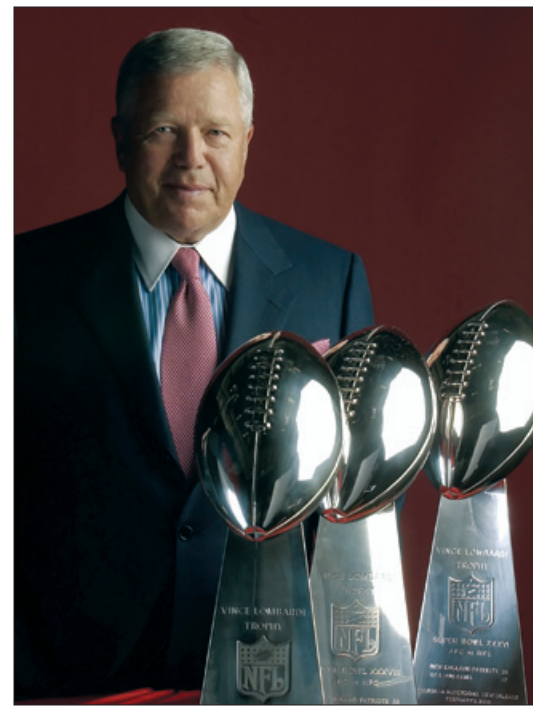
Kraft has turned the Patriots, whom he acquired in 1994, into one of the model franchises in all of professional sports, winning three Super Bowls along the way. LeFrak was a five-time All-American in cross-country and track and field in the mid-2000s. Rohan served two stints as men's basketball coach, ranks as Columbia's winningest basketball coach and led the Lions to the Ivy League championship in 1968.

The 1933 Columbia football team was 6–1 during the regular season, losing only to Princeton, then defeated Stanford 7–0 in the Rose Bowl on a rainy January 1, 1934. Al Barabas '36 scored the game's only touchdown on a 17-yard run in the second quarter, taking a handoff from Cliff Montgomery '34 on a misdirection play called KF-79.



Caroline Bierbaum LeFrak '06 runs in the 2006 Heptagonals.

PHOTO: GENE BOYARS

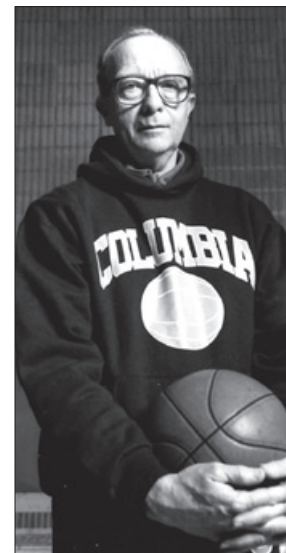


Robert K. Kraft '63 with the Patriots' three Super Bowl trophies.

Intercollegiate athletics at Columbia can be traced to the mid-1800s, with some records indicating that the first intercollegiate sporting event in which Columbia participated was a rowing race in 1852.

"The members of the Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2012 are among the brightest stars in the history of our athletics program," says Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy. "Each of these tremendous individuals — and our celebrated teams — are truly deserving of induction."

Tickets to the black-tie dinner and induction ceremony are available by calling Cathleen Clark, Athletics' assistant director of development and alumni affairs: 212-851-9610.



Jack Rohan '53, '57 TC
PHOTO: NICK ROMANENKO '90

2012 Hall of Fame Class

Male Student-athletes, Heritage Era

Horace Davenport '29, rowing
William Morley (Class of 1902), football
Robert Nielsen '51, fencing
Barry Pariser '55, fencing
Harold Weekes (Class of 1903), football

Male Student-athletes, Modern Era

Neil Farber '65, baseball/basketball
Ted Gregory '74, football
Steve Hasenfus '89, wrestling
Erison Hurtault '07, track and field
Frank Seminara '89, baseball
Des Werthman '93, football

Female Student-athletes

Danica Ambron '94, swimming
Nora Beck '83 Barnard, '89 Arts, '93 GSAS basketball
Emma Baratta '06, fencing
Caroline Bierbaum LeFrak '06, cross country/track and field
Monica Conley '03, fencing
Caitlin Hickin '04, cross country/track and field
Shannon Munoz '07, soccer

Team, Heritage Era

1933 football team

Team, Modern Era

1988 men's fencing team

Coach, Heritage Era

James Murray, fencing, 1898–1948

Coach, Modern Era

Jack Rohan '53, '57 TC, men's basketball, 1961–74, 1990–95

Athletics Administrator

Marion R. Philips, former chair, physical education, Barnard

Special Category for Individual Achievement

Robert K. Kraft '63, chairman and CEO, New England Patriots, and owner and CEO, The Kraft Group

SCOREBOARD

219

Anticipated first-year Columbia student-athletes.

17

New coaches on the Lions' staff for 2012–13.

6

Home football games this season (out of 10 games overall).

28

Ivy League championships represented in the Hall of Fame Class of 2012 (includes individual and team titles).

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

Good Chemistry

James J. Valentini Transitions
from Longtime Professor
to Dean of the College

Dean James J. Valentini is joined by (left to right) Michael Cadiz '14,
James Ramseur '13 and Stephanie Grilo '13 in Van Am Quad.
PHOTO: LESLIE JEAN-BART '76, '77J



James J. Valentini, a professor of chemistry at Columbia for more than two decades, was named the 16th Dean of the College and the second Vice President for Undergraduate Education on June 11, after serving in those roles on an interim basis for nine months. Valentini also now is the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor.

Valentini earned a B.S. from Pittsburgh, an M.S. from Chicago and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, all in chemistry. He worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and taught at UC Irvine before joining the Columbia faculty in 1990. He was chair of the chemistry department and director of undergraduate studies for chemistry, has been a member of the University Senate and has sat on numerous University, College, and Arts and Sciences committees, including the College Committee on Instruction, the Committee on the Core Curriculum and the College Committee on Science Instruction.

He is married to Teodolinda Barolini, the Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian at Columbia, and has three sons.

Valentini's term as interim dean proved popular with various constituencies, including students. "If there's such a thing as a populist dean, James Valentini is it," declared *Spectator*, citing among other examples his having personally matched gifts at the kickoff event for the Senior Fund, his support of the Student Wellness Project and his embrace of the student-coined nickname "Deantini."

In July, Valentini sat down with CCT editor Alex Sachare '71 to introduce himself to the global community of College alumni — or former students, as he prefers to call them — and to speak about some of his plans.

For the many Columbians who are just beginning to get to know you, what would you say are your strengths?

While I was interim dean for less than a year, I've been a professor at Columbia for almost 21½ years and I've been involved in the College in many different ways over almost that entire time. I think I've served on every College committee at least once, some of them multiple times. I was director of undergraduate studies in chemistry for many years before I became dean and I've taught literally thousands of students in chemistry and other science classes. So I have a lot of experience to bring to this. I think that can justifiably be considered a strength; it's certainly an advantage.

I love the College, I love the students in it. I feel a great sense of responsibility and obligation to them, and a similar sense of obligation and responsibility to the faculty. The faculty and the students, they are the College. Without faculty and students there wouldn't be a College. The dean's role is to make sure that the experience that faculty and students have in interacting, which is the essence of college life, be as good as it can possibly be. I am thrilled to be involved with former students, current students, future students and the faculty who will be teaching them and the staff in the College who will be supporting them. Fundamentally, I like dealing with all the people I get to deal with, and that's really the great thing about being able to be Deantini.

How do you feel about the Deantini nickname?

I read Bwog [an online student publication: bwog.com] for the first time on the day that the president asked me to be dean, because he and someone else said, "Don't read Bwog." And of course, being an adolescent at heart, the first thing I did was go read Bwog. So I stumbled upon this competition to nickname the dean. I found that they had nicknames for the president and other people, I saw the competition, I saw that the prize was a sandwich from Milano [a deli near campus]. This was 3 o'clock on a Sunday morning. I decided to post on Bwog and I said that this was far too important to me to let it have a mere prize of a sandwich from Milano, and that the winner of the competition could have his or her Milano sandwich with the dean in the Dean's Office, we'd get a plaque with the dean's nickname engraved on it and the winner would have his or her picture taken with the dean. Now maybe it was because it was 3 a.m. on a Sunday that I did that, but I thought it was really interesting that they had nicknames for people and I just kind of intuitively and instinctively got involved in it. It was rash in some ways because I hadn't carefully read the Bwog page. Some suggested nicknames were listed on a bar at the right of the page, and some of them, you wouldn't express that to your mother or your children. I should have realized that students here are sensible enough not to choose such a nickname, although they might suggest it. But I like Deantini. It's a good nickname. I'm happy with it.

It seems to build a connection, to take away some of that "us vs. them" relationship that can exist between students and administrators.

Yes, you're right. There is a distance between anyone who has an administrative title and faculty, and there is a distance between anyone who has an administrative title and students. So anything

(Top left and bottom) Valentini addressed guests and spoke with students at the Dean's Scholarship Reception in February.

(Top right) Valentini began Alumni Reunion Weekend 2012 by mingling with Paul Cooper '62 (left) and Jerry Speyer '62 at the Class of 1962 Opening Reception, held at the President's House on May 30.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO



you can do to diminish that and to personalize the person — to personalize the dean or personalize the president — so that they’re more than a title, I think is a really good thing. This isn’t just in the minds of students. My wife, whom I’ve known for 18 years and been married to for 11, said to me when I was asked to be dean, “Now you’re going to become one of them,” meaning you’re going to become an administrator and not a faculty member. Faculty members started talking to me differently. Even after 21 years and knowing lots of people and I had a reputation, when you become dean you’re a different person. The dean or the president can be seen as a somewhat distant figure, someone who sits in a fancy office and doesn’t have much to do with students or faculty. That’s not how I conceive of the job, and I think having a nickname is a good way of documenting that that’s not how I think of the job.

Having been a faculty member for more than 20 years, even though you were heavily involved in committee work, how much of what you just mentioned went into your thinking about this job? Did you ask yourself, “Is this something I really want to do?” That’s a good question. I had never actively sought positions like dean, vice president, president, provost, anything with a title, even though people had said to me, “You’d be really good at

this.” Every job I’ve ever gotten was offered to me; someone came to me and said, “Would you like to do this?” That’s how things have worked out well for me. I was willing to become dean because the president asked me and people thought they needed me to be dean. Was I sure I wanted to be dean permanently? No, I wasn’t. So in some ways being interim dean was advantageous for me, because it gave me an opportunity to do something without having to make a long-term commitment.

To follow up on that, what were the advantages of spending nine months as interim dean?

Let me start by saying it had disadvantages, because any time you have a position where the word “interim” appears in your title, it diminishes people’s commitment to what you want to do because you’re temporary. That’s what interim means: We’re giving you this job temporarily. People aren’t going to be as committed to what you want to do. You can’t undertake anything that’s long-term, you can’t really guide things in a different direction, because in effect you’re temporary.

But you’re also not making the same commitment. It gives you an opportunity to try it out. It’s like when businesses hire temps — it gives them a chance to see whether they like the job you are doing and it gives you a chance to see whether you like them. I wasn’t thinking about any of that when I was asked to be dean; I did it out of a sense of duty and responsibility and loyalty to the University. That was the only reason I did it. They needed a dean, I was asked to be dean, they thought I could do it, I thought I could do it, so I said I would do it. I wasn’t thinking long-term at all.

I understand that you were the first in your family to graduate from college.

I was indeed, yes. My father didn’t even graduate from high school. My mother did. My grandparents didn’t finish grade school.

And now you’ve had a long and successful career in academia.

Yes, and my brother’s a professor, too. It’s remarkable, not in the sense of trumpeting achievement, but to have two professors like that is pretty interesting from a family where no one really had an education.

What about academia was so attractive to you?

When I went to college, I really didn’t know much of anything. I grew up in a small town [Lafferty, Ohio] and didn’t know anyone who had gone to college, except for the nuns and priests who taught at my school. So I didn’t have a vision of what you go to college for. I did it because I had two choices: I could go to work in a coal mine or I could go to college. This was not a hard choice. People were killed in the mines, including people in my own family. Practically every adult male I knew who was over the age of 60 was suffering from black lung disease. The life prospects for this were not great. So this was not a hard choice.

In many ways I consider the life I had so disconnected from the life I have here, it’s hard to talk about it. Obviously as a kid I was a good student, but I didn’t really have any intellectual pretensions. I liked school and I worked hard at it because I knew that was the only way out of this town. And I wasn’t alone in that thinking; probably half my high school graduating class went to college, which for a backward, depressed area like that was pretty remarkable at that time. But it wasn’t until I got to college that I began to really enjoy learning stuff. I went to college with an interest in science and was taking all the courses needed for a chemistry major, but early on I took a philosophy course and thought I would be a philosophy major because I found philosophy really, really interesting. I took several more philosophy courses, then I got to this course on Kant and I couldn’t understand a word the guy was saying — it was impossibly difficult — so I said to myself, you’re not smart enough to be a philosopher, choose something easier. I was doing well in my chemistry courses and I liked them, so I stayed with that. It was a good decision. I was valedictorian of my class.

I got interested in science in college, but I didn’t really decide to go to graduate school until I was about a junior. And I went to graduate school because I liked studying science. I didn’t have an intention of being a professor, I didn’t have an intention of being anything in particular except a scientist. In grad school I worked with Yuan Lee, a fantastically energetic and brilliant guy, who later won the Nobel Prize. I believed I could never be of that caliber, so I hesitated in becoming a professor myself. I became a professor because another Nobel Prize winner, Sherry Rowland, came to Los Alamos where I was working and he said to me, “Would you like to come to [UC] Irvine?” Well, I always wanted to live in Southern California so I thought, let’s check it out. So I went and I became a professor. It was not entirely by accident, but certainly it was not by design. And I’ve always liked being a professor. There are two things about it I’ve really liked. One is interacting with graduate students as well as undergraduates, which you don’t have when you work at a place like Los Alamos. It was a wonderful lab with many more scientists than exist at any university, but you didn’t work with students. And you didn’t teach. I really like teaching.

Columbia has always prided itself as being a place of opportunity for first-generation college students. How important is that to the nature of the College and, if it is important, how do you preserve that?

I think it’s very important. I think a lot of other people think it’s very important as well. Just having the dean think it’s important isn’t sufficient; there has to be a larger commitment to that. It speaks to what the role of the university is in the larger society and what our social obligation is. Part of that social obligation is to make available to everyone who is qualified this opportunity. I’ve said lots of times that the College should look like America. I don’t mean visibly, I don’t mean you line up all the students and then say, “Ah, that looks like America.” I mean it represents what America is. And a large measure of what it represents is opportunity. I became Dean of the College from an unusual place; do deans of the College start that way? Probably not. But in America you can. It really is possible.

Providing opportunity to people is important, but first-generation students also contribute to the lives of everyone in the College. Students learn as much or more from one another as they do from professors. You don’t want everyone in the College to be alike. You learn by being around people who have different points of view, different life experiences. It’s why we try to get students from all over the United States, why we have international students, why we recruit scientists, athletes, writers, people interested in theatre. We want people with a wide range of backgrounds, interests and experiences contributing to the education of students in the College. Everyone benefits from that. And first-generation students bring a particular perspective.

The day I had a first discussion with the president about being dean was August 31, 2011, when we had the academic resources fair, where every department sets up a table in Roone Arledge Auditorium and students come and talk about studying in those departments. Because I was the director of undergraduate studies in chemistry, I was there for chemistry. A young woman comes up to me at the end, when all the other kids have left, and she clearly had some reluctance to talk to me, but she said, “You know, I’d like to be a chemistry major, but I grew up in a small town in Georgia where there were no research opportunities. Since I’ve been here I’ve talked to all these kids who have done all this research and have had all these experiences and I don’t really think I can be a chem major.” I said to her, “No, to be a chem major you just have to be really interested in chemistry and willing to work hard, and that’s all that really matters. That previous experience doesn’t matter, and besides, those other kids aren’t as smart as they think they are.” That day, I talked to the president about being dean and I talked to her, and I’m not exaggerating, talking to her was more important to me than talking to the president. I don’t know if she was a first-generation student, but Columbia attracts students like that. We give students an opportunity. That’s really important to me.

Did she become a chem major?

We don’t know yet, because she’s a rising sophomore and students don’t declare majors until the second semester of their sophomore year. But I’m going to find out.



Valentini and his wife, Teodolinda Barolini ’78 GSAS, chair of the Department of Italian and the Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Financial aid is an important piece of the puzzle. Recently there has been a significant change in how financial aid is going to be administered at Columbia, taking the responsibility from Arts and Sciences and moving it to the Office of the Provost. What does that mean and how does that impact the College?

I’d like to put that slightly more broadly. For many months, starting around Christmastime, when there was discussion about administrative realignment within Arts and Sciences and the College, I argued that financial aid was an expression of the University fulfilling its sense of social responsibility and social obligation, and as such it was an institutional obligation. Therefore, it wasn’t reasonable, given that it was an institutional obligation being expressed here, that the financial responsibility should be carried by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences or Faculty of Engineering. It should be carried by the University.

The undergraduate part of any institution is the most visible, the most public. When people say Columbia or Harvard or Berkeley or the University of Texas or Caltech or whatever, they’re really thinking about undergraduates. All those places are famous for their graduate education and professional schools and research. But when people talk about a university in general conversation, they’re talking about the undergraduate part of the institution because that’s the part people are most concerned about. Because of that, when the University is expressing its sense of social obligation, which it does in part and in a very significant way through financial aid, that’s an institutional responsibility. And that’s why I argued that the financial sourcing should be matched to that, because it’s viewed as a social responsibility. By having it effectively be a faculty responsibility, you’re asking faculty to make really hard choices about how they deploy resources for teaching and scholarship as opposed to benefit-

ing students more directly as in financial aid. That's a tough position to put faculty in. And that's why I argued that the financial sourcing of financial aid should be matched to the social responsibility — it's an institutional responsibility.

You mentioned the restructuring that involved the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Let's turn to that relationship, which is a complex one but an important one for the College. Can you describe the relationship, and how it might change with your being part of the new three-person Arts and Sciences executive committee?

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences was created about the time I came to Columbia. It's kind of an odd structure, and I use the word "odd" carefully. We have a collection of schools [Columbia College, the School of General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of the Arts and the School of Continuing Education] that have students and deans but no specific faculty, and then we have this body called the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which contains all the faculty but no students. It's kind of a curious thing. This kind of separation between schools and faculty, organizationally, suggests difference and separation that functionally doesn't really exist. I mean, if people go into a classroom and teach, you

don't really think about whether the students are in the College or General Studies or wherever. You're a faculty member teaching a bunch of students and developing a faculty-student relationship. The fact that as a faculty member you are a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, while the students are enrolled in a school and not enrolled in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, doesn't really come into play. It only comes into play when you talk about

Students learn as much or more from one another as they do from professors. You don't want everyone in the College to be alike. You learn by being around people who have different points of view, different life experiences.

how you make decisions; it's an administrative dichotomy that is not really a functional dichotomy.

And the deans of all the schools have reported to the vice president [of Arts and Sciences]; that's what it says in the statutes of the University. That has certain complications. It inevitably leads to certain kinds of differences of opinion about what should be done and how things should be done, because there are different representations. The vice president represents a different set of interests from the deans of schools, so there are always going to be disagreements about what should be done. The structure didn't allow for the most effective way to make decisions. So now we've created an Executive Committee of Arts and Sciences, which consists of the Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of Columbia College, who is also the Vice President for Undergraduate Education, and the Vice President of Arts and Sciences, who also is the Dean of the Faculty. In my view, that's a much better way to make decisions because it combines representation of the three major constituencies in our enterprise. We have faculty interests, graduate student interests and undergraduate student interests — they're not in opposition, but they're not identical. So you put them all together and that group of three people has to come up with decisions about how to deploy resources, about faculty appointments, capital projects, budgets, development efforts —

all the major things that you need to decide are now made by a group of people who can effectively represent all the points of view of all constituencies who make up this part of the University. That's a much more effective way of making decisions.

It's been functioning since mid-April, so we don't know exactly how it will work out, but so far it's worked out pretty well. It might be transitional, it might last only a short time or it might last well beyond my tenure as dean. Something else will replace it someday, something else always does. But I think this is much better than what we had.

It always struck me as odd that the Dean of the College couldn't hire a teacher in the College ...

Yes, it is odd, isn't it [laughing]? Well, we started out with a college and then we added these other schools, and each of them had a faculty. Functionally, faculty were teaching different students but had an appointment in one school. That was kind of awkward, so we created this one overall faculty. And that was awkward, too. There were dichotomies that were artificial and we tried to correct those by having something else that's slightly artificial. But you're gradually trying to remove artificialities. I have a 170-year-old house in New Jersey that I'm working on all the time, trying to make it a more functional house. The challenge isn't that it's 170 years old, it's that people have added things or changed things all along that weren't always done so well, so you gradually try to go back and make it right. That's essentially what we're trying to do here.

One thing that's lasted for a while, with changes and additions along the way, is the Core Curriculum. It's the College's signature academic sequence and a bond among alumni. What is your vision of the place of a core curriculum in a liberal arts education, and how do you see Columbia's Core evolving?

I'll answer the last part first. The Core, with a capital "C," has existed for almost 100 years but it hasn't existed for all 100 years in exactly the same form. When Contemporary Civilization started, it used a textbook, written by people at Columbia, which included parts that dealt with industry and agriculture. Today, we don't teach anything about industry and agriculture in Contemporary Civilization, yet everyone views the Core as a permanent part of the Columbia educational experience. And it is. The idea that there is a certain intellectual experience that every undergraduate is going to have and it's going to represent a collection of ideas that the faculty feel is really important. That's the permanent part.

Exactly what those ideas are and what form that takes have been evolving. I mean, that CC textbook is really interesting. It is contemporary civilization of 1919; contemporary civilization of 2012 is a different thing. I think we ought to teach something about industry and agriculture, but that's just my view because students don't know anything about that and it's still part of life. But the curriculum has evolved and it will continue to evolve. We try things; some don't work and we replace them. The names get changed. There was Humanities A and B, this became Art Hum and Music Hum, this changed, that changed. There was Major Cultures and that led to the Global Core, Frontiers of Science was introduced, there was Logic & Rhetoric, now we have University Writing. Intellectual life moves forward, we learn new things and new things develop.

The Core, fundamentally, represents a commitment to an idea that at any one time there is a kind of collective intellectual experience and a body of knowledge, information, ideas, that we want



Professor at heart: Valentini chats with students outside Low Library this summer including (top, left to right) Annel Fernandez '16, Xi Wang '16 and Lorenzo Gibson '16.

PHOTOS: LESLIE JEAN-BART '76, '77J

all the students to be exposed to, to learn, to experience for two reasons. One, we view that as essential to being an educated person. That's our expression as an institution, to say that to be an educated person we think you need to do this. But it's also the way we build an intellectual community at Columbia. All students here have taken Lit Hum, CC, Art Hum, Music Hum — it is part of the common dialogue, the basis on which they can relate to each other whatever else they've done. It builds a community, an intellectual community, and it also builds a social community. And it has created a trans-generational community, uniting former students, current students and future students. [Trustee Emeritus] George Van Amson '74 said that what we want is for our kids to read the books that we were supposed to read when we were undergraduates. Of course, he said that in jest, but even though the curriculum evolves, there are some commonalities that do persist over long periods. It's not that it changes so much that it's a completely different course than it was 20 years ago or 40 years ago. It is something that links people. There are certain ideas that we still believe are important for students to understand and be exposed to. We'll add new things, we'll modify things, but there will be some that we definitely will continue to consider are important.

The Core Curriculum represents a commitment to an idea that at any one time there is a kind of collective intellectual experience and a body of knowledge, information, ideas, that we want all the students to be exposed to, to learn, to experience.

think there are things everyone should be exposed to and that's what the Core provides. I don't care if everyone studies chemistry, I don't think that's important. I do think everyone should study statistics, and if I ruled the world I would have statistics as part of the Core Curriculum. But I don't rule the world, and no one singlehandedly decides what goes into the Core.

This year at reunion we introduced a new event, an open house in the Richard E. Witten Center for the Core Curriculum, where alumni could see what is taught in the Core today and meet some of the Core chairs and faculty. The turnout was amazing. It was one of the weekend's most popular events.

It's not just a fetish, either. It could be easy for some people from a distance to think this is some sort of talisman and it's not really substantive. But they're wrong. It is the thing that former students almost uniformly mention to me as the most important or one of the most important parts of their ex-

perience. It's not that they just mention it, they actually explain to me why it was this valuable in their lives and how it informed their adult lives, and they speak very cogently about this. When I went to see Rob Speyer '92, one thing he wanted to tell me about was Jim Mirollo teaching him Lit Hum. There was a segment of *The Divine Comedy* that they were reading, and he remembers it so well and how important that class was to him. He can tell you why it was important, why it had value in his life. I think it's really important that current students talk to former students about the value of the Core, because it has a value in the lives of former students. Dede Gardner '90 was one of the five alumni presented with a John Jay Award [for distinguished professional achievement] this year. When I called her shortly before that, she wanted to talk about Lit Hum and how useful it was to her. She's a movie producer, and she wanted to talk about how important Lit Hum was to her. Former students talk about majors, too. But there are lots of different kinds of things you can major in; the Core is the common currency of everyone who went to the College.

When I was director of undergraduate studies in chemistry, I would ask students who were about to graduate what was the best part about being at Columbia, what was the worst part, what was important, what wasn't and what was the most important class they took. Now, I had actually taught most of these students and many of them still needed letters of recommendation, so you might think they would say, "Oh, Professor Valentini, your course was the most important." But hardly anyone ever said my course, even though I'm a good teacher. More of them, in fact the overwhelming majority of them, would cite a Core course — and then they'd explain why that was important to being a *scientist*. It has real value, genuine value in students' intellectual lives and in their subsequent professional lives. That's not a small thing.

What role should alumni play in the life of the College?

I prefer to call alumni former students because certain words acquire connotations that then become locked to them. Alumni is a term that implies a kind of distinction that's greater than I think is really warranted. If you think of people as former students, you think of them as continuing on in a connection that's different and yet the same. My middle son is in the Marine Corps, and I've learned that there are no ex-Marines. They say once a Marine, always a Marine — that's it. It's a culture, a group of people. There are active duty Marines and inactive duty Marines but there are no ex-Marines. Once you are, you are. From my perspective, once you've been a Columbia student you're always a Columbia student, you're just in a different category. You're an inactive student, although we don't use the word "inactive"; I say you're a former student.

Former students bring real value to the University because they have a lot of life experience from which they can tell you how their time at Columbia was valuable, so we can see how what we do for undergraduates adds value to the lives of those students when they become former students and also how it contributes to society. We're not just educating people for the sake of educating people. We hope that that actually produces something. We hope it produces satisfying personal lives for former students, the ability to make a living — that's not a small thing — and to make a contribution to the larger

world. Who can tell us most effectively whether we've actually achieved that? The people who actually have been students and have gone out and done things. They can help current students visualize what lies ahead for them in a way that faculty and the dean can't communicate to them, because the dean and faculty are just one small segment of society with limited experiences. Former students of the College have been involved in lots of different things, so they carry a lot of valuable information about what we're doing well and what we're not doing well.

They're also this huge army of 46,000 people — even if only 10 percent of them are really committed to the College, that's a lot of people who can work on behalf of the College and the University, at no cost to us. They may make financial contributions, that's obviously important to us and to any institution, but they also commit their time and their energy to helping make the lives of current students better, to helping make the institution stronger by working on its behalf in many different ways. Former students participate in ARC [the Alumni Representative Committee] by interviewing prospective students. That in itself is a very important thing. Former students know as well or better than anyone what it's like to be in the College and what kinds of students are going to do well in the College and can help applicants understand whether they really should be in the College. There's no way for the College itself to do that. We couldn't afford to hire enough people to do that. And that's just one thing — there are a lot of valuable things former students can do for the College and the University, supporting everything that we do and contributing their time and effort to getting things done. They are a phenomenal resource.

Projecting five or 10 years ahead, how would you evaluate your success or failure as dean?

If former students, current students and faculty say, "The College is a better place now than it was five years ago or 10 years ago," then I'll consider it a success. I'd certainly consider it a success if I feel it's a better place. But what does that really mean? Is there anyone who ends a term as something and doesn't think it's a better place, rightly or wrongly? Probably not.

There certainly are specific things we'd like to do, but they take a lot of explaining and don't have the same kind of emotional impact. I'll give you one example: I'd like us, both as a College and a University, to be financially more secure, by which I mean less dependent on tuition and revenue that we can bring in every year, so that we're less sensitive to the vagaries of economic life. If we had an endowment big enough to pay for everything that we want to do, that would be really great. Is that an achievable goal? No. In the same way that when I say the goal for the Columbia College Alumni Association is 100 percent alumni engagement and everyone in development cringes because you can't get to that — but we can work toward it. It's a destination. But that's technical, it doesn't have an emotional component. I'd like there to be an opportunity for every student to have an internship or a summer research fellowship. But that too is kind of specific. There are a lot of things we can do, specific things, some of which



Valentini and CCAA president Kyra Tirana Barry '87 at the Alumni Reunion Weekend 2012 Dean's Continental Breakfast on June 2.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

will work, some of which won't, some of which may work but won't actually lead to people thinking it's a better place, in which case they were interesting to do but not actually all that productive. So how would I judge it being a success? If former students, current students and faculty consider it a success, then I will, too.

One last question: What is one thing about you that would surprise our readers?

That's interesting ... let me think about that. Last September, when we had an all-staff meeting, I said there are three things that are important in my life: my family, the College and cars, in that order. I don't think people expect professors to be interested in cars. But if you turn around you can see what's in my display case — six model cars, all of which were gifts from current students or former students who know how much I like cars. There are also two statues of Buddha. I like to think of the different ways we can express something important, to surprise people with the unexpected comparison or unanticipated analogy. The Buddha and cars provide an example. The Buddha is supposed to have said, "There is no way to happiness, happiness is the way." I repeat that to myself each morning. Now there was for a while a poster in the entrance to the service area at the BMW dealer in Manhattan that said, "Happiness isn't just around the corner, happiness is the corner." It is the same thing. Any car guy would agree. And I tell chemistry students that the Second Noble Truth of Buddhism and the Second Law of Thermodynamics say essentially the same thing. I hope that surprises you, but you will have to wait for an explanation — or better yet, try to figure it out for yourself.

Stand and Deliver

Joel Klein '67 looks back on extraordinary career as attorney, educator, reformer

BY CHRIS BURRELL

Joel Klein '67 was 16 when he made the leap from William Cullen Bryant H.S. in Queens to the Columbia campus, just a 6-mile car ride from one borough to the next but a world away from the public housing apartment where he grew up.

In that first week, then-dean of the College David Truman sat Klein and his father down for an advising session and tried to dampen the freshman's academic expectations. "My father was a postman, and it was a pretty daunting experience to meet with the dean," says Klein. "Truman said to me that given my background, I could expect — if I did really well — to graduate in the middle of the class at Columbia."

Such a prognosis didn't sit too well with the younger Klein, who piped up with this rebuttal: "I said, 'I don't know where I'll graduate, but my teachers at Bryant H.S. didn't send me here to graduate at the middle of the class. They sent me to graduate at the top.'"

The brazenness took his father aback, and afterward he asked how Klein could say that to the dean.

"I said, 'Well, Dad, that's the truth.' Anyhow, Truman and I became good friends."



"I still feel like America is falling down in education, particularly for the most challenged kids."

The year was 1963, and the ambitious teenager was just beginning to display the drive that later would empower him to challenge monoliths and monopolies, from mighty Microsoft to powerful teachers' unions.

That moment almost 50 years ago also exposed Klein's nascent appreciation for the transformative power of education. Decades later, as chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, the nation's largest school system, that appreciation gave rise to a conviction to champion kids — much like himself — whose only foothold out of tough circumstances could be found in a classroom. But education, while Klein's signature issue, represents only one facet of an extraordinary and somewhat dizzying career. He has morphed from Beltway Democratic insider, vetting a Supreme Court justice for the Clinton administration and taking on Bill Gates in a monumental anti-trust case, into one of the country's leading and most controversial educational reformers — only to vault early last year into the executive towers of the conservative-leaning media titan Rupert Murdoch.

"My resume looks like it kind of got mixed and matched from three or four people," the 65-year-old Klein says while taking a break over a cup of hot tea in his Midtown office at News Corporation headquarters.

He began with law, graduating from Harvard in 1971 and working as a law clerk, first for David Bazelon, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and then for Justice Lewis Powell of the U.S. Supreme Court. Following work at several law firms, in 1981 he co-founded a boutique D.C. firm, where he made his mark as a litigator: Klein argued 11 cases before the Supreme Court, and won nine of them.

When people talk about Klein, they describe a man who thrives amidst adversity, all the more when many eyes are trained on him. One of the people who worked in Klein's law firm in the 1980s was Peter Scheer, now the executive director of the First Amendment Coalition.

"What he's especially good at is being able to think very clearly in the midst of a crisis, where there's a lot of pressure and the world is watching," Scheer told *Politico* last year. "He's able to stay focused, and he's almost stimulated by all that pressure and media attention."

Those attributes are likely what caught the eye of President Bill Clinton in 1993 when he convinced Klein to become deputy White House counsel, tasking him with guiding the nomination process of Ruth Bader Ginsburg '59L to the Supreme Court. He also oversaw the Clinton White House's responses to the White-water inquiry.

Being tapped by Clinton caught Klein off-guard. "It struck me as strange because I'm not a political guy," he recalls. "There was a certain amount of apprehension. I mean, the White House is a very hothouse place and [the people there have] very sharp political elbows."

Klein's ability to more than hold his own in such a setting would come into play in his next posting, in 1995, to the Justice Department. Within two years he was named chief of the anti-trust division, where he challenged Microsoft's monopoly in what *Forbes* magazine called "one of the largest and most dra-

matic antitrust battles in the nation's history."

In June 2000, after a federal judge ruled to break Microsoft into two parts, Klein sat with Jim Lehrer of PBS and reflected upon the victory. "I do think the notion that anything goes, even in the new high-tech economy, is a notion that is very corrosive and insidious," Klein said. "It will be harmful to our markets, harmful to our consumers and ultimately harmful to our economy. When you use economic power to coerce people to stay out of the market, to basically tie up distribution channels, when that occurs ... you can count on the United States Department of Justice and I believe the federal courts [should] put a stop to it."

The victory was reversed on appeal, and by then the Bush administration had no interest in pursuing the case. But Klein's reputation as the guy who went toe-to-toe with a corporation then valued at \$619 billion — more than Apple is today — never waned. In his four years at the head of antitrust, he established a record to stand on: Through 220 criminal price-fixing cases, 52 executives were sent to prison, corporations paid \$1.7 billion in fines and individuals paid an additional \$21 million. Klein also blocked or altered about 170 proposed mergers.

The *Los Angeles Times* dubbed Klein a "giant killer." And in assessing his legacy at the Justice Department, *The New York Times* heaped praise on him in a September 24, 2000, editorial: "Mr. Klein blocked a series of mergers — between Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, WorldCom and Sprint, and Northwest and Continental — that had the potential to harm consumers. He also broke up price-fixing cartels, notably between international vitamin companies. He has not forged bold new antitrust principles or direction. What he has done is take antitrust enforcement seriously. For that alone he warrants the nation's gratitude."

For many years while the high-powered lawyer was racking up legal victories toiling in Washington, he also played on a different court with the same tenacity. The basketball league at the Washington Y had a roster of lawyers that included Larry Lucchino, now CEO of the Boston Red Sox.

"We played in a serious league," says Klein, who stands 5-foot-6. "I'm lucky I didn't break a leg."

Between hoops and law, Klein kindled his passion for education, teaching at Georgetown Law School. Unlike most adjunct professors, Klein didn't opt for an evening seminar; he taught a daytime class in civil procedure to first-year students.

One of his students was Michael K. Powell, who later was chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and is the son of former Secretary of State Colin Powell. "Joel was an extraordinary teacher who had a mastery of complex subjects and the ability to make them simple," Powell told *The New York Times* in 2002.

Teaching was not new for Klein. When he was at Harvard in the late '60s, he had taken a short leave to take education classes at NYU and to teach math to sixth-graders at a public school in his old Queens neighborhood. But despite these leanings toward the classroom and a chalkboard, he says he was flustered when he answered a phone call in 2002 and heard the voice of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, asking him to consider tak-

ing the post of schools chancellor.

"I said, 'Mike, you must have the wrong name. You clearly got one name too few in your Rolodex.' He said, 'No, no, we were thinking of people outside the box,'" Klein recalls.

At 56, the former corporate lawyer and trustbuster found his calling: To take charge of a public school system of 1.1 million students and to grapple with the complex realities and controversies of urban education.

"He has the leadership skills," Bloomberg said at a news conference introducing Klein in summer 2002. "He has the intergovernmental skills. He has the feeling and compassion for people. He is incorruptible. He is a visionary. And I believe that he will deliver to this city what we promised, a quality education for all of our children."

Bloomberg handed Klein the reins of a school system beleaguered by low test scores, high dropout rates and a shortage of teachers — a tough assignment that struck a chord not only with Klein's politics but also with his own past.

"I still feel like America is falling down in education, particularly for the most challenged kids," Klein said recently, when asked to look back on his tenure as chancellor. "And this was a chance to really give back to the city and the school system that had given me so much. I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for what teachers in Astoria did for me." (Klein in fact credits his physics teacher, Sidney Harris, with changing the arc of his life: "In my junior year, he took me aside and said, 'You're doing fine,

but you can do better. Why don't you stay after school and we'll study Einstein's theory of relativity, which will prove to you that you can play this game at a different level.'" Harris also pushed him to apply to the College rather than the obvious choice of CUNY's campus in nearby Flushing.)

As schools chancellor from 2002–10, Klein gave more power to principals and pushed for accountability, stamping schools with A-through-F grades in annual report cards, taking a stand against the widespread practice of social promotion of students up the grade levels and making city schools a model for data-driven teaching and policymaking. He also created more than 300 new small schools and charter schools for parents to choose from.

"I'm a big, big believer, whether it's for my children or anybody else's children, that people want choice," Klein says. "I used to ask people all the time, 'Of the 1,500 schools in New York City, how many would you send your own kids to?'"

Time and again, he hit on this point, allying himself with the schoolchildren and their parents' hopes and dreams for them. "Whose kids should go to the schools we wouldn't send our own kids to?" he asks. "Whatever community you live in, whatever your economic circumstances, you want your kid to have a shot. And education is one of those places where you can change lives.

The politics of Washington — those sharp elbows — served as the ideal boot camp for the intensity, unrelenting media scrutiny and controversy that came with leading a huge public school system. Not one to shy from confrontation, Klein attacked the city's



Klein participates in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of a school in Middle Village, Queens, in 2010.

PHOTO: COURTESY JOEL KLEIN '67

“Being able to fight to change the world for kids is really for me personally as rewarding a thing as you can do.”



Klein spoke at the Class of 1967's reunion dinner on June 2, leading a lively discussion about education.

PHOTO: MICHAEL DAMES

educational establishment, from teachers' unions to bureaucracy.

“The basic challenge was changing a very complex organization that has a strong centrifugal force toward the status quo,” he explains. “I was running a school system at \$22 billion. There are a lot of people in that system who benefit from the way it's structured. So when you come along and say we're going to do things differently — for example, we want to pay more for performance and not guarantee [teachers] automatic tenure, but actually do evaluations — it's inevitable that there will be resistance.”

A *Times* editorial in November 2010, assessing Klein's eight years at the helm of city schools, credited him for improving graduation rates, creating higher-performing small schools and ending a policy that allowed senior teachers to transfer to other schools and bump younger teachers out of the way: “Future schools chancellors in New York City will benefit from several important reforms put in place during the tenure of Joel Klein. Carrying out the mandates of the mayor, Mr. Klein helped to create clear lines of authority in a once-byzantine system and gradually cleared away a pernicious bureaucracy that had outlasted all of their predecessors.”

In some ways the city's schools are still reverberating from the Klein shake-up. In February, under pressure from local media outlets, New York City schools released those teacher evaluations, so-called “value added” reports that were meant to measure a teacher's impact on his or her students' standardized test scores. Bill Gates chimed in on the op-ed pages of the *Times*, calling it a “big mistake” and “a public shaming” to reveal individual teachers' scores.

Klein agreed that publicizing teachers' scores should not become a shaming exercise but also adopted the perspective of parents, citing their right to know how teachers' performance might affect their children's learning, at least as measured in standardized tests.

“What Bill Gates wrote about is fair,” Klein says. “But I've talked to parents, and they think it's valuable. They want to make sure their kids are getting the education they need. It enriches the discussion and empowers parents.”

For Klein, who still writes op-ed essays and book reviews about education in newspapers such as *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*, the records' controversial release strikes at a core theme of his own reform gospel. “We need ways to fairly evaluate teachers,” he says. “Ultimately, those who really perform at the top are seen as truly the heroes, and those who consistently underperform should be in another line of work. Nobody wants a teacher for his or her kid who isn't up to the task.”

Sizing up his years as chancellor, Klein conceded that some things he tried simply didn't work or were rushed, but he takes solace in a quote from Teddy Roosevelt that he carries in his wallet, attesting to this reality for change-makers: “Not everything is going to fly.”

“Those eight, nine years working with Mike and the city were really the most exhilarating and the most important professionally,” Klein adds. “Arguing Supreme Court cases and teaching law school, those things rang my bell ... But being able to fight to change the world for kids is really for me personally as rewarding a thing as you can do.”

After nearly a decade as schools chancellor, Klein's next act came as something of a shocker: In January 2011, he stepped into the corporate towers of Rupert Murdoch's NewsCorp, an international media behemoth he had once taken a swing at in his antitrust days.

As surprised as some of Klein's friends and followers may have been to see this Democrat begin working for the parent company of FOX News, there were ingredients from his experience as chancellor that shaped and informed this twist in his plot line. Education was the obvious link. Murdoch's offer made Klein the e.v.p. in charge of NewsCorp's fledgling educational technology division, appealing to his passion for metrics and data as levers to revolutionize teaching.

“In an organization like this, I don't look through a political lens,” he explains. “My friends said, ‘Why are you going to NewsCorp? You're a lifelong Democrat.’ The answer was, Rupert gave me an opportunity and was willing to make a big bet on something I cared about. I've never had a discussion with him where I didn't learn something.”

While schools chancellor, Klein had learned a lesson in former foes becoming allies. He tells an anecdote from a day spent at a high school in the Bronx in 2003. Bloomberg was there, but more importantly, so was Gates, the man he targeted in the highly publicized antitrust case.

“It was the first time I had seen Bill after the litigation,” Klein says. “I was very nervous and apprehensive ... and the event

goes as well as it could have gone. Bill gave us \$51 million that day, and I get off the stage really breathing a sigh of relief. One of my principals tugs at me and says, ‘Chancellor, \$51 million, that's a really good day's work. Think of what Bill Gates would have given you if you hadn't sued him.’”

Speaking as the educational reformer, Klein says that most schools are not intelligently using computer technology. “I think you can reduce education to two fundamental concepts: how good is the incoming and how much of it a kid absorbs. If the incoming is mediocre, even if a kid absorbs it all, you haven't achieved much. And if the incoming is terrific and a kid doesn't absorb it, you haven't achieved much, either.”

Klein notes that a program to teach the Gettysburg Address can be customized to individual students, asking provocative questions, engaging them with games, social networks and rewards, and measuring their responses. “Why should we have every teacher try to figure out those questions?” Klein asks.

NewsCorp formally unveiled its education business, called Amplify, in July along with plans, in collaboration with AT&T, to introduce tablet-based programs for teachers and students starting this fall. The company's stated mission is to reimagine K-12 education by creating products and services that empower teachers, students and parents in new ways. “I know that some are skeptical that a private company can bring needed change to public education,” Klein, who now is Amplify's CEO, wrote in a blog post on its newly launched website. “But if we are going to see the kind of transformation that our teachers, students and parents deserve, I believe strongly that there is a much-needed role for private sector partners and providers to help place the big bets.”

Prior to the launch of Amplify, however, much of Klein's attention was shifted from education to the company's main focus — newsgathering, and specifically a phone-hacking scandal that had erupted at its tabloid newspapers in Britain. Murdoch turned to Klein to oversee the company's internal investigation into illegal activities by executives, editors and reporters at the newspapers.

Klein made it clear that he wouldn't answer questions for this story about the scandal or NewsCorp's management and standards committee, which he led up until June, but he did say that part of his job during that period was an early start to his day — 6 a.m. — so he could communicate with people in London about the investigation.

Among those who know Klein and watched him shoulder this new and unexpected role as Murdoch's defender, confidante and strategist in the midst of a headline-grabbing scandal was Howard Wolfson, one of Bloomberg's deputy mayors.

“Joel is a wartime consigliere. He's very tough,” Wolfson told *Politico*. “He would be somebody you would want in a foxhole.”

While Klein demurs when asked about the scandal, he eagerly engages on the topic of the news media, his dealings with the press and some of his frustrations during his time as schools chancellor.

“I woke up every morning feeling so blessed to fight for kids, and then I'd sit down and read the papers, you know,” he said, laughing and shaking his head. “I don't miss that.”

He once raised the issue with a *New York Times* reporter.

“I was complaining to him, ‘We tried a few things that worked really well, and now you want to keep writing about this thing that didn't work as well as we had hoped. Why would you do that?’” Klein recalls. “He said, ‘In our business, we don't write about the planes that land.’ But I said that in K-12 education, it's the planes that land that are the news and not the planes that crash, because we've crashed for so long.”

That's the eternal questioner inside Klein, and it's almost ironic to picture this skeptic of the media occupying the highest echelons of the NewsCorp empire.

“I am more sympathetic to the subjects of the story just because I've been the subject of a lot of stories. You get used to thinking maybe there's more to this story than you thought,” says the man who's been in the crosshairs of so many headlines and news reports. “It always bothers me that people think what you read in the paper is accurate. It doesn't mean that it's inaccurate, but there is a kind of belief and so I always say to people when they read a story, ‘Maybe.’”

Overall, though, Klein seems content with the path he's followed, and with the direction toward which it is leading as CEO of Amplify.

“Finding a new hill to climb, an opportunity to do something new and exciting, always appealed to me,” he says. “And fortunately for me, in no small measure because of the education I got at Columbia, I've had those opportunities.”



Chris Burrell is a freelance journalist and illustrator based in East Boston, Mass. He has contributed stories to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Boston, PRI's The World* and *WBUR-Boston*. His illustrations have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *CCT*.



Klein jokes with President Clinton and attorney (now senior U.S. District judge) Charles Breyer in the Oval Office in 1994.

PHOTO: COURTESY WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

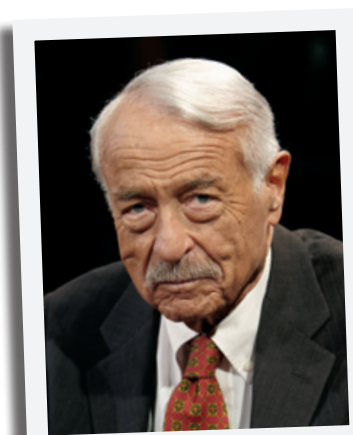
The Open Mind of Richard Heffner '46

Veteran PBS interviewer provides forum for guests to examine, question, disagree

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

I

t was quite a celebratory lunch. Here were NYU President John Sexton and his one-time counterpart at Brown, Vartan Gregorian. There were past New York State Chief Judges Sol Wachtler and Judith Kaye '58 Barnard. *The New York Times Book Review* editor Sam Tanenhaus mingled with former *Nation* editor Victor Navasky. Joan Ganz Cooney of the Children's Television Workshop and prolific producer Norman Lear were on hand, too. So were three-term New York City Mayor Ed Koch, legendary Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, famed First Amendment attorney Floyd Abrams, journalist Bill Moyers



(Opposite) An *Open Mind* staff member prepares the set for Richard D. Heffner '46, '47 GSAS to interview Dr. Peter Bach, director of the Center for Health and Policy Outcomes at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

PHOTOS: RANDY MONCEAUX





Heffner circa 1930 on Broadway and West 108th Street, near his childhood home, and (right) in his College graduation photo.

PHOTOS: COURTESY RICHARD D. HEFFNER '46, '47 GSAS

Then, too, circulating through the crowd, shaking hands, quietly accepting congratulations, was the courtly, slightly stooped, silver-haired fellow who had interviewed them all — and hundreds of others.

The celebration at the Mutual of America building in midtown Manhattan on June 30, 2011, marked the 55th anniversary of the weekly, half-hour PBS talk show *Open Mind*, the unique legacy of Richard D. Heffner '46, '47 GSAS. From its debut on May 7, 1956, *Open Mind* has been a forum where guests, as the opening narration once put it, are “free to examine, to question, to disagree.”

For Heffner, that philosophy has animated him across two professional generations and multiple media identities: communications consultant, broadcasting expert, network executive, public affairs adviser. At his core, however, he is one thing.

“I’m a teacher,” he says. “I’m a talker. I’m a speaker. I’m a preacher. That’s who I am.”

His Subaru station wagon even sports a license plate reading OPENMIND.

“He is one of the most intelligent, sensitive interviewers I have ever had in my life,” says Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, who has logged nearly 30 *Open Mind* appearances. “On every subject that he chooses — war, politics, literature — he manages to humanize it and bring it up, rather than bring it down. He’s the Grand Inquisitor in the best sense.”

Heffner likes to tease Abrams — whose 35 appearances on *Open Mind* make him his most frequent guest — that he is “a First Amendment voluptuary” because he is so passionate about free speech. And Abrams is happy to tease Heffner right back.

“Like Inspector Clouseau and Cato, Dick and I have sparred so often that we have no tricks left with which to surprise each other,” he says. “He thinks, I do not know why, that I’m some sort of knee-jerk First Amendment absolutist. I think — and I *know*

why — that he’s too prepared to sacrifice core First Amendment principles to accommodate his social/political predilections. What I’m sure of is that I can’t imagine anyone I’d rather argue with, and that we are all in his debt for his extraordinary contributions to public thoughtfulness.”

Heffner is more modest: “I’m a person of rather limited talents. I don’t dance, I don’t sing.” He refers wryly to “the 37 people who are watching the program.” One of them, a cab driver, once deliberately barreled down on him on Fifth Avenue.

“I thought the end was near — assassination by taxi!” he remembers. “Instead, a wonderfully smiling youngish driver thrust a wildly waving arm out his open window, hollering, ‘*Open Mind!*’ Was I ever grateful for a viewer.”

It is taping day in the small studio at the CUNY Graduate Center on Fifth Avenue and East 35th Street. Beneath a blaze of overhead lights is *Open Mind*’s intellectual battleground: a polished, round wooden table and two chairs. In the green room, amid a plate of cookies and a big-screen TV, Heffner reviews notes and consults with Daphne Doelger-Dwyer, his associate producer of more than 30 years. (“I’ve often thought Dick is the reason they invented Boss Appreciation Day,” she says. “Just the same, I wish he would stop asking me to try to find articles he wrote during the Kennedy administration or yet another elusive piece on the National News Council.”)

Today, Heffner will record four segments. First up is NYU professor Kim Phillips-Fein '05 GSAS, discussing her new book *Invisible Hands: The Businessmen’s Crusade Against the New Deal*. Then he will greet Dr. Peter Bach of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, whose subject will be caring for the dying. Next comes Heffner’s youngest guest ever, his grandson, budding journalist Alexander, a 22-year-old Harvard senior whose topic is



Heffner and his wife of 62 years, Elaine '51 SW, at the 1949 Tanglewood Music Festival, a year prior to their marriage, and on vacation in Sydney, Australia, in 1996.

PHOTOS: COURTESY RICHARD D. HEFFNER '46, '47 GSAS



America’s young electorate.

Finally, there is Frances Hesselbein, former president of Girl Scouts of the USA and president and CEO of the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute (formerly the Leader to Leader Institute). Attractively accoutered in black jacket and gold and black Hermès scarf, she also has brought along a jacket with bold tan and black stripes, which she shows to her host.

“I didn’t know if you wanted something more like *this*,” she says.

“You look gorgeous,” Heffner replies.

She smiles and says, “I may never go home.”

An hour later, after the taping, Hesselbein will engage in a few minutes of small talk. “I loved *all* your questions,” she tells her host. “There wasn’t one superficial one.”

That’s no accident. “There are comparatively few subjects on *Open Mind* that are likely to throw me because I don’t choose subjects that I know I don’t know enough about,” says Heffner. “I owe it to my viewers, and I owe it to my guests, not to be dumb.”

Heffner has been playing smart ever since he was a child suffering from rheumatic fever of the heart. “It was in defense that I became bookish,” he told *The New York Times* in 2003. “I was sickly, so I wasn’t allowed to play sports.” (Perhaps presaging his role as a moderator in a number of capacities, he was, however, permitted to umpire baseball games.)

The boy who buried himself in books was the son of a man who *made* book: Al Heffner was a prosperous New York City race-track tout who lost everything during the Depression. “His very wealthy customers were big bettors. They would bet \$100,000 on a race. And when they were gone, my father went broke.”

After attending DeWitt Clinton H.S. in the Bronx (“greatest high school in America”) with Paddy Chayefsky, Richard Avedon and James Baldwin, Heffner became a devotee of historian Dwight Miner '26, '40 GSAS; literary critic Lionel Trilling '25, '38

GSAS; and philosopher Ernest Nagel '31 GSAS at the College. Outside of class he was one of the earliest on-air voices for the fledgling Columbia University Radio Club, delivering a weekly current events report while future University Professor Fritz Stern '46, '53 GSAS made faces at him through the studio window (something Stern has consistently denied).

As chairman of the College War Relief Drive, Heffner also successfully approached University President Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) in his Low Library office to ask him to address a bond rally. Heffner recalls, “He was a large man sitting at a large desk, raised on a large platform at the end of the room as one approached. I learned later that that was what Mussolini did.”

Heffner, who majored in history, earned an M.A. in the subject in 1947 under Richard Hofstadter '42 GSAS but stopped short of a Ph.D., considering himself “a teacher, not a scholar.” And teach he did, at Sarah Lawrence, UC Berkeley, Rutgers, The New School and his alma mater, where from 1950–52 he taught Contemporary Civilization. But he craved a larger audience. In 1952, as Heffner began editing *A Documentary History of the United States*, a still-popular paperback collection of vital documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address, he knew he wanted to discuss human events in a broader context.

“I believe history is *the* synthetic subject,” he reflects. “I think it is the historian who embraces everything. The story of the past is the story of the present.”

The chance to explore that link came in 1953, when Heffner decided to create a radio documentary marking the eighth anniversary of the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. “I went to every station in New York and they all said, ‘Who are *you*? You’re a professor. You’ve got this book but that doesn’t make you a broadcaster.’”

Finally, WMCA consented. The highlight was an interview with FDR’s widow, Eleanor, in her stone cottage at Val-Kill. Disaster

nearly struck when an engineer accidentally wiped the tape but Heffner was able to sit down with her again, this time at the Park Central Hotel in Manhattan. “Instead of hearing the chimes of the clock in the background and the fireplace, you heard cars going from first gear into second and then third, 17 stories below.”

Street noise notwithstanding, the effort went over well and WMCA gave Heffner a syndicated weekly half-hour program, *History in the News*. Even before the show had finished its run though, toward the end of 1954, Heffner was looking ahead. Through California Gov. Earl Warren — the father of one of his students at Berkeley — he met Edward R. Murrow, whose signature sign-off, “Good night and good luck,” Heffner still uses to conclude *Open Mind*.

“Murrow liked me. He immediately called Stuart Novins, the head of CBS radio news. Novins offered me a job as a producer at CBS News. And I said — here is the ham in me — ‘Can I be on the air, also?’ And he said no. And I said, ‘Thanks, but I want to be on the air.’ Maybe it was stupid. Maybe I would be president of CBS News today.”

In the end, he got his way. WRCA-TV, the predecessor to NBC, gave him *Man of the Year*, a public affairs show, in 1955. That led to *All About Men-All About Women* and *Of Men and Ideas*, as well as radio stints with *Listen, Listen*, *Listen and Collector's Item*. But *The Open Mind*, which originally aired on WRCA, remains the *sine qua non* of Heffner's broadcast life, the product of a fundamental realization.

“We're talking about 1956,” Heffner says. “America had real

“I’m a teacher. I’m a talker. I’m a speaker. I’m a preacher. That’s who I am.”

problems. But they were laid over with cash and comfort of the wonderful suburban '50s. I had the feeling that there were comparatively few places where Americans were confronted with important exchanges about important challenges that faced us, and that's what I wanted to be doing.”

Soon enough, *Open Mind* was delving into such hot-button areas as alcoholism, integration, homosexuality, anti-Semitism and blacklisting — so much so that a 1956 *Newsday* column was headlined “Open Mind Moderator Denies Show Seeks Sensational Topics.”

But if the subjects were controversial, the guests were stellar. In the decades that followed, they have included Margaret Mead '23 Barnard, '29 GSAS; Joseph Heller; Martin Luther King Jr.; Max Frankel '52, '53 GSAS; Robert Redford; Max Lerner; Isaac Asimov '39, '41 GSAS; Gloria Steinem; Rod Serling; Norman Cousins '37 TC; Eli Wallach; Ruth Westheimer '70 TC; and Malcolm X.

In 1959, CBS chairman William S. Paley appointed Heffner secretary of the network's editorial board, “whipping the owned-and-operated CBS television and radio stations into doing editorials on a local level,” as Heffner says. Though his power to set guidelines and write the editorials made him “very, very unpopular” among station managers, he did not suffer their displeasure for long. Within a year he became a special consultant to the National Educational Television and Radio Center, which led to his being named general manager of New York's first public television station, WNDT, the forerunner of today's WNET.

For NETRC, the easy part about organizing the nascent station was raising the necessary \$6.2 million in seed money. Rather more difficult was actually getting on the air. At the time, all seven coveted VHF stations in the New York area were already in use. So with the approval of the Federal Communications Commis-

sion, NETRC purchased station WNTA, Channel 13, in Newark — much to the consternation of New Jersey Gov. Robert Meyner, who sued in federal court to block the takeover.

“Meyner was a strange man,” Heffner recalls. “He said, ‘You are raping the sovereign state of New Jersey. You are taking its only VHF station.’ And it was perfectly true. But it was a bankrupt station. It was a distress sale, because it owed so much money.”

Once the sale cleared, and the purchasers incorporated as the Educational Broadcasting Corp. (EBC), Heffner began a “pretty goddamned busy, pretty goddamned exciting” phase of his life as WNDT went on the air on September 16, 1962. Often working from 6 a.m. until midnight, Heffner dealt with staff issues, logistics, budgets, programming and the occasional emergency — like when hordes of parents howled after he canceled a festival of previously unaired Charlie Chaplin films in favor of coverage of the Cuban missile crisis.

Not surprisingly, he was shattered when EBC fired him the following April amid conflicts over policy and the very nature of what was then called “educational television.” Heffner favored a wide range of programming, especially expensive cultural fare; EBC, led by president Sam Gould, envisioned WNDT as a cheaper classroom of the air, specializing in instructional programs. *The New York Times* covered the developing drama on its front page; some 50 non-union WNDT staff members offered to take a 10 percent pay cut to retain their boss.

As WNET prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary this fall, the memory still stings. “As you can imagine, having spent those years in making a reality of something that had been a dream of mine. ... How did I feel when suddenly the ground was pulled out from under me? Godawful.”

But the morning after he was sacked, Rutgers president Mason Gross called and offered him a tenured faculty position; today, he is the University Professor of Communications and Public Policy. A few days later, pollster Elmo Roper provided him with a secretary, an office and an appointment with AT&T.

“He said, ‘You have lunch with them, respond to their questions, and be yourself.’ I went down, had a very nice — though institutional — lunch and gave them some advice on communications matters they thought terribly pressing. I came back, went into Elmo's office and said, ‘OK, Elmo, what do I do now?’ And Elmo said, ‘Send them an invoice for \$10,000.’”

It was the beginning of the consulting firm Richard Heffner Associates, whose clients came to include Time, American Airlines and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Heffner often quotes John Milton's *Areopagitica*: “Who ever knew Truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter?” But having spent decades in the trenches, Heffner also knows how the world works. A good example occurred in 1987, when Judge Wachtler asked him to chair a commission to determine whether cameras should be permitted in New York state courtrooms. Years before the spectacle of Court TV and the O.J. Simpson trial, Heffner said no, concluding that networks would simply pluck juicy bits out of context. “They were eager to put on the air attractive, sensational materials from trials. They were *not* eager to teach lessons.”

In 1974, he got an even more bracing lesson in media reality, when he was named chairman of the Classification and Ratings Administration (CARA) of the Motion Picture Association of America at the personal request of its president, Jack Valenti. Before long, he had become what the *Los Angeles Times* called “the least known, most powerful man in Hollywood.” As such, he was at the center of major ratings controversies over the violence in such movies as *Cruising* and *Scarface* (directed by Brian De Palma '62); at one point he clashed with United Artists chairman Arthur Krim '30, '32L about *Rollerball*. Heffner felt it should be rated “X,” prompting Krim to thunder, “This man's predecessor was a fanatic about sex; this man is a fanatic about violence!”

Heffner enjoyed many aspects of the job, though. As he told film critic Charles Champlin in an exhaustive series of interviews for the Columbia Center for Oral History, “There were times when the picture was over and I would say to my colleagues, ‘You know, this really makes it all worthwhile.’ And I meant it.”

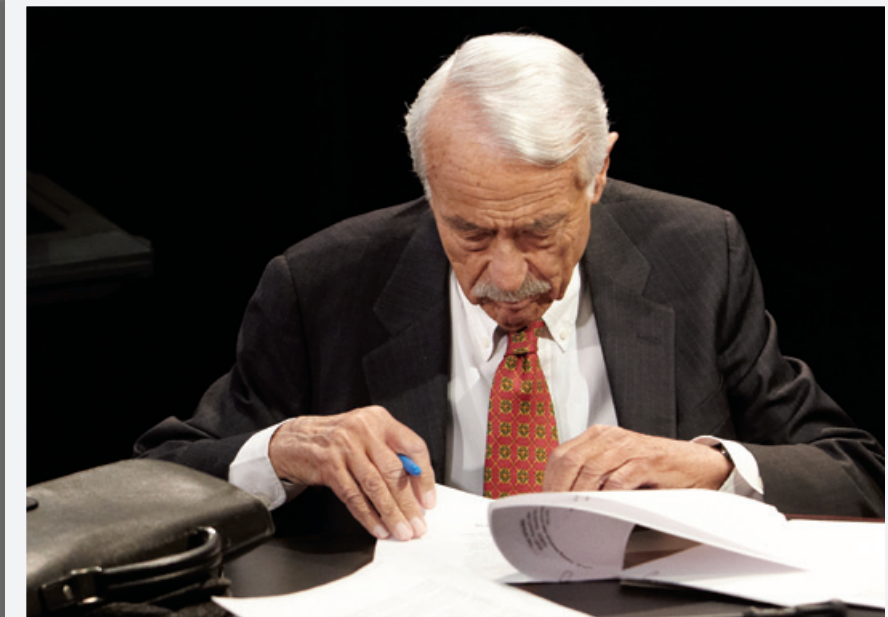
But there was also endless wrangling with Valenti and industry professionals who often cajoled, persuaded or pressured Heffner and his board to assign a family-friendly “PG,” rather than an “R” or a dreaded “X.” Almost weekly, Heffner commuted to and from California to screen movies and meet with the board, refusing to move there because he feared that constant socializing with actors and directors would corrupt his integrity.

Not long after he was appointed, Heffner began to suggest to Valenti — “always with the utmost politeness” — ways of improving the system. He especially wanted to provide better ratings explanations and more fully fleshed out guidelines to distinguish between younger and older teenagers. At one point, he pushed for an “RR” category between “R” and “X,” signaling that the content was, as he put it, “really rough.” In the end, “PG-13” was added in 1984 and “NC-17” supplanted “X” in 1990.

By the time he stepped down in 1994, Heffner had grave doubts about the effectiveness of the self-imposed system. Immediately upon leaving CARA, he became a senior fellow at the Freedom Forum, at that time located on campus at the Journalism School. In the year that followed, Heffner attempted to sort out and put on paper the lessons he had learned in Hollywood (or, as he put it, “in GaGaLand”). He remains conflicted about voluntary ratings for films and, by extension, for TV shows, recordings and video games.

But he is convinced of one thing at least, probably much to the distress of his friend Abrams: “In a society so largely based upon free speech and free thought, and in a society that is as much based upon the almighty dollar as ours is, a larger degree of regulation is necessary.”

Every Saturday at noon — except during pledge weeks — viewers can tune to Channel 13 and be greeted by the sight of two simple, intersecting human profiles with brain-shaped holes cut in them, slowly revolving amid the eerie strains of *World Without Time* by the Sauter [as in Edward Sauter '36]-Finegan Orchestra. Although graphic designer



Heffner studies his notes in preparation for a taping of *The Open Mind*.

PHOTO: RANDY MONCEAUX

Lee Moss designed *Open Mind*'s iconic logo, it was Heffner who chose the accompanying theme, which he describes as “mental health music.”

How much longer will it continue? At 87, Heffner is hardly unaware of his mortality; he has even spoken with Alexander, his grandson, about taking over the program. *Open Mind*, however, is not just another venue for talking heads; its roster of guests and topics, its low-key, probing, intellectual give-and-take, constitutes a personal expression of the host himself.

Indeed, from 1959–67, when Heffner was busy with various ventures and put the Princeton historian Eric Goldman in the moderator's chair in his stead, he was unhappy with the result. He felt that Goldman, a cultural adviser to the White House, was pushing a political agenda with the show. “He used his invitations to feather the nest of the Johnson administration. As far as I was concerned, they weren't *The Open Mind*. That's why, now, I'm much more honest about it. I call it *Richard Heffner's Open Mind*. It's not anyone else's.”

“How long I'll be able to keep doing it, or how long my voice or my mind will last — who knows?” he says, lounging in the book-crammed study in his Riverside Drive apartment, his dog Cassie resting on the couch. “Would I like to continue? Yes. I'd like to continue to the point at which I know I'm no longer doing what I did and others also feel that way. Then I hope I have the good grace to say, ‘Good night and good luck’ a final time.”

“Sure, maybe somebody can do *Bill Moyers' Open Mind*, or *Alexander Heffner's Open Mind*, or whatever. But nobody's going to do what I did. I am who I am. And that's all that I am. I'm Popeye the sailor man.”

He smiles and looks semi-serious. “Remember that.”

Former Columbia College Today acting editor **Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '86J, '90 GSAS** is executive editor of *This Week From Indian Country Today*, a regular contributor to *The New York Times* and the editor of *Backward Ran Sentences: The Best of Wolcott Gibbs* from *The New Yorker*.

Ai-jen Poo '96 co-founded Domestic Workers United and now is director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance. She identifies with the tiger, her Chinese zodiac sign, and draws upon what she calls her "inner tiger" for courage as she works to better conditions and benefits for nannies, housekeepers and caregivers.

PHOTO: MAX VADUKUL

The Home Front

Ai-jen Poo '96 gives domestic workers a voice

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

Ai-jen Poo '96 spent her formative

years as a Columbia Lion, but as an advocate for domestic workers she identifies more closely with the tiger, her Chinese zodiac sign. So much, in fact, that she had its likeness tattooed on her right arm when she was in her mid-20s.

Baring no teeth, Poo's tiger sports a penetrating stare that conveys inner strength rather than ferociousness. The unexpected image mirrors the stalwart yet heartfelt approach with which Poo, one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in the world for 2012, has procured legal protections for nannies, housekeepers and caregivers to the elderly. This overwhelmingly female workforce has historically been excluded from labor rights laws, making its members — most of them immigrants, legal and illegal — vulnerable to underpayment, inhumane working conditions, exploitation and harassment.

"The women who do domestic work — whether they are nannies or caregivers for the elderly — really take pride in the work that they do. They love the people they take care of," says Poo, who in 2000 started Domestic Workers United (DWU, domesticworkersunited.org), an organization that mobilizes immigrant domestic workers in New York City, and now is director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA, domesticworkers.org). "We believe it's their work that makes all other work possible. And so it's really important that it be recognized and respected as dignified, professional work.

"Fear often gets in the way of our taking risks necessary to make real change in the world," Poo adds. "The tattoo is a reminder to draw upon my inner tiger and to be courageous in the face of uncertainty in the service of a vision for a better world."

DWU was the major force behind New York's Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights, which took effect on November 29, 2010, three months after then-Gov. David Paterson '77 signed it into law. The country's first, it entitles domestic workers to overtime pay, one day of rest a week, three paid days off a year after one year with the same employer and inclusion in the state's Human Rights Law, which protects against sexual harassment and discrimination. The law applies to all domestic workers regardless of legal status (there are an estimated 200,000 domestic workers in the New York metropolitan area, according to DWU). California's state legislature is considering a similar bill.

"It was a breakthrough moment," Poo says. "We forced the state of New York to recognize domestic work as real work that deserves inclusion and protection, and reversed a legacy of exclusion and discrimination."

"Ai-jen makes the possibility for radical change palpable. She not only believes in the basic goodness of all people but also that we all inherently want fairness and equality to prevail."

For more than five years after Assemblyman Keith Wright (D-Manhattan) and Sen. Diane Savino (D-Brooklyn/Staten Island) introduced the bill into the state legislature in 2004, DWU staffers drove workers to Albany to lobby. Poo estimates that she made upward of 50 trips herself. Among those who shared their stories with lawmakers, she notes, was a Colombian woman in her 60s who cared for a disabled child in order to afford insulin for her own son. She worked more than 100 hours a week for about \$3 an hour, cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing for the family of six, only to retire at day's end to a basement with an overflowing sewage system. She was fired suddenly without severance pay. Other workers testified to humiliations and sexual harassment by male employers.

"I've been fortunate to be a part of many collective efforts that involved sacrifice, spirit, heart and commitment on the part of a lot of domestic workers," says Poo of DWU's work. "It was never me alone."

Domestic workers are excluded from the National Labor Relations Act, which protects the rights of most other private workers to form unions, strike and bargain collectively. Nonetheless, DWU has close to 7,000 members who pay \$5 a month in dues in return for free legal assistance, immigration advice and help with resume building and job searching. Funding comes mostly from private foundations. The organization's board comprises nine members who collaborate with director Priscilla Gonzalez '98 Barnard, herself the daughter of a domestic worker.

"Ai-jen makes the possibility for radical change palpable," says Gonzalez. "She not only believes in the basic goodness of all people but also that we all inherently want fairness and equality to prevail."

Poo realized the power of grassroots activism as a College student. She was arrested in April 1995 for blocking the Manhattan Bridge as part of a city-wide protest against police brutality. She also was among the students who occupied Low Rotunda and Hamilton Hall during

the 1996 protests that called for more culturally diverse course offerings. Three years later, Columbia's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race was established.

"We were all working together with one really strong message to push the University to recognize this piece of intellectual work that is so important to how this country has unfolded," Poo recalls. "We wanted to send a message of how important it was for students to have access to that information."

"Students really worked together across communities. That was one of the things that was so powerful about it. It was a really exciting time. It informed how I understood how change happens and gave me a sense of the potential of organizing."

Born in Pittsburgh to Chinese immigrants, Poo transferred to the College after a year at Washington University in St. Louis, where she had enrolled with plans to become a potter. "I missed reading books, literature in particular," says Poo, whose father, Mu-ming Poo, was a pro-democracy activist in Taiwan and taught in Columbia's Department of Biological Sciences from 1988-95; her mother is an oncologist.

"I was excited about having New York City as a place to learn and grow," she adds.

Within a year of her arrival, Poo shifted her focus from art to women's studies. "I've been really passionate about women's issues since high school," she says. "When I got to Columbia, the women's studies department offered the opportunity to explore the intellectual work that had been done around women's rights and how gender has shaped our world and our history."

"There are a lot of strong women in my family tradition," adds Poo, whose family includes sister Ting Poo '00, a post-production film editor. "My grandmothers and my mom are very important role models for me."

Soon after arriving in New York, Poo began staffing a hotline as a volunteer at the New York Asian Women's Center, a domestic violence shelter for Asian immigrant women, where she got her first taste of women's activism. She later became involved with the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, where she was promoted to paid staff member upon graduation. Poo co-founded DWU with colleagues from CAAAV, where she had spearheaded an initiative that sought to empower Asian immigrant women employed in low-wage service industries.

Poo met her husband, attorney Tony Lu, while recruiting volunteers for CAAAV at NYU Law School, where Lu earned a J.D. Lu now works for Pro Bono Net, a nonprofit that uses web technology to increase access to justice for people who cannot afford lawyers. The couple lives in Queens.

Poo now heads the NDWA, a coalition she helped establish in 2007. It encompasses more than 30 member organizations nationwide that seek respect and fair labor standards for domestic workers. Though based in New York, Poo travels frequently to meetings and public speaking engagements.

The NDWA celebrated in June when delegates to the International Labour Conference — the annual meeting of the member states of the U.N.'s International Labour Organization — adopted the Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The



While Poo credits the collective efforts of fellow advocates for her groups' success, she still is on the front line and speaking out.

PHOTO: COURTESY AI-JEN POO '96/NDWA

international treaty for the first time entitles domestic workers to fundamental labor rights and is binding for the states that ratify it. Though the United States has not done so, the NDWA worked with the Department of Labor to draft the federal government's response. (The NDWA also had sent a domestic worker to the conference as a voting delegate.)

In 2011, Poo's groundbreaking work earned her the American Express NGen Leadership Award bestowed by Independent Sector, a leadership network for charities and foundations. The award recognizes nonprofit leaders under 40 who have had a significant impact on a societal need. The \$3,000 grant has gone toward training and capacity building for domestic worker leaders.

"Ai-jen is a leader of the present and future," says Mikaela Seligman, Independent Sector's v.p. of nonprofit and philanthropic leadership and practice. "The way she sees leadership is that her role is not to be out in front publicly or privately, somehow leading the charge, which is really a model of the past. Her role is fundamentally to mobilize resources to achieve a goal. She does that ably, she does that graciously and she does it with love."

In 2009, the Center for Social Inclusion awarded Poo the \$25,000 Alston-Bannerman Fellowship for Organizers of Color, which allowed her to take a four-month sabbatical, part of which

she spent re-energizing in Hawaii, a logical destination once she mentions her affinity for the outdoors and "places where mountains and ocean meet." Poo's husband and a few friends accompanied her for part of the trip, but she also spent time alone practicing yoga and sleeping at least eight hours each night, which she rarely gets to do. Moreover, she used the time off to convoke a national meeting of female organizers. That same year, *Crain's New York Business* named her one of its "40 Under 40" rising stars. Then came *Time's* "100 Most Influential People in the World" list this spring.

Ever-humble, Poo is quick to attribute such accolades to her cause rather than her aptitude. "It's really recognition of both the importance of domestic work in society today and the significance of domestic workers organizing, advocacy and leadership in the social change arena," she says. "I feel proud to be a part of a movement that inspires so many people."



To view videos of Poo, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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

[COLUMBIA FORUM]

Andrew Delbanco Asks, What Is College For?



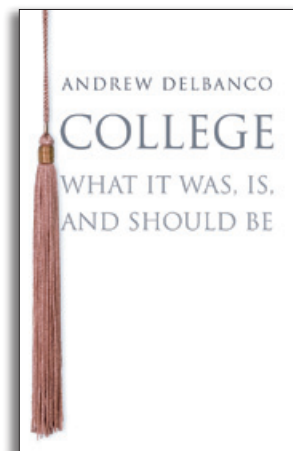
PHOTO: DAVID WENTWORTH

Andrew Delbanco, the Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies and the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities, was named “America’s Best Social Critic” by *Time* magazine in 2001. The director of American studies at Columbia and the 2011 recipient of the National Humanities Medal, Delbanco also has won accolades for his teaching, most notably the 2006 Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates. His wide-ranging writings include numerous articles in *The New York Review of Books* and *The New Republic*, and books

that span much of American history, from the early age (The Puritan Ordeal) to our own (Required Reading: Why Our American Classics Matter Now).

The following essay is taken from Delbanco’s newest book, *College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be* (Princeton University Press, \$24.95), a reflection on college and the important role it should play in these challenging times.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard



One of the peculiarities of the teaching life is that every year the teacher gets older while the students stay the same age. Each fall when classes resume, I am reminded of the ancient Greek story of a kindly old couple who invite two strangers into their modest home for a meal. No matter how much the hosts drink, by some mysterious trick their goblets remain full even though no one pours more wine. Eventually, the guests reveal themselves as gods who have performed a little miracle to express their thanks. So it goes in college: every fall the teacher has aged by a year, but the class is replenished with students who stay forever young.

For this and many other reasons, the relation between teacher and student is a delicate one, perhaps not as fraught as that between parent and child, or between spouses or siblings, but sometimes as decisive. Henry James captured it beautifully in a story called *The Pupil*, which is not about a college teacher but about a private tutor who has come to love the child whom he is trying to save from his parents:

When he tried to figure to himself the morning twilight of childhood, so as to deal with it safely, he perceived that it was never fixed, never arrested, that ignorance, at the instant one touched it, was already flushing faintly into knowledge, that there was nothing that at a given moment you could say a clever child didn’t know. It seemed to him that he both knew too much to imagine [the child’s] simplicity and too little to disembrace his tangle.

Embedded in this passage is the romantic idea that the student possesses latent knowledge of ultimate things, and that the teacher’s task is to probe for the lever that releases knowledge into consciousness.

In trying to make it happen, even — perhaps especially — a good teacher can sometimes seem brutal. The famously demanding Joseph Schwab, for example, who taught for years in the “Biological Sequence” course at the University of Chicago,

Teaching at its best can be a generative act, one of the ways by which human beings try to cheat death.

was known for “putting one student in the hot seat for a while ... working that person as thoroughly and creatively as possible before moving on to another.” One Chicago alumnus, Lee Shulman, former president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, recalls that sitting in Schwab’s class “fostered clammy hands, damp foreheads” and, to put it mildly, “an ever-attentive demeanor.” This figure of the “tough love” teacher — think of Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker* or Professor Kingsfield in *The Paper Chase* — has become a cliché of our culture, and like all clichés, it contains some truth, though doubtless simplified and unduly generalized. It also seems less and less pertinent to the present. At most colleges today, a student experiencing such anxiety would likely drop the class for fear of a poor grade (compulsory courses of the sort that Schwab taught have become rare), and the teacher would risk a poor score on the end-of-semester evaluations.

Whatever the style or technique, teaching at its best can be a

generative act, one of the ways by which human beings try to cheat death — by giving witness to the next generation so that what we have learned in our own lives won’t die with us. Consider what today we would call the original “mission statement” of America’s oldest college. The first fund-raising appeal in our history, it was a frank request by the founders of Harvard for financial help from fellow Puritans who had stayed home in England rather than make the journey to New England. Despite their mercenary purpose, the words are still moving almost four hundred years after they were written:

After God had carried us safe to New England, and we had built our houses, provided necessities for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God’s worship, and settled the civil government, one of the next things we longed for and looked after was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the dust.

These mixed sentiments of faith and dread have always been at the heart of the college idea. They are evident at every college commencement in the eyes of parents who watch, through a screen of memories of their own receding youth, as their children advance into life. College is our American pastoral. We imagine it as a verdant world where the harshest sounds are the reciprocal thump of tennis balls or the clatter of cleats as young bodies trot up and down the fieldhouse steps. Yet bright with hope as it may be, every college is shadowed by the specter of mortality — a place where, in that uniquely American season of “fall and football weather and the new term,” the air is redolent with the “Octoberish smell of cured leaves.”

But what, exactly, is supposed to happen in this bittersweet place — beyond sunbathing and body-toning and the competitive exertions, athletic and otherwise, for which these are just the preliminaries? First of all, it should be said that the pastoral image of college has little to do with what most college students experience today. A few years ago, Michael S. McPherson, president of the Spencer Foundation and former president of Macalester College, and Morton O. Schapiro, former president of Williams

College (now of Northwestern University), pointed out that “the nation’s liberal arts college students would almost certainly fit easily inside a Big Ten football stadium: fewer than one hundred thousand students out of more than fourteen million.”

Since then, the number of undergraduates has grown by nearly a third, to around eighteen million, while the number in liberal arts colleges — by which McPherson and Schapiro meant a four-year residential college that is not part of a big university, and where most students study subjects that are not narrowly vocational such as nursing or computer programming — remains about the same. Many college students today, of whom a growing number are older than traditional college age, attend commuter or online institutions focused mainly on vocational training. Often, they work and go to school at the same time, and take more than four years to complete their degree, if they complete it at all. Five years from now, undergraduate students in the United States are projected to exceed twenty million, and President

Obama wants to accelerate the growth. But only a small fraction will attend college in anything like the traditional sense of the word.

Whatever the context, the question remains: what's the point? My colleague Mark Lilla put the matter well not long ago when he spoke to the freshmen of Columbia College near the end of their first college year. He was talking, of course, to students in a college commonly described as "elite." Divided roughly equally between young men and women, these students were more racially diverse than would have been the case even a few years ago. About one in ten was born abroad or has some other claim, such as a parent with a foreign passport, to be an "international" student; and, though it's hard to tell the financial means of the students from their universal uniform of tee shirts and jeans, roughly one in seven (a somewhat higher rate than at other Ivy League colleges) is eligible for a Pell grant, a form of federal financial aid that goes to children of low-income families.

As they filed into the lecture room, they gave each other the public hugs that signify new friendships, or, in some cases, the mutually averted eyes that tell of recent breakups. They seemed simultaneously fatigued and at ease. Once they had settled into their seats, out came the iPhones and laptops, some of which stayed aglow for the whole hour, though mostly they listened,

The American college has always differed fundamentally from the European university.

rapt. And when Lilla made the following surmise about how and why they had come to college, they reacted with the kind of quiet laughter that meant they knew he was telling the truth:

You figured, correctly, that to be admitted you had to exude confidence about what Americans, and only Americans, call their "life goals"; and you had to demonstrate that you have a precise plan for achieving them. It was all bullshit; you know that, and I know that. The real reason you were excited about college was because you had questions, buckets of questions, not life plans and PowerPoint presentations. My students have convinced me that they are far less interested in getting what they want than in figuring out just what it is that's worth wanting.

No college teacher should presume to answer this question on behalf of the students, though, too often, he or she will try. (Requiring discipleship has always been a hazard of the teaching profession.) Instead, the job of the teacher and, collectively, of the college, is to help students in the arduous work of answering it for themselves.

To be sure, students at a college like mine have many advantages. Elite institutions confer on their students enormous benefits in the competition for positions of leadership in business, government, and higher education itself. As soon as they are admitted, even those without the prior advantage of money have already gotten a boost toward getting what they want — though not necessarily toward figuring out what's worth wanting. In fact, for some, the difficulty of that question rises in proportion to the number of choices they have. Many college students are away from their parents for the first time, although in our age of Face-

book and Skype and Google Chat and the like, they are never really away. Their choices may seem limitless, but powerful forces constrain them, including what their parents want them to want. Students under financial pressure face special problems, but students from privileged families have problems too.

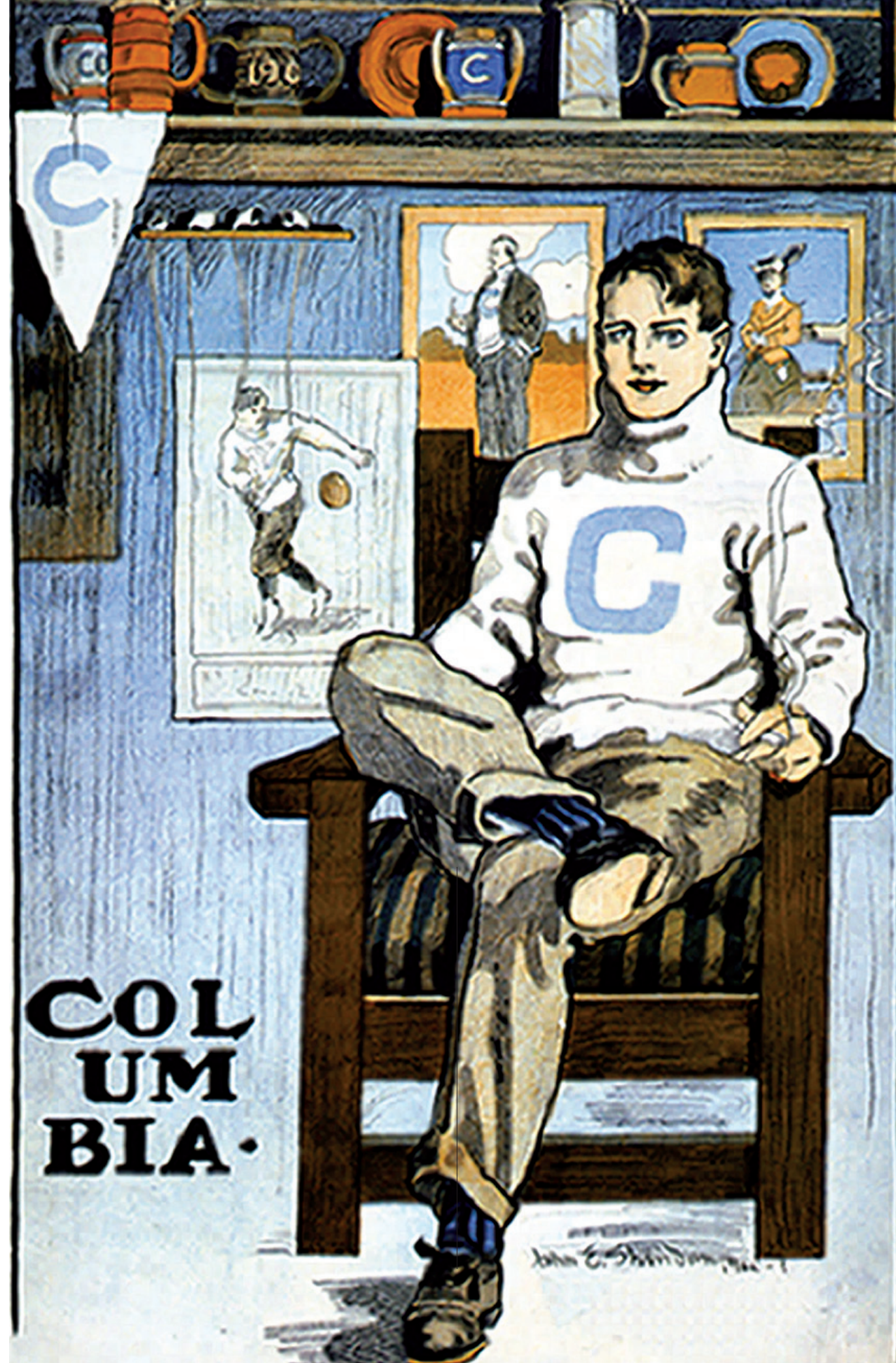
College is supposed to be a time when such differences recede if not vanish. The notion of shared self-discovery for all students is, of course, a staple of exhortations to freshmen just coming in and valedictions to seniors about to go out — an idea invoked so often that it, too, has become a cliché. In other cultures, however, it would be an oddity. The American college has always differed fundamentally from the European university, where students are expected to know what they want (and what they are capable of) before they arrive. That is true even at the ancient English colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, to which students apply around age seventeen to "read" this or that subject, and once arrived, rarely venture outside their chosen field of formal study. By contrast, in America — in part because of our prosperity, which still exceeds that of most of the rest of the world — we try to extend the time for second chances and to defer the day when determinative choices must be made. In 1850, when Herman Melville, whose formal schooling ended at age seventeen, wrote that "a whaleship was my Yale College and my Harvard," he used the word "college" as the name of the place where (to use our modern formulation) he "found himself."

A few years ago, I came across a manuscript diary — also, as it happens, from 1850 — kept by a student at a small Methodist college, Emory and Henry, in southwest Virginia. One spring evening, after attending a sermon by the college president that left him troubled and apprehensive, he made the following entry in his journal: "Oh that the Lord would show me how to think and how to choose." That sentence, poised somewhere between a wish and a plea, sounds archaic today. For many if not most students, God is no longer the object of the plea; or if he is, they probably do not attend a college where everyone worships the same god in the same way. Many American colleges began as denominational institutions; but today religion is so much a matter of private conscience, and the number of punishable infractions so small (even rules against the academic sin of plagiarism are only loosely enforced), that few college presidents would presume to intervene in the private lives of students for purposes of doctrinal or moral correction. The era of spiritual authority belonging to college is long gone. And yet I have never encountered a better formulation — "show me how to think and how to choose" — of what a college should strive to be: an aid to reflection, a place and process whereby young people take stock of their talents and passions and begin to sort out their lives in a way that is true to themselves and responsible to others.



Excerpted from *COLLEGE* by Andrew Delbanco. Copyright © 2012 by Princeton University Press. Reprinted by permission.

This 1902 poster was drawn by John E. Sheridan, who created covers for *The Saturday Evening Post* and other magazines, and produced by Deutz Lithograph Co. in New York.

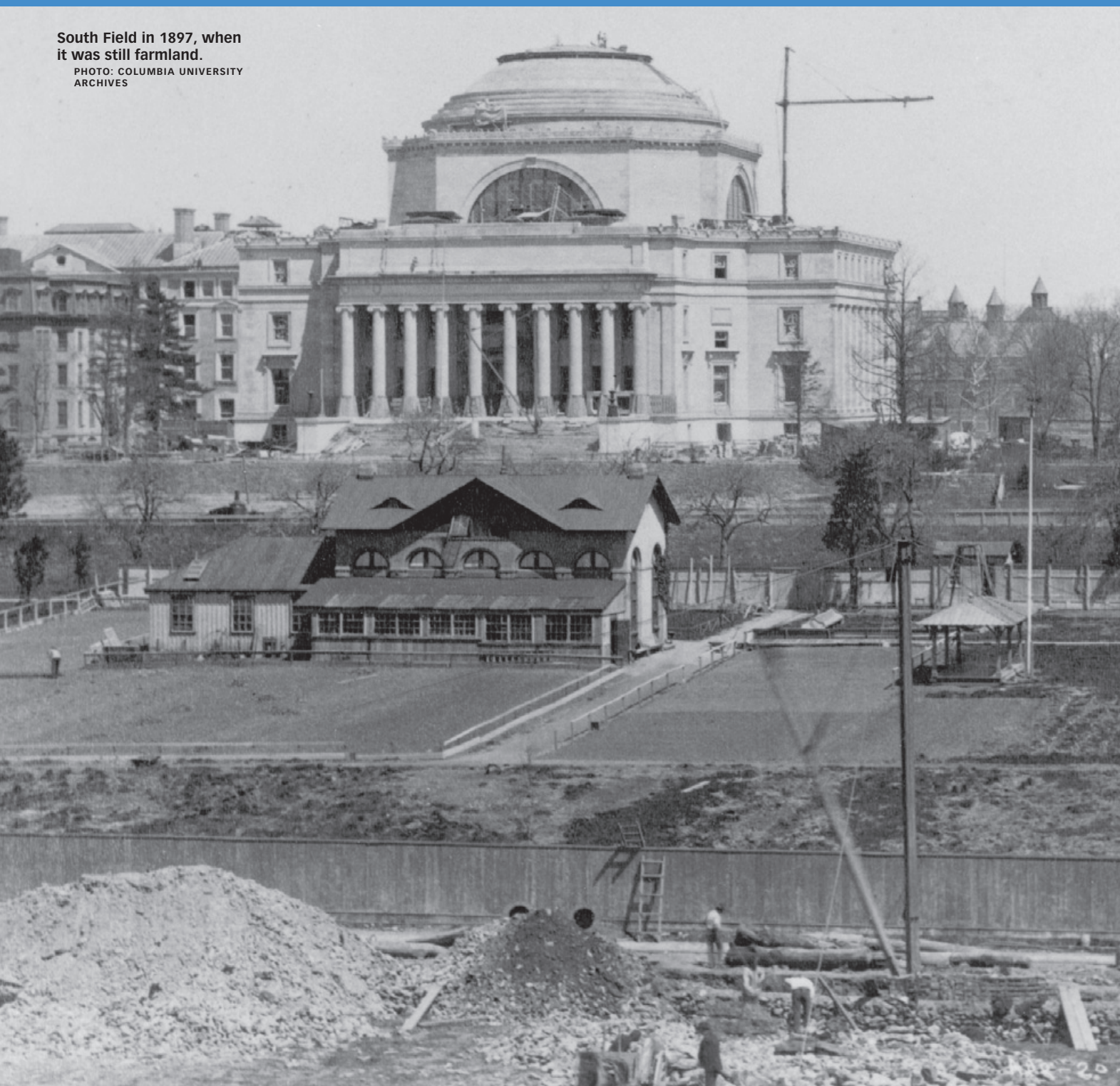


Alumni News

- 49 Message from the CCAA President
- 50 Bookshelf
- 52 Obituaries
- 56 Class Notes
- 104 Alumni Corner

South Field in 1897, when it was still farmland.

PHOTO: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



CCASIP Enjoys Success in Inaugural Summer

Each fall brings the promise that comes with the start of a new school year. The Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors is particularly energized for the Dean Valentini era. The board was busy this summer planning for the current year and brainstorming how we can help improve the Columbia experience for all students, current and former.

Columbia College students were hard at work this summer as well, expanding their intellectual horizons or applying some of their new skills in the workplace. The CCAA is proud to have played a part in facilitating this opportunity for the 27 students who participated in the first year of the Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Internship Program (CCASIP), which was developed in response to students' desire to interact more with alumni and with CCAA's conviction that the alumni network is one of Columbia's strongest assets.

This joint Center for Career Education (CCE) and CCAA board program was spearheaded by CCAA's Career Education Committee and its then-co-chair, Michael Behringer '89. A group of alumni leaders reached out to fellow alumni to ask them to host a student intern for the summer. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Through every step of the process — from the high

numbers of students who applied for the positions to the enthusiastic feedback from the interns, their employers and their mentors — it was clear that the students relished the engagement and commitment of College alumni. Thank you to everyone who participated. We look forward to expanding this program for summer 2013.

Another committee initiative inaugurated this past year is the Alumni Dinner Series, in which an alumnus/a hosts a dinner with 10–25 students to speak about his or her career and life track. John MacPhee '89, Dan Futterman '89 and Jared Hecht '09 spoke to students about careers in medicine/pharmaceuticals, the arts and entrepreneurship, respectively. Students were grateful for the opportunity to learn directly from alumni about their careers, and expressed hope for continued engagement with alumni.

Alumni interested in hosting a student in the workplace

next summer or hosting students at a career-focused dinner should contact Kavita Sharma, CCE dean: ks2173@columbia.edu or 212-854-3561.

The 2012–14 Career Education Committee is co-chaired by Sherri Pancer Wolf '90 and Eric Mendelson '87, '89 Business. The committee works with CCE and the Alumni Office to develop, advise on and promote career programming and to facilitate opportunities for interactions between alumni and students. The committee meets regularly to review programs, to identify alumni for programs and to support CCE. The committee welcomes non-board participation.

Wolf has been a member of the CCAA board since 2000 and a committee co-chair since 2011. She was a member of her 20th Reunion Committee and the Dean's Alumnae Leadership Task Force, and a Columbia College Women mentor. She is a member of the New England Regional Columbia Club and has been a member of the Alumni Representative Committee since 1996. Wolf brings to the committee more than 15 years of experience with start-ups in a variety of financial and operational roles. She is the CFO at JOOS, a rapidly growing nutrition and wellness business. Wolf lives in Boston with her husband, Doug Wolf '88, and their three children.

Mendelson lives in Miami Beach with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children. A member of the CCAA board since 2008, Eric, his brother, Victor '89, and father, Laurans '60, '61 Business, and their families recently endowed the Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies. Mendelson is co-president of HEICO Corp. (NYSE:HEI) and has been an employee of the aerospace company since 1990.

Although neither lives in the tri-state area, both Sherri and Eric have a meaningful impact on the Columbia community, with the CCAA board and on Columbia students. Columbia's reach is growing around the world and we encourage all alumni to be an active part of the Columbia family. This summer, alumni hosted students in locations ranging from Beijing, China, to Chelsea, NYC. I encourage each of you to join us this year in advancing career opportunities for the next generation of Columbia graduates.

Kyra Tirana Barry

Career Education Committee Members

Michael Behringer '89
Adam Beshara '96
Ganesh Betanabhatla '06
Stephen Buchman '59
Gerrard Bushell '83
Eugenio Cano '95
Frank Cicero '92
Jess Drabkin '79
Eric Mendelson '87
Neda Navab '08
Michael Novielli '03
Ted Schweitzer '91
Gerald Sherwin '55
Andrew Sohn '04
Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Internship Program 2012 Employers

Alvarez and Marsal
AOL Ventures
Carlisle Development Group
Comprehensive Cardiology
Due West Education
First DataBank
Judge Alvin Hellerstein
Met Council
NBC Universal
Nutrition 21
NYC Government Political Campaign
Peppertree Engineering
Public Art Fund
Sidley Austin
StormHarbour
The Conference Board
The Jed Foundation
The Kitchen
TZP
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit/Judge Joseph Greenaway Jr. '78

Bookshelf

The Napoleonic Image in Hardy and Tolstoy: A Dual Repudiation of the “Great Man” Theory of History by *Raymond Marcus* '39. Marcus, a former high school English and journalism teacher, examines the impact of Napoleon Bonaparte's legacy on the works of Thomas Hardy and Leo Tolstoy (Vantage Press, \$28.95).

Epigenetics in the Age of Twitter: Pop Culture and Modern Science by *Gerald Weissman* '50. Weissman considers modern social media through the lens of epigenetics, a branch of science that attempts to explain how our genes respond to our environments (Bellevue Literary Press, \$18.95).

Understanding Social Networks: Theories, Concepts, and Findings by *Charles Kadushin* '53. Kadushin explains online and offline social networks through a sociological lens, breaking them down for the non-mathematically inclined (Oxford University Press, \$99).

Forgotten Voices: The Expulsion of the Germans from Eastern Europe after World War II by *Ulrich Merten* '53. Through firsthand accounts and primary documents, Merten gives voice to the millions of German citizens persecuted by totalitarian Russia and their own Nazi state in the aftermath of WWII (Transaction Publishers, \$49.95).

The State of the Jews: A Critical Appraisal by *Edward Alexander* '57.

Alexander, a professor emeritus of English at the University of Washington, describes the threat Jewish people face from contemporary anti-Semitism and hostility toward Israel (Transaction Publishers, \$34.95).

The Other Side of the World by *Jay Neugeboren* '59. From the rainforests of Borneo to the streets of Brooklyn, Neugeboren's novel follows adventurer Charlie Eisner and provocative writer Seana O'Sullivan on an epic journey in memory of Charlie's late friend Nick (Two Dollar Radio, \$17).

Working for Peace and Justice: Memoirs of an Activist Intellectual by *Lawrence S. Wittner* '62. Through a series of vignettes, Wittner chronicles his life as an activist for peace, labor rights and racial equality (The University of Tennessee Press, \$29.95).

Hypertension: A Companion to Braunwald's Heart Disease, 2nd Edition by *Dr. Henry R. Black* '63 and *William J. Elliott*. An update to the authors' cardiology reference book, this edition provides doctors with the most up-to-date clinical tools to treat hypertension (Saunders, \$169).

Strangers & Pilgrims: A Centennial History of The Laymen's Club of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine by *Francis J. Sypher Jr.* '63. Sypher chronicles the Laymen Club's 100-year history of sponsoring the famous Morningside Heights cathedral as well as the

club's contributions to its construction from the 1920s through the 1990s (The Laymen's Club of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, \$35).

Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold's Plot to Betray America by *Mark Jacob* and *Stephen H. Case* '64. In their biography of Arnold's wife, Jacob and Case reveal her pivotal role in the treasonous plot that nearly sabotaged the American Revolution (Lyons Press, \$24.95).

Torture and Impunity: The U.S. Doctrine of Coercive Interrogation by *Alfred W. McCoy* '68. McCoy, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, writes a history of torture tactics used by the U.S. government and details how torture affects our culture, morality and laws (University of Wisconsin Press, \$24.95).

Whole Notes: A Piano Masterclass by *Armen Donelian* '72. A holistic approach to instrumental study — including advice on physical, mental and psychological challenges that need attention — from an internationally respected jazz pianist, composer and educator (Advance Music, \$32.50).

The Good, the Bad, and the Economy: Does Human Nature Rule Out a Better World? by *Louis Putterman* '76. The author grapples with the conflict between self-interest and social cooperation as he seeks to ad-

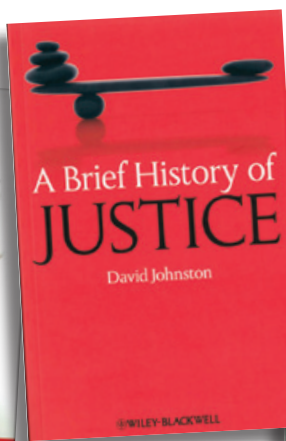
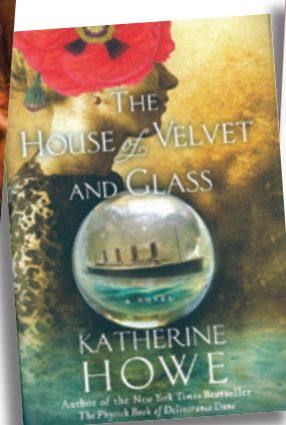
dress the reasons we've been unable to build a more equal and nurturing world (Langdon Street Press, \$17.95).

Black Tulips: The Selected Poems of José María Hinojosa by *José María Hinojosa*, translated by *Mark Statman* '80. Spanish poet Hinojosa's surrealist work — translated into English for the first time since his 1936 assassination — celebrates love amidst war and suffering (Uno Press, \$18.95).

Pledges of Jewish Allegiance: Conversion, Law, and Policymaking in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Orthodox Responsa by *David Ellenson* and *Daniel Gordis* '81. Ellenson and Gordis consider a wide array of legal opinions by European Orthodox rabbis to determine what constitutes a legitimate conversion to Judaism (Stanford University Press, \$30).

The People's Pension: The Struggle to Defend Social Security Since Reagan by *Eric Laursen* '82. In this history of Social Security, Laursen, a financial and political journalist, explains how the program's existence has been threatened by both political parties and lays out a strategy to protect it (AK Press, \$27).

Barack Obama ['83]: The Story by David Maraniss. The author, an associate editor at *The Washington Post*, draws on hundreds of interviews to uncover the influences on the personal and political life of President



Obama in this biography (Simon & Schuster, \$32.50).

The Secret War Between Downloading and Uploading: Tales of the Computer as Culture Machine by *Peter Lunenfeld* '84. The author analyzes our digital culture, warning that passive consumption, instead of active creation, has become the main way we use technology (The MIT Press, \$21.95).

New Classicists: Richard Manion ['84] Architecture by *Stacie Stukin*. This vivid portfolio of work by Richard Manion '84 features projects from around the world including signature homes inspired by English country houses, French châteaux and Italian villas (Images Publishing, \$90).

Race and America's Immigrant Press: How the Slovaks Were Taught to Think Like White People by *Robert M. Zecker* '84. Zecker, associate professor of history at Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, studies how immigrant newspapers covered American racial issues in the 19th and 20th centuries (Continuum, \$130).

The Shape of Green: Aesthetics, Ecology, and Design by *Lance Hosey* '87. Architect and designer Hosey outlines principles of design for products, cars, buildings and cities that incorporate sustainability (Island Press, \$30).

Sexual Types: Embodiment, Agency, and Dramatic Character from Shakespeare to Shirley by *Mario*

DiGangi '88. Building on feminist and queer scholarship, DiGangi demonstrates how sexual types such as the bawd, the sodomite and the citizen wife can be vilified but also serve as dynamic, resourceful characters who upend the limitations of their archetypes (University of Pennsylvania Press, \$65).

The Career Within You: How to Find the Perfect Job for Your Personality (Japanese edition) by *Elizabeth Wagele* and *Ingrid Stabb* '91. In a new edition of their 2009 book, Wagele and Stabb offer unique advice for job hunters in the Japanese market, using the Enneagram personality model to help find a job that fits one's sensibilities (HarperOne, 575 Japanese Yen).

The House of Velvet and Glass by *Katherine Howe* '99. The bestselling novelist's latest blends romance, the supernatural and a family's secrets during the tumultuous period spanning the sinking of the *Titanic* and WWI (Voice, \$25.99).

Sovereign Wealth Funds and Long-Term Investing edited by *Patrick Bolton*, the Barbara and David Zalaznick Professor of Business; *Frederic Samama*; and *Joseph E. Stiglitz*, University Professor. This collection of essays explains and examines the implications of sovereign wealth funds, state-owned investment funds with combined asset holdings that are approaching \$4 trillion (Columbia University Press, \$20).

Storable Votes: Protecting the Minority Voice by *Alessandra Casella*,

professor of economics. Casella brings the tools of economics to politics, presenting a system in which citizens can budget their votes, casting multiple votes when they consider a decision more important (Oxford University Press, \$29.95).

College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be by *Andrew Delbanco*, the Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies and the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities. Delbanco traces the evolution of higher education in America from early Puritan colleges to modern research universities and calls for a return to a broad, humanistic undergraduate education (see Columbia Forum in this issue for an excerpt) (Princeton University Press, \$24.95).

Ignorance: How It Drives Science by *Stuart Firestein*, professor of neuroscience and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. Citing examples from an array of scientific disciplines, Firestein claims scientists often make their best discoveries by embracing what they don't know (Oxford University Press, \$21.95).

A Brief History of Justice by *David Johnston*, professor of political science. Johnston's survey on justice covers the ancient law codes of Babylon and Greece as well as contemporary questions about the nature of justice (Wiley-Blackwell, \$29.95).

The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious

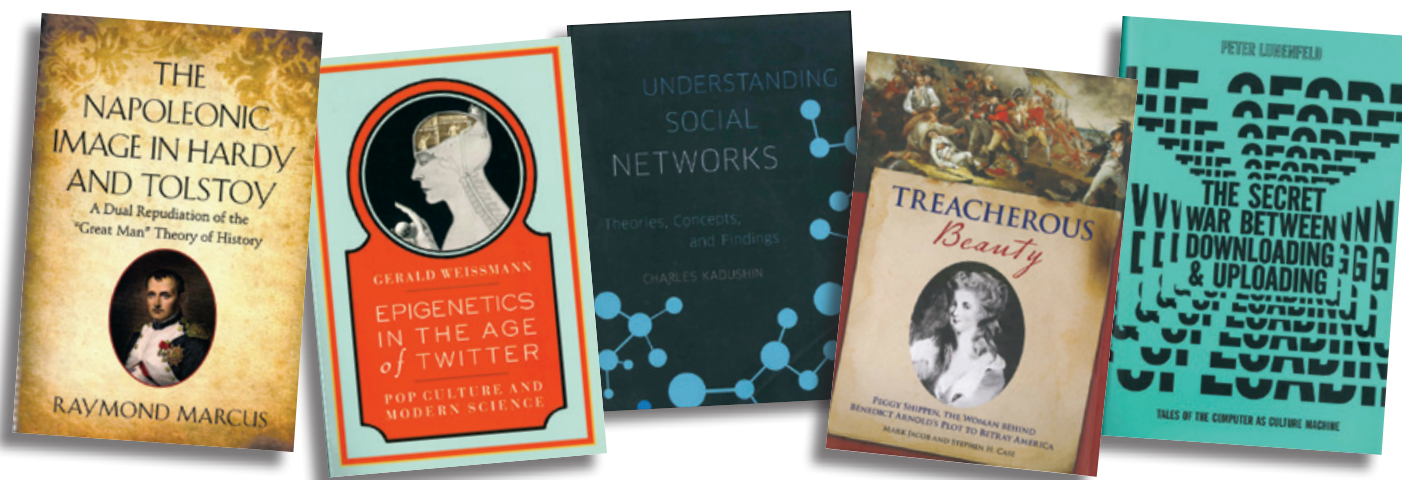
in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present by *Eric R. Kandel*, University Professor and the Kavli Professor of Brain Science in Neuroscience. Nobel Prize Winner Kandel traces an intellectual revolution in psychology, brain science, literature and art to the cultural epicenter of Vienna in 1900 (Random House, \$40).

Perpetual War: Cosmopolitanism from the Viewpoint of Violence by *Bruce Robbins*, the Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities. A theorist of cosmopolitanism, the shared morality of humanity beyond provincial loyalties, Robbins applies the concept to our era of constant U.S. warfare (Duke University Press, \$23.95).

Democracy, Islam, & Secularism in Turkey edited by *Ahmet T. Kuru* and *Alfred Stepan*, the Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government. In this collection of essays, a range of experts explore the historical, social and religious factors that inform Turkey's politics (Columbia University Press, \$27.50).

Refiguring the Spiritual: Beuys, Barney, Turrell, Goldsworthy by *Mark C. Taylor*, professor of religion. Through a critique of four contemporary artists, Taylor reveals the spiritual dimensions in their work that often are overlooked in the commercialized art market (Columbia University Press, \$27.50).

Benjamin Gittelson '15 and
Karen Iorio



Obituaries

1 9 3 3



Leo Rangell '33

Leo Rangell, psychoanalyst and emeritus clinical professor of psychiatry, Los Angeles, on May 28, 2011. Rangell was born on October 1, 1913, in New York. He earned a scholarship to Columbia and studied medicine at Chicago, graduating in 1937. Rangell practiced psychiatry and neurology in New York until WWII, then spent the war years as a psychiatrist in the Army Air Forces. After the war, he moved to Santa Monica and studied at the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Institute. He became a leading psychoanalyst who argued forcefully that theoretical fads and factions threatened to erode consumer confidence in the field. Rangell was a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA and UCSF, wrote more than 450 published papers as well as several books and twice was president

Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 1st Fl., New York, NY 10025.

of the American Psychoanalytic Association and the International Psychoanalytical Association. Rangell was seeing patients until shortly before his death. His chief contribution to the field was championing a comprehensive theory of psychoanalysis to counter the waves of new schools of thought that emphasized one approach over all others. Rangell was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Anita, and a son, Richard. He is survived by his daughters, Judith Alley and Susan Harris; son, Paul; sister, Sydelle Levitan; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

1 9 4 0

Hermion W. "Hy" Farwell Jr., retired speech professor, Pueblo, Colo., on April 6, 2011. Farwell was born on October 24, 1918. At Columbia, he was a member of the crew team. Farwell enlisted in the Army and then transferred to the Air Force in 1944. He retired from military service in 1966, taught Air Force ROTC and earned a master's from Penn State. He then moved to Pueblo to begin a second career as a professor in speech at what was then Southern Colorado State College, retiring in 1984 as professor emeritus from the Department of Speech Communication at USC. He continued to write and speak to many organizations throughout his retirement. Farwell was well known for his work in parliamentary procedure, about which he published several books. He was a member of a number of local organizations. Farwell was preceded in death by his two siblings and one grandson. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Martha; son Gardner and his wife, Cindy; daughter Linda and her husband, Rick Hammer; daughter-in-law, Margie; four grandsons; and seven great-grandchildren.

Edmund W. White, retired chemical engineer, Silver Spring, Md., on March 5, 2011. White was born in Philadelphia on July 8, 1920, and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned three degrees from Columbia: a B.A. from the College, and then a B.S. and M.S. from Engineering in 1941 and 1942, respectively. White earned a Ph.D. from Lehigh. He retired from the David Taylor Research Center in Annapolis, Md., in 1995. White was active in the American Society for Testing and Materials, the Potomac Curling Club and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Associa-

tion. He is survived by his wife, Nathalie; children, Christine, William, and his wife, Cheryl, Thomas and James; and one grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ed and Bill White Junior Curling Fund at the Potomac Curling Club, 13810 Old Gunpowder Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, or to American Diabetes Association, PO Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

1 9 4 2

William Pfeffer Jr., pediatrician, Randolph, N.H., on September 25, 2011. Born on April 25, 1921, Pfeffer was a graduate of Harvard Medical School in 1944 and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society that year. While in medical school, he served in the Army and then completed his internship and residency at Children's Hospital, Boston. Pfeffer was one of the early practicing authorities in pediatric exchange transfusions and one of the first to recognize maple syrup urine disease, a genetic metabolic disorder. He went into private practice in Wellesley, Mass., in 1952, and for more than 30 years was the consulting pediatrician to the Children's Mission (Parents' and Children's Services). Pfeffer married Jean Wilkinson in 1943. In 1985, the couple retired to their summer home in Randolph, N.H. Following Jean's death, Pfeffer married Angela Chakalis in 2001. Pfeffer was a skilled photographer, watercolor artist, writer, musician and woodworker. In 1999, he founded the Randolph Art Show and was the curator and organizer for 11 years. He is survived by his wife; son William and his wife, Anne; daughter Jane Jerry and her husband, George; two grandchildren; a niece; and a grandniece. Memorial contributions may be made to the Benevolence Fund, Randolph Church, c/o Mrs. Mark Kelley, 98 Randolph Hill Rd., Randolph, NH 03593.

1 9 4 3

Martin S. James, professor emeritus of art history, Ann Arbor, Mich., on October 11, 2011. James was born in London, England, on July 7, 1920, and raised in Paris, France, where he attended Lycée Janson de Sailly. He honed his passion for modern art both at Columbia under Professor Meyer Schapiro '24, '35 GSAS and as an assistant and translator to artists and architects including Kurt Seligmann and Le Corbusier. He earned an M.A. (1962) and Ph.D. (1973) from GSAS. Subjects of



Martin S. James '43

scholarship included Ad Reinhardt '35, Fernand Leger and Sigfried Giedion, with a special emphasis on Piet Mondrian, about whom James wrote several books and articles. While teaching at Brooklyn College from 1949–85, James created one of the first collegiate programs on urbanism with Professor Charles Ascher '18, '21L as well as other interdisciplinary programs in indigenous and public art. James also fought to make urban renewal adopt what he called a "human scale" throughout New York City. James was married twice and was predeceased by both wives, the former Betty Barras '46 Barnard and Jan Henry, and is survived by his children, Elisabeth and Stephen; stepdaughter, Deborah; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation (parkinson.org).

1 9 4 4

William W. Baines Jr., retired sales representative, Owings Mills, Md., on May 26, 2011. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on November 17, 1922, Baines interrupted his time at Columbia to fight in the Pacific in WWII on the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Belleau Wood*. Upon his return from the Navy, he was part of the Columbia varsity basketball team that won the Ivy League Championship in 1947. After graduation, he worked for Wilson Jones, selling stationery supplies. Married in 1949, he spent much of his adult life in the Baltimore area and volunteered a great deal of his time in his community, both in the church and within local civic groups, winning honors from PennMarVa and others. Baines also dedicated much of his time to coaching sports in his hometown of Pikesville, Md., and was named Man of the Year in 1974. He is survived by his wife of nearly 62

years, Carol; four children and their spouses; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

1 9 4 6

Charles H. Arnoldi Jr., retired surgeon, University Park, Fla., on April 26, 2011. Arnoldi was born in West Hoboken, N.J. At the College, he was a member of the V12 program. In 1949, he graduated from Georgetown University College of Medicine and was a practicing surgeon in Orange and South Orange, N.J., for more than 50 years. He was a member of the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association, and was a past president of the Essex County Medical Society. Arnoldi was a Navy veteran of the Korean War and served in the Naval Reserves for many years. He is survived by his wife, Jane; son, Jeffrey; daughters Amy, and Karen Costello; sister, Alma Torello; and four grandchildren. Arnoldi was predeceased by his first wife, Avis, and a daughter, Janice.

1 9 4 8

Richard van Frank, retired editor, Montclair, N.J., on July 4, 2011. Born and raised in New York City, van Frank completed a pre-med degree after serving as a U.S. Army medic in Italy and North Africa during WWII. He did graduate studies at Harvard in vertebrate paleontology and worked at the American Museum of Natural History and at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. Van Frank had a long career as an acquisitions editor in academic publishing, concentrating on textbooks and journals in the biological sciences. His retirement activities included visiting art museums, attending Shakespeare, probing classical Greek and comparative Indo-European linguistics and reading (and writing) science fiction. Van Frank is survived by his wife, Leslie; daughters, Katherine, and Jennifer and her husband, Barat Dickman; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Center of Clara Maass, 1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville, NJ 07109, or to the Overlook Hospital Foundation, 36 Upper Overlook Rd., PO Box 220, Summit, NJ 07902.

1 9 4 9

Ross J. Wilson, retired actuary, Hilton Head Island, S.C., on September 23, 2011. Wilson was born on February 16, 1925, in Flatbush, Brooklyn, N.Y. At age 18, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet, serving as a first lieutenant bombardier in the 15th Air Force during WWII. After the College, Ross entered the actuarial training program at Home Life Insurance Co., in New York City. He later joined the small actuarial

consulting firm of David G. Stone in Newark, N.J., where he became a partner with the then-named firm Stone, Young and Associates. The group merged into Watson Wyatt Worldwide Consulting Actuaries in the early 1980s, and he retired from it in 1987. Ross was a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, an associate of the Society of Actuaries and, while actively consulting, a fellow of the Conference of Actuaries in Public Practice. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Geraldine; daughter, Leslie R. Degenars; sons, Keith and Craig; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to Hilton Head Island Deep Well Project, PO Box 5543, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938.

1 9 5 0

Arthur S. Campbell, retired psychiatrist, Upper Saddle River, N.J., on July 9, 2011. Campbell interned at Seaside Memorial Hospital in Long Beach, Calif., and did a residency in internal medicine at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1954. He continued studies with a two-year fellowship in cardiology, followed by a final residency in psychiatry. After returning from his first European tour, he and his wife, Astry '48 Barnard, '49 GSAS, and their three children settled in Short Hills, N.J., where Campbell practiced psychiatry. A dozen years later, Campbell did a second stint in Europe, and returned stateside as an Army colonel. He was chief of psychiatry at three Army hospitals: Frankfurt, Heidelberg and Landstuhl, Germany. Campbell ended his Army career as a psychiatrist at West Point Military Academy. He then became a staff psychiatrist at Valley Hospital and later opened his own practice in Ridgewood, N.J., from which he retired in 2011. Campbell is survived by his wife; children, Brenda Leigh Haynes, A. Scott and Laura; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Valley Hospital Hospice Care, 15 Essex Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.

John D. "David" Suomi, retired dentist, New Wilmington, Pa., on May 8, 2011. A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Suomi earned a D.D.S. in 1953 from the Dental School and an M.P.H. in 1962 from the School of Public Health. He was in private practice in Tuxedo Park and Suffern, N.Y., before joining the U.S. Public Health Service in 1962; he retired in 1983 as a captain. Suomi served with the Division of Dental Health, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the National Institute of Dental Research. Suomi's research studies were important in estab-

Andrew Sarris '51, '98 GSAS, Film Critic and Longtime School of the Arts Professor

Andrew Sarris '51, '98 GSAS, one of the country's most influential film critics and a longtime professor at the School of the Arts (SOA), died on June 20, 2012. Described as indispensable and insightful, erudite but down to earth, Sarris was known for his reviews in *The Village Voice* and *The New York Observer* as well as for popularizing auteur theory, the notion that directors are the true authors of their films. He was 83 and lived in New York City.

Sarris was born on October 31, 1928, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Greek immigrants. He grew up in Ozone Park, Queens, and attended John Adams H.S. By his own admission, Sarris was entranced by movies from an early age and, after college and several years in the Army Signal Corps, he immersed himself more deeply in the medium. During a year in Paris in the 1950s he got to know New Wave directors Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut and was introduced to the theories he would later espouse.

Sarris started writing about film in *Film Culture* magazine, but his career's catalytic moment came with his first review for *The Village Voice*, in 1960. Sarris praised Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* and, more notably, took the director seriously as an artist at a time when he was dismissed as entertaining but commercial. It was an incendiary point of view among the newspaper's readers, and angry letters poured in; thus began a 29-year career with the paper.

In 1968 Sarris wrote his landmark book, *The American Cinema: Directors and Directions 1929–1968*. It included essays on film and evaluated hundreds of directors, ranking them in order of importance. Among those in his pantheon were Hitchcock, Charlie Chaplin, Howard Hawks, John Ford and Orson Welles, selections that underscored his belief



PHOTO: DAVE KOTINSKY/GETTY IMAGES

that masterpieces could be made in Hollywood commercial cinema.

Sarris' philosophy put him in opposition to critic Pauline Kael, who valued the individual experience of movie-going over one shaped by prescribed schools of thought. The two sparred famously over the years, and their followers divided into camps called the Sarristes and the Paulettes.

Among Sarris' later books are *Interviews With Film Directors*; *Confessions of a Cultist: On the Cinema 1955/1959*; and *You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet: The American Talking Film: History & Memory: 1927–1949*.

Sarris began teaching at Columbia in 1969 and the School of the Arts' annual distinguished alumnus award is named in his honor. In 1998, he earned an M.A. in English and comparative literature from GSAS.

As SOA Professor Annette Insdorf wrote in tribute: "One cannot overestimate the importance of Andrew Sarris to movie criticism as well as film studies in the United States. ... If we refer today to a 'Hitchcock movie' or a 'Hawks film,' it is because Sarris provided the vocabulary and the methodology for this kind of approach."

Sarris married film critic Molly Haskell in 1969; she survives him.

Alexis Tonti '11 Arts

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.

- 1936 Malberry Smith Jr.**, attorney and former state legislator, Savannah, Ga., on June 11, 2012.
- 1938 Howard G. Law Jr.**, retired attorney, Oak Harbor, Fla., on May 14, 2012.
- 1943 Walter A. Petryshyn**, retired otolaryngologist, Sarasota, Fla., on May 15, 2012.
- 1945 Thaddeus J. “Ted” Czarnomski**, retired technical director, Scotch Plains, N.J., on July 10, 2012.
- David R. Hays Jr.**, physician, Fincastle, Va., on May 23, 2012.
- 1947 Edward N. Costikyan**, political adviser and University trustee emeritus, Mount Pleasant, S.C., on June 22, 2012.
- 1948 George J. Poris**, retired advertising executive, Haworth, N.J., on May 29, 2012.
- 1949 Howard J. Baker**, engineer and project manager, Basking Ridge, N.J., and Greenacres, Fla., on February 22, 2012.
- Stephen Jarvis Jr.**, mathematician, Bandon, Ore., on June 17, 2012.
- Walter H. Mitton**, retired engineer, San Diego, on February 27, 2012.
- 1950 William H. Dickie Jr.**, retired, Douglaston, N.Y., on October 5, 2010.
- F. Theodore “Ted” Reid Jr.**, physician, Ajijic, Mexico, on July 15, 2012.
- 1951 Arthur Schon**, musician, singer and endodontist, West Palm Beach, Fla., February 27, 2012.
- 1952 Jay R. Carver Jr.**, retired, Atlantic Beach, Fla., on May 25, 2012.
- Mark Flanigan**, retired naval officer, Washington, D.C., on May 26, 2012.
- Albert K. Roermernann Jr.**, Middletown, Conn., on April 22, 2012.
- 1953 Charles M. Fainsbert**, retired CFO, Somerset, N.J., on April 23, 2012.
- 1954 Peter D. Ehrenhaft**, attorney, Washington, D.C., on July 25, 2012.
- Edward G. Holteen**, retired dentist, Ambler, Pa., on July 13, 2012.
- Melvin Goldstein**, chemist, Beer Sheva, Israel, on May 13, 2012.
- 1955 Samuel Astrachan**, novelist, Gordes, France, on August 5, 2012.
- James J. Phelan**, bank executive, New York City, on May 21, 2012.
- 1956 David E. Boyer**, civil engineer and project manager, West Caldwell, N.J., on July 8, 2012.
- Leonard M. Florentino**, retired, Hartford, Conn., on July 19, 2012.
- Charles B. Grace Sr.**, dentist, Manchester, N.J., on June 29, 2012.
- Michael I. Spiegel**, attorney, San Francisco, on August 3, 2012.
- 1960 Leonard Lustig**, real estate practitioner, Stony Brook, N.Y., on April 1, 2012.
- Nelson S. Lyon**, screenwriter, New York City, on July 17, 2012.
- 1961 Thomas E. Bratter**, psychologist, Salisbury, Conn., on August 3, 2012.
- Edward R. Hotelling**, retired pilot, Somis, Calif., on May 21, 2012.
- Barry H. Jacobs**, eye surgeon, New York City, on May 9, 2012.
- Louis R. Tomson**, attorney, New Scotland, N.Y., on May 8, 2012.
- 1962 Charles R. Miller**, bookseller, Salem, Ore., on May 10, 2012.
- 1963 William M. Guttman**, retired attorney and professor, Palm Beach, Fla., and New York City, on July 13, 2012.
- Charles J. Piera**, retired supervisor of volunteer services, Sundown, N.Y., on August 1, 2012.
- Robert T. Schiro**, land developer, Bergenfield, N.J., on April 28, 2012.
- 1964 Peter K. Shack**, attorney and singer, Davis, Calif., on July 3, 2012.
- 1967 James N. Woodruff**, legislative specialist, Washington, D.C., on April 5, 2012.
- 1977 Marcel D. Desbois**, sales manager, Scarsdale, N.Y., and Bangor, Pa., on May 1, 2012.
- 1980 Brian F. Smith**, teacher, Norwich, Conn., on April 17, 2012.
- 1991 Juan J. Calderon**, attorney, San Antonio, Texas, on June 12, 2012.
- 1992 Robert A. Ray**, management consultant and attorney, Tampa, Fla., on June 26, 2012.

lishing the link between poor oral hygiene and periodontal disease. He was a recipient of the PHS Meritorious Service Medal. Suomi was a life member of the American Dental Association and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry as well as a diplomat of the American Board of Dental Public Health. During WWII, he served with the Army in Europe. Survivors include his wife, Anne; daughters, Susan

Herchenroether and her husband, Peter, and Linda Bethke and her husband, Paul; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Suomi Scholarship Fund c/o Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16142.

1 9 5 3

Rolon W. Reed, retired attorney, former mayor, Mount Dora, Fla., on September 18, 2011. Reed was born

in Pittsburgh on April 8, 1931. An aspiring journalist, while in junior high school and high school his sports writing appeared in *The New York Times*. At the College, Reed was on the *Spectator* staff, rising to managing editor. He also participated in the editorial decision to endorse Adlai Stevenson for President during the 1952 campaign. Stevenson’s opponent, Dwight Eisenhower, was Columbia’s president at the

time, which made the endorsement controversial. Reed was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. After graduating from Yale Law, he joined Simpson Thacher in 1956, where he was named partner and remained until his 1984 retirement. He also took part in government service in the Village of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., his home from 1963–89. Entering local politics in 1974, Reed successfully ran for Village Trustee as a self-proclaimed “irate taxpayer.” After twice being re-elected, he accepted an appointment by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo to serve as a Justice of the Westchester County Court. Following his court service, Reed and his second wife, Diana, relocated to Florida. Reed is survived by her; his three children from his first marriage, Rolon ‘82, Hilary Yeo and Jennifer Simon; and four grandchildren.

1 9 5 5

Denis A. Haggerty, retired executive, Melbourne, Fla., on July 11, 2011. Haggerty was born on May 26, 1933, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and grew up in Saint James, N.Y. He attended Columbia on a Hayden scholarship and played football. Haggerty served two years in the USMC as a reserve officer. He lived much of his life in Suffolk County, Long Island, working in the electronics industry as an owner of TX Sales and then as v.p. of JACO Electronics. He retired to Titusville, Fla., in 1997. Haggerty was active in the Big Brothers of Brevard and was a member of the Stony Brook Yacht Club and the St. George Golf Club, both on Long Island, and the LaCita Golf and Country Club in Titusville. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline; children, Timothy, Peter and his wife, JoEllen Gasior; and Lynn Haggerty King and her husband, David; four grandchildren; and sister, Patricia Stoddard. He was predeceased by a son, Christopher. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Saint Francis, 1250-B Grumman Pl., Titusville, FL 32780 or the American Cancer Society.

1 9 5 6

James S. Williams, retired executive, Fallbrook, Calif., on May 22, 2011. Williams was awarded a Varsity C in baseball in 1955 and 1956. He joined the Marine Corps following graduation and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain. Williams spent his early years in the advertising business on Madison Avenue, then moved to Denver in 1977. He founded Evergreen Resources, an oil and gas exploration company, with Terry Dreisewerd, his longtime business partner. Evergreen was sold in 2004 to Pioneer Natural

Resources. Throughout his life, Williams entertained family and friends by playing the piano. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and her children, Ken Plattner, Paul Plattner and Kelli Garecht; his children, Mitch ‘80 and Erin Hurley; and seven grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Nadia’s Gift (nadiasgift.org).

1 9 5 7

Frederick W. Korz, retired educator, horologist, Middletown, Conn., on April 4, 2011. Born on October 26, 1935, in New York City, Korz was raised in New Hyde Park. He graduated from Sewanhaka H.S. in Floral Park, N.Y., and received a full Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry Scholarship to the College, where he was president of Delta Phi. Korz earned an M.A. in history from Teachers College and was a history teacher and administrator in Lawrence H.S., Cedarhurst, N.Y., for 34 years. He did further graduate work at Hofstra, earning a degree in administration. The author of articles on history and teaching, Korz also was on the faculty of Long Island University, where he taught in the Arts and Antiques Institute. Long an active horologist and appraiser, he was the author of a major work on antique clocks and consultant to various museums and historical societies. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; sons, Frederick ‘93E, ‘94E and Charles; brother, Alan ‘61 and his wife, Margaret; sister-in-law, Barbara Nielsen; brother-in-law, Richard Wagner; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia College Fund (college.columbia.edu/giveonline).

1 9 5 8

Joachim Neugroschel, literary translator, Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 23, 2011. Neugroschel was born in Vienna on January 13, 1938, and immigrated to Rio de Janeiro in 1939. His family arrived in New York City in 1941. The son of Yiddish Galician poet Mendel Neugroschel, he took an interest in translating from Yiddish and translated more than 200 books — from that language as well as from French, German, Russian and Italian — including the work of Nobel Prize-winner Elias Canetti. Neugroschel’s Yiddish anthologies, *The Shitl* and *Yene Velt*, reached a wide audience, and his translations of S. Ansky’s play *The Dybbuk* and Sholem Asch’s drama *God of Vengeance* were produced. Neugroschel also was a critic and poet, and he founded and edited the poetry journal *Extensions*, which was published from 1970–75. He is survived by his former partner, Aaron Mack Schloff.

1 9 5 9

George R. Carmody, biology professor and DNA evidence expert, Ottawa, Ontario, on June 13, 2011. Born on March 29, 1938, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Carmody was educated at Brooklyn Technical H.S. and Columbia, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1967 from GSAS in biological sciences. He was a post-doctoral fellow at Chicago and in 1969 joined the Department of Biology at Carleton University, Ottawa, where for 42 years he taught courses in evolutionary biology, population genetics and forensic science. He also was associate dean of science and head of Carleton’s Integrated Science Program intermittently. Carmody developed an interest in forensic DNA and statistical biology, and became a consultant to government agencies, testifying on DNA evidence issues at trials in Canada in the 1990s as well as assisting with 9-11 and Hurricane Katrina. He lectured internationally and assisted with victim identification efforts in Chile and Guatemala. Carmody enjoyed photography, jazz, vintage Cadillacs, railroading, fine dining and ethnic cuisine, and was an amateur mechanic. He is survived by his wife, Zoë; sons, Chios and Ian; daughter, Daphne; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the George Carmody Memorial Award for Forensic Biology, Department of University Advancement, 510 Robertson Hall, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON K1S 5B6 (carleton.ca/giving).

1 9 6 1

Arthur D. Friedman, retired professor and publisher, San Diego, on October 24, 2011. Born in New York City on April 24, 1940, Friedman earned an M.S. (1962) and a Ph.D. (1965) in electrical engineering from the Engineering School. After doing research in computer science-electrical engineering at Bell Telephone Laboratories, he joined the faculty at the University of Southern California and then moved to the George Washington University, where he taught for more than 20 years. The author of numerous articles and books, Friedman was elected a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. In 1974, he and his wife, Barbara, founded Computer Science Press, which published more than 100 text and reference books and was recognized by *Inc.* 500 magazine several times as one of the nation’s 500 fastest growing, privately owned companies. Survivors include Friedman’s wife; sons, Michael and Steven ‘01 Business, and their wives; four grandchildren; and a brother, Stanley ‘54, ‘62 GSAS. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cardiac Treatment Center at

David Rakoff ’86, Humor Essayist and Actor



PHOTO: PAUL ROOSIN

David Rakoff ‘86, a prizewinning humorist whose essays examined everything from a 1996 stint portraying Sigmund Freud in a window display at Barneys New York to his battles with cancer more than 20 years ago and again soon before his death, died on August 9, 2012. He was 47 and lived in New York City.

Rakoff was born in Montreal on November 27, 1964, and raised in Toronto. His College degree was in East Asian studies and after graduating he worked in Japan as a translator with a fine arts publisher, though his stay was cut short by a diagnosis of Hodgkin’s lymphoma. He moved back to Canada for 18 months of treatment and remained cancer-free for two decades.

Returning to New York, Rakoff worked as an editor and publicist for various publishers before becoming a full-time writer in 1998. A letter Rakoff wrote to humor writer Davis Sedaris in the early 1990s, after hearing him on the radio, and

Sedaris’ subsequent support of Rakoff’s work led to Rakoff’s own radio career. He became a frequent contributor to “This American Life” on public radio, and his books include *Fraud: Essays* and *Don’t Get Too Comfortable: The Indignities of Coach Class, The Torments of Low Thread Count, The Never-Ending Quest for Artisanal Olive Oil, and Other First World Problems*, both of which received Lambda Literary Awards. Another book, *Half Empty*, received the Thurber Prize for American Humor. [Editor’s note: See Bookshelf, September/October 2010.]

Rakoff’s print essays, which appeared in, among other publications, *The New York Times*, *GQ*, *Details*, *Salon* and *Slate*, formed much of the basis of his books, which wryly detail his real-life escapades. In 2009, he contributed a piece to a *New York Magazine* selection of essays titled “My First New York,” in which he wrote about his arrival at Columbia and in New York.

Rakoff also acted, appearing in several plays by Sedaris and his sister, Amy, as well as in bit parts on several television shows. He appeared in the 2005 film *Capote* and wrote the screen adaptation for, as well as starred in, a 20-minute film, *The New Tenants*, a comedy about a horrendous New York rental experience. It won the Academy Award for best live-action short film in 2010.

Rakoff is survived by his father, Vivian; mother, Gina Shochat-Rakoff; brother, Simon; and sister, Ruth.

Lisa Palladino

Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, PO Box 2669, La Jolla, CA 92038; or the American Cancer Society, 2655 Camino del Rio North, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108.

1 9 6 9

Joseph J. Okon, physician and medical educator, Norwalk, Conn., on May 6, 2011. Born in New York City, Okon earned an M.D. at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He devoted his career to obtaining funding for the advancement of medical education and devoted his life to his family and his friends. A

lifelong philanthropist, he was especially dedicated to spreading a Jewish education to those in need. Okon was a member of several boards of directors, including the UJA Federation and Bi-Cultural Day School. He is survived by his sons, Benjamin, Ezra and Alexander; friend, Sandy Samuels; and late brother Paul’s family. Memorial contributions may be made to the Okon Family Philanthropic Fund II (2474) of the Jewish Communal Fund, 866-580-4523.

Lisa Palladino



Class Notes

25
40

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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Sol Fisher '36 sent a clipping from the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the 35th Awards Dinner of the Exploratorium, the city's museum of science, art and human perception, which was held in May. Among other things, the dinner paid tribute to all 90 honorees in the awards' history — including longtime *Chronicle* science editor **David Perlman '39, '40J**. The article notes that David was "perhaps the first reporter to write about the Exploratorium before its 1969 premiere."

The Columbia University Band Alumni Association is preparing a history of bands at Columbia and would love to be in touch with anyone who played during the mid-'30s. If this includes you, or if you know of a classmate who fits the bill, please contact CCT Managing Editor Alexis Tonti '11 Arts: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485.

CCT hopes that you enjoy a wonderful fall. Send us an update, whether by email, good old U.S. Postal Service or via our easy-to-use webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Your classmates want to hear how you're doing and what you're up to.

41

Robert Zucker
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Louis Cohn-Haft died in June 2011 in Siena, Italy. When he came in for our 50th reunion, he had been working as a professor in Chianti; he eventually retired in Italy.

On May 3 one of our most active classmates, **Jack Beaudouin**, passed away. Jack received permission early

in his senior year to leave school to take a significant position with *Reader's Digest* but still graduated with our class. For most of his career he was president of the Reader's Digest Condensed Book Club.

A letter from Suzanne Dettmer '46 SW (wife of the late **Bob Dettmer**) bemoaned the fact that her grandson, who had a 4.0 average in a community college, was not accepted to Columbia. Unfortunately

attachment to Columbia. Warren earned a B.S. in civil engineering in 1949 and an M.S. in civil engineering in 1950, then embarked on a 43-year career at Grumman Aircraft as an engineer and operations analyst. Warren, a member of Tau Beta Pi, earned numerals and a letter as a member of the freshman and varsity swimming teams. On behalf of classmates and our Alumni Office, I thank Warren for his thoughtful call.

The San Francisco Chronicle noted David Perlman '39 was "the first reporter to write about the Exploratorium" before its 1969 opening.

many factors combine to make Columbia College much more difficult to enter than it was in our time. When 450 male students, primarily from the New York metropolitan area and almost exclusively white, were admitted to the Class of 1941, the population of the United States was approximately 40 percent of today's total. Today's College has no borders and is multi-racial — some 57 percent of the members of the Class of 2015 self-identified on the Common Application as being of color. More than 50 foreign countries are represented in each class and the male component generally is slightly less than one half. A much larger percentage of the U.S. population goes to college than in our day and transportation is easier. Applicants know that to be considered today they must be in the top 10 percent of their high school class and have high college boards. With all of this, the CC and Engineering Classes of 2016 received a combined total of almost 32,000 applications.

42

Melvin Hershkowitz
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On a chilly, rainy morning on April 22, I was pleased to receive a warm, friendly telephone call from **Warren Lane '50E**, in Huntington, N.Y., on Long Island. Warren, who had his 92nd birthday on March 18, thanked me and our Alumni Office for the invitation to our 70th reunion luncheon, held June 2. Although he was unable to attend, Warren said he had warm memories of his days on campus and enjoys reading our Class Notes, which reflect our emotional

Leo Reuther sent an email on April 23, reporting that he had his 90th birthday on March 14 and was still ambulatory "unaided." With regrets, Leo said he would not be attending our reunion luncheon, as he now tries to avoid flying as much as possible. Leo, one of the many heroes in our Great Class of 1942, was an ace fighter pilot in WWII, so he certainly earned his sabbatical from getting in and out of airplanes. After WWII, Leo had a career in the FBI, retiring in the 1970s. At Columbia, Leo won numerals for freshman basketball and was on the varsity swimming team. He participated in *The Varsity Show* and was a member of Columbia Players, the Rifle Club, the Newman Club and the Dolphin Society. We salute Leo as a loyal Columbia alumnus and distinguished member of our class.

Professor **Morris Grossman '60** GSAS called on April 24 to report that he was planning to come to the reunion luncheon. Morris, a retired professor of philosophy — he'd worked at Fairfield University in Connecticut — had his 90th birthday on March 11. He sounded much younger than that on the phone, though he confessed to various physical ailments, none of which prevented his attendance on June 2. Morris earned an M.A. from the Graduate Faculties in 1949 and a Ph.D. in 1960. He taught at Penn State and Portland State (Oregon) before coming to Fairfield, and now is seeking a publisher for his recently completed book, *Art & Morality*, a collection of various papers that he published during his long career. Morris is an authority on philosopher George Santayana. At Columbia, Morris showed his

intellectual prowess as chess team manager and won a Silver Crown.

On April 24, I received an email from **Arthur E. Smith**, sending regrets about not being able to come to our reunion. Art, who had his 91st birthday in October 2011, was a member of our great crews in 1940 and 1941 and has kept in touch with the coxswain of those crews, **Bob Kaufman**, who lives in Scarsdale, N.Y. Art took graduate courses at the Business School in 1947 and earned an M.B.A. at NYU in 1948. At the College, Art earned his Varsity C, was a member of the Crewsters and was awarded the Bang's Cup Medal. I'd previously heard from Art in 2007, when he reported attending the graduation of his grandson, Jeff '07 SIPA. Art's son, Arthur Jr. '71, also is a Columbian, which means that Art started a three-generation legacy when he joined our Great Class of 1942.

Judge **Leonard Garth** sent an email message on April 25 with regret at his inability to attend the luncheon on June 2. I have written about Len's extraordinarily long and distinguished career in the Appellate Judiciary in prior issues of CCT. He is one of our most famous classmates (Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito was one of Len's law clerks), and he remains cognitively intact, despite impaired mobility. Len sends his greetings and warm regards to all classmates.

On April 28, I had a long phone chat with **Donald Seligman**, living in Somers, N.Y. Don called to say he was sorry to miss our reunion luncheon; he was unable to travel because of various physical ailments. He had his 90th birthday in July 2011 and remains perfectly lucid. We had a warm conversation about Columbia and our mutual friends. Don played freshman and varsity football and served in the Marines in WWII. I last saw Don several years ago, when we both spoke at the memorial service in St. Paul's Chapel for our dear friend **Jack Arbolino**, a Marine hero in WWII. After the war, Don had a long career as a leader in the women's fashion footwear industry before retiring to Somers.

Old friend **Arthur "Wizzer" Wellington** sent a note on April 30 with family news and regrets that he would not be able to come from Elmira, N.Y., for our reunion. Art (92 on May 17) helped celebrate the 65th birthday of his eldest son with a family golf outing at their country club, where Art rode in his golf cart

to follow the proceedings. We had our annual discussion about handicapping the Kentucky Derby and discussed Art's trifecta choices for the race. (Art is a charter member of the Columbia chapter of the Degenerate Horseplayers Club, along with this writer, **Don Mankiewicz** in Monrovia, Calif., and the late **Don Dickinson**, who died several years ago in Las Vegas.) Art did not cash any of his derby wagers, but as Frank Sinatra once sang, "Here's to the losers, bless them all."

On May 2, **Immanuel "Manny" Lichtenstein '43E** sent a cordial email to say he would be coming to our reunion. Manny, who had his 90th birthday in February, still is active in his long career as a special expert in metallurgy and mining engineering, and has continued to work all over the world, including in Eastern Turkey and Southern Idaho. He earned a B.S. from Engineering in 1943 and an M.S. from Stevens Institute in 1953. At Columbia, Manny rowed on the freshman lightweight crew. He now lives in Princeton, N.J., with his wife, the former Nancy Rabi '52L, daughter of our famous Columbia physicist, I.I. Rabi '27 GSAS. (Nancy was a Law School classmate of Judge **Leonard Garth**.) Manny has been a loyal alumnus for many years, and says he much prefers our Columbia lion to the Princeton tiger, which he sees in profusion in his hometown.

Paul Hauck sent an email on May 5, expressing regret that he could not attend our reunion luncheon because of physical infirmities that preclude travel from his home in Naples, Fla. Paul, who had his 92nd birthday on April 16, was a brilliant student among many in our class and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He earned an M.B.A. from The George Washington University in 1964 and had a long career as an economist and consultant to the Navy and Department of Defense before his retirement. He recalled coming to the Admissions Office in 1938 with two other classmates from Jamaica H.S. in Queens for his pre-admission interview with Bernard P. Ireland '31, '35 GSAS, and was happy to be admitted. Paul enjoys reading our Class Notes in CCT and sends warm regards to all classmates.

On May 12, **Kenneth von der Porten** sent an email with regrets that he would not be able to attend our reunion. Ken, who had his 91st birthday in November 2011, had been living in Boynton Beach, Fla., where he had a series of unfortunate falls, leaving him dependent on a walker for ambulation and support. He sold his home in Florida and now resides in an assisted living facility near his daughter in Con-

necticut. Ken was a metallurgist, and retired as v.p. of Ledoux & Co. in the 1980s. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and the American Institute of Mining Engineers. Ken sends kind regards and good wishes to all old friends and classmates. He can be reached at kvonderporten@att.net.

As for our 70th reunion luncheon, it was held June 2 in the handsomely refurbished Core Conference Room in Hamilton Hall, where, as incoming freshmen in 1938, 74 years ago, we had our first Humanities and CC classes. Classmates present were **Immanuel Lichtenstein, Morris Grossman, Arthur Graham, Robert Kaufman, Dr. Bernard Small** and this correspondent. Morris was accompanied by his loyal friend, Janet Jurist. Bob came with his effervescent and irrepressible wife, Susan. Bernie came with his lovely spouse, Sheila. I came with my highly accomplished designated driver and son-in-law, Steve Hathaway, who joined us for the luncheon and discussions. (See my comments above about Morris and Manny.)

Arthur lives in White Plains, N.Y., having retired from his long career as an engineer/management consultant. Bob, who is retired in Scarsdale, N.Y., had a remarkable career as v.p. and legal counsel at ABC television network, where with Roone Arledge '52, he helped establish innovative coverage of the Olympic Games and Monday Night Football. Bernard, a retired dentist, lives in Tenafly, N.J., and Montauk, N.Y., and is a longtime generous donor to the Columbia College Fund.

Bernard Goldman '46 received the Halstead Memorial Award from the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association.

We were delighted to welcome Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis, who joined us for lunch and gave an excellent talk on the history of the Core Curriculum and its prospects. At the end of the luncheon, we remembered some of our deceased classmates, whose friendships meant so much to us at Columbia and in the years that followed: **Dr. Herbert Mark, Gerald Green, Jack Arbolino, Donald Dickinson, Philip Bayer** (a Marine hero, killed at Peleliu in WWII), **Charles F. "Chic" Hoelzer Jr.** and our immediate past president and intrepid leader, **Victor Zaro**.

Charles F. "Chic" Hoelzer Jr. and our immediate past president and intrepid leader, **Victor Zaro**. We thank our devoted CCT and Alumni Office staff members, Lisa Palladino, CCT executive editor, and Nick Mider, event coordinator, for joining us at this luncheon and for their outstanding efforts in

making this a memorable occasion.

We look forward to meeting again at Homecoming on Saturday, October 20. [Editor's note: See Around the Quads.]

Warm regards and good wishes to all.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**

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43

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No news from '43ers. I haven't had any takers on my offer. For those of you who missed it, any 1943 classmate who contacts me at the above email address is invited to join me for lunch at a Philadelphia restaurant of his choosing.

The spring was notable for me because my granddaughter, Sara, graduated from the VA Theological Seminary in May. She and her husband then left for a parish in the Rochester, N.Y., area. Two of their seminarian friends there came to stay with us in March. They are a French couple, here because she wishes to become an Episcopal priest, and there are no Episcopal seminaries in France. They were

meeting of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (or SIOP, as its French acronym goes). I have missed only one of these in the 44 years of its existence.

I'm sad to report that **Sidney Warschausky**, a retired educator who lived in Ann Arbor, Mich., died on April 9, 2011.

In just nine months, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our College graduation by gathering on campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend. It's never too early to save the date, so mark your calendars for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013.

As always, class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the week-end's events. If you're interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

More about reunion will follow in this column during the next year as well as arrive at your home via mail and email. To ensure that Columbia has your correct contact information, update it online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

44

Henry Rolf Hecht
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What does it take, dear classmates, to convince you to share some of your happenings with your fellow '44ers? We still have some vibrant members — with vibrant experiences — so please let your friends hear of them. You can reach me by phone (201-750-7770) or by the email or snail mail addresses at the top of the column. Please do.

As for this round, the only news that reached me was the alumni obituary report, sadly noting the departure of **Mort Lindsey**, our laureate composer and conductor, and of educator **John Brereton**.

I can, however, share a bit of firsthand experience. In June, my wife, Hattie Parks, and I traveled to the Washington, D.C., area to participate in the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Camp Ritchie Army Military Intelligence Training Center in the Blue Ridge foothills of Maryland, between Frederick and Hagerstown. I trained there in spring and summer 1944 — in fact, I was on a field exercise that June when, as I learned much later, Dr. [Nicholas Murray] Butler (Class of 1882) awarded me my bachelor's in absentia.

While in the area, I visited retired

foreign service officer **Albert Seligmann** and his bride, Bobbie, outside Alexandria, Va. They had just returned from vacationing in the scenic Dordogne area of southwest France. Bobbie is the sister of Dr. **Martin Beller**, who, she reports, is happily retired in Gaines, Pa.

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I'm happy to report some very interesting conversations of late. I spoke with **Howard Brooks** '48E, who served as an Air Force radio operator before returning to Columbia for his second degree, a B.S. in electrical engineering. Afterward he worked for General Electric as an electrical engineer, retiring in 1987. He married May Sue in 1953 and they have a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. His hobby is photography.

Howard claims his life has been calm and uneventful but on urging, he recalled a time when he was sent by GE to board a submarine and solve a technical problem. Although the sub was in harbor, he had to board her from a lifeboat. Howard recalls his fear of slipping as he crawled aboard.

I also chatted with Betsy (née Jones), the wife for 59 years of **Bruce Hayes**, who brought me up to speed on his lifelong adventures. (Bruce, unfortunately, is too deaf for phone conversations.) He attended Columbia for 1½ years before joining the Navy; after coming back, he graduated from Hamilton College, where he was a DKE and where he was happy not to have a two-hour-plus commute from Brooklyn. According to his wife, Bruce is an avid reader of CCT.

Bruce and Betsy married in 1965, and they have two children and three grandchildren, all of whom live in western Massachusetts.

During the war, Bruce flew off the carrier *U.S.S. Randolph* in the Pacific. He received five Air Medal citations and the Distinguished Flying Cross, though the catapults probably didn't do much for his hearing; the males in his family all have suffered marked hearing loss. Bruce spent the rest of his career in retail sales. For a time after he retired, he and Betsy traveled extensively, but now they are content to stay home and enjoy time with their family. They live in their house of 46 years in Longmeadow, Mass.

Jean C. Chognard '46E, '48L, whom you can reach at jchognard@comcast.net, sent a snail mail. He writes, "After graduating from the College, I obtained a B.S. in

electrical engineering and a law degree, both from Columbia. I then worked in the patent field in New York and Boston until, in early 1958, I joined Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto, Calif. It had just finished the 1957 fiscal year with sales of about \$26 million and about 1,000 employees. The massive use of transistors and integrated circuits was yet to come and Silicon Valley did not exist. As the company grew, I became general counsel and later v.p. for patents and licenses. I retired in 1985; it was a most exciting time."

Exciting indeed! And incidentally, this report was done on an HP computer.

Finally, on a sad note, I leaned from his wife that Dr. **Bill Bikoff** has died. Our condolences and thoughts are with his family.

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Dr. **Paul Marks** '49 P&S' distinguished career as dean of P&S, president (now emeritus) of Memorial Sloan-Kettering and researcher who developed a cancer drug makes him uniquely qualified to respond to the question I posed: "What are the three most important challenges confronting medicine today?"

Dr. Robert S. Jampel '47, '50 P&S is emeritus professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Paul responded, "I would say 1) advancing our ability to control and cure cancers; 2) better understanding and more effective intervention for neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's disease; and 3) infectious disease — the development of resistant bacterial strains and viral strains continue to pose a major health problem, for which new and better antibiotics must be developed.

"I would add that perhaps the greatest challenge to healthcare in this country is access to affordable healthcare. This will become more so as we move toward expanded healthcare. A neglected area is developing funding — federal funding — for health professional training to meet the increased population that should have access to healthcare, through healthcare reform legislation.

"In the area of cancer in particular, but in medicine in general, the rapid advances in molecular and

genetic diagnosis are establishing a new paradigm in diagnosis: that no two patients' cancers are exactly the same, even though they have the same clinical diagnosis. What is emerging is that identifying the molecular defects in a particular patient's cancer is providing targets for therapy that are personalized to the particular patient — increasingly more effective with fewer side effects."

Paul, thanks for your meaningful insights.

[Editor's note: See CCT's profile in the May/June 2007 issue or, more recently, the cover story in the Spring 2012 issue of *Columbia Medicine*.]

Bernard Goldman's collection of awards and honors continues to grow. He recently received the Halstead Memorial Award from the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association "for services to the sport of skiing in the Rocky Mountain Division." Bernie said, "To be included with the list of previous recipients is overwhelming." When asked if he still skis, he replied, "Is the pope still Catholic?"

Lawrence Ross writes that having been associate editor of the '45 *Columbian* yearbook prepared him to be a reporter and then news chief in 8th Army HQ in Yokohama. (As *Columbian* editor, I remember his wonderful drawings.) We can add Larry to our list of classmates who have

changed careers. After 14 years of pediatric medicine, he went back into residency at New York Hospital, now Weill Cornell Medical Center, in radiology. Now retired, Larry paints (he's a talented artist) and, with a new shoulder and new hip, plays golf, but he gave up tennis.

Stuart Tears in Ft. Worth, Texas, recalls corresponding with **Richard Heffner** in 1985 when Stuart was on the Dallas Motion Picture Classification Board rating movies. Dick chaired the Classification and Ratings Administration of the Motion Picture Association of America in Hollywood for 20 years.

Dick is creator and host of TV's *The Open Mind*, a university professor, author and now, we learn, has ties to Hollywood, too? Wow! [Editor's note: See feature on Heffner in this issue.]

Dr. **Herbert Hendin** was honored by Suicide Prevention International (SPI) with a Lifetime Achievement

Award at a full-house luncheon at the University Club in Manhattan. Herb is not resting on this or his previous awards and distinctions. The Bristol-Meyers Squibb Foundation recently awarded him and SPI a major grant for a project to reduce suicides among combat veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. [Editor's note: See the Spring 2012 issue.]

As reported in a San Francisco newspaper, "**Herb Gold**, the famed writer of Russian Hill, is a great walker. He takes on the Filbert Street steps daily without gasping for air. No wonder he looks so good at 87."

Dr. **Irwin Nydick** '48 P&S was honored on June 7 at the graduation of medical residents of the Weill Cornell Medical Center. The hospital created "The Irwin Nydick Voluntary Attending of the Year Award," to be awarded annually to the member of the Voluntary Attending Physician Faculty who best contributes to the residents' professional development. He was further honored at graduation by the young medics who demonstrated their regard and affection by presenting him with a beautiful crystal piece engraved with "For his tireless commitment to instilling in each of us a spirit of lifelong learning, and inspiring us to be the best clinicians we can be." After retiring in 1998, Irwin continued to teach and tutor. The CC '46 Class Notes in the November/December 2010 issue carried the story of what have come to be known by residents at the hospital as "Nydick Rounds."

John McConnell's wolf sightings in Post Falls, Idaho; **Bernie Goldman**'s Colorado mountains; **Herb Gold**'s San Francisco hills ... it would be fun to read about your "backyards." Are alligators sunning on Collins Avenue in Miami? Drop me a line and we will run it here.

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[Editor's note: CCT is pleased to welcome Dr. **Frank Iaquinta** as the new CC '47 class correspondent. Please send your news to him at the postal or email addresses above or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. The webform will go right to him.]

Dr. **Frank Iaquinta** attended the class' 65th reunion in June, as did **William Kahn** and **Lawrence (Larry) Friedland**. The three joined six members of the Class of 1942

for a luncheon celebrating both classes on June 2.

Three other classmates sent news to CCT this summer.

Dr. **Robert S. Jampel** Ph.D. '50 P&S is emeritus professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. After P&S he finished residencies in ophthalmology and neurology at the University of Michigan, where he also earned a Ph.D. in neuroanatomy. From 1960-70 he was on the faculty of the Institute of Ophthalmology of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

In 1970 Robert was appointed professor and chairman of the department of ophthalmology at Wayne State and director of the Kresge Eye Institute. He served in that capacity from 1970-93. During his tenure, Robert recruited a distinguished faculty of clinicians and scientists. He planned for and raised the funds for the construction of a new building to house the Kresge Eye Institute and supervised the training of more than 130 ophthalmologists. In 2000, the School of Medicine established the Robert S. Jampel M.D., Ph.D., Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology to support a research scientist.

Robert lives in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., with his wife, Joan. They have four children and 12 grandchildren.

Former poet laureate **Daniel Hoffman** shared an article, *A Poet's Busy Maundy Thursday*, which ran in the April 12 issue of *The Swarthmorean*:

"This year's Maundy Thursday (April 5) was a day Dan Hoffman of Swarthmore isn't likely to forget.

"At 2:30 he donned his academic gown in Irvine Auditorium on the Penn campus. Then, following a bag-piper, and Dean Michael A. Fitts of the law school and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Dan led the law school faculty single file through the thousand spectators to the stage.

"After the dean's introductions, Dan began the ceremony to dedicate the law school's new Golkin Building by invoking 'the Founding Grandfather of our Commonwealth,' —

"'Before there was a Philadelphia lawyer,'

"'William Penn, hero of his book *Brotherly Love*, whose initial code of laws set forth the ideals we have since striven to live up to.

"Justice Sotomayor said she wanted first to become a lawyer after reading [Nancy Drew books], then a detective and judge, after watching the TV series *Perry Mason*. According to Dan, she spoke about

her career and 'responded to students' queries with eloquence that gave credence to her empathy and dedication.'

"After the ceremony, Dan joined a march to Golkin on Sansom Street for ribbon-cutting, a reception, a photo session, and a dash by taxi to 30th Street to catch a train to New York.

"In NYC, he hailed a cab to the Cathedral [Church] of St. John the Divine and the 19th annual reading of cantos from Dante's *Inferno*, a tradition begun when Dan was Poet in Residence of the Poet's Corner. An organ recital filled the huge cathedral at 2 a.m., following which there was a reception in the chapter house.

Former poet laureate Daniel Hoffman '47 read a poem at the dedication of Golkin Hall at Penn Law.

"It was quite a day for an octogenarian (actually any) poet."

Read more about the event at law.upenn.edu; search for "Dedicating Golkin Hall."

Dr. **Irving Moch Jr.** '49E, '50E, '56 GSAS of Wilmington, Del., shared his biography: "I received my undergraduate and graduate chemical engineering degrees following an Army discharge in WWII.

"For the last 30 years I have been associated with water purification. I founded my own consulting organization, specializing in all facets of water treatment, including design, operations and projects, and troubleshooting, providing both on-site plant visits and teaching seminars. Before consulting, I spent more than 40 years with the DuPont Co. in various capacities in marketing, manufacturing, engineering, and research and development.

"My activities have included being former director, chair of the Publications Committee and editor of the International Desalination Association; director emeritus and past International Liaison Committee chair of the American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA); and currently being a member of the American Water Works Association's Membrane Standards and Water Desalting Committees and chairman of the American Society for Testing and Materials D19 task group on water treatment membranes, leading the effort for writing standards for U.S. industry. I'm also involved in the health effects protocol adopted within the United States as a member of the Joint Committee, Water Additives-Health Effects NSF International, Standards 60 and 61 under the auspices of the

Environmental Protection Agency and American National Standards Institute, and, together with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, developed a CD-ROM water treatment cost model for membrane and thermal desalting processes that is employed as a standard for estimating plant capital and operating costs. A holder of patents, I have published extensively throughout the world in the field of water resources and am on the editorial board of the *International Desalination & Water Reuse Quarterly*. As an expert witness I am listed in the National Directory of Experts and American Chemical Society, also on the Project Advisory Committee, Middle East

Desalination Research Center. "A recognized expert in water treatment, I have been elected to the AMTA Hall of Fame, received the Pakistan Desalination Association Lifetime Achievement Award and am listed in *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, *Who's Who in the East and American Men & Women of Science*. In addition, I have been elected to membership in Phi Lambda Upsilon and Sigma XI, honorary chemical and research societies, respectively. I also hold membership in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science."

Thank you to those who got in touch! Please share what's going on in your life. Your classmates want to hear from you.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**
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It seems appropriate to begin this column with correspondence from **Alan W. Steinberg** '50E, who shares his first Class Note in 65 years. "Well, just missed my 65th reunion, more or less. I was a war year student, admitted as Class of '48 — to greetings from the

booming voice of a by-then blind Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) — but graduated in '47. I was in classes with and had friendships with others from those classes but also the Classes of '46 straight through the Class of '50, many on the GI Bill. I've attended a few '47 reunions and one or two for '48.

"I lived in Livingston (now Wallach) Hall during the war years, and my friendships were drawn mostly from those who lived on the seventh and nearby floors, all from many classes and schools. Bob Kerker '49 and I used to dream of a Livingston Hall reunion, and I once suggested to an alumni relations officer that the Alumni Office run a special 'war years' reunion. But I'm afraid Bob was lost to us a couple of years ago. He had kept in touch with the fortunes of most of the Livingston Hall group. Most of the names I remember were from that venue.

"In addition to Bob, I maintained a friendship with **Marshall Mascott** and Joe Adamczyk '50 for many years until they passed away. I am in touch with Alan Ber- man '46 and Peter LaForte '47.

"After graduation I worked for various government agencies. When programmable computers became available I did one of the early Monte Carlo studies and was offered a professorship at NYU in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. This was followed by several years as the founder and proprietor of a computer service bureau. I started an eponymous hedge fund 10 years after my wife, Sue, and I married, and have managed it for the 44 years since.

"I moved to Florida with my family in 1978. My children Carol and Laura live here, and Tommy is in Idaho. I have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren (who have been living in Okinawa but came to Florida in mid-June).

"I have been doing a lot of boating in Florida and brought the boat to Philadelphia and then to New York last summer. A great trip! My other special avocations are bird-watching and the environment. Among other environmental activities, I am chairman of Defenders of Wildlife, a national organization based in Washington, D.C. Recently I had the honor of having a nature center in South Miami named for me.

"Some years ago, I also founded a named scholarship at the College. It's amazing how many things one can do in a lifetime if one is lucky enough to be given the years."

Dr. **Alvin N. Eden** writes, "I practice pediatrics, teach medical students and am revising and up-

dating one of my childcare books, *Dr. Eden's Healthy Kids: The Essential Diet, Exercise, and Nutrition Program*. Also still play tennis. Any of my classmates ready to take me on?"

John Kuhn shares, "Now in Mississippi (Gautier, near the Gulf Coast casinos). Lost most of my sight so don't get around much. Married again; lost first wife in 1989."

Dr. **Bob Mellins**, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Special Lecturer at Columbia, recently was named Distinguished Practitioner of the Year by the Society of Practitioners of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. In addition to seeing patients, Bob remains active in research and teaching. He is a passionate figure skater and skier, and on weekends and with his wife, Sue, is an active gardener and tennis player at a weekend retreat in North Salem, N.Y. Their son, David Mellins Ph.D., is a Sanskrit scholar and is working on digitizing that ancient language. Their daughter, Claude Ann Mellins Ph.D., is a professor of clinical psychology in psychiatry and sociomedical sciences at Columbia, currently focused on HIV in mothers and children.

Bob serves on the boards of the Louis August Jonas Foundation, which operates an international outdoor summer leadership program with an emphasis on service, and of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, promoting humanism in medicine.

Walter (Wally) Wallace was a sociologist at Northwestern from 1962–71, at the Russell Sage Foundation from 1969–71 and at Princeton from 1971–2001. Now he holds emeritus status and is working on an essay revising Freud's theory for application in social sciences. He has a son and two daughters and lives in Princeton. Contact him at wwallace@princeton.edu.

Retired but active, Dr. **Sidney Fink** is a member of the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps. He lives in beautiful Hampton, Va., where he enjoys hiking and gardening, and spent many years raising oysters for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Robert DeMaria '59 GSAS checks in from Spain: "I wrote my first novel as an undergraduate. I am now writing my 40th here in Mallorca, where I had a house built 25 years ago. Not all of my books have been published, but many have, followed by very good reviews. [I have worked with] St. Martin's, Macmillan, W.W. Norton, Random House, Holt, Bobbs-Merrill and others as well as W.H. Allen in the United Kingdom. Some of my books have been translated into Spanish or Italian. Many of my books are offered by Amazon in paper and Kindle editions.

"It would take a book to describe my life but, to put it in simple terms, my father was a printer and I was born speaking adult English without ever learning it. Perhaps I was eavesdropping from the womb. I wound up being an editor in New York, then a college professor (Ph.D. from Columbia), then the associate dean of The New School for Social Research, then an expatriate with many literary friends who also wrote and painted and smoked and drank their way through life. I started a magazine that published the likes of Robert Graves and Tennessee Williams. I also started a publishing company called The Vineyard Press.

"At the moment [mid-June] I am in my house in Spain trying to write a book called *Palm Trees in Greenland*. I don't see my life in categories such as young, old, middle age or whatever. I am what I am from the beginning to the end. I think it is a big mistake to be locked into an age category. And I don't play golf. You can look up my books on Google to find out more.

"I have been married twice and have four grown children and three grandchildren. I split my time between Port Jefferson, N.Y. (Long Island), and Deià, Mallorca."

Dr. Bob Mellins '48 was named Distinguished Practitioner of the Year by the Society of Practitioners of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Robert Steiner shares, "In retirement, I keep busy with my two Mets. I give guided tours for the public at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (both highlights and medival) and also give backstage tours at the Metropolitan Opera. Life in Manhattan is always stimulating."

In nine months, the Class of 1948 will celebrate the 65th anniversary of its College graduation by gathering on campus at Alumni Reunion Weekend. Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. To ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about the event, please update your contact information online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend's events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the Columbia College Fund in honor of reunion. If you're interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the

New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Thank you to all who shared news with CCT. The Class of 1948 still is in need of a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please send updates to CCT at the postal or email address at the top of the column, or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Summer is over and we hope all of you had an enjoyable one. Writing at almost the start of that season, I must offer that all who missed Dean's Day on June 2 missed a wonderful one. The weather cooperated with bright sun, a light breeze and pleasing temperature. Attending were **Bill Lubic** and his wife, **Ruth**, **Joe Levie** and your correspondent.

The lead-up to Dean's Day saw increased email traffic as classmates shared information regarding attendance or reasons for absence. A most

long a few years ago, when **Dick Kandel** and I carried that banner.

We heard from our class president, **Fred Berman**, who sent regrets, as well as **Joe Russell** and **Marvin Lipman**. All held out hope for a mini-reunion at Homecoming in the autumn. [Editor's note: Homecoming is Saturday, October 20. See Around the Quads.]

Marvin shared some personal news of his acquisition, along with his wife, Naomi '49 Barnard, of a pied-à-terre in Manhattan; it has brought with it the opportunity to renew friendships with Columbians of "neighboring" classes, Robert Steiner '48 and Bernie Sunshine '46, who live in the same building.

Marvin writes: "I practice medicine with the Scarsdale Medical Group (now in my 51st year) and work with *Consumer Reports* (now in my 46th year). Will definitely be at Homecoming. Hope to see you there."

At Marvin's urging, Naomi sent a note about attending the Barnard graduation festivities, which featured President Barack Obama '83. Naomi reports the President did not disappoint and was enthusiastically received by the graduating class.

A lunchtime revelation from **Joe Levie**: He has written a novel and we can anticipate publication soon. Yet another example of the lasting inspiration of the Core.

Lastly but far from least, I must mention the Dean's Day breakfast remarks from then-interim Dean James J. Valentini. I think our impressions were best summed up in an email from **Bill Lubic** that arrived a few days after the event, but prior to the news of his appointment as permanent dean.

"Acting Dean Valentini started his remarks in a rather routine and unremarkable fashion, but finished with a surprising flourish and with depth and appreciation of the College, the alumni and of the complexities of the Core. He came into his own (humorously for a chemist) when a lady asked why the only electrical outlet in a student room was in the closet, and what was the cost of power such a student would consume.

"He seems to have the inside track on appointment as dean, and really appears to want it, and should be a good choice."

I, too, had shared my genuine enthusiasm for the dean during our lunch. And subsequently, we all received the announcement of Dean Valentini's appointment on June 11. Should he happen to stumble across this page, we want him to know that the Class of '49 is very happy with the University's decision.

See you all at Homecoming.

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Kirby Congdon has been designated the first poet laureate of Key West, Fla. Kirby has published several collections of poems and one-act plays and has long been the reviewer of poetry for the *Small Press Review*. His poem "Mirrors," which was first published in *The Christian Science Monitor*, was used as a visual work in a show of paintings, "The Arts of Trinity Church," at that historic Manhattan church. In addition to his poetry, Kirby creates collages and is a judge of novels for the Florida Council on the Arts. He also plans to continue his own small-press activities in the avant-garde.

In the Summer issue's Class Notes we reported Dr. **Martin Duke**'s editorship of *Reflections on Medicine: Essays by Robert U. Massey, M.D.* The New England Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association has awarded the book its 2012 Will Solimene Award for Excellence in Medical Communication. The association is a national organization of writers, editors and others engaged in communicating medical and health information.

Roland Glenn, who was an infantry officer in the Okinawa campaign in WWII, has been relating his experiences in a series of interviews for the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Roland can be seen and heard online at witness2war.org. The interviews are easy to find; simply type Roland's full name into the search box on the home page.

Bob Goldsby's book on the playwright Molière has been published. Titled *Molière on Stage: What's So Funny?*, it analyzes the performances of Molière's plays in his time and now, and will interest theatregoers, those interested in comedy and anyone involved professionally or academically with the stage. Richard Wilbur, widely known as the major translator of Molière's verse plays, said of the book: "It is a delight to read."

Len Kliegman figures that the old song "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" just about sums it up, and for most of us he's probably right. Len and his wife, Edie, though, have plenty going on around them. One granddaughter, a CPA, is recently married; her twin sister is practicing law; and their older brother runs two restaurants and a nightclub he owns while also managing a nightclub at a hotel. All these enterprises are located in the "hipster" section of Manhattan (below 23rd Street).

Four other grandchildren are in various stages of education from law school down to high school.

Nolan Lushington continues with his teaching of a course on the planning and design of public libraries at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, which he has done for 23 years. The course examines the evolving role of the library in the digital age and reviews the processes required to bring a library from concept to reality. Nolan has been a consultant on more than 200 libraries in 10 states and has authored five books on library design. His most recent project was a major redesign of the Queens Central Library, including the design of a children's library. *The New York Times* architecture critic observed that the children's library is "part of a revolution reshaping the city's public architecture."

Finally, we have sad news of four deaths: **Richard D. Cushman**, November 2011; **William H. Dickie**, October 2010; **Jerome R. "Jerry" Kaye**, April 2012; and **William A. Maloy**, March 2012.

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While thumbing through a somewhat ragged and disheveled copy of our 1951 Commencement program, your class correspondent was reminded that Commencement at Columbia has been one of the features of New York life since 1758 and has survived seven wars, a revolution, frequent shifts of locale and numerous metamorphoses of the ceremonies themselves. As we reminisce about the 61 years that have passed since our Commencement day, along with all our trials and tribulations, failures and successes, we extend best wishes to the bright-eyed men and women who are converting their light blue graduation costume to the appropriate fashions for making it in the years ahead!

Who were the recipients of the prizes, medals and honors in the Class of 1951? **Joseph A. Buda** received the Alumni Prize, which was first awarded in 1858 and given annually to the most faithful and deserving student in the graduating class. Value, \$50. In a recent telephone conversation, Joe confessed he could not remember what happened to the money, but the Cornell University Medical College probably got its share; Joe graduated in 1955. He did an internship at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, spent three years as a flight surgeon in the Air Force, completed his residency in surgery

and subsequently experienced a long career at P&S as a surgeon and clinical professor. Despite some recent discomfort with a hip replacement, he still finds time for trips to the office to keep in touch with the medical world.

Also at our Commencement, **Richard J. Howard** received a Philolexian Prize for literary achievement. Following graduation, he studied at the Sorbonne as a fellow of the French government. His teaching career has included positions at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale, where he was the Henry Luce Visiting Scholar in 1983, and at the University of Houston from 1987–97. Richard is the author of numerous volumes of poetry, including *Trappings: New Poems* (1999) and *Like Most Revelations: New Poems* (1994). In 1970 he received a Pulitzer Prize for *Untitled Subjects*. He has published more than 150 translations from the French and is author of *Alone with America: Essays on the Art of Poetry in the United States Since 1950*. His honors include the Levinson and Harriet Monroe Memorial Prizes as well as the National Institute of Arts and Letters Literary Award and the Ordre National du Merite from the French government.

Richard is a former chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and was poet laureate of New York state from 1994–96; more recently, he has taught in the Writing Division of the School of Arts.

Continuing with our reminiscing, **Andrew P. Siff** '53L was awarded the Brainard Memorial Prize. He was adjudged by his classmates as most worthy of distinction because of his qualities of mind and character. Andy practiced law in New

York City except for a period of time during 1959–60 when he produced a musical comedy on Broadway and in 1970 when he was house counsel of the William Morris Agency. For most of his career his practice was in the areas of trusts and estates, real estate and litigation.

Other classmates who received prizes and awards, all now deceased, included **Roger A. Olson** (Fox Memorial Prize for significant participation in non-athletic activities), **Henry L. Rosett** (Jackson Memorial Prize for outstanding scholarship), **John D. Azary** (C.M. Rolker Prize for preeminence in sports) and **Donald K. McLean** (David W. Smyth Football Cup for being the most outstanding member of the varsity football team).

Ronald G. Granger '54 Dental is another classmate who had a long military career. He concluded it was the next best thing considering he was not a championship wrestler for coaches Gus Peterson and Dick Waite. Like many college students, Ron worked his way through school with various jobs (in drug stores, as an apprentice carpenter and as a parking lot attendant). After his junior year he opted for the Professional Option Program, was accepted by the Dental School and received enough deferment time from his draft board to qualify for a commission in the Navy in 1954. This was the beginning of a 26-year Navy dental career that led to assignments in Alaska and Washington, D.C., as well as on ships in the Mediterranean and Guantanamo Bay. Ron's specialty was in the field of crown and bridge prosthodontics, and he followed up his Navy career with

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six years as professor and chairman of a comparable program at Boston University. Ron said that in 1986, “I was worn out!” He and his wife, Evelyn, a nurse trained at St. Luke’s Hospital, then retired to a small farm on Maryland’s eastern shore, raised registered Polled Herefords for 13 years, finally sold everything and headed for winters in Boynton Beach, Fla., and summers in Maine.

That’s it for this issue. Please support this magazine by sending your contribution to *Columbia College Today*. It will make you feel good. More importantly, it provides your Class Notes writer with something to do in his declining years!

[Editor’s note: You may contribute to *CCT* with a credit card online at college.columbia.edu/cct/ giving or by phone by calling *CCT* at 212-851-7852. You also may mail a check, payable to *Columbia College Today*, to *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 1st Fl., New York, NY 10025. See this issue’s Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct for a list of those who contributed to *CCT* in Fiscal Year 2012, which ended on June 30.]

52 **Sidney Prager**
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From May 31–June 3, the Class of 1952 held its 60th Alumni Reunion Weekend at the College. My wife and I were among 23 other attendees enjoying each other’s company and reliving many of the wonderful times we had in college. We stayed in the dorms, which were very nice, and had breakfast, lunch and dinners every day in different restaurants. We enjoyed breakfast one day with **Robert Adelman**, **Alan Bomser**, **Harry Chandless Jr.**, **N. David Charkes** and **David Charlton**. The luncheon was spent with **Joseph DiPalma**, **Bernard Friedland**, **Ira Hoffman**, **Aldo Ippolito** and **Gerald Kahn**. Dinner was spent with **John Laszlo**, **Martin Liebowitz**, **George Lipkin**, **Alden Mesrop** and **Frederic Primich**.

The following day we spent breakfast with **John “Jack” Ripperger** and **Jack Rosenbluth**. Lunch and dinner were spent with **James Santos**, **George Satran**, **Jerold Schwartz**, **Sholom Shafner**, **Alan Stein** and **Herbert Steinberg**. It was a weekend to remember and I look forward to many more.

From **Cliff Blanchard**, we hear: “On the 60th anniversary of our graduation, I tried to reflect on where the time went. First, I met a lovely lady, Sally Evans, who for

53 years has been my wife; she is also mother of our two children and Gramma to our two young grandchildren.

“I spent a two-year tour of duty in Vicksburg, Miss., with the Army Corps of Engineers and eight years in New York City as a design civil engineer for M. W. Kellogg, now the KBR division of Halliburton. I was involved in the design of reinforced concrete foundations and structures for petroleum refineries, chemical plants and major smelting complexes.

“We then left for Rhode Island, where I took over the management and, later, ownership of a small, family-owned electroplating company. When I retired, about 20 years ago, we moved to Marco Island, Fla., and now reside in Naples, Fla.

“In our younger years we traveled extensively but now confine ourselves to our family, friends and an occasional cruise, mostly to the Caribbean.”

Jack Ripperger and his wife of 44 years, Kathryn, of San Diego, had dinner with me and my wife, Maxine. We all enjoyed the evening and afterward Jack submitted the following:

“Many wonderful stories were shared during the dinners at our 60th reunion.

an appreciation for Ike for the U.S. soldiers’ rebuilding her hometown in France. It was a day to remember.”

Your reporter thanks you all for your contributions and wishes good health to all the members of the Class of 1952.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**
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53 **Lew Robins**
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As you may recall, when we were undergraduates, WKCR’s headquarters was a small building between Hartley and Hamilton Hall. The image of **Wendell Hatfield** ‘56 P&S striding into or out of the WKCR building is indelibly engraved in my memory of Columbia life almost 60 years ago.

During a recent phone conversation, I learned that working at WKCR had an enormous influence

After graduating from P&S, Wendell spent the next 20 years working a killer schedule teaching rheumatology fellows during the day and treating patients in the evening. He found time to marry Charlotte and they brought up four children (and now have six grandchildren). He has been retired for 10 years and spends his time fly-fishing, reading, cooking and gardening.

Toward the end of our conversation, Wendell said that the most moving experience in his medical career was caring for people who had been victims of the Holocaust and who came to America after being rescued from the concentration camps.

Wendell and Charlotte are hoping to attend our 60th reunion next spring. Speaking for all our classmates, I know that seeing them in person after all these years will be a superb treat.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. To ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about the event, please update your contact information online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend’s events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the Columbia College Fund in honor of reunion. If you’re interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

54 **Howard Falberg**
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As many of you may know, when Class Day comes around the College’s alumni are invited to march in the Alumni Parade of Classes with their respective class banners. We are very proud of **Larry Kobrin** (especially this year), as he was our sole representative at the event. He notes, “They loaned me a lovely young lady from the Alumni Office to assist in carrying the flag.”

Perhaps next year there will be more of us to help. In the meantime, many thanks, Larry.

Alan Fendrick and his lovely wife, Bev, move north and south seasonally, depending on the weather, spending their time either in Florida or Massachusetts. Alan, v.p. of our class, was responsible for developing a Columbia alumni club in Florida with an active group of Columbians.

Mike Naver writes that he enjoys a “rather self-indulgent life with golf, tennis, movies and books. I retired in 1999 after 30 years with the Social Security Administration as national press officer and public affairs manager. That was my second career; after I completed 10 years as a writer and editor at the *Baltimore Evening Sun*. Both during and after my government years I taught journalism as adjunct faculty at Towson University outside Baltimore. I retired completely in 2008.” Mike and his wife, Irid, and their two children live in Baltimore.

Speaking of special events, our 60th anniversary and reunion will take place in 2014. **Bernd Brecher** would like very much to hear from classmates who could assist in planning our reunion program. His email address is brecherservices@aol.com.

My wife, Debby, and I spent two weeks in Israel visiting biblical and national spots. It was a wonderful trip and we enjoyed ourselves greatly.

Our class has many members who have made important contributions to our society. One of them certainly was **Peter Ehrenhaft** ‘57L, ‘57 SIPA, who passed away on July 25, three weeks prior to his 79th birthday. Peter was selected by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren to be his senior clerk during 1961 and 1962. He achieved key positions with major law firms and also served as deputy assistant secretary of the treasury for international trade. He was active in Columbia alumni affairs and took on responsibility for coordinating our class contributions to support key activities that enabled Columbia College undergraduates to pursue societal contributions both in the United States and overseas. We send our sincere condolences to Peter’s widow, Charlotte, and their three children. He will be missed by many.

I hope that all is well with our class members and I hope to hear from many of you soon.

55 **Gerald Sherwin**
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Columbia continues to be the pre-eminent worldwide university judging from events around the globe, including the opening of Global Centers in Istanbul, Turkey and Santiago, Chile, earlier this year. In addition, alumni have the opportunity as part of the Alumni Travel Study Program to visit regions of the planet such as the ancient coast of Turkey and the Aegean Sea Islands; China, Tibet and the Yangtze; Australia and

New Zealand; and many more, in the latter part of 2013. Noted professors will be leading the explorations to these regions.

Classmates are encouraged to stop by Hamilton Hall to learn about the Richard E. Witten Center for the Core Curriculum, which enhances the Core experience through programs on campus and in New York City and offers Core faculty weekly lunches and seminars. The Café series continues to put forth a wide variety of lectures including Café Columbia: Immigration at the Turn of Two Centuries; Café Social Science: Magma Fuze; and Café Science: Ultrasound: Knocking on Brain’s Door. Terrific intellectual and entertaining programs.

The school had a visitor from Washington, D.C. (**Lew Mendelson**’s hometown) in mid-May. President Barack Obama ‘83 gave a brisk talk to the Barnard graduates at their Commencement, May 14. It was a pretty exciting experience for those who attended under a tent on South Field and others who saw the event on a big screen in Levien Gym.

Dean’s Day, which now takes place the Saturday of Alumni Reunion Weekend, has become a big hit among alumni and faculty. This June the lectures were attended by some familiar faces from your favorite class: **Bob Brown**, **Larry Balfus** and **Don Laufer**. The report was an emphatic “thumbs up.”

Don has been working on building attendance for the monthly class dinners. Some of the guys who have been partaking in the good cheer have been **Alan Hoffman**, **Marty Dubner**, **Abbe Leban**, **Stan Zinberg**, **Peter Pressman**, **Ralph Wagner**, **Chuck Solomon**, **Ron Spitz**, **Mort Rennett**, **Bob Kushner** and **Anthony Viscusi**. **Bill Epstein** could not be part of the dinner before the summer because he was on safari in South Africa. (Pictures of Bill and his entourage are available for only a small handling fee.)

Putting learning into practice, the Columbia men’s basketball team went to Spain and Italy this summer to absorb the many cultural aspects the countries have to offer. They saw what they had discussed and read about through the Core — a terrific learning experience, plus the boys in blue finished the tour with a 5–0 record. (“Oh, who owns Barcelona?” etc., etc., as the song goes.)

In May the Columbia University Film Festival played at Alice Tully Hall with a retrospective of student works from the festival’s 25-year history. Notable alumni and the film community attended this great event, which was co-presented with the Film Society of Lincoln Center. If you missed it, there’s still next year,

fellows.

From the West Coast, **Harry Scheiber** made an important appearance at the Blackwell and Dodge Cups (crew races) in mid-May. Harry was the keynote speaker and led the dedication ceremony for two pair-oared shells that are being named to honor Coach Walter “Bud” Raney and former Professor J. Bartlett Brebner.

Harry, you are the best. Going back in time, other crew members were **Bill Mink**, **Bob Hanson**, **Dan Hovey**, **Norm Roome**, **Bob Banz**, coxswain **John Larosa** and stroke **Terry Doremus**. **Stanley Lubman** let us know he earned a new title, distinguished resident lecturer, and wants everyone to know his new email, stanley.lubman@gmail.com.

Our classmates continue to put pen to paper (as they say). **Harold Kushner**, who lives in New England, has a book coming out shortly titled *The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person*. **Bill Kronick**, writing from California, is putting together a new novel called *What Katie Said*. It talks about the experiences of a Columbia College scholarship student from 1975–79.

Ezra Levin (the Chet Forte ‘57 of his era) received an award from the Hebrew Free Loan Society. He is past president of the organization and he served the group well for more than 20 years.

We heard from world traveler **Beryl Nusbaum**, whom we brought up to date on all the positive happenings in the Athletics Department. Things are looking better for the fall season.

Two classmates have passed on

recently, **Morris Tenner** and **Jim Phelan**. Condolences go to their families and friends.

Sparkling classmates of the Class of 1955.

It is time to begin preparations for our next important event — our 60th reunion.

Keep an eye on your diets, mix in a little exercise and get ready for the award-winning activities in 2015. It promises to be the best ever.

Love to all, everywhere.

56 **Stephen K. Easton**
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Recently, my wife, Elke, and I enjoyed a visit from **Larry Cohn** and his wife, Judi, our class’ inveterate travelers, who were visiting New York from California for a couple of family events. While Judi and Elke enjoyed getting further acquainted and shopping in the city, Larry and I reminisced about our Columbia experiences, which included lightweight football, Air Force and Navy ROTC; we also know a number of the same classmates, whom I get to see regularly and he gets to visit occasionally. We ended our short visit with golf. Larry used my wife’s clubs and shot one of his best rounds (we always knew he was an athlete from his basketball days at Bronx Science). We plan another get-together soon in California.

This has been a busy time for Class of ‘56 activities, starting with two of our class lunches at Faculty House in the spring, continuing through Class Day in May and

Columbia School Designations

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

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

Dean's Day in June (which now coincides with Alumni Reunion Weekend) and concluding with our summer lunches at **Dan Link's** country club. Our class activities have been well attended.

Class Day activities on May 15 were attended by **Dan Link, Ron Kapon** and **Len Wolfe**. I was out of town, else I would have been there. This is an event not to be missed.

Len has provided a report as follows: "The day began with breakfast in John Jay Dining Hall, and it was quite a sumptuous one. Afterward, but prior to assembling for the Alumni Parade of Classes, we were all given Class Day pins (well-designed with a bas relief portrait of Alexander Hamilton in the center). Unfortunately, before the parade began, Ron slipped on one of the parade flags that had been laid out on the floor and had to be attended to by a couple of student paramedics, who did a great job of bandaging his cut knee. Fortunately, the injury didn't amount to much and, before the parade began, Ron felt repaired enough to remove the bandage so that he could walk unencumbered.

"As we sat in John Jay for breakfast, I couldn't help but think back to the day some 56 years ago when, as seniors, many of us were in that same room celebrating our impending graduation. As *Spectator* reported of that long-ago day (and as I've recalled once before, on the occasion of our 20th reunion dinner on October 9, 1976, at the St. Regis hotel in Manhattan) our Senior Beer Party turned the John Jay mezzanine into a small-scale riot as members of the Class of '56 littered the floor with broken glasses, destroyed chandeliers and ripped up furniture, and sent one classmate to St. Luke's Hospital with a cut necessitating eight stitches in his arm."

"This year, as I rose slowly and creakily from my chair at the breakfast table, I found it hard to imagine that we had once been so young and energetic, but it was also nice to see that the room was just as it had been when we were students, sharing meals and such good times at so many special events.

"When the parade began, Danny, Ron and I held our class banner and proceeded to march past the assembled Class of 2012. Interestingly, this class was graduating 56 years after we did, and it will be 2069 when they celebrate their own 56th graduation anniversary — a span of 112 years. It is hard to imagine what America and the world will be like then. Somewhat frightening to think about was the realization that our banner was only third from the head of the parade, with many,

many more following ours.

"As we marched past the seniors, we were met with great applause from them. In typical fashion, given his gregarious nature, Ron proceeded, at various intervals, to bow to the seniors on one side and parents and guests on the other, much to their delight. We certainly were a class that was noticed. Following the procession we joined parents and guests to observe the awarding of prizes to members of the class and to listen to talks by the salutatorian, the senior class president and John R. "Rick" MacArthur '78, publisher of *Harper's* magazine, former *Spectator* news editor and a member of *Spectator's* Board of Trustees. It was a truly enjoyable experience.

Len Wolfe '56 earned the Forest Avenue H.S. (Dallas) Alumni Association Award for the success of his book *Easy Economics*.

"The next day was Columbia's 258th University Commencement. I was the only class member there to celebrate although I had plenty of company between the thousands of graduates and their proud families and friends. It was cloudy to begin with but bright and sunny as Commencement came to a close — a perfect ending to a glorious two days filled with words of hope for the future of the country and the world, brought to greater heights by the remarkable young people that Columbia has prepared so well."

Thanks, Len.

We had a great turnout for Dean's Day on June 2. In attendance were **Stan Soren** and his wife, Ruth; **Danny Link** and his wife, Elinor Baller; **Ron Kapon**; myself; **Al Franco '56E**; **John Censor**; **Ralph Kaslick**; **Vic Levin** and his wife, Fran; **Bob Sirotty**; and **Jerry Fine** and his wife, Barbara. The lectures have been designed to show off Columbia's brightest faculty and alumni, in addition to giving us all a view of what is happening at our College. The day started with a continental breakfast and comments from Dean James J. Valentini, including an informative Q&A. Then there were morning and afternoon lectures, a class luncheon at Low Library and various affinity group receptions, including tea and a concert in Hamilton Hall. I attended the morning session "Where Could Brain Mapping Lead Us?" and was treated to an analysis of the interconnection among the biological sciences from a medical perspective and the electrical engineering from a computer and brain connecting perspective. It appears that in addi-

tion to being a fascinating subject, it also is an area of lucrative research grant monies to Columbia.

Stan and Ruth attended the lecture "Why Don't We Have More Cures for Cancer?" and were perplexed as to why — with so much money being put toward research and with all the technological advances that have been made — a cure (or cures) still seems so far away. For the afternoon lecture, I had the honor of introducing Christia Mercer, chair of Literature Humanities, for her lecture, "How Literature Humanities Makes Us Wise." In it, she examined the value of humanities to our education and our life issues. She also went into great detail as to how the various areas of art, theatre and writing

interact, and how the Core Curriculum always will be evolving.

These are just a few examples why, if you are in the New York area, you should not miss Dean's Day next year. Also, as Dean's Day is now combined with Alumni Reunion Weekend, the facilities, food and venues have improved substantially.

Come this winter, we again will split our monthly luncheons between Faculty House on the Columbia campus and the Columbia University Club in Midtown. For the luncheons, we will try to have at least one speaker (whether faculty member or current student) to add to our class attendees. I urge everyone in the New York area to attend these luncheons. It has been a great way for us to keep in touch.

In fact, **Joe Sofhauser**, one of our "lost" classmates, inasmuch as we didn't know where he was, has expressed interest in attending and now will receive our regular email notices. Anyone else who is interested in being informed about the lunches so they can attend, rather than read about them in Class Notes, is invited to get in touch with me at tball8000@earthlink.net.

Now for class correspondence and news.

Vic Levin recently moved back from the suburbs to the West Side of Manhattan, near Columbia. To his and his wife's surprise, he says, the neighborhood is substantially better than when we attended the College more than 50 years ago. Vic practices matrimonial and estate law, with an office in Garden City. As another one of our working classmates, we look forward to

seeing him at our class luncheons and other Columbia events.

Lou Hemmerdinger '56E, our class coordinator, will be moving, after 35 years, from his house in Old Bethpage, N.Y., to an upscale adult community in Melville, also on Long Island. He assures me that the move will not affect his ability to send out our various class notices.

Thanks, Lou.

Ron Kapon sent an update on his various wine activities. Ron, as many of you know, is our go-to guy when we need wine tastings for any reunion events. Ron is celebrating his 17th year as adjunct professor and director of the wine studies program at Fairleigh Dickinson. He is co-author of the Fairleigh Dickinson/*New York Times* online wine course. If interested in anything wine, contact Ron at vinoron@yahoo.com (note, this email is corrected from previous Class Notes).

Len Wolfe reports that his book, *Easy Economics*, while doing well in sales, also has earned him the Forest Avenue H.S. (located in Dallas) Alumni Association Award, given to distinguished alumni. Other recipients have included Stanley Marcus of Neiman Marcus and Aaron Spelling of television fame, so we know Len is in good company. The book, which Len authored with a former *Fortune* magazine colleague, Lee Smith, is written in a Q&A format and illustrated with delightful cartoons in an attempt to explain all those things we don't know about economics but wish we did. The way it is written, even children can understand it. If you want more info, email Len at leonardwolfe@gmail.com.

A record number of classmates contributed to this year's Columbia College Fund. The total amount raised was more \$125,000, between general purposes and our Class of '56 scholarship. Thank you to all who contributed. If anyone is interested in establishing a legacy to Columbia by way of planned giving, contact me at tball8000@earthlink.net.

As always, I encourage all class members who want to keep in touch to update their email addresses with **Lou Hemmerdinger**: lhemmer@aol.com. Please keep in contact with Columbia in whatever ways you feel appropriate, as I believe that it has been a force and power in our lives.

I hope that all of you had a delightful summer and that our Columbia education and life experiences are allowing us to grow older gracefully. If you have news to share, please email me at tball8000@earthlink.net and I will make sure it gets in the next Class Notes.

57

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Richard Berger writes, "Several alumni, including **Ken Bodenstein** and myself, and parents of current players welcomed football coach Pete Mangurian at a reception in Southern California. We heard some fairly candid comments about the progress of introducing the team to a new regimen (early morning departures for the recent spring practice days, for instance), new offensive and defensive schemes, and the incoming class (very promising). The coach was quite engaging and he answered many questions, some from former players who wanted some 'inside baseball' comments."

Elliott Schwartz reports, "I've discovered that, even after so-called retirement, I haven't been able to tear myself away from teaching and academia. My wife, Deedee, and I spent the winter term at Robinson College in Cambridge (UK) on a visiting fellowship, my third stay at Robinson in the past five years. This last visit involved some informal teaching, organizing performances of my music and hearing pieces of mine played in London, Glasgow and Oslo. Since returning to the States in late March, I've been active as a composer-performer in Portland, Boston and Miami. Works of mine also were featured on three New York programs this spring and summer: a piano piece premiered at the Juilliard School; an old (1960s) chamber work turned up on the New York Philharmonic Ensemble series; and a relatively new (2008) violin concerto was performed at Symphony Space in late June.

"I'm sorry we couldn't be at our 55th Columbia reunion. It conflicted with the Bowdoin reunion weekend. So this time I chose to stay home in Maine and exchange 45 years' worth of memories with my former Bowdoin students. But I was thinking of Columbia friends as well."

Yours truly and some 51 other '57ers plus wives and significant others returned to Morningside Heights for our 55th reunion, held May 31–June 3. To us hale and hearty septuagenarians, the main theme of the weekend was the greatness of our Columbia education, especially the Core Curriculum, in training our minds to think creatively in our respective areas of interest and, when the occasion calls, outside the box.

The first event took place on May 31, an evening reception hosted by Kaye and **Jim Barker** in the Model Room of the New York Yacht Club. The NYYC is

housed in a magnificent Beaux-Arts building on West 44th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Construction of the building began in 1898; the building opened in 1901. As I learned from perusing John Rousmaniere's *The New York Yacht Club: A History, 1844–2008*, the commodore of the NYYC at the time was J. Pierpont Morgan. The Model Room houses about 1,300 yacht models, the world's largest collection of its kind, comprising "almost the entire history of yacht design from the early 1800s to the present." In addition to yacht models, the collection includes other types of vessels, including a model of the warship *U.S.S. Gloucester*. The Model Room has an ornate ceiling with a green oval relief.

Friday and Saturday both included classes and campus tours, as well as a '57 dinner on Friday and a '57 luncheon and dinner on Saturday. Friday morning yours truly joined a tour of the Northwest Corner Building. Built where tennis courts once stood, the striking modern structure is at the corner of Broadway and West 120th Street; it's directly across from Teachers College and catty-cornered from Union Theological Seminary. The building primarily houses science laboratories and has a café on the second floor. Upstairs, a glassed-in room affords a wide panorama of upper Manhattan. Particularly striking is the northern view, which includes Grant's Tomb, Riverside Church, Union Theological Seminary, the Manhattan School of Music, the Jewish Theological Seminary and, in the distance, Harlem and City College. Lunch was under a tent on Low Plaza, a buffet billed as "Taste of New York."

That afternoon, by serendipity, I attended Teodolinda Barolini's Literature Humanities class, "*The Divine Comedy* Through Images." Among other things, Barolini said that *The Divine Comedy* is still alive because of the way Dante's characters come to life; she finds them quite contemporary. In answer to my question, she said that, indeed, Dante's characters are in that way comparable to those of Shakespeare, noting that contemporary writer Harold Bloom also has made that observation.

Friday's '57 dinner was at the Kellogg Center at SIPA. After dinner, several class members reminisced before the open microphone about the greatness of the Columbia College education we received, especially the Core Curriculum.

Saturday morning featured the all-class Dean's Continental Breakfast, part of Dean's Day. Dean James J. Valentini addressed the assembly, assuring us that the Core Curricu-

lum will go on, but with changes from time to time. Otherwise, he observed, it would not be contemporary.

Afterward, I attended "Why Don't We Have More Cures for Cancer?" with Brent Stockwell, associate professor, biological sciences, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Poppy Harlow '05, CNN correspondent. Stockwell said the main problem is creating molecules to form proteins to attack cancer. He then observed that in discovering a new drug we do not know what its effect will be. He went on to discuss the role of funding. Among other things he noted that the Israeli pharmaceutical industry has made much progress and that chemotherapy was a serendipitous finding during WWI from therapy for mustard gas.

The '57 luncheon followed in the library of the ornate Casa Italiana. Former Dean Austin E. Quigley addressed head-on the value of a liberal education in hard times, saying it helps students develop the ability to see different approaches to a problem. He stressed the importance of living on campus, as being with people different from oneself helps one to see from others' points of view. He then turned to discussing the role of the College in a great research university — namely, to help students develop the above thinking process. More than a century ago, he noted, when the University moved to Morningside Heights, there was concern that the College would lose its place. What saved the University, he said, was the commitment to the College while the graduate and professional schools were forging ahead.

Dean Quigley praised the alumni role in keeping the College in place during the recent budgetary crisis. He also reported that the College has one of the best financial aid systems, thanks to the gift from John W. Kluge '37 to provide financial aid focusing on grants rather than loans, so as to avoid students graduating with a heavy debt.

He then discussed the question of the arts versus science. With the humanities, he said, there is the opportunity to see things from different points of view. Science is more a matter of right versus wrong. There now is a science course, Frontiers of Science, in the Core Curriculum; this, however, fights pedagogical traditions. He allowed that rote learning has value; nevertheless, we need people who can cross between arts and sciences. Next he discussed the matter of research versus teaching on the part of the faculty; would it pay to have more faculty members teaching? Although a student in a small liberal arts college likely will

receive more attention from the faculty, he/she will miss faculty members with cutting-edge knowledge of their disciplines.

Dean Quigley concluded by saying that globalized people tend to see that there is more than one way to look at a problem. This among other things meets the challenge of preparing people for tours of duty abroad.

Later that afternoon, I attended Music Hum Chair Elaine Sisman's class, "Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and the Literary Imagination." She discussed several versions of the opera produced across some years, especially different portrayals of the Don. The session brought back happy memories of Vladimir Ussachevsky's class in Humanities B, in which he discussed the opera and played excerpts of it on a phonograph and on the piano. A pleasant conclusion of the classes was the Afternoon Tea and Music of Columbia Concert, featuring a string quartet. Held under a tent on Schermerhorn Plaza, the scene could have come from a Renoir painting.

The final class event of the reunion was cocktails and dinner at Faculty House on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning a dozen or so classmates, wives and significant others gathered around a table under a tent on Low Plaza for brunch and last good-byes; it was truly a wonderful reunion weekend. Among us was the resplendently uniformed **Alvin Kass**, the NYPD's chief chaplain, accompanied by an officer, about to leave for a parade.

Finally, some sad news: **Robert I. Brockman**, an architect who lived in Haverford Pa., died on June 12, 2011.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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58

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We are sorry to report that **David Londoner** died on May 11, 2012, after a yearlong battle with cancer. David was a loyal supporter both of the College and of Stuyvesant H.S., and he was one of the major forces behind the establishment of the Class of 1958 Peter Stuyvesant Scholarship. He is survived by his wife, Clara; sons, David-Marc '91 and John; and granddaughters, Sasha and Roxanna. After earning

an M.S. at the Business School, David spent his entire career on Wall Street, primarily with Wertheim & Co. and its successor, Schroders. As a chartered financial analyst, he specialized in entertainment and media stocks and was well-known for his commentary on Disney. After he retired, he was on the boards of several public companies in the United States and in Great Britain.

Congratulations to Marcia and **Rick Brous**. Their daughter Sharon Brous '95, '01 GSAS was named by *Newsweek* as one of America's 50 most influential rabbis for 2012. [Editor's note: Read CCT's May 2005 profile of Brous online.] This was not Sharon's first impressive honor; a few years ago she was the winner of the Jewish Community Foundation's inaugural Inspired Leadership Award, which came with a gift of \$100,000. She earned a master's in human rights. Sharon is the spiritual leader of IKAR, a Los Angeles synagogue she helped found. Rick is retired and lives in California.

Congratulations also are in order for **Jim Sternberg**, who won the Howard Peter Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs for bridge players older than 55 at the spring 2012 North American Championships in Memphis. Jim's bridge partner, Fred Hamilton of Las Vegas, has won 16 national titles; this was Jim's third. A retired radiologist, Jim lives in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Bob Tauber has been appointed to the Board of Ethics of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Art Radin reports that the Class Lunch has been ongoing for more than a decade, with three to eight class members attending each month. Regulars are **George Jochnowitz**, **Tom Ettinger**, **Ernie Brod**, **Marty Hurwitz** and **Paul Comperz**, with **Dave Marcus**, **Joe Klein**, **Paul Herman**, **Peter Cohn**, **Joe Dorinson**, **Bernie Nussbaum**, **Henry Kurtz** and **Sheldon Raab** making occasional appearances. Conversations range from Columbia sports, linguistics, politics, children and grandchildren to our current careers. There is minor tension between the retireds and the non-retireds, with neither sure who is better off. The tradition was begun by the late **Scott Shukat**, but Art's perseverance has kept it going for all these years.

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

Finally, here's an early "save the date" for our 55th (!) Alumni Reunion Weekend, which will be held Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2,

2013. So that the College can get in touch with you, please update your contact information (if necessary) online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

We're hoping for our usual enthusiastic turnout for the Reunion Committee both to plan the week-end's events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the Columbia College Fund in honor of reunion.

If you're interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member at the top of the column. No problem if you're not in the NYC area; you can participate in meetings via conference call. We're hoping to see some new faces in addition to our loyal regulars.

59 **Norman Gelfand** c/o CCT Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 nmgc59@gmail.com

From **Arthur Mollin** we hear, "On March 4, I had a welcome-to-NYC party at Le Parker Meridien for my newest grandson, Zackary Thomas Elliott, who came with his mom (my daughter) Stefanie and her husband, Gary Elliott. My son Richard Mollin, who is a music professor at Oneonta, arrived with his trio to entertain the guests (about 70 in all). My other three children, Marian Mollin, a history professor at Virginia Tech; Bryan Mollin, an automotive advertising executive; and Jason Mollin '91, an executive with Goldman Sachs in Brazil; were present along with my other four grandchildren. My wife, Sarilyn, organized and officiated at the welcoming party magnificently, to everyone's delight. It is a rare occasion to have all five of my children and all five of my grandchildren in the same room at the same time."

Jim Sternberg '58 won the Howard Peter Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs for bridge players older than 55.

Arthur added that Stefanie and her family "were in town just for 10 days, as they live in London, where Gary is the CEO of an aeronautical manufacturing company, Hybrid Air Vehicles, which sells surveillance aircraft to the U.S. government."

Clive Chajet "continues to pray for more of the same and is happy to report that his prayers are answered." He says that his wife, Bonnie, "continues to be a very successful residential Manhattan real estate broker. Eldest daughter

Lisa is a clone of her mother (very successful residential real estate broker). Younger daughter Lori has a Ph.D. in education and is married to an outstanding teacher in New York City; they have two divine daughters, aged 8 and 5, and live in Brooklyn."

Clive concludes, "I consult on branding issues for corporations, serve on a couple of boards, play golf and tennis in Bridgehampton and Florida and live in wonderful Manhattan. Hope any of you that will read this is as satisfied as I am."

Kenneth Scheffel continues his travels and writes, "Last fall, between Michigan's home football games, I traveled to central Europe (with stops in New York going and coming, of course). I spent three days each in Prague, Vienna and Budapest, with mini-bus rides between them. I enjoyed all three cities but each in a different sort of way.

"Prague proved to be the most pedestrian-friendly city I've ever seen (and I love to walk). Relatively undamaged by WWII, the Castle and Old Town were magnificent, and the Jewish ghetto with its centuries-old, multi-layered cemetery (which the Nazis preserved to document a 'vanished race') most memorable. By far the least religious of the three cities and countries, most of its churches appear to survive by serving as concert venues. The music offerings are excellent and inexpensive ... The Czechs' only liability stems from their addiction to tobacco. The entire city smells like a stale cigarette (much as Hamilton Hall once did). I can understand why Václav Havel, leader of the Velvet Revolution, died of lung cancer. Those who stay should be warned of the dangers of secondhand smoke.

"Vienna had the most friendly, helpful citizens I've encountered anywhere. Everybody spoke English and strangers volunteered information on what to see and how to use the public transportation system, on which youngsters stood up to give us their seats (age does have its privileges, at least in Vienna). Of the three cities, Vienna appeared the most health-conscious. It had the only joggers we saw (and there were lots of them, as well as bicyclists), and very few smokers. Vienna was also the most cosmopolitan (for example, our guide was born in Sweden and is married to a Moldavian who does much of his work in Russian) ... The Kunsthis-

torisches art collection, Ringstrasse building and palace settings were impressive. But being a southern Ohio hillbilly, I missed the high hills of Prague and Budapest.

"Budapest exhibited an exotic gypsy-like quality and proudly displayed its scars from WWII and the 1956 revolt against the Soviets. The overlooks from the Castle were spectacular, and the central market had everything that anyone could want, at reasonable prices. The Holocaust memorial of shoes lined up along the Danube (where the Nazis shot Jews into the river at the end of WWII) was probably the most poignant I've seen. But Budapest had more homeless than anywhere else in Europe (it reminded me of Detroit). Also, an extra gratuity was expected for all services, including (doctors in our class should take note) for medical care. Our Hungarian guide explained that the government is trying to curtail the practice by offering new grads higher pay for agreeing not to solicit extra benefits from patients and their families."

"Look forward to seeing you and hopefully many other classmates at our 55th in 2014, if not before."

Ken is not our only traveler.

David B. Smith writes, "My wife, Helen, and I are enjoying our retirement with international travel. We spend about seven months of the year abroad. [As of this writing in the spring,] we plan to leave on April 25 for Turkey, where we spend two months. Initially, after a few days in Istanbul, we will travel to southeastern Turkey at the edge of the plain of Mesopotamia on the Iraq and Syria borders. Then, we will settle down near Yalikavak on the Bodrum peninsula on the Aegean shore. We have been going there for the last four years and have many friends in that lovely place.

"We leave Turkey at the end of June and travel to the Orkney islands north of mainland Scotland for two months. This, too, will be our fourth year in Orkney. There, Helen will assist in a fascinating Neolithic archaeological site on the Ness of Brodgar, where extraordinary discoveries are being made of stone temples that predate the pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge. We'll then visit Glasgow and Edinburgh for a week each, after which we go to Bergen, Norway. After a few days in Bergen, we'll take a ship up the west coast of Norway through the fjords to North Cape and back to Trondheim. After a few days in Oslo, we fly to Paris and then to the Cele Valley in southwestern France for two weeks. Our house there will be in walking distance of Pech Merle, an Upper Paleolithic cave with wonderful wall paintings. Finally,

we go to Venice for the last month. This will be our fifth year in Venice, which has become a second home. We hope to revisit old haunts and soak up the lovely art and architecture, as well as the extraordinary Venetian food."

Since his initial writing, David has provided an update on his trip but space limitations prevent me from including it now.

Ed Boylan brings us up to date: "After graduation, I went to Princeton, where I received my Ph.D. in mathematics in 1962. Following brief stays at Yeshiva University, Rutgers at New Brunswick and Hunter College, I came to Rutgers-Newark in September 1968. I am on leave this semester with retirement officially starting in July.

"In addition to mathematics, for several years I was a consultant on Middle East and nuclear strategy issues at Hudson Institute, back when it was actually located in Croton-on-Hudson and headed by Herman Kahn.

"My wife and I have three children: two daughters living in Israel and a son living in Flatbush. We also have seven grandchildren, the oldest of whom is now in the Israeli army. For more than 40 years we have been living in Englewood, N.J. Any classmate who wants to see what the Orthodox Jewish community of Englewood is like is welcome to give me a call. (We are in the phone book.)"

Richard Tyler writes, "My good friend **Raphael 'Ray' Osheroff** passed in his sleep on March 18. Graveside services were held on March 21 at Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge, N.J.

"Following graduation from the College, Ray received his medical diploma from the Creighton University School of Medicine. He practiced nephrology in the Washington, D.C., area for many years.

"Ray was a musical genius who was able to play any instrument: percussion, strings, reeds and other horns. During our college days and early during his professional life, he would be invited to gigs, where he filled in on whatever instrument was needed. It was my pleasure to accompany him to many of those engagements. Watching him switch from instrument to instrument with alacrity and verve was a mesmerizing experience.

"Ray was a wonderful and dear friend whom I shall miss."

Joseph Ramos writes, "Six years ago I lost my first wife. But 1½ years later I married a wonderful widow, Gloria Baeza. I am still going strong at the University of Chile. Last year, I was chosen by the students as the best professor in the economics department. It goes to prove that life isn't over till it's over!"

We hear from **Herbert M. Dean**: "I am an oncology consultant for an insurance company and find it intellectually stimulating, as it provides me the opportunity to review files from the major cancer centers and also allows me to remain current with this rapidly changing discipline without the responsibilities that accompany a clinical practice. I have written a section on cancer chemotherapy for the sixth edition of a textbook on diseases of the colon and rectum that will be published in September and enjoyed the challenge, especially when it was finished.

"My wife and I celebrated our seventh anniversary (we were both widowed) and travel between our home in Worcester and our apartment in New York City. I am trying to sell a beautiful oceanfront condo on Cape Cod; if anyone is interested, do I have a deal for you! I like to think I work in Worcester, play in New York and rest at the Cape.

"My joints limit my ability to play tennis, but I continue to walk, especially in NYC, with the help of a little Celebex. Reading is a delight, especially since you can pick and choose your subject, put it down if you find it not appealing, and don't have to write a term paper or take an exam. A wonderful book that traces the history and current status of cancer but reads like a novel, which I can recommend, is *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Siddhartha Mukherjee (also a professor at P&S).

"We look forward to our next class reunion."

David N. Horowitz writes, "I'm not sure everyone will remember there is more than one David Horowitz in our class. **David J. Horowitz** is the famous advocate of academic humility. David N., yours truly, is a retired New York state government lawyer living with his significant other, Barbara, in Boynton Beach, Fla. I can't complain; my health is OK, although I am a survivor of two or three bouts with the big C, including breast removal, of all things. Our generation is very lucky in the quality of the medical care that we are able to receive. My father, who was born in Lithuania, passed in 1965 when he was 65; even so, he was fortunate, as I was, that he came to America in 1920, as those who stayed were murdered during the Holocaust known as WWII. I think of this every day of my life and recollect how fortunate I am to wake up every morning to see the blue sky and the puffy white clouds of Florida, to say nothing of the ever changing tones of the Florida sunset.

"I wish you and all our classmates good health, continued good

cheer, kindness, love and blessing."

Frank R. Wilson is now a doctor at least two times over, an M.D. who also was named an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts by the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. He and his wife, Pat, were in Chicago this spring. They, **J. Peter Rosenfeld** and his wife, Carmen, and Frank's sister, Julie, went to see Brian Dennehy '60 in *The Iceman Cometh* at the Goodman Theatre. My wife, Yona, and I joined them after the show for a very pleasant dinner.

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

Delighted to hear from **Harvey Sage**, who reflects on the values he acquired at alma mater. "Columbia helped me think analytically," he writes. "The physics and math courses prepared me for my first career as a teacher (28 years). My most notable instructor was Polykarp Kusch, who once told an FBI agent to wait outside his office because he was talking with me, a mere student. I based part of my teaching style on his ebullience.

"My second career was as a newspaper publisher (15 years). I attribute my writing skills, as meager as they were, to the rigors of communication developed in our various classes.

"The health education course gave good insights to male/female relationships, helping me in my 50-plus years of marriage.

"From Columbia's influences I developed a viable philosophy for life based on fulfilling the will of my Creator. For when all the many treasures and pleasures are talked about, being a good and faithful servant overshadows them all."

Kusch, professor of physics, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1955 for his work in atomic and molecular physics. Curious as to why an FBI agent would be waiting outside his door — although perhaps I should not have been surprised, as rumors abounded that FBI agents were everywhere and many an unadorned wall bore the graffiti warning, "FBI in the Library," without ever explicitly saying whether in Butler, Low Memorial or the 42nd Street Public — I asked Harvey if he inquired as to the presence of this patient agent.

"Nope," Harvey replied. "Probably national security. The year was 1960. Remember the Cold War? I was a poor physicist, but Kusch's dynamism helped me become a good teacher and a better human being. I wrote him a letter a few

years later, thanking him for his ways. He appreciated it. He rests with the Creator now and I hope to see him again at the end of this life's cycle."

Irwin Sollinger writes, "Taking the recent CCT survey motivated me to send a Class Note. I remain in contact with **Irwin Young**, especially when he makes his jaunts to the city. I also have monthly luncheons with **Sidney Hart**; he maintains his psychiatric practice in Greenwich, and I am a psychologist in Westport. But last week was a '60 bonanza for me. [RAM: 'Last week' was in fact some months ago, and while I am grateful to CCT for conducting its motivating survey, I can't say that I recall how long ago that was.] I met **Bob Berne** quite serendipitously at a matinee and then **Michael Hertzberg** at Carnegie Hall. The benefits of an education in the best college town in the country continue."

Our reporting on the loss of **Bob Morgan**, and the memorial celebration of his life, brought this note from **Doug Eden**.

"I'm very sorry I don't recall **Bob Morgan**, but he was clearly a man of taste. We evidently both attended John Gutman's classes on opera. Gutman was assistant manager of the Metropolitan Opera and was resigned to never succeeding his boss, Rudolph Bing. Bing disliked Wagner and put on as little of it as possible. We were fortunate to see a Walküre dress rehearsal. He and Gutman also were resistant to Strauss' operas outside the very popular ones such as *Der Rosenkavalier*. Bob would have been present when I argued with Gutman about the merits of Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and he generously permitted me to present an illustrated analysis of this opera to his class. I hope other colleagues derived satisfaction a few years later when *Frau* successfully entered the Met's repertoire soon after Bing's departure. Gutman was very generous to me here in London, too. In 1961, he invited me to join him in the Duke of Bedford's box at Covent Garden for Rudolf Nureyev's remarkable London debut accompanied by Sonia Arova. Bob and I were indeed very fortunate in our time at Columbia and our choices of courses."

Doug is a Senior Atlantic Fellow at the Atlantic Council for the U.K. and associate fellow, Institute for Study of the Americas at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Astronomer extraordinaire and science fiction author **Thomas Wm. Hamilton**'s newest book is *Our Neighbor Stars: Including Brown Dwarfs*, in which Tom presents information about the 100 stars nearest Earth, as well as the brown

dwarfs within the range covered by such stars. This includes the visibility of the stars, their size, distance, color, who discovered them and how they were discovered, and observations on the chances for life on the planets around them.

Big thanks go to the 125 donors who contributed gifts to the College this past fiscal year. As of June 30, the Class of 1960 had raised more than \$700,000. Congratulations, all.

And finally, a sad note. **Josh Pruzansky** advises that **Lenny Lustig** '63L died on April 1, 2012, about a month after being diagnosed with liver cancer. Lenny was a distinguished real estate practitioner in Suffolk County. He is survived by his wife, Susan; daughter, Caren; and son, Craig.

The class sends its deepest condolences to Lenny's family.

61 **Michael Hausig**
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Tom Lippman traveled to San Antonio, Richmond, Va., Hartford, Conn., and other cities this spring promoting his latest book, *Saudi Arabia on the Edge*, and had the pleasure of discussing it with classmates at one of **Tony Adler**'s monthly lunches in New York. In June he made his annual visit to Saudi Arabia to interview government officials, business people and academics for a new writing project based at The George Washington University.

Richard Mace recently realized a lifelong goal of being the pianist of a foursome performing the Mozart *Piano Quartet in G-minor, K.478*, for a joyous audience of aficionados, relatives, loved ones and friends; the concert took place June 5 at the 92nd St. Y in Manhattan. He looks forward to expanding his chamber music repertoire this fall as a participant in similar programs featuring like-minded amateur musicians. He also is pleased to report that his son, **Richard Riurik Mace**, recently returned from a 15-day tour of the Holy Lands (Kuwait, Jordan and Israel) during which time he educated potential converts to Evangelical worship via weeklong workshops of instruction and example. Meanwhile, daughter **Michelle Margaret Logan** completed her third year as the office manager for a spectacularly successful (1,400 patients) children's dentistry practice in Cumming, Ga. Both children enjoy spending weekends cruising Lake Lanier in their respective power boats, relaxing away from the crowded agendas of their weekday pursuits.

Phil Cottone's oldest granddaughter, **Megan**, graduated from Villanova Law in May and her brother, **Ryan**, who recently completed his freshman year at the University of Miami, now has transferred to Columbia. That will make the third generation of Cottone Lions, including **Phil**; his oldest son, **Anthony** '80; and now **Ryan** '15. **Phil** works full-time as an active national mediator and arbitrator specializing in real estate, securities and lawyer-represented commercial cases for the American Arbitration Association, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Counselors of Real Estate.

Morris Dickstein gave the Lionel Trilling lecture at Columbia on May 2. The subject was how movies gradually took over some of the territory of fiction in the decades after the war, which led writers to worry about the death of the novel.

Bob Rennick '64E wrote that he and **Mark Franklin** '64E, **Mickey Greenblatt** '62E and **Hillel Hoffman** '62E, who were on the 3-2 program with Columbia University School of Engineering (now called the School of Engineering and Applied Science) attended Engineering's Class of '62 50th reunion in June and were inducted into the Golden Lions Society.

Bob also attended the May 23 class luncheon in **Tom Gochberg**'s conference room, where **Ira Hayes** gave his annual book report. Our classmates are voracious readers with impressive recall. During their visit, **Bob** and his wife, **Lisa**, spent time with some cast members of *The Best Man*, including **James Earl Jones**.

Gene Milone, professor emeritus and the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory director emeritus, University of Calgary, cleaned out his office at the university last July, with the conclusion of his second term as faculty professor, and now works at home. He is awaiting a partial corneal transplant and, should it be successful, will travel to Beijing in August for the International Astronomical Union meeting, where as president of the IAU's Commission on Astronomical Photometry and Polarimetry and chair of its Infrared Astronomy Working Group he will chair a few sessions. He also plans to present a paper illustrating a new distance determination method for eclipsing binaries in star clusters. He is working also on several biographies of astronomers for the second edition of the *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers*, including that of professor **Jan Schilt**, chairman of Columbia's Astronomy Department when we were students. Finally, with a Calgary colleague, he is working on the

second edition of their two-volume work, *Solar System Astrophysics*, a daunting task right now, with the burgeoning population of known extrasolar planets.

We conclude with some sad news.

Dr. Barry Jacobs passed away in Plano, Texas, in May. **Barry** served as a doctor in the Navy during Vietnam and then specialized as an ophthalmologist, practicing in Boston for most of his career. He semi-retired to New Hampshire but ended his practice with the onset of the illness that took his life a decade later. A few years ago, he and his wife, **Barbara**, moved to Plano, north of Dallas, to be near their daughter **Alison**, son-in-law **Michael** and grandchildren **Graham** and **Ariel**. Throughout his long illness, **Barry** was stoic, dignified and courageous.

Jack Samet's wife, **Helen**, passed away, a victim of ovarian cancer. **Jack** wrote on his Facebook page that "words are insufficient to describe the force of the grief I am experiencing and the power of the loving memory she leaves behind." The funeral service was held at Mt. Sinai Chapel, Mt. Sinai Memorial Park and Mortuary, Los Angeles, on May 2.

Larry Kline passed away March 26. He leaves his wife, **Bonnie**; three daughters; a son; and several grandchildren. He had suffered a stroke some years ago and had not been in good health since then. **Larry** was a prominent psychiatrist in Maryland for decades. **Larry Rubinstein** '60 officiated at the services.

Arthur D. Friedman, a computer science researcher, professor and author who lived in San Diego, passed away on October 24, 2011.



62 **John Freidin**
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Alumni Reunion Weekend was gorgeous, merry, moving. The campus sparkled — red brick, white granite, smooth marble. Gone were the

nicotine-stained walls of Hamilton Hall, replaced with clean Columbia blue! Your classmates were warm, relaxed, generous, interested and interesting. About 100 attended, and during our days together a sense of commonality and equality spread among us. Seldom have I felt as good, and I expect everyone else did as well. Wish we had more 50ths to anticipate.

At registration, the College presented each of us with a Class of '62 mug, printed in color with **Michael Stone**'s delightful drawing, "Still Amazing After All These Years," celebrating our path from blazers and ties to jeans, flannel shirts and an extra 12 lbs. (See the top of the column.)

Formal events began with an elegant reception at President **Lee C. Bollinger**'s home. **Bollinger** spoke of the University's growth northward to Manhattanville, its success raising money for this expansion and the planned opening of several "global centers" in major cities abroad, where undergraduates will simultaneously pursue Columbia courses and foreign studies. In **Ed Pressman**'s words: "Bollinger's comments clearly reflected his pride in being part of the Columbia family."

During the weekend I asked nearly everyone to email me 25–50 words about the reunion. Here are some excerpts:

Tobias Robison: "My first reunion, mostly people I'd failed to meet or remember. Trepidation! But oh, did we all have something in common. Made friends, heard fascinating life stories, enjoyed enjoyable events. Looking forward to 55."

Phil Lebovitz: "The instant sense of an intellectual commonality was poignant and warm. Having integrated the experience of a Columbia education, we immediately shared ideas and stimulating conversations."

Bill Campbell: "I cannot think of when I had a more wonderful time. A great 'reunion' of people who really cared about each other. I was touched and blown away."

Charlie Freifeld: "I was particularly glad to see that so many of my classmates had lived rich lives and done really powerful things, yet were not self-important."

Michael Stone: "What a reunion should be: enjoyed [time with] old friends and made new ones. But thought a lot about the classmates who weren't with us anymore and missed the ones who didn't come."

Larry Loewinger: "It was a fun, informative and, ultimately, a rather touching experience."

Bernie Patten: "A thousand thanks to the many people who spent time, energy and money making the 50th the success that

it was. And special kudos to **Bill Campbell** for the dinner [at Smith & Wollensky]. It was wonderful seeing classmates turned out and tipsy, having a good time, laughing and being themselves."

John Golembe, who flew in from Germany with his wife, **Evelyn**: "A wonderful confirmation of how fortunate we were to be members of the Columbia Class of '62."

Jim Spingarn: "Seeing our classmates (and reading the sad list of those departed) was a very emotional experience. Like most of us, I've never forgotten what a huge role Columbia played, and continues to play, in my life. It influences how I think, what I am passionate about and virtually every intellectual thought I ever have. How do you beat that? That's why that magical reunion meant so much."

Neilson Abeel: "The greatest realization I had was how much more interesting and open we are. I had wonderful conversations with people I'd never really spoken to 50 years ago and made connections that will result in meetings. I reiterate my thanks to the generous fellows who hosted the off-campus events. As **Peter Yatrakis** said, 'We've got 60 folks crowded onto a boat for four hours; you'll really get to talk with each other.'"

Bill Weissman: "Attending classes and seeing classmates every day made it seem like we were back in school."

Stan Lupkin: "Most of us have attended more than our share of reunions. Can you top this 50th? No way! The spirit and camaraderie was reminiscent of that day, during freshman orientation, when, with our beanies on, we had the 'Freshman Rush' with the tug of war and **Steve Trachtenberg** racing to victory up the greased flagpole. Fifty years. Hard to believe — and we all look so young!"

Joe Nozzolio: "The vibrancy and energy of the city. People walking at all times of day or night. The gorgeous architecture in Manhattan, much of it new since my last visit. A similar reaction to the Columbia campus. Students running to and fro, beautiful new buildings like the Northwest Corner Building, where several lectures were held. Seeing and speaking with football teammates. Reviving friendships. Having interesting conversations with **Ed Pressman** and **Allen Young**."

David Tucker: "I was very inspired by the events of our reunion. The efforts of **Stan Lupkin** to arrange our trip to Ground Zero was truly memorable. Hearing **Bill Campbell**, who could be doing anything anywhere, but was good enough to express his gratitude to the College, his teachers and his peers, was a treat. Let's all raise our mugs and

think of the Class of '62."

Bill Ross: "Everyone was in a mellow mood and the mensch quotient was high."

Barry Leeds: "I loved everything about our 50th. More important than the wonderful events were the wonderful people: warm, welcoming and unpretentious 50 years after they set out to make their indelible marks upon the world and succeeded admirably."

David Wallack: "[My wife,] **Bonnie**, and I returned to Colorado, and agree the weekend was everything we could have wished for. It combined meaningful College-sponsored events with classmate-sponsored events. I feel I made almost as

Richard Mace '61 played piano in a foursome performing Mozart's Piano Quartet in G-minor, K.478, in a concert held at the 92nd St. Y in Manhattan.

many friendships in four days as I did in four years on campus."

Allen Small: "What a great reunion! Kudos to the Reunion Committee for the magnificent feasts, etc. Enjoyed the 9/11 Memorial and renewal of old friendships. Now I can enjoy my retirement and plan to return for our next reunion."

Peter Shrager: "Fifty years ago I would not have predicted that so many of us would still be professionally active. Having the lectures reflect the Core reinforced the uniqueness of our education."

Bob Umans: "What a blast! We're the best! Vive le Class of '62!"

Jeff Milstein put his thoughts into a poem, *50th Columbia College Reunion*:

Here we are:
"Eating and drinking,
"Talking, remembering, and embracing,
"In the very place
"With the very men
"And their engaging women,
"With whom we had studied and striven,
"Laughed and cried,
"Half a century ago; and
"Who somehow, each by different ways,
"Had amazingly become
"Who we are now.
"Cheers! To Life!"

Even the notes from classmates who were not present were touching.

Joe Romanelli: "I tried my darnedest to make it. Flew into New York from Israel and readied myself for the big event. Then, four days before the start, my son called from Jerusalem to announce the birth of his first child, a son, and I had to be there for the ritual circumcision. So I changed my

ticket and returned to Jerusalem. ... I'm sorry to have missed it and hope you'll visit me in Jerusalem."

You can email **Joe** at romazaid@romazaid.info.

David Nathan: "My wife and I still work, and our signals crossed. She booked us on a trip to Italy beginning on reunion Friday, but I had one glorious day, Thursday, at the reunion. A great experience!"

Frank Grady: "I missed the event because I was stupid. I'd made reservations to spend the weekend in Reykjavik with my wife long before I realized this was our 50th, and I could not change the date. Sorry. I miss y'all. I'll try to be there for the 55th."

John Joyce: "Early this year I contacted six classmates, all of whom were waiters with me at Johnson Hall, to determine if any were going to the 'official' reunion. Our discussions led to a planned gathering of **Ron Meyer**, **Rich Wright**, **Bill Davidson**, **Charlie Lyons**, **Larry Gaston**, myself and our spouses here in Washington, D.C., in October. That will be our reunion, and I'll send a picture or two for Class Notes."

Crawford Kilian: "Just too busy! Doing a lot of writing, including this article on how I experienced a stroke in January: thetyee.ca/Life/2012/03/03/My-Scan-Health-Care."

You can email **Crawford** at crof@shaw.ca.

Armando Favazza: "I had already traveled to New York twice in the past month and couldn't handle more travel for the reunion. My first trip was for a National Geographic TV shoot on body modification and the second was to attend a psychiatric conference at the wonderful Angel Orensanz Center in the oldest synagogue in New York. Otherwise I would have attended for sure."

Several classmates suggested that we pool our photographs. If you email yours to me at **jk@bicyclervt.com**, I'll put them together. But I hope someone more Internet-savvy than I will offer to put them on a website where we all can view them.

Four classmates arranged and hosted extraordinary off-campus events. On Thursday evening, **Burt Lehman** and his wife, **Brenda**, gave a festive cocktail party at the distinguished Harmonie Club on East 60th Street, off Fifth Avenue.

On Friday morning, **Peter Yatrakis** took us on a glorious four-hour cruise of New York harbor. In bril-

liant sunshine we motored from East 23rd Street on the East River, north beneath the Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg Bridges. The morning light accentuated the crisp lines and soaring profiles of Manhattan architecture. We came about and glided southward past the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. All the while we talked and laughed and contrasted what we saw with what we remembered as students. As lunch was served we passed the Financial District, the gleaming One World Trade Center and the new residential towers of Jersey City and Hoboken. Few aboard wanted to disembark when our voyage concluded at 2 p.m.

Later, we reassembled at Third Avenue and East 49th Street for the evening of a lifetime at New York's quintessential steakhouse, **Smith & Wollensky**. **Bill Campbell** hosted us in an enormous private dining room; there were magnificent cocktails, trays of cold lobster and shrimp that must have taken steroids and then hot, thick steaks prepared precisely as we ordered. We regaled one another with stories, laughed with dear friends and hugged enough to compensate for our staid male upbringings of the 1950s. Writing about it makes me yearn for a cold martini, iced shrimp and the men with whom I share so much good fortune.

Thanks, **Bill**! All that was missing were those of you who could not make it.

On Saturday evening at the gala dinner in Low Library, class president **Paul Alter** presented Dean **James J. Valentini** with our Class Gift. Thanks to extraordinarily generous lead gifts from **Jerry Speyer** and **Bill Campbell** — past and current chairs of the University Board of Trustees, respectively — we contributed \$1.13 million to the Columbia College Fund, the highest ever from a 50th reunion class.

Activities concluded Sunday morning when **Stan Lupkin** hosted a private tour for us of One World Trade Center, now New York's tallest building. Since 2007 **Stan** has been the integrity monitor for the construction of this skyscraper. He and his staff of attorneys, former FBI agents, forensic accountants and engineers identify and investigate fraud, corruption and labor racketeering, all of which have plagued the New York construction industry. "For me," said **Stan**, "it's a very special assignment, as I performed the same function at Ground Zero after the 9-11 attack."

Burt Lehman described the tour this way: "We were guided by a Port Authority construction official who described plans for the entire site, especially One World Trade

Robert Shlaer '63 Recreates History Through Daguerreotype

BY JUSTIN DEFREITAS

Though he was born and educated on the East Coast, **Robert Shlaer '63, '66 GSAS** is a westerner at heart. Sure, he looks the part, with his thick beard, flannel shirt and suspenders, but it runs deeper than that. Shlaer is a westerner in that older, more romantic sense of the word: He's an individualist, determined to carve out his own path wherever it may lead.

And sometimes it leads to someone else's path. For nearly two decades, Shlaer has been exploring America's western landscape with a camera in tow, retracing the steps of the great explorers of centuries past. He

has sought both to recreate and expand on the work of the pioneering artists and daguerreotype photographers who documented these 19th-century expeditions, capturing the same vistas that were once framed in the viewfinders of his predecessors.

Shlaer considers daguerreotype — the silvery images that reigned from 1839–60 as the first commercially viable form of photography — to be “the most beautiful of all forms of photography.” But it's hardly the most reliable. “My first and greatest love remains the landscape,” he says, “so with a process as given to failure as daguerreotypy, it is comforting to know that the

subject will be there tomorrow for another try.”

Shlaer was born in Manhattan and raised in New Mexico, where his father, Simon Shlaer '24, '37 GSAS, was an engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory. By Shlaer's own admission, his academic career was an exercise in expedience. Though his family put a premium on education, Shlaer applied to the College more because it made its admissions decisions earlier than other schools. “I figured that if I got accepted, I wouldn't have to put any effort into applying elsewhere,” he says.

He started out studying physics but became disenchanted

and made a late switch to art history, primarily because it was the only degree that could be completed in two years. Later, he pursued a master's in experimental psychology at Columbia in part, he says, as a means of avoiding the draft, then moved on to thesis work in neurophysiology at Rochester before earning a Ph.D. in neurophysiology and sensory psychology from Chicago in 1971.

For a few years Shlaer continued in academia, working as a researcher and lecturer in the Department of Neurosurgery at Northwestern University Medical School, but he struggled with the desire for a different

career. It was an “escapist fantasy” that had crystallized during his tenure at Columbia, when he had seen an exhibit of works by Ansel Adams at the Museum of Modern Art. Adams' imagery invoked a longing in Shlaer to wander and document the western landscape. In the mid-1970s, newly inspired by a quote from Adams in which he declared the daguerreotype the benchmark against which he measured his own creations, Shlaer decided to take up the moribund medium.

Shlaer immersed himself in the craft, embarking on a project of self-education. He ordered customized plates from a commercial manufacturer and hand-built the necessary equipment for preparing and developing them and for handling the toxic chemicals the process requires. (In daguerreotypy, an image is captured on a polished and chemically treated

layer of silver atop a copper plate and must be developed in short order by exposing the plate to mercury vapors.) After six months of refining his technique, Shlaer left his academic life behind and returned to New Mexico, determined to make his living as a daguerreotypist. He quickly realized, however, that he didn't have the money or the facilities to get his new career off the ground. What followed was an extended period of peripatetic employment that included tutoring at St. John's College in Santa Fe as well as an eight-year stint crafting and selling custom woodwind instruments.

By the mid-1980s Shlaer finally felt that he had everything he needed to make a go of it. He promoted himself as “The World's Only Full-Time Professional Daguerreotypist” and sold his work in local galleries before beginning the project that would become his magnum opus: the recreation of the lost daguerreotypes of Solomon Nunes Carvalho, the young photographer hired by famed explorer John C. Frémont to document his final expedition, in 1853, in search of a viable central route for a transcontinental railroad.

Though Carvalho's plates were lost in a warehouse fire in 1881, many of his images had been copied by engravers for use as illustrations in a book Frémont was planning. Shlaer was intrigued by the idea of recreating them in their original form, a project that combined all of his talents and passions: the delicate daguerreotyping process called upon his scientific and technical skills, the photography itself summoned the artist in him and the exacting research not only made use of his art history background but also provided an outlet for his admittedly obsessive nature.

Shlaer outfitted his minivan as a mobile laboratory and

began retracing Frémont's route, tracking down every site that Carvalho photographed. “I was able to find all of the scenes in the engravings and redaguerreotype them,” Shlaer says. “I filled in the rest of the expedition from surviving written descriptions, from my knowledge of the route and from my imagination, which I attempted to synchronize with that of Frémont and Carvalho.” “Bob's a remarkable person,” says John Morton, a retired chemistry professor from Western New Mexico University and longtime friend of Shlaer. Morton is himself a photographer, his interest having begun with his study of old photographic processes. But Morton has never attempted daguerreotypy. “Too rich for my blood,” he says. “It's very expensive and very difficult.”

Morton testifies to Shlaer's perfectionism. “If a daguerreotype turns out poorly he'll wipe

it off the plate,” Morton says. “I've seen him wipe away images I would have been proud to have caught.”

Shlaer explains himself differently. “I lack self-discipline,” he says, arguing that the single-minded focus with which he pursues his passions is more vice than virtue. “It's just another form of excess.”

Shlaer's “excess” resulted in a book, *Sights Once Seen: Daguerreotyping Frémont's Last Expedition Through the Rockies*, which recreates Carvalho's lost imagery and provides a lucid and thoroughly researched account of Frémont's expedition, correcting the historical record of a journey that had generated much myth and misinformation during the preceding century and a half. Shlaer spent four years researching the expedition in archives across the country and photographing the images out west. He spent another year writing the book and

preparing a museum exhibition that traveled the country for five years. “It was the culmination of my career,” Shlaer says.

But he's not finished. His current project has him photographing another western trek, that of topographic sketch artist Richard Kern, who created the first visual documentation of the Rocky Mountains as part of the Gunnison Expedition, which also took place in 1853. Shlaer is using conventional photography this time, and the result will be another book, this one due in 2013. “When asked my occupation, I now call myself a ‘visual historian of western exploration,’” Shlaer says. “And if pressed further I add, ‘specializing in the year 1853.’”

To see more photographs by Shlaer, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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



Self-portrait in Cathedral Valley, Capitol Reef National Park, Utah, May 1998.



Wetterhorn Peak, Colo., from the Forks of the Cimarron River, July 1996.

PHOTOS: ROBERT SHLAER '63, '66 GSAS

Center. Wearing hard hats, we were hoisted to the 39th floor, where we gazed over a panorama of the scene and its surroundings. We then toured the 9/11 Memorial, in particular the two impressive pools of moving water, which are surrounded by the names of all who perished in the disaster.”

The Reunion Committee, consisting of **George Abodeely, Paul Alter, Lester Hoffman, Richard Kobrin, Burt Lehman, Stan Lupkin, Ed Pressman, Leo Swergold, Peter Yatrakis** and myself, clearly outdid itself.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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63

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Our 50th reunion is only nine months away! If you haven't already marked your calendar for Wednesday, May 29–Sunday, June 2, 2013, do it now. This is the big one and none of us should miss it. Columbia and the Reunion Committee are planning a memorable weekend. If you want to join the committee or have suggestions for our program, please contact me or the appropriate staff member, noted at the top of the column.

On Class Day, May 15, **Henry Black, Doron Gopstein, Harvey Cantor** and **Lee Lowenfish** joined me for the annual Alumni Parade of Classes and helped carry the Class of 1963 banner (**Don Margolis**, who has joined me in past years, had to cancel at the last minute). Harvey's youngest daughter, Elizabeth '12, graduated that day. Congratulations to both! This event is great fun, a wonderful opportunity to join graduates and their families at one of the most joyful days of their lives. Join us next year.

Larry Neuman and **Herb Soroca** joined me at the annual crew reunion and lunch at Gould/Remmer Boat-house for oarsmen from the '50s and '60s. It was great to see so many guys from the early '60s. Next year, let's get all the rowers from '63 to come out on the Friday of reunion. I'll be calling each of you!

I'm sad to report that **Yoshi Fujisawa** has died. His daughter, Natsuko, writes, "I regret to inform you that my father, Yoshiharu (Yoshi) Fujisawa, passed away on March 15, 2012, due to pancreatic

cancer. He retired in June 2011 from the CEO/chairman position of Internix, which he founded in 1970."

I also learned that **William F. Finley Jr.** died in NYC on April 14, 2012. Bill met Brian De Palma '62 at Columbia and was in the core group that joined him to bring coeducation to Sarah Lawrence. He was an actor in many of Brian's films, most memorably as the star of *Phantom of the Paradise* (1974).

Ken Ostberg writes, "My wife, Andi, and I have been happily and busily retired for seven years and pass most of the year in Winston-Salem, N.C. We recently celebrated our 30th anniversary, share good health, remain active and involved in the community and, when we're not in Winston, are someplace else on the globe. I recently returned from five weeks in Japan, South Korea and China. We head to the shores (east and west) of Lake Michigan in late July, followed by a couple of weeks in Toronto, the queen city of North America. We're also planning for a fall trip to Scandinavia. Our older daughter, Kristen, is a special education teacher working with severe and multiply-handicapped children, and Adrienne, our younger, completes her M.F.A. in documentary film at UNC Greensboro in May. While both are in serious relationships, neither is married and there are, as yet, no grandchildren. Andi hopes that situation changes soon because she desperately wants to be a grandmother. Life is good!"

Marty Greenfield writes, "I am married with three children and four grandchildren. My eldest daughter is a College alumna, Elizabeth '91. I am an endocrinologist in a large group practice in Lake Success, N.Y. I am on the governing council of The Medical Society of The State of New York, having previously been president of the Nassau County Medical Society. I also am on the Board of Directors of the Lower New York Chapter of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. In my spare time, I serve on several committees of the North Shore-LIJ Health System."

Barry Reiss reports that **David Robinson** now lives in France.

David, let us know more about your life's adventures!

Henry Black has written *Hypertension, A Companion to Braunwald's Heart Disease*, which was recently published.

Roland Droitsch writes, "I live in Washington, D.C., a stone's throw from the Capitol. Am having a family get-together and it will be a joy for me. Am retired after spending years in the federal government as the deputy assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of

Labor. Think about Columbia and the good times there. I have not heard from **Michael Silbert** and would like to get a brief notice, if possible."

Michael, write Roland (and me).

Paul Reale will have a CD released of his complete violin works, performed by Jessica Mathaes, on the Centaur label this fall.

If you live in the Bay Area, you should get on **Mike Nolan's** email list. I enjoy it even from the East Coast. Mike always has something interesting going, a musical evening, a party at a local venue or even genealogical research.

You can reach Mike at mikeydavy@gmail.com.

Mike Lubell writes, "Laura Appelman and I were married last December in a small ceremony conducted by Joette Katz, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and a former Connecticut Supreme Court justice. Laura, who hails from Chicago, is an artist, currently working in polymer clay. Her new focus is on unique handcrafted jewelry, which garnered attention at spring craft shows in New York and Chicago (lauraappelman.com)."

"My daughter, Karina '02, does antitrust work for Shearman and Sterling. She lives in Washington, D.C., and is celebrating her fifth anniversary with her husband, Romain, who works at KPMG in Tyson's Corner, Va.

"I commute weekly (or more) between New York and Washington, carrying out my physics teaching duties at CCNY and public affairs work for the American Physical Society (APS) from a suite in the National Press Building. Amtrak and Delta love me.

"I've pioneered an interactive mode of teaching to keep 300 students engaged in intro astronomy. Using a wireless, hand-held mic, I roam the lecture hall playing Jerry Springer, but without the pathos, engaging the students with Q&A throughout. The students love it and their grades demonstrate its success. I also teach a seminar on science, science policy and politics to students in CUNY's Macaulay Honors College.

"In Washington, I run a successful public affairs group for APS, which now counts seven members, who focus on science lobbying, policy and media. In addition I have become a board member of the Task Force on American Innovation and a consultant to Our Energy Policy Foundation.

"Most recently, I have begun another gig as an opinion writer for *Roll Call*, one of the three Capitol Hill newspapers (circulation 20,000). I write the 'Inside the Beltway' column for APS News, which

reaches 50,000 readers worldwide.

"So my life continues to be busy and enjoyable, so much so that I don't even think about retirement."

Bill Burley writes, "Separated my left shoulder in a bike crash in Hungary. Nevertheless, I am training on the bike and was planning to race up Mt. Washington on July 7. Fortunately I'm racing against others in our age group, so if some 20- and 30-somethings beat me, so be it. I'll send a photo from the top when (not if) I get there."

Bob Heller writes, "My son, David, was honored by Prep for Prep at its annual dinner for his contributions to the work of that organization, which is an educational leadership development program that prepares selected inner-city kids of color, places them at independent schools and provides them with ongoing support and life-changing opportunities. Following secondary school, the vast majority pursue their educations at Ivy League and other highly competitive colleges. Since the program began, 111 Prep for Prep students have graduated from Columbia and 26 are enrolled; 156 have gone to Harvard, David's alma mater.

"My daughter, Pamela Heller, a Brown alumna, is president of Project Morry, another successful program for inner-city kids. A year-round youth development organization, it offers each child a multi-year commitment anchored by a residential summer camp experience each year. The children, for whom these experiences would not otherwise be available, benefit from a network of support and gain increased social skills, enhanced self-esteem, positive core values and a greater sense of personal responsibility. Many of them go on to college as well. Pam has been on the board for several years, as has David.

"My wife, Amy, and I (we celebrated our 47th anniversary in July) are proud of both David and Pam. Yes, there is that one blemish; I could not persuade either to go to Columbia, but we'll see about the grandchildren, the oldest of whom is only 9. Not too early to start lobbying."

David Orme-Johnson writes, "As it turns out, this is an active time in my career. I got a review paper accepted on the effects of transcendental meditation on coronary heart disease (blood pressure, cardiovascular reactivity to stressors, congestive heart disease, angina, atherosclerosis and left ventricular hypertrophy). I also recently completed a year learning about meta-analysis and recently submitted my first one on the effects of TM on perceptual-motor behavior under time pressure (rapid fire pistol shooting, driving speed, 50-meter

dash, etc.).

"My wife, Rhoda, and I recently went to her 50th Vassar reunion; it was so fun and inspiring being around all those intelligent and lively people that I definitely want to come to our 50th next year. We are now on an extension of that trip through Vermont, Quebec and New Hampshire, sightseeing and visiting friends and family; I'm also doing watercolors of the beautiful landscapes. We gave some lectures on TM in Quebec — Rhoda on her book of Maharishi on language and literature, which she delivered in French, and me on the TM research, delivered in jargon. Hope everyone comes to our reunion."

Frank Sypher is the author of *Strangers and Pilgrims: A Centennial History of The Laymen's Club of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine*. The Laymen's Club, founded in 1908, has sponsored numerous projects in the construction of the cathedral, especially the Pilgrims' Pavement, dedicated in 1934. Since then the club has supported many other additions to the cathedral, especially of sculpture and other structural features. The club played a prominent role in observances at the reopening of the cathedral in 2008 after a program of renovation. Other volumes of church history by Frank include *St. James' Church in the City of New York 1810–2010* and *St. Agnes Chapel of the Parish of Trinity Church in the City of New York 1892–1943*.

Harley Frankel reports that his nonprofit College Match had its best year ever in getting low-income students into the nation's great colleges. For details, visit collegematchla.org.

Jerry D. Glickson, professor of radiology and director of molecular imaging at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, was awarded the Gold Medal from the International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine for introduction of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to the study and management of cancer. The award was made in Montreal, Canada, on May 9, 2011, and was shared with John R. Griffiths of Cambridge.

Steve Barcan is celebrating his 70th birthday by taking his whole family (12 people) on a cruise to Bermuda, where he and his wife, Bettye '65 Barnard, honeymooned in 1965. He met her 50 years ago at Columbia when she was a Barnard freshman.

Gershon Levinson writes, "I am president of Northern California Anesthesia Physicians. My youngest son, Jonathan '12 SIPA, did five years as an Army infantry officer and then went to SIPA for a master's. My oldest son, Charles, is

Jerusalem bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal*." Gershon added, "I definitely plan to attend reunion."

Ken Master is a retired physician splitting his year between Boynton Beach, Fla., and NYC. He plays golf regularly with **David Saxe**, who still is a justice in the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department of New York. Both came to our class lunch in June along with seven of our regulars.

Andy Russakoff '64 has been named one of America's best professors in The Princeton Review book The Best 300 Professors.

The Class of '63 lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are a great place to reconnect. If you're in NYC, try to make one of the next few; they're scheduled for September 13, October 11 and November 8 (always the second Thursday). Check out cc63ers.com for details.

In the meantime, make plans for attending our 50th reunion! And, as always, let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next.

64

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As I write this note in June, we have just had our final informal monthly class lunch before the summer break. In May and June, the following classmates attended: **Joel Abramson, Steve Case, Marty Isserlis, Howard Jacobson, Gil Kahn, Fred Kantor, Larry Kessler, Beril Lapson, Jeff Newman, Nick Rudd and Allen Tobias. Bernard Catalinotto**, visiting New York from Mill Valley, Calif., joined us, too. He is a cartographer (mymapbook.com) and it was fascinating to hear and see the latest developments and techniques in mapmaking.

Steve Case, who retired as a University trustee in 2011 after 14 years, has co-authored *Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold's Plot to Betray America* [see Bookshelf].

Gil Kahn has a blog, Kahntentions, at njewishnews.com/kahntentions.

Larry Kessler had aortic valve replacement surgery and now has a cow's valve in his heart. Larry is the Richard J. Cardali Distinguished Professor of Trial Advocacy at Hofstra Law. He has been accompanying his wife, Barbara Barron, to far-off places such as Moscow, Tbilisi, Georgia and Paris, where Barbara has been giving

programs in trial advocacy. According to Larry, he has the greatest appearance of success in our class, with the least amount of work!

Beril Lapson has been traveling to China and Mexico on business. He and his wife, Ellen '69 Barnard, have become grandparents.

Jeff Newman, a horse racing fan, attended this year's running of the Belmont Stakes. Jeff saw Secretariat win the Triple Crown

You can reach Barry at bkamins@courts.state.ny.us

Eric Marcus has been reappointed to a second, five-year term as director of the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. Eric is a professor of clinical psychiatry at P&S. He writes, "I look back on my Core Curriculum experience with great reverence and still have my class notes. The Core helped me write one of my psychoanalytic books where I cited Plato and Kant!"

You can reach Eric at erm4@columbia.edu.

Ed Merlis writes, "Leonard asked me to submit something for Notes on the same day that President Barack Obama '83 delivered this year's Barnard Commencement address. Since that reminded me of the last Barnard Commencement I attended — that of my wife, Carole Franklyn Merlis '67 Barnard, 45 years ago — I figured I should help him out. So here's a recap of my life since graduation:

"We have two very talented daughters, although neither even considered Columbia. The elder, Pamela Conover, is a v.p. and senior legal counsel at T. Rowe Price in Baltimore, and mother of grandsons No. 1, Hap Conover (13) and No. 3, Teddy Conover (10). The younger, Jennifer Houston, is a teacher at the Bullis School in Potomac, Md., and mother of grandsons No. 2, Will Houston (12) and No. 4, Ben Houston (9). We are indeed fortunate to have all of our children and grandchildren within one hour of our home in McLean, Va., and to have wonderful sons-in-law.

"Going back in time to 1965:

65

Leonard B. Pack

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The Hon. **Barry Kamins** was appointed administrative judge of the Criminal Courts of New York City in January. He comments, "I don't expect to see any of our classmates coming through, except as attorneys. Please tell them to stop by and say hello."

As an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of New York, I update my legal knowledge by

What's Your Story?

Letting classmates know what's going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes!

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

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

With my local draft board breathing down my neck I joined the U.S. Public Health Service, was trained in epidemiology and assigned to the New York City Health Department as a venereal disease investigator (no kidding) working in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. While interesting, that assignment was not the career I envisioned, and so less than a year later I transferred to the Surgeon General's office in Washington, where I began my lifelong career in public policy.

"Three months after arriving in Washington, I was sent up to the Senate Commerce Committee to help with a set of hearings the committee was planning on research since the passage of the 1965 cigarette labeling act. During the next three years, I worked with the committee in developing the act that banned cigarette advertising, produced several anti-smoking commercials for the Public Health Service, dealt with broadcast network standards and practices, wrote speeches, publicized new research and did battle with the Tobacco Institute.

"Following the 1970 election, I was hired by the Senate Commerce Committee, where I initially staffed the consumer subcommittee through which much of the landmark consumer legislation of the 1970s passed. Contrary to today's Congress, even with a Republican in the White House and a Democratic Congress, the presence of old bulls who had been elected during the Depression, WWII or the Korean War created an environment where partisan rancor was minimized in favor of a collective, conscientious effort to solve problems.

"In 1977 I became staff director of what was then the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and, a year later, chief of staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, when the Appropriations Committee Chairman died and the seniority system worked its will, resulting in my boss, Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.), becoming chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Before I left the Hill, I assisted Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) in reorganizing the Judiciary Committee when he became chairman in 1979.

"With a decade of senate staff experience behind me and the Senate turning over to a Republican majority, I did what any self-respecting Hill staffer does: I went downtown to K Street. At different times during the next 30-plus years I have run government affairs and communications for four major trade associations in the grocery products, cable television, airlines and telecom

industries, and worked as a public policy or public relations consultant to a number of companies and trade associations, which I still do.

"There was also a two-year respite from Washington when we moved to the Chicago area in the late '80s; I ran a division of Telaction, a wholly owned J.C. Penney development company that built a pre-Internet interactive cable programming network. Unfortunately, we folded after spending more than \$100 million.

"I have worked on a wide array of issues with legislators and public figures whose contributions stretch from WWI to the present day. I have worked with people who developed the strategy to pass the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, with people who serve on the Supreme Court and with people who played cards with President Roosevelt during the depths of WWII. I have been more than an eyewitness to history, and I consider myself to be very fortunate.

Eric Marcus '65 has been reappointed to a second, five-year term as director of Columbia's Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research.

"There are also a number of alumni with whom I had some great working experiences. Among them are Richard Merrill '59, former chief counsel of the FDA (and brother of **Stephen Merrill**, with whom I also worked); David Heymsfeld '59, former staff director of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; Hon. Nicholas Garaufis '69, former chief counsel of the FAA (before being confirmed as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of New York); David Cavicke '84, former chief of staff, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; and Margaret Kim '91, who was a colleague at the Air Transport Association."

You can reach Ed at edmerlis@edmerlis.com.

Chris Morren reports, "I am an internist, now semi-retired, with a lot of the daily stress gone. I trained in the Bronx and would see **Noah Robbins** at Montefiore Medical Center. **Al Steere** taught me lots about Lyme Disease. I stay in touch with **Joe Beckman**, **Bill Wertheim** and **Fred Colligno**. **Pete Manley** worked at my hospital in administration (Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, Conn.) for a few years but has left. I plan to see **LeRoy Euvrard** in France in November. Sadly, my brother George '60 died in September 2011. This has left a big hole in our family. My wife, Edie '74 Nurs-

ing, is an advance practice R.N. working in Connecticut; daughter Cindy (26) is married, lives in Exeter, R.I., and is working on her R.N.; and son James (28) lives in Brooklyn and is an arborist for the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, working on projects in Manhattan."

You can reach Chris at morrenchristopher@gmail.com.

James Murdaugh writes: "I'm still happy with the practice of law in Houston. And it's still fun — the most important thing. A couple of anniversaries: my partner, Gary Smith, and I celebrated our 16th anniversary this summer, and Gary celebrated his 30th anniversary at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice, where he is associate dean. As I write [in early June], we're about to leave for Nantucket, driving up with Golden Retrievers Bob and Leo. We were recently at brunch with **Ben Cohen** and his wife, Helen, and they are both as super as ever. Regrettably I missed Steve

Weinstein '66 when he came to town in June for a medical lecture, but I visited with Dave Blanchard '67 when he was in town for a wedding in May.

"In addition to the law practice, I stay busy at my church, Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), where I recently completed a term as Senior Warden of the Vestry and am on the search committee for a new dean. Finally, our artistically inclined classmates may want to know about the new James Turrell Skyspace adjacent to the Shepherd School on the Rice campus. Gary and I were lucky enough to go to the dedication and dinner. It's pretty amazing; Google will tell you all about it!"

You can reach Jim at jmurdaugh@smithmur.com.

Richard Newman '68L submitted the following: "After graduating from the Law School, I took a job with a law firm in Chicago. With 1968 being the height of the Vietnam War and my being both too physically fit to be classified 4F and too young to avoid the draft by entering the Peace Corps (I would have been several months shy of the magic age of 26 when my stint was up), I managed to get into an Army Reserve unit and was able to avoid being drafted.

"I met my wife, Dr. Lilian Spiegelman, on a blind date in September 1973 and we've been married 38

years. We have one son, Jonathan, who is in his last year as a cardiology fellow at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

"I lived in the Chicago area for 44 years (36 in the same house in Oak Park, Ill., home of Frank Lloyd Wright and Ernest Hemingway). I changed law firm jobs and areas of specialty three times before spending 17 years in the law department of Continental Illinois National Bank, where I rose to assistant general counsel before the bank failed (the largest bank failure in American history at the time) and was taken over by Bank of America. In 1991 the bank fired all its in-house lawyers with two weeks' notice. I was one of the fortunate ones; I accepted an offer to join the Chicago office of Mayer Brown & Platt (n/k/a Mayer Brown) as a partner in its finance practice. I left Mayer Brown in 1995 to become e.v.p. and general counsel of a small, privately owned Chicago bank, Amalgamated Bank and Trust Company of Chicago. Left that position after a year and spent the next five as a partner in Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg; returned to Mayer Brown in 2000; and retired from Mayer Brown in 2010.

"In March 2011, my wife and I became grandparents when our grandson, Cassius, was born. To be closer (but not too close) to our new extended family, we moved from Oak Park to Doylestown, Pa.

"In September 2011, a former colleague from Mayer Brown's New York office, who had moved to the New York office of DLA Piper, persuaded me to come out of retirement and accept a role as part-time special counsel. I now commute to the law firm's office on Avenue of the Americas twice a week. I'm very much enjoying retirement."

Richard can be reached at rmn5@columbia.edu. I find it interesting that his definition of "retirement" includes working two days a week and commuting from Doylestown to NYC. I guess that other classmates approaching retirement, or living it, may also have great stories to tell, and I invite you to share them.

James Niss also chipped in: "I retired as a lawyer two years ago, after working six years as Judge Jed S. Rakoff's special master in the Ephedra multidistrict litigation. I still live in the Riverside Drive apartment I rented in 1965 when I started graduate school in French literature at Columbia. I teach English to immigrants two hours a day as a volunteer at a public school for adults in Harlem, a half-hour walk through Morningside Park, which nowadays is safe, clean and pleasant with its waterfall and pond inhabited by turtles and waterbirds."

You can reach Jim at james.niss@verizon.net.

Finally, the sad news that **David Wallace** died on March 2, 2012. A full obituary will appear in a future issue.

66

Columbia College Today
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[Editor's note: This column marks **Stuart Berkman**'s last in his 23 years of service as a class correspondent. CCT thanks him for his dedication and now seeks a new correspondent for the class. If you are interested in writing this quarterly column of classmate news and views, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please send updates to CCT at the postal or email address at the top of the column, or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Rich Forzani sent the following update earlier this year: "I abandoned my retirement last year to become a consultant for Intel, and then to assume a sales/marketing role for a human capital management software firm. My wife, Kathy, is overjoyed to have me out of the house again. However, my advice to all of you contemplating retirement is this: It's pretty enjoyable. Never underestimate the pleasure of having nothing to do.

"My youngest son, Richard, graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers in May (also Phi Beta Kappa) and is attending the University of Richmond School of Law this fall as one of 11 incoming John Marshall Scholars, the law school's highest merit award. His academic accomplishments are surely hereditary, although possibly not from my DNA. I don't know if the world needs another lawyer, but if it does, let it be him. Kathy and I are also first-time grandparents, so we had a busy and enjoyable spring and summer.

"We recently enjoyed a dinner with Celeste and **Tom Chorba**, and had the pleasure there of seeing John Wellington '57 and his wife, as well as Kathy Donelli. Kathy, as you may know, recently lost her husband, Dick '59, '63 Dental, who was one of our freshman football coaches and a good friend to many '66ers. I lunched recently with **Rich Beggs**, who is wrapping up his stint as CEO of Daiwa Securities after a long and successful career. Most enjoyably for me, Rich picked up the tab. We also have spent time with Barbara and **Harvey Kurzweil**,

both at their home in Nantucket and here in New Jersey. Harvey was kind enough to counsel Richard on his choice of law as a career.

"We live in North Jersey, visit our grandson in Los Angeles whenever possible and are anticipating a move to the Jersey Shore in a couple of years. May this note find all of you well and productively dissipative."

You can contact Rich at rforzanil@optonline.net.

Here is what we heard from **Rudy von Bernuth** a few months ago: "I have been working for Save the Children for more than 20 years, following a 20-year career with CARE. At this moment, I have been given a bit of an Indian summer in my professional life. Since April 2011, I have been in charge of a big merger process among all 29 Save the Children members worldwide, leading the process by which all Save the Children Member programs in 60 countries and seven regions are transitioning to one unified management structure within Save the Children International, with an aggregate value of about \$1.3 billion. In this role I coordinate all aspects of the transition process, and I manage the Save the Children International program operations that result from it. My wife, Betty, and I have moved to London and live in a lovely flat five minutes from Victoria Station and 10 minutes from Westminster Abbey. Most mornings, I walk to work from the flat. The walk goes directly by Buckingham Palace, then along The Mall to Trafalgar Square, where my office is adjacent to the National Gallery."

Rudy's email is rudy.vonbernuth@savethechildren.org. Surprise! An actual handwritten letter was received earlier this year from **Joe Albeck**. I think this is the first time in more than a decade that news has been submitted in this atavistic way. What a delight to see something in personal penmanship! At any rate, Joe writes from Waban, Mass.: "Things are good for my wife, Isabelle, and myself. Our three grown kids all live near Route 128. My son, David, was married in 2011 to a lovely woman with two talented teenagers from a prior marriage. Then David and his wife, Smaranda, welcomed Henry Daniel Albeck on May 15, 2012. Our daughter Margot had her second child, Julia Martine, on June 20. Our other daughter, Simone, is single and works in the mental health field.

"I work four days a week in my psychiatry practice, and Isabelle retired from teaching high school French a few years ago; we are mostly healthy and happy. On a recent visit to Sacramento, Calif.,

I met with **Mike Leibowitz**, our dear friend, who reminded me of our CC '66 bonds." Joe's email, for those who prefer cyber epistles, is jhalbeck@massmed.org.

67

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News about the 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend of the Cleverest Class, held May 31–June 3, poured in.

Marty Nussbaum writes, "I was surprised to see that many members of our class seemed to have aged, unlike me. (Actually, **Dean Ringel** must have a picture in the attic because he's aged not at all.) Most of us were accompanied by spouses or significant others who were far more attractive than we deserved. While a relatively small proportion of the class was in attendance, the aggregate weight of the attendees offset the number of participants, so that the aggregate avoirdupois probably equaled the total poundage of the class in 1967."

Mark Minton reports, "Reunion was memorable. Probably the high points were Saturday's class luncheon in Kent Hall (C.V. Starr East Asian Library), where we were addressed by Dean James J. Valentini and had an exchange with a panel of College students, assembled and introduced by **Roger Lehecka**, and the final class dinner on Saturday, which was held in a beautiful, floor-to-ceiling-windowed dining area in the new Northwest Corner Building on campus. True to our reputation for cleverness (or more accurately, feistiness), our dinner speaker, former New York City schools chancellor **Joel I. Klein**, set off a lively discussion — almost a debate — about American education. [Editor's note: See feature in this issue about Klein.]

"The lectures during Dean's Day and the other social events also were memorable. Everyone who attended very much enjoyed our kickoff event on Thursday evening, an opening reception hosted by **Robert Rosenberg** and his wife, Pamela, in their beautiful townhouse on East 61st Street.

"On a more personal note, **Marty Andrucki**, **Chris Hartzell**, **Leigh Dolin**, **Dean Ringel** and I — all *Spectator* board members of 1967 — got together for a reunion dinner on Friday."

And about that dinner, Leigh wrote: "I thought I'd give you my version. Hartzell and I ran into each other at a Friday afternoon lecture and, at his suggestion, headed to the *Spectator* office to see if we could check out what our favorite news-

paper looks like in 2012. The office now is on Broadway near 112th and initially we couldn't get in but then we followed two students through the otherwise locked door; they turned out to be the editor-in-chief and the sports editor. We had the grand tour, and Chris and I did our best old-guy routines ('Back in our day, we used linotype machines,' etc.). Dinner was at an Italian restaurant north of 120th and over very good food and perhaps too many carafes of house wine, Mark, Chris, Marty, Dean and I discussed the problems of the world, including abortion, political correctness, the existence of God, the importance of faith, Syria, Iran, Obama, health care, poetry, Lyndon Johnson and, of course, *Spectator*. We would have followed up with a series of editorials but unfortunately we no longer have a newspaper in which to publish them."

Gordon Klein also attended reunion; he writes, "My old roommate, **Bob Rudy**, appeared for the first time since I have been going [to the reunions]. He has retired from the Hennepin County Attorney's Office and now travels and cruises. **Ken Haydock** was there trying to recall Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. He carried a big sign throughout reunion that said 'Recall Walker.' Some of us thought he had changed his name.

"I have retired from being a pediatric gastroenterologist and have taken a position as clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery, still at the University of Texas, where I lecture, write, consult and do research."

Marty Andrucki reports, "I reconnected with **Larry Besserman** during the Chelsea art gallery crawl on Friday night and again at lunch in Kent Hall on Saturday. He is now professor emeritus at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and also teaches summer school at Columbia. Had a good time schmoozing with **Dick Jupa** and **Ken Haydock** at the Core Curriculum open house [in Hamilton Hall] on Saturday. The latter was wearing a 'Recall Walker' plaque around his neck and, I swear, for a long moment I thought it meant he was an official of the reunion tasked with walking around and helping alums recall the good old days."

The apparently ageless **Dean Ringel** writes, "What follows are some random observations. I am out of practice as a journalist, and lawyer-like pabulum has replaced whatever freedom of expression I once could muster. But I will give it a try.

"Pamela and **Bob Rosenberg**'s East Side townhouse was what we all thought/hoped we might one day inhabit. Few of us have realized that vision but it was fun to

share for the night. The recurring subject at the party and throughout the weekend was retirement — Have you? Are you? Must you? And then what? I guess we are of the age. There was no clear consensus, with folks divided among those thrilled to retire, those who were worried about having to retire and those who vowed never to consider the concept.

“The cocktail party at Faculty House was great. The physical impressiveness of the bar itself and its tactile appeal made me regret not having pursued an academic career. Saturday’s class lunch was held in the strikingly beautiful C.V. Starr East Asian Library; a panel of current College students discussed how the College had changed since we Neanderthals roamed the campus. As much as anything else, I think they were stunned to hear members of our class describe the primitive ‘telecommunications facilities’ (a shared phone in the hall). Interestingly, for all the updated technology, one theme seemed to be that these days, after freshman year, students are relatively cut off from one another. The current students were quite taken with discussions of the role of the draft in the politics of our time as well as the difference in tuition costs between then and now.”

Bill Heinbach says, “Reunion reminded me of what I always thought about many, if not most Columbia people: they are just good people, in addition to being brilliant.”

From **Richard Frances**: “I especially enjoyed meeting **Robert Kalter**, an eminent pathologist; **Allen Spiegel**, who is dean at Albert Einstein College of Medicine; **David Dell**, an innovative consultant and businessman; and **Ray Burghardt**, who has had a distinguished career in the State Department, including ambassadorial posts in Vietnam.

“I have three children, five grandchildren and my wife is Marsha Frances. I founded the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry and was the president and medical director of Silver Hill Hospital. I now am in the private practice of psychiatry in Manhattan.”

Ken Haydock took time out from his efforts to recall Walker to say, “Among those with whom I was able to compare notes, however briefly — or at least, those whom the quantity of chardonnay I consumed that weekend failed to befog — were **Carlton Carl**, **Bob Costa**, **Bill Herrick**, **Richard Jupa**, **Gordon Klein**, **Jonathan Kranz**, **Merek Lipson**, **Marty Nussbaum**, **Steve Rice**, **Bob Rudy**, **Jenik Radon**, **David Shaw** and **Rich Strassberg**. I didn’t, however, make it to the dinner dance [Starlight Reception] that

resulted in, among other things, a class photo almost as impressive as the ‘official’ one that shows **Marty Nussbaum**, a Stuyvesant classmate of mine, and **Bob Rosenberg**, a sophomore-year roommate of mine, standing in front of our rather rumpled Class of 1967 flag.”

Larry Besserman: “The main event, of course, was seeing classmates after 45 years — more of a treat than I ever imagined it would be.”

Jack Harris had some observations: “The faculty at Columbia is outstanding. Having spent my professional life trying to figure out how to engage college students in academic work, I have great appreciation for the talent and efforts of faculty who find a path of connection to the area of their life’s study for beginners.

“The members of our class are accomplished and smart but also surprisingly gentle and, in many cases anyway, modest. I met scientists, teachers, government employees and business people who have had important careers but remain curious and friendly. It really is too bad that more of our class can’t come to reunion. I know a few class members who have had distinguished careers who would add enormous diversity to our conversations.

“Columbia was clean. I can’t think of a larger contrast to when we lived there. The venues were attractive, and the technology all worked.”

Tom Werman ’69 Business updated us on his adventures: “I’m pretty certain that Dean Irv DeKoff helped to ease my way into the Business School in our senior year, and fortunately the protests of ’68 forced the administration to institute a pass-fail program for the spring semester. Without this, I surely would have had a D on my transcript in operations research. After a boring year at Grey Advertising, I succumbed to my passion for rock ‘n’ roll, fled across town and started a 12-year career at CBS Records.

“My wife, Suky, and I raised our three children in Los Angeles, where I went independent and managed to collect more than 20 gold and platinum albums while producing about 50 hard rock records. It was far easier to do this then, as the music business was robust and growing. Unfortunately it imploded about 10 years ago, although my son is actually making a living in it today. My timing was fortunate. By 2001 I had burned out, and we headed back east to the Berkshires in order to establish an all-suites luxury B&B on 10 acres, just down the road from Tanglewood. It turned out to be a successful concept, and we’ve been

operating here for the past decade, hosting guests largely from New York City and enjoying a lifestyle even better than the one we had in L.A. (which I had considered to be about as good as you could get).

“I spent about five years interviewing L.A. Columbia applicants for the Alumni Representative Committee, and when we returned to Massachusetts I enjoyed attending the Sachems dinners that **Roger Lehecka** generously put together for us in the city; sometimes my Carman Hall roommate **David Zapp** would attend, too. I spoke at one of these dinners some years back about my first career and about the decision to move east and initiate an entirely different life. Our three kids live and work in the city, and we drive in to see them frequently. At this age, the great pleasure I get from a Manhattan visit is pretty dependent on the knowledge that I’ll be returning home to the country. With plenty of weekdays off in the winter, I’m writing a book about my life in the music business. It’s something I’ve always wanted to do, and I’m loving the process.”

REUNION WEEKEND

MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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68

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Columbia College has a new dean, James J. Valentini (see cover story). I have heard great things about him and wish him well.

I hope everyone is planning to be at our 45th reunion next year. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. I am told by Bob Costa ’67 that his reunion this past June was good; things were well planned and Dean’s Day now is held that Saturday, meaning that additional programming is available. He and his wife, Joan, had a great time.

To ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about Alumni Reunion Weekend, update your contact information online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniup date) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend’s events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the Columbia College Fund in honor of reunion. If you’re interested in

participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Paul de Bary and others organized a Core-themed wine tasting several months ago at the Columbia University Club of New York. I wasn’t able to attend so I hope Paul will do a similar session at reunion. Paul wrote to me before the event, however, and described the plan: “We’ve been working busily on this for several weeks and it should be both entertaining and educational The first wine will be a Greek Roditis, a delicious wine, presented with examples from Homer, Greek tragedy and Plato’s tri-partite soul to evoke thoughts about the basic structure of wine. The second will be an Italian [wine] made from the ancient Roman Fiano variety, presented with examples from Virgil, Cicero, St. Paul and St. Augustine to evoke discussion of the natural laws of wine and the concept of *terroir*. That of course leads right into the discussion of a Burgundian St. Véran, presented with Medieval and Renaissance thinking to show the virtues of single varietal wines and the effects of restrained use of wood.

“We then move on to red wines with a Priorat and introduce tannins and blending paired with ideas from the Reformation, before moving on to the Enlightenment, pairing Cabernet Sauvignon with Spinoza, Locke, Newton, Adam Smith and others before ending up with a scientific analysis of the major acids in wine and what they bring to its taste, brought to you by Bacon, Boyle, Nietzsche and others. All in all, it should be a pretty thorough exploration of wine and a good refresher on the Core, all in less than two hours, followed by a little feast for the graduates.”

Reid Feldman, who may know something about wine, reports, “The Euro crisis makes practicing law in Paris ever so interesting.”

Peter Gross sent a brief update: “My wife, Susan, and I have been married for 44 years. Have a daughter, a retina specialist in NYC, who has identical twin girls and a son. Have another two daughters and a son, none married. Susan retired as the chair of world languages at Harriton (Pa.) H.S. I am still doing the same things, just look a lot older.”

We are all a little older, but 65 (or so) is the new 45.

Phil Mandelker ’71L was in the city recently. He is devoting more time to travel and reading and was expansive about his son, who is a researcher in physics and astronomy and is studying galaxy formulation. Afterward, Phil sent a note:

“Just got back from a networking get-together of the Business School, with Vice Dean Amir Ziv. Took my daughter, who is thinking of applying. She was recently informed that she is graduating magna from Hebrew U (business and psych).”

Phil thought the dean was impressive and the program changes there exceptional. I know Phil, like so many with whom we went to school, had a Law School classmate named Lee Bollinger. All in all, Phil was in great spirits and looking forward to lots of inspired years. He’s also planning to attend reunion.

Greg Winn (a Fort Holabird alumnus like me) wrote, “Greetings, Sir Arthur — that is a rather funny way to begin a note but it also is part of what has been keeping me busy the past six months or so, writing an historical fiction novel, *The Violinist: Il Pleure Dans Mon Coeur*. There is a character in the novel called ‘Sir Arthur’ but I am not ready to share the draft with our wonderful group just yet. Perhaps if it is published. I also have about 40 percent left to write, so we shall see. What is novel about this work is that it is designed to be an e-book with narrative, photos and music. The time period is primarily just before WWI and it is located in Paris.”

Greg, I want an advance copy. By the way, I am reading Professor Bernard Lewis’ book *Notes on a Century: Reflections of a Middle East Historian* and, while he did time at Princeton, the book is great. Amazingly, he completed it at 95, inspiring for sure.

Nigel Paneth, who works at Michigan State, wrote, “I continue to plow the fields of research into developmental disabilities and their early causes, and as the possibility of discoveries in disease prevention remains alluring, I just keep at it, and probably will continue to do so, as long as health, funding and scientific imagination hold up. By contrast, my wife, Ellen, has decided to retire from her position as professor of English, though not necessarily from her participation in the scholarly world of literary studies. The humanities have a harder and harder time at our universities.

“Our daughter Rachel also is at Michigan State, beginning her fourth year of medical school and headed for a career in family practice, possibly linked to public health. Our second daughter, Tessa, is getting married soon at our [other] home in Vermont and is completing a Ph.D. in art history at Princeton. We are now spending more time in our Vermont home, especially in the summer. The climate is identical to Michigan’s, and it’s a 12-hour drive besides, but Weathersfield is our special corner

of the planet, home to friends from our youthful days in New England (Ellen went to Bennington College and, after Columbia, I was at Dartmouth School of Medicine for two years).”

I last sat with Nigel a couple of years ago on a flight from Detroit to Lansing, Mich. It was great to hear from him.

Finally, I received a note from **Paul Brosnan**. I’m afraid I can’t find it now to quote directly, but the substance was that his daughter has graduated from Barnard. She was an outstanding student, and of course he was pleased to report that she had enjoyed her academic experiences and had lots of good times, too.

I apologize to Paul for misplacing the note. I get these great notes from him all the time about current affairs and politics. He sends a cartoon once in a while, too. In any event, congratulations to him on his daughter’s graduation; I am sure there will be more reports about her.

As I write, my daughter is planning to visit NYC this week from Durham, N.C., and I am excited about seeing her; it has been a while. **Peter Janovsky** and I continue a periodic debate about the state of affairs of the country. I suspect this discussion will go on for years to come (we hope). Maybe for our 60th reunion we will have the answers.

In the meantime, I hope all is well with the class (lots of folks are moving on to new chapters in their lives). I am supposed to have lunch with **Andy Herz** soon, and I see **John Slattery** once in a while — all of which is for another time.

Write me with your updates!

69

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Once again, I participated in the Alumni Parade of Classes, this time for Class Day 2012 on May 15, carrying our class’ banner to the applause of the graduates and their families. And once again, **Irv Ruder** joined me, and **Rod Reef** ’69E was granted special privileges to march with us, as his son Daniel ’12 was among the graduates.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Schiller**, who was selected as this year’s recipient of the Alexander Hamilton Award. [See Around the Quads.]

From **Bob Rabinoff**: “While not much has changed in my situation, my children have made some remarkable progress. Oldest son,

Joseph, and his wife, Kirsten, are in the third year of post-docs in math at Harvard, where they met in freshman advanced calculus. It looks like they’ll be heading to Atlanta in 18 months for tenure-track positions. Joseph recently turned 31, which is a Mersenne prime, for those of you who care, and the last one he’s likely to see unless he outlives the Biblical 120 (the next Mersenne prime is 127).

The triplets are 28 (a perfect number, equal to the sum of its divisors — we’re having a big mathematical year this year). Daniel is in the second year of a Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Toronto. Eve also is in a Ph.D. program in philosophy, though at Boston College; she is hoping to finish the fifth and final year this academic year. Shoshanah is an R.N. and works labor and delivery at the base hospital at Fort Sill, Okla., where her husband, Erik (captain, USMC), is stationed. On June 20 she had my first grandchild, Nathaniel Dale Wilkerson.

I’m still in Fairfield, Iowa, about 60 miles south of Iowa City and 50 miles west of the Mississippi. My main purpose here is taking care of my friend Marie, who is immobile from the neck down with chronic-progressive MS. Thanks to the Internet, I can get her set up on a laptop with an external touchpad she can control with her tongue, and voice-recognition software so she can send emails and shop online, and she’s as connected to the world as any of us. I’m able to make my living programming computers from her living room, and I have the house next door (I won’t make you envious by telling you how little a house costs here) where I eat and study, but most of the time I just need to be home with her. It’s a 180-degree contrast with my earlier, globe-trotting days. I walk to the post office five times a week to get my mail and to get some exercise. I take the car to the grocery store twice a week; I put 185 miles on it in the five months between October and February — that was one tank of gas. One would think it’s a restricted life and indeed, without the Internet it would be a lot more so, but the truth is I don’t feel it as a restriction at all — I’m with her, and that’s exactly where I want to be. If anyone wants to visit just give a call (641-472-9842) or email (rar113@columbia.edu). It’s very quiet here, a good place to think.”

Bill Stadiem reports: “Off to Paris next week [late June] to research newest book for Random House. *Jet Set* is a social history of the golden age of Boeing 707 travel, 1958–71, after which the airborne cattle car 747s spoiled the

party. I first went to Europe in 1968 on a Columbia charter on Pan Am, \$200 round-trip. Returning from Paris, the plane blew a tire and we had to do an emergency landing at Gander. We all thought it was the bitter end, so the passengers brought out the drugs they were smuggling back from Turkey, and it became a flying pot party.”

Mike Schell writes: “Forty-seven years ago this September, we all gathered on Morningside Heights for a four-year run that was eventful if nothing else. But of course, it was lots else in the bargain. And now, that number 65 is relevant again. In the blink of an eye most all of us (excepting the young geniuses who finished high school at 12 or whatever) are celebrating our 65th birthdays. Truly hard to believe.

“Turning back to 2012, I recently had the pleasure of having a relaxed, almost lazy lunch with the new dean, James J. Valentini. He is a good man in the most fundamental sense of those words, and I am confident he will be good for Columbia. Unlike the deans of our era, he is a scientist but he also seems steeped in the arts. In any event, he is a liberal human being, and he seems to me to be thinking about all the right things and issues (of which there are likely more than a few). But he also seems to be well-liked and comfortable among — and perhaps even inspirational to — the students, and these are good things. I hope to have the opportunity to chat with him from time to time. Which leads to my immediate circumstances. I no longer have a full-time job at which I am required to punch in every morning by 8 or 9 a.m. I am still engaged in a number of endeavors but I don’t collect a paycheck for any of them. Not all bad. Chief among them is a seat on the National Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprises. We are 25 business and other NGO leaders formulating recommenda-

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tions to the Secretary of Commerce and ultimately the President for developing and promoting minority businesses in America. It has been an engaging, challenging and interesting effort, and I am hopeful we will achieve an immediate and substantial positive impact.

“Columbia played a rather major role in my life these past couple of years in yet another respect. I have been the extraordinarily fortunate beneficiary of the skill, expertise and bonhomie offered by the Pancreas Center at the Columbia University Medical Center. It’s a part of Columbia about which many of us don’t know much but, I can assure you, its decisively positive impact on me is just as significant as the Morningside Heights version more than 40 years ago.

“My wife, Kathy, and I enjoy a slightly less hectic existence. Mostly, we are still stewards of our next generation, which is expected to expand to a new generation in September — a blessing to our daughter Jenny and her husband, Jonathan. Son Jamie is a political operative with the Elizabeth Warren campaign in Massachusetts. Speaking of things going and coming round, Warren and I were summer associates in the same Wall Street law office in 1975.

“Son Blake worked for Ambassador Ronald Kirk, United States trade representative, and is beginning law school at Boston University. So, full circle, we have yet another three years of tuition to fund. But we are fortunate souls indeed, a long way from that warm, sunny day in 1965 when I arrived on Morningside Heights from the ‘plains.’”

Howard Goldman reports from Boca Raton, Fla.: “I practice ophthalmology, primarily cataract surgery. I guess I’ll stop ‘practicing’ when I finally get it all right. Columbia, of course, encouraged (actually, embedded) the value of lifelong learning. I appreciate the Core Curriculum. As a science major anywhere else, I likely would not have been exposed to all that — and ‘all that’ continues to give me pleasure now.

“I enjoy seeing and operating on patients but take particular satisfaction in those sent to me by a local free clinic, the Caridad Center. These are mostly the working poor, either earning too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to buy health insurance, or older immigrants who don’t qualify for Medicare. In pre–9–11 days, I traveled to developing countries in this hemisphere once or twice a year with Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International on what were called ‘eye surgery missions,’ operating on indigent blind. Of course, there is still a never-ending supply of those, but I have been shocked at the number in south Florida.

My practice holds an annual Gift of Sight Day, during which we perform free procedures, mostly cataract, but also complex glaucoma and excisions of pterygia (fleshy white growths that can impair vision). This year we have 25 cases scheduled two days before Thanksgiving. I was nominated in May as a ‘Hero in Medicine, International Category’ for Palm Beach County Medical Society. Though I did not get the top honor, it was nice to be nominated by my two current and past congressmen and then to become a finalist.”

From **Bill Stark**, who is a biology professor at Saint Louis University, comes a reflection on “Morningside Haute Cuisine”: “Like all other freshmen, I had the meal plan. It came in the form of a book of tickets. There was a big cafeteria with real meals in John Jay right across from the new Carman Hall, where I had a double room (suite of four) on the third floor. I would try to meet people when I went to dine alone, saying something like, ‘Are you also a freshman?’ (They never were.)

“Things fell apart for me when I went out for crew. The subway ride to the Harlem River took us past John Lindsay running for mayor on Harlem street corners. We had the assistant coach (Dick?) but the coach was a newly hired champion from Australia who looked ungainly like Ichabod Crane. The ride brought me back for dinner when only the snack bar in Ferris Booth was open and, on the first morning possible, I joined a long line of fellow freshmen at the window to cash in our meal plans.

“So my roommate, **Jeff Escher**, and my suitemates, **Dave McCarthy** and **Al Kennedy**, would look for food in the neighborhood. Everybody knew that one of the main reasons to choose Columbia was that the drinking age in New York was 18. The West End, with 40-cent, 12-ounce steins at the big bar in the center, was catty-corner across Broadway and had trays heated by gas just to the left of the door. A regular menu item was oxtail ragout that we pronounced ‘rag out.’ Those gas heaters came in handy during the great blackout that affected a quarter of the country, the likes of which was supposed to never happen again. Nobody knew what happened because there was barely a transistor radio, so we just thought it was WWII. Also on Broadway was TaKome, home of the meatball hero, called hoagie, grinder, po’ boy or sub(marine) depending on where you were from. Was that ketchup on the knife or did he cut his finger every time he cut the sandwich in half?

“The better deli was a few blocks

down Broadway, Mama Joy’s. If you bought lox by the quarter-pound, its bagel, cream cheese and lox would have cost you twice as much. There were restaurants, College Inn and Tom’s. Tom’s had a Spanish omelet with a sauce of stewed celery, and decades later I went there and found that they still had that. You could buy a hot dog from the Sabrett’s corner umbrella; it’d be made with stewed onions by a man wearing a wool glove with worn-out fingers. I remember a place called Prexy’s (‘the hamburger with the college education’), but I do not remember going there. There was a place across Amsterdam, named for the mom and pop who ran it, which had a hamburger platter with two big hamburgers. There was a Japanese place around West 118th Street across Amsterdam. More often we went for Chinese (I cannot remember where) with family service; column A had egg foo young while column B had sweet and sour pork. I thought the advertisements in my souvenir *Spectator* would refresh my memory, but it makes you think the only place to eat was in Butler Hall.”

My inbox is now empty of classmate news or views. I really need help. Email or write me. I’m talking to you.

70 **Leo G. Kailas**
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I had reports from many of our classmates after I made a request for news updates. But first, I apologize to my Bronx Science classmate Dr. **Paul Rosen** for referring to him as Paul Roth in my last column!

James Periconi reports: “My daughter, Francesca ’02, got married last August at Elm Court in Lenox, Mass., to Adam Brody, a graduate of the University of Chicago — the closest thing in the Midwest to Columbia! Adam recently finished at Fordham Law and will become an ADA in the Queens County D.A.’s office this fall. Francesca graduated in May from the Silver School of Social Work at NYU. After eight years in television production at VH-1, she came to me two years ago and said, ‘Dad, my glamorous 20s in TV production are over; it’s time for me to do something socially useful.’ A Columbia education at work!

“My environmental law practice at Periconi continues into its 10th year successfully. My big extra-curricular project is an exhibition I’m mounting at the Grolier Club (47 E. 60th St.) of my collection of American imprints published in Italian (with one work to be bor-

rowed from Columbia’s Rare Book and Manuscript Library). It’ll be there from September through early November. (The club is open to the public Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.) The exhibition is filled with lots of political literature, especially that of the bomb-throwing anarchist type, likely to appeal to a certain Columbia sensibility, not to speak of the anti-clerical literature popular among politically active immigrants.

“I also am president of the board of the Pearl Theatre Company here in New York City, a classical theatre company with a resident acting company; it recently moved to a theatre on West 42nd Street, previously occupied by the Signature Theatre Company. My wife, Alice, and I moved to Manhattan six years ago. Finally, six grandchildren, from Marin County, Calif., to Rye, N.Y., to London, make me very grateful.”

Steve Stahler sent the following: “I have been a theoretical astrophysicist at UC Berkeley for many years. Those interested in broadening their perspective a bit might enjoy my book, coauthored with F. Palla, *The Formation of Stars*.”

Michael Braun had a lengthy update: “I became a grandfather to a second granddaughter on February 14, Effie Fae Miller. She joins Paikaeya (‘Paiki,’ named after the girl who was the whale rider in the New Zealand movie of the same name about a girl trying to compete in a misogynistic Maori tribe). Paiki turned 2 on April 28. Their mother (my daughter), Keetch, creates silk-screen clothes with her own design. She recently signed a license agreement to sell stuff with her illustrations in Japan and China.

“My son, Jake ’09, has finished his second year as a junior high basketball coach and English teacher under the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. He is a writer and wrote an incredible piece about the Japanese attitude after the earthquake and tsunami last year. He will return to the United States to look for a job after he travels around Southeast Asia. Unlike our days, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are tourist destinations and there are still places of unspoiled beauty, though you need to be careful with the unexploded land mines in Cambodia; kids still lose their arms and legs playing in the rice fields. I went to North Vietnam three years ago and loved it and want to go back.

“I practice law at Morrison & Foerster. I will eventually get the hang of it. Can we take a poll of how many in our class have retired and are enjoying life and how many of us are still punching the time clock?”

I, too, am curious about how many of our classmates have retired

— feel free to send me a response to this informal poll.

Joel Mintz reports, “I live in South Florida with my wife, Meri-Jane Rochelson ’71 Barnard, whom I met when I was a senior at the College and she was a junior at Barnard. I recently finished my 30th year as a law professor — a job I still enjoy (most days, at least). I have gotten together each of the last several years for long and relaxing spring weekends with **David Sokolow**, **Ted Wirecki** and **Doug Sabrin** — always a treat! On the professional front, my ninth book, *Enforcement at the EPA: High Stakes and Hard Choices*, was published in April. The book jacket (written by editors at the press) describes the book this way: ‘Based on 190 personal interviews with present and former enforcement officials at EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice and key congressional staff members — along with extensive research among EPA documents and secondary sources — the book vividly recounts the often tumultuous history of EPA’s enforcement program. It also analyzes some important questions regarding EPA’s institutional relationships and the agency’s working environment.’”

Ralph Allemanno says: “I am alive and well and live in Swansea, South Wales (U.K.) with my wife, Catherine. Daughters Helen and Alice are trying to make their marks in the theatre world of Los Angeles and New York City, respectively; son Alexander is taking up a Ph.D. in theoretical physics at Durham University; and youngest daughter, Laura, can’t decide whether to go to Harvard or Edinburgh University! I travel a lot for my business and run on the beach near home. Catherine works in ‘e-learning,’ advising Welsh colleges and universities.”

Stephen Sossaman writes, “I recently moved to Napa, Calif. I’ve finished a comic novel set during the Vietnam War, *Chanser Rules*, and am looking for an agent.”

John J. Kane notes: “I am retired from Boeing and Johnson & Johnson and live on Lopez Island in the San Juan Islands of my native Washington state. The San Juans are a world-famous wildlife area and my neighbors range from hummingbirds to bald eagles, whales, otters, salmon and tame deer who peer in my windows. I live in a large cabin in the woods. It is poles apart from New York City, where I worked for 25 years and which I confess I miss. I am in the antiquarian book business, specializing in Latin, Greek and Irish Gaelic items. I have been learning Syriac (Aramaic) and writing an action-adventure novel in the Ludlum-Clancy vein. Life is good and terribly low-key.”

John’s life does sound pretty idyllic but I, too, wonder whether I could deal with that much peace and tranquility on a full-time basis!

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The New York Times’ Sunday Book Review on June 3 carried a review of **Steve Ross’** *Hollywood Left and Right: How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics*. From the review, by Andy Webster: “Occasionally, the wealth and worship showered on movie stars and studio executives prove insufficient, and they feel compelled to affect public policy by making pronouncements, assuming office or playing kingmaker. With *Hollywood Left and Right*, Ross, a historian at the University of Southern California, provides concise case studies of movie-industry influence, from the silent-film era to the present. He also corrects the misconception that Hollywood is a beehive of liberalism and parses the divide between idealistic, telegenic charisma and the grit of partisan maneuvering.” Go to the *Times* website for the full review. [Editor’s note: Also see Summer 2012 Bookshelf.]

Toshihiko Taketomo writes, “My wife, Renee Russian Taketomo ’71 Barnard, and I are longtime residents of Arlington, Mass., having moved to Cambridge for me to attend the Harvard Graduate School of Design. I have practiced architecture out of the Boston area ever since.

“We’re proud parents of three grown children. Our youngest, Katherine Taketomo ’13 Barnard, is entering her senior year. Our older daughter, Anastasia, who graduated from Sarah Lawrence in 2006, worked for the ACLU and is completing her M.S.W. at Smith. Our son, Zander, who graduated from Temple in 2010 with a degree in film and media studies, is a professional photographer and videographer in Philadelphia and NYC.

“Renee is a clinical social worker (M.S.W. from Smith in 1974) with a full-time private psychotherapy practice. I have joined MPdL Studio, with offices in Boston, NYC and Ann Arbor, Mich., as v.p. The founder, Monica Ponce de Leon, is dean of Michigan’s Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and was past principal of Office dA, a leading-edge architecture and design firm.

“I was a principal at Moshe Safdie and Associates (MSA), with which I was associated for 17 years. Most recently I was one of the design leads for Marina Bay

Sands, the landmark integrated resort and new city sector in Singapore that opened last year. The range of projects at MSA included major institutional, residential and commercial projects, including museums, a city hall, performance halls, university buildings, hotels, condominiums and mixed-used commercial projects on prominent urban sites. Winning the Columbus Center/New York Coliseum site competition, teamed with Boston Properties and Salomon Brothers, and the Ottawa City Competition were earlier career highlights.

“I was able to attend only part of the 40th reunion and thus missed much of the chance to catch up with old friends — but I look forward to future opportunities on and off campus!”

Rick Kurnit ’72’s legal practice has evolved to include a major focus on advising clients on structuring the next phase of their careers.

Ron Bass reports, “Jersey Petroleum’s song ‘As The Vessel Burns’ appears on the recently released compilation album *Magick, Music and Ritual* 3. Jersey Petroleum consists of John Stanford and me. The album can be found at hermetic.com/anthology/album/magick-music-and-ritual-3.”

Congratulations to **Mark Kingdon** and his son, Jason ’16. Mark writes, “Jason is the third member of our family to attend Columbia College. Our daughter, Jessica ’09, is a documentary filmmaker living in Brooklyn. Jason plans to major in financial economics, a major that was started a year ago.”

Remember 45 September ago and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

72 **Paul S. Appelbaum**
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Our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend, held May 31–June 3, was a huge success. Perhaps the best way to explain why is to share my experience of it.

Our class kicked things off on Thursday with a walk on the newly extended High Line Public Park in Chelsea. There I ran into **Arthur Ensroth** and his wife, Barbara Waszczak, sunning themselves on a bench and people-watching. Arthur lives in Wellesley, Mass., and is a project director at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. He said that he was grateful to Columbia for taking a

kid who grew up in the suburbs of Detroit and introducing him to the pleasures of exploring a big city.

After the walk, we all gathered at the Yossi Milo Gallery in Chelsea for a reception and explanation by artist Matthew Brandt of the works. Brandt’s approach involves using natural substances to create images of the things themselves, for example, using ground bee parts to produce printed images of bees. **Bob Grey**, a collector himself, arranged for the gallery to host us. In his day job, Bob is s.v.p., general counsel and secretary of the PPL Corp., which owns energy generating and distribution companies in the United States and United Kingdom.

Among the other classmates with whom I chatted at the reception were **Mark Mandell**, medical direc-

tor of the emergency department at Morristown Hospital in New Jersey; **Doug Altabef**, in from Israel, where he and his family live; **Mariano Rey**, a cardiologist at NYU; **Jamie Katz**, erstwhile editor of *CCT* and now a freelancer, often for *Smithsonian Magazine*; and **Dowell Myers**, a professor of urban planning in Los Angeles at USC. **Rick Kurnit** told me how his legal practice has evolved to include a major focus on advising clients on structuring the next phase of their careers.

Friday was full of options for attendees, including talks by professors and a “crawl” through the art galleries of Chelsea. I joined the class tour of the painting and sculpture galleries in the new American wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, led by a staff member who commented extensively on the selection of works we saw. **Steve Bellovin**, for many years at Bell Labs but now a professor of computer science at Columbia, reminded me that we’ve known each other for 50 years, having met when we started junior high. Of course he was right, though I’ll confess to having been unsettled by the number, the impact of which wasn’t mitigated until I met someone who was back for his 60th reunion; then I realized how young I really am.

Later that evening I missed the cocktail reception for our class hosted by **Rick Kurnit** at his law firm, but did get to the College/Engineering/Barnard Shabbat dinner at the Kraft Center, the Hillel building that didn’t exist in our time. I sat with **Allan Schuster** and his wife, Cindy Sherman, both physicians.

Allan is a cardiologist and internist who works as a hospitalist at United Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. We were in high school together, as well as fellow pre-meds at Columbia, so we had a lot of catching up to do.

There were talks to choose from on Saturday morning as part of Dean’s Day, but our class events began with a luncheon in the 15th-floor conference center of SIPA. The last time I’d been there was a little more than 38 years ago — on my wedding day. My wife, Dede, and I had chosen the conference center with the great view of the New York skyline in the then-new SIPA building as the site for our wedding.

Gene Ross came to the luncheon in his Army Medical Corps uniform. After serving as the only ENT doctor in Iraq in 2005–06, Gene returned to practice in Westchester, though he still serves in the Army Reserve. We talked about some of his experiences in Iraq, where he treated everything from shrapnel wounds to soldiers with fish bones stuck in their throats, and about being on-call round the clock as the only ENT in the country.

Lunch was followed by a class discussion in Alfred Lerner Hall (for those of you who didn’t know, Ferris Booth is long gone, replaced by glass-fronted Lerner with its endless ramps). The discussion, led by **Rick Kurnit**, was about second careers at 60. I should not have been surprised that it quickly felt like we were back in CC, with some classmates challenging the premise that we necessarily need to think about doing something different with the rest of our lives; others saw the problem as residing in a system that discards good people after they have contributed to their organizations for so many years. **Neil Izenberg** told me after the session that he’d already gone through a transition, having shifted from being a practicing pediatrician with a specialty in adolescent medicine and a side interest in educational media to doing the latter full time. Neil is CEO of KidsHealth, a project of the Nemours Foundation, which produces online, video and print media for parents, kids and teens.

The culminating event of the weekend was the Saturday class dinner at Casa Italiana. Lots of classmates and spouses were there, including **Bruce Jacobs**, co-founder and principal of Jacobs Levy Equity Management in New Jersey; **Mark Lesky**, who is director of responsible care at Nova Chemicals in Pittsburgh; **Gene Cornell**, who runs Cornell-Mayo Associates, a software firm, and still is passionate about social justice; and **Arnold Horowitz**, retired from the State Department and working for the “intelligence community” in Wash-

ington, D.C. (I’m a pretty intrepid reporter but I didn’t dare ask more).

After dinner, **Mike Gerrard**, the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at the Law School and a leading expert on environmental law, gave a terrific talk about the impact of global warming. Mike represents the Republic of the Marshall Islands, likely soon to be submerged under the rising waters of the Pacific. The islands’ situation, as he said in his understated way, raises “novel legal issues.” [Editor’s note: Read CCT’s May/June 2011 feature about Gerrard online.]

Richard Macksoud, who wasn’t able to attend, nonetheless wrote to say that he’s now a grandfather. “My daughter Jennifer Dukes delivered James Michael late in March. By the way, does any of our famous doctors have a for-sure cure for acid reflux in a baby?”

Other classmates who registered for the weekend (I’m not relying on my memory to tell you who else was there) included **Stuart Bernsen**, **Emilio Carrillo**, **Peter Darrow**, **Dennis Greene**, **Tariq Hasan**, **Steven Howitt**, **Harlan Lachman**, **Joseph Lowe**, **Keith Luis**, **Jeffrey Matloff**, **Eugene Nathanson**, **Gerard Papa**, **Allan Reiss**, **Joseph Smith**, **Gary Szakmary**, **Harold Veaser** and **Robert Williams**. My apologies to those who were there and whom I missed, and for failing to do justice to the many wonderful conversations I had with so many classmates during the weekend. I hope many more of you will join us for our 45th — just five years away.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
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As we settle into our 60s, our vision shortens (literally) as our existence approaches twilight. Is it possible we’re finally feeling our age? Could be ...

Dr. **Ken Kutscher** ’77 P&S recently became governor of the New Jersey chapter of the American College of Cardiology; he works with local cardiologists on education and insurance issues. Ken also has taken the lead in statewide advocacy by establishing a state PAC to work with the governor and legislators on issues of concern to both patients and physicians.

Next year is our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Mark your calendar for, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. If you’re interested in being part of the Reunion Committee (planning the weekend’s events) or the Class Gift Committee (fund-raising for the Columbia College Fund), contact the appropriate staff member at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Columbia will send materials by email and postal mail as the date grows closer. If needed, update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate, or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

Hey, that’s all I got. Shake off those PCs and keep us informed; no news is bad news.

74

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With the presidential election garnering all the media attention, it is important to remind one and all that it is the 40th anniversary of another seismic “presidential event”: the Watergate break-in on June 17, 1972. It doesn’t seem that long ago that we were hearing about CREEP (the Committee to Reelect the President) and how *Washington Post* reporters Woodward and Bernstein, with the help of Deep Throat, uncovered the wiretapping of the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate Hotel. Woodward recently said, “Watergate implanted a cynical bomb about American politics that will probably never go away.” This year’s big money PACs and inaccurate slurs (from both sides) have only added to the popular disdain of our politicians. Let’s hope that the 50th anniversary of the break-in will find political leadership that operates at a higher level and that no future President will have to declare on TV, “I am not a crook!”

All of this political talk seems like a perfect segue to the John Edwards trial that ended in June. We must extend our congratulations to Edwards’ lead attorney, **Abbe Lowell**, for his incredible defense that led to the government dropping all charges (mainly involving using alleged campaign contributions to support Edward’s girlfriend and their “love child”). This must have invoked a sense of déjà vu for Abbe. He came into the national spotlight in 1998 when he defended President Bill Clinton at his impeachment trial over Clinton’s alleged perjury in his characterization of his “lurid

relationship” (this is a family publication) with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. [Read CCT’s profile of Lowell online in the Winter 2011–12 issue.]

After these two unsavory entries, let’s cool things down with news of the *Ozzie and Harriet* variety. A few months ago I caught up with **Tom Sawicki**, who was in from Jerusalem, where he is the director of programming for the Jerusalem office of AIPAC (the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee). Tom and I, joined by fellow 8 Hartley floormate Joe Lipari ’75, compared the differences in our households. I have two kids too young to have left for college, Joe has two kids who left for college but have now returned, and Tom and his wife, Susie, are adapting to life without their two sons (28 and 24, both career officers in the Israeli air force), who have both graduated college and are living in their own apartments. Seems like Tom and his wife are doing quite well — enjoying hiking with several other couples, going to the opera and the like. Tom also shared that he has a weekly Sabbath gathering with his buddies to sample single malt Scotches. (I seem to recall some serious drinking in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Ah, “tradition, tradition” trumps *Ozzie and Harriet* in the lives of the Class of ’74!)

Tom was in the United States in part to surprise D.C. resident **Leon Wieseltier** at his 60th birthday party. This reminded me of seeing Leon mentioned in a *New York Times* Style Section article (where else?) about Chris Hughes and Sean Eldridge (called “the new Power Brokers” by the *Times*). The article talked about how Hughes was a co-founder of Facebook and has used his newfound wealth both to host Democratic fundraisers and to buy a majority stake in *The New Republic*. Because Leon has been the longtime literary editor at the magazine, Hughes wanted to make sure he was on board with Hughes’ politics. A picture accompanying the article showed an amazing contrast between the boyish Hughes and Eldridge (28 and 25) and the not-so-boyish Leon with flowing white locks. (It was kind of like Clark Kent standing beside Perry White in those old *Superman* TV shows!)

But who needs Superman when our class has its own “Super Doctors”? Each year a company polls doctors in the New York area to find the most respected physicians in various fields of medicine. *New York* magazine then has the company narrow the list to 1,160, and it highlights those chosen in the “Best Doctors” issue each June. Incredibly, our one class, which has around 150 doctors (many outside

the New York area), had at least four of these best doctors: **Mark Lebwohl** (dermatology), **Burt Rochelson** (maternal and fetal medicine), **Larry Stam** (nephrology, i.e., kidneys) and **Steve Schonfeld** (neuroradiology). The *New York* magazine article did not list college affiliations, so my apologies to anyone on the list I failed to notice. Please send in omissions!

You don’t need to be doing things that lead you to be featured on the evening news, in newspapers or in magazines to be of interest to our classmates. Here are some vignettes from around the country that document the busy careers of our classmates in areas as varied as science, architecture, finance, business and the law.

From Fairbanks, Alaska, comes news from **Jim Beget**, who recently completed his 28th year as a professor in the geology and geophysics department at the University of Alaska. Jim is involved in a new National Science Foundation project looking at the effects of climate change on frozen ground. Part of the research project takes place in a “permafrost tunnel” — a mine shaft drilled into an area of frozen ground where the temperature is only about 20 degrees Fahrenheit, even in the middle of the summer. To make up for spending part of his summer in a dark frozen tunnel, Jim and his wife, Mary, headed to Arizona in July to join a float trip down the Grand Canyon.

Closer to home we got an update on the career of New York architect **Larry Marner**, who works on a range of projects from helping local private schools expand their facilities to updates at Grand Central and Chelsea Piers (a sprawling sports complex along the Hudson River). Larry writes, “The ‘fam’ is doing well. My wife, Elisabeth Post-Marner ’74 Barnard, practices architecture in Stamford, Conn. Daughter Nell is applying to nursing school. Son Ben is in his third year at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y.”

Moving one step closer to retirement, **Bob Fuchs** and his wife, Bobbie, moved from Connecticut to North Carolina four years ago. Bob wanted to increase his time on the golf course and Bobbie wanted more time on the beach. A longtime IT person, Bob is able to work part-time from home. He is doing some financial control work for Delta Dental’s IT department, located on the other side of the country. Bob adds, “Bobbie and I celebrated 38 years of marriage this past summer ... 1974 was a busy time — graduating in May, starting a new job in June and getting married in August. We have four children ranging from 34–24 and one granddaughter (4). My kids all have graduated from

college, one has a master’s and one is working toward an M.B.A. I’m happy and fortunate to say they all have good jobs.”

A short update came from **Joel Almqvist**, in Boston. He is a partner at K&L Gates law firm, where he counsels clients on a range of tax issues (from mergers and acquisitions to hedge funds to real estate transactions, to name a few). Joel tells us that one son is a broker at UBS and the other is an investment banker at Barclays. He adds, “I ran the Paris Marathon last spring.”

The “Energizer Bunny Award” must go to **Will Willis**, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., what some people might consider retirement country. But Will writes, “All six of my companies are doing great. Book No. 3 is coming out in January. Can’t retire, having too much fun!”

Jeffrey Kessler ’75 recently led 70 fellow former partners of Dewey & LeBoeuf to Winston & Strawn, where Kessler now is on the executive committee.

Will’s latest adventure was a real surprise for two reasons. First, he received a huge contract to put 6½-foot micro-wind turbines on 400 Wal-Mart stores. Then he began working with **Brad Higgins** (managing partner of the U.S. investments at private equity firm SOSventures) on the funding of the turbines. When I asked Will how the two hooked up, he replied, “We connected on LinkedIn. After we talked, we found we had similar business interests and investment requirements.”

Maybe there is more to this social media revolution than many of us give it credit for.

There you have it. Classmates featured on TV and in newspapers and magazines for their amazing achievements. Other classmates pursuing their passions in a variety of fields. For a class of only 600 guys, we have a lot to be proud of — not least of which is that no one has had to declare, “I am not a crook!”

75

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Not one to skip a reason to celebrate (and taking some time to themselves now that they are empty-nesters), Yasmin and **Jim Dolan** were in France in early summer. Jim proposed to Yasmin in Paris.

Known to many of us for his high profile in sports labor negotia-

tions, **Jeffrey Kessler** recently led 70 other former partners of Dewey & LeBoeuf to Winston & Strawn, where Jeff now is on the executive committees. **Joe Tato**, also formerly of Dewey, has joined other former Dewey partners at DLA Piper. Both rainmakers will continue to represent their portfolios.

Classmates gathered with other Columbians at Dean’s Day on June 2. **Lou Dalaveris** and **Ira Malin** spent some time chatting. **Bob Schneider** and his wife, Regina Mullahy ’75 Barnard, toured the site of the new Manhattanville campus. **Floyd Warren** had registered but no one saw him, and I wasn’t able to contact him before these Notes were due, which was shortly after Dean’s Day.

A couple of weeks back, I got an email from **Bob Sclafani** asking if I knew how he could get our

yearbook. I told him I didn’t know but would loan him mine. I sent it off, with the condition that when he got (and returned!) it, he also would send me stuff for Notes. Look for news in the next CCT.

I have just spent the most amazing weekend here in my hometown of Baltimore — remember, I’m writing this in June — taking part in its Star-Spangled Sailabration, which is the official kickoff to the nation’s celebration of the 200th anniversary of the “Star-Spangled Banner.” Those of you elsewhere on the East Coast may have experienced it as OpSail 2012. Sailing ships, tall, medium and small. Ditto for naval, marine, Coast Guard and other Grey ships, all from around the world. There were air shows, including the Blue Angels, which I swear I could have reached up and grabbed as they flew over my roof deck. I did more than 24 hours of volunteering, walking the promenades of the harbor as a Sailabration ambassador, during the last four days, but that also put me in the middle of enjoying it. Now, I’m gonna collapse and recover. From all the standing and walking, my body aches in places that I didn’t know or had forgotten existed.

And, of course, this edition of CCT is the first of the new fiscal year of the Columbia College Fund. For early givers, especially those who want a 2012 tax deduction, now’s the time to pencil in those transactions. Others, pledge early. (Often is not necessary, but then please back up that pledge with a check or credit card.)

Give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline or by calling 212-851-7488, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

76

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I hope the members of the Class of 1976 are enjoying a wonderful fall. Please send your news to me at the above email or postal address. Your classmates would love to hear from you!

77

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Our class held its 35th Alumni Reunion Weekend from May 31–June 3. Although I wasn’t there, I received a number of enthusiastic reports that I have attempted to cobble together, hopefully not too inaccurately. (They make this kind of thing look so easy on the CSI shows.)

Lou DeStefano says that Karen, his wife of two years, was impressed by her first view of the campus; she saw much of it but not all. A night in Carman was “not so bad as an inexpensive hotel,” but when Lou wanted to show her John Jay lounge, he was stopped by campus security. Lou adds that he was pleased to see **Peter Buxbaum**, a first-timer at a Columbia reunion.

Tom Wagner and his wife, Miriam Furey ’77 Barnard, had dinner on reunion Thursday with his fraternity brothers from Beta Theta Pi, including **James Camparo** (with his wife, Lori ’77 Barnard), **Jim Mullin** (plus his wife, Linda) and **Kevin Roach** ’77E; this was followed by a show, *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess*. Tom reports that he “sees the Mullins at most Homecomings, since they are local, but the Camparos live out West and we had not seen them in many years, making for a wonderful reunion.” Tom and Miriam also went on the Chelsea art gallery crawl tour the next day, followed by lunch on Tenth Avenue — and, alas, an early departure due to other commitments. They missed a class reception held by **Bill Gray** in his office.

Among those who made it to Bill’s was **John Hallacy**, who

enjoyed the spread as well as the view of the Empire State Building, lit in blue and white. Of the reunion overall, John adds, “The events were very well organized this year. The lectures were truly stimulating. I attended one on brain research that was viewed from a multidisciplinary perspective. The Wine Tasting was great because Barnard alumnae were present, including my wife, Mary Ann Lofrumento ’77 Barnard, and you could mingle with the broader reunion crowd. As is predictable, we talked about surviving the 1970s and classes and professors that we appreciated a great deal. The food was generally excellent but did not surpass the discourse and the weather. The recent grads also appeared to be very enthusiastic.”

Someone else at Bill’s reception was **Mike Aroney**, who seems to have kept up a frenetic pace during the weekend; he brought his wife, Kathy; daughter, Brittany; son, Kell; and daughter-in-law, Brittany. As Kell is a recent graduate of the business school at Southern Methodist University and Brittany had just graduated (with honors, yet) from the University of South Carolina’s College of Nursing, “the trip, in part, was a graduation present, and I acted as tour guide for most of the time. We stayed in Tribeca and saw just about everything, and it seems I walked the younger folks to the point of crying ‘uncle.’ We sent the kids off to see *War Horse*, so they had to humor Dad with a trip to MoMA, an art gallery crawl in Chelsea and lunch at the Boathouse on Friday,” followed by Bill’s event. “I gave the kids a tour of campus and told some stories. Kell wanted to see the B-school and Brittany wanted to know about the medical school. The kids attended our class dinner with Kathy and me, but left early from the champagne and dancing to go back to the hotel. I do believe they were in bed by 10, while Kathy and I made a fair job of the dancing and champagne consumption.

“Funny story: our daughter is an attractive, 6-foot tall, 22-year-old blonde. When we arrived at the dinner for cocktails, my wife went over to the bar to gather some refreshments while I greeted classmates. Brittany came back and was standing next to me and eventually when it was clear she was a daughter, a few classmates confessed they were relieved to learn she wasn’t a trophy wife!”

Also at reunion were (with apologies to anyone I left out — or put in! — by mistake): **Craig Brod, Leslie Cohen, Mark Goldberger, Michael Katzman, Bob Kent, Marty Kutscher, Jon Lukomnik, Peter Nagykerly, Dan Sang, John**

Santamaria, Jim Shapiro, Michael Sherman, David Stanton, Christopher Sten, Robert Werner and George Whipple. Among attendees I heard from, there was agreement on the fine weather, the good work of the reunion staff and (unfortunately) the relatively low turnout of our class. Here’s to a bigger 40th.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**
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78 **Matthew Nemerson**
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I continue to be amazed and humbled at the achievements and broad range of our class. Bravo! I have been wondering as we approach our 35th reunion if we are closer to half our allotted time as Columbia grads, or two-thirds done. It’s beginning to make a difference . . .

John Nastuk, also ’78E, writes, “The news from Danvers, Mass., is that I’m a senior engineer with GE Aviation but bigger news is that our son, David, recently started his first full-time job as a mechanical engineer after graduating from UMaine last fall, and second son, Eric, recently graduated from UConn as a biomedical engineer. Three engineers under one roof is sufficient to make Karen — the artist, wife and mother — about crazy.”

Steve Bargonetti has enlisted his wife, Diane, to do his column PR (I advise this for all of you). She writes, “My husband was honored by author David Maraniss when he was chosen to be in the new Obama biography, *Barack Obama: The Story* [see Bookshelf]. This is not a political statement from us but rather an honor to be part of history for Steve. If you have a chance, check out the book (especially page 435!). It is rare that people in the ‘real world’ are interested in what musicians have to say.”

Daniel Pincus ’78 sang the national anthem at numerous Lions’ football and basketball games during this past year.

Diane also included the below, which was originally written for the NYC musicians’ union paper. “How many Local 802 Musicians do you know who have been interviewed for a presidential biography

and actually quoted for the book? Well, if you know guitarist Steve Bargonetti then you know at least one!

“He graduated from Columbia University around the time President Obama transferred there. Steve has a similar bi-racial heritage and, at the time, was the leader of the premier jazz fusion group, So What, on the Columbia campus. The bands playing at The West End during Obama’s first year included So What, whose name was inspired by the first cut of the Miles Davis album *Kind of Blue*.”

Steve’s wife concludes with the reference that, “Maraniss felt Steve offered great perception into Columbia University’s campus life, socially, politically and racially . . . a look into the environment experienced by Steve and, thus, the future President. To quote Steve from the book: ‘There were racial inferences from both sides, which were completely disavowed once we started bringing people together via music.’”

So there you have it. Proof that the Class of 1978 was intimately involved in the President’s experience at alma mater.

From **David J. Margules**, “Things are good here. Four sons, and no one at Columbia! My eldest, Andy, graduated from medical school at Jefferson (along with his wife) and started his residency in urology. He claims to have picked it because it gives his friends lots of fodder for rude jokes about the kinds of things he ‘handles.’ (My mother still tells me I should have been a doctor and that it’s not too late to go to medical school.) My second son, Elliot, has finished his second year of law school and has been working for **Josh Dratel**. He loves the practice and is looking forward to graduating. My third, Sam, starts culinary school in September and wants to open a pastry / coffee shop. My youngest, Will, is in the middle of 1½ years in yeshiva in Israel and will start at Yeshiva University in January. My wife, Michelle Seltzer ’77 Barnard, and I are very proud of each.”

Midwestern refugee **Robert Blank** sends this from Madison, Wis.: “Scary how time flies. Nothing

fun or exciting to report. Sorry to say the recall was a disaster here, and [Gov.] Scott Walter is truly evil.”

Henry Aronson has been busy as always, “My wife, Cailín Hefernan, and I were selected for the

Rhinebeck Writers Retreat for this summer; [at this writing in June we planned to go] for a week in August to continue working on our new musical, *Loveless Texas*. I do some orchestrating for the *Rocktopia* symphonic / rock fusion ensemble, kicking off with the Youngstown (Ohio) Symphony in September; I’ll be playing keyboards in the concert, too. Meanwhile, I’m still music director / conductor of *Rock of Ages* on Broadway.”

Jeffrey Moerdler looks down on Gotham from his perch at Mintz Levin, telling us, “My oldest son, Scott, graduated from Mount Sinai School of Medicine and is starting his residency in pediatrics at Mount Sinai Medical Center (he got his first-choice match) and plans to specialize in pediatric oncology. He is getting married in October. My twins are both at NYU, Jonathan in the Stern School of Business and Eric in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in architecture and urban planning. Jonathan [was scheduled to] get married in August.

“I’m busy in my real estate legal practice and in particular in my specialty in data center and telecom real estate. I also spend lots of my time on my three unpaid part-time jobs. For starters, I’m commissioner of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (yes, the recent toll increases are my fault); I’m very involved in all of its major real estate projects, in particular the World Trade Center. I’m also an EMT on my local volunteer ambulance service and co-president of my chapter in Riverdale as well as president of my co-op apartment building.”

Stu Kricun may hold the record for appearances in this column (what Joan Rivers was to Johnny): “I have worked at Disney since 2005, after spending 12 years at *Playboy*. Talk about 180-degree changes in the subject matter. If any of our classmates’ kids are fans of *Good Luck Charlie* or *Lab Rats*, those are two of the shows for which I am production counsel. My kids are in the prime demographic right now for Disney. My daughter, Arianna, is 7 and my son, Jordan, is 5 (yes, I did start really late compared to some of the rest of you!).

“I find myself reminiscing every so often about the good old days at Columbia. Hard to believe it’s been almost 35 years. One of these days, I need to take a trip with the entire family and show my little ones where dad went to college.”

Gary Pickholz gets the award for eclectic activities. “My new book, for background context, is my nonfiction project at Stanford’s Writer’s Studio, which has been a truly marvelous and eye-opening

experience,” he writes. “I have been blessed with many sharp colleagues in many universities and firms worldwide, across a number of disciplines, in my career, but this is by far the most fascinating group of colleagues I have ever enjoyed spending time with.

“My son Dov got engaged to a lovely young lady originally from Paris, whose family also made *aliyah*. I now have an appointment at the Business School. I have two books coming out (hopefully) this year, one on some of the significant failures in capital markets and one a nonfiction autobiographical discussion of a Jewish divorce and its policy considerations, both in the United States and Israel. My son Josh now is in an elite combat unit, and my daughter Tamar will serve in the office of Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu (whom I used to play basketball with in the Philadelphia synagogue league when his name was still Benji), as her national service.

“I will be testifying before the Knesset once again in October, this time on the topic of Israeli-continued insistence of taxing American and British charitable contributions, an embarrassment that your local UJA-Federation and Israel Bonds representatives prefer be ignored by American donors.”

An interesting story about fame in the big city from **Daniel Pincus**: “This past year, I sang the national anthem at numerous Lions’ football and basketball games. I sang the tenor solos with the Barnard-Columbia Chorus and with the Collegium Musicum. At the end of Yom Kippur last year, a young congregant came up to me and said, ‘Cantor Pincus, there is something about the way you sing and your style that reminds me of John Amaranate at Madison Square Garden.’

“A week later I called Columbia Athletics and onto the roster I went, and was requested for the Harvard games. Thinking that this was going very well, I contacted Fordham. They won all six games I sang at, and alerted the *New York Daily News* to write a story about it, resulting in a full-page article. Two days later, Clyde Haberman of *The New York Times* picked up the story in a column.”

Capt. **Jeffrey L. Canfield**, USN, writes: “I am concluding an assignment as Headquarters ISAF Ministerial Advisor to the Government of Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in Kabul, Afghanistan. I will be assigned next from the Pentagon to the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.”

On the home front, my family abandoned me this summer. My wife, Marian ’77 Barnard, is teach-

ing near Paris at INSEAD, the European business school. Daughter Elana (21) took courses in London. And Joy (18), who is recently installed as social action v.p. of the National Federation of (Reform) Temple Youth, split the summer between Washington, D.C., and the movement’s base in Warwick, N.Y.

Next year is our 35th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. If you’re interested in being part of the Reunion Committee (planning the weekend’s events) or the Class Gift Committee (fundraising for the Columbia College Fund), contact the appropriate staff member at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Columbia will send materials by email and postal mail as the date grows closer. If needed, update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate, or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

79 **Robert Klapper**
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Thomas Costigan of Falls Church, Va., is a contract employee for a specialized agency of the federal government dealing with international trade issues (that’s all he can say about this one or he’d have to remove **Bob Klapper**’s knee caps). Tom also is co-chair of the Northern Virginia Columbia Alumni Representative Committee and would love to hear from area alumni who can help out with admissions interviews.

Theodore Anton writes with news that his son, Constantine, was hired as coordinator of emergency services for the Red Cross Coastal Virginia region. His daughter, Marja, begins medical school at the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago this fall. Ted’s new nonfiction book, *Mortal Coils: The Strange Race for the Secrets of Longevity*, will be published by University of Chicago Press in 2013.

Los Angeles-based **Ali Gheisari**, president of Advanced Cardiothoracic Surgery Medical Group, has been practicing cardiothoracic surgery in Los Angeles for more than 20 years. He writes, “I am blessed with a beautiful wife and two beautiful children. My son, Reza ’14 (20), finished his sophomore year at the College and spent the summer in L.A. doing an internship at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He is majoring in physics and mathematics. My daughter,

Roya (16), is a high school junior and hopes to study medicine. I owe my achievements in life to my education at Columbia, and having a son at Columbia College has further strengthened my bonds with alma mater.”

The “big news” from **Harlan Greenman** is that his daughter Catherine ’12 is “not only a proud graduate of the Class of 2012, where she majored in computer science math, but also is relocating to Texas and starting her career with Microsoft in July.

“In other news, I have been kept busy with building New York City’s first totally new subway line — the Second Avenue subway, first proposed in the 1920s, partially dug before the 1970s fiscal crisis that nearly bankrupted the city and now on track to open during this decade. Lastly, our younger daughter, Beth, accomplished a personal triple crown, having all in one day made her bat mitzvah, received our Little League’s most prestigious memorial award (known as the Chris Ciuffani Award) for her fairness and respect for others, and, with her team, won the championship with a come-from-behind effort in

my students in one of these three circles. Some of you are in this first circle, for whom everything I say here in this classroom you will understand completely. Some of you are in this middle circle, where you won’t understand everything that I say today but you will go home tonight and read and study hard and then understand it. And some of you are in this third circle . . . who never will.’

“I guess the lesson I learned was I was never going to be in that first circle, and I need to spend the rest of my life staying out of that third circle.”

80 **Michael C. Brown**
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As fall begins we look forward to seeing how the Giants, Jets and Columbia Lions fare on the gridiron. We are only a little way into our new era with coach Pete Mangurian, but already I am impressed with our commitment and effort each week.

Eric Granderson ’80 has been named in-house lobbyist for New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

the bottom of the last inning. It was in true storybook fashion, with two outs and the bases loaded!”

Robert Klapper: “Here’s my Columbia College thought for this column. As an orthopedic surgeon in Los Angeles for the past 23 years, I’ve operated on 500–600 patients every year, which means I have opened up more than 12,000 shoulders, hips and knees. I cannot believe where the time has gone.

“In order to begin a surgery, you must scrub your hands. This moment at the sink is a mini-opportunity for meditation. It’s actually ironic that in this act, by rubbing your hands together and letting them dry, you take the position of praying. Before one of my recent surgeries, in this meditative state of becoming sterile (without a vasectomy), my mind wandered back to my first organic chemistry lecture; I still struggle with understanding the relevance of this ridiculous course and the necessity to excel in this subject when it has no relevance whatsoever to what one does as a doctor. But I remember Professor Charles Dawson ’38 GSAS in 309 Havemayer beginning the first class of the first semester by drawing three giant circles on the blackboard. He then turned to the class and said, ‘I think of

Eric Granderson has been named in-house lobbyist for New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu. A New Orleans native, Eric brings three decades of experience in the city’s government to his new post steering the administration’s relations with council members, local agency officials and community leaders.

Joel Moser joined Kaye Scholer as an energy and infrastructure partner. He will be instrumental in building out the practice, which is viewed with great optimism by his partners. Joel has extensive experience in the industry and has been recognized as a leading project lawyer.

What’s Your Story?
Letting classmates know what’s going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes!
ONLINE by clicking college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.
EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.
MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

Ronald Weich recently was named dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law. He previously served as chief counsel to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and counsel to former Sen. Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) and the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). I look forward to seeing you all at Homecoming [on Saturday, October 20; see Around the Quads] and supporting our team! Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

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Dr. **Paul J. Maddon** Ph.D. announced his retirement in March as chief science officer of Progenics Pharmaceuticals, a company he founded in 1986. Having served as chairman of the board, CEO and chief science officer, Paul will continue to be a member and vice chair of the Progenics Board of Directors. Progenics, a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to developing innovative medicines to treat diseases, with a focus on cancer and related conditions, is based in Tarrytown, N.Y. Paul intends to stay active in retirement, as he serves on a number of boards and committees of nonprofit and commercial organizations, including as a University Trustee at Columbia. In addition, he plans to spend a lot more time with his family, Alex (12), Hanna (11) and Sophie (9). Paul, I have no advice on how to run a biopharmaceutical company, but can provide a little insight on raising daughters, if you're interested. From one doctor to another: **Michael E. Schatman** Ph.D. sends an update from Seattle, where he enjoys recreational pursuits both in the mountains and on water. Michael is executive director of the nonprofit Foundation for Ethics in Pain Care and is very involved in pain medicine as a clinician, writer, editor of four journals and lecturer. He recently was honored as "Clinical Pain Educator of the Year" by the American Society of Pain Educators. Also in medical world news, we learned that Dr. **Daniel P. Petrylak**, an oncologist, is set to begin a new appointment in September: Yale Cancer Center and the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven have named him to lead the genitourinary cancers medical oncology team at Smilow and to be director of the prostate cancer research group and co-director of the Signal

Transduction Research Program. Daniel joins Yale from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. He earned an M.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, completed his internship and residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and did his fellowship in oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Congratulations to Paul, Michael and Daniel on their stellar professional achievements. **Jack O'Loughlin** reports: "Oldest son John '12 graduated in May. He'll live and work in New York. He was on the track team (mid-distance) and really enjoyed his CC experience. Our other son, Brendan '15, is now in his second year at CC and also is a mid-distance runner. He's enjoying the experience thus far as well. Oldest is a daughter, Caroline (also a runner), who graduated from Dartmouth last year and recently moved back to Boston for a new job after working in Manhattan for a year. My wife, Carol, and I now are empty-nesters and are in the process of selling our home in suburban Boston and moving into the South End neighborhood. "Had dinner with former roommates **Bill Haney '81E** and **Tom Windas '81E** in June, and it was great seeing them.

"I've been working in banking for nearly 30 years, primarily with BankBoston (and successor banks Fleet and BofA) in corporate and international banking; I then started a New England wholesale banking team for Huntington Bank from Columbus, Ohio, in 2010. It's been very entrepreneurial and a lot of fun. The best part is I've also managed to turn less commuting time into some exercise time." Finally, though many of you have already heard this news, it is with great sadness that we note the passing of **Richard M. Ruzika** on May 8 from complications arising from knee surgery. Richard was a star on the football team, so good he was drafted into the NFL (Dallas Cowboys). He decided to bypass a career in football, instead joining Goldman Sachs, where he worked in several executive positions and ultimately became co-head of commodities. He spent almost 30 years at Goldman and was preparing to start a new hedge fund, Dublin Hill Capital, based in Greenwich, Conn.

Richard was very loyal to Columbia and was recognized with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2006. He is survived by his wife, Ruthanne, and two teenage children. Our deep condolences go out to the Ruzika family. [Editor's note: See Summer 2012 Obituaries.]

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Greetings, gentlemen: I trust this note finds you all in good spirits. As I put single digit to iPad, one of the hottest summers on record is blazing, Obamacare has been upheld (or defined as a tax, depending on your political persuasion) and the European bond markets are in disarray, playing mumblety-peg with my 401K. On a positive note, I recently encountered one of our most esteemed College professors on a flight to Newark from Denver (where I reside four days a week, so if anyone's in the vicinity, look me up and I'll spring for dinner). The professor: Arnold Eisen. Some of you may remember him from CC; if I recall correctly **John Malcolm**, **Wally Wentink** and **John Levy**

Eric Laursen '82 is an independent journalist who has covered political and financial news for more than 25 years.

were in class with me. Professor Eisen now is chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary. He was rather taken aback that I remembered him after 30 years. The reality is that he did a fantastic job teaching the class and I'd be surprised if any of us forgot the experience. Writing in this period is the selfless and adventurous **Karl Olson**. A member of the Foreign Service, Karl spent the spring studying Pashto and growing a beard in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan (a commitment that also kept him from attending reunion). On behalf of the entire class, I thank Karl for his efforts. On special assignment this period, our roving reunion reporter, **Dave Filosa**, sends this account of the weekend's events: "The 30th reunion was a great success. High point was the tri-college cocktail party on the Hamilton Steps before our class dinner in Butler. Everyone was happy for the opportunity to see classmates from Engineering and Barnard.

"We have established a Columbia-Barnard-Engineering Class of 1982 Reunion Group on Facebook that has pictures from the weekend and that we encourage everyone to join. Check it out at facebook.com/#!/groups/217827018331357/. "Yours truly saw **Andrew Danzig**, **Victor Lopez-Balboa**, **Frank Lopez-Balboa**, **Louis De Chiara**, **Joe Cabrera**, **Joe Piscina**, **Mark Berti** and **Mike Schmidtberger**. Had a great discussion regarding polytheism over dinner. "After the Friday barbecue we got to relive the good old days at Havana Central a.k.a. The West End where **Dan Libby '82E** chased down a pickpocket from the bar." Philosophical discourse, booze, crime and punishment. It doesn't get better than that! Also writing in this period was the accomplished **Eric Laursen**, an independent journalist who has covered political and financial news for more than 25 years. He reports that his latest book, *The People's Pension: The Struggle to Defend Social Security Since Reagan*, was published in April. Eric says, "It tells the surprisingly entertaining story of how a grassroots collection of labor unions, progressive lawmakers and advocates for the elderly, low-income communities and people of color have repeatedly stymied efforts by the Republican right and Democratic center-right to scale back, phase out and privatize Social Security. I became interested in the subject when I was running *Plan Sponsor*, a monthly magazine for pension executives, in the '90s. I wanted to explore why so many powerful people are intent on cutting Social Security even though other elements of the American retirement income system are eroding, making Social Security's protections more important than ever. And I wanted to clear up some of the confusion about the economics of Social Security. "Along the way, I found out a lot that had never been revealed. For instance, how the Clinton administration and Newt Gingrich (then Speaker of the House) were so intent on making an historic deal to cut Social Security that they kept at it for months, even after the Monica Lewinsky scandal made it next to impossible for the White House to work with Congress on anything. In fact, every President since Jimmy Carter has tried to cut Social Security at some point in his administration. That includes Barack Obama '83. The real heroes of *The People's Pension* are the grassroots groups that have somehow stopped them every time. Will they be able to keep doing so? I explore this question and also what it would take to inoculate Social

Alumni Sons and Daughters

Seventy-one members of the College Class of 2016 and five members of the Engineering Class of 2016 are sons or daughters of College alumni. This list is alphabetical by the parent's last name.

STUDENT	PARENT	STUDENT	PARENT	STUDENT	PARENT
Nicholas Ackerman Tenaflly, N.Y. • Arlington H.S.	Stephen K. Ackerman '79	Jared Greene Tenaflly, N.J. • Tenaflly H.S.	Steven E. Greene '76	Klaas Roberts Bowie, Md. • The Key School	Sandy A. Roberts '81
Olivia Alex Middletown, N.J. • Leonia H.S.	John Alex '89	Chase Gutman Brussels • The International School of Brussels	Howard Gutman '77	Sarah Roth Scarsdale, N.Y. • Scarsdale H.S.	Steven D. Roth '77
Stepan Atamian New York City • The Dalton School	Jean-Marie L. Atamian '81	Justin Hahn Bayside, N.Y. • Hunter College H.S.	Kim S. Hahn '77	Craig Ruzika Riverside, Conn. • Brunswick School	Richard M. Ruzika '81 °
Stephen Babendreier Rockville, Md. • The Heights School	Gerard M. Babendreier '84	Sophia Horowitz Atherton, Calif. • Sacred Heart Prep	Benjamin A. Horowitz '88	Alexander Sabel London • St. Paul's School	David G. Sabel '72
Theresa Babendreier Rockville, Md. • Onkcrest School	Gerard M. Babendreier '84	Katharyn-Alexis Huseby Seattle • The Bush School	Thomas S. Huseby '69	Noah Schoen Pittsburgh • Shady Side Academy	Robert E. Schoen '79
Aram Balian Chevy Chase, Md. • St. Albans School	Nairi Checkosky Balian '88	Adam Jaffe * White Plains, N.Y. • White Plains H.S.	Aaron D. Jaffe '85	Daniel Schultz Atlanta • Phillips Academy	William Schultz '83
Roberta Barnett Pelham, N.Y. • Pelham Memorial H.S.	Richard L. Barnett '75	Dylan Jones Richmond, Va. • Appomattox Regional Governor's School	Robert A.W. Jones '85	Anne Scotti Medfield, Mass. • Medfield H.S.	Thomas Scotti '85
Cian Barron Woodcliff Lake, N.J. • Pascack Hills H.S.	Joaquin Barron '94	Alexander Kalicki * Alexandria, Va. • Sidwell Friends School	Jan H. Kalicki '68	Harrison Shih Saddle River, N.J. • Bergen Catholic H.S.	Chih Y. Shih '80
Andrew Barth San Marino, Calif. • San Marino H.S.	Andrew F. Barth '83	Chester King Stamford, Conn. • Stamford H.S.	Thomas S. King '86	Gunter Sissoko Culver City, Calif. • Lycée Français	Carolyn G. Sissoko '92
Eleanor Beckman Los Angeles • The Archer School for Girls	Peregrine Beckman '84 and Elizabeth Leicester '87	Jason Kingdon New York City • Riverdale Country School	Mark E. Kingdon '71	Sarah Sperber London • North London Collegiate School	Sebastian Sperber '85
Nicole Bernstein Scarsdale, N.Y. • Scarsdale H.S.	Brett B. Bernstein '84	Ike Kitman Piermont, N.Y. • Tappan Zee H.S.	Jamie L. Kitman '79	Andrew Stoughton Scarsdale, N.Y. • Edgemont H.S.	Gerald Stoughton '79
Tanna Bogursky New York City • SAR H.S.	Jeff Bogursky '80	Anna Knight Redlands, Calif. • Redlands H.S.	Robert C. Knight '81	Nina Stoupnitzky Rye, N.Y. • Rye Country Day School	Gregory Stoupnitzky '78
Daniel Brovman Teaneck, N.J. • Horace Mann H.S.	Mikhail Brovman '81	Nathan Kung Bethesda, Md. • Montgomery Blair H.S.	David S. Kung '84	Aryeh Strobel Englewood, N.J. • The Frisch School	Ronald E. Strobel '81
Alexander Carames St. Augustine, Fla. • St. Joseph Academy	Ernesto J. Carames '85	Allison Lavine Weston, Mass. • Dana Hall School	Jonathan S. Lavine '88	Elizabeth Trelstad White Plains, N.Y. • White Plains H.S.	Graham L. Trelstad '89 and Julie M. Trelstad '89
Brigid Connell Haddonfield, N.J. • Haddonfield Memorial H.S.	John C. Connell '76	Benjamin Lewinter West Orange, N.J. • Rae Kushner Yeshiva H.S.	David Lewinter '84	Kristina Wald Chicago • The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools	Robert M. Wald '68
Marguerite Daw St. Louis • Clayton H.S.	Edward W. Daw '86	Daniel Liss Silver Spring, Md. • Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School	Kevin J. Liss '84	Grayson Warrick New York City • Choate Rosemary Hall	Lance A. Warrick '79
Ilana Deresiewicz Newton, Mass. • New Jewish H.S.	Robert Deresiewicz '79	Alena Lovi-Borgmann Montclair, N.J. • Phillips Exeter H.S.	John D. Lovi '83	Eric Wimer New York City • Fieldston School	Charles Wimer '67
Etienne Desbois Scarsdale, N.Y. • Scarsdale H.S.	Marcel P. Desbois '77 °	Rachael Lubitz New York City • The Brearley School	Lawrence J. Lubitz '79	Arianna Winchester New York City • New York City Lab H.S. for Collaborative Studies	Daniel J. Winchester '76
Amar Dhingra * Gurgaon, India • Vasant Valley School	Alda Dhingra '91	Kyra Lunenfeld Los Angeles • Windward H.S.	Peter Lunenfeld '84	Zoe Wood Lexington, Mass. • Lexington H.S.	Christopher Wood '83
Ariana Dickey Houston • St. John's School	Burton F. Dickey '76	Lisa Maddox Weston, Conn. • Weston H.S.	Robert T. Maddox '81	Ezra Wyschogrod Newton Centre, Mass • Maimonides School	Daniel Wyschogrod '78
Samantha Duncan Austin, Texas • Westlake H.S.	Daniel N. Duncan '85	Gabriel Merkin New York City • Ramaz Upper School	J. Ezra Merkin '76	* Member of the Engineering Class of 2016 ° Deceased	
Elliot Finkelstein East Brunswick, N.J. • The Frisch School	Joshua S. Finkelstein '82	Hannah Milnes Locust Valley, N.Y. • Locust Valley H.S.	Eric J. Milnes '81	<i>Seven incoming College transfer students are sons or daughters of College alumni.</i>	
Penina Francus Pittsburgh • The Ellis School	Yitzchak Francus '84	Zachary Neugut Teaneck, N.J. • The Frisch School	Alfred I. Neugut '72	STUDENT	PARENT
Claire Friedman Salt Lake City • Rowland Hall-St. Mark's School	Brett Friedman '80	Katherine Nevitt Manhasset, N.Y. • Manhasset H.S.	Thomas M. Nevitt '82	Sarah Coleman	Steven Coleman '83
Daniel Friedman Wynnewood, Pa. • Lower Merion H.S.	David P. Friedman '79	Meena Oberdick Columbus, Ohio • Columbus Alternative H.S.	John D. Oberdick '79	Ryan Cottone	Anthony Cottone '80
Avi Chad-Friedman * Newton Highlands, Mass. • Newton South H.S.	Mark Friedman '70	Martha Corey-Ochoa Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. • Dobbs Ferry H.S.	George Ochoa '81	Karl Daum	Eric Daum '81
Rebecca Glanzer Brooklyn, N.Y. • Berkeley Carroll School	Michael Glanzer '78	Denyven Peng * Chaoyang Dist. Beijing • Redwood H.S.	David H. Peng '83	Shmuel Goldman	Alan Goldman '91 and Sara (Silver) Goldman '91
Henry Green Hanover, N.H. • Milton Academy	Alan I. Green '65	Gregory Rempe Albuquerque, N.M. • Eldorado H.S.	Gary L. Rempe II '87 and Susan Beamis Rempe '87	James Mazur	Marc B. Mazur '81
				David Momjian	Mark A. Momjian '83
				Douglas Yee	Danny Ong Yee '77

Security — the most successful antipoverty program in U.S. history — from this kind of politics.

“Researching and writing the book took more than a decade, and I supported it with freelance financial writing and journalism, the field I’ve worked in since Columbia. I was fortunate, too, that I found a wonderful independent publisher, AK Press, that was willing to take on a long, serious book about an important topic. I have a couple more intriguing book projects that I’ve already started to flesh out. But first I want to see if *The People’s Pension* can make a difference!”

Very exciting! I’m looking forward to reading this one.

In the news this period, it was announced on June 23 that **Greg Burke** was selected as a senior communications adviser to the Vatican’s secretariat of state, in the Vatican. In an AP interview Greg said, “I’m a bit nervous but very excited. Let’s just say it’s a challenge.” Greg will be leaving his role as the FOX News Vatican correspondent to assume this new and demanding role. [See Alumni in the News.]

Congratulations! Looking forward to hearing from all of you. Cheers!

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
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83

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Greetings, classmates. My wife and I hosted a fundraiser at our home for my friend and trusted confidante of nearly 30 years: pragmatic, progressive, Democrat Marc Landis. Marc is running for New York City Council on the Upper West Side. He is a tireless and dedicated public servant, and is a person of outstanding character and compassion. Marc’s wife is Judy Landis ’85 Barnard, ’92 SIPA. John Luisi ’81 was one of many Columbia graduates in attendance. Other Columbia supporters included Stephen Jacobs ’75, Jim Weinstein ’84, **Ken Chin**, Mark Simon ’84, **Eddy Friedfeld** and **Dennis Klainberg** ’84.

Eddy wrote an article about this year’s Friars Club Roast for Betty White for the website Cinema Retro. It begins: “From an eclectic dais that ranged from Matt Lauer, Liza Minnelli, and Dick Cavett, to Dominic ‘Uncle Junior’ Chianese,

to *The Office*’s Oscar Nuñez, to former New York [Knicks] star John Starks, to [former] boxing great Ray ‘Boom Boom’ Mancini, to Best Picture *The Artist*’s Uggie the dog, the event was up to its usual biting and merciless humor, poking fun at the guest of honor’s age and sexual proclivity.

“Barbara Walters served as Roastmaster, marking the first time in Friars history that women were both host and subject. ‘Yesterday, I was talking to the President of the United States,’ Walters said, referring to **Barack Obama**’s appearance on *The View*,’ and today I am with second-rate comedians and a dog.’

Jon Ross ’83 is the founder and program manager for MicroAid International.

“Walters kicked off the festivities by skewering her longtime friend: ‘What has been said about Betty White that hasn’t been said about her contemporaries: Moses, John the Baptist and General Custer ... Betty was the first woman banned by the TSA for requesting too many pat downs, the first person to try to send a text from a land line, and the first woman to do Shakespeare at The Globe Theatre. Literally, she did him in the balcony.’

“Regis Philbin, Abe Vigoda, Larry King ... what is this, a roast or are we sitting shiva?” Walter’s co-host, Joy Behar, said about her elderly dais companions. ‘Larry King’s latest wife is not only compatible romantically; she is also a compatible donor ... When Katie Couric had her last colonoscopy televised, they found Sarah Palin’s high school diploma ... Betty White is so old her first sitcom was ‘Hot for Grover Cleveland.’”

You can read the rest at cinema retro.com.

Jon Ross is the founder and program manager for MicroAid International. He writes, “I am happy to report that the canoe project in Matafa’a, Samoa, is complete. Now, every family in the village has a canoe to get across the bay to get to school, to the shop and to the bus stop so they can get to work in the capital of Apia. Thanks to the support of our donors, MicroAid was able to replace the canoes that were lost in the 2009 tsunami. Our mission, to stay focused on victims of disasters after the world’s attention has moved on, works because we deliver the assistance directly and efficiently. I oversee the projects from beginning to end and make sure they are finished. (We also replaced lost fishing kits in the village of Salea’aumua.)

“Please go to the MicroAid

website (microaidinternational.org), under ‘Completed Projects and Updates,’ to see the details. Also on the site, you can read my blog from the field for day-by-day updates on different stages of the project and my time living in the village (microaidinternational.org/WP). Thank you so much for the support. MicroAid is the only humanitarian aid organization focusing on this kind of specific long-term disaster recovery.”

Brendan Mee writes, “Earlier this year I opened my own law firm, Brendan Mee Law. My specialty is IP, patents and trademarks, particularly chemical and mechani-

cal patents. I have paid internship opportunities for recent grads or rising seniors with a science background and some interest in law.”

Brendan works in New York; those who are interested may contact him at bmee@fchs.com.

In other legal news, Business Wire reports that **Joseph A. Smith** has joined Schulte Roth & Zabel as a partner in the investment management group. Joseph previously was the global chair for Dewey & LeBoeuf’s private equity practice group. He has been recognized as a leading practitioner by Chambers USA, The Legal 500 and *The Legal Media Group Guide to the World’s Leading Private Equity Lawyers*. He earned his J.D. at NYU Law.

I had an enjoyable breakfast recently with **Andy Barth** ’85 Business, a tireless supporter of the College. Andy was in NYC for a Business School event. I was thrilled to learn that his son, Andy Barth Jr. ’16, is starting CC this fall. He is a wrestler (following in his legendary dad’s footsteps) and football player. Andy told me that he did not start wrestling until he attended Stuyvesant H.S. He also told me that Columbia had a huge impact on his life and contributed greatly to his success. Andy is close friends with Li Lu ’96, ’96L, ’96 Business, a 2012 John Jay Award recipient. Andy attended the dinner and award ceremony in March.

Thomas Vinciguerra ’85 has an article in *Columbia* magazine’s summer issue on President Obama’s May 14 Barnard Commencement speech. Obama has a half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng ’93 Barnard. He spoke at South Field so the maximum number of students could attend. He wore a Columbia doctoral gown and Harvard hood. He remarked that when he attended Columbia some of the streets near

Columbia were not as “inviting” as now.

Tom asked me about ‘83’s hopes for Obama’s being at the 30th reunion or in the future. I responded: “As class correspondent for CCT and co-chair for the 30th reunion, I understand that many of our classmates experienced challenges attending Columbia in the 1980s. Having turned 50 this year, I am eminently aware of the fact that most life experiences are nuanced. The Class of 1983 has produced world leaders in finance (**Dan Loeb**, founder of Third Point), law (**Miguel Estrada**, argued 20 cases before the Supreme Court), technology (**Kai-Fu Lee**, former president of Google China), journalism (**Marcus Brauchli**, executive editor of *The Washington Post*) and politics (President **Barack Obama**). Undoubtedly, the tremendous success of these individuals and others highlights the benefits derived from Columbia’s outstanding education and unique urban experience. President Obama’s commencement speech at the Barnard [Commencement] this year was truly historic. The Class of ‘83 hopes that he continues to reconnect with his Columbia roots by attending our upcoming 30th reunion and embracing [alma mater] for the impact it has had on our lives.”

According to an article in *The New York Times* in May, **Dan Loeb** has gained a seat on the board at Yahoo! in the wake of chief executive Scott Thompson’s departure. As the article explains, “Mr. Thompson’s departure also signifies a victory for Third Point, the activist hedge fund that had discovered the executive’s erroneous record and had waged a bitter proxy fight to get its nominees onto Yahoo’s board. Under the terms of a settlement announced on Sunday, Third Point’s founder, **Daniel S. Loeb**, will gain a board seat, as will two of his designees, Michael J. Wolf and Harry Wilson.”

Dan also was in the *Times* in connection with his apartment. A June article, “Trophy Hunting in Manhattan,” which surveyed high-end real estate in NYC, noted that he “owns the largest penthouse in the taller ‘tower’ [at 15 Central Park West], which brokers in [the reporter’s] sample unanimously ranked among the Top 5 trophies.”

William Bivins has three shows that opened this summer: *Dude*, a one-act comedy about a straight guy’s reluctance to be best man at his gay college buddy’s wedding; *Celia Sh*ts*, a short comedy about what happens when all the mystery goes out of a relationship; and *The Education of a Rake*, a full-length comedy about sex, politics and one man’s crusade to gain equal rights for women.

I’m looking forward to helping organize our 30th reunion. Any classmates interested in participating in the planning or fundraising should contact me or the appropriate Alumni Office representative at the top of the column. It’s still early enough that you can help in the planning by joining the Reunion Committee. And of course put the dates on your calendar, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013.

84

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Yours truly and **Louis Vlahos** had the distinction of holding high our class banner during the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day on May 15. As reported over the years, this is an amazing experience where, after a sumptuous catered feast in John Jay Dining Hall (yes, it is possible), we march down the aisles to the applause and adulation of the graduating class. Makes one feel like a rock star, and truly gives a great sense of pride in the College. Louis was doubly blessed as his daughter, MaryAnn ’12, was one of those graduates.

Good luck at Columbia Dental School, MaryAnn!

And speaking of legacies, Eleanor, daughter of **Peregrine Beckman**, will join the Class of 2016 this fall and live in Carman. He writes, “We attended the Days on Campus event in April just to get her primed; she’s very excited. I also got to see my old roommate and great friend **Gregory Lynch**, who’s still in textbook publishing. I’m editing my fifth episode of *Deadliest Catch* right now and will soon move on to *Bering Sea Gold*, all for Discovery channel. I still listen to WKCR’s jazz programming every day and love having it online.”

From the Republic of Texas, Dr. **Langham Gleason** rides again! “Practicing neurosurgery with an emphasis on minimally invasive, image-guided techniques in Wichita Falls, Texas. I’m very excited that my second-oldest daughter, Kylie, is moving to NYC from Cambridge, Mass., to work for Bain & Co. I plan to visit her as often as I can! Just hope one of my other four, younger kids pick Columbia for undergraduate studies.”

Saul Hansell watched too much TV as a kid, and look what happened: He started Sii.TV, a company that will offer video news over the Internet. Saul, a longtime technology writer and editor at *The New York Times*, left in 2009 for AOL, where he ran several product areas. At the end of last year, he became an entrepreneur in residence at

Betaworks, a New York Internet incubator, and founded Sii.TV. “I had spent too much time watching other people start companies, and it was time for me to build something myself,” he says. “I’ve been excited about the possibilities of broadcast news since I worked at WKCR. The dawn of Internet television will let us create video news programs that are a lot more interesting, personal and interactive than the typical cable and network fare today.” Saul has built a demo app and shot a pilot episode with the help of two buddies from WKCR, Charles Passy ’85 and Eric Scholl ’83. Now he is raising the money so Sii.TV can take on CNN, FOX News and the rest.

“Oh, we’re moving on up...” with **Richard Manion**: “Since splitting with my business partner in 2009, my residential architectural firm has done well and now employs 20. I recently completed two apartments at Manhattan’s 15 Central Park West, have numerous projects in California and Hawaii, and also am designing residences in Singapore, Shanghai and Abu Dhabi. (I am in Singapore as I write this.) I also recently published a book on some of my works from the past 17 years; called *Richard Manion Architecture*, it’s part of the New Classicists series on architects whose work is traditionally inspired.”

Thank you, Richard, for gifting me your beautiful tome! I can attest that your work is amazing.

Saul Hansell ’84 started Sii.TV, a company that will offer video news over the Internet.

Wink wink, nod nod, wot? **Henry Goodrow** and **Ron Adelman** both headed to London in July for a reunion with their London School of Economics junior-year-abroad classmates. Henry is the development director at Artists For Humanity, a Boston nonprofit that provides urban high school teens with training and jobs in art and design. Ron is a litigator and transactional lawyer with Lynn & Cahill in New York, specializing in art law intellectual property and defamation.”

What’s new, **Tom Dyja**? (I had to ask.) He responded, “All I can give you is a shameless plug for one of my projects: Thames & Hudson recently published a book I packaged, *On the High Line: Exploring America’s Most Original Urban Park*. It has more than 400 color photos and the first guide to the High Line and the neighborhoods it passes through.”

At the prodding of the enterprising and eleemosynary **Mark Simon**, **Cary Pfeffer**, our noble

and modest salutorian, checks in: “I remain busy building new biotech companies as a partner at Third Rock Ventures. In that role I am interim CBO and CEO of new biotech companies we form, and also serve on the boards of many of these companies, which are all involved in developing breakthrough therapeutics for patients. I also recently completed writing the biotech chapter in Wharton Professor Lawton R. Burns’ second edition of *The Business of Healthcare Innovation*, so look for it on bookshelves. In addition, I enjoy spending time with my 7- and 10-year-old daughters, who are growing up too fast.”

Eh? Speaking of band guys who needed to seek asylum, **Robert Zecker** writes, “My latest book is recently published by Continuum. It’s called *Race and America’s Immigrant Press: How the Slovaks Were Taught to Think Like White People*. I still enjoy teaching at university in Canada.”

Oy! We have another grandfather in the class. **Mark Kestenbaum** says, “I married Johanna Friedman in 2004 and moved back to Israel with our seven children (four of mine, three of hers). Three years ago we had a beautiful daughter, Yocheved Kestenbaum. Also three years ago, I became a grandfather to a beautiful boy, Noam, born to my son and daughter-in-law, Itamar and Becky Kestenbaum. Six months ago I became a grandfather to a

beautiful girl, Eliana Serach, born to my son and daughter-in-law, Aharon and Hannah Kestenbaum. I own a company, ShtibLuach, which produces software for electronic display systems for synagogues. I also work for Datonet in Jerusalem as a software engineer.”

Gevalt! You, too, **David Rier**? “During the past 18 months or so, the other two-thirds of our triplets (both sons) each got married; one of them had twin girls last fall, and my daughter had another child, giving us our first grandson to complement our trio of granddaughters.”

Jim Knocke, **Mike McCool**, **Don Henline**, **Brian Clew** and **Rick Robinson**, all members of the Ivy Championship swimming and diving team, celebrated their 50th birthdays with a sailing trip in the British Virgin Islands. Brian writes, “Since graduation we have all stayed in touch but hadn’t seen each other in quite some time. After we settled into the 40-foot catamaran and started sailing to

the many beautiful islands, it was like we had seen each other last week. Aside from scuba diving and sailing, we discussed our families, goals and current events, like we were in a humanities class. The Core Curriculum experience was alive and well! We are looking to go on another trip in two years.”

David Stafford reports, “I was named general counsel of McGraw-Hill Education, which as publicly reported will be separated via spin-off or sale from The McGraw-Hill Companies later in 2012. I’ve spent the last 20 years as an attorney at The McGraw-Hill Companies. I’m in the process of transitioning to the new role. My wife, Caryn ’85 Barnard, and I live in Scarsdale with our three children. My son Daniel graduated from high school this spring and will be heading to the University of Arizona in the fall. My son Andrew finished ninth grade and my daughter, Allison, fifth grade.”

Who knew **David Terhune** was such a swinger? Listen to this slew of shows. “The musical revue in which I’m involved (guitar, sing), *The Loser’s Lounge*, performed at Lincoln Center’s Midsummer Night Swing series on July 12. This was our third time doing the series, and we featured songs from the Prince and Michael Jackson catalogs. We also played at Celebrate Brooklyn in the Prospect Park Bandshell on July 28. Did songs from the original *Muppet Movie* before a screening of that movie. Our shows at Joe’s Pub continue as well; we did a Sonny and Cher tribute June 21–23.”

Adding a bit of historical gravitas to the mix is **Adam Van Doren**: “I was pleased to return to campus last month to attend the annual Mark Van Doren Award reception, now in its 51st year, held in the penthouse of Faculty House. It was a great experience and the organizers could not have been more welcoming, especially Rose Razaighian ’02 GSAS, who works in the Office of the Vice President for Arts and Sciences. A large, lively crowd attended, and it was wonderful to see the recipient, philosophy professor Christia Mercer, give such an impassioned and eloquent acceptance speech. I remember when my widowed grandmother, Dorothy, would be picked up by limousine each year from her house in northwest Connecticut to attend the event in NYC. I am pleased to report that the enthusiasm and energy at this year’s ceremony is indicative of how relevant the award still is, and it bodes well for future such occasions. I urge as many alumni and current students as possible to come next year (the Lionel Trilling Award also is given

at this time); it is intensely rewarding to see how genuinely proud these teachers are to be celebrated and honored by their students. This award is one of a kind, and it is a credit to Columbia that it continues to provide the event with such strong support.” [Editor’s note: See Around the Quads, Summer 2012.]

And now a message from **Karl Citek** (quite the driven educator!): “I have been teaching at Pacific University College of Optometry for more than 17 years; I started as an assistant professor and was promoted up to full professor in 2006. On April 18, I was honored to receive a Target Zero Award in the area of impaired driving from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. I have been involved for more than 10 years in helping teach law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges about the effects of intoxication on eye movements and how police officers can detect impaired drivers. I have participated in similar teaching and training seminars in other states through the years. Bottom line: don’t drink or do drugs and drive; cab fare will always cost less, by every possible measure.”

Michael James reports that he left the Justice Department five years ago and is in-house counsel at GE Capital, where he manages litigation and investigations.

Gridiron reunion: **John Witkowski** says, “I was the featured speaker at the Columbia Gold Football Dinner in March, which gave me the opportunity to see many of my teammates and classmates who came to (I think) support me. It was also a great evening for the seniors, their parents, coaches and alumni. I thank **Joe Bossolina, Bill Reggio, Lester Brafman, John Magner, Tom Samuelson, Mike Bozzo, Larry Silo and Pat Conroy** — it’s been a few months, so I hope I didn’t forget any classmates — for being at the event. We had some laughs but more importantly are committed to getting together at CU events. Special thanks to Peter Leone ’83 and the football advisory committee for inviting me to speak.

“I have two boys in college. One is at Eckerd in St. Petersburg, Fla., studying economics. He is beginning his junior year and plays second base on the baseball team. My other son is beginning his sophomore year at John Carroll University, just outside of Cleveland. He is going to its Boler School of Business to major in accounting. He played quarterback for the JCU JV football team. We live in Orchard Park, N.Y., and my daughter played junior varsity basketball and soccer as an eighth-grader.”

Dear friend and host of our class’ 25th reunion party, **Dr. Doug Mintz**, recently tied the knot with

his beloved Lloyd Cheu in South Salem, N.Y. Doug, a musculoskeletal radiologist in Miami, and Lloyd, a kitchen designer who works with private clients in New York and Miami, reside in Miami Beach.

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Rich Froehlich was honored this spring by the Citizens Housing & Planning Council on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. Rich received the Roger Starr Public Service Award in recognition of his many achievements as the COO and general counsel of New York City Housing Development Corp. During Rich’s tenure, he has overseen more than 230 bond issues in

Dr. Adam Cohen ’86 was named the forthcoming editor of *Gesta*, the only journal in English dedicated to the study of medieval art and architecture.

helping HDC become the largest multi-family bond issuer in the nation. The introduction to the award noted, “Rich’s record speaks for itself” and he is “highly respected in the industry for his creative, ground-breaking interpretations.”

Well done, Rich!

Sebastian Sperber ’88L and his wife, Sally ’85 Barnard, are pleased to report that their daughter Sarah has been admitted to the Class of 2016. Sebastian and Sally live in England, where Sebastian is a partner at Cleary Gottlieb. “Things are still good here. The markets are much shakier given Europe’s woes, but we are still finding things to do.”

Pete Maloney was on and off campus for the last two years getting a certificate in business excellence from the Business School. It entailed no grades or tests and so, with apologies to Woody Allen, actually involved a full 100 percent of just showing up. Nonetheless, he took time to gambol around campus and relive yesteryear, including a one-man reenactment of the Apache Relays.

Michael Nagykery and his wife, Geraldine, sent me a photo of their son, Aslan, who has turned a whole 10 months young! “Little fellow has already been to five countries, spent a few months here in the States and recently went back to France to be with friends and family for the summer. He is happy, healthy and doing well, and his parents are of course thrilled!”

While traveling in the city, I ran

into **Paul Wiener**, who has worked in Legal Aid’s Criminal Appeals Bureau for more than 15 years.

On the night of the first Mets no-hitter in June, although I missed every pitch of the ballgame, I was just as pleased to attend the long overdue Kingsmen reunion. Thanks to Jed Bradley ’06 for his hospitality and the current group of ’smen for attending. Kingsmen spanning more than 50 years of Columbia history attended, making for a truly wonderful evening (and late night). I had met the current group (as irreverent as ever), and, thanks to my wife, Allison, we got them a gig at our local high school (showing middle school students the wonders of a cappella music). The entire alumni group, young and not as young, ran off a couple of numbers including one of the group’s signature hits, *Mary*

Anne; it didn’t sound half bad, especially considering some of us hadn’t done it in several decades. I was glad to hang out with everyone and especially with Phil Birnbaum ’86 and Abe Glazer ’88, who were my Kingsmen cohorts. We look forward to another gathering, including a larger contingent of the Kingsmen from the ’80s, in the next year or two.

For my personal update, the coffee business continues to evolve. Our company has grown significantly in the retail space, adding a wide variety of retail licenses to our portfolio, which has enabled us to offer our products in multiple club stores, major mass merchants and a wide range of supermarkets throughout the country.

On the home front, our son, Isaac ’14, worked again at CCIT this summer, doing website design and completion. While he had lived on campus last summer, we were pleased that this year he chose the life of a suburban commuter. (When here, he dedicated a lot of time to redesigning the *Spectator* website.) As for our other boys, Noah (16) spent his summer shuttling between a political science course at Stanford, a hiking trip in the Colorado Rockies and a week at track camp (where he is looking to better his sub-5-minute mile time). Josh (14) returned to his camp for the sixth consecutive summer (he calls it “home”).

And in a moment of truly personal glory, I threw out the first pitch at a Mets game at Citi Field in May.

(See nearby photo.) I neither threw it into the dirt nor over the catcher’s head (a bit high and inside, but it was an amazing experience). Josh and I have had several opportunities to have *Field of Dreams* moments, with a catch on the Citi Field outfield and time in the batting cage. If only it were Shea.

And finally, a gentle reminder that this column is only as good as your updates ... so please keep the news coming.

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Warwick Daw checked in with good news: “I’m thrilled to tell you that my daughter, Marguerite ’16, is starting at Columbia. She attended the same public high school I did in suburban St. Louis and now she will be attending the same college as well! She’s also thinking of being a physics major, as was I at that age, but then I made a big change junior year to ... ah ... mathematics. I think I’ve mentioned this before, but now I do research in statistical genetics at Washington University in St. Louis.”

Congrats to **Michael Purves** for being named chief global strategist and head of derivatives research at Weeden & Co., an institutional equity and fixed-income broker. Michael has definitely made the rounds. He was previously at BGC Financial and Pali Capital, two emerging market hedge funds, and spent 12 years in investment banking at S.G. Warburg, Merrill Lynch and RBC Capital Markets. He’s a graduate of the Wharton School (M.B.A.).

Donna Petty Christie emailed: “I had been planning to put in a word for female graduates after reading the article in CCT celebrating the 25th year of coed classes [Spring 2012]. Technically, there were female graduates of Columbia College prior to 1987: the transfer students! I was part of a small group of women who stood with all those male grads in May 1986 to receive our undergrad degrees. The imbalance of gender was never apparent in our classes — only on that day when all grads came together — very memorable. Since receiving a B.A. in economics I have earned an M.A. in educational administration from Montclair State University, married and had a family, and teach pre-school. I would love to hear from fellow ’86 grads who were transfer students with me (Susan from Oklahoma? Lisa from New Jersey?).

Dr. Adam Cohen is undertaking two new cooperative endeavors. Along with his wife, Linda Safran,

who also is a medieval art historian, he recently was named the forthcoming editor of *Gesta*, the only journal in English dedicated to the study of medieval art and architecture (published by the International Center of Medieval Art, based at The Cloisters). Of more interest to Columbians will be his position as new co-chair of the Ontario, Canada, chapter of the Alumni Representative Committee. He says, “I look forward to working with Karen Madorsky ’92 to help steer great students to Columbia.”

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Our 25th reunion! Words fail me. Do we start by talking about all the wondrous events and opportunities for reconnection and connection, like the amazing parties at **Kyra Tirana Barry** and **Dave Barry**’s house and at The Standard, New York? Or do we do a traditional linear narrative, starting with Thursday evening with the Barrys and continuing Friday with a report of some of the most amazing lectures I have heard in a long time — since school days, probably — including Carol Rovane’s lecture on Plato and Rousseau and Katharina Volk’s on happiness in Hellenistic philosophy? Or do we simply jump around and talk about reliving the old days by doing things like sitting on the Steps, hanging out with **Gerri Gold** and **Judy Kim** on Saturday afternoon? Since there is no ideal way (unless you believe unquestioningly in Plato), I thought I’d let some of the reunion attendees speak for themselves.

Cathy Webster writes, “Thursday night at the Barrys’ house — what a gorgeous event! And a beautiful evening all the way around. A highlight was catching up with two of my freshmen floormates, **Stavros Zomopoulos** and **Jane Bolgatz**, and reminiscing about the close bonds of our little corner of 6 McBain. Also enjoyed chatting with **Bruce Furukawa**, one of only a few of our lot who has actually set foot in Oklahoma.

“On Friday, I had a wonderful and extended evening that started at The Standard, New York, and ended at the Dream Hotel with dancing and partying into the wee hours. Loved catching up, if briefly, with **Elizabeth Schwartz Cohen**, who has held more or less the same professional position for 21 years with CNN, and with **Anne Cartwright**, with whom I exchanged iPhone photo albums of our kids. **George Stone** and I talked at length about the value

of French education, which was an unlikely conversation for both of us! **Ellen Sullivan Crovatto** bought me dinner. It was wurst, but really not bad.

“After lunch on Saturday with my BFF **Sarah Kass**, the Marching Band reception featured **Lee Ilan** and **Margaret McCarthy**, both with their partners, but Lee also had her gorgeous babe in tow. It was good to sit down and catch up for an extended stretch with them both.

“And at dinner, **Dick Dawson** and his wife, **Katy Tkach Dawson**, with whom I took freshman comp, were wonderful table companions. We talked a lot about food — Dick has become a chef in Cambridge, Mass. — and about our extended families and our kids.

“I ended the night with Glee Club members including **Shelley Friedland**, **Laurie Gershon**, **Farah Chandu** and more. We sang all the school songs we could remember, including all three official verses of *Sans Souci* and a couple of the naughty ones. My feet were too tired to dance under the stars, unfortunately, but I loved taking the 1 train late on a Saturday night. Some things still feel the same, all these years later.

“I also had warm chats with **Jon Nelson**, also 6 McBain, and **Michelle Estilo Kaiser** before and after dinner on Saturday night. Not to mention the engineers with whom I was so very happy to dine! Overall turnout was incredible, really.

“Plus, I went to Elaine Sisman’s talk on Don Giovanni. She is just as I remembered her: dynamic and vibrant and so incredibly smart. I was completely flattered that she remembered me by name.”

Farah Chandu writes: “Great idea to have joint CC and SEAS events! My husband, Paul Carbone ’86E, and I had a wonderful time with dear friends from both schools. Especially fun was gathering at the Sundial with other Glee Clubbers to sing official and decidedly non-official school songs. Amazing how many verses we remembered from 25 years ago! Thanks to all who helped arrange it — this felt more like a party for our real life, far-flung friends than it did a school reunion.”

Thoughts from **Christine Jamgochian Koobatian**: “I had a great time at our 25th reunion. I remember going to my dad’s [Peter Jamgochian ’63 GS] 25th Columbia reunion the spring before I started at Columbia and thinking to myself that everyone was soooooo old. Somehow we don’t seem nearly as old as they did, although the college kids would probably disagree!

“I spent time with four of my five college roommates: **Teresa Saputo**



CCT class correspondent Jon White ’85 threw out the first pitch at Citi Field for the Mets-Reds game on May 16.

Crerend, Michelle Estilo Kaiser, Lauren Alter Baumann and Donna Pacicca. We missed **Kerry Russell Hutson** ’87E but are planning our own reunion with her this fall. It was so good to see everyone. Teresa and I were sitting on the Steps and talking about how much Columbia feels like home to us. I’ll always feel that way. I live in Connecticut now with my husband and four kids, yet whenever we’re in the city we have to go past alma mater. I hope to make it back for Homecoming [Saturday, October 20; see Around the Quads] and other alumni events in the near future.”

Bruce Furukawa reported, “I had an amazing few days hanging out with my friends from college. While our appearances were different, the hearts and souls of the people I saw there were the same, and that was all that mattered. My only regret when I left was that I did not take advantage of the time when I was at school to get to know people I just met at the reunion.”

Ron Burton said, “Great reconnecting with old friends and, believe it or not, making new ones. Old enough to regale each other with stories of our kids’ accomplishments, but still young enough not to be sporting seersucker suits and straw hats. In short, the echoes were awakened!”

Here’s **Madeleine Villanueva**’s recap: “I, along with **Juliet (Rogers) Kaba** ’87E and **Chris Kane**, were part of outreach for Carman

6. The whole process for that was exciting ... trolling the web for contact info, getting the Alumni Office to provide a floor plan and enlisting the help of an ever-growing circle to track — in my case more like hunt — everyone down. **Dan Wery**, for example, responded: ‘Wow! Hi Madeleine! What a flash from the past. I can still hear you say “Papi!”’ **Deidre (Facendola) Altobell** ’87E said, ‘I received a message from one of my co-workers at Con Ed that the Class of ’87 is looking for me for the reunion. In effect, I was reconnecting long before the reunion.’

“It was touching that **Demetria Gallegos**, although busy with family obligations, came by campus to visit. We took advantage of the Columbia Alumni Center to chat comfortably while enjoying the coffee and muffins. **Aida Santiago** ’87E also maneuvered her schedule to join us. We’d reconnected in the past couple of years, but we hadn’t actually seen each other in 27! Diane Ridley-White ’88 crashed just to catch up with some of the old crew.

“I danced a good portion of the night away with **Rina Teran**. There also was the opportunity to make new connections. Friday night I received a text from Jennifer Duran ’97, saying ‘I met someone from ur class.’ Apparently, **Joongi Kim** had opted to hang with the ‘young folk’; on Saturday night we sought each other out. We recalled memories of **John Pennywell**, taken from

us way too early.

“Yet one of the most treasured moments from this weekend didn’t occur on campus. It was my trip with **Bill Hicks** to visit **Kevin Davis ’87E**, who could not join us due to health concerns. During virtually all four years at Columbia, we were a pretty tight trio. Kevin and I even rented a two-bedroom in Park Slope together after graduation. Yet, this was the first time in roughly 15 years that all three of us were together. The bond and love forged at Columbia has transcended time, distance and even lapses in communication. It was a truly awing experience.”

Christina Musrey said, “I had never been to a Columbia reunion and am so happy I went to this one! I came because my dear roommate, whom I love and am very connected to, and her lovely, assertive husband would not let me stay home. I am speaking of **Ellen (Sullivan) Crovatto** and **Chris Crovatto**. I also came to see **Gwen Dunaif**, whom I want to see whenever I can.

“When I arrived at LAX airport at 6 a.m., I heard, ‘Oh there she is!’ It was **Bill Hicks** and **Kevin Greber**. So, the reunion began a little early. The surprise was how many other friends I felt strongly about after the weekend ended. I spent time with **Ron Burton** and his beautiful wife; Kyle Kietrys ’89 and his incredible wife, **Jane Bolgatz**; **Cathy Webster**; and **Luis De Los Santos ’87E**. I danced the night away with **Ellen, Stavros Zomopoulos, Jose Calvo** and **Rina Teran**. Also with **Sandy Asirvatham**, who, along with her husband, Kevin, I and many others spent quality time with at all the events. I even visited their room in Carman Hall! That was a memory ... I am sure I am forgetting some names. I left feeling so appreciative of a chance at fun and youth, recollection and new beginnings. It was wonderful.”

Richard Simonds wrote, “I found our 25th reunion to be a surprisingly profound experience, not just reconnecting with classmates but also with the school itself. Other than the class dinner, the highlight was the presentation on Lit Hum by Christia Mercer, which brought back wonderful memories of the Core, and I’m happy to say that the intellectual philosophy of the Core is still going strong. It was good to see many of my Glee Club friends show up and to spend time with people whom I hadn’t known as well.”

Highlights of the reunion for **Joe Feuer**: “Reminiscing with **Bill Hicks** about our departed friend **John Pennywell**; touring the High Line and catching up over dinner with **Divya Singh** and **Sarah Kass**, who gave us frequent updates of

the first Mets no-hitter; hearing amusing stories over lunch about **Judy Kim**’s latest European adventures; having a mini-reunion with Hartley suitmates **Luis De Los Santos ’87E** and **George Stone**; making new friends with **Sandy Asirvatham** and her husband, Kevin, over wine and cheese; going to cool lectures on brain mapping and on the ancient philosophies of Epicureanism and Stoicism; giving a tour of the neighborhood and the campus to my girlfriend, capped off by a visit to my freshman dorm room in Carman for the first time in 25 years.”

From **Lee Ilan**: “I had a great time reminiscing and catching up with so many people. I’m continually impressed with what an interesting, diverse, funny group we are, aside from being good-looking and talented!

“My husband, Peter Engel, our daughter, Mavis, and I spent much time with **Laura Ting**, my Carman 13 (yay!) roommate, and her husband, **Kevin McGrattan ’87E**, who was a big hit at the class dinner. We were happy that so many College and Engineering friends attended and brought spouses/partners/kids. I didn’t attend any lectures, as I knew I’d want to spend the time yakking with classmates. My enthusiasm got the better of me, and I loudly sang College songs at the Sundial with fellow Glee Clubbers on Saturday night — thereby ruining my voice for the conferences I had to speak at later in the week.”

Lee also noted the Mets jersey I wore to the day events on Saturday in honor of Johan Santana’s no-hitter the night before. Lee told me, “It brought back memories of the street party on 114th when the Mets won the ’86 World Series.”

Since I know there are even more memories than can be recounted in this small space at one time, I leave the door open to all of you to continue to send reflections as they occur. And of course, keep sending regular updates, too!

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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88

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One of the perks of serving as class correspondent is the opportunity to hear from, and occasionally meet,

classmates I never got to know back in Morningside Heights. Having learned that **Giuliana Dunham Irving** and I work just a few blocks from each other in downtown Washington, D.C., I met her for lunch in her building, at the famously cosmopolitan World Bank cafeteria. In Giuliana’s own words, “After NYU Law School (J.D. ’92), I practiced law in New York City for six years (private practice) before moving to D.C. I spent eight years as a federal prosecutor, with both Main Justice (Criminal Division, Fraud Unit) and the United States Attorney’s Office. In 2006, I moved to the World Bank, where I am senior counsel for institutional administration. My husband, Michael, and I live in the District with our daughter Michela (6).”

Heather Richards Heller’s first Class Notes update comes from the Pacific Northwest: “I figured after 24 years, I should participate!” she said. “I traded in the hustle and bustle of New York City for the tranquility of central Oregon, where I am the community development director for a town nestled in the Cascade Mountains. World-class skiing, fly-fishing and rafting entertain me now. I am also the proud mother of two, Hadleigh (7) and Sam (9), who saw Columbia University for the first time this summer when we sojourned back to NYC.”

Prolific children’s book author **Laura Dower ’89** is finishing up another book series for Hyperion/Disney.

I am sad to belatedly note that **Nancy McAadoo** passed away on January 15, 2011, in Medford, Mass. Nancy had been living in the Boston area since graduation. Most recently she worked for Management Sciences for Health, a Cambridge-based international nonprofit organization, as its communications/knowledge exchange content manager. Nancy had a love of music and the performing arts; she danced and played three instruments. She also had an abiding interest in social justice, women’s rights and the environment that pervaded her personal and professional life. Nancy was 44.

Thanks for your updates and please keep sending them. Don’t forget that 2013 is our 25th reunion year, so start planning your trips. The dates are Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. In the meantime, to ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about it, please update your contact information online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488). Also,

if you’re interested in joining the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend’s events, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

89

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I ran into **Patrick Nolan** at Book Expo America in New York in June. It’s always great to see a familiar face in the crowd at the Javits Center and sometimes I’m lucky enough to cross paths with Patrick — a calm person in the midst of the trade convention frenzy.

Patrick has worked in book publishing for many years and last April he was named v.p., editor-in-chief and associate publisher of Penguin Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA). For the past 12 years, Patrick has been the director of trade paperback sales contributing to the success of such bestsellers as *Eat, Pray, Love*; *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter*; *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*; *The Secret Life of Bees*; *The Kite Runner*; and *The Help*. The long list of bestsellers he’s worked on also includes hardcovers from Charlene Harris, Laurell K. Hamilton and J.R.

Ward. Patrick, who earned a graduate degree from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, started his publishing career as a fiction buyer for Waterstone’s Booksellers in Boston. Prior to joining Penguin he worked at Houghton Mifflin and Hyperion/Disney.

Also at Book Expo in New York, I ran into prolific children’s book author and mom of three **Laura Dower**, who is finishing up another book series for Hyperion/Disney. We exchanged working-mom tales of love and woes, with an emphasis on the shared “Who ever thought we’d be this harried?” feeling, though Laura looks as poised as ever and still wears her generous smile. She is the author of more than 70 books for young adults, including the series *From the Files of Madison Finn* and the book *Rewind*. Laura lives in New York with her husband and children. If you have school-age kids who love to read, check out her website, lauradower.com.

Robert B. Kaplan, formerly chief of the asset management unit of the

Macky Alston ’87 Fights for Equality Through Film

BY YELENA SHUSTER ’09

Filmmaker **Macky Alston ’87** spent the past four years shooting at locations around the world, sleeping on the floors of friends of friends and Skyping with his husband and two children while working 12-hour production days during month-long absences. Despite raising \$1 million for his project, he hasn’t been paid a cent. Yet he’s smiling.

Alston’s satisfaction is due to the documentary he spent almost half a decade directing. *Love Free or Die* chronicles the struggles of New Hampshire’s Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the global Anglican Church, as he seeks acceptance in the face of worldwide controversy and death threats. From scenes of Robinson’s invocation at President Barack Obama ’83’s inaugural ceremony to decorating the Christmas tree at home with his husband, the film offers a full picture of the trailblazing man behind the robe.

Alston’s steady camera follows Robinson’s attempts to advance LGBT acceptance from America’s small-town churches to England’s 2008 Lambeth Conference (from which Robinson was banned). In a particularly dramatic scene, the bishop’s preaching is interrupted by a heckler screaming “heretic” over and over until the congregation begins singing hymns to drown him out.

“Making this film will be something I’ll be able to tell my grandchildren about,” Alston says as we sit in the bustling Caffè Reggino, a few blocks from his sunny West Village apartment. “The only reason I’ll even

have grandchildren is because of historic people like Gene who stood up and fought for my liberation.”

Critics agree about the film’s impact: *Love Free or Die* won the Documentary Special Jury Prize for an Agent of Change when it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

Alston, an animated storyteller who would not be mis-cast in front of the lens, is no stranger to accolades. He received Emmy nominations for his earlier films, *The Killer Within*, *Hard Road Home* and *Family Name*; the last also won the Sundance Freedom of Expression Award in 1997 and scored him appearances on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and

The Today Show.

The awards circuit, however, does not guarantee extravagant living. “Except for the 1 percent, documentary filmmakers don’t survive on documentary filmmaker wages,” Alston says. When not filming, he is the media director at New York’s Auburn Theological Seminary, which is where he met Robinson.

For his part, Robinson knew no one else could do justice to his story. “You don’t let someone put your own life up on the screen unless you have a kind of implicit trust, and I really felt that with Macky,” he says. “I love the film and how empowered people feel, after seeing it, to make a difference themselves in the lives of LGBT people.”



Filmmaker Macky Alston ’87 accepts the Documentary Special Jury Prize for an Agent of Change for *Love Free or Die* at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, on January 28.

PHOTO: JEMAL COUNTNESS/GETTY IMAGES

Like many artists unsure of their calling, Alston spent his post-college years trying out different canvases. He worked first as a museum researcher, then made collage art, taking photos wherever he went and selling his work on the street (and in one lucky break, to *Newsday*). At 25, he got a low-paying job as a production assistant for a documentary and has been creating art through film ever since.

Alston notes the impact of the Core Curriculum on his career. “Being a documentary filmmaker means I’m a journalist and a generalist. I rely on the liberal arts education that I got at Columbia every day of work,” he says. In fact, Alston applied early: It was love at first campus tour. “Walking into campus was like walking into Shangri-La,” he explains. “It was a thrill to think my story could play out in such a beautiful, epic context.”

Even with the accolades, the work of documentary filmmaking can feel endless. In addition to festivals around the world, Alston plans to show *Love Free or Die* at 500 community-based screenings before its national broadcast on PBS in November.

The long hours, however, don’t bother him: “To be screening this in the states where there are ballot measures this year, I feel like I made something that can not only depict history but also impact history.”

To view the trailer, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Yelena Shuster ’09 is a freelance writer whose work has been featured on *Cosmopolitan.com*, *Refinery29.com* and in *New York magazine*.

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Division of Enforcement, has joined Debevoise & Plimpton as a litigation partner resident in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. He will advise Debevoise clients in a broad range of securities-related enforcement and compliance issues.

While at the Division of Enforce-

ment, Robert won several prestigious awards for his service, including the Chairman’s Award for Excellence and the Arthur F. Matthews Award. Prior to joining the SEC, he was a litigation associate at the New York office of a Philadelphia law firm. He earned a J.D. from NYU.

Jill Pollack Lewis took a break

from her job hosting the second season of her Canadian HGTV show (shooting in Vancouver), *Consumed*, to catch the Broadway musical *Book of Mormon* in New York with her husband, Jeff. A funny CC reunion happened as **Matthew Fox** and his wife, Margarita, sat down behind her right before the curtain rose!

Matt Engels visited Boston recently and we caught up. Matt looks the same and enjoys his work as v.p. of Network Solutions for CorVel Corp., a national workers’ compensation managed care and claims management leader. He and his wife, Beth, and their two young children live in Chicago.

Matt reported that **Amy Weinreich Rinzler**, her husband, Brad, and their two children recently visited him and his family; they live in New York.

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In the “most remote location” category, **Gemma Tarlach** wrote from Antarctica. “As I type this, I am back for my second austral winter season at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. [Editor’s note: See January/February 2011 issue.] Thanks to the Internet, I’ve been able to get my dark historical novel *Plaguewalker* published and available in paperback and e-book formats while living at the bottom of the world. *Plaguewalker* (shameless plug: available at Amazon and also at BN.com for Nook readers) is set in 14th-century Bavaria and told from the point of view of its protagonist, an amoral executioner. Things go from bad to worse for Marcus when a little thing called the Black Death arrives in town. It is not a romantic comedy. It will never be made into a movie starring Julia Roberts. That said, it’s been getting reviews from total strangers positive enough to make me blush. You can read the first chapter at plaguewalker.com. For anyone who says it’s too dark, I say: spend six months with me here in Antarctica without sunlight and then we’ll talk about what’s ‘too dark.’

“After my 14 months in 2010–11 on the ice, I had to leave (National Science Foundation rules: you can’t stay here on ice planet Hoth more than 14 months at a time), so I ended up hiking around Tasmania, Australia, where it rained. Every. Single. Day. I had leeches in my tent, my clothes and my hair. That said, it was a beautiful place and I got to meet lots of Tasmanian devils (love them!), wallabies, kangaroos and wombats. I even held a juvenile wombat; it was like cuddling with a furry sandbag.

“The other highlight of my off-ice time was meeting New Zealand All Blacks rugby star Brad Thorn at a fan event in Christchurch just after the All Blacks won the Webb Ellis Cup. He said, ‘Do you want to touch the cup?’ (He was holding it.) And I replied, ‘Can I touch you instead?’ He was gracious about it, though I suspect he was ready to call security when I wouldn’t let go. I love Kiwis.

“As for what’s next, I have a few irons in the fire, as always. I have two more novels in the publishing queue, for starters, and some ideas about what to do when I leave

the ice later this year, but nothing definitive. To quote David Bowie, ‘I don’t know where I’m going from here, but I promise it won’t be boring.’”

Gemma, I assure you on behalf of our class that your updates are never boring!

Directly from Tenders Info’s May news bulletin (because it said it better than I could): “GAMCO Investors awarded the Graham & Dodd, Murray, Greenwald Prize for Value Investing to **William von Mueffling** [’95 Business], managing partner and chief investment officer at Cantillon Capital Management, during its 27th annual client conference in New York. Known as the Gabelli Prize, the annual prize honors an individual, student or practitioner who has made an outstanding contribution to enlarge the field of value investing.

Amee Manges ’90 is an associate professor in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia.

“William is founder and CEO of Cantillon, where he manages more than \$1 billion in long-only assets. Prior to founding Cantillon in 2003, he was a managing director for hedge funds at Lazard Asset Management, where he managed their European opportunities and worldwide opportunities hedge funds. Before joining Lazard, he was with Deutsche Bank in Germany and France. William is also a special adviser at Industry Capital Management, a member of the Board of Overseers of the Business School and a trustee at French American Cultural Exchange.

“Bruce C.N. Greenwald, who heads the Heilbrunn Graham & Dodd Research Center at the Business School and who leads the Gabelli Prize selection committee, said, ‘William’s contribution as chair of the executive advisory board of the Heilbrunn Center has been immeasurable, and his investment skills and his consistent application of Graham & Dodd’s principles to the investment process have enabled him to make countless contributions to the program.’”

And now, back to me. William, congratulations on this impressive award.

It was great to get email from **Erika Rogers Marino**, who reports, “My husband, Nick Marino, and I and our beautiful girls live happily in Stamford, Conn. Melissa Eva turns 7 in September and Rachel Alexis is 4. A recently retired federal agent and a guitar player and singer since the age of 12, my

husband now spends a lot of time playing. I am not only his agent, publicist and manager, booking him at gigs, but I also handle these same tasks for another local musician. My husband recently performed with my cousin and bluegrass performer extraordinaire Roger Sprung. I was on the sailing team at Columbia but with little kids have found it easier to take up boating in Long Island Sound, which we do as often as the weather permits. See everyone at our next reunion, if not sooner.”

I am thinking that Dr. **Wei-Nchih Lee** might have more letters after his name than anyone else in our class. If I am wrong, let me know so I can correct the record. In June, Wei-Nchih added Ph.D. to the M.D. and M.P.H. that follow “Lee.” He also added California resident to his resume in 2007 when, after eight

years of practicing and teaching internal medicine at New York Medical College and itching to try something new, he packed up his wife and child and moved to Palo Alto to start Stanford’s Biomedical Informatics doctoral program. In these intervening five years, he also added a second child to his family. Don’t go looking for Wei-Nchih in a lecture hall, though. Instead, you’ll find him at Hewlett Packard Labs (also in Palo Alto) as a senior research scientist, continuing his work in big data analysis in medicine and medical decision support systems.

Amee Manges is another West Coast transplant. She’d been a professor in infectious disease epidemiology at McGill since 2004 but recently made the move to the University of British Columbia as associate professor in the School of Population and Public Health. She and her husband have three boys: Oakley (9), Jasper (4) and Tilden (1).

Amee would love to reconnect with classmates, so please look her up.

Does everyone remember **David Mandell**, member of the varsity fencing team? It appears he got hit by the 40-something-year itch and has become a runner. He recently completed his first 10-mile race and is training for the Philadelphia Marathon in November. Maybe the marathon route goes past his office at Penn. In July, David became the director of the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research in the Department of Psychiatry. Most of his research is on improv-

ing quality of care for people with autism. He also is an associate professor of psychiatry at Penn, where he has the pleasure of teaching undergrads and mentoring doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows.

Melissa Michelson; husband, Christopher Gardner; and sons, Joshua (6) and Zachary (4); live in Palo Alto with their three cats, two dogs and five chickens. Melissa is a political science professor at Menlo College and has co-authored a book, *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate Through Get-out-the-Vote Campaigns*, which came out this summer. She also knits a lot.

Up until recently, in my job as an admissions officer at Johns Hopkins, my professional life was starting to intersect with our classmates’ personal lives, as some of you are beginning the college search process with your children. Take **Beth Kissileff**, for example. On a spring college tour with her rising senior daughter, she realized just how much life has changed since we were heading to college. (So true! I listened to my first CD in Music Hum freshman year and now they barely exist.) Beth, her husband and three daughters relocated to Pittsburgh in August 2010 after many years of teaching at Smith, Mt. Holyoke, University of Minnesota and Carleton. Her first book will be published in 2013 by Continuum. Per Beth, “It is an anthology of academic writers using some aspect of their professional expertise to write on the Biblical book of Genesis. Dr. Ruth Westheimer is writing on ‘it is not good for man to be alone...’ — you get the idea. I am also working on an Exodus volume.”

Beth primarily works as a freelance writer these days. She has a piece about her urban Pittsburgh neighborhood on the Motherlode blog on nytimes.com. She also has completed a novel, and once that is published, we might find her back in the classroom.

It was 13 years ago that **Josh Masur** moved to the Bay Area to practice intellectual property law; he now is a partner with Turner Boyd, a patent litigation boutique in Mountain View, Calif. He and his wife, Shelly, have three children, Julia (15) and twins Jacob and Noah (12). Shelly is running for county supervisor for San Mateo County, and their kids are competitive skiers. When I learned that Josh is a ski patroller at Alpine Meadows and legal adviser to the Eastern Sierra Region of the National Ski Patrol, I marveled at the power of genetics. (Or is it nurture? Discuss.) He said that after more than 20 years, he finally got to see and ski with **Gabriel Kra** this past season.

I wonder if these guys know

what **Marc Levarn** is up to. He wrote to say, “Quite a bit has been happening with me during the past 22 years. With the exception of one year away for graduate school, I’ve been living in the ski resort town of Vail, Colo. At first I was a classic ski town resident who lived to ski, but during the past two decades I’ve evolved into a husband, father and business owner. My wife, Maria, and I met in Vail in 1992. We have two daughters, Marina (10) and Silvia (8). Our whole family enjoys skiing and living next to the wilderness of the high Rockies. In 2006, my brother-in-law and I opened an art gallery in Vail Village, the Vail International Gallery (vailgallery.com). I’d been working in the gallery business first as a salesperson and later as a gallery director, so it was a natural step to open our own and, as they say, so far so good.

“I enjoy keeping up with some friends from the swim team and Phi Ep. Two years ago I travelled to Seattle to visit with Phi Ep friends Brian Trisler ’92, **John Temple** and Dan Miron to celebrate the successful sale of John and Brian’s business. Anyone visiting Vail is welcome to drop by and say hello.”

In the future Columbian department, a hearty “congratulations” goes out to **June Matsukawa** on the March 1 birth of her daughter, Mika McConnell. Mika’s parents and brother, Yohji, are most pleased with their addition.

Rounding up this lengthy column — and thank you to everyone who submitted an update! — is a word about **Miriam Lefkowitz**, who wrote from New Jersey, her home since 2002. She has arranged her life in such a way that she can spend significant time with her husband, Marc Heimowitz, and their children, ages 12, 10 and 8, while also working part-time as general counsel for an asset manager in Manhattan. She has a financial services compliance consulting practice on the side, too.

Now that this column is complete, tell me if you noticed any themes. Whoever contacts me first with the correct answer(s) wins a prize. (Note my new email address, at the top of the column.) Happy fall and back to school to all.

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Hello, all! I recently caught up with **Tom Yang**, his wife, Mary, and their three adorable children. Tom is an attorney with Haynes and Boone in Dallas and is doing well. We all

met up at the beautiful home of Claudia Pak Choi ’96, ’98 SIPA and her husband, Henry Choi ’94, with whom I do alumni interviews as part of the Alumni Representative Committee.

Mary Zamore sent in this update: “It has been a wonderful and full year. In addition to my responsibilities as a congregational rabbi at Temple B’nai Or in Morristown, N.J. (come visit if you live nearby), I designed, edited and contributed to a book! *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic* has spurred a rich discussion throughout the Reform Movement concerning the intersection between ritual, ethics and food. My Columbia friends have been super-supportive throughout the process. A special shout-out to Elana (Goltsman) Altzman ’90, her husband, Jerry Altzman ’90, **Rob Scheinberg** and **Dana Fenlon-Wu**.”

I also heard from **Susie Wood**, who says, “I’m one of the one million people who lost power in the recent storm that hit D.C. And in the middle of that, I was preparing to leave for my first assignment with the Foreign Service. I’ll be the information officer (press attaché) for the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I’m very excited about my new career as a diplomat. My family will join me. My husband is a conservation biologist and I have two daughters, ages 3 and 7. I know it is a long shot but if any Columbians are coming through Central Asia, please look me up!”

Donald Rollock, husband of **Virginia Cornish**, wrote to let us know that she was appointed the Helena Rubinstein Professor of Chemistry, which is a named chair in the Department of Chemistry at Columbia. Congratulations, Virginia! [See Around the Quads.]

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. Until next time ... cheers!

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That was some reunion. We crammed so many events (official and unofficial) into just a few days. It was simultaneously dizzying, breathtaking and a heck of a lot of fun. And I’ll bet, like me, you didn’t manage to catch up with everyone you wanted to.

I guess we’ll just have to do it even bigger and better for No. 25 in five years, and catch up with those we missed this time.

Here’s what I can report. Although a work function prevented me from attending the opening night cocktail party on Thursday,

on Friday I attended the cocktail party at MoMA, ably hosted by **Josh Siegel**. The evening had been billed as a cocktail party followed by screenings of several short films with a Columbia theme. As the cocktail party pressed into its third hour, though, it became clear that people were having so much fun reconnecting that there was no need to break for the films — and on we went.

Among the many I spotted and chatted with at the party were **John Thompson**, **Jonathan Henick**, **Quinn Kayser-Cochran** (and his wife, Carrie Kayser-Cochran ’92 Barnard), **Richard Bernard** (an attorney at Foley & Lardner in New York City), **David Weisoly** (a neonatologist in Dallas), **Nomi Levy-Carrick**, **Evan Ambinder**, **Ben Lawsky**, **Patricia Ireland** and **Olivier Knox**. Olivier, Yahoo! News’ White House correspondent, provided two of the night’s more entertaining stories — the first about being treated for food poisoning in the medical bay of Air Force One while in flight, and the second about how he and younger brother Christophe ’95 had, without consulting and without realizing it, named their sons Felix and Oscar. Somewhere, Neil Simon is smiling.

Saturday was the busiest day of the reunion. Four events in 10 hours will do that to you, and I doubt I attended more than many of you. I started by joining fellow members of the *Columbia Daily Spectator*’s 115th managing board for lunch at V&T. Special thanks to (former) editor-in-chief **Kirsten Danis**, who now is at *The Wall Street Journal*, for organizing the event. In addition to Kirsten, former managing editor **Catherine Thorpe** and news editors **Kirsten Fermaglich** and **Kris Kanthak** were present. We were joined by **Kirsten Danis**’ husband, Robert Kolker ’91, and their two children as well as by **Andrew Vladeck**, who had been a stellar photo editor for the 113th managing board.

Next up was a reception thrown by the Athletics Department for returning athletes and, thankfully for me, sports journalists. I was pleased to see former Lion athletes **Joan Campion**, **Deirdre Flynn** (who has successfully rehabbed a torn ACL — congratulations!), **Cliff Blaze** and **Ana Blaze**, among others, reconnecting with coaches and athletic administrators not far from the entrance to Dodge Physical Fitness Center.

There were several pre-parties for the main event dinner on Saturday, one of which was a fundraising gathering for **Eric Garcetti**, who is well into his campaign for mayor of Los Angeles. This proved to be a great opportunity to connect with classmates from Barnard and

Engineering as well. Among other attendees, I saw **Peter Hatch**, **Andy Contiguglia**, **Wah Chen** and **Frank Au**, who had traveled from Hong Kong. I am pretty sure that sets the distance record for this reunion, but please let me know if you can top it.

The dinner proved to be the centerpiece of the weekend. From our vantage point on top of SIPA, we had an excellent view of campus and the surrounding areas as well as an ideal spot to continue catching up not only with each other but also with our Engineering classmates, some of whom were in attendance. That certainly allowed for a mini-reunion of the 13th floor of John Jay from 1988–89, as I chatted with **Neo Antoniadis** ’92E, an associate professor of engineering science and physics at the College of Staten Island, as well as **Justin Hellman** and **Ilusha Bernstein**, who made cameos at the dinner. There was also plenty of time to chat with **Laura Lopez**, **Heather Benson**, **Jamshed Zuberi** ’92E, **Chris Watanabe**, **Alex Oberweger** and — those seated at my table — **Quinn Kayser-Cochran** and his wife, Carrie, **Richard Bernard**, **Will Jackson** and his wife, Arwen, **Rob Carey** and **Frank Cicero**.

At the dinner, **Peter Hatch**, who led the Reunion Committee, announced that we had broken the fundraising record for a 20-year reunion (previously \$430,000, set by the Class of 1989). Our total? A smashing \$570,000 (which climbed to \$575,000 by the end of the fiscal year). The Class of 1993 has its work cut out for it. We were treated to a stellar slideshow featuring then- and-now pictures going all the way back to our Freshman Facebook (yes, *that* Facebook). Many kudos to **Andy Contiguglia** and those who helped him put that together; it was truly a highlight of the evening.

All in all, a fantastic weekend. Let’s do it again in five years. If you missed it this time, we’d love to see you then. Cheers.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**
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A big thank-you to everyone who submitted updates for this edition. We start with news from **Amy Longo**, who is a litigation partner

in the financial services practice group of O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles. Amy recently became an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, Calif., where she teaches electronic discovery practice. Amy's husband, Steve Pesce, is head of post-production for Zizo Group in Santa Monica, Calif., where he has been working on the TV show *Raising an Olympian*, airing in conjunction with the London 2012 Olympics. Amy and Steve have two sons, Leo and Renzi, who are 4 and almost 3, respectively, and attend preschool in Santa Monica.

I heard from **Jeff Kelly**, who lives in Georgia with his wife and four children. Jeff is a consumer bankruptcy attorney and recently attended the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys convention in San Antonio, where he reconnected with Alfredo Avelos '96E, who owns a construction business in that city. Jeff writes, "We had a great time talking about our days on the Columbia cross-country and track teams."

Gary Heidt, who was the station manager of WKCR our senior year, has been busy since we graduated. Gary wrote that he's "releasing a line of soon-to-be-classic novels as e-books for sale on the Kindle platform. DIRT e-books can be found at dirtebooks.wordpress.com. Our initial six novels are dirt cheap, priced under \$4." Gary has spent the last seven years as a literary agent with Signature Literary Agency, representing clients such as Charles Yu '01L and the Church of the SubGenius. Since graduation Gary also has performed extensively on the improvised music scene with Daniel Carter and Sabir Mateen, his plays have been performed in NYC and Europe, his poetry has appeared in many journals and in an anthology, his music (with groups such as Mammals of Zod, Tender Buttons and Fist of Kindness) has been played on radio around the world, he has performed in 17 annual installations of a 67-year performance piece and he recently directed a play about Margaret Mead '23 Barnard, '28 GSAS in Leipzig, Germany.

Wow. And good luck with your new endeavor, Gary!

Congratulations to **Kevin Connolly** and his wife, Laura, who welcomed their first child, Clarabel Rose, on May 17.

With fall upon us, it is hard to believe it has been 20 years since we began our senior year at Columbia. I hope many of you will return to Morningside Heights to attend our reunion next June. It will be great to reconnect with old friends, see how the campus has changed, hear from leading professors and

innovative classmates, reminisce about the Core Curriculum, visit old haunts (even if The West End and Cannon's as we knew them are no more) and relive some of the fun from Senior Week 1993 (note to the Reunion Committee: perhaps an *Intrepid* party?). If you'd like to get involved in the planning, please contact the appropriate staff member, as noted at the top of the column.

And as I mentioned in my last column, please also consider contributing to our Class Gift in honor of this upcoming milestone. Give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline or by calling 212-851-7488, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

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Congratulations to **Chris Schmidt** and his wife, Jen, a Manhattan sex crimes prosecutor, who welcomed baby No. 4 to the Schmidt family on May 11, with the arrival of Katherine Mae. She joins Charlotte (7), Johnny (5) and Isabella (16 months). Chris recently started his 19th year with the New York Police Department, adding, "I've been a lieutenant since 2003 and continue to happily work the streets of Harlem and Washington Heights. Yes, I can retire in 20 months after 20 years on, but with four mouths to feed, that is a fleeting fantasy. Anyway, with four healthy kids, life is good and I am truly fortunate."

Bruce Curtis wrote in for the first time, noting that he lives in Austin, Texas, and loves it. He's a construction supervisor for custom home builder Ford Strei Builders and also is reinvigorating a print brokering business (curtisprinting.net), working primarily with a colleague in China. "I live in a 1907 house (old for Texas), which I gutted and rebuilt and operate as a B&B now and then," Bruce writes. "No family yet. Come visit! Break-fast tacos and BBQ await."

Bruce is eager to hear from fellow Columbia alums at bruce.e.curtis@gmail.com.

Here's a nice update from **Elliot Regenstein**, who did some world traveling this spring. First, he went to Guam for three days of work, culminating in an Early Learning Summit, where he presented. He spent time with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and First Lady Christine Calvo, who co-chairs the Guam Early Learning Council. Then he

traveled to Paris to celebrate his 10-year wedding anniversary. His kids are doing well, and daughter Zoe (8) became a huge NBA fan this year. "Not sure how that happened," Elliot writes. "Although environmental factors may have been an influence."

Thanks to all for the terrific updates. Please keep them coming! Catch you next time.

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Colleen Bassett and **Brian Bassett** live in Charlottesville, Va., with their two girls. The family moved from London about 2½ years ago. On the day Colleen and I emailed, their older daughter was finishing kindergarten; their younger daughter is 3½. Colleen is an interior designer at Stedman House and Brian manages his asset management company.

Anna Hemnes has continued her journey south. After college, she headed to Baltimore for medical school, residence and fellowship. She then moved to Nashville in 2006 to join the faculty in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Vanderbilt. Anna mostly does research on pulmonary arterial hypertension, a rare lung disease, and cares for patients with the disease. Her husband is a neurosurgeon and they have three kids, twins Emma and Olivia (6) and son Benjamin (4). "I never thought I would move to the South, but I love it here and have even occasionally used the phrase 'y'all' in conversation," Anna writes.

I hope these updates from our freshman floor, Carman 10, will inspire others to send news.

Like Anna, **Emily Hu** is a physician. She moved west for her residency in ob/gyn at Stanford, which she finished in 2004, and has been in San Francisco ever since, working in private practice. She and her husband, John Tang '96L, have two sons, Derek (1½) and Morgan, born in May.

Tony Andrione lives in Severna Park, Md., with his wife of eight years and their two boys, William (4½) and Bennett (8 months). Last spring he finished his 17th year as a high school English teacher. "I still love every minute of it, but I'm looking to make the move to administration within the next couple of years," Tony writes.

I ran into another Columbia friend a few months ago at Bloomberg News, where I work. It has been great to reconnect with Shahrzad Elghanayan '94, who has

been working at Bloomberg as a freelance photo editor. She also is writing a biography/memoir about the life and death of her grandfather, Habib Elghanayan, an Iranian-Jewish industrialist who was the first businessman executed during the Iranian revolution in 1979.

Prior to joining Bloomberg, Shahrzad spent eight years at the AP as supervisor on the news photo desk. She lives in New York with her fiancé, Douglas J. Rowe, just a few blocks away from me on the Upper West Side.

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Greetings classmates! Only a bit of news for you this time.

Josh Mandelberg lives in Westwood, Calif., with his wife, Robyn, and daughter, Emily (5). Josh recently completed a fellowship in developmental-behavioral pediatrics at UCLA and now is in private practice in West Los Angeles. He evaluates children and helps manage their care for concerns such as autistic spectrum disorders, ADHD, learning disabilities and anxiety disorders. Josh also is a clinical instructor of pediatrics at UCLA.

I recently ran into **Adam "Tex" Beshara** in the Hamptons, where I was impressed to see he was wearing a Columbia T-shirt, representing alma mater well. After almost 15 years at J.P. Morgan, Adam left recently to become a partner at Centerview, a private equity and M&A advisory boutique in New York City.

I urge you all to send in more notes. Your classmates love to read about fellow CC '96ers, so please keep the news flowing! I leave you with this for now:

"It requires less mental effort to condemn than to think."

— Emma Goldman

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I had a wonderful time catching up with classmates at our 15th reunion, among them **J.D. Alfone**, **Laura Chittick**, **Luisa Cruz**, **Raji Kalra**, **Zaharah Markoe**, **Joshua Meyers**, **Maggie Osdoby Katz**, **Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio**, **Eva Subotnik** and **Andrew Wu**. It was so much fun to be on campus during the day with my son, Micah (2½), and have him meet and play with other classmates' children, and then to come back in the evening and join everyone for cocktails, dinner and

conversation. What a lovely time!

Raji Kalra took the plunge and bought an apartment in NYC, so she finally owns a piece of Manhattan!

Kerri (Bauchner) Stone writes: "On June 20, my husband, Josh, and I became the proud parents of Dylan Jacob, the love of our lives. I also recently found out that I received tenure; I am now a tenured law professor at the Florida International University College of Law."

Rachel (Adame) Anderson writes, "I missed the reunion because I had a baby. My husband, Cuyler, and I welcomed Maxwell Mark on April 13. Sister Madeline likes him pretty well."

Boris Kachka and Jamie Elizabeth Ehrlich were married in April at the powerHouse Arena, an arts and event space in Brooklyn. Cantor Ronald Broden officiated. Boris is a contributing editor at *New York* magazine.

Nathan "Natie" Fox and his wife, Michal (née Agus) '97 Barnard, live in Englewood, N.J., with their children, Noam (12), Kira (12), Nili (9) and Mia (6). Natie is a maternal fetal medicine specialist (a.k.a. high-risk obstetrician) in NYC and Michal is the school psychologist in the Ramaz Lower School, also in NYC.

Rebecca Braverman and her husband, Ryan Olson, welcomed a son, Ari Benjamin, in August 2011. Happy belated first birthday, Ari!

Joshua Schank writes, "I am president and CEO of the Eno Center for Transportation, a 90-year-old nonprofit transportation policy think tank in Washington, D.C. I live on Capitol Hill with my wife, Lindsey, and sons, Max (4), and Jonah (2). I recently saw **Paul Tuchman** and **Ben Greenbaum** on a trip to New York and was reminded, as I often am, of fond memories of Columbia."

Josh Ross returns to Columbia this fall to pursue a master's in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at GSAS.

Nina Covalessky starred in a short film by Mercı Entertainment, *The Plan*, which premiered in this year's Cannes Film Festival's Short Film Corner and was on the schedule for various film festivals around the country during the summer (theplanshortfilm.com).

Eva Burmeister recently was appointed to the violin section of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Eva has been a member of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra and an associate member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

M. Omar Chaudhry and his wife, Samiyah Ali, are learning about the mysteries of the heavens and earth with their son, Humza (5). During the work week, Omar

manages a law practice concentrating in immigration law, family law and real estate law. His email is lawyeromar@gmail.com.

Darrell Cohn writes, "My wife, Leah, and I moved to Israel in August 2011. We live in Jerusalem and are finally starting to settle in. In fact, I just recently passed my driver's test. Leah is studying full-time at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. I work for Umachaka as the director of production. We make interactive media for preschoolers and our flagship brand is

Nina Covalessky '97 starred in a short film, *The Plan*, which premiered in this year's Cannes Film Festival's Short Film Corner.

TJ & Pals (tjandpals.com), a band of animated cartoon characters. While the company is based in Israel, our market is America right now. Leah and I take trips around the country when we can. So far we've been to the Golan Heights, the Galilee and the Dead Sea."

As for me, **Sarah Katz**, I am very excited to have been appointed as a visiting clinical professor at Temple's Beasley School of Law. I will spend the year teaching and running a family law clinic that handles child custody and support, paternity and adoption matters.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**
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Hello, Class of '98. I hope that all of you will consider joining me at our 15th reunion next spring. Please save the date for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Hope to see many of you back in Morningside Heights!

If you're interested in being part of the Reunion Committee (planning the weekend's events) or the Class Gift Committee (fundraising for the Columbia College Fund), contact the appropriate staff member at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Columbia will send materials by email and postal mail as the date

grows closer. If needed, update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate, or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

Now, news from classmates: **Joshua Ratner** wrote with news of an exciting career transition: "I have quit the law (for now) and have spent the past few years studying to become a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC." Josh was ordained in May. He and his wife, Elena (Salkovsky) '98 Barnard, live in Connecticut

with their kids, Dimitri (9), Eli (6) and Gabby (2). They plan a move to the suburbs of New Haven, Conn., as Elena is a gynecologic oncologist at Yale, and Josh will be the rabbi of a Conservative congregation in Cheshire, Conn.

Mazel tov to Josh on his ordination!

In other celebratory news, **Michele Hyndman** married Matthew Hodge on March 30 in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, where the couple resides. Michele is the manager of the tax practice in the St. Thomas office of the accounting firm Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. Her husband is a customer care representative at Glacial Energy, a natural gas provider. He also is running as a Democrat for a senate seat in the Virgin Islands legislature.

Chas Sisk and **Cathy Chang** had their second child, Mei-Ling, in April. Their son Cai turned 3 in July. Chas and Cathy live in Nashville, where Chas is a political reporter at *The Tennessean* and Cathy is a Unitarian Universalist chaplain.

Congratulations to the double-CC '98 couple!

Another double-alum couple celebrated their 10th anniversary in June. **Jackie Vo** and **Jeff Tse** renewed their vows in a beachfront ceremony in Cancun. Their daughters, Kaitlyn and Maddie, along with a group of close family and friends, were in attendance. The Vo-Tse family lives in Austin, Texas, where she is a dentist and he is a physician.

Jeremy Blacklow has been in Los Angeles for eight years. He has been v.p. of media for WhoSay, a Creative Artists Agency-launched Internet start-up that helps celebrities and athletes maintain license over (and monetize) content that they upload online, for the past year. In June, Jeremy finished his fifth AIDS/Life-cycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. He's also launching a DJ

career in the L.A. area.

Amol Sarva reports that his daughter, Pascale (5), is attending the Queens Paideia School, a progressive independent school in Long Island City founded by Francis Mechner '52, '57 GSAS. Amol and his wife Ursula's younger daughter, Lila, is 2. One of our class' most successful entrepreneurs, Amol, who founded the tech company Peek, just raised its latest big round of VC funds led by SoftBank, Bharti Enterprises and RRE Ventures. Also a real estate developer, Amol completed his Long Island City building, East of East, in 2010; it was called "the most important new building in the borough" of Queens by the *New York Daily News*. In more business news, Amol started a seed fund focused on Columbia, called (appropriately) Cfund.

Lastly, according to SEC filings, **Ronald G. Lehman**, managing director of investment banking at Bruderman Brothers, has been appointed to the board of directors of FONAR. The announcement says that Ronald "specializes in advising healthcare services companies."

Congratulations to Ronald on his appointment.

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Solid updates to share with you this go-round. **Eli Sanders**, who was editor-in-chief of *Spectator* our senior year, recently won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing. He lives in Seattle and works for a local paper, *The Stranger*. A great write-up on Eli's accomplishment can be found if you type his name into *Spectator* online.

I recently had brunch with **Sammeer Shamsi** and **Wendy Liu**, with whom I was happy to reconnect. Wendy graduated with an M.B.A. from the Wharton School in 2010 and now works at a private equity fund that invests in healthcare royalties. She is happily married to Adam and they live on the Upper West Side not too far from campus.

The CCT office gave me the good word that **Rohit Bansal** recently joined the investment bank Jeffries as a managing director and head of distressed and special situations trading. Prior to working at Jeffries, Rohit was a managing director at Citigroup, where he spent four years in distressed debt trading.

Jess (Wendover) Zimbabwe welcomed a daughter on May 31, Martha, who joins sister Celia, or C.J. (2). Jess lives with her husband, Sam, in Washington, D.C., where

she is an executive director at the Urban Land Institute.

Meghan Taira also lives in Washington, D.C., and has been calling our nation’s capital home for the past 10 years. For the past five, she has kept her ties to New York by reporting to Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.); she is now his senior legislative assistant for health and education.

These are all the updates for this edition. Don’t hesitate to drop me a line and let me know how you are doing.

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According to Crain’s New York Business, **Jeffrey D. Rotenberg** ’00L was promoted to partner in the litigation practice of the law firm DLA Piper. He previously was a senior associate.

Michael Glynn is a co-author of a recent publication of the University of Texas Press, *Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America*. It was edited by Henry Cisneros, former Secretary of HUD under President Bill Clinton.

Tom King’s debut novel, *A Once Crowded Sky*, was released this past summer. According to Simon & Schuster it “fuses the sensibility of bombastic, comic-book-style storytelling with modern literary fiction to bring to life a universe of super men stripped of their powers, newly mortal men forced to confront danger in a world without heroes.” Tom worked for the counterterrorism center at the CIA following the events of 9-11. While at Columbia, he interned for DC Comics and Marvel. Tom lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Colleen, and children, Charlie and Claire.

If you were at our 10-year reunion in 2010, you may have noticed **Brendan Colthurst** and **Bryan Carmel** following **Vikram Gandhi** with video cameras. Turns out, they were filming for their documentary feature film, *Kumaré*, released in theaters in June through Kino Lorber, a distributor founded by Richard Lorber ’67 and the late Donald Krim ’67, ’71L. Winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature Documentary at SXSW 2011 (South by Southwest), *Kumaré* documents the time Vikram impersonated a wise Indian guru and built a following of real people in Phoenix. On the success of its opening in New York at the IFC Center, the film expanded to more cities, including Denver, Chicago and Seattle, and as of this writing was set to open in Los Angeles on August 3. Produced by Brendan and Bryan and directed by

Gandhi, *Kumaré* is their first feature, made through their production company, Disposable Television. Go see it on the big screen! Tell all your friends! You also can visit kumare movie.com.

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For some reason, communications from classmates this summer were sparse. Hopefully everyone was off exploring the world, commencing from grad school and getting married, and you’ll write in with great updates in the coming weeks. I will await them! Meanwhile, here is the news I have:

Vasantha Rao writes, “I have been in touch with many CC alumni lately, as I got married last year to Joel Dowling; the wedding took place in Shrewsbury, N.J., on June 19, 2011. In attendance were **Michael Bilsborough**, **Apeksha Kumar** ’01E, **Jonathan Ferrantelli**, **Andrea Villanti**, **Christopher Brady**, Claudia DeSimio ’99, Annemarie DeSimio ’02, Courtney Strate ’02, Hannah Warren ’01 Barnard and Jessica Beck ’01 Barnard. It was a wonderful time.

“The biggest news lately is that my husband and I moved to Rabat, Morocco, in May. I work for the Department of Justice, and I represent DOJ as the resident legal adviser to the U.S. Embassy in Morocco. We are both really excited for this big adventure and hope that if there are any CU alums in the area, they will get in touch!”

In other wedding news, **Patrick Durkan** married Amy Pettibone on June 16 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. Patrick is a partner at Madison Financial Concepts, a corporate consulting and financial planning firm in the city. He also is the head saber-fencing coach at the New York Athletic Club.

My former Carman 11 floormate **Karl Ward** will attend the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU Tisch starting in September.

As always, please keep in touch!

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It was amazing to see everyone at reunion after 10 long years. I’m including updates I received both at reunion and otherwise.

After graduating, **Ksusha Boutov** was a trader for seven years in New York, first at Morgan Stanley and

then at a hedge fund. She earned an M.B.A. from Wharton in 2011 and since graduating has been working at Goldman Sachs in private wealth management. Last fall, she married Sean McCormick ’02 Princeton. Among the Columbians in attendance were Courtney Rennicke ’07 TC, **Bronwyn Roantree**, Anya Boutov ’05, Oana Cornis-Pop ’03, Josh Flagg, Lena Kazakina ’99 TC, **Emily Erstling**, Scott Statland ’04, Jeff Stedman ’05, Cody Upton ’05, Laura Stedman ’06 (née Schnaidt), Laurel Eisenach ’06, Ed Combs ’06, Enrique Walker (professor, the Architecture School) and Malwina Lys-Dobradin ’05. Ksusha writes, “It’s been a fabulous 10 years, and I would love to reconnect with any of my classmates who have been wondering how I’m doing!”

Sarah Hsiao HuYoung had a great time seeing all the familiar faces at reunion, especially her fellow John Jay 9ers. Sarah and her husband, James HuYoung ’01, made the big cross-country move to Los Angeles in July. Their son Nathan is 19 months. She writes, “We’re looking forward to reconnecting with fellow Columbians on the West Coast!”

Kimberly Blumenthal started a fellowship in allergy and immunology at Massachusetts General Hospital in July. She and her husband, Daniel Blumenthal, also a physician at Mass General, welcomed their first child, Jonah Martin, on February 1. They live in Cambridge and would love to meet up with any CU grads in the area.

Lynn Juang has spent the 10 years since graduation in New York and working in the creative industry. She started in fashion advertising at Laird+Partners and then, in 2006, began working at AvroKO, doing restaurant branding, graphic design and marketing projects. Just as she left the firm, she met her now-husband, chef Seamus Mullen. She helped him open Tertulia, a Spanish restaurant in the West Village, in August 2011. This past March, Lynn left her day job at a small ad agency and began working full-time with Seamus as director of marketing and development of their fledgling restaurant group, overseeing all new projects and communications.

The couple was married on July 14 at the Brooklyn Winery in Williamsburg. A sizable Columbia contingency was in attendance, including **Purdy Tran** and Akiko Kurematsu ’03 Barnard, who were in the bridal party. Also on hand were **Stefanie Tsen**, **Paul Choi**, **Franklin Amoo**, **Albert Lee** ’02E, **Melissa Tominac**, Matt Hill ’01, **Emeka Ofodile** ’01, Ian Chee ’01, **Linyee Yuan**, Youn Lee ’01, **Miryam Seid** and Natalie Fung ’02

Barnard and her husband, **Ethan Farbman**.

Liz Matory is in Washington, D.C., fundraising for nonprofits. She is two credits away from finishing her core requirements at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at Maryland, where she’s pursuing an M.B.A. part-time.

Avi Fernandes graduated from INSEAD in July 2010 and joined Morgan Stanley in San Francisco. In January, however, his team spun out of MS and formed an independent firm, Iconiq Capital (global multi-family office based in San Francisco).

Jeffrey Seth Colen lives in San Francisco and works at Zynga in digital advertising.

Ronit Gurtman lives on Long Island with her husband, Brian Gurtman, and children, Elisabeth (6), Micah (3) and Ruthie (6 months). She’s an employment lawyer at Litter Mendelson’s NYC office.

Genevieve (Vivi) Ko had a busy 2011. She graduated from Yale (Ph.D. program in biology and biomedical sciences), started a new job as a life sciences consultant in Boston and was married to Bayan Takizawa at The Boston Harbor Hotel on October 9. (See nearby photo.)

On October 1, **Purdy Tran** married Joshua Bailer at The Mansion at Natirar in Far Hills, N.J. Alumni in attendance included **Albert J. Lee** ’02E, Emeka Ofodile ’01, Matt Hill ’01, Lynn Juang ’02, Youn Lee ’01 and Ian Chee ’01.

She writes, “It was nice to be back in the Northeast to celebrate with friends and family. In summer 2010, Josh and I moved from NYC to Miami Beach, where I am the director of membership and club development for Casa Tua, Miami, a private membership club. Although we miss the city, we love being able to surf and run on the beach before hitting the office in the mornings.”

From 2008–11, **Andy Cheung** and his wife, **Karen Corrie**, lived in The Hague, Netherlands. Karen left a job as an ADA with the New York County District Attorney’s Office to work for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, where she held several positions, including that of associate trial lawyer. From The Hague, Andy started Sensobi, a U.S.-based software company, with a childhood friend. Sensobi was acquired in 2011 by GroupMe, a New York-based startup, which in turn was acquired by Skype.

The couple moved back to New York in 2012. Karen has begun a litigation fellowship at the Open Society Justice Initiative, where she is pursuing international human rights litigation. Andy continues to work at GroupMe, alongside other CC alumni including Jared Hecht

’09, Neil Sarkar ’07E and Chris Connolly ’04.

Santosh Sekar ’02E lives in Midtown and works for AMEX. He recently celebrated his five-year anniversary with his wife, Jyoti.

Luba Kagan lives on the Upper West Side after a stint in Argentina and two years in Philadelphia for business school. She would be happy to meet fellow N.Y.-area Columbia alums.

Lisa Genn lives in Park Slope and was married on June 30 to Mark Snyder. She works at the Brennan Center for Justice.

Sheethal (Rao) Shobowale lives in Brooklyn and works for Google. She recently had a son, Hudson, who was the youngest attendee at reunion!

Leslie Papa lives in New York with her hubby, Salvatore. She does publicity for Broadway Show.

Evelyn Addo-Wallace is a women’s nurse practitioner.

Adrienne Moran is an assistant U.S. attorney in Washington, D.C.

Nikki Hinman moved to Rome, N.Y. She works for the State Appellate Division of New York, Fourth Department.

Nicholas Manheim lives in Seattle and is an attorney at Perkins Coie. His daughter, Naomi, is 2.

Kristin (Savarese) Lorieo works in communications at a law firm.

Sara Kim ’02E lives on the Upper West Side and is married to Steven Munch.

Franklin Amoo works at a hedge fund owned by a Japanese company and is involved in a number of startups. He is contemplating a move to Asia.

Raquel Aragon is practicing law in her own professional corporation.

Kevin Espy has a baby, Jaylon (6 months), with his wife, Teresa. They live in Riverdale.

Craigory Brown is going to work in at Goldman PWM out of Miami.

Kelly Jameson Rainn ’02E gave birth to Jameson Rainn Thomas on April 11. She lives with her husband in the West Village.

Helena Andrews lives in Washington, D.C., and is a successful writer.

Abena Sanders is an employment attorney living in Atlanta and is engaged.

Elizabeth Alicea is studying at Cardozo Law School.

Ardavan Akhavan is finishing his residency at Mount Sinai in urology and moving to Seattle to do a fellowship in pediatric urology.

Jarrett Keys lives in Miami and was married in October 2009 to his wife, Siumpy.

Elvis Rodriguez ’02E lives in New York and works in financial services. He earned an M.B.A. from UVA.

Jeff McCall and his wife, Alexis,



Genevieve (Vivi) Ko ’02 and Bayan Takizawa were married on October 9 at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Left to right: Hironobu Katoh ’02E; Henry Wong ’02; Camy Chu ’02E; Christopher Wong ’02; the bride’s father, Chun-Min (Tony) Kao ’68; the bride; Alice Lu ’02; and Lu’s husband, Maximilian Lee ’02, ’06 P&S.

live in Washington, D.C.

Robin van der Meulen lives in Brooklyn and is a lawyer at Wilkie Farr & Gallagher.

Amanda Konstam lives in New York and works in communications for Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

**REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**
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It was a wonderful experience for me to be back in New York City this past spring for Alumni Reunion Weekend and to be able to see so many at the Young Alumni Party on the U.S.S. *Intrepid*. Remember when we used to party on the *Intrepid* for the annual year-end celebration? Well, we’ll be able to relive that and all our other memories next year for our 10-year reunion. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. And if you want to get involved in the

planning it’s not too late. Just get in touch with one of the Alumni Office contacts listed at the top of the column. It was great to bump into **Jessica Berenyi** at the event this year but we’ll be represented in far greater numbers next year!

Now, on to the updates:

First, in wedding news, **Albert Shin** married Ji Yeh Kim on June 24 at the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C. Albert and Ji Yeh are associates at White & Case in New York City. Columbians in attendance included **Jack (Chen-Wen) Yuen** ’03E, **Andy So**, **Barry Chiang** ’03E and **John Kwak** ’03E.

Mike Youn is leaving the Navy in September to start a two-year, full-time grad program at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. He’ll start in the American foreign policy concentration.

Michelle Hodara ’12 TC earned a Ph.D. in economics and education from Teachers College in May. She now is a postdoctoral research associate at the Community College Research Center at Columbia, conducting research on issues of college access and completion.

Graciete Lo writes, “I moved to Hawaii in June 2011 to complete a pre-doctoral psychology internship at the Honolulu VA. I walked in May and will receive my Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Fordham in September. It’s been a long six-year journey!

“I hung out in New York for

a few weeks this summer before starting a two-year position at the National Center for PTSD in Honolulu. Interestingly, I ran into **Jennifer Schneider**, who is a psychologist at the NC-PTSD. What an amazing coincidence! I also recently met up with **Kris Depedro** (who is finishing a Ph.D. through USC) and **Joel Marrero** in Los Angeles for a Columbia mini-reunion. They both reside in L.A.”

Darrell Silver writes, “It’s been an exciting year so far: I sold my first tech startup, Perpetually.com, in March. It was a roller coaster, and I can’t wait to do it again. Columbia bonus points: **Dan Moss** helped out tremendously as an adviser on the deal.”

On March 22, **Nick Solaro** and his wife, Amy, celebrated the birth of their son, Jack. Mom and baby are doing great.

Leah (Davis) Bailey writes, “In 2010 I received an M.B.A. from Alaska Pacific University and married Aaron Bailey. This year finds me in Walla Walla, Wash., as mom to Elias (born May 23) and working as a freelance copy editor under the auspices of my small business, Bailey Editing.”

After 2½ lovely years on the Italian Riviera, **Robyn Schwartz** and Dan Hammerman ’02 now are in Houston, a move precipitated by Dan’s work. Robyn writes, “Following a year back working in homeless services, I recently returned to nonprofit freelancing while attempting to build a small

specialty food company. Fianco a Fianco (fiancofianco.com) makes sweet-savory cookies, such as *biscottini al pesto*, inspired by our time in Italy. Last spring I was pleasantly shocked to run into **Simone Sebastian** at a farmers' market — she's a reporter at *The Houston Chronicle*. We get together every now and again to complain about the humidity and how much we miss NYC. Dan and I expect to be down here through next summer, so holler if you find yourself in the Bayou City."

Chelsea (Walsh) Beser writes, "I recently joined Montage Legal Group as the lead attorney for New York and am responsible for Montage's expansion to New York. Montage Legal Group is a nationwide network of experienced freelance attorneys who work for law firms on a project basis. I live on the Upper West Side with my husband and son, Jacob Robert, who was born on October 26."

04

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With fall under way, I hope that all the members of the Class of 2004 are enjoying the season. Please send your latest updates to me at the email or postal address at the top of the column. It's a great way to stay connected.

05

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It's always nice to get first-time submissions from classmates. **Mike Vary** writes, "My wife, Jaclyn Matayoshi '06, and I have never submitted a Class Note, so I figured it's time. We've been back in my hometown of Cleveland for three years. Jackie graduated Case Western Reserve Law School and took the bar in July. All this with a 2-year-old, Lucas. We are truly blessed and busy! I work at UBS in Cleveland and Jackie is starting at a boutique estate planning law firm in the fall."

Anil Kumar and **Tanvi Desai** were married on February 25 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They were wed under sun-drenched skies in a traditional but humorous Hindi wedding, after a raucous *bharat* involving dancing groomsmen and a gun-shy white horse. Columbians in attendance included **Fareed Melhem**, **Harmony Davis**, **Liz Down**, **Mike Camacho**, **David Kim** '06, **Nishant Dixit** '07 and **Suma Pratyusha Tumuluri** '05E. **Meredith "Merry" Boak** married

Joshua Biber in June in Vermont at the Round Barn Farm. Joining her was **Keri Wachter** as her maid of honor, **Jackson Shafer** as a reader in the ceremony and **Paul Wright**, who stole the show (as usual) as the fabulous emcee at the reception. Eva Rosen '05 Barnard and Justin Ifill '06 also shared the special day. Merry, Keri, Jackson, Eva and Justin were all part of Notes and Keys a cappella during their time at Columbia and relished the reunion, singing and dancing the night away.

Jacob Shell and his wife, Ize, celebrated their first anniversary in March. In July, Jacob started as an assistant professor of geography and urban studies at Temple.

Our classmates continue to make strides in their education and careers. **Andy Rios** will be pursuing an M.B.A. at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley this fall. **Ted Goldman** earned a doctorate in music composition from Juilliard. He will be on the faculty at Eastman School of Music, teaching music theory, starting this fall.

Cary D'Alo Place earned a master's of architecture from Rice in 2008 after which she took some time to be a Teach for America corps member north of Baton Rouge, La. She now is a designer with Odell Associates in Richmond, Va.

Katie Henderson Adams writes: "Since graduation I've been working in book publishing while obtaining my master's in English literature from NYU. I was married in September to Benjamin Adams in my hometown of Exeter, N.H., with many Columbia and Barnard alums in attendance (Conor McNamara '03E, Christina Norris McNamara '05 Barnard, **Frank Angones**, Peter Mende-Seidlecki '07, Lee Havlicek '09 Barnard, Sarah Matteucci, **Ali Rohrs** '07, Pat Higginson '04E, **Meredith Fuhrman**, **Rami Raff** '06 GSAS, Sandy London '02, Amanda McCroskery '06 and **Tanya Franklin**). I'm an editor at Liveright, a newly relaunched imprint of W.W. Norton, and I love both married life and my new job."

Lots of congratulations to go around for our newlyweds, new parents and new grads. Thanks for the updates, and we look forward to hearing more!

06

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Hope everyone had a great summer! Here are some exciting updates from our classmates.

Thessaly La Force is in her second year at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she is working on a novel and short story collec-

tion. She recently finished working on an illustrated book, *My Ideal Bookshelf*, with artist Jane Mount; it will be published in November.

Emily Ross '12 SIPA writes, "After spending two wonderful years back on Columbia's campus, I graduated from SIPA in May with a master's. Since then, I have returned to Washington, D.C., and work for the political consulting firm GMMB. Next time anyone is in D.C., be sure to let me know!"

Stephanie Simon earned an M.B.A. and master of urban planning degree from Michigan. In July, she joined GE Capital.

Kathleen Adams writes, "My husband, Ford, and I and our son, Wells (3), have moved to New Delhi, India! Looking forward to seeing any classmates who are here for work or pleasure."

Justin Ifill writes, "The Young Alumni Party, held during Alumni Reunion Weekend aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid*, was bigger and better than ever, with almost 2,000 people! It was great to see many 2006 faces and other young alumni. The following weekend I had the pleasure of attending the wedding of Merry Boak '05 and Joshua Biber. I had an amazing time with our fellow Notes and Keys a cappella family including Eva Rosen '05 Barnard, Jackson Shafer '05, Keri Wachter '05 and Paul Wright '05.

"Lastly, it has been my amazing honor to serve as the president of Columbia College Young Alumni for the last two years. I hope I was able to make young alumni programming just a bit better, and I know Calvin Sun '08 will do an amazing job! On to the next one!"

07

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It was amazing seeing so many of our classmates at Alumni Reunion Weekend in June. The Class of 2007 had a record 264 alumni in attendance and 340 overall attendees. Thank you to everyone who came out for it.

Classmates came from far and wide to join the festivities, including **Nishant Dixit** from his global travels, **Keith Hernandez** from China, **Marco Zappacosta** and **Jessica Isokawa** from California and **Tammi Lee** and **Isaac Schwartz** from Cleveland.

Ngozi Okoh writes, "Hey everyone! It was great seeing you in June. I'm back in New York City after moving from Philadelphia and so hoping to reconnect with many of you, so find me on FB and let me know when you're available!"

Geo Karapetyan had a "great time reconnecting with so many CC '07ers at reunion in June!" Immediately afterward, Geo boarded a plane and moved to Los Angeles for the summer to work at Walt Disney Studios in feature animation finance. He has since returned to New York and is completing an M.B.A. at NYU Stern.

Jessica Wong Zen shares, "Shortly after attending reunion, I received an M.B.A. from MIT's Sloan School of Management and then promptly moved with my husband from Boston to Seattle. As I write, I'm planning to start my new job with Amazon in August — in the meantime, I am getting situated in my new city and my time is mostly occupied with the fun and games (and headache) that come with being a new homeowner."

Isaac Schwartz was happy to see everyone at the reunion before heading to Peru. He helped organize and carry out a monthlong medical mission in the Sacred Valley region with doctors, students and nurses from Cleveland.

Joshua Davis and his wife, Naomi, were sorry they missed the reunion but had a great reason: They welcomed their son, Samson Rex, to the world on May 30 in Washington, D.C. Josh says, "His sister, Eleanor, is very excited to have a playmate and can't understand why he spends all day ignoring her. You can see pictures on our family's blog, Rockstar Diaries. It's been featured in a number of magazines, on websites and in newspapers and gets millions of page views each month: tazaandhusband.com."

Caitlin Shure thought that the reunion was "amazeballs." She was so caught up in the magic of the night that she "completely forgot to execute her original reunion plan (to seduce a man from the Class of '02)."

Margaret Bryer writes, "Great to see people whom I hadn't seen in a while at the reunion and reassuring to see that people haven't changed all that much in five years."

Love is in the air for many members of our class. **Luciana Colapinto** and **Jake Olson** got engaged and will be married next June. **Erik Lindman** and Naomi Nevitt '07 Barnard also are engaged. And **Pitr Strait** and Katherine Atwill '08 were married April 7. The ceremony was held in Washingtonville, N.Y., and was attended by Columbians from every class from '04-'12.

Congratulations to everyone! **Julia Kite** writes, "I've recently completed my second year of a Ph.D. in sociology at UC Berkeley. I live in San Francisco and miss New York City every day! This summer I spoke at conferences in Denver and London about my research into

Vegas' Alexandra Epstein '07 Revitalizes Her Hometown

BY BEN JOHNSON

Alexandra Epstein '07 starts every workday by moving methodically through the secret passageways of Las Vegas' El Cortez Hotel & Casino. She traverses the kitchens and the unmarked hallways, greeting the cocktail waitresses and bartenders as well as the "back of house" staff. It is definitely the scenic route, but it's one she takes religiously.

Why the long walk? In the service industry, your company is only as good as the people who make it hum and happen — and Epstein knows this.

"I'm a perfectionist," she admits. "And I don't try to direct things without having an idea of what I'm speaking about."

Granted, the El Cortez — Las Vegas' oldest continually operating casino (built in 1941) — isn't Epstein's company, but it may be one day. The 27-year-old's father, Kenny Epstein, now the CEO and chairman, has helped run the 366-room complex since the 1960s. His daughter is the e.v.p., promoted after two years as executive manager, and you'd be hard pressed to find someone who says she didn't earn that title.

With a love for art history and an eye for design cultivated at Columbia, where she majored in art history with a pre-med concentration, Epstein is balancing her creativity with her business pedigree to realize a cosmopolitan vision for her native city. In just a few years she's become a rising star of the downtown — the city's other major district, apart from the famous Strip — spurred by Vegas pride to revitalize her neighborhood despite the greater economic woes.

"The area around Fremont Street on the North Strip is really where Las Vegas began," Epstein says of the area where the El Cortez is located. "Residents here see a silver lining. There are plenty of people who have taken the opportunity to leave, but I think those who

have stayed, particularly downtowners, are very optimistic about the potential for change."

The El Cortez has been an important part of that change. In 2009, Epstein spearheaded a redesign of the hotel's smaller Cabana Suites, bringing the 66-room property from seedy "old Vegas" skeleton to a modern Miami Beach-style boutique hotel. In 2011, she helped the hotel run a contest for designers to revamp the El Cortez's luxury suites that was touted by the *Las Vegas Sun* as galvanizing interest in new construction and development in a city still struggling with a national mortgage crisis.

It's not only about the family business, though. Epstein also sits on the board of the Neon Museum, which houses many of the city's giant signage fossils, like that of Caesars Palace and the Golden Nugget; on the board of the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas; and on the University of Las Vegas Libraries Advisory Board. She is the youngest member of the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission, appointed by then-Mayor Oscar Goodman to help the commission with placement of new public art, from the new Las Vegas City Hall to outdoor parks.

"She is absolutely the personification of energy when it comes to the redevelopment of downtown Las Vegas," says Goodman, who has worked with Epstein on efforts to bring life to a newly designated entertainment district surrounding the intersection of 6th and Fremont Streets, north of the busiest part of the Strip. "She single-handedly transformed the El Cortez and the Cabana Suites into places that locals and tourists now flock to. Her taste is impeccable. That's why I appointed her to the arts commission."

As a Columbia student, Epstein fell in love with New York's bounty of museums and galleries; but she first fell in love with the idea of a community built



Alexandra Epstein '07 spearheaded a major redesign at her family's El Cortez Hotel & Casino in downtown Las Vegas.

PHOTO: BRYAN HAINER

around shared knowledge.

"I was really drawn to the Core Curriculum," she says. "I loved the idea that I would have this connection with the past, with people who had been coming to Columbia for decades."

Gathering community around shared knowledge and ideas can be seen in the vibrant Emergency Arts building, an old medical center on Fremont Street, owned by the El Cortez, which since spring 2010 boasts a new creative collective. With 42 tenant businesses, from galleries to web design and photo studios to a bustling coffee shop, Emergency Arts — its name a nod to the building's former use — is another example of Epstein's tenacity in turning good ideas into practical realities. Put together by Epstein and directors Michael and Jennifer Cornthwaite, the

collective has been a shining example of revitalization, and how cheap real estate for artists can bring new commerce into downtown.

"It's an awesome concept, and she's made it a reality," says Heather Hyte, owner of the Rad Kisser photography gallery on the collective's second floor. "It's nice to get a lot of people with ideas to contribute to a common goal. To focus on something like that out of passion, even though it's not going to be a major payout, that says a lot about a person. Already, she's done a lot for this city."

Ben Johnson is a writer living in Brooklyn and working at Slate Magazine, where he is an editorial supervisor for Slate's video department, *SlateV*.



Pitr Strait '07 and Katherine Atwill '08 were married on April 7 in Washingtonville, N.Y. In attendance were, left to right: Lars Dabney '07, Lucia Plumb-Reyes '06, Mike Glass '11E, the groom, the bride, Peter Mende-Siedlecki '07, Nick Weiler '07, Kevin Connell '07 and Hannah Temple '07.

PHOTO: LE IMAGE, INC.

the determinants of neighborhood satisfaction in urban regeneration zones. I've also made a full-time job of trying to find a literary agent for my first novel; I highly recommend doing this if you like pain."

Liz Ferguson practiced, practiced, practiced to get to Carnegie Hall and then applied for a job in community programs at its Weill Music Institute, where she's been for the last three years. Her highlights from reunion include the radio hits aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid* [at the Young Alumni Party on June 1] and crashing the '02 tent with Jessica Isokawa, Alana Weiss and Jerone Hsu, "where we saw the future — see everyone there."

Alison Desir completed her first marathon with The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. On June 3, she ran the San Diego Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in four hours and 29 minutes and raised nearly \$4,000 to benefit LLS in finding cures and better treatments for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.

Laura Taranto writes, "I moved to Berlin to join Wooga, a social games developer. I am a product manager here working on a game not yet released. Stay tuned and greetings from Germany!"

Marianna Zaslavsky spent the

summer in London working at Bain & Company and was "looking forward to my last year at the Business School." Marianna will be joined by fellow CC '07ers David Chait, Yael Silverstein, Christian Capasso, Ben Baker and Jake Olson, among others.

James Mahon entered the political economy and government Ph.D. program at Harvard three years ago. He moved to Washington, D.C., this past summer to continue his dissertation research at the U.S. Treasury Department. James writes, "Drop me a line if you're in the neighborhood!"

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Rachel Claire Weidenbaum recently played a role in the HBO

film *Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight*, directed by Stephen Frears, in a scene opposite Christopher Plummer and Kathleen Chalfant. Next, she will return to working with the Drama Desk-nominated Marvell Repertory Theatre on its upcoming season, directed by Lenny Leibowitz '94.

Alisa Brem recently graduated from law school and is a development associate at Insight Property Group, a real estate development company in Washington, D.C. In October she will begin a Fulbright Scholarship in Florence, studying Tuscan regional sustainable development.

Last December, Anna Lindow joined the team at General Assembly, a global network of campuses for people seeking opportunity and education in technology, design and entrepreneurship. She writes, "It's been an amazing experience, especially because I get to work alongside incredibly interesting and talented people like Adam Pritzker '08, Jordan Hepner '09 and Scott Zaloom '09."

Dr. Kristin Van Heertum recently graduated from medical school. "I was at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, where I received the award for overall excellence in obstetrics

and gynecology. I've now started a residency in ob/gyn at Abington Memorial Hospital, just north of Philadelphia, which I will complete in 2016."

Darius Dehnad '08E and Kara Worsley were married on April 28 in a ceremony and celebrated at a reception at the Central Park Boathouse in Manhattan. Kara writes, "We could not have been happier celebrating with so many of our Columbia friends, including several members of the men's swim and women's tennis teams on which we played." (See nearby photo.)

Matthew Levitan, a law student at Harvard, married Ariel Wagner '09 Barnard, a social work intern at a private elementary school in New York.

Gabby Francis had a son, Morrie Abraham, in February.

Lauren Arnold started medical school at P&S in August. Beforehand, she visited her Peace Corps village in Cambodia, where she'd served, for a few weeks.

Carmen Jo Ponce is fully settled in her new home in Houston, where she moved to take a job as an associate attorney with Baker Botts. It's also an exciting time for her, as she got married on July 7.

In other wedding news, Andrew Ness was married on June 16 to Alicia Bonner '08 Barnard at Memorial Chapel in Gill, Mass.

The reception that followed was held at the Lord Jeffery Inn in Amherst. Attending was Melody Chou '08E, Chris O'Connor '08E, Katharine Head, Adrienne Nickerson, Stephen LaPerla, Robert Deiches, Christopher Tortoriello, Danielle Gilbert '07 Barnard, Laura Stoffel '08 Barnard, Kelly Garone '08 Barnard and Ryan Brindley '07 GS. Andrew and Alicia spent their honeymoon in the Greek Isles and on the western coast of Turkey.

Finally, believe it or not, next year is our first Alumni Reunion Weekend! We'll be celebrating five years since graduation! Mark your calendars now for Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2, 2013. If you're interested in being part of the Reunion Committee (planning the weekend's events) or the Class Gift Committee (fundraising for the Columbia College Fund), get in touch with the appropriate staff member at the top of the column. You don't have to be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Columbia will send materials by email and postal mail as the date grows closer. If needed, update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu / alumniupdate, or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.



Darius Dehnad '08E and Kara Worsley '08 were married on April 28, with both ceremony and reception held at the Central Park Boat-house in Manhattan. Top row, left to right: Angela Hendry '08, Kendall (Murphy) Severson '07, Sayuri Shimoda '10, Sherwin Shahrarar '10E, Phil Hadley '09, Omar Ahmed '10E, the groom, the bride, Lauren Casty '08, Chris Hunter '08, Brittney Carfora '08, Sydney Murray '09, Sean Thomas '08, Dasha (Leonyuk) DeWald '07, Elizabeth de Berardinis '08, Christina Kim '07, Jennifer Aster '08 Barnard, Lauren Shearer '09, Michael Accordinio '07 and Sina Peyrovian '03E; bottom row, left to right: Stephen Searles, John Hessler '06, Roxanna Dehnad '10E, Maya Wedemeyer '10 and Alise Green '10.

09 Alidad Damooei
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After spending two years as a consultant in Washington, D.C., Dov Friedman moved to Ankara, Turkey, to work for the SETA Foundation. The organization is a Turkish think-tank broadly aligned with the ruling AK Party; Dov is on the foreign policy desk, covering issues relating to the United States and Israel. In May, Dov made an all-too-brief visit back to New York City at which time he proposed, and now is engaged. The happy couple is spending the coming year in Istanbul but they hope to return to the United States in fall 2013. At that time, Dov will start an M.A. program in international relations at Yale.

Dov is not the only Columbian heading to New Haven. Natasha Chichilnisky-Heal will begin pursuing a Ph.D. in political science and economics at Yale this fall. Following graduation, Natasha joined a socially responsible investment firm where she covered investments in microfinance institutions located in the former USSR region. In 2010, she transitioned

into environmentally responsible business, taking a position with a clean technology firm involved in climate change mitigation.

Of course, Yale is not the only destination for postgraduate study. Eliav Bitan will start in the M.B.A. program at Virginia's Darden School of Business this fall. He has enjoyed three years of work on sustainable agriculture issues and hopes to continue pursuing those interests. He would love to hear from any fellow Columbians in central Virginia.

After majoring in economics, Maya Koenig-Dzialowski decided to switch gears and pursue medicine. She joined Columbia's postbac program and concurrently worked at Mount Sinai Hospital in HIV-related kidney disease research. She completed her postbac in 2011 and started working at Bellevue Hospital Center on a project in primary care and psychiatry that screens for depression in New York's Latino community. This fall, after three months of backpacking through Asia, Maya is excited to return to Columbia, this time for medical school.

Ernest Herrera graduated in May from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He plans to begin his legal career in Albuquerque, where he hopes to join the New Mexico Public Defender's office.

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Thanks for sending in all of your wonderful updates. Between engagements, marriage, graduate school and world travels, our classmates have been leading exciting, busy lives.

Nishi Kumar writes, "I have spent the last two years teaching middle school math in a charter school in New Orleans through Teach for America — a truly eye-opening experience. I made a career move for the fall and am starting law school at NYU. I'm looking forward to returning to New York!"

On May 5, Nora Nicholson Calhoun married Alexander Calhoun '11 at Corpus Christi Church on West 121st Street. On May 30, Nora began studies to become a nurse-midwife, this time at Columbia's med campus.

Derek Hou proposed to Esther Chan during Memorial Day Weekend on the Santa Monica Pier. The couple held an engagement party in Boston that was attended by many Columbia alums, including Victor Chiang '09E, Edward Kim '10E and Jungsuk Cho '10 Barnard.

Giselle Marie Obregon will attend Boston University this fall

as a student in the master of public health program. She writes, "I'll be pursuing a concentration in international health with an emphasis in health program management. After two years in the working world, I welcome the opportunity to continue my education and to connect with Columbia alumni in the Boston area."

James Bogner got engaged to Cameron Rollins in April. As James works in financial aid at Columbia, the couple moved to a larger brownstone apartment near campus.

Natalie Gossett has decided that the law is not for her, so she is changing programs and pursuing a master's in mental health counseling, to be followed by a doctorate in psychology. Before moving to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Natalie attended a great Park Slope party hosted by Emily Wilson. Sean Marzug-McCarthy and her former suite-mates, Alyson Cohen and Chiara Arcidy, also were in attendance.

Nicole Ellis writes, "I attempted and survived (more or less) the 9-to-5 lifestyle just long enough to save for a trip around the world, so I'm doing it! I recently launched a travel blog to document my journey through time zones: navigatingnik ki.com. I successfully summited Mt. Kilimanjaro's highest point, Uhuru peak in Tanzania, and have plans



Nora Weber '10 and Alex Calhoun '11 were married on May 5 in New York City. Left to right: Genevieve Deleon '10, Lillian Udell '10, Carolina Brito '10, Frances Bodomo '10, the bride, the groom and Linnea Hincks '10.

to head to the Serengeti, Rwanda, for some gorilla tracking, and on and on until I make my way back to the United States in a year (or so) to make some grown-up life decisions. For now, I'm enjoying life as a wanderer and soaking up some culture along the way to put my anthropology degree to good use."

Last but not least, our quarterly installment from **Chris Yim**: "The biggest accomplishment that I have to report is the completion of the treehouse project on my roof. You wouldn't think that any landlord in New York would allow his tenant to build a faux-treehouse, but I got lucky. My interests of late lie in listening to *This American Life* with Ira Glass, buying Trader Joe's pizza dough and making homemade pies, promoting the educational startup uclass.org and living life on the edge.

"I was heartbroken in May when Chelsea won the Champions League, denying Tottenham entry next year. On a side note, I visited classmates in New Orleans and went to teacher prom. The achievement gap is closing there.

"I have a very apparent language and cultural gap with my folks. Is anyone else running into a similar issue? I have a longing to have my parents understand the struggles of a 20-something-year-old adult, but it's tough not being able to communicate with them about what I'm going through. What does one do?

"Lastly, I agreed deeply with Marina Keegan, when she said: 'What we have to remember is that we can still do anything. We can change our minds. We can start over.' I

wish I could have met her, sounded like she had a very beautiful soul.

"Until the next episode."

[Editor's note: Marina Keegan '12 Yale was killed in a car crash just days after her graduation. To read her essay, "The Opposite of Loneliness," which was distributed at her class' Commencement, go to yaledailynews.com/news/2012/may/27/keegan-opposite-loneliness.]

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Greetings, Class of 2011! To start off with some happy news, **Kara Bess** and Chase McCaleb '10E were married on June 9 at St. Paul's Chapel on campus.

Congratulations to both of them! **Emiddio Licursi** is the editorial assistant at *Bidoun* magazine, a quarterly publication dealing with art and culture from the Middle East. He also is publishing a chapter of his thesis in an Albanian academic journal, *Përpyjekja*, and will travel throughout Latin America this year, starting this summer in Cuba.

Michael Mirochnik finished his first year at Harvard Law and worked in-house at a private equity firm this summer.

As always, I encourage you to submit Class Notes whenever possible! Write to me at the email address at the top if the column or use CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Additionally, if you wish to update your contact information with the Alumni Office, you can do so at college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info or by calling the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

"Mr. President: Standing before you in Sections 8 and 9, which must be an indexing error because Columbia College students only sit in Section 1, are the 1,132 candidates of Columbia College — candidates who have heroically completed the overly demanding and seemingly endless requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts!"

After proclaiming the accomplishments of the Columbia College Class of 2012 at University Commencement on May 16, Dean James J. Valentini called on the graduates for a "collective roar as lions most powerful," as students proudly waved neon orange inflatable lions in the air. The ceremony concluded with Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" and Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind," sending Columbia's newest alumni off to all parts of the globe, where we will undoubtedly continue to make our mark wherever our paths take us — in school, in work, in life.

This fall, some of our classmates will begin pursuing post-graduate

and professional degrees.

Randy Subramany returns to our beloved Columbia as a full-time student in the Healthcare Management program (M.P.H.) at the Mailman School of Public Health. **Anthony Testa** has started at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, where he will engage in dental research and receive his D.M.D. after four years.

On the West Coast, **Zach Brill** is beginning a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at UC Berkeley, while **Wesley Yip** is attending Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

Other classmates are heading back to school, but this time as teachers!

Returning to the Empire State, **Debbie Feng** has joined the educators of Teach for America. **Jake Goren** is a Teach for America 2012 New York City Corps member at VOICE Charter School in Long Island City, Queens.

Helping to mold young minds through Teach for America outside of New York, **Mason Fitch** has begun his first year at Aiea Intermediate School near Honolulu. He's teaching U.S. history (Revolution to Reconstruction) to approximately 125 eighth-graders. **Hannah D'Apice** is teaching sixth-grade social studies at TW Browne Middle School in Dallas.

Heading straight into the work force, **Stephanie Foster** is an ad sales assistant for Crown Media. She is in charge of making deals and placing commercials for Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movie Channel.

Negin Navab was planning to spend a few weeks traveling around Europe before returning to New York and hopefully finding an apartment before she starts work as an analyst at J.P. Morgan. Negin writes that she is "definitely attending a few Columbia young alumni events in between my travels!"

Lastly, although Dean Valentini is not an official member of the Class of 2012, we were Deantini's first graduating class, so it seems only fitting to include here that Dean Valentini has officially been appointed dean of Columbia College and v.p. for undergraduate education.

Now that we don't have the luxury of living in close proximity to one another in East Campus, Hogan, Watt, Woodbridge or Broadway, I hope these Class Notes will make it easier for us to stay connected! Please don't hesitate to reach out at sarahbchai@gmail.com with updates on your life. I hope you enjoyed your first post-grad summer, Class of 2012!



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**Deadline for Winter 2012–13 issue:
Thursday, October 25, 2012**

Answers to Dean Quiz on Inside Back Cover

1. **Herbert E. Hawkes, who was dean from 1918–43.**
 2. **16.**
 3. **Harry J. Carman, for whom the student residence originally called New Hall was renamed.**
 4. **Austin E. Quigley, for whom the Black Box Theatre in Lerner was renamed.**
 5. **John Howard Van Amringe (Class of 1860) became the College's first dean in 1896.**
 6. **False. Only seven of the 16 deans are College alumni.**
 7. **1130 Amsterdam Ave.**
 8. **Jack Greenberg '45, '48L.**
 9. **David B. Truman.**
 10. **Peter Pouncey.**
- Bonus:** **Robert E. Pollack '61.**

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Alumni Corner

(Continued from page 104)

cops. Not a lot of people spend time in the stacks anymore. (Except, as Ms. Green pointed out, around the graphic-novel section.) It's not the current nature of finding information.

Doing it the inefficient way, you use the senses. You look at a row of spines, imprinted with butch, ultra-legible white or black type; your eye takes in more at any time than can be contained on a computer screen. You hold the books in your hand and feel the weight and size; the typography and the paper talk to you about time. A lot of libraries smell nice, but the smell of the Butler stacks is a song of organic matter, changing as temperatures do through the reaches of a pond. Get yourself near Goffredo Casalis's life's work on the

duchy of Savoy, the Dizionario Geografico-Storico-Statistico-Commerciale, published in 27 volumes from 1833 to 1854, and breathe in. A fantastic, pre-acidic-paper smell: burned caramel, basically. Nobody there but you.

There are 15 floors of stacks with 64 rows of books per floor, running about 25 feet each; 6 or 7 shelves in each row. Can you actually browse there, find books on your own, faced with the dark phalanxes? You can, once you get subject areas in your head. Having made enough spot searches, you grasp the logic of each floor. There are no signs to help you, only diagrams with codes and numbers.

You can also create luck in any given spot: You turn your head to the opposing row of books. A dif-

ferent subject area can arise, perhaps only partly to do with your areas of interest. This is non-link-based browsing. You can discover, instead of being endlessly sought.

I've already gone back this year: Above 90 degrees was my cue. I realize that I am lucky to do this free. If you have no affiliation with the school, it will cost you \$55 a month. You'd pay more to go to the gym. I think it's a good deal.

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ALUMNI CORNER

Butler Stacks Offer a World Apart

BY BEN RATLIFF '90

This article was first published in June for "Still Life," a series of New York Times articles in which Times writers sketched their favorite summer images.

The heat comes quickly in the summer. By early June, working at home with no air-conditioning, I have no concentration. Everything feels close and impolite and loud.

So I go to Butler Library, on the southern end of Columbia's campus in Morningside Heights. What began as a diversion has become a self-preserving summer thing: not just Butler, but the Butler stacks, the stillness capital of my imagination.

My job as a music critic depends on listening in crowds and writing in solitude. It also involves gathering facts and context,

summer employee. When I turned up at the Library Information office last year, there was much clucking about how I'd graduated so very long ago that they needed a whole other database to find my information. But that's cool: I am from another time. Pre-air-conditioning.

I had come to work but also to tune myself up. So I split the day. Some for my bosses, some for me. After I met my deadline, writing in the reference room, I walked behind the main desk into the stacks. The Columbia library system owns over 10 million volumes; 1.5 million, humanities and history, live here. I moved around for a few hours in the stillness, looking things up, standing up or crouching the whole time, purely and almost dopily happy.

I'd forgotten. The Butler stacks are in a different sensory category, starting from the threshold: If you're tall, you bow your

head as you pass through the low door frame. They form an enclosed rectangular prism at the center of Butler — no windows, a bit cooler than the rest of the building. Two or three levels of the inner stacks can correspond to one floor of the outer library. All this reinforces the feeling that the stacks are something special: a separate province or a vital inner organ.

Inside there is the deep quiet of protection and near-abandonment. You hear the hum of the lights, turned on as needed; that's it. There's a phone to make outgoing calls on the fifth floor. To me the stacks are the most sacred space in the library, yet here nobody's telling you not to talk. You're on your own. It's a situation for adults.

Unlike the stacks at some other university libraries, Butler's were not built for public consumption. They opened to patrons gradually, much later; originally, Butler had a call desk, where you'd put in your requests and wait for your numbers to come up.

"That's why they're not pretty stacks," said Karen Green, Butler's librarian for ancient and medieval history and for religion and graphic novels. She said it with empathy. Both she and I know that they are very beautiful.

I spent a few weeks there in the worst of last June and July, grazing around, letting the shelves make the connections for me, writing down notes for a book whose thesis grew obscure and finally implausible: I was looking up works on plague, fire and the Egyptian desert fathers. I learned well, but I felt even better. I took in great amounts of information without ever becoming fried or irritable. All that organization and nobody around — it seemed like trespassing in the history of Western learning, with no fear of

(Continued on page 103)



Ben Ratliff '90 finds sanctuary inside the stacks at Butler Library.

PHOTO: DANIEL PORTALATIN PHOTOGRAPHY

of which there is exponentially more every day. I think by writing, and I write on a computer; the computer also contains the Internet, which manufactures express-service context as well as overstatement, sociopathy and lameness. In my hot office I was starting to look at it abstractly, as a hot thing blowing exhaust. I needed to renegotiate my relationship with space and sound and information.

Butler is a 1930s neo-Classical hulk. At the front, above 14 columns, runs a list of writers and thinkers; the last is Vergil, and I like that someone long ago took a stand and chose to spell it in the Anglicization closer to his real name, not the more common "Virgil." It announces: nonsense not spoken here.

In the late '80s, I'd been there a lot, studying and working as a

So You Think You Know Your Former Deans?

With the recent naming of James J. Valentini as Dean of the College, we thought this would be an opportune time to test your familiarity with some of the people who have held that office.

1. Which Dean of the College (hint: he was a mathematician) served longer than any other?
2. How many deans has Columbia College had?
3. Which dean, who once described himself as "a good dirt farmer who never should have left Saratoga County," is the only one to have a campus building named after him?
4. Which dean, who now teaches as the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, has a campus theatre named after him?
5. Who was the first Dean of the College?
6. True or False: A majority of the College's deans graduated from Columbia College.
7. What is the street address of Hamilton Hall, where the Office of the Dean is located?
8. What dean argued *Brown v. Board of Education*, the case that declared "separate but equal" unconstitutional, before the Supreme Court in 1954, and co-authored the cookbook *Dean Cuisine*?
9. Which dean, who later became president of Mount Holyoke College, recounted the "nightmarish experience of witnessing, of experiencing, what can properly be described as the disintegration of a great university" in his book *Reflections on the Columbia Disorders of 1968*?
10. Which dean became president of Amherst College and authored the novel *Rules for Old Men Waiting*, which won the McKitterick Prize in 2006?

Bonus: Which dean is the founder and director of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion at Columbia?

Answers on page 103.

PHOTO: DANIELLA ZALCMAN '09

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